

Libex - A New Climate-Resilient Coffee Hybrid

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, Scientists Royal Botanic Gardens, London have identified a new coffee hybrid called *Coffea × libex* (Libex),

- **Created by** - Crossing *Liberica coffee* and *Excelsa coffee*.
- **Indian contribution** - South India Coffee Company (SICC) and its research division SICC Labs contributed Indian samples and field expertise.
- **Significance** - Grow in warmer temperatures.
- Tolerate a wider range of rainfall patterns than Arabica or Robusta.
- Higher yield and better outturn (higher conversion of fresh cherries into coffee beans).
- Thinner pulp and parchment, making post-harvest processing easier and improving coffee quality.
- **Current Global Coffee Consumption** - The world consumes about 17,000 tonnes of Arabica and 10,000 tonnes of Robusta (pre-roasting) every day.
- These two species account for more than 99.99% of global coffee production.
- **Issues with current varieties** - Both are increasingly vulnerable to rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall.

Coffee production in India

- **Varieties** - India primarily cultivates two main types:
 - **Arabica** (high altitude, high value)
 - **Robusta** (stronger, used in blends).
- **Geographical Distribution** - India is the **7th largest** coffee producer globally.
- **Traditional regions**
 - **Karnataka** - Accounting for roughly 70-71% of India's total coffee production.
 - **Kerala** - The second-largest producer, contributing about 21% of the country's coffee.
 - **Tamil Nadu** - The third-largest traditional producer, making up around 5% of India's yield.
- **Non-traditional areas** - **Araku Valley** (Andhra Pradesh), Odisha and the North East.

- **Functions under** - The Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It is a statutory body
- **Established under** - Coffee Act of 1942
- **Headquarters** - **Bengaluru**
- **Mandate** - To promote the production, quality, and export of Indian coffee.
- **Role** - Focuses on research, extension services, market intelligence, export promotion, and welfare for growers
- **Composition** - 33 members (including the Chairperson), representing growers, industry, labor, and state governments

Reference

[The Hindu| Libex Coffee](#)

