Sirarakhong Hathei Chilli

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in news?

14th Sirarakhong Hathei Chilli Festival was inaugurated at Sirarakhong village, Ukhrul district, Manipur.

- It is a festival organized to promote ***Sirarakhong Hathei chilli*** and ***agricultural heritage, environmental sustainability, and national development initiatives***.
- **Theme for 2025** - 'A Heritage of Blessing'.
- **Sirarakhong Hathei chilli –**
  - It is a variety of chilli, widely cultivated in Sirarakhong village in the ***Ukhrul district of Manipur.***
  - It is also known as Sirarakhong chilli, owing to the name of the village, where it is home to ***people of the Tangkhul Naga tribe***.
  - **Characteristics –** Its impressive size and bright-hued colors characterize it, it typically measures 8-9 inches in length.
  - **Qualities -** Renowned for its exceptional qualities, Hathei chilli boasts a distinctive taste, captivating aroma, and vibrant deep color.
  - The chilli is rich in antioxidants, vitamin C, and calcium.
  - **Geographical indication -** It was awarded the ***GI tag in 2021***, by the Geographical Indications Registry, thus becoming the first chilli variety from Manipur to earn the GI tag.
- **Significance –** The festival has elevated Sirarakhong a ***hub of quality chilli cultivation*** while recognizing the ***role of local women*** in sustaining their agricultural tradition.

Reference

PIB | Sirarakhong Hathei Chilli Festival



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