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Thursday, 05 December 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Thursday, 05 December 2024

NCVET Recognizes IN-SPACe as Awarding Body to Enhance Vocational Training in Space Sector

- The National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), operating under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, has officially recognized the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe) as an awarding body. This recognition aims to strengthen vocational education and training in the space sector.

Objective and Scope

- The recognition will help standardize and accredit specialized training programs in space technology, aligning them with both national and global frameworks. It also supports integration with the Skill India Mission, contributing to India's broader skill development goals.

Q. Which organization has been recognized by NCVET as an awarding body to boost vocational training in the space sector? **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe).**



Thursday, 05 December 2024

Defence Acquisition Council Approves Proposals Worth Over ₹21,772 Crore

- The Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved five capital acquisition proposals worth ₹21,772 crore in New Delhi.

Indian Navy Acquisitions

- The council has granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of 31 Water Jet Fast Attack Crafts. These vessels are designed for Low-Intensity Maritime Operations, Surveillance, Patrol, and Search and Rescue missions near coastal areas. They will also play a critical role in Anti-Piracy missions, particularly around Indian Island territories.

Fast Interceptor Crafts

- Approval has also been accorded for the procurement of 120 Fast Interceptor Crafts. These vessels are versatile and capable of escorting high-value units, including Aircraft Carriers, Destroyers, Frigates, and Submarines, bolstering coastal defence capabilities.

Q. What is the total cost of the defence proposals approved by the Defence Acquisition Council for naval equipment? **₹21,772 crore.**



Thursday, 05 December 2024

Government Launches 16 Initiatives to Empower Divyangjans

Key Announcement

- On the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024, the government launched 16 initiatives in New Delhi to empower Divyangjans (persons with disabilities). Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar emphasized the government's dedication to fostering an inclusive society by ensuring accessibility, equal opportunities, and dignity for Divyangjans.

- Major Initiatives
- Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan
- Online platform for empanelment of accessibility auditors to enhance inclusive infrastructure.
- Sugamya Bharat Yatra
- Initiative enabling Divyangjans to assess public spaces using the AI-enabled "Yes to Access" app.

Pathways to Access – Part 3

- Compendium providing resources on employment, financial services, and healthcare for persons with disabilities.

Q. How many initiatives were launched by the government on International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 to empower Divyangjans? **16 initiatives.**



Thursday, 05 December 2024

Lok Sabha Passes Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- The Lok Sabha passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, introducing significant changes to enhance ease of compliance, improve regulation, and ensure efficient auditing of banks.

Multiple Nominations for Bank Accounts

- Account holders can now nominate up to four individuals for bank deposits, either simultaneously or successively, ensuring smooth inheritance and reducing unclaimed deposits.
- For articles in safe custody or lockers, only successive nominations are allowed, maintaining continuity in case a nominee is unavailable.
- Amendments to Five Banking Laws

The Bill proposes changes to:

- Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (BR Act)
- State Bank of India Act, 1955
- Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970

Q. What is the new maximum number of nominees allowed for a bank account under the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024? **Four nominees.**



Thursday, 05 December 2024

India Invites Israel for Collaboration in Quantum Technologies and Emerging Sectors

- India has extended an invitation to Israeli startups to collaborate with Indian institutions in co-developing critical quantum technologies under the National Quantum Mission.

Ministerial Discussions

- Union Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh met with Israel's Industry and Economy Minister Nir Barkat during his visit to India. Discussions centered around collaboration in startups, with a focus on space technology and quantum technologies.

Broader Areas of Collaboration

The dialogue also explored:

- Agriculture and Health Innovation: Joint initiatives to drive innovation in these critical sectors.
- Semiconductors, AI, and IoT: Strengthening ties in cutting-edge technologies, with India emphasizing its capabilities in indigenous tech development, including mobile manufacturing and 5G.

Q. Which mission is central to India's quantum technology aspirations as discussed during the India-Israel ministerial meeting? **National Quantum Mission.**



Thursday, 05 December 2024

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Becomes Namibia's First Female President

- Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of the ruling South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) has been elected as Namibia's first female president. She secured over 57% of the votes in the country's eighth presidential election, defeating her closest rival, Panduleni Itula, who garnered 26%.

