

Newspaper Clips

April 27, 2012

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Sibal's censorship bid may cost India e-ranking

ht EXCLUSIVE

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SINGAPORE: India's position on Internet freedom is expected to "fall" due to the government's proposed curbs on social media websites such as Facebook and Google, claimed Bridget Welsh, a professor of political science at the University of Singapore.

Welsh had access to the yet-to-be-published Freedom on Internet Report-2012, where countries are ranked in accor-

dance with their policies on the Web, such as obstacles to Internet access, limits on content, and violation of user rights.

The report is published every year by US-based think tank Freedom House. In the 2011 report, India was ranked 14 among 37 nations with a score of 36, meaning "partly-free" on Internet freedom. Countries are ranked from zero to 100 on the scorecard, with zero depicting the highest level of freedom and 100 depicting the lowest.

A year later, Welsh said, India's rank is likely to fall several notches down to "not-free" or poor

FREE FALLING

- While countries scoring between 0 and 30 are designated "free", those scoring between 31 and 60 are "partly free"
- Countries with a score between 61 and 100 — such as China and Iran —

are labelled "not free"

- In the 2011 report, India was ranked 14 among 37 nations with a score of 36, meaning "partly free". Now, it is expected to fall a few notches to the level of "not-free".

level of Internet freedom. It is primarily on the basis of telecom minister Kapil Sibal's December 2011 bid to censor sites such as Facebook and Google.

Sibal had asked these websites to submit content for screening before placing it in the public domain, much to the outrage of netizens. He also

wanted these sites to prescreen user content from India and remove disparaging, inflammatory or defamatory content before it went online.

In her presentation at the workshop, organised by the Tamasek Foundation for journalists from Asia, Welsh described Sibal's action as a direct curb on freedom of expression on the Internet. "It is sad that in a democratic country, the government has imposed new restrictions on websites," Welsh told HT.

The Freedom on Internet Report is likely to be released

in August 2012. India is the 12 Asian countries, policies on the Internet analysed. The Freedom assigns each country a based on those criteria. countries scoring any between 0-30 are designated "free", those scoring from 31-60 are designated "partly free" and those with a score between 61-100 are labelled "not free".

While countries such as Estonia, United States and Germany have been designated as free, countries such as China and Iran are branded as "not free".

Hindu ND 27/04/2012

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One multiple choice paper for IITs is enough, suggests Super 30 founder

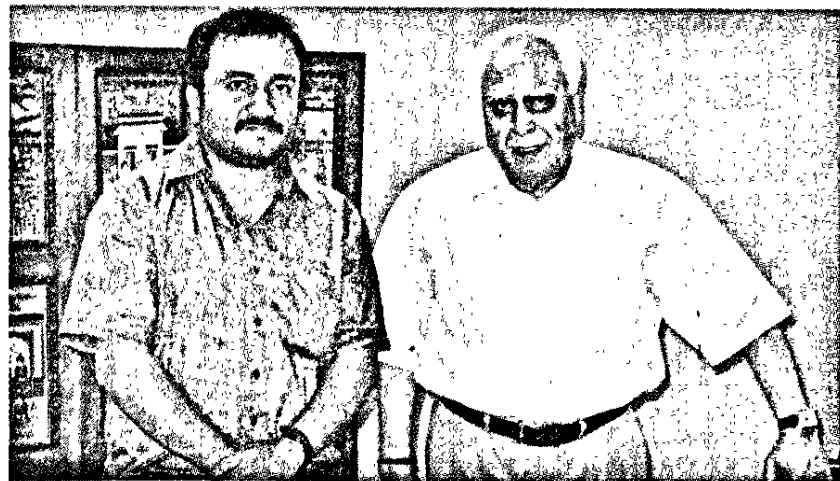
Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: "Super 30" founder Anand Kumar, whose initiatives have led to over 300 students from marginalised sections of society gain entry into IITs, met Union Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal here to suggest a change in the examination pattern for the existing IIT-JEE test.

Like AIIMS test

The renowned mathematician suggested one single multiple choice question paper based on Class XII syllabus, stating that if All-India Institute of Medical Sciences could admit students through single test then IIT-JEE could also do it.

"For adhering to Plus Two syllabus fully, the subject experts from both IIT-JEE and



MASTER'S INSIGHT: 'Super 30' founder Anand Kumar with Union Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal in New Delhi.

