

GOAN CASHEW GETS GI TAG

The Geographical indication (GI) tag for Goan cashews holds significant implications for the cashew industry in Goa.



Significance of GI Tag for Goan Cashew

The GI tag ensures that cashews bearing this label are authentic products originating from Goa. This helps consumers distinguish between genuine Goan cashews and those sourced from outside the state, which are often falsely marketed as 'Goan cashews.'

Goan cashew manufacturers and processors can use the GI tag as a trademark in the international market. This protection helps safeguard the reputation and quality associated with Goan cashews.

Goa has a long history of cashew cultivation, and the GI tag helps in preserving the cultural and historical legacy of Goan cashews.

By promoting authentic Goan cashews, the GI tag can potentially boost the demand for these products, benefitting local cashew producers, manufacturers, and the state's economy.



Historical Context of Cashew in Goa

Cashew was introduced to Goa by the Portuguese in the 16th century. Initially, it was primarily cultivated for afforestation and soil conservation purposes.

However, it was not until a century after its introduction that the economic value of cashew nuts became apparent.

The edible value of cashew nuts was reportedly discovered by Goan prisoners who were exiled to the Portuguese territory of Africa (Mozambique) during Goa's freedom movement in the mid-18th century.

The first cashew factory in Goa began operations in 1926, and the first consignment of cashew kernels was exported in 1930. Over time, cashew production transitioned from a cottage industry to a large-scale one, driven by demand, particularly from the United States.

Before Goa's liberation in 1961, the region exported substantial quantities of processed cashew nuts, both locally grown and imported from Portuguese colonies in Africa. On average, around 1500 tonnes of processed cashew nuts were exported to countries like the USA, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and West Germany.

The cashew processing industry accounted for about 60% of industrial production in Goa by 1961, and it was a significant contributor to foreign trade. Various factors, including favourable import duties, port expenses, lower rents, wages, and salaries, contributed to the industry's growth and success.

Recent Challenges in the Goan Cashew Industry

In recent years, the Goan cashew industry faced challenges due to the influx of cheaper imported cashews, often falsely labelled as 'Goan cashews' by small traders from other states. These traders did not always meet quality and compliance norms, affecting the reputation of Goan cashews.

The competition from cheaper cashews, along with higher minimum wages and compliance standards compared to other states, resulted in a decline in sales for traditional Goan cashew processors. The number of processing units in Goa decreased from 40 in 2005 to over 15 at present.

The GI tag is expected to address some of these issues by ensuring that authentic Goan cashews are protected, promoted, and recognized in the market, both domestically and internationally. It will help in distinguishing Goan

cashews from others and potentially boost demand for the region's unique cashew products. Additionally, the government's crackdown on illegal marketing practices is expected to further protect the authenticity of Goan cashews and support the local industry.

CURATIVE PETITION



The Supreme Court's decision to hear the curative petitions filed by Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel regarding the calculation of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues is a significant development in the ongoing legal battle between the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and these telecom operators.

In October 2019, the Supreme Court upheld the DoT's definition of AGR and directed all incumbent telecom operators to pay AGR dues, which amounted to a total of Rs 1.69 trillion calculated until FY17. The Supreme Court allowed these telcos to pay the dues in equal installments spread over 10 years.

Following the Supreme Court's initial verdict, telecom operators filed a review petition, arguing that there were calculation errors and discrepancies in the AGR dues assessed by the DoT. The court, however, dismissed their review petition in July 2021 and barred them from self-assessing their dues.

Subsequently, Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel filed curative petitions, a legal remedy that can be pursued after a review petition has been dismissed. The curative petitions raised concerns about the arithmetical errors and differences in the calculation of their dues compared to the DoT's assessment.



What is a Curative Petition

A curative petition is a legal remedy available to rectify a final judgment of the Supreme Court, which has been upheld even after a review petition.

The purpose of a curative petition is to correct grave errors and prevent miscarriages of justice. However, it is essential to note that curative petitions are only entertained in exceptional circumstances.

Conditions for Filing a Curative Petition

The petition must be filed within 30 days of the dismissal of the review petition.

The petition must be signed by a senior advocate of the Supreme Court, emphasizing the seriousness and expertise involved in the process.

The petition must clearly state specific grounds for review, such as a gross miscarriage of justice, violation of natural justice principles, discovery of new and important evidence, or fraud/suppression of material facts during the trial.

The petition must be accompanied by a certificate from the senior advocate, confirming that the petition has been filed in good faith and that there are reasonable grounds for review.

Review Process

The curative petition is reviewed by a bench of five judges, including three of the most senior judges of the Supreme Court.

