GI Tag to Assam's Judima Wine Rice

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Why in News

Judima, a home-made rice wine of **Assam's Dimasa tribe** has become the **first traditional brew in all of northeast** to bag a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**

- This is the **second product from the hill districts of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao** to get GI tag.
- Earlier, **Manipur's most famous Hathei chilli and Tamenglong orange** were awarded the GI Tag.

Geographical Indication (GI)

- GI is an indication **used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory.**
- It is **also a part of the World Trade Organisation's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).**
- GI tag in India is governed by **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999.** It is issued by the **Geographical Indications Registry (Chennai).**
- The registration of a geographical indication is **valid for a period of 10 years.**
- The GI protection in India **leads to recognition of the product in other countries thus boosting exports.**

Key Points

- **About Judima:**
  - Judima is a **rice wine made from sticky rice (glutinous rice called Bora),** which is steamed and mixed with traditional herbs called **Thembra (Acacia pennata).**
  - The wine is a **specialty of the Dimasa tribe of the state (Assam)** and has a distinct sweet taste and takes around one week to prepare and it can be stored for years.
    - There are around 14 recognized Plain Tribe communities, 15 Hills Tribe communities and 16 recognized Scheduled Caste communities in the state.
    - The **Bodos are the largest group,** comprising almost half of the state's tribal population. Other major ST groups include **Mising, Karbi, Rabha, Kachari, Lalung and Dimasa.**
- **Other Recent GI Tagged Products from Assam:**
  - Kaji Nemu (a type of lemon) (2020)
  - Chokuwa Rice of Assam (2019)

Source: TH