

Newspaper Clips

June 8, 2011

Times of India ND 8/06/201 P-11

After MCI, govt set to take over NCET

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Faced with rampant irregularities and open defiance of government rules, the HRD ministry, in an unprecedented move, is all set to take over the National Council for Teacher Education, the regulator for setting quality standards and running of teacher education institutions in the country.

Last year, the health ministry had taken over the Medical Council of India under similar circumstances.

The NCTE Act provides that the government can supersede the Council in case it fails to live up to the provisions

The ministry's decision comes after two high-powered panels found massive irregularities in grant of recognition to teacher training institutes

of law. HRD ministry has served a notice to NCTE seeking a reply as to why the institution should not be taken over. NCTE has been given a month's time to reply. "But the take over is inevitable," one NCTE official said.

The ministry's action

comes after two high-powered committees submitted their reports. The committees, set up by the ministry, looked into the functioning of the Western Regional Centre (WRC) and Northern Regional Centre (NRC) of NCTE.

In case of WRC, it was found that it gave recognition to teacher training institutes against the wishes of the governments of Maharashtra and other states in the western region. The state governments argued that there were not only too many such institutes but those being given recognition lacked quality. Even HRD ministry had said that any fresh proposal for recog-

niton be sent to Delhi. But WRC defied the order and gave recognition to nearly 300 new institutions. The matter went to the Bombay high court which cancelled the recognition of these institutions. Their promoters went in appeal to the Supreme Court that has set up a committee under former chief justice of India JS Varma.

Another HRD-appointed committee that looked into the functioning of NRC found massive irregularities in

grant of recognition to teacher training institutes and even disregard for the parent organization.

Irregularities and corruption in NRC had its impact on teacher education in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Chandigarh, all of which fall under its jurisdiction. The panel had recommended repatriation of the current regional director, action against errant officials and reconstitution of NRC.

Business Standard ND 8/06/2011 p-16

Social networks become latest window for cyber attacks

PRADEESH CHANDRAN
Bangalore, 7 June

WHEN Remya, a Facebook user saw an application on her wall saying 'Click here to check who viewed your profile', curious, she clicked on the link.

An hour later she realised her account had been hacked after friends complained that she had posted malicious links on their Facebook walls. With Remya, her 250 friends also became victims of the malicious software.

With the growing popularity of social networking in India, perpetrators are increasingly using easy mediums such as Facebook and Twitter for conducting illicit activities.

Facebook with around 12 million users in India has played host to a string of malicious attacks: 'The last minutes of Osama Bin Laden', 'What are you doing in this video?', 'You know who just got a new iPad2 for no cost, etc.

These are just a few of the recent malicious campaigns that hit the Facebook walls.

According to security experts, the reason for targeting Facebook is the burgeoning number of users, users' age and their profile.

"Most spams or links have attractive headlines that make the user curious. Since Facebook does not provide a system to view the visitors of your profile, when an application appears on the Facebook wall its natural that you might click," says Vinoo Thomas,

WITH THE GROWING POPULARITY OF SOCIAL NETWORKING IN INDIA, perpetrators are increasingly using easy mediums such as Facebook and Twitter for conducting illicit activities



technical product manager, McAfee Labs.

Apart from this, according to a report from Trend Micro, there was another attack on Facebook

which claims to have the ability to verify the security of users' accounts. It said, by clicking the link users can avoid Facebook spam. However, in reality, accessing the site is just another ploy to instigate the very same threat that the user wants to prevent.

Most social networking sites have two basic application types: Social plug-ins that allow the integration of basic features onto any website and canvas applications that interact with the profile and can send updated messages or

open new pages. Another reason cited for increased attacks on Facebook is there easy access.

Some of these applications can access public information, profile information, access posts in the newsfeed, access photos and videos, access data any time. Also, an application can request off-line access privileges from a user. If they are granted, the application can access the user information at any time, regardless of whether the user is actually interacting with the application or even logged into the social networking sites," Abhijit Limaye, Director, security response, Symantec said.

Twitter is another social media platform that is becoming the tool for cyber criminals. Every tweet in Twitter is restricted to 148 characters and this is becoming an advantage for criminals. Twitter is becoming a mass-medium

for information circulation and most posts in Twitter use shortened Uniform Resource Locator (URLs). Cyber criminals use this embedded URL as an easy tool, they follow you and learn your interests and post attacks with similar topics and a shortened link of malicious content. These links can make your computer a botnet.

Security experts recommend not to use unknown applications or URLs which can compromise your security. It is always better to take precautions than falling prey for somebody.

Recently, leveraging on global events, criminals are making more attacks on the recent events and it is expected to grow. Experts say users have to be cautious as they become more curious for gathering information, as criminals are defining various ploys to steal information.

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Steve Jobs using iCloud to pick apart PC industry

Apple CEO Steve Jobs, by introducing a service that shares files across different internet-linked devices, takes another step toward sidelining the personal-computer industry he pioneered. Jobs, who helped popularize home computers with the Apple II and the Mac in the 1970s and '80s, is counting on the new iCloud product to let users synchronize and access data on Apple devices and Windows PCs running iTunes.

