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Nagpur: Across India, it is known as one of the toughest college quizzes. Therefore, when the Tata Crucible Campus Quiz decided to open its 2010 edition in a brand new city, people were curious. That the city happened to be Nagpur was a blessing. The city clearly did not disappoint the quizmaster, as he said in an interview later, it vindicated his stand!

"My first reaction is 'I am surprised', and my second reaction is 'I am pleasantly surprised'! Just some time ago, we sat down in Mumbai to think of new cities where we could spread the quiz. I had suggested Nagpur and Manipal, because I felt that these two cities are good educational locations. And I was proven right! The response was huge and the quality was good. I am thoroughly pleased," said quizmaster Giri Balasubramaniam.

The response was indeed heartening. The audience ap-

plauded every good question, and the quiz turned out to be a well fought one, rather than a lopsided win. The team from Institute of Management and Technology (IMT), Nagpur, edged out the team from Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT), and that too at the last question! This, according to Balasubramaniam, was due to the lack of quizzing in the city.

TEST OF KNOWLEDGE

"Keeping in tune with the T20 theme of the quiz, there was a rule that teams could use a 'powerplay' for a direct question, for which they get double marks if they answer correctly. VNIT team knew the answers to two questions, and answered them correctly, but did not use their powerplay. I immediately told them that the points they had lost out on would matter a lot in a city like Kolkata or Bangalore. In the end, it did affect them," he explained.

Asked about how quizzing has changed over the years, Giri said that it has become all about questions that make people think. "There has been a shift from recall-based quizzing to quizzing based on application of mind. Today, the best quizzier is not who reads the most number of books or visits libraries most often, but one who uses resources well. This has become possible because information today is far more easily available," Giri said.

As an example, he cited a question he asked in the quiz. There were pictures of Dennis Lillee, Steve Waugh, Mammen Mappillai and an advertisement of Maruti, and the contestants had to connect them. The answer was MRF, because Lillee founded the MRF Pace Academy, Mappillai is the chairman of MRF, Steve Waugh used the logo of MRF on his bats and Maruti's preferred tyre brand is MRF!

This edition of the quiz has indeed started on a high note.