

GKD students to represent Coimbatore in national-level TCS IT quiz

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COIMBATORE: It was a 90-minute that just flew by as the eyes and the mind were focussed more on the questions, answers and the score card and not the minute and hour hands. At the end of it, around 2 p.m., Adithyan S. and Anto Felix Sotvik of GKD Matriculation Higher Secondary School had done the city proud.

The boys will represent Coimbatore in the national level finals of the TCS IT Wiz Quiz competition, having emerged winners at the city-level finals and winning prizes that include Galaxy Note.

The finals saw students of Angappa CBSE Senior Secondary School, Suguna PIP School, Yuva Bharathi Public School, St. Judes Public School, Coonoor, GKD Matriculation Higher Secondary School and SBOA Matriculation Higher Secondary School battle it out.

Angry Nerds, Grand Theft Answers, @ TCS, Max Pain and Total Kombar were the rounds, named innovatively after TCS had partnered with a Bangalore-based IT firm for the quiz.

The first was a non-buzzer round, which saw the teams except one open the scores.



WAY TO GO: Adithyan S. and Anto Felix Sotvik of GKD Matriculation Higher Secondary School receiving the first prize from Collector M. Karunakaran at the TCS IT Wiz Quiz, held in the city on Friday. K. Ganesan (right), vice-president, Human Resources, is also in the picture. - PHOTO: S. SIVA SARAVANAN.

The second, a buzzer round, upped the competitive spirit in the participants and enthusiasm in the audience, as the teams had the freedom to answer question that were directed at others. They, however, had to contend with negative marks.

As the quiz progressed to the third round, which was about Tata Consultancy Services, the scores served as an indication of what was to come.

SBOA, Yuva Bharathi and

St. Judes shared the top slot with 30 points each and GKD was next with 20 points.

To cool the tempers - a few teams had earned negative points and slid down the ranking table by then - Giri Balasubramaniam, the affable quiz master, targeted his questions at the audience.

His questions - 'What was fembot', 'Who owns the hotel 'Tracks and Records' with an online reservation facility', 'Which country auctioned its code in URL (as in .in for In-

dia) to make windfall profits', etc. - made the audience shift gear from being passive to active participants.

In the fourth round, Max Pain, GDK team's Adithyan S. failed to identify Maria Sharapova, whose photograph was one among the clues for the answer 'Canon'.

A few tactical errors by the St. Judes team, last-minute error by SBOA and right answers by Adithyan and teammate saw GKD move from the fourth to the first position. And in this progress, quiz-master Balasubramaniam ensured that the boy did not dump Maria Sharapova.

"He knows all the answers, including some tough ones, but does not know Sharapova. Way for you, boys, to progress and win prizes in life," he quipped.

Athishay Kiran and Riya Daniel of Yuva Bharathi won the second prize and Krishna R. and Surya Narayanan P. of SBOA won the third prize.

Collector M. Karunakaran, who gave away the prizes, said the contagious enthusiasm made him feel younger by several years.

K. Ganesan, vice president, Human Resources, TCS, said the level of participation in Coimbatore made him feel that his job as a talent hunter had been made easy.