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#01

ISRO, AIIMS sign MoU for cooperation in space medicine and research

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote joint research in space medicine and related areas. The MoU aims to advance human health, performance, and safety during human space missions, aligning with ISRO's priority areas. This cooperation is expected to enhance the capabilities of both institutions in the field of space medicine and research.

Background

ISRO has been actively pursuing human spaceflight missions, with the Gaganyaan programme being a key initiative. The collaboration with AIIMS is a significant step towards achieving the objectives of this programme, which includes ensuring the health and safety of astronauts during space travel. The MoU is also in line with ISRO's efforts to leverage the expertise of premier medical institutions in the country to advance space medicine research.

Key Points

- ◆ **ISRO — Space Medicine Research:** Collaboration with AIIMS to advance human health and performance in space.
- ◆ **AIIMS — Medical Research:** Partnership with ISRO to contribute to the development of space medicine and related areas.
- ◆ **ISRO — Gaganyaan Programme:** MoU aims to support the programme's objectives, including astronaut health and safety.
- ◆ **ISRO — Priority Areas:** Research alignment with ISRO's priority areas, including human spaceflight and space medicine.
- ◆ **AIIMS — Research Capacity:** Enhanced research capacity in space medicine and related areas through the collaboration.

Policy Implication

The MoU between ISRO and AIIMS is expected to have a significant impact on the development of space medicine and research in India. This collaboration will not only enhance the capabilities of both institutions but also contribute to the advancement of human spaceflight missions, ensuring the health and safety of astronauts. The partnership is also likely to lead to the development of new technologies and innovations in the field of space medicine.

 The Hindu

#02

India's LPG production up 25% since supply maintenance orders; officials also urge refraining from panic booking

India's LPG production has seen a significant increase of 25% since the government issued supply maintenance orders. The country imports 60% of its LPG requirements, with 90% of these imports being routed through the Strait of Hormuz. This increase in production is expected to help meet the growing demand for LPG in the country. The government has also urged consumers to refrain from panic booking, which can lead to unnecessary shortages and disruptions in the supply chain. The current production levels are expected to stabilize the market and reduce reliance on imports.

Background

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical shipping lane for India's energy imports, and any disruptions in this region can have significant implications for the country's energy security. The recent increase in LPG production is a positive development, but the government must continue to monitor the situation and take steps to ensure a stable supply of LPG to meet the country's growing demands. The Indra Sawhney case, although related to reservation policies, highlights the importance of long-term planning and strategic decision-making in addressing the country's energy needs.

Key Points

- ◆ **Government — Supply Maintenance Orders:** Implemented to increase LPG production by 25%.
- ◆ **India — LPG Imports:** 60% of requirements are imported, with 90% routed through the Strait of Hormuz.
- ◆ **Government — Consumer Advisory:** Urging consumers to refrain from panic booking to avoid disruptions in the supply chain.
- ◆ **India — Energy Security:** The Strait of Hormuz is a critical shipping lane for India's energy imports, and any disruptions can have significant implications.
- ◆ **Government — Production Targets:** Aiming to stabilize the market and reduce reliance on imports through increased production.

Policy Implication

The increase in LPG production is a positive development, but the government must continue to monitor the situation and take steps to ensure a stable supply of LPG to meet the country's growing demands. This may involve investing in new production facilities, improving infrastructure, and implementing policies to reduce reliance on imports.

 The Hindu

Sugar mill association welcomes Supreme Court order

The Supreme Court's order is seen as a significant development for the sugar industry, with the association welcoming the move. The order pertains to the payment of dues to sugarcane farmers, with the court directing sugar mills to clear outstanding payments. The association has expressed relief, citing the order as a respite for the industry. The sugar mill association has been facing challenges due to the pending payments, with the total amount owed estimated to be around ₹2.5 lakh crore. The order is expected to benefit over 5 million sugarcane farmers across the country.

Background

The issue of pending payments to sugarcane farmers has been a long-standing one, with the Supreme Court having previously heard cases related to the matter. The current order is a significant development, building upon the court's earlier directives. The sugar industry is a crucial sector, with India being one of the world's largest sugar producers, and the order is expected to have a positive impact on the industry's overall health.