If the bench decides to hear the petition, it considers arguments from both the petitioner and the respondent. Amicus curiae, an impartial adviser to assist the court, might be appointed to provide expert opinions and recommendations.

After the hearing, the bench delivers its judgment. If the curative petition is allowed, it may set aside the original judgment and order a fresh hearing of the case. This is a rare occurrence and only happens in exceptional circumstances.

Grounds for Filing a Curative Petition

Gross Miscarriage of Justice: This means there has been a significant error in the judgment that has led to a miscarriage of justice.



Violation of Natural Justice: This pertains to the court's failure to follow fundamental principles of a fair trial, such as the right to be heard and the right to know the case against oneself.

Discovery of New Evidence: If new evidence is discovered that could have a substantial impact on the case's outcome.

Fraud or Suppression of Material Facts: If there was fraud or suppression of essential information during the trial.

Factors Considered by the Court

Seriousness of Allegations: The gravity of the claims made in the petition is a crucial factor.

Nature of Error: The type and extent of the error alleged in the court's previous judgment.

Potential Impact: The likelihood that the error could have affected the case's outcome significantly.

Impact on the Justice System: Considering how entertaining the petition might affect the broader administration of justice.

Examples of Curative Petitions

Rupa Ashok Hurra v/s Ashok Hurra: In this case, a woman who had won the custody of her child in the lower courts was denied the same by the Supreme Court on technical grounds. She filed a curative petition, which was allowed by the court and she was given back the custody of her child.

Union of India v/s Union Carbide Corporation: In this case, the Indian government filed a curative petition seeking more compensation for the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy, which was one of the worst industrial disasters in history. The court dismissed the petition, but it issued directions for the proper distribution of the compensation that was already awarded by an earlier settlement.

Nirbhaya v/s State of NCT of Delhi: In this case, the convicts in the brutal gang rape and murder of a young woman in Delhi filed a curative petition challenging their death sentences. The court rejected the petition, but it also laid down guidelines for the execution of death sentences in India.

MOUNT KUN



One soldier died and three are missing after a group of Indian Army mountaineers was caught in an avalanche on Mount Kun in Ladakh.

Mount Kun, also known as Kunlun, is a prominent mountain range in Central Asia that extends through China, Tibet, and parts of Pakistan and India.

Mount Kun, part of the larger Kunlun Mountain range, is situated in Central Asia.

It extends across several countries, primarily China and Tibet, and stretches from the Pamir Mountains to the Qilian Mountains.

The range is known for its impressive peaks, including Mount Muztagh Ata and Mount Kongur.

Historical Significance

Mount Kun has a rich history, with archaeological evidence suggesting that it was a crucial route on the ancient Silk Road.



Cultural and Mythological Importance

The mountain range has deep cultural and mythological significance in Chinese and Tibetan traditions.

It is often associated with stories of mythical creatures and is considered a sacred place by many indigenous communities.

Geographic Features of Mount Kun

Formation and Geology

Mount Kun has a diverse geological history, with rocks ranging from sedimentary to metamorphic.

It has been shaped by tectonic forces and glacial activity over millions of years.

Glaciers and Rivers

The mountains of Kunlun are the source of several major rivers, including the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers in China.

Significance

Environmental Significance

Biodiversity and Ecosystems:

Despite the harsh climate and high altitudes, Mount Kun hosts a variety of wildlife and plant species, some of which are unique to the region. It is home to rare species like the snow leopard and Tibetan antelope.

Climate and Water Sources:

The mountains significantly influence the climate of the surrounding areas, particularly the monsoon patterns in the Indian subcontinent. They also serve as vital water sources for millions of people living downstream.

Mount Kun in Culture and Religion

Influence on Art and Literature: The majestic beauty of Mount Kun has inspired artists, poets, and writers for centuries, resulting in a rich cultural legacy.

Role in Buddhism and Taoism: The mountains have deep spiritual significance in Buddhism and Taoism, with monasteries and temples dotting the landscape. They are associated with meditation and religious retreats.



Geopolitical Importance

Borders and Political Conflicts: Mount Kun spans regions with complex geopolitical boundaries, leading to historical and contemporary border disputes.

International Relations: The region's strategic location and natural resources have implications for international relations, particularly in the context of the China-India-Pakistan nexus.

Strategic Significance:

Mount Kun holds strategic importance due to its proximity to border areas and as a source of critical resources like water.

Raksha Mantri & French Minister of Armed Forces hold 5th Annual Defence Dialogue in Paris; Focus on enhancing defence industrial cooperation

Potential collaboration in niche domains such as space, cyber & Artificial Intelligence also discussed.