Political Journey and Achievements

- At 72, Nandi-Ndaitwah brings decades of political experience, including roles as foreign minister and vice president.
- She has been a prominent figure in Namibian politics since the country's independence in 1990 and is recognized for her diplomatic expertise and clean image.
- SWAPO's Parliamentary Success
- SWAPO also claimed victory in the National Assembly elections, securing 51 of the 96 seats, although this marked a decline from the 65% it achieved five years ago.

Q. Who has become Namibia's first female president, elected in the country's eighth presidential election?
Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.



Thursday, 05 December 2024

Saudi Arabia Announces Five Initiatives to Boost Afforestation

- Saudi Arabia has launched five initiatives aimed at enhancing afforestation and promoting biodiversity across the kingdom.

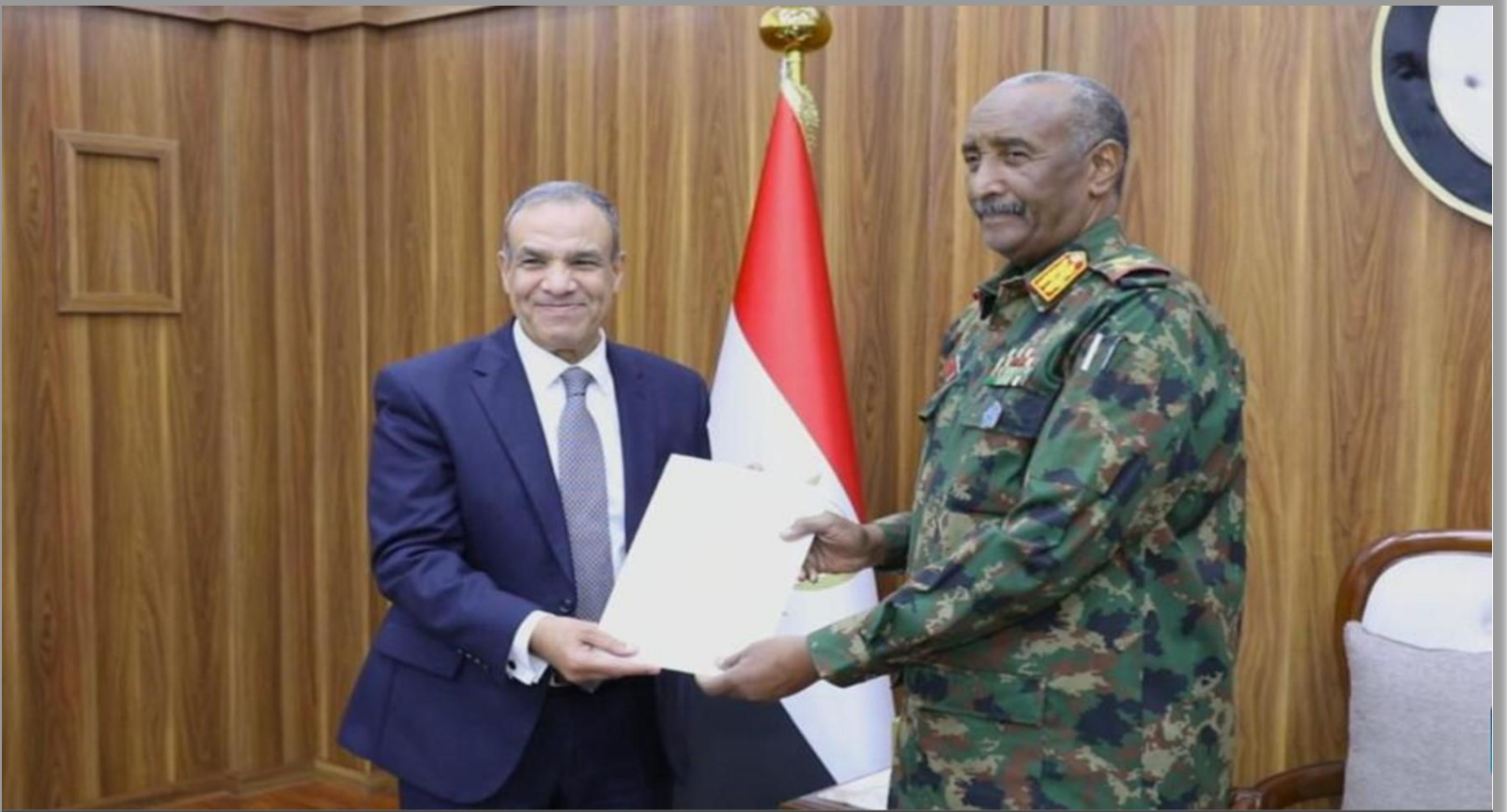
Initiative Goals:

