



Students Shine in EU Essay Writing Competition

New Delhi, 24 June 2014: Around 30,000 students of Class XI from nearly 1000 schools under the Ministry of Human Resource Development throughout India participated in an EU Essay Competition sponsored by the EU Delegation to India. Among the 100 prize winners, the five winners of the first prize were awarded a trip to Europe.

The students – from Navodaya and Kendriya Vidyalayas throughout India - were given three topics to research: how the experience of the EU in reaching regional stability and peace can be utilised in South Asia; what they consider to be the main challenges of today's world and how they can be solved through cooperation; and how India and the EU could work to promote sustainable development. The topics were:

The European Union: Contributing to Peace and Prosperity
The EU and India: Five New Proposals for Fruitful Cooperation; and
The EU and India: Promoting a Sustainable Future

The essays were written in English and Hindi and the best Hindi essays were also translated into English. Although each school sent only the best two essays for the all India evaluation, the final selection of the best 100, with the originality and diversity of expression on display, was extremely difficult for the evaluators who are Ph. D scholars of the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. A few have been published on the EU Delegation website.

The top five essays writers are, in alphabetical order, Anjana Reji from the Kendriya Vidyalaya, Naval Base, Cochin; K. Vinay Gautham of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Sangli Sawarwad, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra; Padmasandhya S from the Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2 at Madurai, Tamil Nadu; Poonam Kumari from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Babina Cantonment, Jhansi; and Yashpal Singh from the Navodaya Vidyalaya at Kuchaman City, Nagaur, Rajasthan. While one of them could not eventually make the trip, the other four, accompanied by a teacher, Mrs Kavitha Krishnaveni from the KVS, returned on 23rd June from their trip to Rome, Paris, Prague, Salzburg, Vienna and Budapest. The other 95 winners will receive laptops, bicycles and backpacks according to their ranking in the competition.

Having had the opportunity to see some marvels of world architecture such as the Eiffel Tower, the Colosseum, Prague castle, and the Hungarian Parliament, and enjoyed themselves at the

Prater amusement park in Vienna and the Sound of Music tour in Salzburg, the students spoke to the media about the cultural and language diversity of Europe.

As the winners of the competition are based all over India a symbolic prize winning ceremony was organised at the EU Delegation on June 24th for the winners from NCR region and the trip participants that shared their impression of the cities they visited with their colleagues and present media representatives.

Poonam Kumari from KV Babina Cantonment in Jhansi felt that peace and prosperity have been closely linked in contributing to the success of the European Union. Giving examples from manufacturing (Airbus, Nokia and Volkswagen) as well as from sectors such as health, education and environment, Yashpal Singh from JNV Kuchaman City has seen the European Union's journey to peace and prosperity as contributing to the whole world.

Charge d'Affaires of the EU Delegation Pavel Svitil expressed his satisfaction that India's younger generation saw huge new opportunities for cooperation between the EU and India in many areas eg. introducing waste to energy technology, organic farming development, improving water management, e-governance through ICT, strengthening sports interactions, and encouraging Ayurveda (as proposed by Anjana Reji from the KV at Naval Base Kochi and Padmasandhya from KV Madurai). We can learn a lot from these children" he remarked.

For more information on the EU Delegation

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