Key Points

- ◆ **Supreme Court — Sugar Industry Order:** Directed sugar mills to clear outstanding payments to sugarcane farmers.
- ◆ **Sugar Mill Association — Reaction:** Welcomed the Supreme Court's order, citing it as a respite for the industry.
- ◆ **Sugarcane Farmers — Benefit:** Expected to benefit over 5 million sugarcane farmers across the country.
- ◆ **Outstanding Payments — Amount:** Total amount owed estimated to be around ₹2.5 lakh crore.
- ◆ **Sugar Industry — Impact:** Order expected to have a positive impact on the industry's overall health.

Policy Implication

The Supreme Court's order is expected to have a significant impact on the sugar industry, with the potential to improve the financial health of sugar mills and benefit sugarcane farmers. However, the implementation of the order will be crucial, with the industry and government needing to work together to ensure that the payments are made in a timely manner.

#04

MSME fintech Progcap facilitates stronger credit profiles for women entrepreneurs

Progcap, an MSME fintech, has announced that its ProgShakti initiative has enabled more than ₹10,000 crore of credit to women entrepreneurs. This initiative aims to provide easier access to credit for women-led businesses, thereby strengthening their credit profiles. The ProgShakti initiative is a significant step towards promoting financial inclusion and empowering women entrepreneurs in the MSME sector. With this achievement, Progcap has demonstrated its commitment to supporting women-led businesses and contributing to the growth of the Indian economy. The initiative has been successful in providing credit to a large number of women entrepreneurs, helping them to expand their businesses and create new opportunities.

Background

The ProgShakti initiative is part of Progcap's efforts to promote financial inclusion and support the growth of women-led businesses in the MSME sector. The Indian government has also been actively promoting women's entrepreneurship and financial inclusion through various initiatives and schemes, such as the Stand-Up India Scheme and the Mudra Yojana.

Key Points

- ◆ **Progcap — ProgShakti initiative:** Enabled over ₹10,000 crore of credit to women entrepreneurs.
- ◆ **Progcap — ProgShakti initiative:** Aims to provide easier access to credit for women-led businesses.
- ◆ **Progcap — ProgShakti initiative:** Strengthens credit profiles of women entrepreneurs.
- ◆ **Progcap — ProgShakti initiative:** Contributes to the growth of the Indian economy.
- ◆ **Progcap — ProgShakti initiative:** Supports the Indian government's efforts to promote women's entrepreneurship and financial inclusion.

Policy Implication

The success of the ProgShakti initiative has significant implications for the growth of women-led businesses in the MSME sector. It demonstrates the potential for fintech companies to play a crucial role in promoting financial inclusion and supporting the development of women's entrepreneurship. The initiative also highlights the need for continued support and resources to be allocated to women-led businesses, in order to help them overcome the challenges they face and achieve their full potential.

 The Hindu

#05

ASEAN Ministers to hold meetings to address West Asia crisis

The Philippines, as this year's ASEAN chair, is hosting the meetings to discuss the surging oil prices and disruptions to shipping, logistics, and trade flows. The meetings aim to weigh the impacts and responses to the crisis. ASEAN officials are concerned about the effects on the region's export-reliant economies. The crisis in West Asia has led to increased oil prices, affecting the entire region. ASEAN member states are looking for ways to mitigate the effects of the crisis.

Background

The West Asia crisis has been escalating, with tensions between Iran, the US, and Israel affecting global energy security. The Strait of Hormuz, a critical oil shipping route, has been impacted, leading to increased oil prices. ASEAN member states, being export-reliant economies, are vulnerable to disruptions in global trade flows.

Key Points

- ◆ **ASEAN — Meeting:** To discuss the impact of the West Asia crisis on the region's economies.
- ◆ **ASEAN — Oil Prices:** Surging oil prices due to the crisis are a major concern.
- ◆ **ASEAN — Trade Flows:** Disruptions to shipping, logistics, and trade flows are affecting the region's export-reliant economies.
- ◆ **ASEAN — Economic Impact:** The crisis is expected to have a significant impact on the region's economies.
- ◆ **ASEAN — Mitigation:** ASEAN member states are looking for ways to mitigate the effects of the crisis.

Policy Implication

The meetings held by ASEAN Ministers will have significant implications for the region's economies. The discussions will focus on finding ways to mitigate the effects of the crisis and ensure the stability of the region's export-reliant economies. The outcome of the meetings will be crucial in determining the region's response to the West Asia crisis.

 The Hindu

#06

Rules apply to every MP, no one has privilege to speak any time on any thing: Birla returns to LS

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Key Points

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