

1. 'Odisha Rasagola' finally gets GI tag

GS-3:- IPR

CONTEXT	The rasagola, a popular dessert of Odisha, has received the geographical indication tag from the Registrar of Geographical Indication after years of controversy around the sweet.
RELATED NEWS	✓ For long there has been a tussle between Odisha and West Bengal about the origins of the Rasagulla. ✓ The battle between Odisha and West Bengal began in the year 2015 when it was pointed out that the origin of the sweet rasagolla existed for about 600 years. ✓ Odisha claims it invented the rosogolla which, as the legend goes, was offered as bhog on the ninth day of the Jagannath Rath Yatra during a Niladri Bijaya ritual, to goddess Mahalakshmi in the famous Puri temple. ✓ The sweet, named "Pahala rasagola" (Odia pronunciation) has been dated back to the 12th century — with scholars citing religious texts and temple records for evidence that the rasagola, also called khira mohana, was part of Puri's sacred rituals. ✓ Further the rosogolla swelled in popularity as according to the story, Odia chefs took the recipe with them to Bengal, and Bengali visitors carried home the technique, at times apparently extracted from Bikalananda Kar himself, the legendary sweetmaker from Salepur in Cuttack, who is believed to have modified the original khira mohana
Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999	✓ GI Act is an Act of the Parliament of India for protection of geographical indications in India. ✓ India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Act to comply with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. ✓ The GI tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorized users (or at least those residing inside the geographic territory) are allowed to use the popular product name.
WHAT IS A GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION?	✓ A geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g. a town, region, or country). ✓ In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place. In addition, the qualities, characteristics or reputation of the product should be essentially due to the place of origin. ✓ Since the qualities depend on the geographical place of production, there is a clear link between the product and its original place of production. ✓ The use of a geographical indication may act as a certification that the product possesses certain qualities, is made according to traditional methods, or enjoys a certain reputation, due to its geographical origin.

2. List of 'iconic tourist sites' may be reviewed

CONTEXT	Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan wrote to the Tourism Minister of State asking him to include Odisha's Konark Sun Temple and Jagannath Temple, Puri.
Iconic Tourist Sites" Initiative	The Tourism Ministry is the nodal ministry for the implementation of the initiative. The 17 sites identified by the Ministry are: Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri (Uttar Pradesh), Ajanta & Ellora (Maharashtra), Humayun's Tomb, Red Fort and Qutub Minar (Delhi), Colva (Goa), Amer Fort (Rajasthan), Somnath and Dholavira (Gujarat), Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh), Hampi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Kaziranga (Assam), Kumarakom (Kerala) and The Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar)
Konark Sun Temple	✓ Konark Sun Temple is a 13th-century sun temple at Konark on the coastline of Odisha. ✓ The name Konark derives from the combination of the Sanskrit words Kona (corner or angle) and Arka (the sun). ✓ The temple is attributed to king Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty ✓ Dedicated to the Hindu god Surya, what remains of the temple complex has the appearance of a 100-foot (30 m) high chariot with immense wheels and horses, all carved from stone. ✓ Also called the Surya Devalaya, it is a classic illustration of the Odisha style of Hindu temple architecture. ✓ This temple was called the "Black Pagoda" in European sailor accounts as early as 1676 because its great tower appeared black. ✓ Similarly, the Jagannath Temple in Puri was called the "White Pagoda". Both temples served as important landmarks for sailors in the Bay of Bengal. ✓ Declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1984, it remains a major pilgrimage site for Hindus, who gather here every year for the Chandrabhaga Mela around the month of February.
Jagannath Temple	✓ Jagannath Temple was built in the city of Puri by King Chodaganhadeva in 12th century. He also built the Sun temple of Konark. His grandson Ananga Bhimadeva completed the construction of the temple in 12th century. There are three main deities in the temple who are put into the temple cars during the festival of Rath Yatra and these deities are Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra

3. WAQF

GS-1:- Social Issues

CONTEXT	Minority Affairs Minister Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi today inaugurated a national conference of Central Waqf Council (CWC), organised at NDMC Convention Centre in New Delhi.
RELATED NEWS	✓ He announced that the Central Government has set a target to achieve 100 per cent digitisation of Waqf properties across the country in its first 100 days. There are more than 6 lakh registered Waqf properties across the country. ✓ He awarded 8 Mutawalis under "Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme" for better management of Waqf properties in their respective state Waqf boards. This is for the first time that Mutawalis have been encouraged and awarded for better utilisation of Waqf properties.
Wakf/Waqf	Generous Muslims adhering to the principles of 'endowment' in Islam often dedicate large properties in the name of God. The proceeds from these properties are dedicated to meet the exclusive needs of the poor. This type of property is called 'Wakf'.

4. Amphibious ship LCU L-56 commissioned into Navy

GS-3:-SECURITY

CONTEXT	IN LCU L56 was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Vice-Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.
RELATED NEWS	✓ LCU 56 is an amphibious ship with its primary role being transportation and deployment of Main Battle Tanks, Armoured Vehicles, Troops and Equipment from ship to shore. ✓ LCU L56 would be administered and based in Port Blair under the NAVCC in ANC (Andaman Nicobar Command). ✓ it is the sixth ship of the Landing Craft Utility(LCU) MK IV class.

5. Madhya Pradesh's Pench sanctuary, Kerala's Periyar sanctuary rated top tiger reserves

GS-3:- ENVIRONMENT

CONTEXT	Madhya Pradesh's Pench sanctuary and Kerala's Periyar sanctuary emerged as the best managed tiger reserves in the country, according to an evaluation of India's 50 tiger sanctuaries released along with the 4th National Tiger Estimation (Tiger census) on Monday. Kerala had the best kept reserves followed by Madhya Pradesh. Chhattisgarh was the 'least performing State' in reserve management.
RELATED NEWS	✓ Pench Tiger Reserve is located in Madhya Pradesh in Seoni and Chhindwara districts, named after the Pench river that flows through the National Park. ✓ Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary (PNP) is a protected area near Thekkady in the districts of Idukki, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta in Kerala
	✓ The Tiger Estimation exercise is believed to be the world's largest wildlife survey effort in terms of coverage, intensity of sampling and quantum of camera trapping.

	✓ India conducts the All India Tiger Estimation every four years. Three cycles of the estimation have already been completed in 2006, 2010 and 2014. ✓ The Government and National Tiger Conservation Authority have also carried out an economic valuation of tigers in mitigating the adverse impact of climate change
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6. Minorities panel draws its remit

GS-2:- INSTITUTIONS

CONTEXT	Only the Centre has the power to declare new groups, says Commission The National Commission of Minorities (NCM) has refused to entertain a plea to declare Hindus a "minority community" in those States where they do not form a majority of the population.
National Commission for Minorities (NCM)	✓ It is a statutory body set up under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. ✓ The commission is made up of :a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson and five members. ✓ Unlike other bodies like NCSC and NCST, NCM has no constitutional backing or status. ✓ It works under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, and before the formation of this ministry it came under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
Who are minorities	✓ Constitution of India has not defined word 'Minority' and only refers to 'Minorities'. ✓ It speaks of minorities 'based on religion or language' and rights of minorities have been spelt out in Constitution in detail. ✓ Six religious communities, viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified in Gazette of India as minority communities by Union Government all over India.