Strawberry Production in India

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Why in news?

Hyderabad's winter berry season has brought a wave of creative strawberry desserts, making the city a paradise for berry lovers.

- **Scientific name –** Fragaria vesca
- **Climate –** It grows well in ***temperate and sub-tropical*** areas of the country.
- **Temperature –** Daylight period of ***12 hours or less*** and moderate temperature are important for flower-bud formation.
- **Soil –** *Sandy loam to loamy soil* with good drainage and pH 5.7-6.5 is ideal for cultivation.
- **Season –** Planting in October–November; harvesting begins in December–January.
- **Major Producing States –** ***Maharashtra (85%*** of total output), followed by Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Punjab, whereas Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Jammu (under irrigated conditions).

  Maharashtra's ***Mahabaleshwar region*** *being the country's strawberry capital.*

- **Varieties Cultivated in India** – Chandler, Tioga, Torrey, Selva, Belrubi, Fern and Pajaro.
- Other varieties include Premier, Red cost, Local Jeolikot, Dilpasand, Bangalore, Florida 90, Katrain Sweet, Pusa Early Dwarf & Blakemore.
- **Production –** India produced approximately 19,840 MT of strawberries in the 2020-21 season, with production ***continuing to rise*** as modern farming techniques like polyhouses and hydroponics gain traction.
- **Economic Importance –** Strawberries are a nutrient-rich, high-value crop with strong domestic demand, expanding export opportunities, and versatile processing applications.
- **Challenges –** Short shelf life, pest & disease management, limited awareness on modern cultivation practices, etc.

References

1. The Hindu | Strawberry season in Hyderabad
2. NHB | Strawberry

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