

DAILY NEWS

ANALYSIS



4th April

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | GI tags | 2 |
| 2. | Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) | 2 |
| 3. | US reciprocal tariffs | 3 |
| 4. | Coastal shipping bill, 2024 | 4 |
| 5. | Satellite internet | 5 |

DNA Quiz

Playlist Link:

What to Read: <https://bit.ly/3FYdutC>

Daily News Analysis: <https://bit.ly/4ge9BgF>

1. GI TAGS

Relevance: GS 1 Art and Culture

Backdrop: Kannadippaya, a unique tribal handicraft from Kerala, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag

About News

- Kannadippaya - **Bamboo mat** (Kerala)
- It has been awarded to the **Unarvu Pattikavargha Vividodesha Sahakarana Sangam, Venmani, and the Vanasree Bamboo Craft & Vanavibhava Shekarana unit, Uppukunnu, both in Idukki district.**
- 1st tribal handicraft** product from Kerala to receive the GI tag.
- kannadippaya - means **Mirror Mat** - derives its name from its reflective pattern.
- Provides **warmth during winter and cooling effect during summer.**

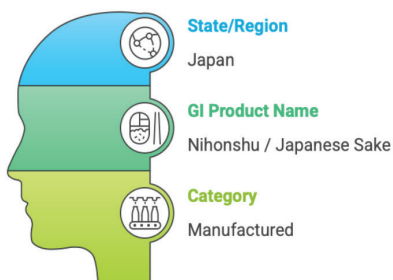


About News

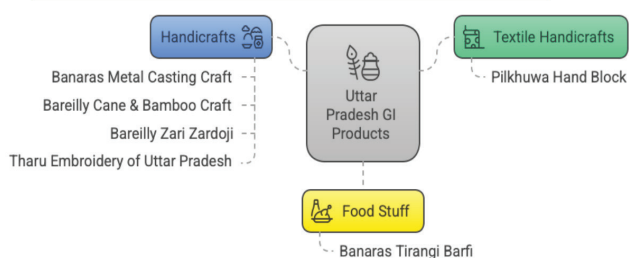
- Tribal Communities:**



GI Tags accord in 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025)



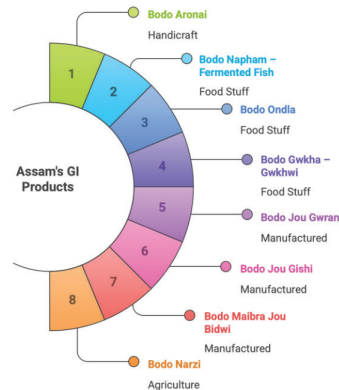
GI Tags accord in 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025)



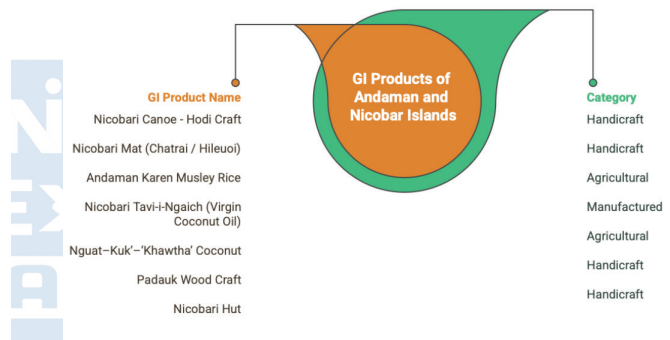
GI Tags accord in 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025)



GI Tags accord in 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025)



GI Tags accord in 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025)



Geographical Indication (GI):

A Geographical Indication (GI) is a label used on products that originate from a specific location and have qualities, characteristics, or a reputation that are inherently linked to that geographical origin.

