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17th, January, 2022

Topic: Research by CPRI Shimla

Importance: Himachal HPAS Prelims

What is the news?

- CPRI Shimla makes jalebi from potatoes, it will not go sour for eight months.

Important:

- Dr. Arvind Jaiswal, the institute's scientist, says that the potato is used at the same time as the skin in the production of the jalebi potato. The peel is rich in

fiber and potato starch adds crispiness to the jalebi. According to him, consumers will have to use the jalebi of the potato in the preparation of sugar syrup. Because of this, discussions are taking place with large reputable companies, so consumers do not take long to use jalebi from canned potatoes. This jalebi will not spoil for eight months.

About ICAR-CPRI:

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI) was established during August 1949 at Patna (Bihar, India) on the recommendation of the Agricultural Advisor to the Government of India, Sir Herbert Steward under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.
- The institute was later on, shifted to Shimla, Himachal Pradesh in 1956 in order to facilitate hybridization work in potato breeding and maintain seed potato health. It was transferred to the ICAR in April 1966.

Location:

- ICAR-CPRI is situated in the heart of Shimla near Bemloe, Himachal Pradesh, India.
- Shimla is the headquarters of the institute. It is approximately 4 km from Bus Stand and 6 km from railway station on the national highway no. 21.
- It is located at an altitude of 2200 meters above mean

sea level and has a wet temperate climate.

The Mission:

- To carry out research, education and extension on potato in collaboration with national and international partners for enhancing productivity and profitability, achieving sustainable food and nutritional security and alleviating rural poverty.

The Mandate:

- ICAR-CPRI is a non-profit scientific institution under the ICAR and working exclusively on potato crop. The institute has played a key role in popularizing potato cultivation and utilization under sub-tropical agro-ecosystem. It is well known that potato plays an important role in food and nutritional security of the world including India, while helping the rural poor to rise out of poverty. The institute focuses all its energy to make that belief become a reality.
- Basic, strategic and applied research to enhance sustainable productivity, quality and utilization of potato.
- Repository of genetic resources and scientific information on potato.
- Transfer of technology, capacity building and impact assessment of technologies.
- Disease-free nucleus and breeder seed potato production.

·Coordinate research and validation of technologies through AICRP on potato.

Divisions:

The research and developmental activities of the institute are carried out in five (revised) divisions:

- Division of Crop Improvement & Seed Technology
- Division of Crop Production
- Division of Plant Protection
- Division of Crop Physiology, Biochemistry and Post Harvest Technology
- Division of Social Sciences.

All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Potato:

All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Potato was started in 1971, at ICAR-CPRI, Shimla for technology development of potato. Currently, the AICRP (Potato) has 25 centers located in different parts of the country for the multi-location testing of advanced stage hybrids for varietal development.

Topic: Himachal Red Cross Society

Importance: Himachal HPAS Prelims

What is the news?

- **District Red Cross Society Kullu was awarded the first place in all activities of the Himachal Red Cross Society.**
- At the annual meeting of Himachal Pradesh state red cross society, governor and chairman Himachal Pradesh red cross has felicitated deputy commissioner and chairman district red cross society kullu ashutosh garg with a citation for securing the first position in Kullu district.
- Secretary district red cross society kullu v.k. modgil informed that the activities of the entire district red cross society of the state under Himachal Pradesh state red cross society, Shimla was reviewed at the state level in which district red cross society kullu has secured the first position with maximum marks in all the activities of red cross society.
- He informed that 16,550 beneficiaries have been benefited by district red cross society Kullu in the last five years by spending rs.4.84 care under various schemes run by the society.
- These schemes, especially providing financial assistance to the poor and needy, providing financial assistance to the affected people in times of natural calamities,

organizing health check-up camps for elderly and women, running of day care centres for senior citizens, survey through district disability rehabilitation centre for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and identification of persons with disabilities, to prevent disability, awareness generation through awareness camps, physio therapy, speech therapy, assessment of hearing capacity and assisting them in obtaining disability identity cards and training for self-employment and assistance for credit etc.

- In addition, services and facilities include providing free ambulances to the needy by the district red cross society during covid-19 also, providing financial assistance in setting up of covid care centers at Kullu, setting up of border monitoring systems, providing oximeters and masks.
- Red cross fair, raffle draw is also being organized to generate income for red cross activities. in addition, efforts are also being made by the society to add new members to the public mind for a sense of service to humanity.

(Himachal Punjab Kesari)

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