

## **Hyderabad lac bangles set to get GI tag**

**(GS Paper3, Economy)**

### **Why in news?**

- Recently, Hyderabad-based Creasent Handicraft Artisans Welfare Association has filed an application for securing a **Geographical Indications tag for lac bangles** that are manufactured in the city.
- The Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai has accepted the application.



### **Characteristics:**

- The lac bangles can be seen in the shops that line the Laad Bazaar area near Charminar shimmering with mirror work and encrusted precious stones.
- They are handcrafted in the homes by an army of workers who use molten lac and shape them into bangles and turn them into speckled shimmering wonders.

### **Products with GI in Telangana:**

- Hyderabad Haleem, Warangal Durries, Nirmal Toys and Karimnagar filigree, Pochampally Ikat are some of the other products that have secured the GI in Telangana state.

### **What is GI tag?**

- A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.
- Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin.
- In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 which came into force with effect from September 2003.
- The first product in India to be accorded with GI tag was Darjeeling tea in the year 2004-05.

## **New spider from Thar desert named after Malayali arachnologist**

**(GS Paper 3, Environment)**

### Why in news?

- Recently, a new species of spider discovered from the Thar desert of Rajasthan has been named after a Malayalee arachnologist.
- The **new species of jumping spider**, *Pseudomogrus sudhii*, has been named after Sudhikumar A.V.



### Characteristics of *Pseudomogrus sudhii*:

- This species inhabits dry grass blades of the desert. It is the first report of this genus from India.
- So far 35 species of spiders of this genus have been discovered worldwide.
- The spider is only 4-mm long. Dark brown coloured head of male is covered with small white hairs and has black eye region.
- There is a dark mid-longitudinal band traversing the pale-yellow coloured abdomen.
- Head of the female is yellow with black eyes. There are white spots on its light-yellow abdomen.

### About Dr. Sudhikumar:

- The spider is named after Dr. Sudhikumar for his contributions to the field of Indian arachnology.
- He has published more than 200 research articles on the Indian spider diversity in various international and national journals.
- He is the author of Keralathile Chilanthikal published by the Kerala Bhasha Institute.
- Under his leadership, researchers from CATE have so far discovered 35 new species of spiders from different geographic locations in Kerala.

## **European Union makes Ukraine a candidate for EU membership** **(GS Paper 2, International Relation)**

### Why in news?

- Recently, the European Union have agreed to make Ukraine a candidate for EU membership.
- The EU also gave candidate status to the tiny country of Moldova, another former Soviet republic that borders Ukraine.

### Details:



- Meeting at a summit in Brussels, leaders of the EU's 27 nations mustered the required unanimous approval to grant Ukraine candidate status.
- That sets in motion a membership process that could take years or even decades.



#### Conditions for EU membership:

- To gain EU membership, countries must meet a **detailed host of economic and political conditions**, including a commitment to the rule of law and other democratic principles.
- Ukraine will have to curb entrenched government corruption and adopt other reforms.

#### What is the immediate result of this move by the EU?

- The EU nations have been united in backing Ukraine in its fight against Russia's invasion with money and weapons, adopting unprecedented economic sanctions against the Kremlin.
- EU candidate status **doesn't give an automatic right to join the bloc and doesn't provide any immediate security guarantees.**
- Once a country gains membership, however, it is covered under an EU treaty clause that says if a member falls victim to armed aggression, the other EU countries are obligated to assist it by all the means in their power.
- The main benefits of EU membership, though, are economic, since it gives access to a market of 450 million consumers with free movement of labor, goods, services and capital.

#### Ukraine's wish to join NATO:

- Ukraine has long aspired to join NATO, too, but the military alliance is not about to offer an invitation, in part because of governmental corruption, shortcomings in the country's defense establishment, and its contested borders.
- Before the war, Russian President Vladimir Putin demanded that Ukraine never be allowed to join NATO, which he has condemned for its eastward spread toward Russia's flank.

- But now, he did not seem bothered by Ukraine's determination to get closer to the EU, saying it is not a military pact and thus “we have no objections.”

#### The membership process can be long and tortuous:

- **Turkey**, for example, **applied for membership in 1987, received candidate status in 1999**, and had to wait until 2005 to start talks for actual entry.
- Only one of more than 30 negotiating “chapters” has been completed in the years since, and the whole process is at a standstill as a result of various disputes between the EU and Turkey.
- Similarly, several Balkan countries have been seeking without success for many years to join the EU.

#### What's next?

- Ukraine has already adopted about 70% of the EU rules and standards, but they also have pointed to corruption and the need for deep political and economic reforms in the country.

## India's latest communication satellite GSAT-24 successfully launched (GS Paper 3, Science and Tech)

#### Why in news?

- Recently, the **GSAT-24 satellite**, built by ISRO for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), was successfully launched.
- GSAT-24 was launched on-board Ariane-V VA257 flight from the Guiana Space Centre, Europe's spaceport in Kourou in French Guiana (South America).



#### About GSAT-24:

- GSAT-24 is a **24-Ku band communication satellite** weighing 4180 kg with pan-India coverage for meeting DTH application needs.
- It was the **first "demand driven" communication satellite mission undertaken by NSIL** post space sector reforms.
- NSIL, a Government of India company under the Department of Space, has leased the entire satellite capacity to Tata Play.

**'Measat-3d':**

- During its journey to space, India's GSAT-24 was not alone, atop the European Ariane 5 rocket.
- It was accompanied by a co-passenger satellite dubbed 'Measat-3d', which is meant to meet the communication needs of Malaysia.