Central Board of Secondary Education can jointly prepare the questions," he said

He said this will not only minimise dependency on private coaching but also reduce

stress on students, ultimately making them more serious right from the school level.

Education slowdown threatens U.S. economy

Without better educated workers, the US could lose its economic edge

BY DAVID WESSEL & STEPHANIE BANCHERO

Throughout American history, almost every generation has had substantially more education than that of its parents.

That is no longer true. When baby boomers born in 1955 reached age 30, they had about two years more schooling than their parents, according to Harvard University economists Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz, who have calculated the average years of schooling for native-born Americans back to 1876.

In contrast, when Americans born in 1980 turned 30 in 2010, they averaged about eight months more schooling than their parents.

This development already has broad ramifications across the U.S. job market: Those with only a high-school diploma had an 8% unemployment rate in March, roughly double that of college graduates, who had a 4.2% unemployment rate. Workers with bachelor's degrees earn 45% more in wages on average than those of demographically similar high-school graduates. And in today's highly automated factories, many manufacturers demand the equivalent of a community-college degree, even for entry level workers.

More serious consequences may be felt in the future. Without better educated Americans, economists say, the U.S. won't be able to maintain high-wage jobs and rising living standards in a competitive global economy. Increasingly, the goods and services in which the U.S. has an edge rely more on the minds of American workers—than on their muscle. "The wealth of nations is no longer in resources. It's no longer in physical capital. It's in human capital," says Ms. Goldin.

The reasons American education levels are no longer increasing as they once did are numerous: Despite years of effort, high-school dropout rates remain stubbornly high. College tuition is rising and the prospect of shouldering heavy debt discourages some high-school graduates from enrolling in college or sticking with it.

There is also growing skepticism among some Americans about whether a college degree actually translates into a well-paying job. Particularly during the recent recession, there have been gluts of college graduates in some industries and shortages in others.

For instance, the typical worker with a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering earned \$120,000 a year and those with a degree in math and computer science earned \$98,000, according to 2010 census data analyzed by Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce. In contrast, the median worker with a degree in counseling psychology earned just \$29,000 and those with degrees in early childhood education earned \$36,000.

"Not all bachelor's degrees are the same," Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce said in

WSJ ON EDUCATION

an extensive analysis issued last year. "While going to college is undoubtedly a wise decision, what you take while you're there matters a lot, too."

Mary Brown, 25, of Woodland Hills, California, saw friends who finished college with massive debts and were unable to find jobs in their fields, if at all. She took a different approach, earning an associate degree and a certificate in massage therapy from Anthem Career College in Nashville, Tenn.

"I wanted a college that taught me how to do the work, but didn't make me pay to take a lot of other classes in subjects that are irrelevant to my career," she says.

In contrast, her mother, Irena Tolliver, has a bachelor's in elementary education and a master's in reading education. When Ms. Tolliver was growing up, her parents, Belarussian immigrants, told her to "take advantage of the great educational resources that were available," Ms. Tolliver recalls. "That's what America was all about to them."

But Ms. Brown feels differently. After graduating, she landed a \$20-an-hour job at a Rockford, Ill., spa, then moved to California but was unable to find a massage-therapy job. So she recently moved back to Illinois.

All but about \$5,000 of the \$21,000 she borrowed for her 18-month program has been paid back.

"I was working in a career I loved, making a pretty good living, while a lot of my friends were in college and not loving it so much," she says. "Now they are facing tons of debt and I don't have to worry about that."

Ms. Brown isn't unique. Among Americans who turned 25 in the 1970s, only 5% had less education than the parent of the same sex, according to an analysis by Michael Hout and Alexander Janus, sociologists at the University of California, Berkeley. Among those who turned 25 in the 2000s, 18% of men and 38% of women had fewer years of school than their parents. There is a limit to how much schooling a person can get and to how many Americans have both the ability and interest in a four-year college degree. But the U.S. is nowhere near that point.

Twenty countries have higher high-school graduation rates than the U.S.—including Slovenia, Finland, Japan, the U.K. and South Korea, according to the Organization for

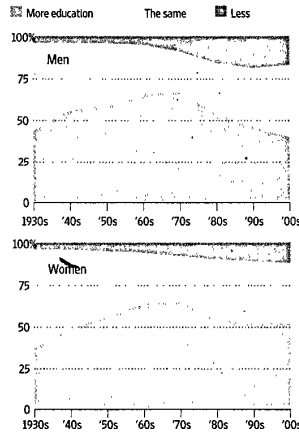


Changing preferences: Alex Gavic, 21, decided not to go to college so he could snowboard full-time in the winter in Park City, Utah. He earns money landscaping in the summer.

