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#01

Supreme Court judge distinguishes between active and passive euthanasia

The Supreme Court judge explained the difference between active and passive euthanasia, stating that active euthanasia involves causing death by introducing a new, external agency of harm, such as a lethal injection. On the other hand, passive euthanasia is understood as allowing death to occur. This distinction is crucial in understanding the nuances of euthanasia. The judge's clarification comes amidst ongoing debates about the right to die with dignity. The Supreme Court has been examining the issue of euthanasia and its implications on individual rights and medical ethics.

Background

The concept of euthanasia has been debated in India for several years, with the Supreme Court delivering a landmark judgment in 2018 that recognized the right to die with dignity. The judgment allowed for passive euthanasia under certain conditions, but the distinction between active and passive euthanasia has been a subject of discussion. The current clarification by the Supreme Court judge aims to provide a clearer understanding of the two concepts.

Key Points

- ◆ **Supreme Court — Euthanasia:** Distinguished between active and passive euthanasia.
- ◆ **Supreme Court — Active Euthanasia:** Characterized as causing death by introducing a new, external agency of harm.
- ◆ **Supreme Court — Passive Euthanasia:** Explained as allowing death to occur.
- ◆ **Supreme Court — Euthanasia Debate:** Ongoing examination of the issue and its implications on individual rights and medical ethics.
- ◆ **Supreme Court — Right to Die with Dignity:** Recognized in a landmark judgment in 2018.

Policy Implication

The Supreme Court's clarification on active and passive euthanasia has significant implications for individual rights and medical ethics. The distinction between the two concepts will inform future discussions and decisions on euthanasia, ensuring that the right to die with dignity is protected while also considering the ethical and moral implications of such a decision.

 [The Hindu](#)

#02

Multi-thousand crore GainBitcoin scam case: CBI arrests Darwin Labs co-founder Ayush Varshney

The GainBitcoin scam case involves multiple FIRs registered in various parts of the country, with the CBI conducting the investigation pursuant to the Supreme Court order. The scam is estimated to be worth thousands of crores. The CBI is examining the role of various individuals and companies, including Darwin Labs, in the scam. The investigation is ongoing, with the CBI working to unravel the complex web of transactions and entities involved. The Supreme Court's order has given the CBI the authority to investigate the case and bring those responsible to justice.

Background

The GainBitcoin scam case has been ongoing for several years, with multiple complaints filed against the company and its promoters. The Supreme Court's order dated December 13, 2023, has given the CBI the mandate to investigate the case and take action against those responsible. The case highlights the need for greater regulation and oversight of cryptocurrency transactions in India.

Key Points

- ◆ **CBI — Investigation:** Arrested Darwin Labs co-founder Ayush Varshney in connection with the GainBitcoin scam case.
- ◆ **Supreme Court — Order:** Directed the CBI to investigate the case, dated December 13, 2023.
- ◆ **CBI — Investigation:** Examining the role of various individuals and companies, including Darwin Labs, in the scam.
- ◆ **CBI — Action:** Working to unravel the complex web of transactions and entities involved in the scam.
- ◆ **Supreme Court — Order:** Given the CBI the authority to investigate the case and bring those responsible to justice.

Policy Implication

The investigation into the GainBitcoin scam case has significant implications for the regulation of cryptocurrency transactions in India. The case highlights the need for greater oversight and regulation of such transactions to prevent similar scams in the future. The CBI's investigation and the Supreme Court's order are expected to have a major impact on the cryptocurrency industry in India.

 The Hindu

#03

Cabinet clears amendments to insolvency, companies laws

The Cabinet has approved various amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and the Companies Act, 2013. The amendments aim to improve the insolvency resolution process and provide more clarity on the rights of creditors. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, which was introduced in 2016, has been amended several times since its inception. The Companies Act, 2013, is a comprehensive legislation that regulates the incorporation, management, and winding up of companies. The amendments are expected to have a significant impact on the corporate sector and the economy as a whole.

Background

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code was introduced in 2016 to provide a framework for the resolution of insolvency and bankruptcy cases. The Code has undergone several amendments since its inception, with the most recent amendment being in 2020. The Companies Act, 2013, has also undergone several amendments, with the most recent amendment being in 2020.

