Newspaper Clips

May 6, 2011

Hindustan Times ND 06-May-11 p-15

Panel to help IITs to stay connected

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NEW DELHI: Stop working in individual silos, and collaborate more with other institutions and with industry – that's the message the government today sent out to the country's top engineering schools, the Indian Institutes of Technology.

The human resource development (HRD) ministry has set up a panel under former Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) director general RA Mashelkar to drive greater collaboration between the IITs, other educational institutions and industry.

The panel's mandate was finalized on Thursday at a meeting between the HRD ministry and Directors of the IITs, top government sources told HT. "The IITs, it was felt, need to connect more with other academic institutions and with industry than they do at present. The panel will both devise a strategy to fill this gap, and will oversee the IITs' movement towards this goal over time," an IIT director said.

Officials said the idea was first discussed at the last meeting of the IIT Council – the highest decision making body of the Institutes.

The HRD and IIT Directors also finalized plans to separate the IIT Council from the government, as was reported by HT on May 4. The Council is chaired by the HRD minister and comprises directors and chairmen of all IITs and IISc Bangalore, and academicians.

Hindu ND 06-May-11
p-6

Website on IITs

NEW DELHI: The IIT council would be hosting a dedicated website complete with information about academics and other developments taking place in the IIT fold.

"The website would be maintained in a fashion by which the students can derive maximum benefits," said an IIT insider after a meeting of the IIT directors here on Thursday.

The meeting is also believed to have discussed about a permanent building of the IIT secretariat here and ways to expedite completion of the establishment.

Asian Age ND P-5
06-May-11

MHA seeks IIT foreign fund details

N. ARUN KUMAR

CHENNAI

May 5: The home ministry has sent a letter to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras seeking details of its foreign funds and also pointed out that the institute has not filed mandatory returns under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA).

Replying to an RTI petition filed by M. Rajasegaran, a former employee of IIT-Madras, Mr Bharat Ram, chief public information officer at the home ministry, said that the ministry had sent a letter to IIT-Madras seeking its comments to disclose details about funds collected by the institute from foreign sources. He also pointed out that IIT-Madras was registered under FCRA 1976 on July 25, 2006, but has not filed the mandatory annual FC-3 returns since its registration. Mr Rajasegaran alleged that the institute had misused foreign funds for various purposes. "Nobody knows how much the institute has received," he said.

Times of India ND 06-May-11 p-23

52-yr Stanford study costing $750m proves Einstein theory right

Dennis Overbye

In a tour de force of technology and just plain stubbornness spanning half a century and costing more than $750 million, a team of experimenters from Stanford University reported on Wednesday that a set of orbiting gyroscopes had detected a slight sag and an even slighter twist in space-time.

The finding confirms some of the weirdest of the many strange predictions — like black holes and the expanding universe — of Albert Einstein's theory of gravity, general relativity.

"We have completed this landmark experiment of testing Einstein's universe," Francis Everitt, leader of the project, known as Gravity Probe B, said at a news conference at Nasa headquarters in Washington. "And Einstein survives."

That was hardly a surprise. Observations of planets, the Moon and particularly the shifting orbits of the Lageos research satellites had convinced astronomers and physicists that Einstein's predictions were on the mark. Scientists said the Gravity Probe results would live forever in textbooks as the most direct measurements, and that it was important to keep testing theories that were thought to be correct.

The finding confirms some of the weirdest of the predictions – like black holes and the expanding universe – of Einstein's theory of gravity, general relativity

Einstein's theory relates gravity to the sagging of cosmic geometry under the influence of matter and energy, the way a sleeper makes a mattress sag. One consequence is that a massive spinning object like Earth should spin up the empty space around it. NYT NEWS SERVICE

Times of India ND 06-May-11 p-23

New 3D transistor design to speed up your PC

Like Skyscrapers, Electron Switches Stacked On Top Of Each Other To Handle Info Faster & With Less Power

Hillsboro: Intel announced on Wednesday that it had again found a way to make computer chips that could process information more quickly and with less power in less space.

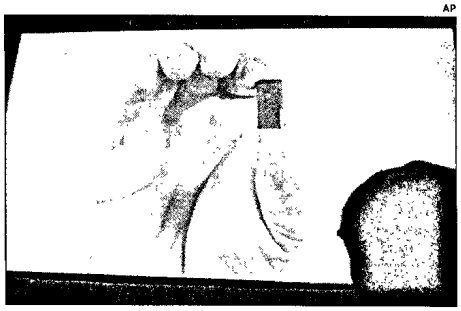
The transistors on computer chips — whether for PCs or smartphones — have been designed in essentially the same way since 1959 when Robert Noyce, Intel's co-founder, and Jack Kilby of Texas Instruments independently invented the first integrated circuits that became the basic building block of electronic devices in the information age.

