

# CSEET Communique

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# CSEET Communique (e-bulletin)

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*“May every woman find the strength to pursue her dreams fearlessly and achieve her aspirations.”*

***Dear Students,***

India is a land of diversity, a land of hope and immense talent, and more than that a reservoir of untapped strength and abilities. And this strength is portrayed equitably by each and every citizen and participant in the growth story irrespective of their gender and irrespective of any other distinguishing factors. If the women force of the nation is to be focussed upon, one can hardly miss the leading women in the history of this nation – ones which have steered the course of the direction for the entire country – making every moment count. Be it the highly learned and intellectual ‘rishikas’ who contributed to the penning down of Vedas or the ones that guided the kings and rulers with their guidance from behind the veils. Be it the ones who fought shoulder-to-shoulder in the struggles for independence or the ones who made their mark in each and every field of action & operation – even being the First Citizen.

The celebration of International Women’s Day on a dedicated date serves multitude of purposes. While on one hand it is a clarion call to empower those women who need a holding hand, it is a moment to look back and reminisce & rejoice the road travelled, the accomplishments made and develop a road map for the future.

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India considers it a matter of great pride and honour that nearly fifty percent of its members, students and workforce comprise female participation and it is these women who are playing and will play their designated roles in partnering in the growth story of the nation by strengthening the foundations of governance.

The month of March brings with it a celebration of spring – of the varied colours – visible on flowers and leaves and it is in this celebration that the Indian culture adds the festival of colours.

I hope all of you relish the festival, its upbeat moods and the flavours of food and sweetness and uphold the spirit of victory of good over evil and imbibe ethics and integrity in your professional conduct all through life.

A very Happy Holi to you and your loved ones !!!

*Keep learning, keep growing!!!!!!*

Regards,

**(CS B. Narasimhan)**

*President*

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India

## World Trade Organization (WTO) & WTO's 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (MC13) \*

### Introduction

The WTO's creation on 1 January 1995 marked the biggest reform of international trade since the end of the Second World War. Whereas the GATT mainly dealt with trade in goods, the WTO and its agreements also cover trade in services and intellectual property. The birth of the WTO also created new procedures for the settlement of disputes.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.

There are a number of ways of looking at the World Trade Organization. It is an organization for trade opening. It is a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements. It is a place for them to settle trade disputes. It operates a system of trade rules. Essentially, the WTO is a place where member governments try to sort out the trade problems, they face with each other. The WTO is run by its member governments. All major decisions are made by the membership as a whole, either by ministers (who usually meet at least once every two years) or by their ambassadors or delegates (who meet regularly in Geneva).

The WTO agreements are lengthy and complex because they are legal texts covering a wide range of activities. But a number of simple, fundamental principles run throughout all of these documents. These principles are the foundation of the multilateral trading system. The World Trade Organization is the international organization whose primary purpose is to open trade for the benefit of all.

### WTO Organization Chart

The WTO's top-level decision-making body is the Ministerial Conference, which usually meets every two years. Below this is the General Council (normally ambassadors and heads of delegation in Geneva, and sometimes officials sent from members' capitals), which meets several times a year in the Geneva headquarters. The General Council also meets as the Trade Policy Review Body and the Dispute Settlement Body.

At the next level, the Goods Council, Services Council and Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Council report to the General Council. Numerous specialized committees, working groups and working parties deal with the individual agreements and other areas such as the environment, development, membership applications and regional trade agreements.

