Nilesh Raj, class 9, DAV Inter High School, Patna, Bihar

Nilesh’s hobbies include playing football. “I belong to a financially weak family but I am focused on studying well so that I can grow up and serve the country,” says Nilesh, who is inspired by the life of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

Nilesh was not a bright student earlier. Recalling an incident that motivated him to study harder, Nilesh says, “Once my friends and I bunked school and went for a movie. Later when my father came to know about this, he was very angry. That day onwards, I decided that I will focus on my studies and stopped wasting time. Today, my parents are very proud of me for having won this award,” says Nilesh.
Gas lighter with gas leak alarm

Nilesh Raj, class 9, DAV Inter High School
Patna, Bihar

Gas leakage, poor handling of cooking gas appliances are known to cause horrific mishaps
Nilesh’s idea is of a gas lighter, which can sense and indicate gas leakage before it is lighted, thereby preventing accidents. According to the idea, if there is a gas leakage, the lighter would not switch on and give out a siren, instead. The idea occurred to Nilesh when he got news of a neighbour being badly burnt due to cooking gas leak. “That is when I thought of a lighter, which would not light up if there is a gas leak and thus prevent accidents,” says Nilesh, who wants to be a mechanical engineer and create useful, innovative products.