



Project Mumbai's Zero Waste Schools



“The Day We Decided to Be Like The Lorax”

In The Lorax, Dr. Seuss wrote: “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

That sentence could well be the heartbeat of our Zero Waste Schools story.

When we first began, we imagined a world where classrooms weren’t just spaces of learning — but little forests of curiosity. Where every banana peel could teach composting, every plastic wrapper could spark a conversation, and every young voice could echo the Lorax’s wisdom — speaking for the trees, the oceans, and the Earth itself. Zero Waste Schools was never just about bins and kilograms. It was about imagination — about teaching children that waste is not the end of a thing, but the beginning of another story. It’s about turning “throw away” into “give back.”

And this month, that story grew stronger, leaf by leaf, heart by heart.

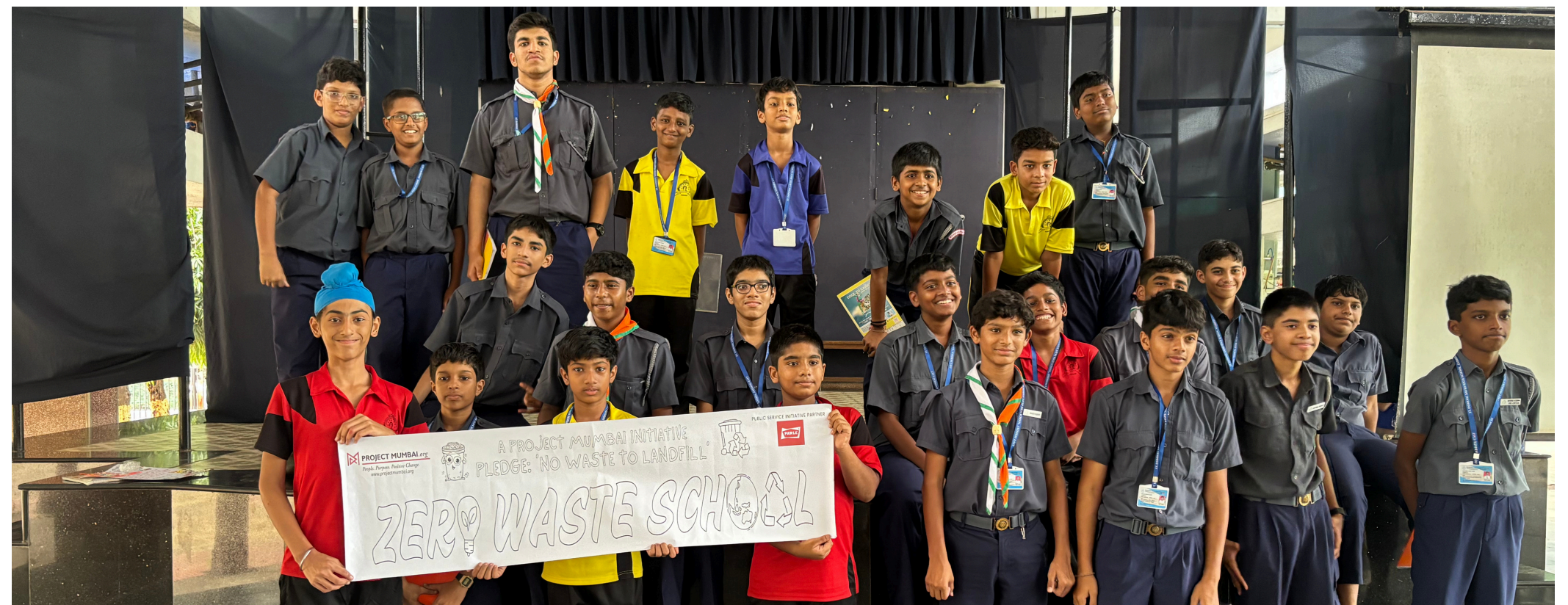
In school corridors, laughter met learning. Plastic became possibility. And a little boy named Tirth Gupta reminded us that sometimes the biggest revolutions begin with the smallest toy truck.

