

Nandyal Banking Coaching Center - GI tags-Ramsar Sites-Heritage sites- Cyclones

Note on Volcanoes: Russian "Aist-2T" satellites are designed to monitor emergencies including volcanic activity.

Geographical Indication (GI) Tags in News

Recent additions to the GI registry include products from Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Goa.

- **Uttar Pradesh:** The state holds the highest number of GI-tagged products in India (79 products). New additions include **Mathura Zari Poshak** (attire associated with Lord Krishna) and the **Meerut Bugle** (a musical instrument symbolizing independence history).
- **Tamil Nadu:** Five products recently received tags, bringing the state's total to 74. These include **Woraiyur cotton saris** (Cuddalore), **Kavindapadi jaggery powder** (Erode), **Thooyamalli rice** (traditional rice variety), **Namakkal makkal pathirangal** (soapstone cookware), and **Ambasamudram choppu saman** (wooden toys).
- **Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh:** The **Ambaji Marbles** (from Banaskantha, Gujarat) and **Panna Diamonds** (Madhya Pradesh) received tags. Panna diamonds were granted the tag in the "14-Natural Goods Category".
- **Sikkim:** Two ancient musical instruments of the Lepcha community received tags: **Tungbuk** (three-string instrument) and **Puntong Palit** (bamboo flute).
- **Arunachal Pradesh:** **Yak Churpi** (fermented cheese from Arunachali Yak milk) and **Dao** (a traditional sword of the Wancho community) received tags.
- **Goa:** **Goan Cashew Feni** (specifically *Ozo Feni* mentioned in context) secured a GI tag, categorized as a "Heritage Spirit of Goa".

Ramsar Sites (Wetlands) in News

India has officially designated several new wetlands as Ramsar sites. India ranks 1st in Asia and 3rd globally for the number of Ramsar sites.

- **Rajasthan:** **Siliserh Lake** (Alwar district) was designated as the 96th Ramsar site.
- **Chhattisgarh:** **Kopra Reservoir** (Bilaspur) became the state's first Ramsar site (95th in India).
- **Bihar:** **Gogabeel Lake** (Katihar) was designated as the 94th site. Additionally, **Gokul Jalashay** (Buxar) and **Udaipur Jheel** (West Champaran) were added to the list.
- **Tamil Nadu:** Currently holds the highest number of Ramsar sites in India (20 sites).

Heritage Sites in News

- **UNESCO World Heritage List:** The "**Maratha Military Landscapes of India**", comprising 12 forts across Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu (e.g., Raigad, Shivneri, Gingee Fort), was officially inscribed on the World Heritage List.
- **UNESCO Tentative List:** India added 7 new sites to the tentative list, including the **Deccan Traps** (Maharashtra), **Meghalayan Age Caves** (Meghalaya), **Geological Heritage of St. Mary's Island** (Karnataka), **Naga Hill Ophiolite** (Nagaland), **Erra Matti Dibbalu** (Andhra Pradesh), **Tirumala Hills** (Andhra Pradesh), and **Varkala Cliff** (Kerala).
- **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage:** "**Deepavali**" was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Additionally, Italy's national cuisine was recognized on this list.

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- **Nomination:** India officially nominated **Sarnath** (Uttar Pradesh) for the 2025-26 World Heritage nomination cycle.
- **Status Update:** **Khangchendzonga National Park** (Sikkim) was rated as 'Good' by the IUCN in its 2025 global review, the only Indian site to receive this positive status.

Blue Flag Certification

The Blue Flag certification is awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark. India currently has **18 Blue Flag beaches**.

- **Maharashtra:** Five beaches received the certification: **Shrivardhan, Nagaon, Parnaka, Guhagar, and Ladghar**.
- **Tamil Nadu:** **Kovalam Beach** received the certification for the 5th consecutive year. The state is pursuing certification for 10 more beaches including Marina and Silver Beach.
- **Odisha:** **Sunapur Beach** (3rd consecutive year) and **Golden Beach, Puri** (7th consecutive year) retained their certifications.

Cyclones: Names, Affected Areas, and Naming Countries

Cyclone Name	Also Known As	Affected Areas	Named By / Origin of Name
Ditwah	—	Sri Lanka (relief under <i>Operation Sagar Bandhu</i>)	Yemen
Shakti	—	Arabian Sea (affected sea conditions in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Pakistan)	Sri Lanka
Fengshen	Tropical Storm Ramil	Philippines, China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia	China (Meaning: "God of Wind")
Fung-wong	Super Typhoon Uwan	Philippines (Luzon)	—
Malisa	—	Jamaica, Cuba, Bahamas	—

Note: Cyclonic storms named **Dana, Fengal, Remal, and Asna** were also mentioned as having disrupted marine fishing activities in India.