Legal Framework

- It is governed under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) by the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- Legal framework for the registration of GIs in India - Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 -

2. MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME (MGNREGS)

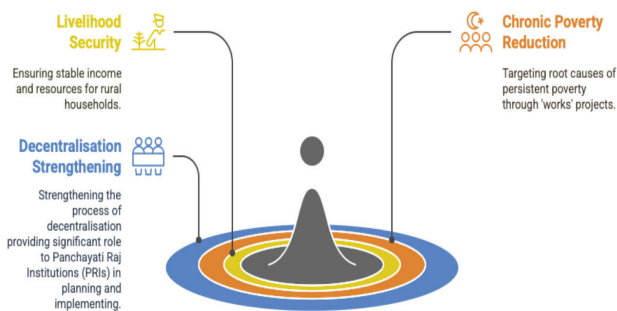
Relevance: GS2 - Governance and Social justice

Backdrop: Parliamentary Panel's report on NREGS

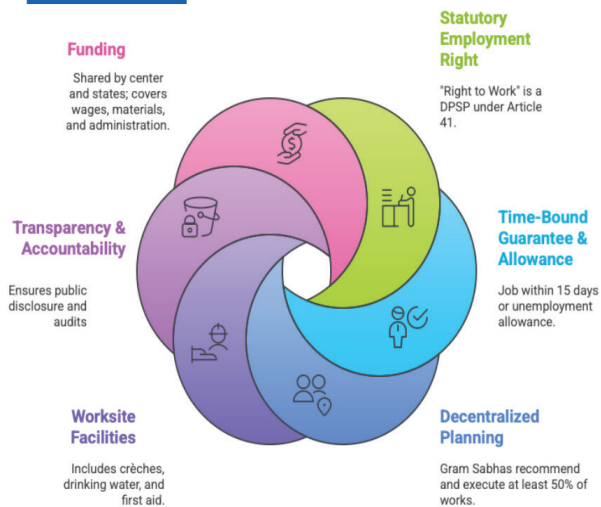
About scheme

- **Ministry of Rural Development**
- World's Largest work guarantee programme
- It was enacted in 2005
- Primary objective is to enhance livelihood Security of Rural Households.
- It guarantees 100 days of wage employment to every rural house-holds **in every financial year** to adult members volunteer to do **UnSkilled manual work**.

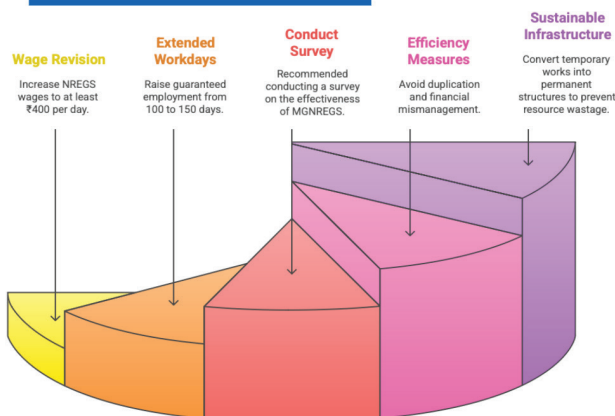
Objective



Provision



Recommendation in News



3. US RECIPROCAL TARIFFS

Relevance: GS3

Backdrop: Reciprocal tariffs announced by the US

US President Donald Trump celebrated America's "Liberation Day" on April 2 by announcing "reciprocal tariffs" against all major trading partners. The US runs a trade deficit of around \$1.2 trillion.

Country	Trump estimates of tariffs on US goods	Trump's 'reciprocal' tariffs	US trade deficit in 2024 (with a minus sign) in \$ millions	US Trade Deficit as a percentage of the total US Trade deficit	Per capita income (US is at \$ 89,680)
Cambodia	97%	49%	-12,300	1.0	\$ 2,950
Vietnam	90%	46%	-1,22,071	10.1	\$ 4,990
Sri Lanka	88%	44%	NA	NA	NA
Bangladesh	74%	37%	-6,152	0.5	\$ 2,770
Thailand	72%	36%	-45,609	3.8	\$ 7,750
China	67%	34%	-2,95,402	24.6	\$ 13,870
Taiwan	64%	32%	-73,937	6.1	\$ 34,920
Indonesia	64%	32%	-17,883	1.5	\$ 5,250
Switzerland	61%	31%	-38,463	3.2	\$ 1,11,720
South Africa	60%	30%	-8,837	0.7	\$ 6,520
Pakistan	58%	29%	-2,989	0.2	NA
India	52%	26%	-45,664	3.8	\$ 2,940
South Korea	50%	25%	-66,007	5.5	\$ 37,670
Japan	46%	24%	-68,468	5.7	\$ 35,610
Malaysia	47%	24%	-24,830	2.1	\$ 14,420
EU	39%	20%	-2,31,769	19.3	\$ 45,240
Israel	33%	17%	-7,425	0.6	\$ 54,370
Philippines	34%	17%	-4,880	0.4	\$ 4,440
UK	10%	10%	11,857	-1.0	\$ 54,280
Brazil	10%	10%	7,351	-0.6	\$ 10,820
Singapore	10%	10%	2,829	-0.2	\$ 93,960
Chile	10%	10%	NA	NA	\$ 17,930
Australia	10%	10%	-73,927	6.1	\$ 67,980
Turkey	10%	10%	-1,453	0.1	\$ 16,880
Colombia	10%	10%	1,347	-0.1	\$ 7,900
World			-12,02,872		\$ 14,450

