

## Mission Golden Spice

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Agriculture*

### Why in News?

Recently, Union Minister launched Mission Golden Spice – Integrated Lakadong Turmeric Value Chain Enhancement Project in Meghalaya.

**Mission Golden Spice** - A 5-year roadmap (2025-2030) to promote the GI-tagged Lakadong Turmeric, Meghalaya's luxury spice known for its exceptionally high curcumin content.

Curcumin is the principal, brightly yellow active compound found in the rhizomes of the turmeric plant.

### Key Features

- **GI-tagged** - Distinctive aroma, strong nutraceutical potential.
- **Curcumin Content** - **7-10%**, nearly **4 times world average**.
- **Global Potential** - Positioned as a flagship **Brand North East** product with premium export value.
- **Soil** - Attempts to grow outside Meghalaya showed reduced curcumin levels, highlighting the unique role of local soil.
- **Women's Role** - Women are central custodians in cultivation, processing, and farmer institutions.

### Mission Framework

- **Phased Implementation** -
  - **Phase 1** - Value Chain Strengthening.
  - **Phase 2** - Expansion and Scale-up.
- **Anchoring Agencies** - Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) and North Eastern Council (NEC).
- **Infrastructure** - Northeast's largest integrated organic turmeric processing and curcumin extraction facility.

### Reference

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