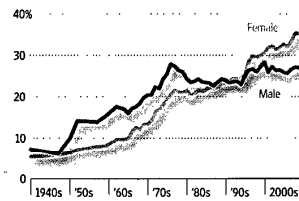
FALLING BEHIND

The fraction of Americans with more education than parents of the same sex is falling and U.S. college graduation rates, once among the highest in the world, now trail 14 other developed countries.

Educational achievements of those who turn 25 in the decade shown compared to the parent of the same sex

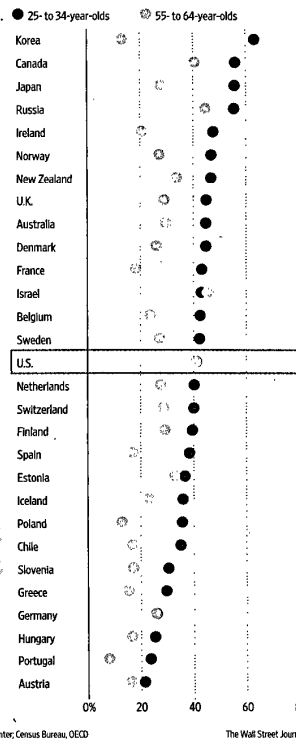


Percentage of 25- to 29-year-olds who have a bachelor's degree or more



*Acquired a two-year degree or higher
Sources: Michael Hout, University of California, Berkeley; National Opinion Research Center; Census Bureau, OECD

Percentage of population that has attained a college degree, 2009



Economic Cooperation and Development. In the U.S., about one in five ninth-graders drop out before getting a diploma.

About 30% of American adults have four-year college degrees, and there is little evidence that is a natural ceiling. Thirty years ago, the U.S. led the world in the percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds with the equivalent of at least a two-year degree; only Canada and Israel were close. As of 2009, the U.S. lagged behind 14 other developed countries, the OECD says.

President Barack Obama has vowed to change that. "By 2020," he has said, "America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world," defining

that broadly to include two-year degrees. He has proposed that all states require students to graduate from high school or stay in school until age 18 (as 21 states do already) and pushed successfully for increases in federal student aid.

While not every college grad does better in the job market, statistics consistently show that, on average, the more educated the worker, the better he or she fares in today's job market. For example, 54% of high-school graduates over age 25 were working in March, the Labor Department says, while the rest were either looking for work or out of the labor force altogether. Among those with some college, 64% were working while 73% of those with a bachelor's degree or more were working.

The problem has evolved over the past few decades. Until the mid-1970s, the share of American men and women in their late 20s with four-year college degrees rose steadily, fueled by federal student aid for veterans after World War II and Korea and a further expansion of student aid in the 1960s.

Then something changed, particularly among men. The fraction of 25- to 29-year-old men who had earned four-year degrees began a two-decade-long slide around 1975. After that, fewer young men sought refuge from the Vietnam War draft by going to college. Moreover, a decline in the size of the bonus that college graduates commanded, compared with high-school graduates, provided less reason to go to college.

More men began going to

college in the early 1990s. Changes in the economy and technology as well as a shortage of educated workers pushed the wages of college grads well above those of high-school graduates. The fraction of men in their late 20s with four-year degrees has been climbing since 1994, hitting 27.8% in 2010. Despite the uptick, however, that is barely above the 27.5% reported for 1976, according to the Census Bureau.

For women, the trend is strikingly different. While male college-going fell off in the 1970s—in part because men were more likely than women to think they could get well-paid construction or factory jobs without degrees—women kept going. In 2010, 36% of women in their late 20s had earned at least a bachelor's degree, up from 20% in 1976.

Men drag down the average, though. The net result is that a supply of educated workers is rising much more slowly than the apparent demand. Scholars blame leaks and clogs along the entire educational pipeline.

While college enrollment has risen lately—as often happens when people flee a lousy job market—completion rates are disappointing. "We've become very good at getting people to start college," says Harvard's Mr. Katz. "We are not very good at getting people through college."

