

Goa Cashew Gets Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

Why In The News?

- Recently **Goan Cashew (Kernel)** Got The **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant Hailed The Recognition As A Great Opportunity For The Cashew Industry In The State And “A Milestone Towards Swayampurna Goa Mission”.
- A GI Tag Is Conferred Upon **Products Originating From A Specific Geographical Region**, Signifying Unique Characteristics And Qualities. Essentially, It Serves As A Trademark In The International Market. It Is Given By The **Geographical Indications Registry In Chennai**.



Why Is It Significant?

- GI Tag Would Help Consumers Differentiate Between **Authentic Goan Cashews And Cashews Sourced From Outside The State**, Which Are Often Marketed As ‘Goan Cashews’.
- The Application For The GI Tag For The Goan Cashew Derived From The **Portuguese Name ‘Caju’ Or ‘Kaju’ In Konkani** Was Filed By The Goa Cashew Manufacturers’ Association (GCMA), With The Department Of Science, Technology And Waste Management, Government Of Goa, Acting As Facilitator.

How Did Cashew Come To Goa?

- Cashew Was **Native To Northeast Brazil In Latin America** And Was Introduced To Goa By The Portuguese In The 16th Century (1570). At The Time Of Its Introduction On Indian Coasts, Cashew Was Known Mainly As A **Crop For Afforestation And Soil Conservation**.
- **Christian Missionaries** Imported High Yielding Varieties From Latin American Countries And Cultivated Them Extensively In Goa. However, The Economic Value Of Cashew Nuts Became Known About A Century After Its Introduction.



The Journey There After

- Cashew Production Gradually Evolved From A Cottage Industry To A Large-Scale One, Facilitating Foreign Trade Because Of Demand. **In 1959-60, The Board Of External Trade** Granted Loans To Cashew-Nut Factory Owners To Advance The Industry By Importing Raw Material From Mozambique.
- It Also Sought To Create A Demand For Gaon Products In Foreign Markets By **Promoting Participation Of Local Industries** In International Fairs.
- The Import Of Nuts From Portuguese, East Africa Induced Foreigners To Establish Factories In Goa Due To The Lower Import Duty, Favourable Port Dues, Shipping And Clearing Expenses, Lower Rents, Wages, And Salaries.
- By 1961, The Cashew Processing Industry Accounted For About **60 Per Cent Of Industrial Production In Goa**, A Bulk Of Which Was Exported.