

Innovation ideas enable three students to win Challenge for Sustainable Living

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A weather prediction app in Hindi for farmers, using social media to create awareness for sustainable ways of living, and promoting consumption of seasonal fruits are some of the innovative ideas that won accolades at the recently concluded Challenge for Sustainable Living. Tanishi Dutt, Shivansh Gupta and Aarav Bhandari are winners of the challenge that celebrates the most innovative ideas, promoting 'Eat Smart, Move Smart, and Live Smart'.

Students were evaluated based on the impact and creativity they showcased. Tanishi Dutt, 14, was awarded for her idea of a weather prediction app in Hindi for farmers. The app assisted farmers with all the information concerning farming, different crops and chemical-free

means of crop production.

Aarav Bhandari, 13, was awarded for leveraging the power of social media to create awareness for sustainable ways of living. He created an Instagram account where he posted all the activities he did during the week. He also initiated a plant drive in his society and used RO's wastewater to water the plants.

Similarly, Shivansh Gupta, 14, was declared a winner for promoting consumption of seasonal fruits, reduction in use of drink bottled water, and preventing food wastage. Moreover, he raised awareness for carpooling, conserving electricity by switching it off when not in use, and recycling plastic waste and old clothes. He also promoted the idea of growing your own food by planting fruit-bearing plants/trees.

Tanishi said, "The challenge motivated me to think deeper about how I impact the environment. Change starts with small steps, which people want to take but they have to be motivated." Shivansh and Aarav said, "This initiative helped us become aware of various environmental threats. We saw threats of air polluting, non-sustainable items such as plastic on the roads and issues with buying non-seasonal fruits. Through our initiatives, we became aware of threats that our environment is facing and other people also started to change their habits."

The challenge was held by the Embassy of Sweden, in collaboration with the Swedish Institute and the Heritage International Xperiential School. The challenge was launched on June 1, 2022, at Heritage International Xperiential School as a part of the intergenerational climate dialogue, focused on raising youth's involvement and voices on sustainability and climate change.

The week-long challenge encouraged students to design a #MyClimateCommitment plan, wherein they explored ways of sustainable eating, moving and living. The prime motive of the challenge was to encourage both innovation and awareness about sustainable living among youth, as not only a 7-day choice but a life choice. Students also visited the 'Sustainability by Sweden - Showroom India' at the Business Sweden office in New Delhi

Gautam Bhattacharya, chargé d'affaires of Embassy of Sweden, minister counsellor & deputy head of mission, said, "Around 50 students from Heritage International Xperiential School participated in the launch event of the challenge on May 25. Out of the challenge applicants, three winners were chosen based on the positive impact and creativity they showcased."

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Each of the winners were awarded a pair of solar-powered headphones. The students also got a chance to discuss sustainability with the chargé d'affaires to learn more about climate challenges and Swedish environmental policies. Students were also invited to a tour of the 'Sustainability by Sweden – Showroom India' at the Business Sweden office in New Delhi.

Spokey Wheeler, director, Heritage International Xperiential School, said, "I am proud of our students' initiatives and out-of-box thinking, which assures us that the earth's future will be more sustainable than the state it is in today."

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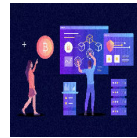
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