

Building a happier India

They want to ensure education for child labourers who are not fortunate enough to go to schools. They want to build toilet blocks for girls and boys in schools and they are keen to promote cleanliness in slums and eco friendly shopping bags at malls and local markets. And, they have a lesson or two for civic bodies to build pothole-free roads and introduce sensor-based dustbins. They are school children from across the country, who want to make the nation a Happy India. They are the future change makers and they want to be the change that they want to see!

Over 15,000 young students in the age groups of 11 years to 16 years from across 304 schools from across the coun-



<<Team Advent from Atkinson School, Vijayawada, encouraging the slum dwellers to come forward and educate themselves



try enthusiastically sent in their ideas for the IndiaFirst's Happy India. A jury has selected 25 final ideas to be executed by as many teams. IndiaFirst Life Insurance is helping execute these projects over a period of 40 days with a grant of Rs 50,000 each and with some industry stalwarts mentoring them. While working with their ideas, some student groups have already launched their pilots.

A Mumbai school conceived a project to build a Swast Bharat (Healthy India) by ensuring everyone has the right to basic vegetables at a price they can afford with a

cross-subsidization model where the middle income as well as the low income populace gets the cost benefit of getting vegetables directly from the wholesalers.

Pot holes are a major nuisance in Mumbai and many other cities in India where motorists keep protesting to the municipal corporations over the awful state of the roads. Here, a team from the Island City decided to take things in their hands, use waste plastic and construct a road that is not only solid and durable but also less expensive than the conventional material.