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Exports of GI Certified Gholvad Sapota: Maharashtra

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Why in News

A consignment of **Dahanu Gholvad sapota** has been **exported to the United Kingdom** from Maharashtra's Palghar district, providing **a major boost to shipments of Geographical Indication (GI) certified products** from India.

Sapota (Chikoo) is grown in **many states**- Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

Karnataka is known to be the **highest grower of the fruit, followed by Maharashtra.**

Key Points



- **About Gholvad Sapota:**

The **fruit is known** for its **sweet and unique taste**. It is believed that the unique taste is derived from **calcium rich soil of Gholvad village** in Palghar district (Maharashtra).

- **Other GI Certified Products from Maharashtra:**

Alphonso Mango, Puneri Pagadi, Nashik Valley Wine, Mahabaleshwar Strawberry, **Warli Painting**.

- **Geographical Indication (GI) Certification:**

- GI is an indication used **to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory.**
 - It is used for **agricultural, natural and manufactured goods.**
- The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
 - The Act is **administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks-** who is the Registrar of Geographical Indications.
 - The Geographical Indications **Registry is located at Chennai.**
- The **registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years.** It can be renewed from time to time for a further period of 10 years each.
- It is also a **part of the World Trade Organisation's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).**
- **Recent Examples: Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting,** Telangana's Telia Rumal , **Tirur Vetilla** (Kerala), **Dindigul Lock and Kandangi Saree** (Tamil Nadu), **Odisha Rasagola**, etc.
- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority** (APEDA - Ministry of Commerce and Industry) has a focus on promotion of exports of GI products.
 - **Shahi Litchi** from **Bihar** has been exported to the United Kingdom.
 - India is the second largest producer of litchi** (Litchi chin) in the world, after China.
 - Earlier, a consignment of **GI certified Banganapalli & Survarnarekha mangoes** sourced from farmers in **Krishna & Chittor districts of Andhra Pradesh** was exported to South Korea.

Source: PIB