

Tinkering the Startup Spark: How Tinkerer's Lab Fuels Entrepreneurship at IITH

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At the heart of IIT Hyderabad's innovation ecosystem lies Tinkerers' Lab (TL) — a vibrant maker space that goes far beyond tools and tech. It is where student imagination meets engineering execution, often culminating in bold entrepreneurial ventures. With over 40 interdisciplinary projects spanning mechatronics, machine learning, and software development, TL has evolved into a creative launchpad for startups rooted in experimentation, failure, iteration, and innovation.

From gesture-controlled robots to smart traffic optimizers and a prototype for a matless Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) simulator, every TL project begins with curiosity and grows through mentorship,

Extending its entrepreneurial spirit beyond the lab, Tinkerers' Lab organizes Thrust — a flagship 3-day tech festival that brings together students, industry leaders, and innovators to explore emerging technologies through hands-on workshops, exhibitions, and summits. Events like the WTF Summit and TL Expo offer students invaluable opportunities to pitch their ideas, showcase prototypes, and receive real-time feedback from mentors and experts. By providing a space for idea exchange and early-stage validation, Thrust helps TL members refine their innovations and take the first steps toward turning them into viable ventures.



Figure 1: Prototype for a Matless Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) Simulator, a collaborative project from Japan

With entrepreneurship emerging as a key focus at IIT Hyderabad, Tinkerers' Lab stands as the creative hub where ideas are born, built, and tested. Many TL members go on to join incubators, file patents, or launch startups — all starting from the same place: a messy workbench alive with possibility.

collaboration, and rapid prototyping. These practical projects tackle real world problems, draw industry interest, and push students toward finding product-market fit — the first step in entrepreneurship.

Projects like AINexus, BidBull, CardioEdge, and the Grammar Correction Model show how TL turns student ideas into real-world ventures by blending research with practical problem solving. With diverse projects and a collaborative, student-led culture, TL teaches students to design for users, navigate constraints, and build innovative solutions through hands-on teamwork.

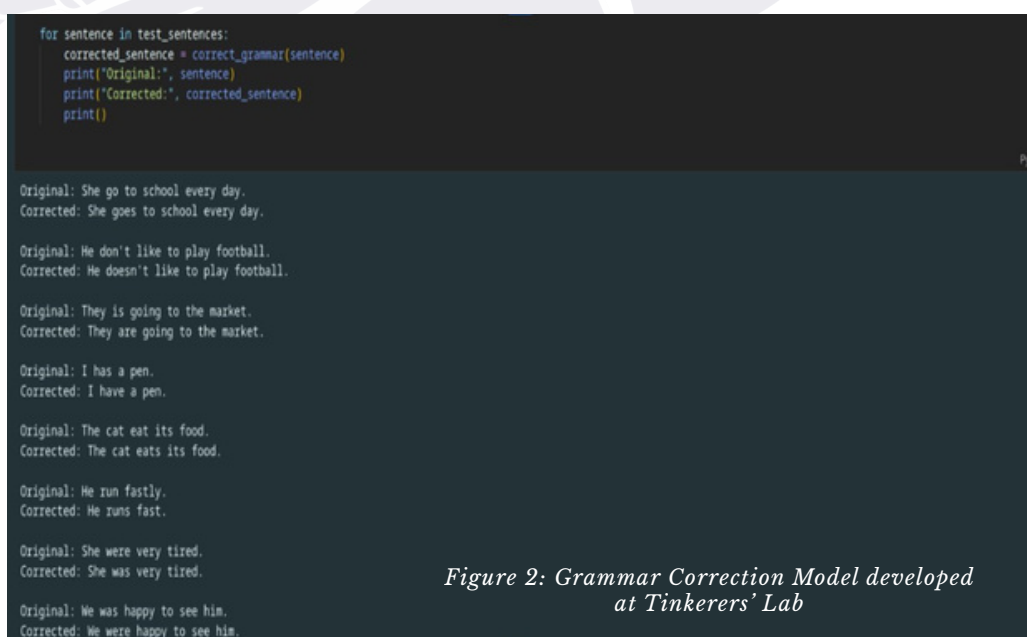


Figure 2: Grammar Correction Model developed at Tinkerers' Lab

Team - Tinkerers Lab, IITH