

27 NOV

Ques :- What is Geographical Indication (GI) and how long does it last? Also discuss the shortcomings in obtaining and protecting the GI tag.

Geographical Indication (GI) are kind of intellectual rights to secure the rights of manufacturers, artisans, craftsmen etc. GI tags are accredited for a tenure of 10 years and can be renewed further.

Shortcomings in obtaining & protecting the GI tags :-

→ Need of documents :- Along with other valid proofs, valid documented proofs are also required to register a particular product under GI. Since many of the items, skills etc have passed down by generations through oral traditions, this method is an hindrance for development of GI tags.

→ Organising Groups :- Since GI tags doesn't belong to a particular individual, they're collective rights of society. Sometimes, it becomes difficult to organise such groups under single roof.

→ Trans-boundary Problem :- For. e.g.:- If a person is selling a fake product in France then action is taken against that person. But if a person from Sri Lanka is selling a fake product, say, Darjeeling Tea to France, & the process to provide justice is cumbersome

But if secured & applied properly, it is argued that GI tags have potential to be India's growth engine.

Some other indirect problems associated with GI tags are :-

- Since most of the artisans, crafts person etc are poor or marginalised. But after securing GI tags, their income would rise and family condition would improve. But if financial inclusion of such persons is not done, it may give rise to problems like - lending money on interest, storing black money etc.
- There are sometimes quarrels between states to claim rights over a particular product.  
E-g :- Rosgullah conflict between Bengal & Orissa. This affects cooperative federalism and sometimes sentiments of people.