

NTS girl wins top honours in elocution contest

The Hindu in association with Shriram Panorama Hills holds the event

Staff Reporter

VISAKHAPATNAM: Student of Nalanda Talent School V. Likhitha Sree bagged the first prize in the elocution competition conducted by *The Hindu*, in association with Shriram Panorama Hills, here on Friday. Fifteen students from various schools participated in the final round of the competition held at VUDA Children's theatre, as part of the I-Day celebrations.

While second prize was bagged by Zohra Salih of Navy Children School and third prize was won by M. Ankita of Little Angels School- MVP Colony.

The first prize winner was given a cash prize of Rs. 2,500 and a certificate, while the second and third prize winners received cash prize of Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,000 respectively. All the other finalists and participants in the preliminary round were given participation certificates.

Fifteen students were selected for the finals after a preliminary round, held earlier in the week, where over 120 students contested from about 60 schools.

The topic for the finals was: 'Six decades of independence - is India heading in the right direction'; and the participants were given four minutes each to express their views.

Giving away the top honours, Commissioner of Police J. Poornachandra Rao said, "Participation in such events is more important than winning a prize." In his address, he also urged the media to be more informative for the benefit of the young minds.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Acharya Nagarjuna University V. Balamohandas, who



MOMENT TO CHERISH: V. Likhitha Sree of Nalanda Talent School, Seethammadhara, receiving the first prize in the elocution contest from Commissioner of Police J. Poornachandra Rao in Visakhapatnam on Friday. - PHOTO: C.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

gave away the consolation prizes to other 12 finalists, advised the students, who could not take the top honours, not to lose heart and to take it up as a challenge and improve upon for the next time. Extolling the fact that India was a great democracy - whose strength lies in diversity, he cautioned, "Indians are over expressive on freedom, but at the same time have scant regard for discipline."

D.V.R. Murthy from the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism summed up the judges remark on behalf of the other two judges: Prof. A.B.S.V.

Ranga Rao and Susarla Ramesh of *The Hindu*. Students of Srikrishna Vidya Mandir rendered a group song while students of Delhi Public School gave a dance performance.

CEO of Shriram Properties G.V. Ramanamurthy and its CMO Gan Bhukta addressed the participants.

The students who won the consolation prizes were: P. Sujana (Vignana Vihar- Gudilova), M. Geeta Sravanti (VT High School), Chandini Mahapatro (K V - Malkapuram), Sneha Banerjee (Timpany-CBSE), Ch. Karshika (Delhi Public School), Soumendu

Guin (Kotak Salesian School), K. Sravya (Siva Sivani- KLP), V. Neeraja (Sri Prakash-Seethammadhara), R. Rachana (Vignana Vihar- Gudilova), C. Vijitha (De Paul School- Visakhapatnam Steel Plant), R.P. Kaushik (Sri Prakash-Asilmetta) and Ch. Swathi (Sri Ramakrishna - NAD).

Mega project

Shriram Panorama Hills, a project of Shriram Properties of Shriram Group, will be the first skyscraper of the city. It is located on the foothills of the scenic Yendada-Madhurawada region of Visakhapatnam. The gated residential

community is spread over 80 acres and comprises 231 villas, over 2,310 apartments, three clubhouses, shopping mall, with provision for a luxury star hotel, and an international school.

It has about 80 per cent open space, 14 parks, perennial waterfall, 23.4 acres of landscaping, five km of jogging track, valley view points, avenue plantation and drip irrigation system.

Jurong Consultants (India) Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of Jurong International, Singapore, is the architect, structural designer and quality manager of the project.