- Investment in Afforestation: \$60 million allocated to support large-scale tree planting and mangrove restoration.
- Seed Distribution: Distribution of 300 million seeds to restore degraded lands.
- Biodiversity Enhancement: Measures to improve the kingdom's ecological diversity.
- Land Restoration: Initiatives to combat desertification and restore degraded landscapes.
- Air Quality Improvement: Efforts to reduce air pollution as part of broader environmental goals.

Platform for Sustainability

- The announcement was made during the fourth Saudi Green Initiative Forum, a key event for advancing Saudi Arabia's commitment to achieving a greener, more sustainable future through reduced emissions and ecosystem protection.

Q. What is the total investment announced by Saudi Arabia for afforestation initiatives under the Saudi Green Initiative Forum? **\$60 million.**



Thursday, 05 December 2024

Sudan and Egypt Commit to Strengthening Bilateral Relations

High-Level Meeting

- Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council Chairman and Commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty to discuss enhancing ties between the two nations.

Egypt's Support for Sudan

- The visit of the Egyptian delegation was undertaken as per the directives of Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi to convey Egypt's full support for Sudan during its ongoing civil conflict.
- Abdelatty emphasized the solidarity of the Egyptian people with Sudan and the shared commitment to intensify consultations on matters of mutual interest.

Key Points of Discussion

- Coordination in Regional and International Forums: Both nations aim to align their positions on key issues.
- Restoration of AU Membership: Egypt expressed hope that Sudan would regain its active membership in the African Union.

Q. Which Egyptian leader directed the foreign minister to convey full support for Sudan during its civil conflict? **President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi.**



Thursday, 05 December 2024

Asian Development Bank Approves \$173 Million for Water Resources Management in Cambodia

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved two projects amounting to \$173 million in loans and grants to support Cambodia's water resources management and enhance climate resilience.

Key Projects

Integrated Water Resources Management Project:

- Loan Amount: \$88 million
- Target Areas: River basins in Battambang and Pursat provinces in the Tonle Sap Basin.
- Irrigated Agriculture Improvement Project:
- Additional Financing: \$85 million
- Focus Areas: Enhance water delivery efficiency and climate resilience in Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, and Takeo provinces.

Q. How much funding has the Asian Development Bank approved for water resources management projects in Cambodia? **\$173 million.**

Fadnavis Back As Maharashtra Chief Minister



Thursday, 05 December 2024

Devendra Fadnavis Set to Take Oath as Maharashtra Chief Minister for Third Term

- BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis will be sworn in as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for a third term. The decision follows a series of discussions and a key meeting of the BJP core group.
- Alongside Fadnavis, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar will take oath as Deputy Chief Ministers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend.

Election Outcome:

- The Mahayuti alliance—comprising BJP, Shiv Sena (led by Eknath Shinde), and NCP (under Ajit Pawar)—won 232 out of 288 seats in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, securing a majority.

Shinde's Shift:

- Despite initially insisting on retaining the CM position, Eknath Shinde expressed his willingness to step aside in favor of party unity, clearing the way for Fadnavis's appointment.

Q. Who is set to become Maharashtra's Chief Minister for the third term? **Devendra Fadnavis.**



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