About 70% of high-school graduates enroll in a two- or four-year college soon after finishing high school, but many never get a degree or any other credential. At four-year colleges, 43% of those who en-

rolled as freshmen in 2002 hadn't received a degree six years later, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Mack Smith, 22, whose father has a bachelor's degree in political science, did one semester at Southern Utah University, dropped out, joined the Marine Corps briefly, and then spent a semester at Salt Lake Community College. Today he is working at Whole Foods training new hires in the meat department. He talks about going back to college, though. "I want to be able to take my kids hunting and be able to afford a house and a car," he says. "I'll need more education to get a job like that."

His dad, Michael Smith, wishes his son had stuck with college. "Sometimes," he says, "it takes kids a while to figure out what they want and then figure out how to get it."

Lately, the rising cost of higher education has emerged as an increasingly visible obstacle to going to—and staying in—college, and the spotlight on the mountain of student debt has discouraged others.

Tuition is up, particularly at public colleges that draw the most students. Over the past 10 years, for instance, average published tuition and fees (not counting room and board) at four-year public colleges rose by 72% to \$8,240 from \$4,790, adjusted for inflation, according to the College Board. Sticker prices are misleading because student aid has become more bountiful. After grants as well as tax deductions and credits, the average net price rose by a much smaller sum—\$1,160—to \$2,490 over the decade, but that is still an 87% increase.

Governments and colleges have offered more financial aid, but the complexity of the American system—a dizzying array of grants and loans, tax deductions and scholarships—confuses and sometimes scares off some potential college-goers, says University of Michigan economist Susan Dynarski. Today, student debt outstanding now exceeds Americans' total credit-card debt. In 2009-10, about 55% of public four-year college students graduated with debt; on average, they owed \$22,000, the College Board says.

Alex Gavic, 21, is one of those who don't want to take on college debt. As a teenager, he had fleeting thoughts of studying marine biology in college. Instead, he dropped out of high school—eventually receiving a high-school diploma in a second-chance program at a community college.

Today, he makes \$12 an hour at a Park City, Utah, landscaping firm during the summer so he can snowboard daily during the winter.

"The greater society told me I had to go to college if I want to make it in life, but it's not true," said Mr. Gavic, who competes semiprofessionally in snowboarding. "I don't care about making a lot of money because I'm happy. I'm just living the life."

Mr. Gavic said he hopes to have his own landscaping business one day. But in the meantime, he doesn't envy his peers who went to college, many of whom have loans to repay and still haven't found jobs. "You spend all this time in school, then you are in debt, then you have to find a job to spend 20 years paying it back," he said. "That never made sense to me."

—wsj@livemint.com

Central univs battle 40% staff shortage

VARSIITY WOES

University	Sanctioned strength	Existing strength	Vacant positions
University of Delhi	1,998	1,008	990
Banaras Hindu University	2,395	1,547	848
Aligarh Muslim University	1,887	1,509	378
University of Allahabad	630	345	285
JNU	727	475	252



Kirtika Suneja

New Delhi, Apr 26: The 40 central universities of the country are facing a severe faculty crunch as despite a 6% rise in student enrollment in them, there is a 40% shortage of faculty. The existing faculty strength stands at 10,060 against 16,602 sanctioned.

This implies a shortage of more than 6,500 teachers in the central universities. Delhi University tops the list with 990 vacancies, closely followed by Banaras Hindu University, which has 848 vacant posts.

The crunch, according to the ministry of human resource development (HRD) is due to the additional 5,551 teaching positions sanctioned in order to accommodate reservation for other backward classes.

"In addition, during the 11th Plan, a large number of positions were sanctioned to strengthen the existing departments and for opening new ones," said D Purandeswari, minister of state for HRD ministry.

Interestingly, the ministry claims that the dearth in faculty is despite the fact that the new entry pay for a teacher in Central University is more than the entry pay of a civil servant.

The total strength of teaching faculty in higher education is about 5.89 lakh and according to advisory firm Ernst & Young, 45% of the positions for professors, 51% positions for readers and 53% positions for lecturers were vacant in Indian universi-

ties in 2007-08. Official estimates say that besides the present shortage, the crunch during the coming decade is going to increase at the rate of one lakh faculty a year.

Besides impacting the student-teacher ratio, the failure to redress the faculty shortage will hamper the achievement of the government's target for increasing the gross enrollment ratio (GER) from 11% at present to 15% by 2012, and 30% by 2020.

