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Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the first Skill India Centre in Odisha

- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, spearheaded the inauguration of the first **Skill India Centre (SIC)** in **Sambalpur, Odisha**.
- The event witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including the Secretary, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, and CEO, NSDC and MD, NSDC International, Shri **Ved Mani Tiwari**.
- The SIC is designed to empower over **1200 students through this centre** and equip them with the necessary skills for the 21st-century job market. He highlighted the need for a skilled workforce to drive India's development journey forward

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC):

- **NSDC Founded:** 31 July 2008
- **NSDC Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **NSDC CEO:** Mr. Ved Mani Tiwari

Country's first Skill
India Centre is
inaugurated in Odisha



Ladakh organizes 'world's highest frozen lake marathon' on Pangong Tso

- **Ladakh** on February 20th, hosted the eagerly awaited second edition of the **Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon**, renowned globally as 'the world's highest frozen lake marathon'.
- The Adventure Sports Foundation of Ladakh organized the event with backing from the Administration Union Territory of Ladakh and the 14 Corps of the Indian Army. About 120 runners from seven countries took part in Ladakh's Pangong Lake Marathon. The marathon was organized in two categories: 21 Kilometres and 10 Kilometres.
- The first Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon, also called "**The Last Run,**" was held on February 20, 2023. It featured a challenging 21-km trail due to extreme weather and rough terrain. Participants were selected based on their experience in high-altitude sports above 10,000 ft.
- The primary goal of this run was to raise awareness about the fast melting of Himalayan glaciers, dubbed "**theatre,**" suggesting that this might be the final run on the frozen Pangong Lake due to the impact of global warming.



WORLD'S HIGHEST FROZEN LAKE MARATHON

Pakistan's Babar Azam becomes the quickest to score 10,000 runs in T20s

- **Pakistan** cricketer **Babar Azam** has set a new record by becoming the fastest player to score **10,000 runs** in **T20 cricket**. Trailing renowned names like Chris Gayle and Virat Kohli, Babar achieved this milestone in just 271 innings, making him the fastest player overall.
- Babar achieved this feat during his 72-run innings for his team Peshawar Zalmi against Karachi Kings in the Pakistan Super League. Before the game in Lahore, Babar was just six runs short of the 10,000-run mark. Babar has achieved this position in 271 innings, 281 matches and 11 years and 82 days.
- Before Babar, this record was in the name of Chris Gayle, who reached 10,000 T20 runs in 285 innings, followed by Virat Kohli in 299 innings. This achievement solidifies Babar Azam's status as one of the premier batsmen in modern cricket and adds to his growing list of achievements in the game.
- **Virat Kohli** is the first Indian to score ten thousand runs in T20 cricket. After Kohli, captain **Rohit Sharma** has also completed ten thousand runs in T20 cricket. Thus, there are only two Indian batsmen who have completed ten thousand runs in T20 cricket.





Goa Collaborated with World Bank for Blended Finance Facility

- The Government of **Goa** announced that it will set up a blended finance facility in collaboration with the **World Bank**. This will be the first of its kind, climate-focused, multi-regional facility at the subnational level. This will help Goa to access and mobilize concessional finance to implement low-carbon and climate-resilient investments.

About Blended Finance Facility

- At the 2024 edition of the World Bank's India Climate and Development Partners Meeting the blended finance facility was announced. The facility will assist projects with existing funding and channelize financing to projects/sectors with no existing funding.

- It will serve as a crucial bridge between green financing mechanisms and domestic capital markets, attracting private capital investments for climate action. By integrating carbon markets and harnessing green credits, the programme will ensure its sustainable operation and continuous re-capitalization.

