



Quiz master Giri Balasubramaniam.

## Picking Giri's brains

**D**ressed in a maroon T-shirt and a fawn overcoat, ace-quizmaster Giri Balasubramaniam aka 'Pickbrain', gave *Metrolife* an unique opportunity to delve into his elegant mind minutes after conducting the gruelling Regional Final Round of 'The Wimbledon of Indian Business Quizzing', better known as Tata Crucible Business Quiz. Known for his distinctive style of quizzing and sense of humour, Giri, who quit a division of Walt Disney India to pursue quizzing, spoke on topics ranging from the preparation that goes into quizzing to the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup.

### **On the preparation that goes into conducting a quiz...**

A lot of preparation goes into it. There are two primary things - research and anchor. Unless the research is solid, you cannot pull it off as an anchor. No

chor you are, if your questions are not right, you are going to fall flat when it counts the most. I've been totally off ice-creams since last June. I listen to music to keep myself relaxed because one needs to be calm on such occasions. Amitabh Bachchan is a fabulous anchor because he plays the role of a facilitator.

### **Ideal quiz partner and dream quiz master...**

My ideal quiz partner would be my wife, or even my father. They are two people who are avid readers. My ideal quizmaster is Chris Tarrant.

### **On conducting shows abroad...**

The experience varies from place to place. The drive to win is very high in Asian countries. The preparation that goes into it is intense. The teams that won (at the Tata Crucible Business Quiz regional Final Round) have

months. However, in countries like the United States, it is more about fun.

### **On the ICC Cricket World Cup...**

I think it is the New Zealand team that will win the cup. I used to play a lot of cricket even though I look like a wrestler (chuckles). The Indian team, I think, is running on a billion energies rather than anything else. There has to be an individual genius performance from Tendulkar, Dravid or Kumble for the team to win.

### **An advice to quiz contestants, young or experienced...**

Trust your abilities. Believe in God, I believe in destiny. Everyone has time and their time will come. If you try to reach the destination sooner than you can, chances are that you'll lose your way.