



PLUTUS ACADEMY

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1.Hindi Diwas celebrated on September 14, 2020

Hindi Diwas or Hindi Day is being celebrated on September 14, 2020 across India in order to mark the adoption of Hindi as one of the official languages of India and to make people aware of the language.

Hindi, an Indo-Aryan language written in the Devanagari script, was adopted under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution. It is to be noted that in addition to Hindi Day, World Hindi Day is also celebrated on 10 January every year.

Hindi Day: At a Glance

After the independence of the country in the year 1947, apart from the rules and the law, the issue of the official language of the new nation was also important in the Constitution as India had hundreds of languages and thousands of dialects. After much deliberation, Hindi and English were chosen as the official languages of the new nation.

On 14 September 1949, the Constituent Assembly accepted Hindi written in Devanagari script along with English as the official language of the nation. Later Jawaharlal Nehru Government decided to celebrate September 14 as Hindi Day every year, seeing the importance of this historic day. The first official Hindi day was observed on 14 September 1953.

Constitutional provisions for Hindi language

Under Article 351 of the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the central government to develop and promote Hindi as a medium of expression. In addition to the official language, 22 other languages are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Celebrations on Hindi Diwas

On this day, there are many programs, various types of competitions are organized in many places to develop interest in children towards the language. Students are taught respect for Hindi and use of Hindi in daily practice etc.

2.Oxford vaccine to resume trial in the UK

The clinical trials of AstraZeneca vaccine were halted recently due to some safety reasons in the United Kingdom when one of the volunteers reported unexplained illness in his body after taking the vaccine. After the safety review, the Oxford and his partner drug company said in a separate statement that the clinical trial will resume.

Why was the trial halted?

AstraZeneca in collaboration with Oxford University was working on the front line for a successful trial of the COVID-19 vaccine. The collaboration seemed promising and everyone had hope. The trial was running in countries like the US, UK, Brazil and South Africa. Recently in the UK one of the volunteers who participated in the trial of the vaccine experienced an unexplained illness due to which the drug regulator had to thwart the vaccine trial and look for the reason of the unexplained illness. An independent expert team was sent for a probe and to verify whether the illness was caused due to the vaccine or it happened due to something else.

Why has the trial resumed now?

Recently on Saturday both the Oxford University and the drug regulator completed the probe and came up with the safety report that the unexplained illness was not caused due to the vaccine. The report, however, did not mention the cause of the illness nor did it mention the fate of the clinical trials happening in other countries.

Progress of clinical trial

The clinical trial of the vaccine is ongoing in the US, UK, Brazil, South Africa and India. The trial has reached phase III in South Africa, Brazil and the US. In the UK and in India phase II and Phase III trials are being conducted simultaneously.

Other major contenders

As of now around 180 vaccine manufacturing companies are in the pre-clinical and clinical trial of the vaccine. Out of these around 35 have reached clinical trials and eight in the final stage of trial that is phase III trial. Some popular companies other

than AstraZeneca are Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, Novavax, Russian vaccine being developed by Gamaleya.

3.SII directed to suspend recruitment for Oxford vaccine trial

Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) which is the country's apex drug regulator has directed Serum Institute of India SII to suspend the new recruitments which were about to happen for recent phase 2 and 3 clinical trials of the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine till further orders.

Why is the SII asked to suspend recruitment for a vaccine trial?

AstraZeneca is a drug manufacturing company which in collaboration with Oxford University is involved in the clinical trial of the vaccine. Recently during one of its trials the company faced a huge blow when one of the volunteers in the UK experienced some unknown illness in his body. This resulted in the issuance of the show-cause notice to AstraZeneca and all its trial operation was paused. The company halted all its vaccine trial across four countries, the UK, US, South Africa and Brazil. The halt will remain till the company investigates the recipient's "potentially unexplained" illness and find out whether it is a side effect of the vaccine shot.

What was DCGI's order?

Dr VG Somani the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) in his recent order asked the Serum Institute of India to suspend any new recruitment in phase 2 and 3 clinical trials for the COVID-19 vaccine till further orders. The order was ruled under Rule 30 of the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019

A major point in DCGI order

The apex drug regulator directed SII to increase the safety monitoring of the volunteers who have already been vaccinated with the vaccine under trial and submit the plan and report. DCGI also directed the Serum institute to submit clearance from DSMB UK and DSMB India to obtain clearance from this office prior to the resumption of future recruitment in the trial.

About DCGI

Drugs Controller General of India is a department of the government of India who is responsible for all the regulatory work related to the drug in the country. DCGI is

also responsible for setting standards for manufacturing, sales, import, and distribution of drugs in India. VG Somani is the current head.

4. Punjab to convert stubble into biomass fuel

The Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) in association with the Government of Punjab, is soon coming up with an alternative for paddy stubble utilisation. Stubble burning is one of the biggest problems in north India to curb this, the Punjab government's own agency; PEDA is playing a stellar role in weeding out the problem indigenously.

What is the problem?

Stubble which is a residue left out of the paddy and wheat field is normally burnt in the field itself. This stubble burning brings a lot of environmental problems as well as health problems. In Punjab itself, around twenty million tonnes of paddy stubble is generated out of these only five per cent are used in a cleaner way for generating biofuel or environmentally friendly usage, rest are burnt in the field. This burning is one of the biggest causes of pollution and smog in Delhi. Apart from this the stubble burning also reduces soil fertility and the heat from the burn kills the bacteria and reduces the moisture of the soil.