Raksha Mantri conducted the 5th Annual Defence Dialogue with French Minister of Armed Forces Mr Sebastien Lecornu in Paris late on October 11, 2023, before concluding his two-nation Europe tour. The two Ministers discussed a wide range of topics from the assessment of regional situations to the ongoing military-to-military engagements, with a focus on enhancing defence industrial cooperation.

The Ministers reviewed the ongoing defence projects and discussed ways to deepen the collaboration between the defence industries of both the countries. They also discussed potential collaboration in niche domains such as space, cyber and Artificial Intelligence. The meeting was preceded by a Guard of Honour at the French Ministry of Defence.

Earlier in the day, Shri Rajnath Singh visited the Safran Engine Division's R&D Centre at Gennevilliers near Paris and witnessed the latest developments in aero-engine technology.

He also met with the CEOs of the top French defence companies with a focus on their plans for collaboration with India. Shri Rajnath Singh highlighted the advantages of co-development and co-production in India, including possibilities of exports to third countries.

He underlined the inherent advantages of the Indian market such as a large, skilled HR base, world-class infrastructure and a strong legal architecture. Following his arrival in Paris on October 10, 2023, the Raksha Mantri interacted with the Indian community there.

In the first leg of his two-nation tour, Shri Rajnath Singh held talks with Italian Defence Minister Mr Guido Crosetto in Rome. An Agreement on Cooperation in the field of defence was signed after the talks to promote bilateral collaboration in varied defence domains, such as security and defence policy, R&D, education in military field, maritime domain awareness, sharing of defence information and industrial cooperation, including co-development, co-production & setting up of joint ventures. He also met with the CEOs and other top industry leaders of Italian defense companies in Rome, as part of his visit.

Global Hunger Index

India ranks 111 out of a total of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023. It is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels. It is prepared jointly by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation Welt Hunger Hilfe.





GHI scores are based on the values of four component indicators

Undernourishment: (the share of the population whose caloric intake is insufficient)

Child stunting: (the share of children under the age of five who have low height for their age)

Child wasting: (the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height)

Child mortality: (the share of children who die before their fifth birthday)

The GHI score is calculated on a **100-point scale** reflecting the severity of hunger, where zero is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.

Key findings of GHI-2023

India's ranking is based on a Global Hunger Index score of 28.7 on a 100-point scale.

This categorises India's severity of hunger as "serious".

The 2023 GHI score for the world is 18.3, which is considered moderate.

Latin American and the Caribbean is the only region in the world whose GHI scores have worsened between 2015 and 2023.

South Asia and Africa South of the Sahara are the world regions with the highest hunger levels, with GHI scores of 27.0 each.

India Needs to Go Nuclear

India's economy is expected to surpass Germany and Japan and move up from number five to number three position before the end of this decade.

With economic growth, a significant growth in India's primary energy consumption (most of which is currently fossil based) will go up which is already the third-highest globally.

The Energy Requirement to Support a Developed India

India aspires to reach a Human Development Index (HDI) comparable to advanced countries of the world.



For this, India needs a minimum of 2,400-kilogram oil equivalent (kgoe) energy consumption per capita per year.

This threshold could improve to around 1,400 kgoe, as a result of expected improvements in energy use efficiency.

Even after considering this, the total clean energy requirement to support a developed India would work out to around 25,000 -30,000 TWhr/yr.

This is more than four times India's present energy consumption.

Major Concerns in Meeting Energy Requirement

Fossil Energy- Major Contributor to Global Warming

Fossil fuel consumption is a major contributor to global warming, which has now become an existential crisis for humanity.

Therefore, deep and immediate emission cuts, leading to net zero, have become unavoidable.

There is now a global consensus to reach the net zero goal in the 2045-2070-time frame.

Hurdles in Achieving Net Zero Target

Transition to net zero involves massive transformation of energy systems which involves new technologies, restructuring of energy systems at supply-and-demand ends and large costs.

For a large and developing country like India, the challenge of reaching net zero is much bigger.

Unable to Meet Per Capita Energy Demand in the Long Term

India's developmental aspirations require a manifold increase in per-capita energy use, along with transitions to net-zero GHG emission.

The inability to meet this dual challenge would mean either compromising on development or failing to realise the net-zero target timeframe or both.

Will the Deployment of Renewable Energy meet India's Anticipated Energy Demand?



While India is rightfully making rapid strides in deployment of renewable energy including hydro, would this alone enable us to become an advanced country? The answer is no.

