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Science quiz tribute in memory of metallurgy hub head

Mind game from the heart



Students participate at the quiz in Jamshedpur on Tuesday. Picture by Srinivas

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Jamshedpur, Oct. 26: It was a tribute to gladden the heart — and grey cells — of the man it was meant for, had he been alive.

National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML), a wing of CSIR, today hosted its first inter-school science quiz as tribute to its late director, P. Ramachandra Rao, at the Burmamines-based NML Auditorium.

Titled Professor P Ramachandra Rao Memorial Science Quiz, the contest — with 25 participating schools — was held to honour Rao who passed away this January, with his widow Sudha Rao as chief guest. According to NML employees who organised the event, a quiz was befitting, as Rao was

known to have had a special affection for children, their scientific spirit and quest for knowledge.

“Rao loved children and always talked about ways to expand their knowledge. We’ve tried to keep alive his memory with a science quiz for students,” said an organiser.

The first round — an elimination contest — had students between Classes VIII and X from all schools answering a written test, cracking objective type questions and word puzzles. Selected teams — Loyola School, Kerala Samajam Model School, Little Flower School, Tagore Academy and JH Tarapore School — won the first battle of wits.

Then came the tougher posers — the eight-round quiz,

with topics titled alpha numerals, our world your world, connect the disconnected, metals and materials, shining scientists, experiment and excitement, friendly fights and quick buffer.

The three-member teams of the five finalist schools had expected a high benchmark, going by NML’s repute. Rather than rely on rote learning, students had to show a firm grasp on fundamentals and quick reflex to field the bouncers.

After completion of all eight rounds, JH Tarapore trounced its four competitors to emerge toppers, while Little Flower School stood second. Winners bagged a gift hamper worth Rs 3,000 each and those in the runners-up team got hampers worth Rs 2,000 each.