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Saturday, 06 January 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR

DEFENCE MINISTRY INKS PACT WORTH RS.802 CR TO PROCURE MILITARY EQUIPMENT



Saturday, 06 January 2024

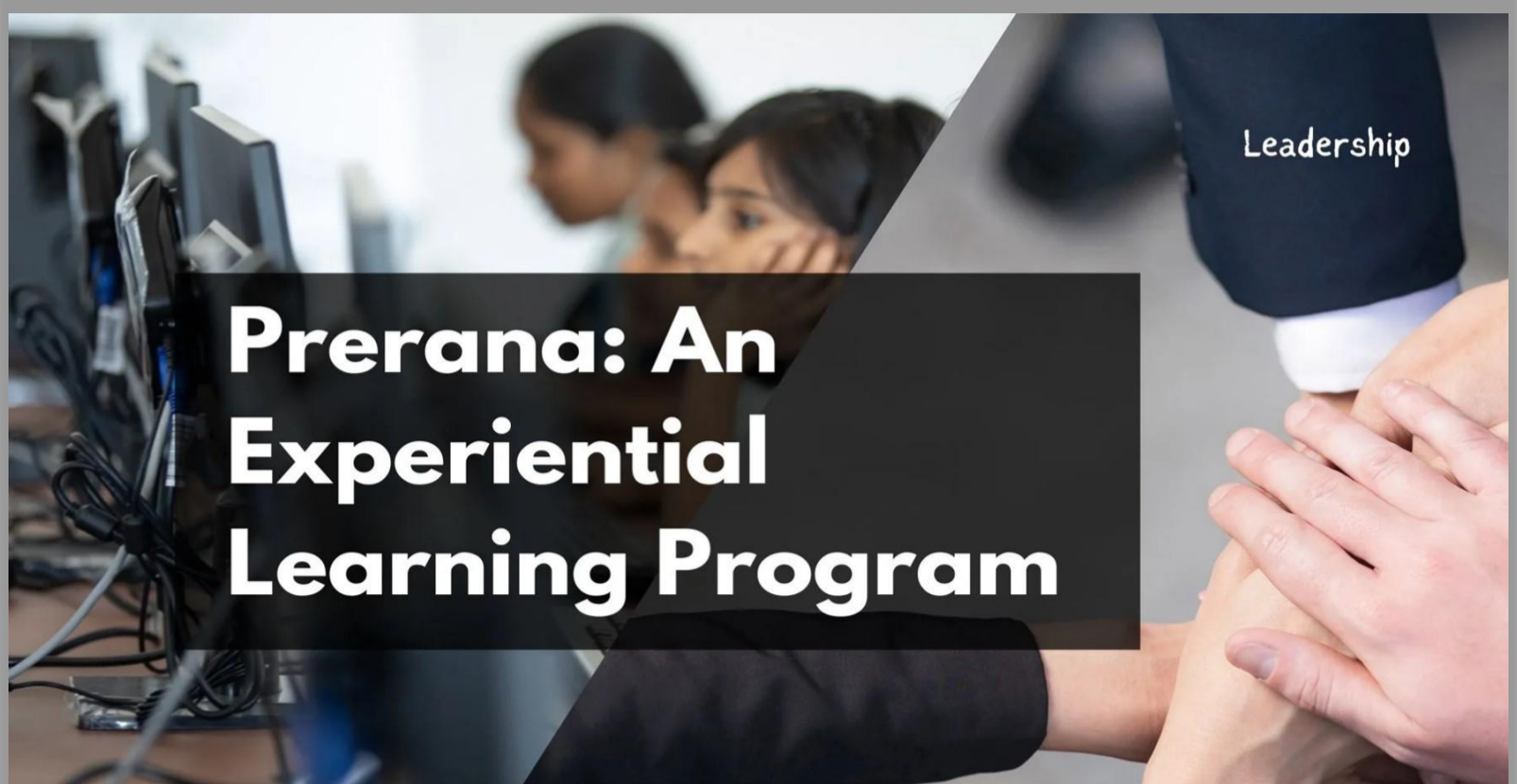
Defence Ministry signs two contracts worth over eight hundred crore rupees for procurement of military equipments

- The Defence Ministry signed two contracts worth 802 crores for procurement of military equipment in New Delhi.
- These contracts include procurement of 697 Bogie Open Military Wagons at a cost of 473 crore rupees with Jupiter Wagons Limited and procurement of 56 Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment (MMME) at a cost of 329 crore rupees with Bharat Earth Movers Limited.
- Bogie Open Military wagons are specialist wagons used by the Indian Army for mobilisation of the Army units.
- The wagons are used to transport light vehicles, Artillery Guns and Engineering Equipment from their peacetime locations to operational areas.