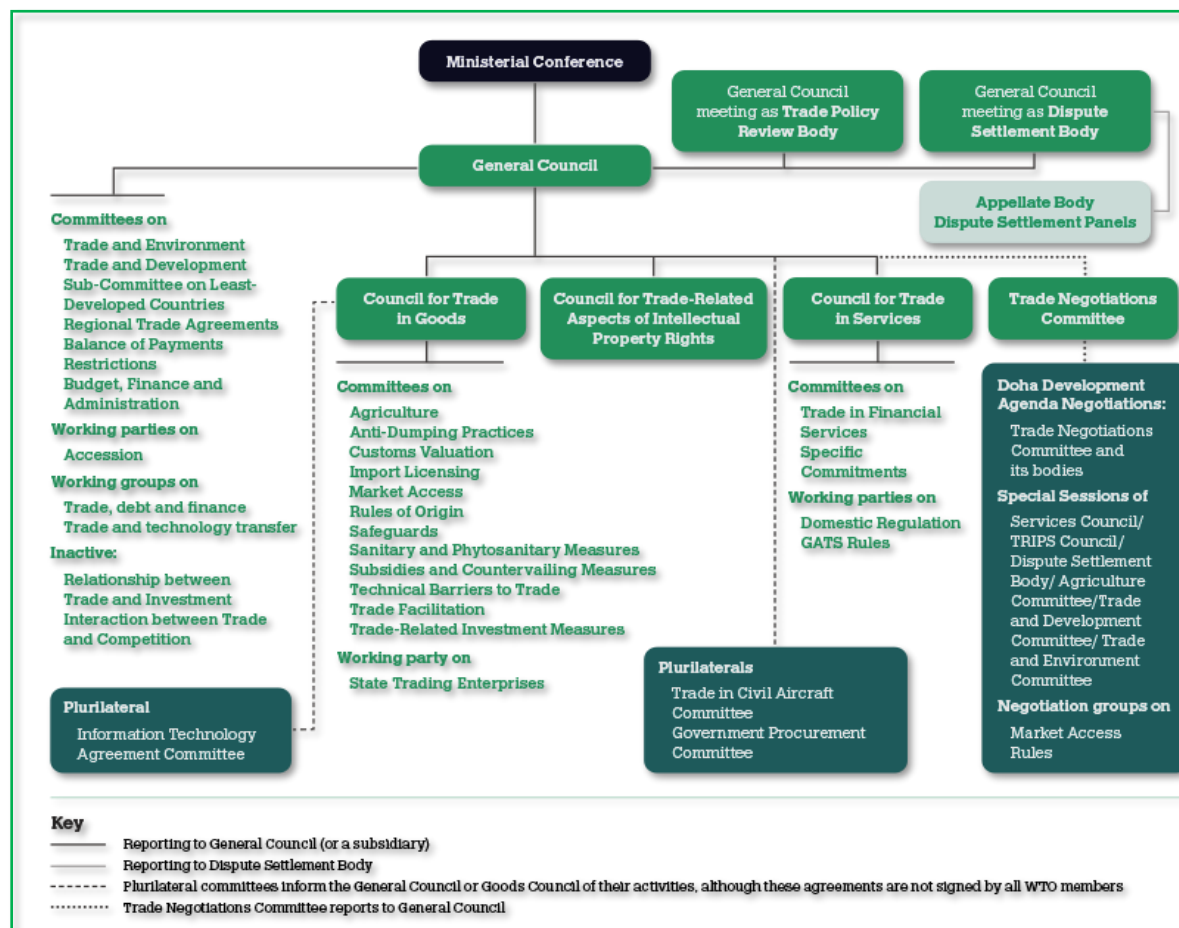
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\* Chittaranjan Pal, Deputy Director, The ICSI.

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All WTO members may participate in all Councils and Committees, with the exceptions of the Appellate Body, Dispute Settlement panels and plurilateral committees.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is the seventh Director-General of the WTO. She took office on 1 March 2021, becoming the first woman and the first African to serve as Director-General. Her term of office will expire on 31 August 2025.