These early transistors were built on a flat surface. But like a real estate developer building skyscrapers to get more rentable space from a plot of land, Intel is now building up. When the space between the billions of tiny electronic switches on the flat surface of a computer chip is measured in the width of just dozens of atoms, designers needed the third dimension to find more room.

The company has already begun making its microprocessors using a new 3D transistor design, called a Finfet (for fin field-effect transistor), which is based around a remarkably small pillar, or fin, of silicon that rises above the surface of the chip. Intel, based in Santa Clara, California, plans to enter general production based on the new technology some time later this year.

Although the company did not give technical details about its new process in its Wednesday announcement, it said that it expected to be able to make chips that run as much as 37% faster in low-voltage applications and it would be able to cut power consumption as much as 50%.

AP



ADDED DIMENSION: A 3D Tri-Gate transistor unveiled in San Fransisco

Intel currently uses a photolithographic process to make a chip, in which the smallest feature on the chip is just 32 nanometers, a level of microscopic manufacture that was reached in 2009. (By comparison a human red blood cell is 7,500 nanometers in width and a strand of DNA is 2.5 nanometers.) "Intel is on track for 22-nanometer manufacturing later this year," said Mark T Bohr, an Intel senior fellow and the scientist who has overseen the effort to develop the next generation of smaller transistors.

The company's engineers said that they now felt confident that they would be able to solve the challenges of making chips through at least the 10-nanometer generation, which is likely to happen in 2015.

The timing of the announcement on Wednesday is significant, Bohr said, because it is evidence that the world's largest chip maker is not slipping from the pace of doubling the number of transistors that can be etched onto a sliver of silicon every two years, a phenomenon known as Moore's Law. Although not a law of physics, the 1965 observation by Intel's co-founder, Gordon Moore, has defined the speed of innovation for much of the world's economy. It has also set the computing industry apart from other types of manufacturing because it has continued to improve at an accelerating rate.

However, despite its promise and the company's bold claims, Intel's 3D transistor is still a controversial technology within the chip industry. Indeed, a number of the company's competitors say they believe that Intel is taking what could be a disastrous multibillion-dollar gamble on an unproved technology.

There has been industry speculation that Finfet technology will give Intel a clear speed advantage, but possibly less control over power consumption than alternative approaches. AP

Asian Age ND 06-May-11 P-1

HC refuses to stay AIEEE re-exam

AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

May 5: The Delhi high court on Thursday refused to stay the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) rescheduled for May 11 for the candidates who failed to appear due to question paper leak last Sunday.

Rejecting the plea of a group of students for stay of the re-exam, a division bench comprising Chief Justice of Delhi high court Dipak Misra and Justice Sanjiv Khanna, however, issued a notice to the HRD ministry and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) asking them to file their replies by May 18.

The court sought the replies from the respondents after going through a batch of petitions seeking a direction to the organisers to conduct a fresh examination for all the students.

The bench said that the result of AIEEE-2011 would be subject to the outcome of the petitions.

A group of AIEEE candidates, who had appeared in the exam after a delay of three hours due to question paper leak on May 1, had approached the high court on the ground that the students were compelled to give the exam under adverse conditions and circumstances, which is violative of fundamental rights.

Last Sunday, the examination, conducted by the CBSE, was delayed by three hours following a paper leak.

Times of India ND
06-May-11 p-6

Court issues notice to CBSE on plea to scrap AIEEE exams

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi high court on Thursday issued a notice to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on a petition seeking scrapping of All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) held on May 1, after a paper leak delayed the test.

A division bench of chief justice Dipak Misra and Justice Sanjiv Khanna asked the CBSE, the nodal agency for conducting the exam and the HRD ministry, to respond by May 18, the next date of hearing, but declined to stay the re-test scheduled.

However, the court made it clear that the result of the AIEEE-2011 would be subject to the outcome of the petitions.

It was hearing a bunch of petitions demanding that the exam, taken by over 12 lakh students for around 26,816 engineering and architecture seats in colleges across the country, be scrapped and all students be allowed to take the rescheduled test.

On Sunday, the national-level examination was delayed by nearly three hours after the paper was leaked in Uttar Pradesh and its copies were sold for Rs 6 lakh each.

The question paper was reportedly being sold in the open market in Lucknow, UP.

A man was arrested by Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force in connection.

At many centres, the examination was cancelled. "The students who will appear subsequently in the exam rescheduled by CBSE for May 11 will have the advantage of preparing better," the petitions said.

