

They sure were well-up on IT

Interesting rounds and clever questions marked this round of the TCS quiz.

JOHN L. PAUL

The two-member team from St Thomas Residential School, Thiruvananthapuram, showcased their command of IT (information technology) and related fields and walked away with the first prize in the Kerala regional round of the Tata Consultancy Services IT Wiz 2007.

They scored 80 points, followed by Pallikoodam, Kottayam, with 65 points and Loyola School, Thiruvananthapuram with 45 points. Over 800 students of 75 schools from across the State participated in the written preliminary round.

From them were chosen the three teams, apart from pairs from Bhavan's Adarsha Vidyalaya (who won 40 points), Vidyodaya School (25) and MES School (10), all Kochi schools. Interestingly, there was not a single girl among the 12 finalists. The event was held at the Toc-H Public School Auditorium. Kerala students were certainly out to prove a point at the TCS quiz. Acing every round with ease they proved that they were truly in tune with technology today.

Being a quiz on a specialised field, this required hard work and extensive preparation.

Winners Sunil Thomas and Joji Augustine, XII-standard students of St Thomas, said, "Five years of preparation for the quiz bore fruit."

The team members were part of winning teams in many IT-related quizzing events. And the prizes were good. They were given a laptop each, while the first runner up



WHIZ KIDS: Rich haul of prizes.

got iPods.

Members of the audience from the Vidyodaya School won the prize for the best sporting team. In sporting spirit, they continuously and enthusiastically cheered on not just their team but also the other teams. Those from Pallikoodam came equipped with placards to cheer their team. Their jubilation made the quizmaster wonder if they had already won the quiz.

Jubilant cheers

The annual TCS quiz strives to enhance IT awareness among students. This is the second time that Kochi is playing host to the region-

al round, being held at 10 other cities in the country too. The quiz tested the teams on topics like the internet, unique websites, IT buzzwords and acronyms, IT personalities, advertisements of IT and communication companies, software products, companies, brands and the history of IT.

The effect that IT had on education, entertainment, books, multimedia, banking and sports too was covered.

Handing over prizes, N Ramachandran, Chairman of the Cochin Port Trust said that witnessing the quiz made him more certain of India's future as an IT superpower. "Even at this age, it was an inspiration to me," he said.

The quizmaster, Giri Pickbrain, opined that the TCS quiz's growth from Bangalore to 11 Indian cities explains the growth of IT in India.

"Kerala continues to impress me. Out here, students are by nature well-read about IT, science and have good command of general knowledge. After all, quizzing is not just meant to test their knowledge; it also exposes students to the world outside their studies and books and increases their confidence," he said.

This year, the TCS introduced a new set of rounds. In 'XY indicator', teams were given a storyboard with two variables X and Y, which they had to crack based on the story narrated to them. In 'Experi-

ence certainty', teams were to choose a letter of their choice from the 19 alphabets in a grid with the name of the title, based on which questions would be posed. A bonus of five points for being certain and a deduction in case their belief was wrong. Also featured was a question by S. Ramadorai, CEO and MD of TCS.

The round '@TCS' hovered around facts, happenings, events and news about the company. All questions were based on the website www.tcs.com. In 'Dual core', the teams were asked a set of direct questions and a formula. They would have to crack the questions, apply the formula and crack the answer hidden in the formula.