

White onion gets GI tag

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In news– Alibag’s white onion got GI tag recently.

Alibag’s white onion-

- The GI tagged onion from Alibag in the Raigad district of Maharashtra is **characterized by its sweetness**.
- The GI tag gives a unique identity to the white onion, which has **medicinal qualities and is being cultivated in a traditional** way for a long time.
- Farmers in Alibag say white onions are **grown here for ages with only traditional and genuine seeds**.
- **Geo-climatic conditions of Alibag make it unique compared to other white onion-producing areas** and that is why Alibag white onion has developed a unique taste, flavour, and shape as well.
- Farmers will directly get benefits as the white onion will get the premium price because of the GI tag.

Importance of white onions-

- White onion or *Allium cepa* (“sweet onion”) are a cultivar of dry onion which have a distinct light and mild flavour profile.
- Much like red onions, they have a high sugar and low sulphur content, and thus have a relatively short shelf life.
- White onions are an excellent source of antioxidants that contain more than 25 different types of flavonoids which avert oxidizing of healthy cells and **lowers the risk of developing chronic diseases like diabetes, cancer, and heart disease**.

What is GI Tag?

- A geographical indication or GI is a sign used on

products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

- GI part of the intellectual property rights that comes under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
- In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999.
- The registration of a geographical indication shall be for a period of ten years, but may be renewed from time to time in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- The first product to get a GI tag in India was the Darjeeling tea in 2004.
- Geographical indications are typically used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, and industrial products.