What is the solution offered by the agency?

PEDA, which is a state nodal agency, has been working towards the promotion and development of renewable energy for more than the last thirty years. The agency has set up 11 biomass power plants where 97.50 megawatts (MW) of power is generated. In these plants, less than 5 percent of the total 20 million tonnes of paddy stubble, which is around 8.80 lakh metric tonnes of paddy stubble, is used annually to generate power. Most of these plants are 4-18 MW and are consuming 36,000 to 1,62,000 metric tonnes of stubble annually.

Plans ahead

Apart from the aforementioned plant, two more biomass power projects with 14 MW capacity are in the pipeline and will start working completely from June 2021. These 14 MW plants will also require 1.26 lakh metric tonnes paddy stubble per annum for operation. These biomass power projects are environmentally friendly due to relatively lower CO₂ and particulate emissions and also displace fossil fuels such as coal which is very beneficial for the environment.

5.Fraudsters duped crores of rupees under PM-KISAN Nidhi Scheme

Department of Agriculture in a recent probe identified as many as 90,000 ineligible beneficiaries under the PM-KISAN Nidhi Scheme in Villupuram districts in Tamil Nadu. So far 7.5 crore amount has been recovered from the ineligible beneficiaries.

How did ineligible beneficiaries receive the amount?

In a report generated after the primary investigation, it was revealed that fake beneficiaries from Villupuram districts and other districts misused the user ID and password of the government officials and registered their names under the scheme. These fraudulent people registered more than one person from their family under the scheme and received the cash subsidy in their bank account. Moreover, they also received more than one instalment in their bank account under the scheme.

What is the PM-KISAN Nidhi Scheme?

It is a central government scheme wherein, hundred per cent funding is provided by the Government of India. The Scheme came into existence from the year 2018. As per the scheme, small and marginal farmer family who have combined land of up to two Hectare will receive three thousand rupees per year in three equal instalments. The fund will be directly transferred to the bank account of the beneficiary without any involvement of a middle man. As per the scheme, the definition of family will include husband, wife and minor children. The farmer families will be identified by the State government and UT government.

What about the rest of the amount?

As of now, around 7.5 crore amount which was credited in the bank account of 20,500 ineligible beneficiary family in a fraudulent way has been recovered by the government. The remaining amount is expected to be recovered within the next ten days then only we will know the total amount which was duped by the fraudsters.

6.Gujarat emerges best for start-ups again: DPIIT

In News- The second edition of startup ranking of States and Union Territories has been released by the Department for Promotion of

Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). A total of 22 States and 3 UTs participated in the exercise.

Key Points:

- **Best Performer-** Gujarat has been categorised as the best performer in the second edition of startup ranking of states among all States and one Union Territory (UT) Delhi, barring north-eastern States and other UTs.
 - It has again emerged as the best performer in developing a start-up ecosystem for budding entrepreneurs.
 - Gujarat was among the first few states that launched the State Startup Policy in 2015.
- **Parameters used-** The ranking is based on seven broad reform areas consisting of 30 action points ranging from institutional support, easing compliances, relaxation in public procurement norms, incubation support, seed funding support, venture funding support, and awareness and outreach.
- **Significance-** The rankings are aimed at further promoting the start-up ecosystem by the Centre, States and UTs.
 - States have been recognised as best performers, top performers, leaders, aspiring leaders and emerging startup ecosystems.
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7.JK-IGRAMS: New grievance redress system unveiled in J&K

- In News- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) launched the Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JK-IGRAMS).

About System:

- Grievance redressal mechanism- JK-IGRAMS will be an effective grievance redressal mechanism which is the most important component of a well-governed responsive administration.
- Decentralisation- The revamped system will decentralise handling and redressal of public grievances by making district collectors and deputy commissioners the primary level of receiving, disposing and monitoring grievances.
- Coverage- The system is being launched on a pilot basis in three districts Jammu, Srinagar, and Reasi and will gradually be rolled out in the remaining districts by October 2.

Features of the initiative:

- Update- It will be available round the clock with applicant OTP authentication, acknowledgement to the applicant at each stage.
- There will be a minute by a minute status update of the grievances on the portal.

Dedicated call centres- The system will have dedicated call centres and the complaints and their status can be monitored online. The maximum time for complaint redressal has been set at 15 days

- First online grievance management system- it is the first online grievance management system in the country which is linked to the central government (at the top level) and districts, tehsils and blocks (at the bottom level).

Significance:

- It will provide an accountability administration to all the citizens of J&K.
- It will make the existing mechanism more robust and efficient.
- It will create an interface with the public and focus on governance issues in the Union Territory.

Recent Initiatives:

- The government also announced the 'Back to Village' campaign, wherein officers will visit villages and address public grievances.

About Back to Village (B2V)-

- The Government of Jammu and Kashmir launched an ambitious and extensive programme in 2019 to reach out to the people at the grassroots level.
- The programme is aimed at strengthening Panchayats and directing development efforts in rural areas through community participation.
- It is aimed to involve the people of the state and government officials in a joint effort to deliver the mission of equitable development

- **Three Pillars-The three pillars will be the redressal of public grievances (Jan Sunwai Yee), public service delivery (Adhikar Abhiyan) and the delivery of development at Gram Panchayat level (Unat Gram Abhiyan)**