Source: [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/whatis\\_e/tif\\_e/organigram\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/organigram_e.pdf)

### Ministerial Conferences since its inception

The topmost decision-making body of the WTO is the Ministerial Conference, which usually meets every two years. It brings together all members of the WTO, all of which are countries or customs unions. The Ministerial Conference can take decisions on all matters under any of the multilateral trade agreements. Following are the WTO Ministerial conference since its inception:

- **MC1** — Singapore, 9-13 December 1996
- **MC2** — Geneva, 18-20 May 1998
- **MC3** — Seattle, November 30 – December 3, 1999
- **MC4** — Doha, 9-13 November 2001
- **MC5** — Cancún, 10-14 September 2003
- **MC6** — Hong Kong, 13-18 December 2005

- **MC7** — Geneva, 30 November - 2 December 2009
- **MC8** — Geneva, 15-17 December 2011
- **MC9** — Bali, 3-6 December 2013
- **MC10** — Nairobi, 15-19 December 2015
- **MC11** — Buenos Aires, 10-13 December 2017
- **MC12** — Geneva, 12-17 June 2022
- **MC13** — Abu Dhabi, 26-29 February 2024

### **WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13)**

The WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) took place from 26 February to 2 March 2024 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Ministers from across the world attended to review the functioning of the multilateral trading system and to take action on the future work of the WTO. The Conference was chaired by H.E. Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Trade.

WTO members concluded the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) in Abu Dhabi on 2 March with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration setting out a forward-looking, reform agenda for the organization. Ministers also took a number of ministerial decisions, including renewing the commitment to have a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system by 2024 and to improve use of the special and differential treatment (S&DT) provisions for developing and least developed countries (LDCs). They also agreed to continue negotiations in all areas where convergence was elusive at MC13.

The Ministerial Conference brought together nearly 4,000 ministers, senior trade officials and other delegates from the WTO's 164 members and observers as well as representatives from civil society, business and the global media. Initially scheduled for 26-29 February, the Conference was extended in a final push to reach outcomes on the various issues at stake.

Members adopted the Abu Dhabi Ministerial Declaration, where they committed to preserve and strengthen the ability of the multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core, to respond to current trade challenges.

The Ministerial Declaration underlines the centrality of the development dimension in the work of the WTO, recognizing the role that the multilateral trading system can play in contributing towards the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. It also recognized the contribution of women's economic empowerment and women's participation in trade to economic growth and sustainable development.

### **India @ WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13)**

At the Working Session on Dispute Settlement (DS) Reforms, at the World Trade Organization's 13th Ministerial Conference on 28 February 2024, India emphatically called for the restoration of the Appellate Body as the top-most priority of any reform process, along for effective formalisation of the ongoing informal dispute settlement reform discussions among some Members at the WTO.

During the Working Session, WTO Members noted that the Appellate Body - the appellate arm of the DS system - had been non-functional since December 2019, due to the blocking of appointment of its Members by the United States. This had called into question the WTO's overall credibility and the rules-based trade-order it upholds.

India recalled the commitment of WTO Members of 12th Ministerial Conference to conduct discussions with the view to having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all Members by 2024.

India reiterated its long-standing position that a credible and reliable WTO DS system is the bedrock of an equitable, effective, secure and predictable multilateral trading system. India emphasized that the outcome of any reform process should provide for the restoration of the Appellate Body, which remains a top-most priority for India.

Further at the Working Session on Work Programme on E-Commerce at the World Trade Organization's 13th Ministerial Conference on 29 February 2024, India presented its views on the importance of digital industrialization and how this emerging segment of the global economy holds the promise for economic development and prosperity for the developing countries including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). India stressed that all policy options should be available for the WTO members to pursue for promoting digital industrialization.

India stressed that currently, a few firms based in developed countries currently dominate the global landscape of e-commerce. India explained that there was a huge digital chasm between the developed and the developing countries which makes it challenging to increase the participation of developing countries in global E-commerce.

India reiterated that with the digital revolution still unfolding and with increasing diffusion of technologies such as additive manufacturing and 3D printing, data analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Internet-of-Things etc., there was a need for re-examination of the implications of the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions, particularly for the developing countries and the LDCs.

**Source:**

1. <https://www.wto.org/index.htm>
2. [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/minist\\_e/mc13\\_e/mc13\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/mc13_e/mc13_e.htm)
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4. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2009791#:~:text=At%20the%20Working%20Session%20on,formalisation%20of%20the%20ongoing%20informal>
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## An Overview of International Monetary Fund\*

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) works to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity for all of its 190 member countries. It does so by supporting economic policies that promote financial stability and monetary cooperation, which are essential to increase productivity, job creation, and economic well-being. The IMF is governed by and accountable to its member countries.

