

# Students tinker, tailor & innovate

**FARAH KHATOON**

**Calcutta:** When Siddharth Gupta's father gave him the responsibility of collecting money from 20 tenants and paying their electricity bills, the Class XI boy knew he had to find an easy way out. A little bit of tinkering with ideas and he came up with a one-point window where the tenants could pay their bills directly.

The project by the Radhika Town High School student was one of the show-stealers at Tinker Fest presented by MakersLoft, in association with *Young Metro*.

Around 350 students from 70 schools across Bengal showcased their projects at the MakersLoft centre in Bal-

lygunge recently. Exhibits and models were submitted in 14 categories such as woodwork, model-making, 3-D printing, art installation, handicrafts and science experiments.

Siddharth was excited at the opportunity to share his innovation. "Collecting money from the tenants and then going to the power utility office to pay the bills meant I would often have to miss school. So I made an application on Google that lets our tenants pay their bills themselves and also check the status of the previous bills after they have logged in," the Rishra boy said.

The self-taught geek also claimed to have found a way to deal with space crunch in his



A participant showcases his robots at BITM. Picture by B. Halder

smartphone drive: a lighter version of Google.

Shivam Shukla of Sudhir Memorial Institute, Liluah, impressed all with his robotic

palm that was straight out of a sci-fi movie. Made of carton and manoeuvred with wires attached to his fingers, the robot palm was quite the star

attraction in the robotics category. "My project is inspired by a sci-fi film but I devised it. Instead of metal, I used discarded carton. For finger movements, I initially used thread but later replaced it with thin electric wires for smooth movement."

Friends Aarav Agarwal and Nikunj Dhandharia of The Heritage School impressed the judges with their carpentry skills, while Juzer Telwala and Kausarali Challawala of MSB Educational Institute wowed everyone with a portable air cooler.

Around 100 of the projects

were displayed at the BITM.

The New Town School bagged the Creativity Diversity Award followed by DPS Ruby Park and MSB Educational Institute in second and third spots.

## YOUNG METRO

"This is a one-of-a-kind fest. We wanted to have a forum to promote art forms such as

carpentry, paper craft, 3-D printing and more. The response from schools this year has been overwhelming and we plan to involve more schools next year," said Meghna Bhutoria, the founder and director of MakersLoft Pvt.Ltd said.