The University Grants Commission says shortage of quality faculty coupled with lack of faculty mobility across the regions is a major constraint in the development of the country's higher education system.

"Faculty development programmes are insufficient and ineffective in nature. The 12th Plan should envisage effective implementation of the brain gain policy along with newer initiatives to attract quality faculty to meet the national level teacher requirements," UGC has said in its approach to the 12th Plan.

The approach paper talks about faculty development initiatives in areas like entry-level orientation, curriculum development, teaching and learning, research and innovation, engagement with social concerns and leadership development.

"Customised faculty development programmes may be developed on a large scale. Besides, it should also include modernised continuous faculty development programmes of international requirements," it said.

Hindustan Times ND 27/04/2012 p-11

RISAT-1: MADE IN INDIA

India's first indigenous all-weather radar imaging remote sensing satellite was launched on Thursday. A lowdown on what it can do and who it will benefit.

THE LAUNCH: At 5.47am on Thursday, PSLV C-19 carrying India's first indigenous radar imaging satellite RISAT-1 lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, 90 km from Chennai

RISAT-1: Stands for Radar Imaging Satellite 1

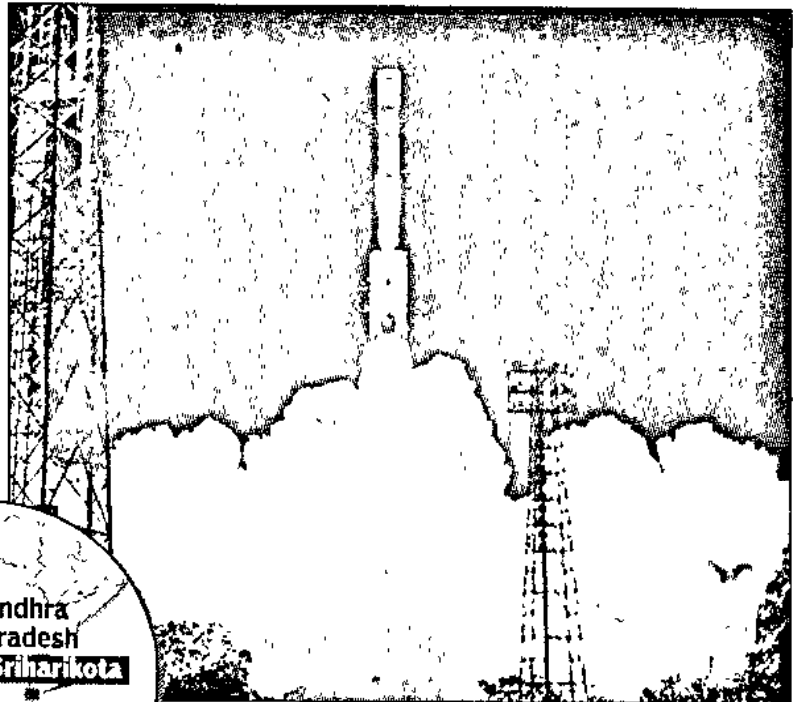
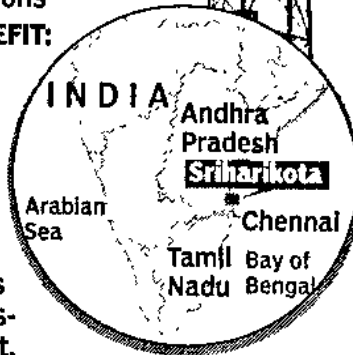
WHAT CAN IT DO: The radar imaging remote sensing satellite can take pictures during day, night and all weather conditions

WHO WILL BENEFIT:

Data relating to soil moisture will help farmers, while updates on forest cover, glaciers, ocean, and water levels will help in disaster management, according to Dr N Valarmathi, project director, ISRO. Chairman ISRO, K Radhakrishnan said, "Now we can predict Kharif season effectively."

PREDECESSORS: Till now India had optical remote sensing satellites that could take pictures only during day time

OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE THIS TECHNOLOGY: US, Canada, Japan, Germany and Israel.

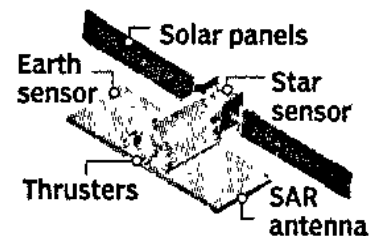


■ PSLV-C19 lifts off from Satish Space Centre, in Sriharikota on Thursday.

