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NSE conducts young pioneers contest to promote entrepreneurial spirit in youth

To encourage students to put on their thinking hats and promote a spirit of entrepreneurship among the youth, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) recently carried out a unique all India contest, in association with History TV 18, called the NSE Young Pioneers. The contest picked up the top four teams that had the most exciting business ideas to offer, before an eminent panel of judges. The finals were held at the NSE office on Thursday, the 18th of July. The contest was conducted across 500 schools in the country. Students of classes 10, 11 and 12 presented their business ideas to judges. Each school was allowed one team of two members, who made a ten-minute power point presentation on their business idea, to a panel of judges.

Eminent personalities such as Mr. Mohandas Pai, Chairman of Manipal Global Education and Mr. Senthil Chengalvarayan, Editor-in-Chief, Network18 Business Room were the jury members for the final round. NSE MD and CEO, Ms Chitra Ramkrishna gave away the prizes, for the most innovative ideas.

The Young Pioneers is an initiative by NSE to foster entrepreneurial thinking at the school level and identify potential business leaders of the future.

Chitra Ramkrishna, MD & CEO, NSE, said, "Entrepreneurship is one of the key areas of focus for India. We are happy to have partnered with the History TV18 to showcase the thoughts of young innovators and business minds. NSE Young Pioneers seeks to inspire students and reward their talent."

For the semi-finals, twelve teams were selected from different regions, namely, three teams each from the Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern regions. Out of these, the four final teams, including from the Uttam School, Ghaziabad, RN Poddar School, Mumbai, Smt. Narbada Devi J Agarwal Vivekananda Vidyalaya Jr. College, Chennai and Loyola School, Jamshedpur, battled it out for the top slot.

Out of these four teams, Nancy Mishra and S. Dharini from Smt. Narbada Devi J Agarwal Vivekananda Vidyalaya Jr. College from Chennai emerged as the winner of the NSE Young Pioneers.

The most exciting idea of an amusement park for senior citizens and how it can be implemented won the first prize.

The team offered the idea of an amusement park, which can be used by lonely senior citizens and will have facilities which they would like, for instance, a meditation hall, food to suit their palate, recreation facilities, as well as a pick up and drop facility.

Other winning ideas were a safety band, to ensure women's safety, makeover fashion brands and innovations in mobiles and other gadgets.

The first runner up was the team of Shivangi Tiwari and Soumya Agarwal, Uttam school for girls, Ghaziabad, and the two joint second runners up were Anirban Kundu and Fahad Inbesat, Loyola school, Jamshedpur and Akanksha Nathany and Anshruta Raodeo, R N Poddar school, Mumbai.

The competition received over 350 applications of which 40 entries were shortlisted. On 17th July, 2013, twelve semi-finalists from the four regions met at NSE Mumbai and presented their ideas to a panel of esteemed judges including Mr. Suresh Venkat, Former Tech Editor, CNBC TV18 and Mr. Alok Kejriwal, CEO & Co-founder Games2win and Mr. Viren Rasquinha, former captain of India's national field hockey team.

About HISTORY TV18:

HISTORY TV18 is the new factual entertainment channel that was launched by AETN18, a joint venture between Network18 and A+E Networks (formerly known as A&E Television Networks) which operates acclaimed global brands like History, Bio, Crime & Investigation Network and Lifetime. The channel is the first in a bouquet of factual entertainment channels to be launched by the joint venture in India. HISTORY TV18 is the leading destination for award-winning original non-fiction series and event specials that connect history with viewers in an informative, immersive and entertaining manner across multiple platforms. Programming covers a diverse variety of historical genres ranging from contemporary history to core history, technology to natural history, as well as science, archaeology and transport.

The channel emerged as the leader in the factual entertainment genre in the 6 metros & 1MN+ market clusters within a few weeks of its launch. With a connectivity of 50 million households on leading cable TV platforms and DTH platforms, HISTORY TV18 reaches out to over 23 million viewers every week across the country.
