



Prizes galore at quiz

By Ramesh Mathew
Staff Reporter

There were many prizes up for grabs and both participants and members of the audience returned home happy with bags full of prizes as the Federal Bank's IndiaQuiz 2009 (Doha round) was held in front of a large gathering at Doha Cinema on Friday evening.

There were about a hundred pairs as participants and as it is mostly seen in quiz competitions in the Indian community now-a-days, a relatively newer combination emerged successful at the end.

The winning combination of Arun Kumar and Sreenath, who emerged richer by Rs50,000, will travel to the UAE for the finals to be held next month, according to quizmaster Kannu Bakker of UAE-based Vision Tomorrow International.

DPS-MIS teachers Naaz Ha-feeze and Shibant Bhowmik bagged the second prize worth Rs30,000. Shantiniketan teachers Jamal and Nazar took home the Rs20,000 third prize.

The other finalists were Elsykutty James and Kanaka Sathy Nair, Sedesna Sanyal and Shirin Abid Bohra and DPS-MIS students Rakshit Akshay Jha and Soahum Gokhale.

One thing that stood out in the final was the entry of at least three pairs consisting of only teachers in the final six.

Owing to what seemed to be issues beyond the organisers' control, at least two of the six rounds were wholly removed from the competition leg and needless to say, the decision had a bearing on the ultimate outcome of the event.

Questions were relatively alright and answerable but most contestants seemed to have overlooked such "simple" issues and hence missed the targets, sometimes wide off the mark, and on other occasions rather narrowly.



The winners and finalists of the India Quiz with organisers, officials and community leaders.

Of course, in their haste to "answer", some of the finalists had their "answers" even without listening to the questions.

Some in the audience walked away with prizes even with half-answers or virtually "no" answers as

one saw in a question related to the runaway Bollywood hit "Chakde India". Still the quiz anchor was liberal in making the "winner" happy with a prize.

Among the 100 odd pairs, which turned up for the elimination round, only one-tenth scored 50% or above for being considered to be shortlisted for the main competition.

And after filling the five berths for the final, one place had to be decided on a draw of lots owing to the lack of time to conduct a tie-breaker among the three pairs.

Though it had earlier been announced that no entry would be permitted at the venue, the organisers permitted registration until 10 minutes before the event could take off.

India Quiz 2009 (Qatar) chief patron and BPS chairman Dr Mohan Thomas said the institution would consider hosting a similar

annual event every year, with the final being scheduled in Qatar.

He said the school would also explore the possibility of hosting the show at a larger venue in coming years. BPS and Global Auto Spares were the sponsors of the Qatar leg of the event, scheduled to take place in all six GCC States.

Senior community member Hassan Chougule, Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) president K M Varghese and S A M Basheer spoke

Indian embassy charge de affaires Sanjiv Kohli and Dr Syed al-Sulaiman, director of academic affairs at Qatar Aeronautical College, were the chief guests.

Bakker said the next leg of the event would be held in Kuwait in the second week of this month, to be followed by events in Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.