"Participation in various competitions during school and college days not only remains a life-time memory but also inculcates team spirit and gives confidence that help individuals throughout their career" said Krishna District Joint Collector Gandham Chandrudu.

Mr. Chandrudu was addressing a huge gathering of junior college and higher secondary school students from Krishna and West Godavari districts ,who were participating in the first edition of 'Academic Pentathlon', the scholastic competition organized by *The Hindu's* Future India Club and *Vignan's University, Guntur*.

Stressing the need for active participation and emerging victorious in such competitions Mr. Chandrudu said ,"After college, you may be in the corporate sector, politics, administration and various others careers. Working in a team now will help you have the experience of getting work done by a team as well as working in a team.

Recalling his winning in a competition while studying in Rajasthan, Mr. Chandrudu said that he won first place in a competition conducted by the United Nations."When I appeared for the IAS interview, I was asked by the panel about the story behind the award. Since I was prepared to answer it, I did well and scored well because of it. In the same way, your participation in the Academic pentathlon is going to help you in future in the college and career," he said.

The auditorium of Siddhartha Academy that hosted the event was thronged by nearly 1,600 students who took part in five different events – maths quiz, physics quiz, chemistry quiz, elocution and cultural as a team of 10 students each.

Five sub-teams of every team representing their institution competed with their counterparts from other institutions and three teams made it to the top gaining eligibility to the mega final that will be held on the campus of Vignan's University later this month or early October.

Though the students of government institutions like IIIT, Nuzvid, SRR & CVR Govt. Junior college and others vied for the top places, corporate college students won the competition.

The team of Sri Chaitanya College that won the first place with 105 points included P.Rakesh Reddy, Sindhuri, M. Ruchi Rinkil, T. Alekhya, G.Anusha, Ch. Yaswanth, K. Hima Rishita, B. Sai Vishnu Vardhan, N.Naveen Kumar and A.V.Sai Mahesh.Another team of the same college including K.Sai Vivek, PSR Charan ,K.Vivek Kumar ,N.Yaswanthsai, P.Harsha Vardhan, T.Revanth,A.Siva Prasad, D.Manjo,MVS Chaitanya and E.Vamsi Krishna won second place with 104 points. The third place was won by AVN Vishnu Pavan , JS Nikhil, K.Nithin Mohan, VN Bharatdwaz,Prithviraj G, Riyaz Basha,JBS Hari padmanabham, P Ekanth Eswa, K.Dheeraj and P.Nishanth Reddy of FIITJEE Junior college with 93 points .

The three teams will take part in the mega finals along with the 15 other teams that will be picked through remaining five editions of the pentathlon that will be held in Viskhapatnam, Tirupati, Guntur, Hyderabad and Kakinada in coming weeks. The 30 students will also be given 10 per cent fee concession for UG courses in Vignan's University and assured seat if they score above 940 marks in public examination. In the mega final, top three will be given huge cash prize as well as huge fee concessions. Representatives of Vignan's University and other were present.