

Whiz kids

QUIZZING THEIR WAY TO SUCCESS

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

Did you know that the term 'Google' was coined by a nine-year-old as a result of a spelling mistake? What is the connection between the Devil's number 666 and Apple? All these questions and more were answered on a day of high-voltage excitement as school students from all over Coimbatore gathered at the Corporation Kalaiararam in R.S. Puram, to battle it out at the annual 'TCS IT Wiz 2011'. The quiz competition, considered to be one of the most prestigious and closely-contested event every year, lived up to its billing with a nerve-wracking finale that had the entire auditorium stunned at the quality of quizzing on show. Six teams were short-listed to take the stage in the regional finals, the winner of which would compete in the National finals — along with 11 other city winners from all over India. Stanes - CBE, Angappa CBSE Senior Sec. School and few other schools, fought it out in a memorable encounter overseen by quizmaster Giri, who admitted to being highly impressed by the intensity of the contest. The five IT-based rounds tested the teams on various facets of the tech scenario today - eminent personalities, brands, multimedia and internet, with a suitable dash of pop culture trivia thrown in — inspired by movies, books and music. The two final buzzer rounds had teams subjected to negative marking for wrong answers and there were agonizing moments as the lead fluctuated. Finally, Laidlaw emerged supreme as Harihara Sudhan. M and Manikandan held their nerve to clinch the contest by 5 points, despite a last-ditch, spirited effort by Nandha Kishore and Vidhya Prasad of G.D., who had to be content with the runners-up trophy. "We are both commerce students, but we were determined to crack this IT quiz with a lot of hours spent online and reading up on industry current affairs. The National finals can't come quickly enough!" says Harihara, from the winning team. Sanjay Jayavarthanavelu, Managing Director, LMW, distributed prizes to all the finalists, along with V. Ramaswamy, Global Head — ION, TCS, while the enthusiastic audience cheered the winners and gave the other gallant teams a spirited round of applause. As Sanjay rightly put it, "When I walked in, I could hear Freddy Mercury from the speakers singing, 'We will rock you', and boy, has Coimbatore rocked!"