My journey through the national MakeX competition became an important moment in my life. I initially saw the competition as a chance to test my skills in coding and robotics, but as my team and I advanced through each round, it became clear that this was more than just a challenge.

When my team reached the final match, a major challenge emerged. Our robots, which had been reliable throughout the competition, began to fall apart. wheels, motors, and gears came loose, and the robots' movements became unpredictable. In a competition where every second mattered, this malfunction could have easily cost us the championship. Instead of giving up, my team and I decided to keep going, pushing our malfunctioning robots to the end of the round.

In the short break before the next match, we quickly repaired and replaced the failing parts, working together to restore the robots. Our sense of urgency matched our determination, knowing that every repair could be the difference between first and second place. We improvised with the materials we had on hand. Despite the setbacks, we won and secured the champion title.

Winning the national championship was a great achievement, but the experience taught me lessons that went beyond coding and robotics. In the heat of competition, I learned that being alert is very important, especially when rules can be unclear. From making sure we understood the rules with the judges to recording every moment for fairness, I realized the importance of paying attention to details. I also saw how valuable persistence is. It is crucial to keep going when things go wrong, and to adapt when unexpected problems come up. Moreover, this win would not happen without teamwork.

Beyond the technical challenges, the MakeX competition helped me understand how to deal with setbacks, adapt under pressure, and approach challenges creatively. It taught me to stay focused in high pressure situations, think critically when things do not go as planned, and keep trying even when facing obstacles. Also, I recognized the importance of the teamwork to secure such big wins, in addition to gain some leadership skills.

This experience not only improved my technical skills but also prepared me for challenges in other areas and pursuing my goals in life. As I look ahead, I am confident that RIT will re-shape and add to my knowledge and skills toward a bright future.