

Newspaper Clips

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ITian devises tablet for the classroom

DNA / Beryl Menezes / Friday, December 30, 2011 8:00 IST

Rohit Pande has been focusing on personalised learning for the past 6 to 7 years. The question that vexed him: with children having different learning curves, can there be a device that can serve them all?

Last year, this Delhi ITian's company, Classteacher Learning Systems, came up with the structure of an affordable device "which makes education accessible to every student according to his/ her individual intelligence level," Pande said.

The progeny is called Classpad.

While the 7-inch Aakash tablet, launched with much fanfare by Union minister for human resources development, Kapil Sibal, on October 5, started the trend of school learning, with the government subsidising it to a price point of Rs1,700 for mass distribution in schools (from the original cost of `2,500), the Classpad is priced higher because it offers richer media and interactivity with more apps and a wider syllabus, longer battery life of 7 hours compared with Aakash's 1.5 hours and better touch experience.

The Classpad is available in two variants - Trolley, for use by multiple students, and One Tablet Per Child for individual use.

It also has offers three learning models - 'In-class', using which teachers can effortlessly transfer class work, tests and home assignments to the students' tablet; 'In-school', for out-of-class learning; and, 'In-home', for parents to monitor children's school and home work.

The Classpad is available in tablet sizes of 7, 8 and 10 inches, with a battery life of 5-7 hours and processor speed ranging from 1 GHz to 1.3 GHz. The tablet runs on Android 2.2 and 2.3 OS, and has over 30,000 apps that are based on the Android or HTML 5 platform, covering ICSE, CBSE and a few state schools board syllabi.

By April, Classteacher Learning will add the International Baccalaureate board curriculum too.

The price points for the tablet range from `7,500 to `14, 500.

These tablets are available for students from Standard 3 to 12.

The company has received orders for 1,200 Classpads from several schools in Tier I and Tier II cities, and according to a survey of 200 schools conducted during the soft launch, 40% of them are willing to provide Classpad to students in the next academic year starting April 2012.

Due to the conservative policy of schools, Classpad does not offer any options for voice calling or Internet usage, but it can plug into school wi-fi networks.

But Pande is talking to service providers in India for integrating voice calling and Internet facility in retail models of the Classpad and for remote schools in Tier II towns.

Currently the Classpad is being distributed to schools directly on order and can also be sourced from the website classteacher.com starting January 1.

"The question to be asked is, can technology create learning for different children? Classpad provides the answer," Pande claims.

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12 AIIMS-like bodies by '17

Health Panel Bats For Creating Larger Pool Of Doctors

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: India will have 12 AIIMS-like institutions by the end of 2017.

The report of the steering committee on health for the 12th five year plan (incorporating reports of all working groups and deliberations in Committee meetings) has suggested opening of four new prototypes of premiere All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in addition to the eight already approved.

It says the decision on where these four new institutes would come up should be taken on "the basis of geographical location, physical infrastructure, ease of connectivity with medical col-



leges, health indicators and local disease burden".

Union health ministry is in the process of constructing six AIIMS-like institutes in Patna, Raipur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur and Rishikesh at a cost of Rs 847 crore each, up from Rs 332 crore that was originally estimated. There are expected to be ready by July, 2012.

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The Planning Commission has given approval to two more AIIMS-like institutes in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. "The steering committee has asked for four more institutes in the 12th Plan," a ministry official said. The report says the government medical colleges should be strengthened for the dual purpose of creating

a larger pool of doctors and other health workers that can be used at primary and community health centres and providing super-specialty healthcare to the population in that region.

With 26 medical institutions have been approved for upgrade, the panel has said an additional 30 medical colleges established at least 20 years ago be identified for support through Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna.

"Other medical colleges, in private or voluntary sector may also be considered for upgrade and strengthening for starting new postgraduate disciplines and increasing post-graduate seats," the report says.

INDIAN EXPRESS ND 31/12/2011 P-6

Hub of education

A large number of institutions of higher learning, including 15 deemed universities, have been contributing to keep Karnataka ahead

Karnataka is today a global IT and R&D destination. What lies behind this great success is the state's continuous excellence in the field of higher education. A large number of institutions of higher learning have been contributing to keep Karnataka ahead. Among these special mentions must be made of 15 deemed universities in the state. Some of these deemed universities such as Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru are world famous. Others are also catching up fast.

Manipal

Manipal group has emerged as a knowledge powerhouse. It was established more than half a century ago by Dr Tonse Madhava Anantha Pai. Located on the west coast of South India, Manipal was a barren wasteland. It was his vision, which sparked off a virtual education revolution in the region. As he was a physician, educationist, banker and philanthropist all rolled into one, he could think of a multi-dimensional future for Manipal. Now Manipal University has not only spread its wings across the country but also has become a global-quality educational destination. Dr Pai wanted to provide quality healthcare but he realised that in the long term the key to ensure such a service would be to spread education, particularly medical education. In 1953, he set up Kasturba Medical College, the first private medical college in the voluntary sector. With that began the story of Manipal University. The first engineering college was established in 1957, followed by a dental college, pharmacy college and other departments. After Dr TMA Pai, his son Dr Ramdas M Pai, who is the present President and Chancellor of the university, continues to lead the university to new heights.



