

## UNEP Young Champions of the Earth Prize

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance*

### Why in News?

*Three entrepreneurs from India, Kenya and the United States have been awarded the UN Environment Programme's 2025 Young Champions of the Earth prize.*

- The award is bestowed **annually** to ambitious young people from around the world with outstanding ideas to **protect and restore the environment**.
- **Launched in** - 2017.
- **Age criteria** - Under 30.
- **Prize money** - Each winner receives \$20,000 in seed funding, mentoring and access to a global platform to scale their ideas.
- **Awardees of 2025** -
  - **Jinali Mody (28, India)**, founder of Banofi Leather, which produces leather alternatives from banana crop waste.
  - The women-led company aims to reduce the fast fashion industry's environmental footprint by cutting water use, toxic waste and carbon emissions compared with conventional leather.
  - **Joseph Nguthiru (27, Kenya)**, whose company HyaPak transforms the invasive water hyacinth in Lake Naivasha into biodegradable packaging bags and seedling wrappers, replacing single-use plastics.
  - **Noemi Florea (24, US)**, founder of Cycleau, a compact greywater reuse system that retrofits under sinks, showers and laundry units to convert wastewater into drinking water, with significantly lower energy use than existing systems.

### Reference

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