Nerve and knowledge at play at TCS IT Wiz quiz finale

What's kapila fish? Or, what is RJ in the computing world?

Our Bureau
Chennai, Dec. 8

In the world of 'public cloud,' what does SaaS mean? The answer (Software as a Service) came at once from Prempal Singh of New Era Public School, Delhi, with his hand on the buzzer in a split second. The reply from the Class 12 student on the tie-breaker was for the last question at this year's TCS IT Wiz 2012, organised by Tata Consultancy Services.

The entire hall was enveloped in deafening silence for a fraction of a second, before it reverberated with applause for the winning team that pipped Loyola School from Jamshedpur to take the crown. With scores tied at 35, it was a tight finish between New Era Public School and Loyola, which represented the Kolkata region.

In an exciting, entertaining and engaging battle of nerves in the finals, which saw eight teams from all over India battling for the top honours, the Delhi team with Singh and his partner Arnav Sharma carried the glory home.

"It was a phenomenal experience, terrific and mind blowing performance from the

Well-deserved victory: N. Chandrasekaran, Managing Director and CEO, TCS and Quiz Master Giri Balasubramaniam with winners Arnav Sharma and Prempal Singh of New Era Public School, Delhi, at the finals in Chennai on Saturday. — Bijoy Ghosh

teams. The amount of pressure these people handle is phenomenal. It was like a Twenty-Twenty cricket game and it was always important to keep cool," said N. Chandrasekaran, Managing Director and CEO of TCS, giving away the prizes.

In fact, the quiz's first question through a video presentation asked by Chandrasekaran was a 'googly.' He wanted to know what does RJ stand for in the world of computing? 'Registered Jack' came the answer from a team – leaving the audience dumbstruck.

Replies to some of the questions amazed the packed ball room at Taj Coromandel. For instance, a picture of a bright coloured fish on the screen was rightly identified as a genetically modified Kapila fish that glows in the night and behaves as a night lamp.

The National Finals, conducted by quiz master Giri Balasubramaniam from quiz and knowledge services company GreyCaps, comprised 14 winning teams from across India. It concluded a journey with 17,478 school students competing for regional titles across 14 cities from 113 locations.

This year, TCS IT Wiz expanded its geographical footprint by adding two more cities – Nagpur and Indore – thus making it a 14-city edition that reached over seven lakh students from 3,500 schools across the country.

The winners and runners-up received prizes from Chandrasekaran. The national champions walked away with an Xbox 360 Kinect Bundle, iPod Touch and an iPod docking station each. The runners-up received an iPad and solar keyboard folio. They also received external hard drives, USB pen drives, FastTrack watches and coffee mugs from TCS.

The other six finalists were from Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Coimbatore and Mumbai.
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