

A quiz buzzing with knowledge

The Chennai edition of 'TCS IT Wiz quiz 2011' draws over 1,500 participants

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: They scored a bull's-eye with Mark Zuckerberg, who kept the Facebook logo in blue as he is said to be colour-blind; they took just nano seconds to identify Shigeru Miyamoto the Japanese creator of the character Mario – the Godfather of gaming – and they could even value-add to exactly what it was that prompted Walt Disney to become Hewlett-Packard's first customer.

Students who participated in the finals of the Chennai edition of "TCS IT Wiz 2011" quiz contest had the right answer to virtually every toughie thrown at them. And if at all there was an aberration to this, not once did a question defy the equally impressive knowledge domain of the students in the audience.

And, at the end of a pulsating 45 minutes of high-calibre quizzing featuring six finalist teams, Adithya R. and Gokul T.S. from the SBOA School and Junior College were crowned champions, winning a Galaxy tablet each and the chance for more glory when they represent Chennai in the national finals slated for December.

Vishal Katariya and Rishi Rajasekaran from the Bala Vidya Mandir ran them close to finish runners-up.



IT Secretary Santhosh Babu hands over the 'TCS IT Wiz 2011' quiz winners trophy to Adithya R. and Gokul T.S. in Chennai on Thursday. Head of TCS' Chennai operations Ravi Viswanathan and runners-up Vishal Katariya and Rishi Rajasekaran are in the picture. — PHOTO: R. RAGU

Such was the quality of the contest that all six teams that made it to the finals added to Chennai's growing reputation as a quizzing hotspot.

Quiz master Giri Balasubramanian noted, quite perceptively, that a question such as the one on the Golden Shield Project – or the great Firewall of China – was deemed worthy of a national semifinal; yet it was effortlessly cracked in Chennai.

Or for that matter, the 55 points that the runner-up eventually ended up with as against the 65 points of the champions, would have taken the team to the top of the table in at least half a dozen cities where regional editions of TCS IT Wiz are being rolled out, he said.

The other amazing aspect of the quiz has been this open source mindset to knowledge-sharing among con-

testants with many participants from city schools exchanging notes with peers in other cities in the build-up to the finals.

Presenting the trophy to the winners, Santhosh Babu, IT Secretary, said he was overjoyed at the level of knowledge about Information Technology among Generation Next.

Next, Ravi Viswanathan, president, Growth Markets and Head of

TCS' Chennai operations, presented prizes – travel bags, headphones, USB pen drives and laser pointers – to other participants in the finals.

The Chennai edition of TCS IT Wiz drew over 1,500 participants from 116 schools. Regional rounds are also slated at 11 other cities with the grand finale – the national finals – scheduled in Chennai in December.