Quiz on technology sees massive response

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Adnan Azmat and Shadan Kalam of Rajendra Vidyalaya, Jamshedpur couldn't have asked for a more dramatic finale at an IT quiz held recently at Kala Mandir.

The duo, perhaps, would not have emerged as the regional champion of the pan India inter- school quiz contest had they not taken the risk to press the buzzer repeatedly despite giving wrong answers repeatedly. With a score of zero at the beginning of the final round, the students put up a brilliant performance in the final leg, defeating five other schools namely, M P Birla Foundation, WWA Cossipore English School, Loyola School, Jamshedpur, Delhi Public School Ruby Park and South City International School. The winning team will now represent the city at the national finals of the contest to be held in Mumbai. Quiz master, Giri Balasubramanium aka Pickbrain described the victory as a rare incidence.

Srijan Banerjee and Xersex Rahman of M P Birla Foundation became the runners-up team. that lagged behind the champions at a gap of 50 points!

"We've travelled around 245 kilometres by train from Jamshedpur to Kolkata to take part in the quiz contest. When our teachers nominated us with high expectations we wanted to bring laurels for the school. And we did so. We were very nervous when several answers in the fourth round, went wrong. But we thought it's better to keep on trying rather than giving up hope. The rest was all about luck," Shadan Kalam said.

Debashis Sen, IAS and principal secretary to the state urban development department and chairman of West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation, felicitated the winners who bagged trophies, medals and iPads. The finalist teams also got an array of prizes, including electronic gadgets.

Thousands of students of classes VIII to XII from different city schools had, earlier, registered their names for the contest and post the written preliminary round six teams made it to the finals of the Kolkata chapter.

The finals of the contest in the city comprised five rounds — 'Computing Everywhere', Context Rich Systems', 'TCS', 'Invisible Analytics' and 'Internet of Things'. The students showed their acquaintance with modern technology as the questions of the contest revolved around areas like education, entertainment, multimedia, e-books, banking, gaming and social networking, where IT has made an impact.

Justin Hu of South City International School said that what set the contest apart from others held in the city was that it exposed the participants to the emerging fields of Information Technology such as cloud computing, telecom biometrics and robotics etc. "The contest was not limited to any particular area as it tested how much we're keeping pace with the era of the Internet, said Hu.

Srijan Banerjee of M P Birla Foundation called the contest an informative session on cutting edge technology for the participants.

The quiz contest that had kicked off in 1999 is going to make its debut in Visakhapatnam this year. It is also held across 15 other cities including Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Lucknow and Pune among others.