

**CURRENT AFFAIRS****25<sup>th</sup> August 2022****MITHILA MAKHANA REGISTERED WITH GI TAG****Why in News?**

“Mithila Makhana registered with GI Tag, farmers will get profit and it will be easier to earn. Due to Geographical Indication Tag to Mithila Makhana in the festive season, people outside Bihar will be able to use this auspicious material with reverence,” **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** said in a tweet.

**About GI Tag –**

- A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.
- **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**
- To provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- governed and directed by WHO agreement on TRIPS.
- Once a product gets this tag, any person or company can not sell a similar item under that name. This tag is valid for a **period of 10 years** following which it can be renewed.

**GI Registration -**

- The process which includes **filing of application, preliminary scrutiny and examination, show cause notice, publication in the geographical indications journal, opposition to registration, and registration.**

- Any association of persons, producers, organisation or authority established by or under the law can apply.
- The applicant must represent the interest of the producers.

#### **To Know about Mithila Makhana-**

- Mithila Makhana or Makhan (botanical name: Euryale ferox Salisb.) is a special variety of **aquatic fox nut cultivated in Mithila region** of Bihar and **Nepal**.
- It contains protein and fiber, along with micronutrients like calcium, magnesium, iron, and phosphorus.

#### **Other Products of Bihar have GI Tag –**

- Bhagalpuri Jardalu Mango
- Katarni Rice
- Magahi Betel (Paan)
- Shahi Litchi
- Silao Khaja (a delicacy)
- Madhubani Painting
- Pipli Work

In June 2022, the **Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai** accepted the initial proposal for conferring the GI tag to Nalanda's '**Bawan Buti**' Saree, Gaya's '**Pattharkatti stone craft**' and Hajipur's '**Chiniya**' variety of banana.