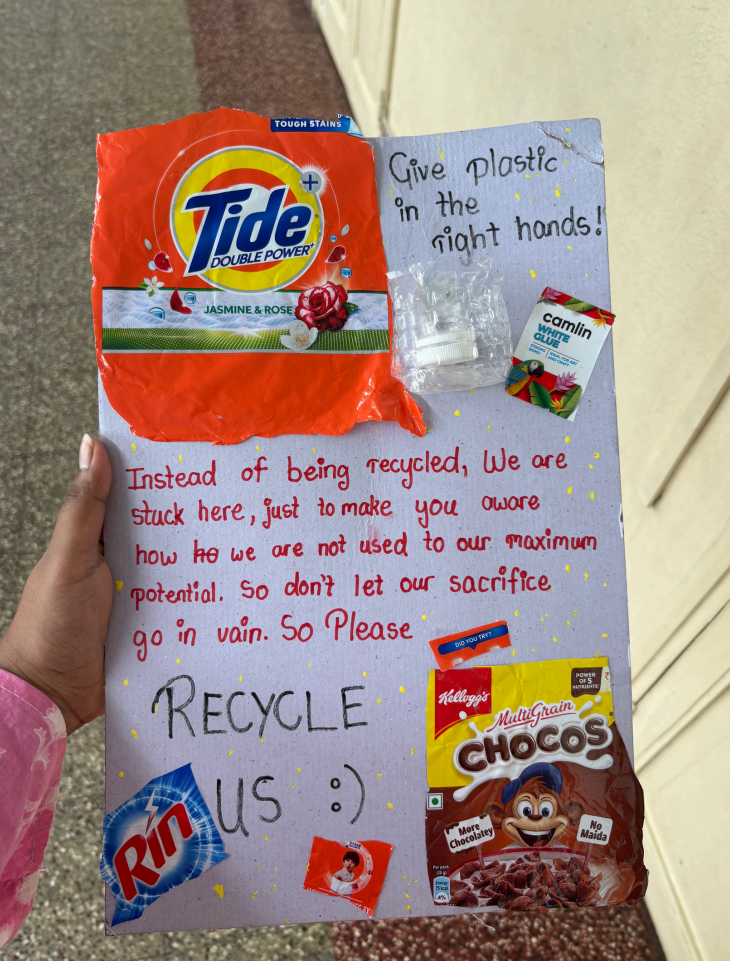
As facilitators, teachers, and partners, we aren’t just running a project — we’re writing a children’s book in real life. A book where every student’s action fills a new page of hope, resilience, and environmental imagination.

If The Lorax taught us to care, Zero Waste Schools is our way of proving that care in action — one compost pile, one awareness circle, one brave, thoughtful child at a time.

