

IT quiz a breeze for students



Gokul T. Srinivas (left) and AditthyaRamakrishnan winners of the TCS IT Wiz inter school quiz with N. Chandrasekaran, CEO and managing director, TCS and quiz master GiriBalasubramaniam (right) in Chennai on Saturday. Photo: R. Ravindran

So what did Steve Jobs do to publicly demonstrate his preference for touch screen devices? Well, he wore turtle necks to show his contempt for buttons. For many, this proved to be a googly at the national finals of TCS IT Wiz inter-school quiz, here on Saturday, in which 24 school students battled it out. “I apologise if these children gave you a reality check,” quipped quiz master GiriBalasubramaniam, even as many, after witnessing tense rounds of questions on browsers, smart phones, software applications and gadgets walked out saying “Thank god, we were born much after these kids.”

The world of innovation, software and technology is an easy walkthrough for children and the quiz was yet another instance that demonstrated this fact. Teams from Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Jamshedpur, Lucknow, Chennai, Pune, Bhubaneshwar, Kochi, Hyderabad and Delhi had made it to the finals from among the 14,700 children who had participated. And even as the teams competed in being the first to identify acronyms, recent inventions, gaming techniques and business logos, the team from SBOA School and Junior College, Chennai comprising GokulT.Srinivas and AditthyaRamakrishnan stayed calm, consistently retaining their lead round after round to emerge as the winners.

The participants knew about Brahmos — the supersonic cruise missile developed by India and Russia and named after Brahmaputra and Moshva rivers and the story of how the Pope, using a tablet, lit the ‘World's Biggest Christmas Tree’ recently from his home. And when asked who

lives at 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, CA – pat came the answer 'Facebook'. And for the questions they did not know the answer to – for instance, the significance of a board with '0 73' and '1 00' arranged vertically, there was another young audience member, Vishnu from BalaVidyaMandir, who recalled the 1976 Montreal Olympics when Nadia Comaneci became the first person to score a perfect 10 in a gymnastics routine, and the score board, failing to show 10, displayed 1.

By the end of the fast-paced event, the quiz master's comment that it was a “display of a young nation that can make their parents insecure” captured what was on everyone's mind. With a view to spicing up the event and also testing the consistency of the participants, the qualifying teams had to start afresh in the final round with no scores getting carried over. The teams from Bangalore and Lucknow were adjudged runners-up, after a tough battle of questions. N. Chandrasekaran, CEO and managing director, TCS, distributed prizes to the winners.