

Students design new bins for city

Dustbins designed by IIT-Gn students as part of a competition; AMC hopes to install bins across city by December

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The city civic body will install specially designed dustbins outside shops, especially pan parlours, across the city by December. And these dustbins have been designed by a team of three students from Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) as part of a competition organised by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC). Prototypes of the dustbins designed by Adit Gupta, Mohak Patel and Tarkeshwar Singh as part of AMC's "Litter Free Ahmedabad" contest in May have already been tested and are under production. The winning trio was sent to Singapore to study the country's efforts in creating a model clean country.

FOCUS ON REDUCING LITTER

The new dustbins have been designed with focus on solving the issue of litter due to smaller packets like water pouches, chocolate wrappers, gutkha wrappers etc. Assistant Professor Atul Bhargava from mechanical engineering department, IIT-Gn, who monitored the winning team said, "The students visited various shops across the city. They observed that dustbins



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AMC has already tested prototypes of the winning design; IIT-Gn intends to continue the competition in the next academic session and make other prototypes as per other participating designs

used currently are shorter than the required height, have closed lids and dirty surfaces. Accordingly, students designed a dustbin with a funnel-shaped mouth, taller than the current dustbins and with a partially revolving lid. They used super hydrophobic paints, used mainly for industrial purposes, for the dustbin. The paint makes the surface easy to clean, thus tackling the issue of dustbins being

dirty due to spit."

The dustbin also has a bull's eye sketched on the surface. "The bull's eye would tempt customers to aim and throw the garbage, thus avoiding litter," Bhargava added.

The team also looked at placement of the bins. They proposed a standard spot to place the bin by creating yellow patches outside shops where it would be mandatory for ev-

ery shopkeeper to place the bin.

INITIATED BY AMC

Participating students from IIT-Gn were monitored by designers and faculty from National Institute of Design (NID) too. Dinesh Korjan, adjunct faculty at IIT-Gn handled the project's design aspect. "We were approached by AMC for this project and we decided to organise this competi-

tion," said Dinesh, adding, "We want to combine some designs provided by other teams and make another prototype. We will begin work with students on Monday when the new semester will start."

Director of IIT-Gn Professor Sudhir Jain feels this is a win-win situation. "The students need proper mentoring and motivation. With the help of NID and AMC, along with guidance from IIT-Gn, we made the competition possible. This will broaden the students' horizon. We want to produce students who can develop new ideas. The competition will be continued next academic year too."

The team comprising Abhishek Navarkar, Akshay Randad and Shreyans Nahar grabbed the second spot with their use of technology while designing a bin. They designed a dustbin with two containers — one below the ground level and an attractive bin on top. Third place winners Soham Harshe, Rahul Khandait, Praateek Baldwa and Gaurav Mahamuni dealt with the municipal vegetable markets where there is large scale waste (nearly 500-800kg/day). They proposed a system which will process this waste on daily basis and convert it to vermi-compost manure which can be sold in the market.