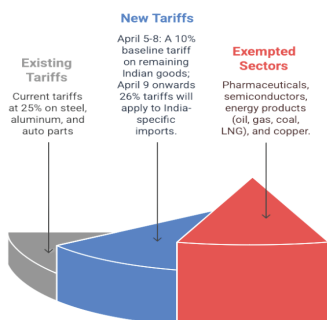
Source: White House, IMF, Indian Express Research

India - Tariffs (Previously)



The US has a trade deficit of \$46 billion with India.

New tariff structure on Indian goods



- A flat 26 per cent tariff was imposed on all goods being exported by India to the United States.

Impact of the tariffs

- **Stock Market Crash:**
 - ♦ BSE Sensex dropped by **509.54 points** to **75,785.82**
 - ♦ Nifty slipped by **146.05 points** to **23,104.05**
- **Tariff Reduction Proposal:**
 - ♦ India is considering slashing tariffs on **\$23 billion** worth of **US imports**, including:
 - ♦ Gems
 - ♦ Jewellery
 - ♦ Pharmaceuticals
 - ♦ Auto parts

Sectors Affected

Electronics Sector:

- **Nearly \$14 billion** worth of electronics exports from India may be hit by new US tariffs.

Gems and Jewellery:

- **Over \$9 billion** worth of exports could be affected.
 - ♦ **Auto Parts & Aluminium:**
- **Not impacted** by the new 26% tariff, but still face an existing 25% tariff announced earlier by Trump.
 - ♦ **Pharmaceuticals & Energy Products:**
- **Approximately \$9 billion** in pharmaceutical exports are exempt from the latest tariffs.
- **Energy products** are also exempt.

4. COASTAL SHIPPING BILL, 2024

Relevance : GS 3 - Infrastructure

Backdrop: Lok Sabha Passes the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024

Key provisions of the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024:

- Introduced in Lok Sabha on **December 2, 2024**.
- Seeks to **regulate vessels** operating within **Indian coastal waters**, including **territorial**

waters (up to 12 nautical miles) and **adjoining maritime zones** (up to 200 nautical miles).

- Repeals **Part XIV** of the **Merchant Shipping Act, 1958**.

Rationale for the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024

- India has a vast **coastline of over 11,098 km** and an **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** of **2.3 million sq. km**, offering immense maritime potential. Seeks to **unlock the full potential** of India's strategic coastline through a **dedicated legal framework** for coastal trade.
- Aligns with the **National Logistics Policy**, aiming to provide a **cost-effective, sustainable alternative** for freight movement.
- Responds to the **119% surge in coastal cargo traffic** since 2014, targeting **230 million tonnes** by 2030.
- Provides a **legal foundation** for integrating the **National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan**, supporting **balanced regional development** of coastal and riverine areas.

Objective and Importance



Scope of Regulation

- Covers **all types of vessels**: ships, boats, sailing vessels, and mobile offshore drilling units, whether self-propelled or not.
- Expands the definition of **coasting trade** to include **services** such as exploration, research, and commercial activities (excluding fishing).

Key Provisions:**Licensing Provisions**

- Indian-owned vessels **do not require a licence** for coasting trade.
- Licences required for:
 - Vessels not wholly Indian-owned.
 - Vessels hired by **Indian citizens, NRIs, or OCIs** for operations between Indian/international ports.
 - OCIs operating vessels **outside India** are exempt.
- Licences issued by the **Director General of Shipping**.
- Vessels under **Inland Vessels Act, 2021** may be permitted for coastal trade.
- Licence may be suspended or revoked for:
 - Violation of licence terms or laws.
 - Non-compliance with directions from the Director General.