Konark Borkar

Senior Project Officer,
Zero Waste Schools

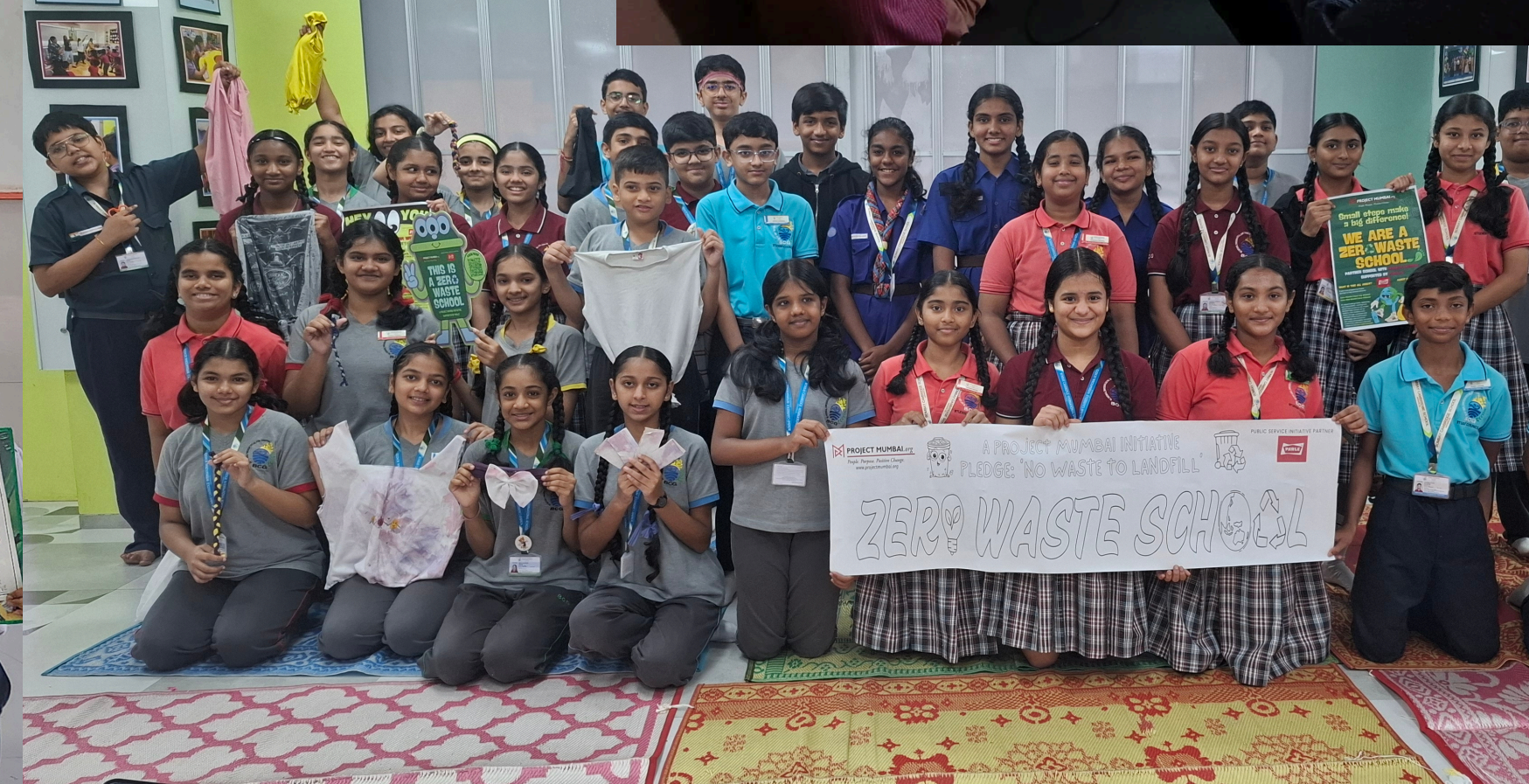




House	Points	Rank
1	45	1
2	42	2
3	41	3
4	40	4
5	30	5
6	07	6
7	30	7

THE BMS BRIO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (CBSE)

ON THE WINGS OF EXCELLENCE



What happened this month

Before we dive into the numbers, here's how the Zero Waste Schools journey unfolds.

Level 1 schools are our newest changemakers – those that joined the movement this year. They're taking their first steps into the world of waste segregation, composting, and plastic awareness. These schools are learning the what, why, and how of a zero-waste lifestyle through hands-on sessions, activities, and community-led challenges.

Level 2 schools, on the other hand, are our seasoned champions – the schools that began their Zero Waste journey last year. Having built strong habits and understanding, they now deepen their impact, mentoring younger peers and showcasing leadership in sustainability.

Together, these two levels represent not just growth, but continuity – the passing of a green torch from one class to another, one year to the next.

Level 1 Impact

This month, our newly onboarded schools made an inspiring start. Through **11 awareness sessions, we reached 3,122 students**, sparking conversations around mindful consumption and responsible waste habits. **16 activity sessions** brought creativity to classrooms, **engaging nearly 1,158 students** in fun learning around recycling, composting, and waste segregation. And in **just one month, these young environmentalists collected nearly 328.7 kg of plastic waste and 28.9 kg of e-waste** – proving that even beginners can make a bold impact.

Level 2 Impact

Our experienced schools continued to lead by example with **9 powerful activity sessions, engaging ~745 students** who have now become ambassadors of the Zero Waste movement. Together, they collected an impressive **205 kg of plastic waste and 10.6 kg of e-waste**, reinforcing that true sustainability is built through consistency, care, and collective effort. Adding to this, our combined composting effort across both levels has resulted in **25 kg of solid compost and 12 litres of nutrient-rich liquid "lichet"** harvested till September – a living example of circular economy in action, right inside school campuses.