MMME:

- MMME is based on an in-service High Mobility Vehicle having advanced mechanical and electrical systems which will reduce the timings for minefield marking during operations and will enhance the operational capability of Indian Army. The Defence Ministry said, it has procured these military equipment under Buy Indian category. It said, this will give a boost to the indigenous manufacturing and participation of the private sector in defence production, realising the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Q. Recently, the Defense Ministry signed two contracts worth Rs 802 crore for the procurement of military equipment, including the purchase of how many Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment (MMME) at a cost of Rs 329 crore with Bharat Earth Movers Limited? **56**



Prerana: An Experiential Learning Program

Saturday, 06 January 2024

Ministry of Education launches PRERANA, an experiential learning programme for developing leadership qualities in students

- The Government has launched PRERANA, an experiential learning programme for developing leadership qualities in students.
- Prerana is driven by a strong commitment to integrate principles of the Indian education system and the philosophy of value-based education which is a cornerstone of the National Education Policy 2020.
- It is a week-long residential programme for selected students of classes 9th to 12th.
- A batch of 20 selected students (10 boys and 10 girls) will attend the programme, every week from various parts of the country.
- The programme will run from a Vernacular School, established in 1888, in Vadnagar, Gujarat.
- The curriculum of Prerana School was prepared by IIT Gandhi Nagar. It is rooted in nine value-based themes - Swabhiman and Vinay, Shaurya and Sahas, Parishram and Samarpan, Karuna and Sewa, Vividhta and Ekta, Satyanishtha and Shuchita, Navachar and Jigyasa, Shraddha aur Vishwas, and Swatantrata and Kartavya.
- The programme will inspire the youth and foster respect for Bharat's unity in diversity, embodying the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

Q. Which experiential learning program has been recently launched by the Education Ministry to develop leadership qualities in students?

PRERANA



Saturday, 06 January 2024

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' 2023

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023.
- Odisha Mining Corporate Limited has been awarded in the category of Encouragement to Sports through Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Jain Deemed to be University, Bengaluru has been awarded for the identification and nurturing of budding and young talent.
- Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd (OMC) will be conferred with Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023 for 'Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility', Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
- The awardees will receive their awards from President Droupadi Murmu at a specially organised function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 9th of this month.
- Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar is given to corporate entities, Sports Control Boards, NGOs, including sports bodies at the State and National level, who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.
- Notably, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Bhubaneswar, which is known for its state-of-the-art sports infrastructure and grooming Olympians such as Dutee Chand, CA Bhavani Devi, Shivpal Singh, Amit Rohidas, was conferred with Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2022. Idco, another State PSU, had received the 2017 edition of the award for promoting and strengthening sports infrastructure in Odisha.

Q. Which PSU will be awarded the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Award 2023 for 'Promotion of Sports through Corporate Social Responsibility' of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports? **Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd**



CDSCO

Central Drugs Standard Control Organization

Saturday, 06 January 2024

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation bans all charges except processing fees for procurement of blood

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has banned all charges except processing fees for the procurement of blood.
- The move is intended to check the practice of overcharging for blood in the hospitals.
- The guidelines were issued earlier also in this regard and CDSCO has again issued it asking all states and Union Territories to adhere to the guidelines.

CDSCO:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Minister responsible: Mansukh Mandavia, Minister of Health and Family Welfare
- Drugs Controller General of India: Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi

Q. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization banned all charges except processing charges for the purchase of ____ . **blood**



Saturday, 06 January 2024

Sanjiv Aggarwal appointed as NIIFL's CEO and MD

- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) announced that its board of directors has appointed Sanjiv Aggarwal as chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD) of the company.
- The appointment follows a search process conducted by NIIFL's board of directors.
- Aggarwal has significant experience in the infrastructure and energy sectors. He joined Actis, a leading global investor in sustainable infrastructure, in 2008, where he became a partner in 2010. He has recently been responsible for Actis' energy investments in Asia, including India. Before joining Actis, Aggarwal worked with Citigroup and ANZ Investment Bank in the Indian energy and infrastructure sectors.
- Aggarwal's appointment will be effective in February 2024. He succeeds Rajiv Dhar, who has served as interim CEO & MD since May 2023.