The IMF has three critical missions: furthering international monetary cooperation, encouraging the expansion of trade and economic growth, and discouraging policies that would harm prosperity. To fulfil these missions, IMF member countries work collaboratively with each other and with other international bodies.

The IMF fosters international financial stability by offering:

- ✚ Policy Advice
- ✚ Financial Assistance
- ✚ Capacity Development

A brief description of the aforesaid activities of IMF are as under:

- a) *Policy Advice*: A core responsibility of the IMF is monitoring the economic and financial policies of member countries and providing them with policy advice, an activity known as *surveillance*. As part of this process, which also takes place at the global and regional levels, the IMF identifies potential risks and recommends appropriate policy adjustments to sustain economic growth and promote financial stability.

Vigilant monitoring by the IMF is essential to identifying risks that may require remedial policy adjustments. International cooperation on these efforts is critical in today's globally integrated economy, in which the problems or policies of one country can affect many others. IMF membership, which includes nearly all the world's nations, can facilitate this cooperation. IMF monitoring focuses on individual countries or bilateral surveillance, and the global economy or multilateral surveillance.

- b) *Financial Assistance*: Unlike development banks, the IMF does not lend for specific projects. Instead, the IMF provides financial support to countries hit by crises to create breathing room as they implement policies that restore economic stability and growth. It also provides precautionary financing to help prevent crises. IMF lending is continuously refined to meet countries' changing needs.

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\* Dr. Akinchan Buddhodev Sinha, Deputy Director, The ICSI.

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The causes of crises are varied and complex. They can be domestic, external, or both

- i) Domestic factors include inappropriate fiscal and monetary policies, which can lead to large current account and fiscal deficits and high public debt levels; an exchange rate fixed at an inappropriate level, which can erode competitiveness and result in the loss of official reserves, and a weak financial system, which can create economic booms and busts. Political instability and weak institutions also can trigger crises.
- ii) External factors include shocks ranging from natural disasters to large swings in commodity prices. Both are common causes of crises, especially for low-income countries. With globalization, sudden changes in market sentiment can result in capital flow volatility. Even countries with sound fundamentals can be severely affected by economic crises and policies elsewhere.

The COVID-19 pandemic was an example of external shock affecting countries across the globe. The IMF responded with unprecedented financial assistance to help countries protect the most vulnerable and set the stage for economic recovery.

- c) *Capacity Development*: The IMF provides technical assistance and training – known as capacity development as one of its core functions. Capacity development accounts for around a third of the IMF’s annual spending. It is available to all members upon their request and is tailored to a country’s specific needs. Capacity development can help countries to improve tax collection and bolster public finances. It can help countries to modernize their monetary and exchange rate policies, develop legal systems, or strengthen governance. Capacity development also can help countries collect and disseminate data to inform decision-making.

The IMF is funded by quota subscriptions paid by member states. The size of each quota is determined by the size of each member's economy. The quota in turn determines the weight each country has within the IMF—and hence its voting rights—as well as how much financing it can receive from the IMF. Twenty-five percent of each country's quota is paid in the form of special drawing rights (SDRs), which are a claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members.

Before SDRs, the Bretton Woods system had been based on a fixed exchange rate, and it was feared that there would not be enough reserves to finance global economic growth. Therefore, in 1969, the IMF created the SDRs, which are a kind of international reserve asset. They were created to supplement the international reserves of the time, which were gold and the U.S. dollar.

The SDR can also be used in exchange for other freely traded currencies of IMF members. A country may do this when it has a deficit and needs more foreign currency to pay its international obligations.

The value of SDRs lies in the fact that member states commit to honor their obligations to use and accept SDRs. Each member country is assigned a certain amount of SDRs based on how much the country contributes to the IMF (which is based on the size of the country's economy). However, the need for SDRs lessened when major economies dropped the fixed exchange rate and opted for floating rates instead.