Key Points

- ◆ **Cabinet — Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code:** Cleared amendments to improve insolvency resolution process.
- ◆ **Cabinet — Companies Act, 2013:** Approved amendments to provide more clarity on the rights of creditors.
- ◆ **Ministry of Corporate Affairs — Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code:** Will implement the amendments to improve the corporate sector.
- ◆ **Cabinet — Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code:** Aims to provide a framework for the resolution of insolvency and bankruptcy cases.
- ◆ **Ministry of Corporate Affairs — Companies Act, 2013:** Will ensure that the amendments are implemented effectively.

Policy Implication

The amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and the Companies Act, 2013, are expected to have a significant impact on the corporate sector and the economy as a whole. The amendments will provide more clarity on the rights of creditors and improve the insolvency resolution process, which will help to boost investor confidence and promote economic growth.

 The Hindu

#04

SRMIST signs MoU with Naval Academy to collaborate in technical education and research

The SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Naval Academy to collaborate in technical education and research. The institutions will collaborate in academic and research activities, including exchange of faculty, students, and scholarly resources. They will also organise joint seminars, workshops, conferences, and expert lectures. This collaboration aims to enhance the quality of education and research in the field of technology. The partnership will provide opportunities for students and faculty to engage in joint research projects and exchange programs.

Background

The SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) has been actively engaged in collaborative research and education initiatives with various institutions. The Naval Academy has also been involved in similar collaborations to enhance the quality of education and research in the field of technology. This MoU is a significant step towards strengthening the partnership between the two institutions.

Key Points

- ◆ **SRMIST — Naval Academy MoU:** Collaboration in technical education and research.
- ◆ **SRMIST — Naval Academy MoU:** Exchange of faculty, students, and scholarly resources.
- ◆ **SRMIST — Naval Academy MoU:** Organisation of joint seminars, workshops, conferences, and expert lectures.
- ◆ **SRMIST — Naval Academy MoU:** Enhancement of education and research quality in technology.
- ◆ **SRMIST — Naval Academy MoU:** Opportunities for joint research projects and exchange programs.

Policy Implication

This collaboration between SRMIST and the Naval Academy will have a positive impact on the quality of education and research in the field of technology. The partnership will provide opportunities for students and faculty to engage in joint research projects and exchange programs, leading to the development of innovative solutions and technologies.

 **The Hindu**

#05

RBI conducts G-Secs purchase of ₹50,000 crore to inject liquidity, another tranche on Friday

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has conducted a purchase of government securities (G-Secs) worth ₹50,000 crore to inject liquidity into the market. This move comes as the rupee sank to a record low intra-day due to surging crude oil prices, which exceeded \$110 a barrel. The RBI's action is aimed at stabilizing the currency and maintaining liquidity in the financial system. The central bank has also announced another tranche of G-Secs purchase, scheduled to take place on Friday. The total amount of liquidity injected through these purchases is expected to have a positive impact on the economy.

Background

The RBI has been actively managing liquidity in the financial system to mitigate the effects of rising crude oil prices and currency fluctuations. The central bank's previous measures, including the introduction of the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF), have helped to maintain stability in the money market.

Key Points

- ◆ **RBI — G-Secs Purchase:** ₹50,000 crore to inject liquidity into the market.
- ◆ **RBI — G-Secs Purchase:** Another tranche scheduled for Friday.
- ◆ **RBI — Monetary Policy:** Aimed at stabilizing the currency and maintaining liquidity.
- ◆ **RBI — Liquidity Management:** Total amount of liquidity injected expected to have a positive impact on the economy.
- ◆ **RBI — Currency Management:** Efforts to mitigate the effects of rising crude oil prices and currency fluctuations.

Policy Implication

The RBI's decision to conduct G-Secs purchases is expected to have a positive impact on the economy, as it will help to stabilize the currency and maintain liquidity in the financial system. However, the central bank will need to continue monitoring the situation and adjusting its monetary policy accordingly to ensure that the economy remains stable.

