

AMULAKH AMICHAND HIGH SCHOOL HAS INSTALLED 45 SOLAR PANELS AT A COST OF ₹24 LAKH

Matunga school gets 10.5KW solar power boost

Puja Pednekar

If you think nothing good can come out of the scorching summer heat, think again.

Gujarati Kelvani Mandal's Amulakh Amichand High School at Matunga is harnessing solar energy to generate 10%-15% power and thus, reduce the electricity bills.

"We want to provide first-hand knowledge of renewable energy not only to our students, but other schoolchildren too. We are inviting schools to learn about solar panels," said Dinesh Shah, member of the managing council. "We have also included the concept in our curriculum wherein each teacher will take 20 students to the terrace

secretary of the school, admitted that the project was subsidised by their collaboration with a German Rotary Club.

The concept of using photovoltaic cell, for harvesting so-

to study the system."

On March 5, the school installed 45 solar panels at a cost of Rs24 lakh, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Nuernberg-Reichswald, Germany, on its terrace. The panels generate 10.5 kilowatt of energy to light up their 51 classrooms.

At present, the school uses both solar energy and BEST-supplied power. The school used to pay Rs75,000 to Rs1 lakh a month for power. But, with the solar panels, it is likely to save 10% energy and Rs20,000 to Rs30,000 a month.

During vacations and holidays, the school will divert the solar power to its gym, hobby classes, offices and canteen.

Hasmukh Shah, honorary

lar energy was envisaged two years ago by the management.

Last year, the German Rotarians were visiting the school when they came up with this idea. The project was prepared



Students of Amulakh Amichand High School, Matunga, learn about the solar panels installed on its terrace – Hemant Padalkar DNA

and proposed to the Rotary Club of Nuernberg-Reichswald, by the Rotary Club of Mumbai Sion and later Rotary Club of Mumbai Uptown joined the project.

"A German firm donated the photovoltaic cells to the school. They agreed to supply the 10.2KW equivalent energy generating panels to the school at no cost. This helped reduce the cost of setting up the unit. The remaining funds were generated by private players," said Shah.

To further reduce power consumption, the school has switched from CFL to LED lights. "Eventually we will reduce power consumption by 40%. Also, we have a policy of buying energy-saving devices to reduce our carbon footprint," said Shah.