In total, we now have **31 schools under the Zero Waste Schools banner** – 09 Level 2 schools continuing their journey and 22 new Level 1 schools joining the movement this year. Each number here isn't just data – it's a story of children learning to care, of classrooms turning into ecosystems, and of the next generation shaping a cleaner, kinder Mumbai.



From Talk to Action: Stories from the schools :)

A little story of a big kid

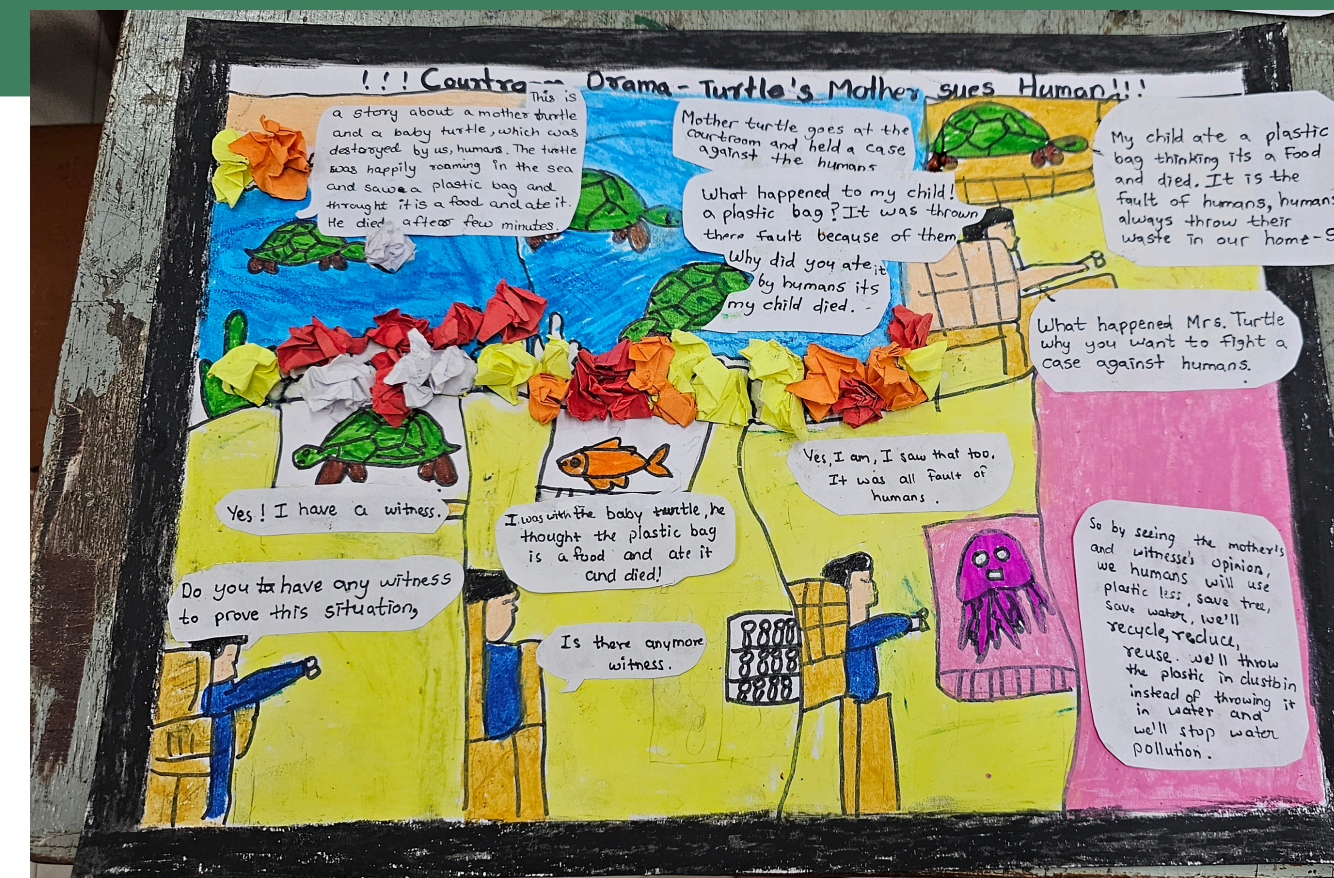
Meet Tirth Gupta, a cheerful Class 4 pupil at St. Aloysius High School. Tirth stood first—and highest—in plastic collection in his school this month. But it's not just the numbers that make his story shine... here's his moment of inspiration: Tirth looked at his toy truck one afternoon and declared: "No more plastic toys for me!" He told his parents he wouldn't ask for another toy truck made of plastic. Why? Because he had seen the waste-truck uncle come to pick up plastics, and sometimes his truck is jam-full. So he said: "Maybe my toy truck can go for recycling instead, and help that uncle do his job better." That innocent decision—one small boy, one toy truck, one mindful thought—speaks volumes.

