

Motivating young minds to tackle climate change



Winners (L-R) Pawar Public School, Bhandup, Anjuman-I-Islam's Mustafa Fakhri Urdu High School and Jamnabai Narsee School

Jamnabai Narsee School, one of Mumbai's oldest education institutions founded in 1971, has won the #iCan School Challenge, a school-level national competition organised by the Adani Group to find ideas that could strengthen the fight against climate change. 50 ideas beat 748 ideas pitched by nearly 240 schools from across the country to win the first edition of this competition on the theme of a 'Cleaner Future'.

Pawar Public School, Bhandup and Anjuman-I-Islam's Mustafa Fakhri Urdu High School emerged second and third in the national competition, which was judged by an eminent panel comprising UN Champions of Earth awardee Adv. Afroz Shah, Mission Green Mumbai founder and Water Hero 2019 awardee Subhajit Mukherjee, and Adani Group Head of Sustainability and Climate Change Prof. Arun Sharma.

"The biggest battles against the global climate crisis will be fought in the future. Today's children will be the generation that will lead and fight those battles. I believe such competitions will encourage our young change agents to think deeply about how best they can

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secure their future and that of the nation," said Prof. Arun Sharma.

"We saw a lot of young leaders of today. Every young kid brings to the table something which helps in nation building," said Adv. Afroz Shah.

"Every child who participated in this competition is a winner. The brilliant innovations they presented are proof that India has an abundance of young eco-champions. Initiatives like the #iCan School Challenge assures that the next generation stays focused on climate change mitigation," added Subha-

jit Mukherjee.

The idea that won Jamnabai Narsee School the top prize of Rs 1.5 lakh was an intelligent 'household inventory management system built on the MIT app inventor platform aimed to minimise waste generation and global greenhouse gas emissions.

Pawar Public School, Bhandup and Anjuman-I-Islam's Mustafa Fakhri Urdu High School who won Rs 1 lakh and Rs 50,000 for their second and third places, proposed solutions to create a LED TEG to harness waste heat and use it purposefully and a future forward 'Zero Waste School' designed to systematically mitigate the volume of plastic and e-waste generated.

Climate mitigation ideas from competing schools ranged from Virtual Operating Systems for Energy Efficiency to Multi-purpose Eco-bricks and a Vertical Farming solution that captures the essence of efficient space utilisation and availability of fresh produce through the year, to even include an idea for Edible Cutlery to reduce waste creation. IIT Mumbai alumni helped to shortlist 50 ideas for the grand finale from the numerous entries sent in by schools from across the country.