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Showcasing India's skills

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Skillful: Participants in the mould making section of the National Skills Competition held in Coimbatore on Thursday.

COIMBATORE: Prasanjit Dari, a goldsmith who has studied up to Class X and works with a jeweller in West Bengal, will travel to London in October.

He will be joined by Sukriti Singh, a fashion technology student from Himachal Pradesh, Abishek, a hair stylist from Bangalore, and students of Gedee Technical Training Institute from Coimbatore.

They are all winners of the National Skill competition 2011 and will represent India at the World Skills Competition to be held in London later this year.

The National Skill Development Corporation, in partnership with industrial associations, is conducting the National Skill Competition in the country this year for 16 skills.

The finals of the National Skill Competition for three skills—mould making, mechatronics and polymechanics—were held at the Gedee Institute here on Thursday and Friday. K. Abdul Mubash (polymechanics), Jigy Joseph and K.V. Nikhil Raj (mechatronics), and Shaheer V (mould making) of the Gedee Institute won the finals, and will participate at the World Skills competition this year.

K. Venugopal, technical delegate for the World Skill Competition from India, and R.N. Kharbanda, consultant for World Skills Competition, told The Hindu here on Friday that the participants were aged below 22.

End product in 8 hours

They have to create an end product in about eight hours in the respective skill category from the drawing given by the organisers. The final competitions are on from the last week of May in different cities.

“From India, we plan to have 16 participants this year to the World Skills Competition,” says Mr. Kharbanda. The World Skills Competition is held once in two years and it covers nearly 50 types of skills, including team events. Developed countries give importance to skill development and the candidates from India compete with those from these countries.

An year to prepare

They need at least a year to prepare for the competition and gain confidence and excellence in the chosen field.

The National Skill Development Corporation plans to organise regional-level events for the next edition. N. Priyadarshan from the Gedee Institute here won the silver medal in the mould-making category at the World Skills Competition held in 2009 in Canada.

“This is an opportunity for India to showcase its skills,” says Akila Shanmugam, Corporate Executive at Gedee Associates.