Moral: When a child chooses to say no to waste, the effect begins. Even a toy can become a symbol of change.



Creative Corner: When the Turtle Took Humans to Court!

At MKES English High School, imagination met empathy in the most unexpected courtroom drama — one that didn't need lawyers or judges, just a big heart and a lot of crayons! The students created a powerful and witty poster titled "Turtle's Mother Sues Humans", a dramatic take on what happens when marine life decides to speak up for itself. In this imaginative courtroom, Mother Turtle stands before a human judge, heartbroken yet determined. She tells the world how her baby mistook a floating plastic bag for food — and lost its life because of human carelessness. The "witnesses" — a fish and a jellyfish — bravely testify, pointing out how plastic thrown into the sea is destroying their home. The verdict? The children's voices, loud and clear: "We humans will use less plastic, recycle more, and never throw waste into the water again!" Through their art, these young changemakers turned grief into action, reminding all of us that awareness doesn't always come from facts and figures — sometimes, it comes from a story told through a child's eyes. This creative masterpiece by the students of MKES English High School isn't just a poster — it's a plea from the planet, wrapped in colours, compassion, and conviction. A true reflection of what Zero Waste Schools stands for: learning, empathy, and the courage to imagine a better world.



Meet the changemakers behind the scenes.

Meet our facilitator volunteer, Dhanshri Agrawal

Meet Dhanshri Agrawal: our dedicated facilitator for ZWS. With a heart rooted in sustainability, Dhanshri guides schools with warmth, energy, and creativity. She turns sessions into conversations, waste piles into treasure hunts, and students into champions of change. Her work exemplifies how an inspired adult becomes a mirror in which young minds see their own power. Dhanshri Agrawal is a prominent sustainability advocate and content creator based in India. She is the founder of the Instagram page @susty_hasti_zindagi, where she shares practical tips and insights on leading a sustainable lifestyle. Her content covers a range of topics, including eco-friendly gifting options, stress relief techniques, and the importance of conscious consumerism. In addition to her social media presence, Dhanshri is actively involved in various sustainability initiatives. Her work focuses on integrating climate change awareness with health and technology, aiming to promote sustainable choices in everyday life.

Through her platforms, Dhanshri encourages individuals to make informed decisions that contribute to a healthier planet, blending lifestyle choices with environmental consciousness.



Scan to hear her share about her experience with Project Mumabi :)



Felicitation at RACE Expo

We are delighted to share that our Level 2 schools in the Zero Waste Schools programme were honoured at the RACE Expo, held in Mumbai on 10–11 September 2025. At the Expo, which draws together industry, academia and civic initiatives around plastics, e-waste, recycling and compounding, our students and schools received recognition for their commitment to sustainability, waste-reduction and behavioural change.

This recognition is more than a trophy or certificate—it signals to our young changemakers that their efforts matter, that their actions are visible and valued beyond the classroom. It helps lend credibility and visibility to the message: that reducing plastic and e-waste, composting, and caring for our environment is something that connects students, schools and communities to larger global issues of circular economy and sustainability.

By standing on that stage, our students step into a spotlight that says: you are not just participants, you are leaders. That moment of felicitated recognition becomes a launchpad—encouraging them to carry forward the spirit of the programme with pride and momentum.





Together, we're building Mumbai's first Zero Waste Generation