The IMF does all of its accounting in SDRs, and commercial banks accept SDR denominated accounts. The value of the SDR is adjusted daily against a basket of currencies, which includes the U.S. dollar, the Japanese yen, the euro, and the British pound. In November 2015, the IMF added the Chinese RMB to the basket.

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- [https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/IMF-at-a-Glance#:~:text=The%20International%20Monetary%20Fund%20\(IMF,%2C%20and%20economic%20well%2Dbeing.](https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/IMF-at-a-Glance#:~:text=The%20International%20Monetary%20Fund%20(IMF,%2C%20and%20economic%20well%2Dbeing.)
- <https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/IMF-Surveillance>
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- <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/03/030703.asp>

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## Current Affairs\*

- **India ranks 38 out of 139 countries on World Bank's Logistics Performance Index Report 2023; India's rank has improves by sixteen places from 54 in 2014 (February 07, 2024)**

According to the World Bank's 'Logistics Performance Index Report (2023): Connecting to Compete 2023', India ranks 38 out of 139 countries. India's rank has improved by six places from 44 in 2018 and sixteen places from 54 in 2014.

An Inter-Ministerial dedicated team comprising of Stakeholder Ministries/ Departments has been formed. These stakeholder Ministries/Departments focus on targeted action plans with interventions needed to improve logistics performance across all six LPI parameters i.e. Customs, Infrastructure, Ease of arranging shipments, Quality of logistics services, Tracking and Tracing, and Timeliness. In addition, National Committee for Trade Facilitation (NCTF) has a three-tiered structure, constituting of a National Committee on Trade Facilitation, a Steering Committee, and Focused Working Groups (Outreach, Legislative Issues, Time Release Study, Infrastructure Up-gradation, PGA regulation and procedure). Concerning NTFAP 2020-23, 27 action points have been identified under the working group on infrastructure up gradation.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2003541>

- **IEPFA and DBS Bank ink MoU to spread awareness on investment and fraudulent schemes (February 19, 2024)**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), and DBS Bank, a prominent financial institution with a strong presence in Asia and Southeast Asia in New Delhi.

According to the MoU, DBS Bank aims to support IEPFA's investor awareness activities by disseminating safety messages via its various digital platforms. Leveraging DBS Bank's extensive network of branches and ATMs in 19 Indian states, as well as its digital infrastructure, will significantly increase the reach of IEPFA's investor awareness and protection messages to the end users.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2007184>

- **Bharat Tex 2024 (February 26, 2024)**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Bharat Tex 2024, one of the largest-ever global textile events to be organized in the country at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

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\*Collated by Mahesh Airan, Assistant Director, The ICSI.

Bharat Tex 2024 was organized from 26-29 February 2024. Drawing inspiration from the 5F Vision of the Prime Minister, the event had a unified farm to foreign via fibre, fabric and fashion focus, covering the entire textiles value chain. It showcased India's prowess in the textile sector and reaffirm India's position as a global textile powerhouse.

Organized by a consortium of 11 Textile Export Promotion Councils and supported by the government, Bharat Tex 2024 was built on the twin pillars of trade and investment, with an overarching focus on sustainability. The four-day event featured over 65 knowledge sessions with more than 100 global panelists discussing various issues faced by the sector.

*For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2009004>*

- **Launch of SWAYAM Plus platform (February 27, 2024)**

Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, launched the SWAYAM Plus Platform.

SWAYAM, the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform providing educational opportunities for a vast number of learners, was launched by the Ministry of Education in 2017. In alignment with NEP 2020, the SWAYAM Plus platform will now include courses supporting industry needs that enhance learners' employability. Developed in collaboration with industry giants like L&T, Microsoft, CISCO, and more, SWAYAM Plus features innovative elements such as multilingual content, AI-enabled guidance, credit recognition, and pathways to employment.

