

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

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