● **SP Kirthana**

Coimbatore has proved its merit again as two students from St Judes School, Kotagiri bagged runners-up prize at the National Finals of TCS IT Wiz 2018, India's biggest inter-school IT Quiz competition, which was held at the Vivanta President in Mumbai recently. The runners-up, Yazhini Shanmugam and Harsh Agarwal, received e-vouchers worth ₹1,00,000 for digital shopping, silver medals and a trophy for scoring 125 points in the finale. "We were practicing for more than one year for this contest. Prakash, our computer master mentored us for the quiz. We were the only team to enter the semifinals representing the state," said Harsh, class 10 student.

TCS IT Wiz this year witnessed participation of over 13,000 students of class 8 to class 12 from more than 1,200 schools across 12 cities. After qualifying their preliminary level examination, 12 teams from each of these 12 locations contested their way through two rounds of semifinals consisting of six teams each to reach the National Finals. Giri Balasubramaniam widely known as 'Pickbrain' was the quizmaster. "The quiz was based on a professional circuit buzzer. We had five rounds based on the TCS BUSINESS 4.0 Framework which included mass personalisation, leveraging ecosystems, creating exponential value and embracing risk besides an exclusive round on TCS," said Yazhini, a class 12 student.

St Judes School has been participating in the quiz for last 13 years and won the championship for the fourth time. "Our school is a residential school and so we practice regularly for two hours in the morning and evening. We learnt different parts of the subject and shared the knowledge with each other," she said. The duo has won district level IT quiz held at Nilgiris in June last year.

Harsh wants to be a technology-based entrepreneur while Yazhini is interested in space science. "It is a moment of pride when we got an opportunity to interact with Rajesh Gopinath, CEO and MD of Tata Consultancy Services. It feels good to get such an exposure," said Harsh. "I am passionate about astrophysics. My teachers and friends motivated me to perform well in the competition," said Yazhini.

Yazhini Shanmugam and Harsh Agarwal bagged runners-up prize at the National Finals of TCS IT Wiz 2018

City students unlock new success level at IT quiz