International Relations · GS - II

Examine the significance of Geographical Indications in international trade. How can disputes over GI protection affect India's trade relations and domestic producers?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Intellectual property rights; TRIPS Agreement; product authenticity; export competitiveness; trade disputes; domestic producers; diplomatic negotiations

Model Answer

Introduction

Geographical Indications (GIs) protect product names associated with a particular geographical origin and recognised qualities or reputation. They can support rural livelihoods, preserve traditional knowledge and improve the market identity of specialised products.

Significance of GI Protection

1. Economic value: GIs can help producers differentiate products, strengthen brand recognition and potentially obtain better market access.

2. Consumer protection: They help prevent misleading use of geographical names and support product authenticity.

3. Cultural heritage: GIs can preserve traditional production methods and recognise the contribution of local communities.

Challenges in International Trade

Differences in national GI laws can create disputes over the scope of protection, generic product names and market access. Restrictions on product labels may affect exporters, while retaliatory tariffs could increase costs for importers and consumers. Such outcomes depend on the specific measures adopted and the resolution of the dispute.

Way Forward

India should pursue evidence-based negotiations through bilateral channels and the WTO, while strengthening domestic GI registration, enforcement and producer awareness. Exporters should ensure compliance with destination-country labelling rules and explore alternative branding where necessary.

Conclusion

A balanced GI framework can protect legitimate geographical identities without unnecessarily obstructing fair competition and international trade.

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