Revised Penalties

- Unlicensed operations:**
 - Fine increased from ₹1,000 to **₹15 lakh** or **4x voyage gains**, whichever is higher.
- Violation of directions:**
 - Replaces jail term with **civil penalty** up to **₹5 lakh** or **2x gains**.
- Failure to provide information:**
 - Fine raised from ₹500 to **₹50,000**.
- Detention of vessels:** Allowed for offences like unlicensed operations or providing false data.
- Limited to first-time offences such as:**
 - Operating without or with expired licence.
 - Unauthorized sea voyages.
 - Withholding or delaying required information.
 - Breaching detention orders.
- National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan**, revised every two years for:
 - Better route planning
 - Traffic forecasting
 - Integration with inland waterways
- National Database of Coastal Shipping** for transparency and data-driven governance.

Economic Impact and Targets

- Coastal cargo traffic rose **119%** (2014–2024); aims to reach **230 million tonnes by 2030**.
- Provides **legal clarity, regulatory stability**, and

encourages **private investment** in the sector.

- Reinforces the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and national maritime security.

State Participation and Cooperative Federalism

- Ensures **active involvement of States and UTs** in planning and regulation (Clause 8(3)).
- Committee to include representatives from **State Maritime Boards, major ports**, and **sector experts**.
- Promotes **inclusive regional development**, especially in states like **Odisha, Karnataka, and Goa**.

Rationale for the bill

The country has a long coastline of over 11,098 km and more than 2.3 million square km of exclusive economic zone.

- Unlock the Full Potential of India's Vast and Strategic Coastline, Providing a Dedicated Legal Framework for Coastal Trade
- Aligned with the vision of the National Logistics Policy for a Cost Efficient, Sustainable, Alternative for Logistics Movement**
- India's Coastal Cargo Traffic Surges 119% since 2014, Eyes 230 Million Tonnes by 2030**
- Legal framework to integrate the National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan, promoting regional development of riverine and coastal areas**

5. SATELLITE INTERNET

Relevance: General Science (Prelims) and Awareness in the fields of Space (GS3).

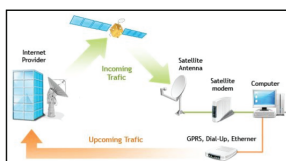
Backdrop: SpaceX's recent partnerships with Airtel and Jio to expand Starlink services across India.

In the news

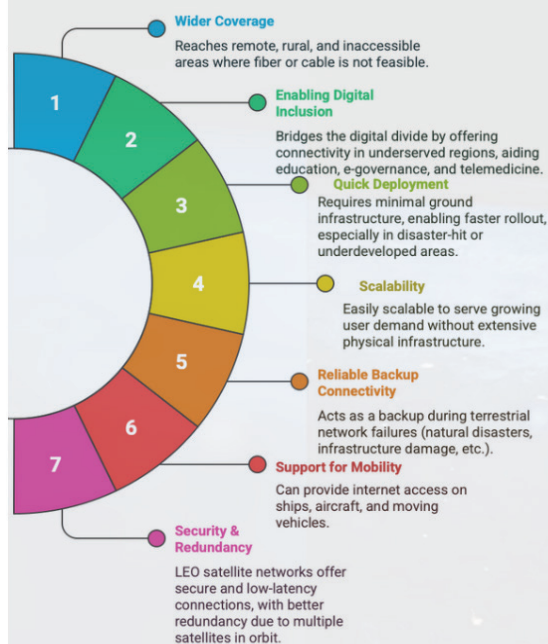
- Starlink** is SpaceX's satellite internet service operating in **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
 - Airtel and Jio** have partnered with **SpaceX's Starlink** to expand satellite internet services in India.
 - Around 7,000 satellites**, in LEO satellite internet.
- GuoWang satellite constellation** is a **state-controlled Chinese alternative** to Starlink.
- OneWeb** operates **fewer than 650 satellites**.
- Amazon's Kuiper project** is still in early stages and has limited reach.

What is Satellite Internet

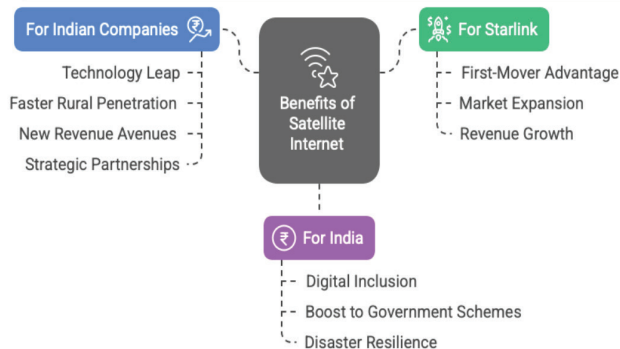
- Satellite Internet is a form of **high-speed internet connectivity** that is delivered via satellites orbiting the Earth, instead of traditional terrestrial infrastructure like fibre optic cables or cellular towers.
- It is especially useful in **remote or rural regions where conventional infrastructure** is either absent or too costly to deploy.



