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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Kodaikanal’s malai poondu granted GI tag

G1 Tag:

- Originating from a particular region
- TRIPS Agreement — “Indications which identify a good or product as originating in the territory of a country….. given quality, reputation & other characteristic of good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin.”

Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act of 1999

- Governing GIs of goods in country — protect the interests of producers of such goods
- To exclude unauthorised persons from misusing G1 & protect consumers from deception
- To promote goods bearing Indian G1 in the export market

GI - An indication

- Originates from a definite geographical territory
- Used to identify agricultural, natural or manufactured goods (produced, processed or prepared)
- Special quality / reputation / other characteristics
- Handicrafts / industry / foodstuff also

Benefit of GI registration

- Confers legal protection
- Prevents unauthorised use of registered GIs
- Provides legal protection to Indian GI - boost exports
- Promotes economic prosperity

Validity - 10 years
Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the ‘Geographical Indications tag’:

1. It is a sign which is used in the course of trade and it distinguishes goods or services of one enterprise from those of other enterprises.
2. The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks is the Registrar of Geographical Indications.

Which among the above statements is /are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following pairs.

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Select the correct answer using the code given below.

a) A1, B2, C3, D4  
b) A1, D4, C3, B2  
c) A3, B4, C1, D2  
d) A3, B2, C1, D4
⇒ 29th July - International Tiger Day
⇒ All India Tiger Estimation 2018
  1. 4th cycle
     1st - 2006; 2nd - 2010; 3rd - 2014; 4th - 2018
  2. Quadrennial Census
  3. Data collected using M-STIRPEF
     (Monitoring System for Tigers’ Intensive Protection and Ecological Status)
⇒ India has almost 3000 tigers
   [Exact Count : 2967]

⇒ Madhya Pradesh - highest (526)
   Karnataka (524)
   Uttarakhand (342)

⇒ Status of Tigers in India 2018
  1. Tiger bearing landscapes
     - Shivalik - Gange plains
     - Central India and Eastern Ghats (Highest)
     - Western Ghats
     - North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra
     - Flood plains
     - Sunderbans

⇒ Well-managed Tiger Reserve - Pench Tiger Reserve, MP
  1. Season-wise biodiversity plans
  2. Flying squads - patrolling - Security
  3. Regular meetings with local communities
  4. Funds from tourism - for conservation

⇒ Highest 'increment' in management
  1. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, TN
STR: best park in terms of growth

It records the highest increase in tigers in four-year census

Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, T.N.

- 28 villages inside the reserve - 240 villages in the fringes / border of the reserve
- Local Communities - depend on forest resources (firewood)
- Initiatives to prevent dependency and to increase population of tigers
  1. Providing LPG connections to all households in forest dependent villages
  2. Village youth - Anti-poaching watchers

Cumulative benefits of Tiger reserves ranges between 4,200 crores to 16,000 crores

2005 - Tiger task force appointed by PM
- It mandated a four-yearly monitoring of tiger populations across India
- Estimation - to be based on the methodology developed by WII

National Assessment - "Status of Tigers, co-predators, Prey and their Habitat" - Conducted every 4 years - Since 2006
- Done by NTCA in collaboration with State Forest Departments, Conservation NGOs - Co-ordinated by the Wildlife Institute of India
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with respect to the ‘All India Tiger Estimation’.

1. It is a national assessment that is conducted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, in collaboration with the state forest departments and conservation NGOs, coordinated by the Wildlife Institute of India.
2. The assessment will be conducted once in four years.
3. There was a continuous increase in the number of tigers in every successive cycle of assessment.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. The Royal Bengal Tiger is found throughout India except

a) Northeast India
b) Western Ghats
c) Central India
d) North-western India
RS passes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Amendment Bill 2019:

- **Original Act**: IBC - 2016 aimed at resolution of insolvent / bankrupt, particularly defaulting companies

- **Objective of the Bill**: To end ambiguity and to streamline the Bill

- **Homebuyers** - now have the status of 'Creditor' Housing Project → forced to shut down → buyers will have a say in the resolution process

- **A deadline of 330 days** for resolving cases referred to IBC

- **Recent judgement** by bankruptcy court in Essar Steel Insolvency case - created ambiguities
  - treated financial creditors (lenders) at par with operational creditors (Vendors)
  - but intention of IBC Act → to give primacy to financial creditors
  - **Financial Creditor**: lends money to the company for its functioning
  - **Operational Creditor**: provides goods and Services to the company

**Indemnity extended to new bidders.**

- No criminal proceedings against the company or new bidders after resolution
- No further tax claim by government
- Criminal proceedings → Individuals of the defaulting company

**Govt plan**

- Apply insolvency regulations in phases
- Individuals
- defaulting companies to Who gives personal guarantees

**Restructuring by merger / amalgamation / demerger**

**Insolvency resolution process** to be completed within 330 days

**Imp. Changes proposed to the Act**

- Primacy of financial creditors over operational creditors
- Explicit authority to Committee of creditors (CoC) over distribution of proceeds of resolution
- Indemnity to new bidders
Merger:
Two or more Companies → New / Existing company
ABC + DEF → JKL or ABC

Amalgamation: A type of merger
Two or more companies → New entities
ABC + DEF → JKL

Demerger:
A big company → Smaller companies

Committee of Creditors:
Consists of financial creditors or lenders - forms the decision making body

Minorities panel draws its remit
Only the Centre has the power to declare new groups, says Commission

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I—(200 marks) Duration: Two hours

• Indian Polity and Governance-constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination
PAPER-III
General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

• Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
• Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes: mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
SC directed a petition to NCM (National Commission for Minorities) - Should minority status be given to Hindus in states where they are minority?

NCM Act, Section 2(c)
- Clearly states that 'Minority' means a community notified as 'Minority' by the Central Government.

NCM report:
- NCM lacks authority to declare a community as minority
- Such power is entrusted with Central government
- NCM cannot 'usurp' the power of Central govt

Bal Patel Vs Union of India case - 1999
- Constitutional role of NCM - Create Social Conditions so that there will be no necessity to protect rights of minorities
- NCM - maintain unity and integrity of India by eliminating need for identifying majority and minority
- Minority Status - if given, solely based on religion, numeric strength etc. → results in Communities Competition for minority status
- Unhealthy competition undermine Unity & integrity among communities of India.

National Commission for Minorities:
* Statutory body - Under NCM Act 1992, non-constitutional body
* Composition:
  Chairperson + Vice-Chairperson + 5 members
* Notified Minority Communities in India:
  Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Buddhists, Jains (Notified - 2014)

Important Functions of NCM:
1) Evaluate progress and development of minorities under Union & States
2) Monitor working of constitutional safeguards and Central & State laws.
3) Makes recommendations to both Central and State governments for effective implementation of safeguards
4) Section 9(c) of NCM Act:
   - To suggest appropriate measures to be undertaken by C. Govt. or S. Govts.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Commission for Minorities.

1. It is a statutory body constituted by the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
2. The Commission can suggest appropriate measures in respect of any Minority to be undertaken by the Central Government or the State Governments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Both the Central and State Governments can notify a community as ‘minority’ community.
2. National Commission for Minorities monitor the working of constitutional safeguards provided to the minorities.
3. The Buddhists and the Jains are notified minority communities in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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