SWAYAM Plus primarily focuses on achieving the following: Building an ecosystem for all stakeholders in professional and career development, including learners, course providers, industry, academia, and strategic partners; Enabling a mechanism that provides credit recognition for high-quality certifications and courses offered by the best industry and academia partners; Reaching a large learner base by catering to learning across the country, with a focus on reaching learners from tier 2 and 3 towns and rural areas and Offering employment focused courses, based on learner needs – across chosen disciplines with options to learn through resources in vernacular languages. SWAYAM Plus also envisions bringing in features such as access to mentorship, scholarships, and job placements as value-added services in due course of time, thus building a digital ecosystem for learners to pursue upskilling/re-skilling at all levels, namely certificate, diploma or degree.

*For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2009622>*

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## Geographical Indications – An Overview\*

### Introduction

Every region has its claim to fame. Christopher Columbus sailed from Europe to chart out a new route to capture the wealth of rich Indian spices. English breeders imported Arabian horses to sire Derby winners. China silk, Dhaka muslin, Venetian Glass all were much sought after treasures. Each reputation was carefully built up and painstakingly maintained by the masters of that region, combining the best of Nature and Man, traditionally handed over from one generation to the next for centuries. Gradually, a specific link between the goods and place of production evolved resulting in growth of geographical indications.

Geographical Indications of Goods are that aspect of industrial property which refers to a country or to a place situated therein as being the country or place of origin of that product. Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness which is essentially attributable to the fact of its origin in that defined geographical locality, region or country.

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 Act would be administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks- who is the Registrar of Geographical Indications. The Geographical Indications Registry would be located at Chennai.

### What is a Geographical Indication?

- It is an indication.
- It originates from a definite geographical territory.
- It is used to identify agricultural, natural or manufactured goods.
- The manufactured goods should be produced or processed or prepared in that territory.
- It should have a special quality or reputation or other characteristics.

As per Section 2(1)(e) of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 “Geographical indication” in relation to goods means an indication which identifies such goods as agricultural goods, natural goods or manufactured goods as originating, or manufactured in the territory of a country, or a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of such goods is essentially attributable to its geographical origin and in case where such goods are manufactured goods one of the activities of either the production or of processing or preparation of the goods concerned takes place in such territory, region or locality, as the case may be.

\* Snigdha Kashyap, Consultant, The ICSI.

Reviewed by Dr. Akinchan Buddhodev Sinha, Deputy Director, The ICSI

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It may be noted that any name which is not the name of a country, region or locality of that country shall also be considered as the geographical indication if it relates to a specific geographical area and is used upon or in relation to particular goods originating from that country, region or locality, as the case may be.

It may also be noted that-

“Goods” mean any agricultural, natural or manufactured goods or any goods of handicraft or of industry and includes food stuff. [Section 2(1)(f)]

“Indication” includes any name, geographical or figurative representation or any combination of them conveying or suggesting the geographical origin of goods to which it applies. [Section 2(1) (g)]

#### *Example of Registered Geographical Indications*

Darjeeling Tea (word & logo); Pochampalli Ikat; Salem Fabric; Chanderi Sarees; Solapur Chaddar; Solapur Terry Towel; Kotpad Handloom fabric; Mysore Silk; Kota Doria; Mysore Agarbathi; Kancheepuram Silk; Bhavani Jamakkalam; Kullu Shawl; Madurai Sungudi; Madur kathi; Banaras Zardozi; Gorgonzola (Food Stuff, Italy); Wooden Mask of Kushmand; Gobindobhog Rice; Kashmiri Hand Knotted Carpet, Orissa Pattachitra; Berhampur Patta (Phoda Kumbha) Saree & Joda; Madhubani Paintings; Raktsey Karpo Apricot of Ladakh etc.

#### **Prohibition of Registration of Certain Geographical Indications**

Section 9 of the Act prohibits registration of certain geographical indications. They are as follows:-

- the use of which would be likely to deceive or cause confusion; or
- the use of which would be contrary to any law for the time being in force; or
- which comprises or contains scandalous or obscene matter; or
- which comprises or contains any matter likely to hurt the time being in force; religious susceptibilities of any class or section of the citizens of India; or
- which would otherwise be dismantled to protection in a court; or
- which are determined to be generic names or indications of goods and are, therefore, not or ceased to be protected in their country of origin or which have fallen into disuse in that country; or
- which although literally true as to the territory region or locality in which the goods originate, but falsely represent to the persons that the goods originate in another territory, region or locality as the case may be.

