



DAILY PT POINTERS

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Cong. 'callously' gave away Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka in 1974, says Prime Minister

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI/COIMBATORE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday came down heavily on the Congress over the ceding of Katchatheevu island to Sri Lanka in 1974 by the then-Indira Gandhi government, an issue that has gained prominence during the Lok Sabha election



Weakening India's unity, integrity, and interests has been Congress's way of working for 75 years and counting

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister in a post on X

of the island situated in the Palk Strait to Sri Lanka by India in 1974

Chief Minister and late Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader, M. Karunanidhi

stances under which it had been ceded.

The remarks by the Prime Minister on Sunday underscored his attack on the Congress on the question of the integrity of India's sovereign claims, as well as his electoral push towards South India, especially Tamil Nadu.

(Dattiyaru island)

- the Island of Katchatheevu is located in the Palk Strait between Rameswaram in India and Sri Lanka.
- It was traditionally used by fishermen from both countries and initially part of the Madras Presidency. Katchatheevu became part of Sri Lanka in 1974 after then prime minister Indira Gandhi signed the "Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime agreement".



The Hindu-GS3 (Intellectual Property Rights)-Page 12

A record 60 traditional products from across India granted GI tag

Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

Over 60 products from across India, including Banaras Thandai, have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

This is the first time that such a large number of products have been given the GI tag at one go, a senior official from the Geographical Indications Registry said, adding that more States were coming forward and filing applications to get a GI tag for their traditional products.

Six traditional crafts from Assam – Asharikandi terracotta craft, Pani Meteka craft, Sarthebari metal craft, Jaapi (bamboo headgear), Mishing handloom products, and Bihu dhol – have bagged the GI tag.

Thirteen other products from Assam have been given the tag, including the Bodo Dokhona, the tradi-



The Bihu dhol has been given the GI tag. THE HINDU

tional attire of Bodo women; and Bodo Eri silk, referred to as the fabric of peace or *ahimsa* (non-violence), which comes from the silkworm *Samia ricini* that feeds mostly on the leaves of the castor plant (*Ricinus communis*), and cassava. Bodo Jwmgra (a traditional scarf), Bodo Gamsa (traditional dress of Bodo men), Bodo Thorakha (a musical instrument), and Bodo Sifung (a long flute) are also on the list.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, in a post on X, said it was a big win for Assam's heritage. "These products, deeply rooted in history, support nearly one lakh people directly," he said.

The famous Banaras Thandai, a drink made by blending milk with a mix of nuts, seeds and spices, also got the tag. Details in the GI filing mentioned that on any given evening, in the heart of the city, in areas

such as Gaudaulia Chowk, Lahurabir, and the old lane of Pakka Mahal, traditional Banaras Thandai shops attract large crowds. The drink was first introduced centuries ago as an offering to the Shri Kashi Vishwanath deity on the occasion of Mahashivaratri, Rangbhari Ekadasi, and Holi. The Banaras Tabla, Banaras Shehnai, Banaras Lal Bharamirchi, and Banaras Lal Peda are among the products that walked away with GI tags in this region.

The Tripura region secured two tags – one for the Pachra-Rignai, which is a traditional dress worn on special occasions, and the other for the Matabari Peda, a sweet preparation.

Meghalaya Garo Textile weaving, which is linked to socio-cultural and religious rituals, Meghalaya Lyrnai Pottery, and Meghalaya Chubitchi also secured the tag.

- Geographical Indication (GI) is a form of certification that recognises unique products based on their origin, which is often attributed to agro-climatic variations and traditional cultivation practices. This certification is also extended to non-agricultural products, such as handicrafts, based on human skills, materials and resources available in certain areas that make the product unique.
- The first GI tag in the country was given two decades ago to the famous Darjeeling tea.
- In December 1999, the Parliament had passed the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. This Act seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.

The Hindu-Science and Tech (GSIII)-Page 18

Punnett square: a genetics puzzle

Arkatapa Basu

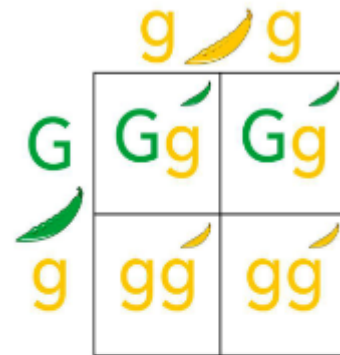
The little four-square grid we drew in school while learning about genetic crossing has a name: the Punnett Square. These squares are a way to predict the possible genetic outcomes of the offspring when two individuals with known genotypes are crossed.

