

# Winners take it all, cruise and paperballs

Participants at Cranium 2013 go through an ordeal by fire to come out on top. Six winners will battle it out at sea

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**B**lindfolded and dressed in a saree with kohl smeared on his face and a broom and dustpan in tow, Nikhil Vissa was asked to go up on stage. The audience was ecstatically throwing paper balls at him while heckling him along the long walk from the auditorium's door to the dais. Nikhil was a participant for the Best Manager category at Cranium 2013 — a B-School fest presented by BANGALORE MIRROR and organised by CMS Business School, Jain University.

The final round of the Best Manager event culminated in participants being interviewed on stage by a panel of judges who worked hard to make the contestants feel as uncomfortable as possible. Under these circumstances, all of the five participants had to prove that they had the patience, will power, knowledge and confidence to become the winner.

As the curtains came down on the second day of the fest's prelims, participants were required to report at 6 am and begin a really long day. Each contestant had to go through scores of presentations to prove that they were the best. A special round was organised for



The participants took all the challenges in good spirit

the Best Manager category, called Mock Media, where they had to give a mock press conference on a fictional topic. Here too, the audience, pretending to be aggrieved customers, were shouting their lungs out and throwing paper balls at the participant.

Alumnus Rishi Bajaj who was judging the participants based on their stress acceptance levels, was taken aback at their determination. "I came here half expecting some of the contestants to actually break down and cry. But it was really good to see that they stood their ground and made their point. Most of

them were lacking in terms of knowledge on the subject but made up for it by thinking on their feet," he said.

After a quick lunch, people thronged the main auditorium in great anticipation for the final round of the business quiz. The round was hosted by professional quizmaster Lloyd Saldanha, who, 10 years ago, was the youngest quizmaster in India. Lloyd set forth a volley of mixed-bag rounds ranging from general awareness to those requiring quick thought.

Team Albanus comprising of Krishna Mandava and Mohammed

## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

**Paromita Bannerjee and Roshan John** from XIME, **Sharadh R and Ankur Jain** from Indus Business Academy, **Hisham Mohammed and Sumit Singh** from Jain College, Jayanagar — will be battling it out on the cruise ship en route to Singapore, Phuket and Langkawi for the grand finale. They will be given case studies, which they will have to analyse and present upon during the voyage. They will be judged by professionals from the industry and two will be declared winners. Over 110 people, including the winners, will be aboard the cruise ship when it sets sail on November 15. After an eventful trip, they will be back on November 19.

Avaish from Xavier Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship (XIME) bagged the first position and walked with gift vouchers worth Rs 40,000 each. "We both have been taking part in quiz competitions for seven years now and were sure from the start that we would make it," said Krishna. Lloyd on the other hand was very happy to have been a part of the fest. "Fests are organised to have fun and I had a great time here. It's also fun to host a quiz show in a small place and the students were very participative here," he said.

The Best Manager finale was the last event of the day and the participants had half an hour to prepare for it. Since this round was a stressful one, they prepared accordingly by duck-walking, squatting and running up and down the stairs. After they were physically stressed out, the volunteers took them away for their 'make-up' session.

A while later, one of the participants, Paresh, walked down the aisle to the stage blindfolded and carrying a ladies' handbag. He was then made to stand on a two-foot tall table on-stage and while his blindfold was being slowly removed, a bright spotlight was aimed at him. The judges followed it up by ripping his answers from the form he had filled out earlier. "The idea of putting them through all this stress is to see how well they can do under such pressures and crack an interview successfully," said Manjushri Shenoy, event head, Best Manager.

But the participants were not putting themselves in such a position for nothing. Instead, taking it all in a good spirit, they were vying for the coveted prize — a five-day-four-night voyage on a cruise that would sail from Singapore to Phuket to Langkawi. And their efforts proved fruitful as the six people from a total of 30 participants were chosen for the much-awaited trip.