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Take business risks, Narayana Murthy tells students

CJ Rahul

CAMPUS: "A ship is safest in the harbour, but it is not meant to be there. Risks have to be taken," said NR Narayana Murthy, founder of Infosys, at St Joseph's College (Autonomous) on Saturday, March 20.

He was speaking during the 2021 edition of Open Heart, an annual event conducted since 2018 to inspire the youth to face the various challenges and hardships every entrepreneur initially faces.

Congress MLA Krishna Byre Gowda and Kannada and Telugu actress Deepika Das also attended the event and bared their heart.

Murthy said on the occasion that he has three pieces of advice for young entrepreneurs.

The first is to have an idea that no one else has. If that is not the case, then the idea should at least do an existing thing better, he said.

The second piece of advice was to be clear about the idea. "No ifs and buts," he said.

The third piece of advice was to conduct a cheap market study to understand the viability of the idea, said Murthy.

He also regaled the audience with details of the hardships he himself faced when setting up Infosys.

India launches 1st river-linking project

Shahul Hameed

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, March 22, launched first instance of a river-linking project in India as part of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain campaign.

Modi unveiled the Ken-Betwa Interlink Project (KBIP) with the state governments of Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Madhya Pradesh (MP) alongside the Union Water Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and the chief ministers of the two states – Yogi Adityanath and Shivraj Singh Chouhan, respectively.

Modi launched the campaign on World Water Day and launched the

Highlights of Modi's speech

- Since Independence, for the first time, a government is working on such dedication in testing the quality of water
- This testing initiative is connecting our rural women. During the pandemic, over 4.5 lakh women were trained in water-testing
- India's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat is dependent on our water resources
- I am glad that awareness about water conservation is increasing and efforts are also increasing. Today the whole world is celebrating the International Water Day to highlight the importance of water
- Our forefathers have given us water resources, and it is our responsibility to provide water to the future generation
- Thus, we must take a pledge to save water and not waste it

campaign from March 22 to November 30 ahead of the monsoon season.

The campaign aims to create

harvesting structures suitable to climatic conditions to store rainwater.

Modi said that the people of

Gujarat and Rajasthan understand water-related problems and that he faced such issues.

He added that the Union Minister for Water Resources is from Rajasthan and will understand the issue to a greater extent.

KBIP will end the 15-year-long wait for water in the Bundelkhand region, he said.

Modi also said that until 1.5 years ago, out of 19 crore rural households only 3.5 crore had tap water connection.

Since the start of Jal Jeevan Mission, nearly four crore households have tap water connection, he said.

Modi also said he was happy that villagers save water and educate others to promote efficient use of water.

He said the Ken-Betwa river interlinking was Atal Bihari Vajpayee's dream.

Yakshagana institutes reopen doors

Suhas S Kashyap

BENGALURU: Yakshagana institutes in the city have restarted classes and performance sessions by trying to create a bio-bubble, allowing them to maintain a safe environment to practice.

Yakshagana — an Indian traditional theatre form developed in the coastal region of Karnataka — experienced a steep decline in performances during the pandemic.

"For the past 15 days that the regular classes have



Yakshagana performance

Handout

started, I feel I am back to normal and safe attending sessions with the precautions

taken," said Aditi U, a yakshagana artiste since 2009.

Radhakrishna Urala K, director and teacher at Kala Kadamba Art Centre, said: "It has been a long time since the classes stopped, and this affected the financial status of our institution. Offline classes have now begun and all the students are enthusiastic enough to come back. The number of stage performances opportunities is also increasing. It may be a risky job for us to gather everyone at a place either for

practice or performing, but it is still necessary. All the safety measures are taken. Classes are open at only selected locations. Negative reports and all have been mandated."

Pooja Acharya, student at Kala Kadamba Art Center, said: "It was a very poignant period, when the virus was at its peak. The restriction on practices hit me hard. I was very glad to rejoin the institution. SOPs were strictly followed. Though it's still hard for me to cope with these measures."

Kashmir cops, Army kill 4 terrorists in Shopian town

Jesly Pulikotil

BENGALURU: Four terrorists associated with the Pakistani terrorist group, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were killed in an early-morning encounter in Kashmir on Monday, March 22, said the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Police on Twitter.

The encounter began at around 2 am in the Manihal area of Shopian town, and the J&K Police, Indian Army and CRPF forces conducted a joint operation in the area.

Within four hours of the encounter, two unidentified terrorists had been killed, said the cops.

The operation ended at around 10:30 am and a total of four unidentified terrorists were neutralised, they added.

IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, in a press conference identified the terrorists as Rayees Ah Bhat, Aamir Shafi, Aaqib Malik, Altaf Ahmad Wani.

He added that an Army personnel was injured in the encounter.

Arms and ammunition were recovered from the area of encounter, he said, adding that security measures were in place in the area.

Night travel still unsafe, say women

Riya Joseph

BENGALURU: Women in India say they still feel the need to take multiple precautions when travelling at night as they feel unsafe when travelling alone.

"I carry pepper spray with me when I go out at night," said Neomi Sony, an engineering student from Kochi.

She added: "I also have the SOS app downloaded. But most of the time I don't go out alone at night. I usually go out in big groups or with male friends."

City-based investment banker Soumya Susan said:



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"My company sends a cab when I take the night shift, and if there is only one female passenger they send a security guard along. They also live-track our journey till we reach the destination, and my company calls me to ensure I have reached home.

I also send my live location to friends so they know where I am."

PR executive Ambika Sai Bhagat said, "I carry scissors and share my live location with my parents. I also video-call them and give them updates as I travel."

Rs 8,201-cr projects with DRDO, says minister

Anna Mariam I

BENGALURU: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has undertaken 79 projects amounting to Rs 8,201 crore, directly pertaining to development of new defence equipment over the past three years, said Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik on Monday, March 22.

In a written statement in the Rajya Sabha, he also said the DRDO was developing equipment such as Cruise Missile, Anti-Ship Missile,

Surface-to-Air Missile, Air-to-Air Missile, Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket, Mounted Gun System, Ammunitions, Electronic Warfare System, Radars, Torpedoes, High Endurance Autonomous Underwater Vehicle.

The DRDO has also developed technologies such as Battle Field Surveillance Rader (BFSR), Joint Venture Protective Carbine (JVPC) Jammers, 5.56 mm Rifle, 40 mm Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBRL), and Oleo Resin (OR) Grenade for state police personnel.