The Punnett Square is named after British geneticist Reginald Punnett. Drawing these squares is simple. Imagine a grid, usually with four squares. Along the top and side of the grid, you list the possible genetic traits of one parent on one side and the other parent on the other side. Then, you fill in the squares by combining the traits from each parent.

Each square effectively represents a possible combination of traits that their offspring could inherit. It's a simple way to visualise the probabilities of different traits showing up in the offspring.

Punnett Squares are commonly used in biology to understand inheritance patterns, like when you learn about dominant and recessive genes in school.

A Punnett Square is a useful tool that helps predict the variations and probabilities resulting from cross-breeding. It is often used to study the outcomes of cross-breeding but it can also be used to understand the genetic



In this Punnett square, the colour green in unripe pods is determined by the dominant allele 'G' and the colour yellow in unripe pods is determined by a recessive allele 'g'. PERKS

traits in the offspring of animals, including humans. Researchers typically use them together with Mendelian inheritance, a fundamental concept in genetics discovered by Gregor Mendel.



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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu-S&T(GSIII)

World's most powerful laser points to uncharted arenas

Agence France-Presse
MAGURELE

In the control room of a research centre in Romania, part of the European Union's Infrastructure ELI project, engineer Antonia Toma activates the world's most powerful laser, which promises revolutionary advances in everything from the health sector to space.



Precision game: Partial view of the special mirrors systems used to activate laser at the ELI project in Romania.

- In the control room of a research centre in Romania, part of the European Union's Infrastructure ELI project, engineer Antonia Toma activates the world's most powerful laser, which promises revolutionary advances in everything from the health sector to space.
- The laser at the centre, near the Romanian capital Bucharest, is operated by French company Thales, using Nobel prize-winning inventions.
- Possible applications include treating nuclear waste by reducing the duration of its radioactivity, or cleaning up the debris accumulating out in space,

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express:History(GSI)

Remembering Vaikom satyagraha, a 100 years later

Running for over 600 days, the Vaikom satyagraha was the first among many temple entry movements in India. Amidst the national movement, it foregrounded the issue of untouchability and caste oppression.

Kerala's Vaikom town which was then in the princely state of Travancore became the epicentre of a historic non-violent movement against untouchability and caste discrimination. Vaikom Satyagraha that lasted for 604 days (20 months) from March 30, 1924 to November 23, 1925 marked the dawn of temple entry movements across India.

- In 1924 Gandhi supported the Vaikom Satyagraha movement organised by the Kerala Congress Committee to secure the rights of untouchables for using the forbidden roads to the temple

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB: Economy (GS3)

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Closing ceremony of the International Year of Millets 2023 took place at the FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy in a hybrid set up

Smt. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare graced the global occasion along with various esteemed dignitaries from renowned international organizations and delivered keynote address highlighting India's achievements in the global campaign of the superfood

Posted On: 30 MAR 2024 12:23PM by PIB Delhi

- India got the support of 72 other countries, on 5th March 2021, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets
- Millet is a common term to categorize small-seeded grasses that are often termed Nutri-cereals or Dryland-cereals and includes Sorghum (Jowar), Pearl Millet (Bajra), Finger Millet (Ragi), Little Millet (Kutki), Foxtail Millet (Kakun), Proso Millet (Cheena), Barnyard Millet (Sawa), Kodo Millet (Kodon) and other millets
- India is one of the leading producers of millets in the world
- The major millets producing states in India are Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

News on air : GS1-Culture

Festival Of Easter Is Being Celebrated All Over The World



- The festival of Easter is being celebrated all over the world, marking the faithful belief that Jesus rose from the dead after being crucified.
- Mid-night Easter prayers were held at various Churches across the country last night. Joyous celebration is marked as a symbol of new beginnings and the arrival of spring. People traditionally celebrate it with rituals like egg hunts, baked hot cross buns, and decorating Easter eggs, which are symbolic of Christ's death on the cross and resurrection from the tomb.