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ISRO ACHIEVES SUCCESS BY GROWING COWPEA PLANT IN SPACE INSIDE A RECYCLED ROCKET PART

» PSLV C-60 Rocket

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV C-60 rocket into space from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, on December 30, 2024, at 10:15 PM.
- An advanced technological experiment, namely the "Space Docking Experiment", which connects satellites together in space, was conducted. The Spadex-B satellite at 475 kilometers, and in 15 minutes and 20 seconds, the Spadex-A satellite at 476 kilometers, were successfully positioned at their planned targets and tested.

» Cowpea Plant

- Apart from this, ISRO repurposed the used 4th stage of the rocket - which is usually considered space debris as the final part of a rocket - into an orbital laboratory called the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM).
- In this recycled rocket component, they sent 8 cowpea seeds into space for a crop cultivation experiment. Scientists from Earth controlled and monitored this space farm remotely via telemetry and telecommand communication links.

» Scientists' Pride:

- Currently, 5 cowpea seeds have successfully germinated, and ISRO has achieved a milestone by growing them to a stage where they have 2 leaves on micro-shoots. This turning point marks an important first step in developing bio-regenerative life support systems.
- ISRO scientists proudly stated that this successful research will play a vital role in providing fresh food and oxygen to astronauts during long-duration space journeys and on India's future planned space station, the "Bharatiya Antariksha Station". With this, India has successfully grown the country's first plants in space.

PRAGGNANANDHAA CREATES HISTORY

- ♦ Indian player Praggnanandhaa, who performed brilliantly in the final round of the Norway Chess tournament, clinched the champion title. With this, he achieved the distinction of becoming the first Indian player to win a title in this prestigious tournament.
- ♦ The Norway Chess tournament, featuring top male and female chess players, took place in Oslo, the capital of Norway. Participating and playing in this tournament is highly prestigious.
- ♦ World No. 1 player Magnus Carlsen of Norway defeated World Champion D. Gukesh of India in the final round.
- ♦ Bibisara Assaubayeva suffered a defeat in her match against the reigning World Champion Ju Wenjun. However, based on the points system, Bibisara won the title. Vaishali Rameshbabu defeated Indian female player Koneru Humpy to secure second place.
- ♦ Anna Muzychuk defeated India's Divya Deshmukh, who is a World Cup Champion. Bibisara earned 16.5 points, Vaishali scored 16 points, and Anna Muzychuk secured 15 points.