

It'll be an experience of a lifetime

Indian students to watch solar eclipse in Russia

Team Viva

Thirteen-year-old V Vismayaa from Tamil Nadu is eagerly waiting for August 1 to arrive. No, she wasn't born that day.

The class VIII student from The Vikasa School in Tuticorin will fly down to Novosibirsk, Siberia in Russia to watch the total solar eclipse on August 1 as a part of the Student Scientific Expedition, *Heliodysey 2008* organised by Science Popularisation Association of Communicators and Educators (SPACE). "I'm very thrilled at the thought of being in Russia and watching the eclipse. It'll be an experience of a lifetime as we'll also get an opportunity to interact with scientists and astronomers from all over the world," said Vismayaa, who'll be accompanying four other students from India to Russia.

These include Shivansh Chaturvedi of class VI, DPS RK Puram, Delhi; Kaustubh Bansal of class VI, Apeejay School, Pitampura, Delhi; Charchit Gaur of class X,



Winners with members of SPACE

Saint Pauls Mala Road, Kota and Utkarch Agarwal of class X, Saint Pauls Mala Road, Kota who were selected through an online exam in which thousands of students of classes VI to XII from all over India participated.

Recently, SPACE organised a felicitation ceremony at the Russian Centre for the top 100 students who were selected

in the online exam.

"Though only five will get to travel down to Russia, the rest will be able to see the partial eclipse from the Space Nodal Centres across the country," said SPACE director CB Devgun. The chief guest for the evening Dr Rathnashree gave away the prizes that included the air tickets to Russia for the first five winners. The next 30 winners were presented

telescopes while the rest were handed over binoculars and astronomical kits. Devgun also said that the participation in *Heliodysey* from every nook and corner of India had encouraged them to spread astronomy on even bigger scale than its being done now and the space nodal centres were doing a great job in propagating the same.