



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

GI Tag for Cumbum Grapes



Tamil Nadu's famous Cumbum Panneer Thratchai, also known as Cumbum grapes recently earned the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

The **Cumbum Valley located at the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu is known as the 'Grapes City of South India'** and cultivates the Panneer Thratchai. This variety, **also known as Muscat Hamburg, is popular for its quick growth and early maturity**, ensuring that the crop is available in the market almost throughout the year.

The **Panneer grapes were first introduced in Tamil Nadu by a French priest in 1832** and are rich in vitamins, tartaric acid and antioxidants and **reduce the risk of some chronic diseases**. They are also known for a **superior taste apart from the purplish brown-colour**.

A GI is a **sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin** and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to **provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications** relating to goods in India. It is governed and directed by the [WTO Agreement on TRIPS](#).

Read More: [GI Tag](#)

Quality Control Orders

Recently, **the Ministry of Textiles announced two Quality Control Orders (QCOs) for 31 items**, comprising geo-textiles and protective textiles, following the due process of notification of technical regulations. As per the Ministry, **these orders mark the first technical regulation from India for the**

technical textiles industry.

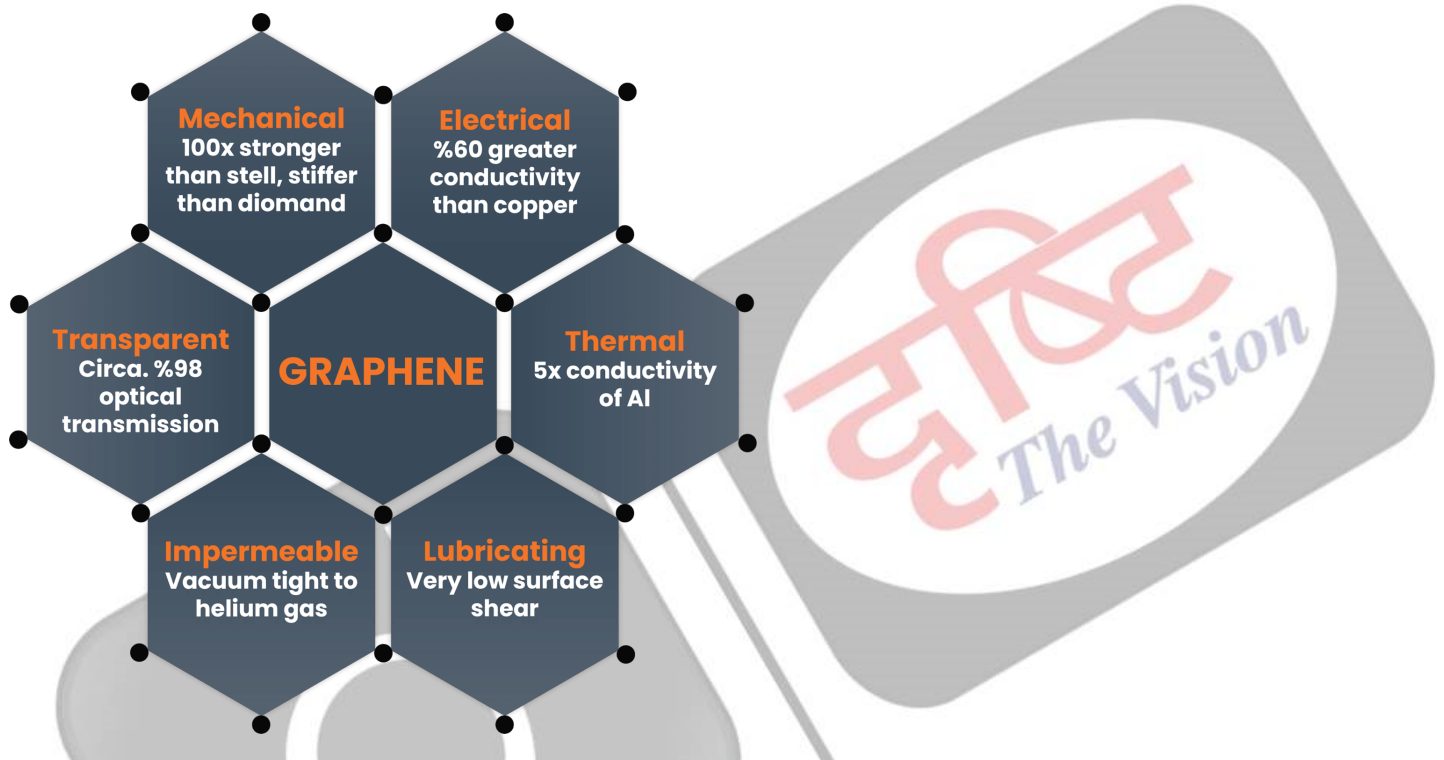
Geo-textiles are **used for infrastructure projects and environmental applications** while protective textiles are **used to protect human life from hazardous and adverse working conditions**.

QCOs will **ensure the standard and quality of Technical Textiles and encourage the growth of this industry** in India in producing quality products at competitive pricing.

The QCOs will **come into force 180 days after the date of its publication in the Official Gazette**. The conformity assessment requirements specified in these QCOs are **equally applicable to domestic manufacturers as well as foreign manufacturers** who intend to export their products to India.

Read More: [National Technical Textiles Mission \(NTTM\)](#), [India's Textile Sector](#)

Graphene and Magnetoresistance



Another **property of graphene has been discovered** by UK researchers. At room temperature, it **exhibits an anomalous giant magnetoresistance (GMR)**.

The GMR phenomenon **occurs when adjacent magnetic fields influence the electrical resistance of a conductor**. It is used in hard disk drives and magnetoresistive RAM in computers, biosensors, automotive sensors, microelectromechanical systems, and medical imagers. GMR-based devices are **particularly used to sense magnetic fields**.

The new study has **found that Graphene-based devices do not require very low temperatures in order to sense these fields**, in contrast to their **conventional ferromagnetic counterparts**.

Graphene is a **one-atom-thick layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice**. It is the building-block of Graphite. It is the **thinnest, most electrically and thermally conductive material in the world**, while also being flexible, transparent and incredibly strong. Graphene is also known as a **wonder material** due to its **vast potential in the energy and medical world**.

Read More: [India's First Graphene Innovation Centre](#)

Indelible Ink



As **Karnataka prepares for Assembly elections**, Mysore Paints & Varnish Ltd. in Mysuru is again in news as the latter **is the only company authorised to produce the indelible ink used in general elections** in India.

The **Maharaja of Mysore Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar established the factory in 1937** to provide employment for people and for utilisation of natural resources from the forests nearby. In 1962, it was **selected to manufacture indelible ink**, which was first used in the country's third general election. From then till now, **the company has supplied the ink for every election across India**. It has also exported ink to other countries. The unit was converted into a public limited company in **1947, as one of the important public sector companies of Karnataka**.

Indelible ink, **which is also known as the 'voter's ink'** ensures that no eligible voter votes twice in an election and hence **plays a key role in avoiding fraudulent and multiple voting**.

Read More: [Free and Fair Elections](#)

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