

# Gurgaon boy gets an invite from the US: A date with President Obama

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ON Inauguration Day in America — the day Barack Obama will be sworn in as the 44th President of the country — one young man from Gurgaon will have a ringside view of history.

Seventeen-year-old Kuber Singh will be among the delegates present to witness Obama assume the office of the presidency. According to tradition, January 20 is kept aside as Inauguration Day. The president takes oath at

noon, and this is followed by a black-tie inaugural ball.

Kuber Singh's mother Aman told *Newsline*: "He was selected to the Global Young Leader's Conference (GYLC) in June, which seeks the participation of students across the world. Soon, he received an invitation to attend the Presidential Inauguration and the Presidential Youth Leadership Conference (PYLC)."

The Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC), an independent educational organisation with several members of the US senate and House of Rep-

resentatives on its advisory board, organises these events.

Kuber said the GYLC programme was a tremendous exposure to foreign mores and that the inauguration will be his special chance to represent India at a global forum. His father G B Singh said: "Only a few were selected from those who attended the programme in July."

The family is still not sure how Kuber was selected for the initial programme. "We thought the invite was a hoax since no one at school knew about it," Kuber said. "They must have checked my profile on

the Net. I had applied to write the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). They must have also called up to know about my school performance."

Kuber is a student of the IB (International Baccalaureate) programme at the GD Goenka World School. An avid golfer and debater, he participated in interschool debates till class XII. While the GYLC programme sought the participation of over 300 students worldwide, only a select few from that team will keep Kuber company on Inauguration Day next January. Kuber said: "We will meet US

senators and there will be a leadership conference. We may even meet the President. There is of course the inaugural function."

The invitation says students will witness the Inaugural Parade and meet historians, political experts and leading political figures of the United States. The delegates will also be "honoured as distinguished young leaders and scholars, and will participate in events commemorating the inauguration to gain an insight into the electoral process of the United States", the invite mentions.



**Kuber is the only Indian among 50 students picked from Asia. Photo by Manoj Kumar**