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Neerathon: SJU unites for water

Shoaib Shakeel

BENGALURU: On Tuesday, the Wildlife Awareness and Conservation Club (WACC) of St Joseph's University (SJU) organised a human chain as part of Neerathon, their annual marathon for water conservation.

Students from across the campus, along with the vice chancellor and public relations officer of the university, participated in the event. They formed a human chain and passed a bucket along the chain, with each person adding water to it.

The purpose of this gesture was to promote the idea that even small contributions can lead to significant impacts when it comes to water conservation said Prof D Kiran Jeevan the Public Relations Officer of St Joseph's University. He stated that cities like Bengaluru may face water scarcity shortly, and the potability of water could become a significant crisis. However, he noted that most people are not concerned about the need to save water.

Fr Victor Lobo the Vice Chancellor of the university stated that the inspiration behind this initiative is to raise awareness about water conservation among students and the general public. He highlighted that the campus has implemented various methods of conservation such as rainwater harvesting, sewage treatment and biogas plants.

"We have to conserve water because water levels in Bengaluru are going down and water is the source of life, thus if you raise awareness and save water, humanity will benefit," he added.

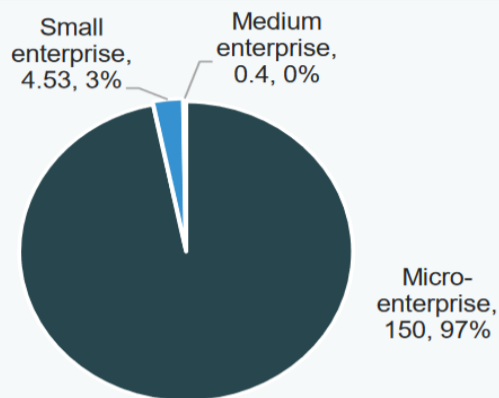
MSMEs push to fuel Modi's \$10 trillion vision

Sinchan Saha

In the Union Budget 2024-25, one of the prime focuses of the Narendra Modi government was boosting the micro, small, and medium enterprises, along with youth, and women-led enterprises. With a target of Rs 11.1 lakh crore in the fiscal year (FY) 2025, this would become 3.4% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), in turn advocating for infrastructure development, said the PM. Here's a look at the current status of the MSME sector and what lies ahead.

According to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Annual Report 2022-23 India has approximately 6.3 crore MSMEs. As of December 2023, the highest registrations were recorded in five states: Maharashtra recorded 37.12 lakhs, followed by

Registered MSMEs in India in FY23 (As of March 21, 2023) (lakh units)



Registered MSME's in India in FY23

MSME Annual report 2023

Tamil Nadu with 21.74 lakhs, Uttar Pradesh with 20.28 lakhs, Gujarat with 15.53 lakhs, and Rajasthan with 15.57 lakhs.

The Majority (72%) of the registered MSMEs, as of December 31, 2022, were service enterprises, while manufacturing covered 28%. In July 2020, the Union MSME Ministry launched the new MSME/Udyam Registration online system,

which saw a registration of approximately 16.2 million MSMEs until May 2023.

In a 2023 report by the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), the years 2021-22 recorded a sharp growth in essential economic parameters, including, capital, input, output, Gross Value Added (GVA), net income, and profit. The main contributors to this growth were industries

like the manufacture of basic metals, coke & refined petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, motor vehicles, food products, etc. Together, these industries have contributed about 56% of the total GVA of the sector. It also showed a growth rate of 34.3% and output growth of 37.5% which is exponential growth when compared to the post-Covid period in 2020-21

where the growth was only 8.8%. It was primarily due to a 4.1% drop in inputs.

The MSME Annual Report 2022-23 suggests that to aid present and prospective entrepreneurs, the government has announced a new composite classification for manufacturing and service units, removing differences between these two sectors.

As per the Economic Survey 2022-23, the MSME sector in India contributed to approximately 30.6% of the year's GDP, employing more than 11 crore people, and the aim is to grow this number to 15 crore in the coming years.

With the government now taking initiatives to aid the development of MSMEs and their inherent potential to grow, MSMEs could be a vital cog in the government's aspiration to make the country a 10 trillion dollar economy.