Positives of Satellite Internet



Benefits of Satellite Internet: Multi-Stakeholder Impact



3. Challenges of Satellite Internet

1. Geopolitical Concerns

- Partnering with a U.S.-based network like Starlink raises **concerns about national sovereignty** and potential **U.S. influence** over India's digital infrastructure.

2. Monopolistic Market Structure

- Limited competition** (OneWeb, Amazon Kuiper) raises **concerns over pricing, dependency, and control**.

3. Limited Indigenous Capabilities

- India's current satellite capabilities are **strategically important** but **economically suboptimal**, offering **little leverage**.

4. Exclusion of State-Owned Players

- BSNL's absence** from the partnerships is a missed opportunity for **strategic oversight and rural connectivity** expansion.

5. Affordability and Accessibility Issues

- Satellite internet could remain **too expensive for rural populations**, potentially needing **heavy government subsidies**.
- Without inclusive pricing models, it might **recreate existing digital inequalities** in a new, orbital form.

6. Governance and Regulation Challenges

- Issues like **orbital debris, space traffic control**, and **international cooperation** lack clear governance frameworks.

7. Lack of Global Governance Frameworks

- Without coordinated policies, **international cooperation may falter**, risking **orbital overcrowding and competition**.

8. Sustainability Concerns in Orbit

- Unregulated satellite proliferation could lead to the **"tragedy of the orbital commons"**, where space becomes cluttered and unsafe.

PRACTICE QUESTION

- Q. What is meant by satellite-based internet? Analyze how it can help bridge India's digital divide. Also, discuss the strategic concerns related to dependence on global players like Starlink, in light of India's national security and digital independence. (250 words, 15 Marks)

DNA QUIZ

- Q.1 Which of the following has/have been accorded 'Geographical Indication' status? (2015)

- Banaras Brocades and Sarees
- Rajasthani Daal-Bati-Churma
- Tirupathi Laddu

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.2 With reference to the recently GI-tagged product 'Kannadippaya', consider the following statements:

1. It is the first tribal handicraft product from Karnataka to receive the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
2. The name 'Kannadippaya' refers to its mirror-like reflective design.
3. The craft is preserved by tribal communities such as the Oorali, Mannan, Muthuva, Malayan, and Kadar.
4. The Geographical Indications in India are governed under the Patents Act, 1970.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q.3 Among the following who are eligible to benefit from the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act"? (2011)

- (a) Adult members of only the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe households.
(b) Adult members of below poverty line (BPL) households.
(c) Adult members of households of all backward communities.
(d) Adult members of any household.

Q.4 Consider the following statements

1. India has a vast coastline of over 7500 km and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2.3 million sq. km
2. The Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024 expands the definition of coasting trade to include services such as exploration, research, and commercial activities including fishing.

Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.5 With reference to India's decision to levy an equalization tax of 6% on online advertisement services offered by non-resident entities, which of the following statements is/are correct? [2018]

1. It is introduced as a part of the Income Tax Act.
2. Non-resident entities that offer advertisement services in India can claim a tax credit in their home country under the "Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements".

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.6 With reference to the "Reciprocal Tariffs" imposed by the United States under President Donald Trump, consider the following statements:

1. The United States imposed a flat 26% tariff on all Indian exports.
2. India imposes a higher tariff on passenger vehicle imports compared to the US.
3. Both the US and India impose an equal tariff on food items

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2, and 3

Q.7 Satellites used for telecommunication relay are kept in a geostationary orbit. A satellite is said to be in such an orbit when: (2011)

1. The orbit is geosynchronous.
2. The orbit is circular.
3. The orbit lies in the plane of the Earth's equator.
4. The orbit is at an altitude of 22,236 km.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1,2 and 3 only (b) 1,3 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 4 Only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answers

Q.1 (c)	Q.2 (c)	Q.3 (d)	Q.4 (d)	Q.5 (d)	Q.6 (b)	Q.7 (a)
---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------