 The Hindu

#06

Next instalment of Kisan Nidhi to reach farmers on March 13

The 22nd instalment of the Kisan Nidhi scheme is set to be released on March 13, with over 2.15 crore women farmers receiving financial assistance. The Agriculture Minister announced this development, highlighting the scheme's focus on supporting women in agriculture. The Kisan Nidhi scheme has been a key initiative of the government to provide financial support to farmers. With this instalment, the scheme continues to empower women farmers across the country. The disbursement of funds is expected to have a positive impact on the agricultural sector.

Background

The Kisan Nidhi scheme was launched to provide financial assistance to farmers, with the aim of improving their livelihoods and promoting agricultural development. The scheme has been in operation for several years, with regular instalments being disbursed to eligible farmers, including women farmers who play a crucial role in the agricultural sector.

Key Points

- ◆ **Agriculture Ministry — Kisan Nidhi:** 22nd instalment to be released on March 13.
- ◆ **Agriculture Ministry — Kisan Nidhi:** Over 2.15 crore women farmers to receive financial assistance.
- ◆ **Agriculture Ministry — Kisan Nidhi:** Scheme aims to support women in agriculture.
- ◆ **Agriculture Ministry — Kisan Nidhi:** Disbursement of funds expected to boost agricultural sector.
- ◆ **Agriculture Ministry — Kisan Nidhi:** Empowers women farmers across the country.

Policy Implication

The release of the next instalment of the Kisan Nidhi scheme is expected to have a positive impact on the agricultural sector, particularly for women farmers. The government's continued support to farmers through this scheme is likely to contribute to the growth and development of the agricultural industry.

 The Hindu

Uptake of induction stoves sluggish in low-income Indian households

The use of induction cooktops in Indian households has been slow to gain traction, particularly in low-income households. According to experts, only 5% of Indian households have electric penetration in their kitchens, indicating a lack of adoption of electric cooking methods. This is despite the potential benefits of induction cooking, including energy efficiency and safety. The slow uptake of induction stoves is a concern for policymakers, as it hinders the transition to cleaner and more efficient cooking methods. The Indian government has been promoting the use of electric cooking methods, but more needs to be done to encourage adoption in low-income households.

Background

The Indian government has been promoting the use of electric cooking methods as part of its efforts to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate climate change. The National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency, launched in 2008, aims to promote the use of energy-efficient appliances, including induction cooktops, in Indian households.

Key Points

- ◆ **Experts — Induction Cooktops:** Only 5% of Indian households have electric penetration in their kitchens.
- ◆ **Indian Government — National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency:** Promoting the use of energy-efficient appliances, including induction cooktops.
- ◆ **Policymakers — Electric Cooking Methods:** Concerned about the slow uptake of induction stoves in low-income households.
- ◆ **Induction Cooking — Energy Efficiency:** Offers potential benefits, including energy efficiency and safety.
- ◆ **Low-Income Households — Induction Stoves:** Face barriers to adoption, including high upfront costs and lack of awareness.

Policy Implication

The slow uptake of induction stoves in low-income Indian households has significant policy implications, as it hinders the transition to cleaner and more efficient cooking methods. To address this, policymakers may need to consider measures such as subsidies or financing options to make induction cooktops more affordable for low-income households.

#08

Iran says it will target U.S.-Israeli economic, banking interests in region

The announcement comes after an overnight attack on Iranian Bank Sepah in Tehran. The bank is one of the largest in Iran, with significant economic and financial interests in the region. The attack has raised concerns about the escalating tensions between Iran, the U.S., and Israel. The U.S. and Israel have been imposing economic sanctions on Iran, affecting its banking and financial sector. The Iranian government has vowed to retaliate against these sanctions by targeting U.S.-Israeli economic and banking interests in the region.

Background

The tensions between Iran, the U.S., and Israel have been escalating over the past few years, with the U.S. imposing strict economic sanctions on Iran in 2018. The sanctions have had a significant impact on Iran's economy, with the country's GDP declining by 4.8% in 2020. The Iranian government has been trying to find ways to circumvent these sanctions and protect its economy.