World Bank

- The World Bank is the largest multilateral development bank. It was established in July 1944 following the successful conclusion of the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, also known as the Bretton Woods Conference, which was held in **Bretton Woods**, United States in 1944.
- Currently, the world bank group consist of 5 institutions.
- **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**
- **International Financial Corporation (IFC)**
- **International Development Association (IDA)**
- **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)**
- **International Centre for Settlement of International Disputes (ICSID)**
- **Headquarters:** Washington D.C, USA
- **President:** Ajay Banga
- **Membered Countries:** 189



CABINET APPROVES NEW SPACE POLICY WITH UP TO 100% FDI IN SECTOR

India opens space sector to 100% foreign investment with new FDI policy

- The Union cabinet has approved the amendment to the **foreign direct investment (FDI)** policy for the space sector, under the amended policy are aimed to attract potential investors to invest in Indian companies in space.
- The entry route for various activities under the amended policy are as follows:
 - **Upto 74% under Automatic route:** Satellites-Manufacturing & Operation, Satellite Data Products and Ground Segment & User Segment. Beyond 74% these activities are under government route.
 - **Upto 49% under Automatic route:** Launch Vehicles and associated systems or subsystems, Creation of Spaceports for launching and receiving Spacecraft. Beyond 49% these activities are under government route.
 - **Upto 100% under Automatic route:** Manufacturing of components and systems/ sub-systems for satellites, ground segment and user segment.
- Under the Automatic Route, the foreign investors or the Indian company does not require any approval from RBI or Government of India for the investment. Under the Government Route, prior approval of the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) is required.
- This move, aligned with the **Indian space policy 2023**, aims to attract global investment, boost private participation, and accelerate the nation's space ambitions.



Madhya Pradesh introduces 'Bag-less School' Initiative

- **Madhya Pradesh** state government has decided to implement a **bag-less school day** once a week. The school day will be applicable for students from classes 1 to 12 from the 2024-25 academic year.
- The decision has been taken to reduce student stress and will be implemented in all government and private schools throughout the state. The state government has also issued a notice regarding the weight limits for student bags based on their class.

Maximum Weight for School Bags

- According to the notification, the maximum weight of the school bags for students of classes 1 and 1 will be 1.6 to 2.2 kg while the bag weight for students of classes 3 to 5 will be from 1.7 to 2.5 kg.
- Permissible weight for students from classes 6 and 7 will be 2 to 3 kgs and those for class 8 will be between 2.4 to 4kg. Students from classes 9 and 10 must have a bag weighing between 2.5 to 4.5 kg. The school bag weight for classes 11 and 12 will be decided by the school management committee as per the stream of the students.
- Bag less school includes a school day for children to enjoy sports activities, cultural programmes, music etc. Students should be kept engaged in a way that school does not seem like a matter of stress to them. Instructions have been issued for schools to strictly follow the school bag policy from the new academic session.

Turkey successfully tests 5th generation aircraft 'KAAN'

- **Turkey** celebrates a milestone achievement as its first fifth-generation aircraft, **KAAN**, successfully completes its inaugural flight, marking a significant advancement in the country's military capabilities.
- Successful Maiden Flight On February 21, KAAN made its inaugural flight, soaring through the skies for 13 minutes and reaching an altitude of 8,000 feet, demonstrating Turkish engineering and aviation prowess.
- **Temel Kotil**, CEO of Turkish Aerospace Industries, underlines the strategic importance of KAAN, citing its role in modernizing the country's air force and improving national security capabilities.
- KAAN, developed by **Turkish Aerospace** sectors with **BAE Systems**, exemplifies synergy between Turkish and international defense sectors by using technologies to deliver an air dominance fighter.



Centre decides to continue Women's safety scheme till 2025-26

- Union Government has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the continuation of the implementation of the Umbrella Scheme on '**Safety of Women**' at a total cost of around **1179.72 crore** rupees during the period from **2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- The Government of India has proposed to continue the following projects under the Umbrella Scheme for "Safety of Women".
- 24-hour emergency **helpline service 112** will be scaled up. For scientific and timely investigation, six cyber forensic science laboratories are being set up at Pune, Chandigarh, Kolkata, Delhi, Kamrup and Bhopal.
- 827 antihuman trafficking units have been set up at 13,557 police stations across the country. Women's help desk will also be established in the remaining 3,329 police stations.
- Every year 5000 police personnel will be imparted training for effective investigation and prosecution to curb the crime against women and children.



