

Dreams take wings for 8 govt schoolkids



IGNITED MINDS: The eight students from seven different Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas will be in Moscow from September 1 to 6 for the 4th International Olympiad of Metropolises

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New Delhi: For teenager Satyam, it is a dream come true, being able to fly to Moscow on Friday when he hasn't even ever left Delhi. The 17-year-old and seven others, all students of government schools, will represent India at the 4th International Olympiad of Metropolises, a science competition in chemistry, physics, mathematics and computer science.

The octet from seven different Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas will be in Moscow from September 1 to 6. Satyam, who studies in RPVV, Dwarka Sector 10, will compete in chemistry with schoolmate Harshita Rao as a co-competitor. "I have worked very hard to be selected and have gone through three levels of tests," said Satyam. "I look forward to understanding the scope of chemistry from students of other countries."

For Rao, it will be her second trip abroad this year. In April, she went to Japan on a students' exchange programme. From the time she was selected she hasn't stopped checking out pictures of Moscow on the new laptop gifted to her by her parents, both teachers in municipal corporation schools. Besides Rao, there

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is another girl, Sanidhya Johri of RPVV, Surajmal Vihar, among the eight culled from a competitive field of 500 from 22 RPVVs.

Ankit Bisht of RPVV, Yamuna Vihar, is participating in informatics. "When I was selected for the Olympiad, the first thing my teacher told me was to apply for a passport," smiled the student who aspires to study in IIT.

Rajpal Singh, principal of RPVV, Dwarka Sector 10, said, "We want to ensure our students will win a ranking

position this year, so the teachers are also working hard." On alternate days, extra classes are being held for the participants in their subject of specialisation. Some have even been sent to Hindu College to work with equipment not available in the school laboratory.

In the midst of the frenetic preparation for the grueling competition, in which students from over 22 cities from across the globe will be participating, the Indian participants, for most of whom it is their first overseas trip, cannot stop planning for the journey. Kaushal Kumar Thakur, the mathematics genius from RPVV, Rohini Sector II, said excitedly, "It is my first trip abroad and I am looking forward to touring the place." The young resident of north Delhi's Samaypur Badli has already crammed his bags with warm clothes and snacks to tide over the six days of the Olympiad.