KLE

In 1916, seven dedicated teachers and three patrons established the KLE Society, which since then has transformed the educationally backward region of northern Karnataka into a fertile land of education. Presently, KLE Society is successfully running more than 205 institutions in the field of health care, IT, law and many conventional and non-conventional disciplines.

The great visionary efforts of Dr Prabhakar Kore, Chairman, KLE Society, since 1985 have been pivotal in deciding the direction of its journey as an autonomous university. Established in 2006, KLE has not only become a favourite choice of brilliant students but also opened up new vistas for its talented faculty members through various international collaborations.

BLDE University

BLDE University is one of the premier universities in Karnataka. A number of institutions are affiliated to this university and it offers numerous courses from undergraduate to doctoral level. It has become a famous university for imparting high-quality education in various fields including medicine and engineering. The university is well known for organising BLDE-UGET entrance examination for the admission of candidates in various undergraduate courses. The university has made a notable presence in the fields of nursing, pharmacy, business management, fine arts, women's literacy, etc. It was founded by the BLDEA organisation, which runs more than 75 institutions in Karnataka. More than 25,000 students are currently studying in these institutions across the state.

TRIBUNE ND 31/12/2011 P-4

IGNOU to hold workshop on educational resource planning

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) will organise a five-day workshop on educational resource planning (EdRP) from January 7 till 12.

The workshop is a collaborative project led by IIT-Kanpur and has Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Amrita University, Dayalbagh Educational Institute, NIT-Hamirpur, IIT-Roorkee; Jamia Millia Islamia and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University as team members.

It is aimed at providing a common platform to university administrators, faculty members and information and communication technology (ICT) professionals to share their ideas on development and implementation of EdRP modules in universities and educational institutions.

The EdRP project has been sanctioned by the National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT) of the ministry of human resource development (MHRD).

The workshop will be beneficial for the institutions that wish to implement the EdRP system and/or e-learning system. It will also help the students by giving them an opportunity to interact with experienced developers.

Each partner institution is actively engaged in developing different modules for the EdRP.

The registration form is available at www.ignou.ac.in. The registration fee, which is Rs 200 for students and Rs 500 for others, is to be paid through demand draft drawn in the favour of IGNOU, payable at New Delhi. The last date for registration is December 31, 2011.

Business Standard ND 31/12/2011 P-3

आईआईएम-आईआईटी के छात्रों पर आया दिल

बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों के पहुंचने से पहले छात्रों को नौकरी की आकर्षक पेशकश कर रही ई कॉमर्स कंपनियां

पियाली मंडल
नई दिल्ली, 30 दिसंबर

बहुराष्ट्रीय और निवेश कंपनियों ही अभी तक भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान (आईआईएम) के छात्रों को ही कंपनी में लाने को प्राथमिकता देती रही हैं, लेकिन अब देसी ई-कॉमर्स साइटें भी कैंपस नियुक्तियों के लिए इन संस्थानों तक पहुंच रही हैं। हालांकि पिछले साल ऑनलाइन फूड और लाइफस्टाइल साइट जोमैटो डॉट कॉम को बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों द्वारा की जाने वाली नियुक्तियों का इंतजार करना पड़ा था क्योंकि उन्हें इन कंपनियों के बाद ही भर्ती का मौका मिला था।

इस साला जोमैटो डॉट कॉम ने आईआईएम से न केवल 10 छात्रों को भर्ती किया बल्कि कंपनी को इस बार नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया के लिए इंतजार नहीं करना पड़ा जैसा कि उसे पिछले साल करना पड़ा था। कंपनी ने हाल में ऑनलाइन टिकट बुकिंग की सेवा भी शुरू की है।



कई ई कॉमर्स कंपनियां पहली बार प्लेसमेंट के लिए आईआईटी और आईआईएम का रुख कर रही हैं

चर्चा है कि जोमैटो डॉट कॉम ने बड़ी निवेश बैंकों के आईआईएम अहमदाबाद में पहुंचने से पहले ही कीर्ति पारेख (बदला हुआ नाम) को 12 लाख रुपये सालाना के पैकेज पर नियुक्त कर लिया।

हालांकि इस प्रक्रिया में जोमैटो ही एक मात्र अकेला नाम नहीं है। देश की सबसे बड़ी ई कॉमर्स साइट माने जाने वाले फ्लिपकार्ट डॉट कॉम के अलावा स्नैपडील, डील्सपेंड्यू,

क्लीयरट्रिप अथवा वाया जैसी सभी कंपनियां देश के सर्वोच्च संस्थान आईआईटी और आईआईएम से अच्छी खासी संख्या में छात्रों को अपनी तरफ आकर्षित करने में कामयाब रहीं। हालांकि इसके लिए इन कंपनियों द्वारा अन्य वैश्विक और भारतीय कंपनियों के मुकाबले दिया जाने वाला भारी भरकम पैकेज ही एकमात्र कारण नहीं था। वरन व्यावसायिक उद्यमशीलता की वजह