PM unveils road map for progress of J&K with 32,000 Cr

Pratham Basu

As part of the ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, PM Modi on Tuesday announced a comprehensive investment plan of Rs 32,000 crores for the multi-sectoral development of Jammu and Kashmir from the Maulana Azad Stadium.

This investment plan is aimed at improving infrastructure, transportation, healthcare, education, and aviation thereby transforming the region into an economic hub and a prime tourist destination, added PM Modi.

PM Modi criticised Congress for hindering the territory's development with dynasty politics and a lack of welfare reforms.



PM Modi addresses from Maulana Azad Stadium Special Arrangement

He hailed the removal of Article 370 as a crucial step to fuel the development of the region. Vowing to address the alienation of youth, PM Modi stressed the mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas" for Jammu and Kashmir's development. He also cited minority reservations

for Paddari, Pahari, Gadda Brahmans and Koli minority groups and welfare schemes for women as achievements so far.

In addition to appointing over 1500 government recruits, PM Modi flagged off newly electrified railway lines on the Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan route costing ₹15,863 crore and the

Baramulla-Srinagar-Banihal-Sangaldan route costing ₹470.23 crore. Former CM Farooq Abdullah praised the new rail network's potential to benefit local trade by solving snow-related road blockages and delays in connectivity.

PM Modi also inaugurated educational institutions like IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu, and AIIMS Vijaypur, aiming to strengthen education and healthcare in the region. While laying down the foundation of a new terminal at Jammu airport, the PM envisioned a boost in Kashmir's tourism industry and said that tourists would prefer travelling to Kashmir over Switzerland shortly.

Ex-BJP VPs now on BEL board

Kushal Varma JV

Four out of the seven currently presiding independent directors appointed by the Ministry of Defence at the Bharat Electronics Ltd were previously associated with BJP, revealed an RTI query on Tuesday. Bose, an RTI activist received a reply from BEL confirming the names of the directors. BEL is a public sector enterprise under the Union government and is also tasked with manufacturing and supplying electronic voting machines (EVM). This assumes significance in light of several allegations by multiple opposition parties including the Congress and the AAP for years that the EVMs are tampered with by the BJP to garner votes.

The four members with former affiliations to BJP include Dr Podala Venkata the former BJP vice president of Andhra Pradesh, KM Shamjibhai the former BJP President of Rajkot Gujarat, Dr Shivnath Yadav the former BJP vice president of Uttar Pradesh and Mrs Shyama Singh the former BJP vice president of Bihar.

"It raises doubts on the whole electoral process. Election Commission of India should immediately remove them," said Bose.

UNIPLAY grips SJU in sports fever

Anu Priya

BENGALURU: The Social Work Students Association (SWASA) at St Joseph's University organised a three-day sporting event called Uniplay, specifically designed for students in the Department of Social Work.

Uniplay featured unique sporting events each day. The first day commenced with a Throwball competition, where the BSW first-year team emerged victorious against the MSW second-year team. The following day, Kho Kho was played,

and the final day concluded with a Tug of War contest. This three-day sporting extravaganza aimed to promote unity, teamwork, and the essence of sports within the social work community at the university.

Ms Manisha Sara, an alumni of St Joseph's University and a former women's zonal cricket player, spoke about the importance of individual growth, teamwork, and the spirit of sportsmanship narrating stories from the

classic tale of the hare and the tortoise.

Dr S Ramagokula Krishnan, the coordinator of SWASA, explained the concept behind Uniplay, which stands for "play through unity" or "unity in play." I believed that this event would exemplify the values of compassion and teamwork discussed in social work education and that SWASA would play a significant role in fostering these qualities among students," said Krishnan.

Chargesheet exposes govt failures

Sadhika Dasgupta

BENGALURU: The Young India Charter 2024 released a charge sheet against the Modi government spanning its ten years in power and its failures that led to massive fee hikes and unemployment.

The Young India campaign was launched on February 20 and aimed to highlight the opinions of students and youths on the upcoming general elections.

About 86% of students resented the government's failure to meet their needs and deliver on its promise of generating

2 crore jobs every year.

Member of AISA while speaking to The Beacon, said, "We're seeing right in front of our own eyes that in the past 10 years there has been a massive fee hike in almost all institutes."

An AISA member termed the 'Chalo Delhi' slogan a national call. Young India will set the agenda through the Young India rally which will be held from February 28. It's a call to the youth of the country to gather in Delhi to fight the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the member explained.