#### **What is the benefit of registration of Geographical Indications?**

Registration of GI is not compulsory but important because-

- It confers legal protection to Geographical Indications in India.
- Prevents unauthorised use of a Registered Geographical Indication by others.
- It provides legal protection to Indian Geographical Indications which in turn boost exports.
- It promotes economic prosperity of producers of goods produced in a geographical territory.

- Registration to be prima facie evidence of validity in case of any suit.
- Registration affords better legal protection to facilitate an action for infringement.
- The registered proprietor and authorised users can initiate infringement actions.
- The authorised users can exercise the exclusive right to use the geographical indication.

### **Duration of the registration**

The registration of a geographical indication shall be for a period of ten years, but may be renewed from time to time in accordance with the provisions of this section. The registration of an authorised user shall be for a period of ten years or for the period till the date on which the registration of the geographical indication in respect of which the authorised user is registered expires, whichever is earlier.

It can be renewed from time to time for further period of 10 years each. If a registered geographical indication is not renewed it is liable to be removed from the register.

### **Geographical Indication and its infringement**

A registered GI is said to be infringed -

- When an unauthorised user uses a geographical indication that indicates or suggests that such goods originate in a geographical area other than the true place of origin of such goods in a manner which mislead the public as to the geographical origin of such goods.
- When the use of geographical indication result in an unfair competition including passing off in respect of registered geographical indication.
- When the use of another geographical indication results in false representation to the public that goods originate in a territory in respect of which a registered geographical indication relates.

### **Geographical Indications Registry (GIR)**

The Geographical Indications Registry (GIR) is a statutory organization set up with main object to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods and for the administration of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which was brought into force on September 15, 2003. The GI Registry is situated at Chennai.

The Registry has been organizing and participating in awareness programmes throughout India to promote registration of the Indian GIs. The sectors being focused on are tea, coffee, spices, agriculture & horticulture products, handloom products, handicrafts, textiles, processed food items, dairy products, natural goods, spirits and wines.

### **International Protection**

1. Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1883)
2. Madrid Agreement for the Repression of False or Deceptive Indications of Source on Goods (1891)
3. Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (as adopted on May 20, 2015)



4. Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) (1995).

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, geographical indications play a vital role in protecting the cultural heritage, economic value, and quality of products worldwide. Through legal frameworks and international cooperation, GI systems ensure consumers' trust, preserve traditional practices, and foster sustainable development in local communities, fostering a rich tapestry of global diversity.

### **References**

- <https://ipindia.gov.in/faq-gi.htm>
- <https://ipindia.gov.in/gi.htm>
- [https://www.wipo.int/geo\\_indications/en/](https://www.wipo.int/geo_indications/en/)

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## Sample Questions

### Paper 1 : Business Communication

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is a more intimate type of listening that often involves receiving information from a speaker about their challenges or emotional situations.
  - a. Deep listening
  - b. Full listening
  - c. Critical listening
  - d. Therapeutic listening
2. If a person is upset about something that happened earlier in the day, it may be challenging for that person to focus on what other person is telling him. Which form of listening barrier is being referred to in the given scenario?
  - a. Physical barriers
  - b. Emotional barriers
  - c. Psychological barriers
  - d. Cultural barriers
3. \_\_\_\_\_ helps us in retrieving the letter at a later stage. It may contain the initials of the letter writer, the department from which the letter originates, and the distinctive number allotted to it.
  - a. Reference number
  - b. Consignment number
  - c. File number
  - d. Systems number
4. With reference to complimentary close, the salutation of the letter should match with the complimentary close, in this regard, which of the following complementary close to be used if salutation in the letter is 'Dear Sir'?
  - a. Yours truly
  - b. Yours sincerely
  - c. Yours faithfully
  - d. Yours best friend
5. Avoidance of unnecessary words and superfluous matters refers to which of the following essentials of a good business letter?
  - a. Clarity
  - b. Simplicity
  - c. Accuracy
  - d. Brevity

