



MIT Academy of Engineering College's Students Join Chief Minister's Initiative to 'Transform Maharashtra'

'Transform Maharashtra', an initiative by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis**, has become one of the most dynamic platforms ever created in Maharashtra's history to promote inclusive governance. It is a state-wide competition which invited solutions from the college students across the state on 11 socio-economic challenges faced by Maharashtra such as drought issue, corruption, urban poverty, digital divide, etc. The initiative has twin objectives of crowd sourcing the innovative solutions to Maharashtra's long-term concerns as well as encouraging active involvement of youth in policy planning.

The competition witnessed around 2500 submissions from around 15,000 students across Maharashtra. The students from the MIT Academy of Engineering also enthusiastically participated in the competition. A total of four teams from MIT Academy of Engineering submitted their solutions in the competition. The students gave their solutions addressing the issues of reforming the rural education, empowering the urban poor and the Swachh Maharashtra initiative. The best solutions were taken out by the help of subject matter experts and online voting that created quite a buzz on the internet with more than 6 lakhs votes casted. Results were announced in early April.

We are very proud to announce you that Team Jigyasa, one of the college clubs participated in three different themes and won 1st prize in the Swachh Maharashtra theme and 2nd prize in empowering the urban poor and reforming the rural education themes. The students of the winning team are:

Theme 4: Invisible Citizens: Empowering the Urban Poor : Shabin George, Gautami Shirsat, Amritha Sharma, Tejas Khandale, Jayantee Bhalerao and Sadashiv Vaidya.

Theme 6: Clean State: Swachh Maharashtra: Amitkumar Mishra, Rahul Dhokane, Aishwarya Deshmukh, Kamini Yelamar, Vaishnavi Surkutwar and Sharwari Nalawade.

Theme 11: Moulding the future: Reforming Rural Education: Yash Nannaware, Sani Bhuse, Ahmad Mullaji, Kashinath Ahankare, Akanksha Sontakke and Arti Bhalodia.

There were different ideas, policies and prototype given to the government for the development of Maharashtra. Targeting the government schools and improving the quality of education in those schools, collaboration of NGOs and the government and including a practical social subject in the syllabus were some of the prominent solutions suggested to the government. When asked about the experience of this competition, there was a positive and encouraging answer from all the three group leaders.

The winners shall be given prizes and an opportunity to present their solutions to the Chief Minister on Maharashtra Day i.e. May 1st, 2017. In the Event, Chief Minister will brainstorm with Opinion Makers, Business Intellects, Subject Matter Experts and 6000 college students for '**Maharashtra Vision 2025**'. This is the first time in Maharashtra that students will discuss with the Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on issues concerning the state. The Event will be graced by presence of Major General Anuj Mathur; Mr. Bhavish Aggarwal, CEO, Ola cabs; amongst others, and will also witness musical performance by Kay Kay, a prominent bollywood and cultural singer. The Event shall include an exhibition which will showcase the innovative ideas / solutions / projects by other students of Maharashtra, who could not participate in the competition.

'Transform Maharashtra' initiative in itself, and the fact that on one of the most significant days for the state, the Chief Minister has given utmost priority to a youth and industry-oriented initiative, demonstrate his commitment towards his agenda of development. The intent of the Government, proven capability of the involved experts, and excitement of students assure us of a better Maharashtra in very near future.

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