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## Kaleidoscope of talent,

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Talent and creativity ruled the stage at Kalakosh, an inter-school competition hosted by South Point High School under the aegis of the MP Birla Smarak Kosh. Events such as Perceptum (essay-writing competition), Chessmate, Satrangi (eastern music competition), Masquerade (one-act play), Cerebrate (debate) and Q-Point (quiz competition) provided a platform for participants to showcase their talent in multiple genres



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Twenty-four participants from eight schools crooned their way into the hearts of the judges and the audience in a musical battle over three rounds. From rustic folk to melodious Rabindrasangeet and evergreen Bollywood beats, the auditorium reverberated with the musical prowess of the students, making the job difficult for judges Jayati Chakraborty and



Swapan Basu. Sanchari Sengupta, Class XII, South Point High School, was adjudged the Best Singer and her team (picture above) lifted the champions' trophy. "It feels great to have won the title again after two years," Sanchari gushed. BDM International finished second and Mahadevi Birla World Academy took home the third prize.





Shonjog Shutro, the one-act play staged by Gokhale Memorial Girls' School (picture above right) for Masquerade, portrayed how different cultures, beliefs, food habits and more co-exist peacefully. The interesting theme and immaculate acting fetched the Gokhale girls the first position in the competition. Around 10 schools took part in the event which was judged by actor Koushik Sen, filmmaker and theatre personality Ashoke Viswanathan and actor Bobby Chakraborty. Mahadevi Birla World Academy bagged the second position with their tribute to Dhrubajyoti Ghosh, the man behind the East Calcutta Wetlands project. South Point High School grabbed the third position with Is Something

Rotting there?, a comical take on the political system (picture above left). "It is a wonderful experience to perform in front of the revered judges. Our director and mentor, Koushik Bose, and the whole team worked very hard for the play to shape up and we were pleased with our performance," said Pubarun Basu, Class XII, a member of the cast. Lakshmipat Singhania Academy bagged the Judges' Choice Award for their play themed on the rustic flavours of Rajasthani folklore. Dhrubaa Roy Chowdhury, Class XI, St Paul's Mission School, bagged the Best Actor (female) and Yuvraj Surana, Class X, MC Kejriwal Vidyapeeth, clinched the Best Actor (male) award.



Rigorous sessions of tricky questions and answers made for an interesting Q-Point. Quizmaster Charanpreet Singh made the eight teams wrack their brains with questions that had the answers hidden in them. MP Birla Foundation Higher Secondary School (picture above) won the first prize while The Heritage School

and Lakshmipat Singhania Academy finished second and third, respectively. Principal Rupa Sanyal Bhattacharjee said: "Over the past fortnight, we have witnessed some brilliant minds at work, some logical and analytical, others creative. There have been tears - tears of joy as well as disappointment. But we are happy that there has been a harmonious exchange of ideas."

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Logic, reasoning and analytical skills were put to test during Cerebrate, the debate moderated by Kunal Sarkar of Calcutta Debating Circle and judged by Pradeep Gooptu and S. Ramalingam of Calcutta Debating Circle. The motion: "Examination is the right way to judge learning outcomes". A topic close to their heart, the six teams engaged in a war of words to make their

points. The girls from Mahadevi Birla World Academy (picture above) clinched the first position. Lakshmipat Singhania Academy and La Martinier for Girls were declared joint second. Sai Snigdha Nittala from Mahadevi Birla World Academy was declared the Best Speaker.



Around 152 students from different schools, representing 38 teams, put forward their best moves on the chequered board during Chessmate, the inter-school FIDE rapid rating team chess championship, hosted by South Point High School in association with The Telegraph Young Metro. Played over six rounds and in accordance with the Swiss league, the championship had 68 rated players. DPS North Kolkata bagged the championship trophy in the boys' category. Lakshmipat Singhania Academy was declared the champion in the girls' category. "I have been playing chess for the past seven years. This is the first time I have won an individual award at Chessmate and I consider myself lucky to have won against so many strong participants," said Arpan Das, Class IX, DPS North Kolkata, who received the prize for Board 4 in the boys' category. "Chess was introduced to us as a subject when I was in Class land I fell in love with it," said Juhi Parekh, Class VIII, Lakshmipat Singhania Academy, who won the prize for Board 1 in the girls' category.