## Paper 2 : Legal Aptitude and Logical Reasoning

6. In which year, the Company Secretaries Act was passed?
  - a. 1956
  - b. 1979
  - c. 1980
  - d. 1982
7. What is the status of an agreement not enforceable by law?
  - a. *void later on request*
  - b. Illegal
  - c. Voidable
  - d. None of these
8. Complete the statement given below:

We, the People of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens: JUSTICE, social, \_\_\_\_\_ and political:

  - a. Financial
  - b. Criminal
  - c. Civil
  - d. None of these
9. Given that 14<sup>th</sup> March is Thursday and the present year is a leap year, what will be the day on 1<sup>st</sup> March of the next year?
  - a. Thursday
  - b. Friday
  - c. Thursday
  - d. Saturday
10. What is the angle traced by hour hand in 40 minutes?
  - a. 7.5 Degree
  - b. 15 Degree
  - c. 10 Degree
  - d. 20 Degree

### ***Paper 3 : Economic and Business Environment***

11. On which of the following variables demand of a commodity does not depend upon?
  - a. Price of a commodity
  - b. Prices of related commodities
  - c. Consumers income
  - d. Cost of production of a commodity.
12. Which of the following is not considered for computation of national income under expenditure method?
  - a. Consumption expenditure
  - b. Investment expenditure
  - c. Government expenditure
  - d. Expenditure on transfer payments
13. Which of the following is not considered in computation of GNP under income method?
  - a. Wages and salaries
  - b. Illegal income
  - c. Rent
  - d. Interest
14. Long form of 'ASPIRE' is:
  - a. A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industries and Entrepreneurship
  - b. A Scheme for Promotion of Incentives, Rural Industries and Entrepreneurship
  - c. A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Income and Entrepreneurship
  - d. A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Income and Endeavours
15. Project SATH-E, was launched in 2017 to identify and build three 'role model' States for the school education sector. What does SATH-E stand for?
  - a. Suitable Action for Transforming Human Capital-Education
  - b. Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital-Education
  - c. Sustainable Allocation for Transforming Human Capital-Education
  - d. Sustainable Allocation for Transferring Human Capital-Education

### ***Paper 4 : Current Affairs and Quantitative Aptitude***

16. Who among the following is the chairman of 'One Nation One Election' Committee?
- Ram Nath Kovind
  - Mohammad Hamid Ansari
  - Dr. Manmohan Singh
  - Amitabh Kant
17. The World Governments Summit was held on the theme of 'Shaping Future Governments' during 12-14 February 2024. Where it was organized?
- New Delhi
  - Dubai
  - London
  - Paris
18. In which of the following states, PM Modi inaugurated India's first underwater metro?
- Maharashtra
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Karnataka
  - West Bengal
19. With whom has NLC India Green Energy Limited signed an agreement for solar power project?
- Adani Green
  - Tata Power
  - Gujarat Energy Development Corporation Limited
  - None of these
20. Former Speaker of Lok Sabha Manohar Joshi passed away recently, he was also the former Chief Minister of which state?
- Goa
  - Maharashtra
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Gujarat

21. What comes in place of question mark (?) in the series given below?  
1, 2, ?, 7, 11, 16, 22, 29
- 3
  - 4
  - 5
  - 6
22. What is 958000 divided by 2 and Multiplied by 1.5?
- 718500
  - 738000
  - 698000
  - 588000

**Answer Key:**

1.	d	6.	c	11.	d	16.	a
2.	b	7.	d	12.	d	17.	b
3.	a	8.	d	13.	b	18.	d
4.	c	9.	d	14.	a	19.	c
5.	d	10.	d	15.	b	20.	b
						21.	b
						22.	a

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## Motto

सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर।

इष्टार्थं कुरु त्वात्ते. बोधेते तु तेन वाच.

## Vision

"To be a global leader in promoting good corporate governance"

## Mission

"To develop high calibre professionals facilitating good corporate governance"



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**भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान**

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