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Battle of nerves



Students of KIIT, Bhubaneswar after winning the Tata Crucible Campus Quiz regional finals.
Picture by Anindya Shankar Ray

Kolkata Thursday, February 28, 2008: KIIT, Bhubaneswar won the regional finals of the Tata Crucible Campus Quiz held at Taj Bengal on February 25. The event saw major colleges in the city locking horns with ace quizmaster Giri Balasubramanyam holding fort. The preliminary rounds had almost 300 teams participating in the event. This year the contest was extended to four new cities – Lucknow, Indore, Kochi and Chandigarh. A new round, Nano Words, was also introduced where the students were given a couple of words as clues to arrive at the final answer.

Sixteen teams including IIM, Calcutta, Calcutta Institute of Engineering and Management, NIMS, IIFT, Asutosh College, St Xavier's College, IEM and Praxes Business School were selected from the prelims, of which six made it to the final round.

Two teams from IIM, Calcutta made it to the finals through a wild card entry. They were joined by winners KIIT-Bhubaneswar, IISWBM, BIT Mesra, and yet another team from IIM, Calcutta. IISWBM emerged the runners up after a tiebreaker with IIM.

Manjit and Nishit of KIT, Bhubaneswar were overwhelmed with their success. "It's unbelievable. We never imagined we could beat the three IIM teams. Chief guest Viresh Oberoi, managing director of MJunction Services Limited, gave away the cash prize of Rs 60,000 to the winners. The runners-up got a cash prize of Rs 30,000. The Calcutta champions will now compete with the regional winners of 12 cities at the national finals scheduled to be held in Mumbai on March 17. The national champions will get a cash prize worth Rs 2 lakhs.

"Calcutta is one of the few cities that participates in the quiz for the love of knowledge and not just for money," said quizmaster Balasubramanyam.

Nivedita Jaiswal