FMBAP-Rs. 4,100 crore

Cabinet Decisions

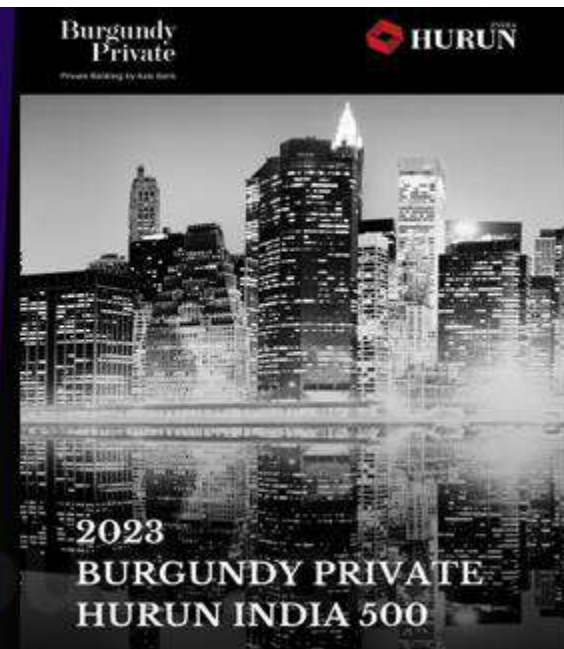


- **Cabinet approves Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP) extension**
- **Extended period to include 2021-26 with total outlay of Rs 4,100 crore**

Cabinet approves Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP) for 2021-26

- The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation's proposal to continue the **FMBAP** with a total outlay of Rs 4,100 crore has been approved by the Union Cabinet.
- FMBAP includes two components: **Flood Management Programme (FMP)** and **River Management and Border Areas (RMBA)**.
- The State Governments would get central assistance for undertaking key works relating to flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, and anti-sea erosion, under the FMP component of the FMBAP with an outlay of Rs 2940 crore.
- Under the FMBAP's RMBA component, erosion control and flood control on shared border rivers with neighbouring nations will be taken up. It has outlay of Rs 1160 crore.
- The work under the RMBA component will be completed with 100% central assistance. Primary responsibility of flood management lies with the State Governments.
- The Flood Management and Border Area Programme (FMBAP) was launched during the XI five year plan (2007-2012), its nodal ministry Department of Water Resources, **Ministry of Jal Shakti**. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- This scheme objective to save towns, villages, industrial establishments, communication links, agricultural fields, infrastructure, etc. from the devastation caused by floods and erosion.

**Reliance Industries
tops 2023
Burgundy Private
Hurun India 500
with Rs 15.64
trillion value**



2023 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 List: RIL Tops as most valued Indian Company for 3rd consecutive year

- According to the **2023 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500** released by Axis Bank's Burgundy Private and Hurun India, **Reliance Industrial Limited (RIL)** has emerged as the **India's most valuable company** for 3rd consecutive year with a value of Rs 15,64,663 crore.
- RIL is followed by **Tata Consultancy Service (TCS)** with a value of Rs 12,36,229 crore and **HDFC bank** with Rs. 11,25,975 crore at 2nd and 3rd spot.
- Meanwhile The **Serum Institute of India (SII)**, led by **Adar Poonawalla**, has emerged as the **India's most valuable unlisted** company boasting a valuation of Rs 1.92 lakh crore.

- **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** led by Ashishkumar Chauhan, secured the 2nd spot with a value of 1.56 lakh Megha Engineering and Infrastructure followed closely with a value of Rs 67, 500 crore as most valuable unlisted companies list.
- The 2023 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 companies of companies across 44 cities in India, led by **Mumbai** (156), **Bengaluru** (59) and **New Delhi** (39). The top three cities contributed 254 entrants – compared to 264 entrants in the 2022 report.

About 2023 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500:

- Companies are ranked on market capitalisation for listed companies and valuations for non-listed ones. The cut-off date for the list was October 30, 2023. Companies must have a minimum value of Rs 6,700 crore (USD 807 million) to qualify. This list features only companies headquartered in India, excluding state-owned entities and foreign/Indian company subsidiaries.

About Hurun Report INC.:

- Hurun Report is a leading research, luxury publishing and events groups established in 1998 **London**, the **United Kingdom** (UK). It has presence in various countries including India, China, France, UK and Japan.
- Hurun India was launched in 2012.
- **Founder & Chief Researcher:** (Hurun India) – Anas Rahman Junaid
- **Headquarters:** (Hurun India) – Mumbai, Maharashtra.