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund:

- Founded: February 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, India
- CEO: Sujoy Bose www.race4job.com

Q. Who has been appointed as the CEO and MD of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL)? **Sanjiv Aggarwal**



Saturday, 06 January 2024

Software giant Microsoft adds AI button to keyboards to summon chatbots

- Pressing a button will be one way to summon an artificial intelligence agent as Microsoft wields its computer industry influence to reshape the next generation of keyboards.
- Starting this month, some new personal computers that run Microsoft's Windows operating system will have a special Copilot key that launches the software giant's AI chatbot.
- Getting third-party computer manufacturers to add an AI button to laptops is the latest move by Microsoft to capitalize on its close partnership with ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and make itself a gateway for applications of generative AI technology.
- Although most people now connect to the internet and AI applications by phone rather than computer, it's a symbolic kickoff to what's expected to be an intensively competitive year as tech companies race to outdo each other in AI applications even as they haven't yet resolved all the ethical and legal ramifications.
- The newest AI button will be marked by the ribbon-like Copilot logo and be located near the space bar. On some computers it will replace the right CTRL key, while on others it will replace a menu key.
- Microsoft is not the only company with customised keys.

Q. Which software giant has added AI button to keyboard to summon artificial intelligence agent? **Microsoft**



Saturday, 06 January 2024

Two gold medals for Pranati Das in National gymnastics Championship

- Railways gymnast Pranati Das had a memorable day, clinching gold medals in uneven bars and floor exercise and finishing second in the all-around women's category in the Artistic Gymnastics Senior National Championship.
- Pranati's team-mate Pranati Nayak also had a fruitful day, winning the vault gold and a bronze in balance beam.
- Olympian Dipa Karmakar, representing Tripura, bagged three medals, including gold in the all-around category. The 30-year-old star gymnast also bagged silver in vault uneven bars.
- Odisha's Rakesh Kumar Patra capped the championships with two gold medals -- all-around and rings -- besides silver in parallel bars and bronze in the horizontal bar.
- Gaurav Kumar of the Services also won four medals, including a gold in floor exercise. He also had silver medals in parallel bars and horizontal bar and bronze in all-around category.
- Railways' Siddharth Verma finished second in all-around, besides winning gold in vault and silver in pommel horse. Haryana's Yogeshwar won gold in horizontal bar and bronze in pommel horse.

Q. Which Railways gymnast recently won gold medals in uneven bars and floor exercise and finished second in the all-around women's category at the Artistic Gymnastics Senior National Championships? **Pranati Das**



Saturday, 06 January 2024

Rashmi Shukla appointed DGP of Maharashtra, first woman to hold the post

- Senior IPS officer Rashmi Shukla became Maharashtra's first woman Director General of Police (DGP).
- The state home department issued the order of her appointment.
- The 59-year-old Indian Police Service officer of 1988 batch was posted as director general of the Sashastra Seema Bal on deputation.
- Mumbai police commissioner Vivek Phansalkar was holding additional charge as DGP Maharashtra after Rajnish Seth retired from the post on December 31, 2023.
- Shukla was embroiled in controversy during the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government's tenure when she was named as an accused in phone tapping cases.

Maharashtra

- Chief minister: Eknath Shinde
- Governor: Ramesh Bais
- Capital: Mumbai

Q. Who became Maharashtra's first woman Director General of Police (DGP)? **Rashmi Shukla**



Saturday, 06 January 2024

Spirit Aeronautical, Garuda Aerospace ink collaborative agreement

- Weaponised drone maker - rotary and fixed wing drones- Spirit Aeronautical Systems S.A., of Greece and India's Garuda Aerospace S.A., makers of drones for civil use have inked an agreement for business collaboration.
- The core objectives of this partnership include expanding market reach, fostering innovation, and facilitating the exchange of technology, experience, and best practices,
- As per the agreement, both the companies will act as a reseller for each other's products; transfer technology; share experience and others.

Garuda Aerospace:

- Founders: Agnishwar Jayaprakash, Rithika Mohan
- Headquarters: Chennai, India
- Brand Ambassador: Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- CEO: Agnishwar Jayaprakash

Q. Which Greece based Weaponised drone maker has inked an agreement with India's Garuda Aerospace for business collaboration? **Spirit Aeronautical Systems**



Saturday, 06 January 2024

PhonePe appoints Ritesh Pai as CEO of its global payments biz

- Digital payments major PhonePe announced the appointment of Ritesh Pai as CEO of its International Payments business.
- Pai earlier worked at President-Products and Solutions at TerraPay and was responsible for launching and implementing payment products and solutions globally.
- Prior to that, he served as the senior group president and chief digital officer at Yes Bank.
- This appointment comes on the back of PhonePe appointing Chief Executives for each of its different business verticals in November last year. Hemant Gala was made the CEO of the lending business. Vishal Gupta was appointed the Chief Executive of insurance, Vivek Lohcheb became the CEO for e-commerce app Pincode and Ujjwal Jain became the Chief Executive of PhonePe's wealth offerings Share.Market.

PhonePe:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Salarpuria Softzone, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- Founder: Sameer Nigam
- Co-Founder & CEO: Rahul Chari

Q. Who has been appointed by PhonePe as the CEO of its International Payments business? **Ritesh Pai**



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