



Ladakh Sea Buckthorn and Kerala Onattukara Sesame

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

- Recently, the [Geographical Indication \(GI\) Registry](#), operating under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has awarded the GI tag to the Department of Industries & Commerce, Ladakh, for '**Ladakh Sea Buckthorn**'.
- This recognition follows the previously granted **GI tags for Ladakh Apricot (Raktsey Karpo), Ladakh Pashmina,** and [Ladakhi Wood Carving](#).
- In another region, the Onattukara Vikasana Agency (OVA) , the registered owner of the **GI-tagged [Onattukara sesame in Kerala](#)**, is actively working to expand the cultivation of this unique sesame variety.

What are the Key Facts About the Sea Buckthorn?

- Sea Buckthorn (**Hippophae L**) a shrub which produces an **orange-yellow coloured edible berry** is sour in taste but rich in vitamins, especially **Vitamin C**.
 - Ladakh Sea Buckthorn is a vital crop in Union Territory Ladakh, with 90% of its production originating from the region.
 - It is also popularly known as 'Wonder Plant', "Ladakh Gold", "Golden Bush" or "Gold Mine".
- In India, it is found above the tree line in the Himalayan region, generally in dry areas such as the **cold deserts of Ladakh and Spiti**.
- It is a soil-binding plant which prevents [soil-erosion](#), checks siltation in rivers and helps preserve floral biodiversity.



What are the Key Facts About the Onattukara Sesame?

- Onattukara sesame is a type of **sesame grown in Kerala, India**.
- The OVA plans to increase the area under sesame cultivation from 600 hectares to 2,000 hectares.

- Onattukara sesame and its **oil are famous for its unique health benefits.**
 - Relatively **higher antioxidant** content in Onattukara sesame helps in fighting the free radicals, which destroy the body cells.
 - Also, the high content of unsaturated fat makes it beneficial for **heart patients.**
- Traditional ayurvedic doctors in the region have used Onattukara sesame oil for treating **rheumatism** (umbrella term that refers to arthritis and several other conditions that affect the joints, tendons, and muscle) and **skin protection** since the 18th century.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Years Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q1. Which of the following has/have been accorded 'Geographical Indication' status? (2015)

1. Banaras Brocades and Sarees
2. Rajasthani Daal-Bati-Churma
3. 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

Ans: (c)

Q2. India enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 in order to comply with the obligations to (2018)

- (a) ILO
- (b) IMF
- (c) UNCTAD
- (d) WTO

Ans: (d)