



**Daily Current Affairs Dated On 24-April-2018**  
**General Studies-1**

**GI Tag for Warangal Dhurries:**

There's a ripple of excitement and sliver of hope in Warangal's artisan community as word spreads on the Geographical Indication certificate given on March 28 by the Chennai-based GI Registry for Warangal dhurries.

**About Warangal Dhurries:**

The shatranji carpets and jainamaaz prayer mats made in Warangal range in size from the smallest 2 feet by 3 feet to a massive 60 feet by 90 feet, examples of which are seen in some museums.

Bright colours, geometrically repetitive patterns and interlocking zigzag motifs in cotton and jute are the signature styles of the carpets.

One of the newest innovations by the weavers here is an adaptation of tie-dyed ikat techniques and hand-painted or block-printed kalamkari designs for the dhurries to save time and energy.

**Recently Geographical Indication (GI) tag was granted to:**

- o Banaganapalle mangoes of Andhra Pradesh.
- o Tulaipanji rice of West Bengal.
- o Gobindobhog rice of West Bengal.
- o Banglar rosogulla of West Bengal.
- o Stone sculptures of Mamallapuram.
- Durgi stone carvings and Etikoppaka toys of Andhra Pradesh.
- o Pochampally Ikat of Telangana.
- o Chakshesang shawl of Nagaland

**About GI Tag:**

A **geographical indication (GI)** is a name or sign used on products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g. a town, region, or country).

The use of a geographical indication may act as a certification that the product possesses certain qualities, is made according to traditional methods, or enjoys a certain reputation, due to its geographical origin.



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The GI tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorised users (or at least those residing inside the geographic territory) are allowed to use the popular product name. [Darjeeling tea](#) became the first [GI tagged](#) product in India, in 2004-05, since then by May 2017, 295 had been added to the list. These are listed below.

### **General Studies-2**

#### **SC notice to Govt. on Section 377**

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the government to respond to a plea by a hotelier to strike down the colonial Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code which criminalises homosexuality.

#### **Background:**

A plea was filed by the Lalit Suri hospitality group head Kesav Suri, seeking the 'Right to choice of sexual orientation' to be declared as part of the fundamental right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.

#### **Earlier SC Judgement:**

On January 8, the three-judge Bench decided to re-visit a December 2013 verdict of the Supreme Court in *Suresh Kumar Kaushal versus Naz Foundation*, which dismissed the LGBT community as a negligible part of the population while virtually denying them the right of choice and sexual orientation.

The court said a section of people cannot live in fear of a law which atrophies their right to choice and natural sexual inclinations.

It said societal morality changes with time and the law should change pace with life, adding that the concept of consensual sex may require more protection.

While the court noted that Section 377 punishes carnal intercourse against order of nature, it added that "the determination of order of nature is not a common phenomenon. Individual autonomy and individual natural inclination cannot be atrophied unless the restrictions are determined as reasonable".

It observed that what is natural for one may not be natural for the other, but the confines of law cannot trample or curtail the inherent rights embedded with an individual under Article 21 (right to life).



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**Rashtriya Gramin Swaraj Abhiyan**

**Why in News?**

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Mandla in Madhya Pradesh tomorrow, 24<sup>th</sup> April on the National Panchayati Raj Day. He will launch the Rashtriya Gramin Swaraj Abhiyan, at a public meeting, and address Panchayati Raj representatives across the country, from Mandla.

**About the Abhiyan**

The Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan will strengthen the Panchayati Raj system across the country and address critical gaps that constrain its success. RGSA seeks to:

- Enhance capacities and effectiveness of Panchayats and the Gram Sabhas;
- Enable democratic decision-making and accountability in Panchayats and promote people's participation;
- Strengthen the institutional structure for knowledge creation and capacity building of Panchayats;
- Promote devolution of powers and responsibilities to Panchayats according to the spirit of the Constitution and PESA Act;
- Strengthen Gram Sabhas to function effectively as the basic forum of peoples participation, transparency and accountability within the Panchayat system;
- Create and strengthen democratic local self-government in areas where Panchayats do not exist;
- Strengthen the constitutionally mandated framework on which Panchayats are founded.

**General Studies-3**

**India tops the Remittance flow Chart:**

India retained the top position as a recipient of remittances with its diaspora sending about \$69 billion back home last year, the World Bank said on Monday.

**Observations by World Bank:**

Remittances to India picked up sharply by 9.9%, reversing the previous year's dip, but were still short of \$70.4 billion received in 2014.



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In its latest Migration and Development Brief, the World Bank estimated that officially recorded remittances to low-and middle-income countries reached \$466 billion in 2017. This was an increase of 8.5% over \$429 billion in 2016.

India continued to top in terms of receiving remittance, and was followed by China (\$64 billion), the Philippines (\$33 billion), Mexico (\$31 billion), Nigeria (\$22 billion) and Egypt (\$20 billion)

The upsurge is likely to continue into 2018 on the back of stronger economic conditions in advanced economies (particularly the U.S.) and an increase in oil prices that should have a positive impact on the GCC countries.

### **Diu Smart City becomes first to run on 100% Renewable Energy during Daytime**

**Diu Smart City** has become the first city in India, that runs on 100% renewable energy during daytime setting a new benchmark for other cities to become clean and green. Diu had been importing 73% of its power from Gujarat until last year.

It has now adopted a two-pronged approach whereby a 9 MW solar park spread over 50 hectares rocky barren land has been developed besides installing solar panels on the roof tops on 79 government buildings thereby generating 1.3 MW annually.

To further enhance its solar capacity, Diu offers its residents a subsidy of Rs 10,000-50,000 for installing 1-5KW roof top solar panels.

Diu is saving about 13,000 tonnes of carbon emissions every year. Due to low-cost solar energy, power tariffs have been cut in residential category by 10% last year and 15% this year.

### **Environment Related:**

#### **Neelakurinji bloom after 12 years in Munnar**

Elaborate arrangements are in place for the Neelakurinji season that is set to begin from July-end.

The main places under the Munnar Wildlife Sanctuary where massive flowering takes place are Eravikulam National Park (ENP), Lakkam and Vaguvarai top.



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**About Neelakurinji Flowers:**

Botanists call it the blooming of 'Strobilanthes kunthianus', the botanical name of Neelakurinji. *Neela* in local parlance translates to the colour blue and *Kurinji* is the local name for the flower.

This stellar phenomenon can be witnessed between the months of July 2018 and October 2018 when the flower blooms in all its glory unleashing a visual extravaganza. In fact, there is no better time to visit Munnar than when the Neelakurinji blooms en masse.

**About Munnar hills:**

The [Nilgiri Tahr](#), the endangered mountain goat, is endemic to these hills. The majestic mountain goat ambling down the hills that are swathed in Neelakurinji makes for an extremely enigmatic sight.

The [Paliyan](#) tribal people living in Tamil nadu used it as a reference to calculate their age

Besides the Western Ghats, Neelakurinji is also seen in the [Shevroys](#) in the [Eastern Ghats](#), Anamalai hills Idukki district and Agali hills in Palakad in Kerala and sandur hills of Bellary district in Karnataka.