

IIT students pick up brooms for cleanliness

Seventy students of IIT-Gn clean stretch between Visat petrol pump and institute's gate as part of cleanliness drive inspired by Mirror's Cleanliness Campaign

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amfeedback@timesgroup.in

On Friday, 70 students of Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) switched their books and pens for brooms and bins to participate in the institute's annual cleanliness drive. Seventy students were divided into small groups and they cleaned the stretches from Visat petrol pump to IIT-Gn and New C. G Road.

SHOULD UNDERSTAND AMC'S EFFORTS

IIT-Gn's cleanliness campaign, inspired by *Mirror's* Cleanliness Campaign, was launched in 2011 and is now part of the Foundation Programme. Assistant Professor Sivapriya Kirubakaran (chemistry), Assistant Professor Kabeer Jasuja (chemical engineering) and Assistant Professor



Second batch of students will participate in the drive on Saturday

Srinivas Reddy (humanities) had spearheaded the drive under the guidance of Professor Sudhir Jain following the immense popularity of *Mirror's* Cleanliness Campaign. "We

want our students to understand the importance of cleanliness and think about it in a different manner. This campaign is important and so we have incorporated it into the founda-

tion programme under the social awareness themes," Professor Jain said.

Professor Sivapriya said, "We want students to appreciate the efforts made by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's workers."

The first year, 120 students cleaned the stretch from IOC road to Chandkheda Railway Station on July 28, 2011. The cleanliness drive could not be completed last year owing to bad weather. Rain was set to spoil the plan this year too. The campaign was earlier to be held over four days which has now been reduced to two days. The second set of students will do their bit on Saturday.

STUDENTS' SWEEPED ROADS

"There are many tea stalls around the campus. Customers drink tea and litter the area with the disposable cups. Students collected these cups and

cleaned the area. One student threw up while cleaning but instead of backing down, he joined the campaign with renewed enthusiasm," Sivapriya said.

Deputy Health Commissioner at AMC, Dr Chirag Shah was present at the drive and ensured the civic body provided necessary equipment and guidance. "Such programmes are important as they sensitise students. We need to arrange more such initiatives — it will change the look of the city."

Students were asked to take an oath that they would never litter. Students were joined by faculty and staff members too.

Akash Singh from Gorakhpur, a third year student who was a fresher when the campaign was launched said, "I had participated in the first year and this year too. This is a great initiative which teaches us to be responsible citizens."