Key Points

- ◆ **Iranian government — Economic Sanctions:** Imposing retaliatory measures against U.S.-Israeli economic interests.
- ◆ **U.S. government — Economic Sanctions:** Imposed sanctions on Iran in 2018, affecting its banking and financial sector.
- ◆ **Iranian Bank Sepah — Attack:** Hit overnight in Tehran, raising concerns about escalating tensions.
- ◆ **Iranian government — Retaliation:** Vowed to target U.S.-Israeli economic and banking interests in the region.
- ◆ **U.S. and Israel — Economic Interests:** Have significant economic and banking interests in the region, which Iran has threatened to target.

Policy Implication

The escalation of tensions between Iran, the U.S., and Israel could have significant implications for the regional economy and global trade. The targeting of U.S.-Israeli economic and banking interests could lead to a further escalation of tensions, potentially affecting the stability of the region.

 The Hindu

PRELIMS SPECIAL

#09

John Deere unveils 130 HP tractor at ₹65 lakh

John Deere has launched a new tractor with 130 HP. The tractor comes with advanced features such as connectivity solutions, 100% radial tires, Straight-Row Vehicle Guidance System, and front hitch and front PTO application. This tractor is priced at ₹65 lakh. The launch of this tractor is expected to impact the agricultural sector. The tractor's advanced features are likely to increase efficiency and productivity for farmers.

Background

The agricultural sector in India has been witnessing a surge in demand for technologically advanced tractors. The government has also been promoting the use of advanced technology in agriculture through various initiatives. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the sales of high-powered tractors in India.

Key Points

- ◆ **John Deere — New Tractor:** Launched a 130 HP tractor with advanced features.
- ◆ **John Deere — New Tractor:** Priced at ₹65 lakh.
- ◆ **John Deere — New Tractor:** Comes with connectivity solutions and 100% radial tires.
- ◆ **John Deere — New Tractor:** Features Straight-Row Vehicle Guidance System.
- ◆ **John Deere — New Tractor:** Includes front hitch and front PTO application.

Policy Implication

The launch of this new tractor is expected to have a positive impact on the agricultural sector. The advanced features of the tractor are likely to increase efficiency and productivity for farmers, which could lead to increased crop yields and higher incomes for farmers.

 The Hindu

CM to lay foundation stone for Phase 1 of ₹3,509-cr. Marine Eco City project in Kochi

The Marine Eco City project in Kochi is a significant development initiative with a total cost of ₹3,509 crore. The project aims to transform the city's landscape and provide various amenities to its residents. The first phase of the project is expected to bring about substantial changes to the area. The Kerala government has been working towards making Kochi a major hub for trade and commerce. The Marine Eco City project is a part of this effort, with a focus on sustainability and environmental conservation.

Background

The concept of the Marine Eco City project was first proposed in 2019, with the aim of creating a futuristic city that showcases Kerala's rich maritime heritage. The project has been designed to incorporate green technologies and minimize its carbon footprint, making it an attractive destination for investors and tourists alike.

Key Points

- ◆ **Kerala Government — Marine Eco City project:** Laying foundation stone for Phase 1 with a total cost of ₹3,509 crore.
- ◆ **Kerala Government — Marine Eco City project:** Aiming to transform Kochi's landscape and provide amenities to residents.
- ◆ **Kerala Government — Marine Eco City project:** Focusing on sustainability and environmental conservation.
- ◆ **Kerala Government — Marine Eco City project:** Expected to bring substantial changes to the area.
- ◆ **Kerala Government — Marine Eco City project:** Part of the state's effort to make Kochi a major trade and commerce hub.

Policy Implication

The completion of the Marine Eco City project is expected to have a significant impact on Kochi's economy and environment. The project's focus on sustainability and green technologies is likely to attract investments and create new job opportunities, contributing to the city's growth and development.

QUICK BITES — Q&A

1. Which organization has APSSDC and OMCAP signed an MoU with to facilitate overseas jobs for youth?

Answer: Apollo MedSkills

2. Which court has issued a notice on a plea against the scheme for regularising 'illegal' digital advertisement hoardings in Karnataka?

Answer: Karnataka High Court

3. What is the proposed Bill in Parliament related to?

Answer: Codification of IPS deputation in CAPFs

4. Which regulatory body has given nod to Kiwi General Insurance and Allianz Jio Reinsurance?

Answer: IRDAI

5. Which state's Public Works Minister was excluded from the PM's event?

Answer: Kerala
