



Kai Chutney: Odisha

Why in News?

In Odisha, scientists are making a presentation for the [Geographical Indications \(GI\)](#) registry of **Kai Chutney**.

- The GI tag would help develop a structured hygiene protocol in the preparation of Kai Chutney for standard wider use. GI labels enhance the reputation and value of local products and support local businesses.
- In 2019, Odisha received the [GI Tag for Odisha Rasagola](#).

What are the Weaver Ants?

- Kai (Red Weaver Ant) Ants, scientifically called *Oecophylla smaragdina*, are abundantly found in Mayurbhanj throughout the year. They construct nests with leaves of host trees.
 - The nests are **strong enough to withstand wind and are impermeable to water**.
 - Kai's nests are **usually elliptical in shape and range in size from a single small leaf folded and bound onto itself to large nests** consisting of many leaves and which measure over half a meter in length.
- The family consists of **three category members - workers, major workers and queens**.
 - Workers and major workers are **mostly orange-colored**.
- They **feed on small insects and other invertebrates**, their prey being mainly beetles, flies and hymenopterans.
- Kais are **bio-control agents**. They are aggressive and prey on most arthropods entering their territory.
- Due to their predatory habit, Kais are **recognized as biological control agents in tropical crops as they are able to protect a variety of crops** against many different insect pests. In this way, they are utilized indirectly as an alternative to the chemical insecticides.

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What is Kai Chutney?

▪ About:

- The Kai Chutney is prepared from the Weaver ants and are popular in **Odisha's Mayurbhanj district among the people, mostly tribals.**
- When required, leafy nests of ants are plucked from their host trees and collected in a bucket of water before sorting and separation from leaves and debris.

▪ Significance:

- It helps in getting rid of flu, common cold, whooping cough, to increase appetite, enhance vision and eyesight naturally.
- The tribal healers **also prepare medicinal oil, which** is used as baby oil and externally used to **cure rheumatism, gout, ringworm and other skin diseases.**
- So **it is the only panacea for the tribes.**

What is Geographical Indication Status?

▪ About:

- GI is an indication used **to identify goods having special characteristics** originating from a definite geographical territory.
- 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.
 - The Act is administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks- who is the Registrar of Geographical Indications.
 - The Geographical Indications Registry is located at Chennai.
- The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years. It can be renewed from time to time for a further period of 10 years each.
- It is also a part of the **World Trade Organisation's** Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
 - **Recent Examples: [Judima Wine Rice \(Assam\)](#), [Tirur Vetilla \(Kerala\)](#), [Dindigul Lock and Kandangi Saree \(Tamil Nadu\)](#), Odisha etc.**

▪ Significance of GI Tag:

- Once the GI protection is granted, **no other producer can misuse the name to market similar products.** It also provides comfort to customers about the authenticity of that product.

- Having a GI tag for a product **prevents unauthorised use of a registered Geographical Indication by others, boosts exports of Indian Geographical indications** by providing legal protection and also enables seeking legal protection in other [WTO \(World Trade Organizations\)](#) member countries.

UPSC Civil Services Exam, Previous Year Questions (PYQ)

Q. Which of the following has/have been accorded 'Geographical Indication' status? (2015)

1. Banaras Brocades and Sarees
2. Rajasthani Daal-Bati-Churma
3. Tirupathi Laddu

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a)** 1 only
- (b)** 2 and 3 only
- (c)** 1 and 3 only
- (d)** 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

Exp:

- A Geographical Indication (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.
- India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which came into force with effect from 15th September 2003.
- Darjeeling tea was the first product in India to get a GI tag.
- Banaras Brocades and Sarees and Tirupathi Laddu have got GI tag while Rajathan's Daal-Baati-Churma does not. Hence, 1 and 3 are correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer

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