



## TCS HackQuest Season 9: Prizes, Registration, and Key Dates You Need to Know

### Description

#### Hack Glance

TCS HackQuest Season 9 is the ultimate cyber arena for students to showcase their cybersecurity brilliance, offering an exceptional platform to hone their skills and gain industry recognition.

- **Prizes:** Worth up to INR 5 Lakhs
- **Opportunities:** Interview with TCS Cybersecurity Center of Excellence
- **Merits:** Certifications and exclusive merchandise for top performers
- **Important Dates:**
  - **Registration End Date:** 23rd January 2025, Thursday
  - **Round 1 Date:** 25th January 2025, Saturday (10 AM to 4 PM IST)
- **Contact:** For queries, email [careers@tcs.com](mailto:careers@tcs.com)
- **Registration Requirement:** Valid TCS NextStep reference ID (CT/DT number). Register on TCS NextStep in the 'IT' section (Not BPS) if you don't have one.

#### Overview

TCS HackQuest, hosted by the TCS Cybersecurity Unit, is a premier ethical hacking competition aimed at identifying talented individuals passionate about cybersecurity. The event, rooted in the "Catch the Flag" (CTF) format, invites students to tackle real-world security challenges, providing a dynamic and practical learning experience. Participants will have the chance to demonstrate their problem-solving abilities, innovative approaches, and technical expertise.

#### Why HackQuest?

In an era where technological advancements and increased digital focus expose organizations to

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greater security risks, HackQuest seeks to:

- Identify and nurture cybersecurity talent through competitive challenges.
  - Foster a global community of ethical hackers capable of addressing advanced cybersecurity threats.
  - Build a resilient and trustworthy cyber landscape, ensuring sustainable security solutions for diverse industries.
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### Contest Structure

HackQuest is conducted in two main rounds:

#### Round 1: Online CTF Challenge

- **Duration:** 6 hours
- **Categories:** Beginner, Intermediate, and Expert
- **Objective:** Solve challenge statements, capture flags, and submit detailed reports.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** Flags captured, report quality, and approach.

Participants must upload their reports on the platform within the deadline to qualify for further rounds. This stage is designed to test a wide range of skills, from technical proficiency to strategic thinking.

#### Round 2: Advanced Evaluation

- Conducted via Microsoft Teams/Webex or in-person at TCS premises.
  - **Activities:**
    1. Penetration Testing: Solve advanced hosted challenges in areas such as system exploitation, mobile security, and digital forensics.
    2. Case Explanation: Present and explain solutions to a jury panel.
  - **Evaluation Criteria:** Technical accuracy, approach, and presentation skills.
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### Eligibility

The contest is open to students graduating in 2025 from recognized institutions in India with degrees such as:

Degree	Examples of Specializations
B.Tech/B.E.	Engineering Disciplines
M.Tech/M.E.	Advanced Engineering
BCA/MCA	Computer Applications
B.Sc/M.Sc	Science Streams

Participants must provide necessary documents to verify their eligibility and academic credentials.

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## Registration Process

1. Visit [HackQuest Website](#).
  2. Create a TCS NextStep reference ID (CT/DT number) via [TCS NextStep](#).
  3. Use the reference ID to complete the HackQuest registration.
  4. Secure the unique credential provided for participation (do not share).
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### Key Guidelines

Criteria	Details
<b>Participation</b>	Individual only; team entries not allowed.
<b>Fees</b>	No participation or registration fees.
<b>Tools</b>	Use recommended tools; avoid excessive traffic-generating tools.
<b>Reports</b>	Must be original and adhere to provided templates.
<b>Compliance</b>	Violations may result in disqualification.

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### Domains of Expertise

Participants with knowledge in the following domains will have an advantage:

- Application Security
- Network Security
- Ethical Hacking
- Digital Forensics
- Threat Hunting
- Malware Analysis/Reverse Engineering

Certifications like Security+, CEH, and ISO 27001 are beneficial but not mandatory. A solid grasp of cybersecurity principles and practical application skills will be key to success.

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### Prizes and Opportunities

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Reward	Details
<b>Cash Prizes</b>	Total worth up to INR 5 Lakhs.
<b>Job Offers</b>	Potential Ninja or Digital roles at TCS.
<b>Certification</b>	Merit certificates for top performers.
<b>Interaction</b>	Engage with TCS leadership during award ceremonies.
<b>Exclusive Roles</b>	Exceptional performers may work with TCS Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence.

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### Evaluation Criteria

#### Round 1:

- Flags captured.
- Quality of report.
- Creativity and problem-solving approach.

#### Round 2:

- Technical precision during penetration testing.
  - Explanation and defense of solutions.
  - Depth of understanding showcased through detailed analysis.
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### Important Rules

- Submissions must be original and free of plagiarism.
  - Content violating laws or promoting discrimination is prohibited.
  - Participants are expected to adhere strictly to all ethical guidelines.
  - TCS reserves the right to modify contest rules and reject submissions that do not meet standards.
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**Register Now for TCS Hackquest :** <https://tshackquest.tcsapps.com>