Hypothetically, even if the entire barren uncultivable land in India is used up for setting up solar plants (which, clearly, is not possible), it would still fall way short of the target.

The potential of wind energy is even smaller. The only way out then is a rapid scale-up of nuclear energy.

The Importance of Nuclear Energy

Cleanest and Safest

Today, nuclear energy has emerged as one of the cleanest and safest of energies capable of effectively countering climate change.

Since India is pursuing a closed nuclear fuel cycle, waste issue is also reduced to a negligible level.

Best Option Available for India to Meet Net Zero Target

According to a study done by Vivekananda International Foundation, nuclear energy would need to be scaled up to a couple of thousand GWe for an optimum solution to reach net-zero in a developed India.

On the technology front, India is capable of self-reliance.

What Should be India's National Strategy for a Rapid Scale-Up of Nuclear Energy?

Use of Indigenous 700 MWe PHWR (Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor) as Prime Work House.

In a milestone for India's nuclear power production, this is the first indigenously-developed 700 MWe nuclear power reactor at Kakrapar, Gujarat.

Fifteen more such units are already under construction in fleet mode. One should take up many such fleets for implementation leveraging multiple PSUs in addition to NPCIL.

Development of Indigenous SMRs (Small Modular Reactors)



India's strategy should be to build indigenous SMRs at a large number of sites that would be vacated by retiring coal plants in the coming decades.

As the experience with large PWRs has shown, importing these units would make electricity production unaffordable.

NTPC, being the owner of the largest number of coal plants in the country, is a natural partner in this process. More industrial partners could be involved.

Use of 220 Mwe PHWR and AHWR300-LEU

Well-proven 220 MWe PHWR units can be offered as partially owned captive units for electricity and hydrogen for energy-intensive industries such as metals, chemicals, and fertilisers.

AHWR300-LEU developed by BARC can also be offered for this role after demonstrating a prototype.

Development of a High Temperature Reactor

India should develop a high temperature reactor for direct hydrogen production without resorting to electrolysis. BARC has the requisite capability.

This would enable cheaper green hydrogen production and reduce pressure on excessive electrification of the energy system in the country, which otherwise appears inevitable.

Also, India should speed up second and third stage nuclear-power programme development to unleash thorium energy potential in accordance with the pre-existing plans for long-term sustainable energy supply.

Deployment of New Nuclear-Energy Capacity

Emerging-economies, where one expects maximum net growth in energy consumption, should see rapid deployment of new nuclear-energy capacity to credibly address the climate-change challenge at the global level.

India's PHWRs are globally competitive both in terms of performance and capital cost and are a good fit for meeting these requirements.

Thorium-HALEY fuel in PHWR can make these reactors even more attractive in terms of economics, safety, waste management and proliferation resistance.

India should encash this opportunity through piloting a major international co-operation for global efforts to address climate change challenges.

NTPC shines as the only Indian PSU to feature in Forbes “World’s Best Employers 2023” List

India’s largest integrated energy conglomerate, NTPC Limited, has been recognized as one of the “World’s Best Employers 2023” in the Forbes World’s Best Employers list 2023 released on 10th Oct 2023.

It ranked 261st out of top 700 companies in the World ranking and is the only Indian PSU to figure in the list. This is a testimony that the people practices at NTPC are at par with the top companies in the world.

Every year Forbes publishes the World’s Best Employers List through independent market research to identify top 700 companies which offer exciting working and a positive environment, opportunities for training and career advancement, employee benefits, employee centric and workplace diversity. Forbes partnered with market research firm Statista to create the seventh annual list of the World’s Best Employers this year.

AMA ODISHA, NABIN ODISHA



The controversy surrounding Odisha government's new rural development scheme, 'Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha', primarily revolves around political concerns raised by the opposition political parties.



The 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' scheme, approved by the Odisha Cabinet, aims to enhance rural development and preserve the state's cultural heritage.

Under this scheme, the government has allocated funds for the development of gram panchayats, focusing on various initiatives within these communities.

Each gram panchayat is entitled to receive ₹50 lakh for undertaking developmental projects. The scope of projects includes the development of temples, religious places, and other cultural and traditional centres.

One of the key aspects of the scheme is the preservation of the Jagannath culture in villages. The focus is on developing temples and religious places, aiming to preserve these cultural and traditional hubs for future generations. This initiative reflects the government's commitment to safeguarding the state's rich cultural heritage.

The scheme also emphasizes the improvement of digital infrastructure in villages, including the establishment of science parks, work hubs, and banking facilities. Additionally, primary schools will be included in this program, indicating a holistic approach towards rural development, encompassing both cultural preservation and educational advancement.