

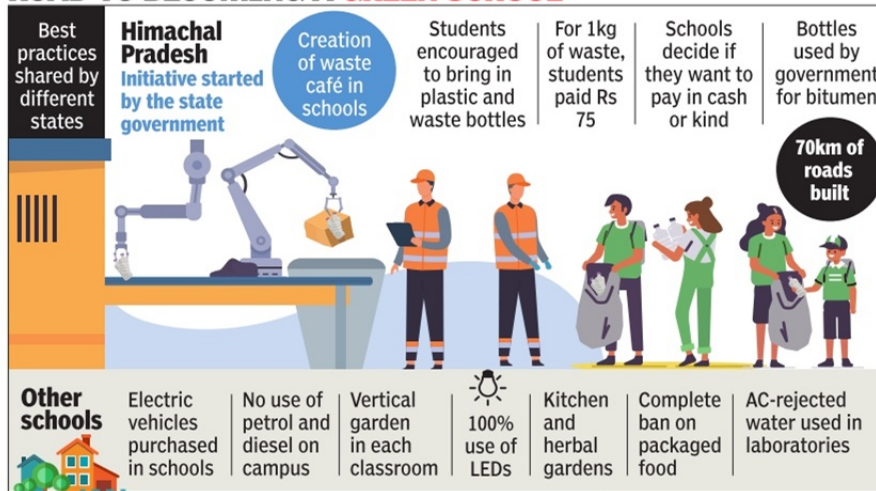
# Starting young: 106 schools certified green for best practices, 13 of them from Delhi

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**New Delhi:** Buying electric vehicles, recycling and using AC water in laboratories, installing float valves and spill-proof taps, and imposing a ban on packaged food are some of the best practices adopted by schools in their bid to go green. On Tuesday, 106 such schools from across the country were awarded the green tag by Centre for Science and Environment and almost all of them have adopted basic environment-friendly steps like building composting pits, rainwater harvesting and using solar energy.

In the annual Green School Programme award, Himachal Pradesh received the best state award. Out the 700 schools that took part in the green audit, 114 were from HP. Sharing the state's concept of Waste Cafe, a government official said, "It is a government scheme under which each school has a waste cafe. Students are encouraged to get their plastic waste and dump them at a corner in the

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school or in the canteen. For one kg of plastic waste, we pay Rs 75 or the equivalent decided by schools. The waste is used for making bitumen and 70km of road has already been built using it." A HP government school in Chamba assigns three plants to each student,

and they take care of it.

From Delhi, 24 schools took part and 13 of them received the green tag. East Point School, Vasundhara Enclave and Sachdeva Global School, Dwarka won an award for maintaining the green tag and implementing a green and

sustainable policy for the past five years. East Point School uses no petrol and diesel, its lighting is 100% LED, and it does waste segregation at source and on-site paper recycling. "We also have vertical gardens in our classrooms and teachers encourage us to not use

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plastic and to become green warriors," said a student. Sachdeva Global School has totally banned plastic. Its 55% area is green and it also has a kitchen and herbal garden.

A school in National Capital Region, Cambridge School at Indirapuram, recycles the waste water of ACs and uses it in laboratories. Shiv Nadar School at Noida grows its own vegetables, and has banned packaged and synthetic food.

Many participant schools use sustainable and non-polluting modes of transport, with some even having electric vehicles. MM Public School in Delhi has developed a solar grass cutter, with solar panels fitted on top of it.