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National Investigation Agency



National Investigation Agency – Today Current Affairs

- Recently, the Union Home Ministry has handed over the investigation of the brutal murder of a pharmacist in Maharashtra's Amravati to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

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National Investigation Agency (NIA):

- NIA is India's central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency, mandated to investigate all crimes affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India. **It contains:**
- Friendly relations with foreign states.
- Against nuclear and nuclear facilities.

- Smuggling of arms, drugs and counterfeit Indian currency and cross-border infiltration.
- Offenses under statutory laws enacted to give effect to international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organizations.
- It was constituted under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008.
- The agency is empowered to investigate crimes related to terrorism in the states without special permission from the states under a written proclamation from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

Evolution : The Hindu Analysis

- In the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attack in November 2008, which shook the whole world, the then United Progressive Alliance government decided to set up the NIA.
- In December 2008, former Union Home Minister P Chidambaram introduced the National Investigation Agency Bill.
- The agency came into existence on 31st December, 2008 and started its operations in the year 2009. Till now NIA has registered 447 cases.

Jurisdiction : The Hindu Analysis

- The law under which the agency operates is applicable to Indian citizens throughout India and outside the country as well.
- Wherever the persons are posted in the service of the Government.
- Persons on ships and aircraft registered in India, wherever they are.
- Persons who commit a listed offense outside India against an Indian citizen or affecting the interest of India.

Listed Offenses : The Hindu Analysis

- A list of offenses has been made under the Act on which the NIA can investigate and prosecute.

The list includes : The Hindu Analysis

- Explosive Substances Act
- Atomic Energy Act
- Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act
- Anti-hijacking Act
- Suppression of unlawful acts against the protection of the Civil Aviation Act

- SAARC Convention (Eradication of Terrorism) Act.
- Elimination of unlawful acts against maritime navigation and the protection of fixed platforms on the Continental Shelf Act
- Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Supply System (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act
- Any other relevant offense under the Indian Penal Code, Arms Act and Information Technology Act
- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act

NIA investigation process:

State government : The Hindu Analysis

- Under Section 6 of the Act, the State Governments can refer the cases related to the listed offenses registered in any police station to the Central Government (Union Home Ministry) for NIA investigation.
- After assessing the details provided, the Center may direct the agency to handle the matter.
- State Governments are required to provide all kinds of assistance to the NIA.

Central government : The Hindu Analysis

- **In India:** When the Central Government is of the opinion that an inquiry into a scheduled offense committed is necessary under the Act, it may direct the agency to conduct the inquiry.
- **Outside India:** When the Central Government finds that the Act is applicable at any place outside India where a scheduled offense has been committed, it may also direct the NIA to register a case and investigate.

Recent Amendments to the NIA Act : The Hindu Analysis

- NIA was amended in 2019 with the objective of speedy investigation and prosecution of certain offenses including those committed outside India.

The main areas of revision:

Crimes outside India : The Hindu Analysis

- The original Act allowed the NIA to investigate and prosecute crimes in India.
- The amended Act empowered the agency to investigate crimes committed outside India under international treaties and domestic laws of other countries.

Extending the scope of the law:

**The amendment has allowed the NIA to investigate matters relating to
: The Hindu Analysis**

- Human trafficking
- Fake currency or banknotes
- Manufacture or sale of prohibited weapons
- Cyber terrorism
- Offenses under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.

Swadeep Kumar



Geographical Indication of Kai Chutney of Odisha



Geographical Indication of Kai Chutney of Odisha – Today Current Affairs

- Scientific Kai Chutney has been submitted for Geographical Indication (GI) registry in Odisha.
- The GI tag standard will help in developing a structured hygiene protocol for widespread use of kai chutney. The GI label enhances the prestige and value of local products and supports local businesses.
- Odisha got GI tag for Odisha Rasgulla in the year 2019.

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Weaver Ants:

- Kai (Red Weaver Ant) ants, scientifically called *Ocophila smaragdina*, are found in abundance in Mayurbhanj throughout the year. They build nests from the leaves of the host trees.
- Nests are strong enough to withstand wind and are impervious to water.
- Moss nests are usually oval in shape and range from a small folded leaf to a large nest consisting of several leaves that exceed half a meter in length.
- There are three categories of members in its family – workers, main workers and queens.
- Workers and key workers are mostly orange in colour.
- They feed on small insects and other invertebrates, their prey mainly being beetles, flies and hymenopterans.
- Kais is a bio-control agent. They are aggressive and prey on most arthropods that enter their territory.

- Due to their predatory habit, CAS are recognized as biological control agents in tropical crops as they are able to protect different crops against many different pests. Thus they are indirectly used as an alternative to chemical insecticides.

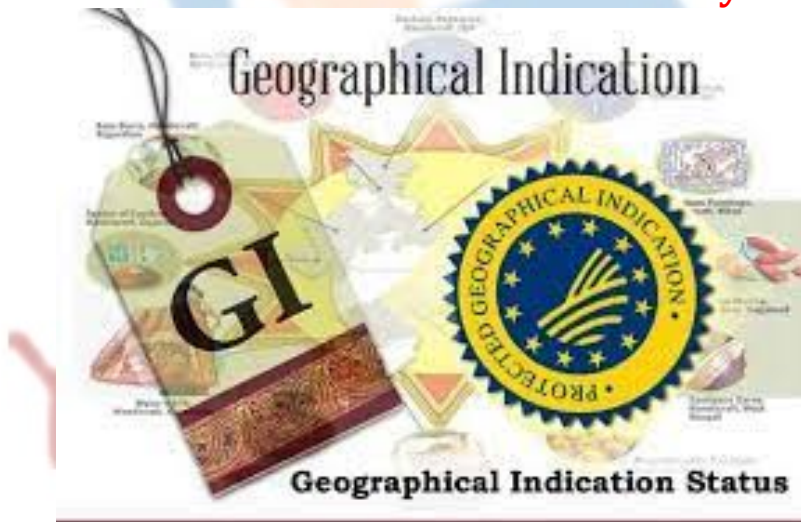
Kai Chutney : The Hindu Analysis

- Kai Chutney is prepared from Weaver Ants and is popular amongst tribal people mostly in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.
- If necessary, the leafy nests of ants are plucked from their host trees and collected in a bucket of water before the leaves and debris are sorted and separated.

Importance : The Hindu Analysis

- It helps to get rid of flu, common cold, whooping cough, increases appetite and improves eyesight naturally.
- Tribal healers also prepare medicated oil, which is used as baby oil and used externally to cure arthritis, ringworm and other skin diseases.
- It is the only panacea for the tribes.

Geographical Indication Location : The Hindu Analysis



- GI is an indicator used to identify goods with special characteristics originating from a certain geographical area.
- The 'Geographical Indications of Goods' (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 seeks to provide better protection and registration 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.
- Geographical Indication Registration Office is located in Chennai.

- Registration of Geographical Indication is valid for a period of 10 years. It can be renewed from time to time for an additional period of 10 years.
- It is also part of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the World Trade Organization.
- Recent examples: Judima Wine Rice (Assam), Tirur Vetila (Kerala), Dindigul Lock and Kandangi Sari (Tamil Nadu), Odisha etc.

Importance of Geographical Indication : The Hindu Analysis

- Once granted Geographical Indication status, no other manufacturer can misuse its name to market similar products. It also facilitates the customers about the authenticity of that product.
- Geographical Indication of a product prevents unauthorized use of other Registered Geographical Indications which promotes export of Indian Geographical Indications by providing legal protection and also enables to obtain legal protection in other WTO member countries.

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