से तो कई वैसे छात्र भी इन कंपनियों में शामिल हुए जो संस्थान से पास हो चुके थे। जल्द ही ट्रेवल पोर्टल ज्वाइन करने जा रहे भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) कानपुर के छात्र अविन वैश्य ने बताया, 'यह एक तेजी से बढ़ता हुआ क्षेत्र है।

आप यहां पर बहुत सारी जिम्मेदारियों का निर्वहन करते हैं और शुरुआती समय में आप प्रशिक्षण भी प्राप्त करते हैं। वे आपको बहुत सारे मौके प्रदान करते हैं।' मौजूदा साल में कई सारी ई कॉमर्स साइटों ने आईआईटी और आईआईएम जैसे संस्थानों की तरफ रुख किया है ताकि वे कारोबार को चलाने के लिए प्रतिभावान छात्रों को अपनी कंपनी में शामिल कर सकें। फ्लिपकार्ट के अध्यक्ष (तकनीक) मेकिन माहेश्वरी ने बताया, 'इस क्षेत्र के करीब 10 अरब डॉलर तक बढ़ने की उम्मीद है। ऐसे में कहने की आवश्यकता नहीं कि बाजार में इस दौरान बड़ी संख्या में ई कॉमर्स साइटें सामने आएंगी।

इनमें स्थापित कंपनियां भी होंगी तथा कुछ वैसी भी जो बाजार में प्रवेश कर रही होंगी। जिसके फलस्वरूप बाजार में बढ़ते मौकों के साथ मानवीय पूंजी की भी आवश्यकता होगी। फ्लिपकार्ट ने इस साल शीर्ष इंजीनियरिंग और प्रबंधन कॉलेजों से छात्रों को भर्ती करने की प्रक्रिया तेज कर दी है।

मौजूदा नियुक्ति सत्र में ही फ्लिपकार्ट ने अकेले आईआईटी संस्थानों में 120 छात्रों को नौकरी की पेशकश की और अन्य कैंपसों में उसने 25 छात्रों को नौकरी की पेशकश की। फ्लिपकार्ट में अभी मौजूदा तौर पर 4,500 कर्मचारी काम करते हैं। डील्सपेंड्यू के मुख्य कार्याधिकारी गौरव काचरु ने बताया, 'यह प्रचलन तेजी से बढ़ता जा रहा है। यह इस बात का संकेत है कि यह क्षेत्र (ई-कॉमर्स) परिपक्व होता जा रहा है। इस विकास को बनाए रखने के लिए बेहतर मानव संसाधन की आवश्यकता सबसे महत्वपूर्ण कड़ी है।'

► शीर्ष तकनीकी और प्रबंधन कॉलेजों पर ई कॉमर्स साइटों की नजर

ई कॉमर्स साइट	वर्ष 2010 में आईआईटी और आईआईएम से हायर किए गए छात्र	वर्ष 2011 में आईआईटी और आईआईएम से हायर किए गए छात्र	नियुक्ति के समय की गई औसत पेशकश	अधिकतम पेशकश
फ्लिपकार्ट	100 आईआईटी 40 आईआईएम	120 आईआईटी छात्र 25 छात्र अन्य कैंपस से (पिछले दो सालों में)	ज्ञात नहीं ज्ञात नहीं	ज्ञात नहीं ज्ञात नहीं
स्नैपडील	पहली बार कैंपस नियुक्ति	30 आईआईटी छात्र आईआईएम से हायर करने की प्रक्रिया में	ज्ञात नहीं	ज्ञात नहीं
मंत्रा	3 लैटरल 3 आईआईएम फ्रेशर	आईआईटी और आईआईएम से 8-10 छात्रों को हायर करने की प्रक्रिया में	13 से 15 लाख सालाना आईआईटी 15 से 20 लाख सालाना आईआईएम	20 लाख रुपये सालाना
ट्रेड्स डॉट इन जोमैटो डॉट कॉम	पहली बार कैंपस नियुक्ति 3 1 आईआईटी 2 आईआईएम	5 लाख रुपये से 11 लाख सालाना 16 10 आईआईटी 6 आईआईएम	ज्ञात नहीं 10 से 11 लाख रुपये, सालाना आईआईएम 8 लाख रुपये सालाना, आईआईटी	ज्ञात नहीं 12 लाख रुपये सालाना

Times of India ND
31/12/2011 P-21

Discovered: Gene that causes pancreatic cancer

Scientists have identified a genetic mutation which they believe increases the hereditary risk for developing pancreatic cancer. The finding of the ataxia telangiectasia mutated gene, or ATM, may hold the key to better screening the fourth most common cause of cancer-related death, the researchers said. Less than 5% of patients survive five years after being diagnosed with the cancer, to detect which there is no recommended screening tests at present. Roughly 10% of patients come from the families with a history of disease. "There was significant reason to believe this clustering was due to genetics, but we had not, to this point, been able to find the causative genes that explained the cluster of pancreatic cancer for a majority of these families," said lead study author Alison Klein, an associate professor of oncology at the Johns Hopkins University.