UNI PHOTO

WOMAN BEHIND IT:

N Valarmathi, 52, the RISAT-1 project director, had joined ISRO in 1984. In 2001, she was entrusted with the task of developing an indigenous radar imaging satellite. She was assisted by a team of 50 people. "It is 100% Indian. Only Indian companies supplied the components."



RISAT 1 FEATURES

Spacecraft: **1,858 kg**

Orbit altitude: **536 km**

Orbit Inclination: **97.552°**

No. of orbits per day: **14**

Mission duration: **5 years**

Image resolution: **1m- 50m**

Power: **Solar**

DU to adopt 'meta college' concept

ROHINEE SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University is gearing up for multifaceted student development courses. Come academic session 2013, Delhi University Vice Chancellor Professor Dinesh Singh is to take the university to a four-year 'meta college' mode. The new model aims at inter-mixing various disciplines based on the interests of the students. To start with, the university will launch a BTech in Humanities from the coming academic session.

Professor Singh who has been ambitious about the various innovative projects and has been trying to push for outdoor research work and more of practical learning at the under-graduate level, feels that the students should be allowed to study the papers of their interest. Singh insists that even sports cannot be neglected as an important discipline. "A student who studies mathematics and his heart beats for football can play football at the university level and get credits for it along with mathematics," explains Singh.

The 'meta college' concept will also allow students to study in the various colleges of Delhi University. "All courses will carry certain credit points. The student can opt for a college of his or her own choice to study a particular paper in a course," explains Singh. The Vice Chancellor wants the

The new model aims at inter-mixing various disciplines based on the interests of the students

students to get a feel of not just one college of the university, but the entire university as a whole. Interestingly, the programme will help students not just studying in the Delhi University, but the university also plans to conduct exchange programmes with universities like Jamia Milia Islamia, the IITs and the IIIT.

The four-year trans-disciplinary programme will give the students an exit option as well. In case a student completes two years in a

course, an Associate Degree will be awarded, a three-year course will give a Bachelor Degree and a four-year course an Honours. "The courses will be designed in such a fashion that after completing two years, our student will be competent to become an elementary school teacher and an excellent researcher by the end of four years," explains Singh. The students who take an exit after a two or three year program will be giving an option to reenter and compete their Honours anytime in the next ten years.

All courses in the university from the next year will include more of outdoor research and will be designed in a more interactive fashion. The V-C also wants to give this opportunity to the students who have enrolled themselves in the School of Open Learning (SOL). The SOL is likely to get into the semester mode from the 2014 academic session. "Some students from the SOL will be given an opportunity to do some papers in the main stream colleges and vice versa," said the V-C.

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Now, Aakash for all: UbiSlate at ₹2,999

CHEAPEST TABLET from Datawind will be available from May-end

Vivek Sinha

■ vivek.sinha@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Gadget maker Datawind on Thursday announced the commercial launch of the world's cheapest tablet PC in India — priced at ₹2,999. The launch enables the firm to offer its tablet PC under the "UbiSlate" brand to general customers, outside the ambit of the 100,000 customised units ordered by the human resources ministry for distribution to students under the brand name 'Aakash'.

The company will initially ship the products to around 32 lakh customers who had pre-booked the product, followed by retail availability. The delivery starts by May end.

Datawind seemed determined to bury the ghosts of "needless" controversy that

THE NANO OF TABLETS IS HERE



■ Tuli: out for public

3.2 mln The number of retail bookings for UbiSlate, which has a seven-inch screen

■ Datawind has tied up with Aircel as its operator-partner and is offering a range of educational apps that offer books and other educational tools

■ UbiSlate runs on Android 2.3 operating system

■ The firm launched two models, UbiSlate 7+ and UbiSlate 7C, priced at ₹2,999 & ₹3,999 respectively

emerged soon after it bagged the much-hyped order from HRD ministry. The company said entire procurement of Aakash has now moved over to IIT Bombay after IIT Rajasthan imposed unreasonable conditions — with retrospective effect — to procure Aakash tablets.

"We are committed to providing one lakh Aakash tablets to ministry of HRD," Suneet Singh Tuli, chief executive officer, Datawind told *HT*. "Today's launch is to announce that we are honouring the bookings made by our other retail customers across India."