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MEET The students who won the regional final of the TCS IT Wiz

This year, the TCS IT Wiz attracted the highest turnout in all of India — 900 teams from schools all over the city battling for the title. One of the biggest inter-school competitions in the country, the 14th edition of the quiz saw Abhinav Sridharan and Bharath Sivakumar of P.S. Senior Secondary School walk away with the prizes. Siddharth and Pooja A.J. from SRDF Vivekananda Vidyalaya school were the runners-up.

The quiz, which takes part in 14 cities, focuses on Information Technology across various sectors and areas where it has made an impact — education, entertainment,

books, multimedia, music, movies, internet, banking, advertising, sports, gaming, social networking and more. “We had prelims and finals that lasted 45 minutes. For today’s twitter generation, 45 minutes is like four hours and the challenge was to prepare a quiz that would engage them and provide them with

some knowledge for their future,” says Giri Balasubramaniam, the quizmaster. “So the quiz is not just about the content but how you present it. You have to have animation and ask generation-relevant questions. So the quiz has been ‘gamified’.”

Abhinav and Bharath are overwhelmed by their per-

formance. Both students of Standard 12, they narrowly missed a chance at the regional finals last year. “I’ve been preparing for the quiz for two years now. I read newspapers everyday, look through blogs and questions from previous years. This year, it was rather lively and I guess we were lucky,” says



WINNING SMILE Abhinav and Bharath with the prize

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Bharath, while Abhinav adds "The questions last year were equally tough but it was my first time and I didn't know what to expect. This year, however, I worked hard and it has paid off."

The duo constantly discussed questions, tried to cover as many areas as possible. And this time, they went on stage and scored 60 points in the four rounds. "The first round was just a pass round. The rest were buzzer rounds. The questions were quite tough. But with some preparation one could answer them," says Bharath. Abhinav remembers being nervous before the prelims but once on stage, he says it was about having fun. "We didn't really expect to win and played tactically, weighed the pros and cons before each question and in many cases, went with our instinct. We made some clever guesses which turned out to be right."

Abhinav and Bharath each won an iPad and the runners-

up got a Galaxy tablet. Ask both winners how they feel and they say that it's not sunk in yet. "Everybody was congratulating me but I couldn't really think too much. I'm still wondering if it was a dream," laughs Bharath and Abhinav agrees. "I love quizz-

ing and I've made a lot of friends because of it. The winner of the Hyderabad edition is a close friend of mine and he helped me a lot with my preparation," he says. The duo will represent the city in the finals for the title of Smart Tech Wizard 2013.

Quizmaster Giri feels that such events are an important learning tool for students. "Now, the challenge is to take these quizzes beyond urban areas and reach out to students everywhere," he says.

ANUSHA
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