Jobs aims to make Apple the centre of consumers' digital lives, further reducing dependence on Microsoft's once-dominant Windows software and Hewlett-Packard's market-leading PCs. With iCloud, files will be stored by Apple in remote data centres—known as the “cloud” in technology parlance—and automatically synchronize. That means the same content is available from any Apple gadget, without it cluttering up users' hard drives.

Apple is trying to parlay the success of the iPhone and



HIS VISION IS NOT CLOUDED:
Steve Jobs

iPad into the leading role in the “post-PC” era. Already, customers have bought 25 million iPad tablets, eating into PC sales.

In all, Apple has sold more than 200 million iOS devices, a category that includes the iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch, the company said on Monday when it unveiled iCloud. Apple's App Store now has more than 425,000 applications that work with iOS.

“We're going to demote the PC and the Mac to just be a device—just like an iPad, an iPhone or an iPod Touch,” Jobs, dressed in a black sweater and jeans, said. “We're

We're going to demote the PC and the Mac to just be a device—just like an iPad, an iPhone or an iPod Touch... We're going to move the hub of your digital life to the cloud'

going to move the hub of your digital life to the cloud.”

Apple recently completed a \$1 billion data centre in North Carolina that will serve as the backbone of the iCloud service. It will help devices synchronize calendar items, contacts, mail, iTunes songs, photos, apps and other files. “If you don't think we're serious about this, you're wrong,” Jobs said while showing pictures of the data centre. Apple also is adding 250 new features to the Mac OS X Lion software, including more touch-control options and a service called AirDrop that shares files over Wi-Fi. **BLOOMBERG**

Raj Express Bhopal 07.06.2011 p-1

राहत

आईआईटी और जीएसवीएम ईजाद करेंगे सस्ती तकनीक

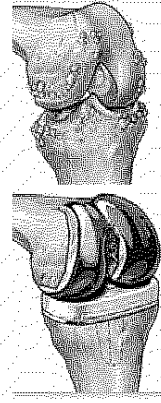
अब 35 नहीं 15 हजार में बदलेंगे घुटने

कानपुर(एजेंसी)। यह खबर उन लोगों के लिए राहत देने वाली हो सकती है, जो लंबे समय से घुटनों के असहनीय दर्द से पीड़ित हैं और डाक्टर ने उन्हें नी रिप्लेसमेंट की सलाह दी है, लेकिन वो महंगे खर्च की वजह से ऐसा कराने में असमर्थ हैं। क्योंकि कानपुर के आईआईटी और गणेश शंकर विद्याथी मेडिकल कालेज ने सस्ती तकनीक के लिए हाथ मिला लिया है। जिसके बाद संभवतः घुटने बदलवाना मात्र 10-15 हजार के बीच होना संभव हो सके।

क्या है तकनीक

जीएसवीएम कालेज के प्रिंसिपल और हड्डी रोग विभाग प्रमुख प्रो आनंद स्वरूप ने कहा कि नी रिप्लेसमेंट के लिए एचटीओ (हाई टीवियल आस्टियोटोमी) से

रोगियों का इलाज किया जा रहा है, जिसमें रोगी को न तो घुटना प्रत्यारोपण कराकर लाखों रुपया खर्च करना पड़ता है और न ही हफ्तों अस्पताल में भर्ती रहना पड़ता है। इस माडिफाइड हाई टीवियल आस्टियोटोमी विधि में रोगी के घुटने जोड़ों के हिस्सों को नाप कर उसका एलाइनमेंट ठीक किया जाता है फिर आर्टिफिशियल इंप्लांट लगाकर उसे सीधा कर दिया जाता है। लेकिन इस मामले में एक दिक्कत यह थी कि इसमें जो आर्टिफिशियल विदेशी इंप्लांट डाला जाता था, वह बहुत महंगा था और उसका खर्च गरीब मरीज वहन नहीं कर पाते थे। दोनों संस्थान इसी विदेशी इंप्लांट के देशी संस्करण पर काम कर रहे हैं, जो संभवतः छह महीनों के भीतर ही बन जाएगा। इसके परीक्षण के बाद इसे किसी कंपनी को उत्पादन के लिए सौंप दिया जाएगा।



कैसे होगा संभव

आईआईटी के निदेशक प्रो. संजय गोविंद धांडे ने बताया कि हम मिलकर एक देशी इंप्लांट की डिजाइन पर काम कर रहे हैं। जिसके लिए आईआईटी और जीएसवीएम के कालेज के प्रिंसिपल के बीच सहमति हो गई है। उन्होंने बताया कि इस देशी इंप्लांट का डिजाइन तैयार हो जाने के बाद और उसके बाजार में आ जाने के बाद रोगियों को महंगा विदेशी इंप्लांट नहीं खरीदना पड़ेगा। जो विदेशी इंप्लांट अभी रोगी को करीब 35 हजार रुपए में मिलता है, उसी का देशी संस्करण रोगी को 10 से 15 हजार रुपए के बीच मिलने लगेगा।