A group of AIEEE candidates, who had appeared for the exam after a delay of three hours due to question paper leak, which took place on May 1, has approached the high court for cancellation of the both the examinations (1st and 2nd phase).

They had contended that the students were compelled to give the exam under adverse conditions and circumstances.

The organisers have fixed another examination on May 11 only for those aspirants who were not able to appear on Sunday and restrained the students who had already appeared in the exam.

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Hindustan Times ND 06-May-11 p-10

CBSE caught in engineering re-test dilemma

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NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is caught in a dilemma over who all to allow to appear for the May 11 All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) re-run forced by a question paper leak.

Several parents have petitioned the Board, demanding that all 12 lakh applicants for the test be allowed to take the May 11 examination, scheduled by the CBSE for students who could not take the May 11 test. About 32, 000 students could not appear for the May 1 test, which was delayed following the paper leak, resulting in a clash with another examination that day.

But the Board is worried that allowing all candidates to reappear may trigger another set of concerns and plans to restrict the re-run to those who could not take the May 1 test, top CBSE officials told HT.

"We are caught in a situation where it is impossible to satisfy everyone. We will face flak, no matter what we do," a top CBSE official said.

The AIEEE was delayed by two-and-a-half hours on May 1, after Uttar Pradesh police officers discovered a paper leak. All students barring about 32, 000 took the delayed test after hours of suspense and waiting in unpleasant summer heat.

Many parents are arguing that the performance of their children on May 1 cannot be compared with those of the candidates who appear for the May 11 test — 10 days later — with knowledge of the question paper standards. They have suggested making it optional for all students to reappear for the test, and then considering the best score out of a possible two. This alone, they argue, will prevent complaints of differences in standards between the two papers.

But the CBSE is worried about creating a scenario where one set of candidates have two opportunities — May 1 and May 11 — while another has only the latter test to depend on.

HC refuses to stay AIEEE exam

The Delhi high court on Thursday refused to stay the All India Entrance Examination re-scheduled for May 11 for the candidates who failed to appear in it due to question paper leak on last Sunday. A division bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Sanjiv Khanna rejected a plea for stay of the second phase of the examination but issued a notice to the HRD Ministry and CBSE to file their replies by May 18. **NEW DELHI, PTI**

Hindustan Times ND 06-May-11

19-yr-old rewrites exam rules for disabled students

■ Jaswinder Singh Sodhi

PIONEER Ludhiana student who suffers from cerebral palsy now allowed to use computers in exams

Chetan Chauhan
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NEW DELHI: The efforts of 19-year-old Jaswinder Singh Sodhi and his parents have rekindled hopes among disabled students who want to pursue a career in computer engineering.

Jaswinder, who suffers from cerebral palsy like 25 lakh other children in India, convinced the government to change its archaic rule of allowing another person to write answers on behalf of a disabled student. Instead, the government will now allow the use of modern aids such as computers besides a writer to answer question papers.

A student of Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College, Ludhiana, Jaswinder will be the first such student in India to have an option of using of computer-aided design (CAD) to appear in engineering drawing paper on May 13. But this wouldn't have been possible without the intervention of the human resource development (HRD) ministry.

"We will ask the University Grants Commission to prescribe modern aids to disabled students to appear in examination for different streams," a senior HRD ministry official said.

In November 2010, Jaswinder's doctor parents, J S Sodhi and Neelam Sodhi, realised that a writer cannot understand the instructions of their son while helping him with his engineering drawing paper.

CAUSE TO CELEBRATE

- A child with cerebral palsy cannot draw like normal kids due to limited control over hands
- Jaswinder's parents wanted his university to allow him to use computer-aided design
- After a long struggle, the HRD ministry wrote a letter to his university to allow the use of CAD

A child with cerebral palsy cannot draw like normal children because of limited control over hands and the Sodhis wanted the authorities to allow Jaswinder to use CAD. "Despite modern aids being available, the government is forcing disabled students to depend on a writer," said Javed Abidi, who runs the Disabled Rights Group.

Neelam Sodhi told HT that they were not asking for any kind of relaxation but wanted a system to test their son's "intelligence correctly".

That was the beginning of a long struggle for the Sodhis. They knocked the doors of technical education bureaucracy at each level — the college, Punjab Technical University, Punjab government and the All India Council for Technical Education — but failed to get a favourable response. "Sometimes it was frustrating when nobody listened to us," Neelam recalled.

Finally, Sunil Kumar, additional secretary in the HRD ministry, came to their rescue. In April, Kumar asked the vice-chancellor of the university to provide all help to Jaswinder to appear in the exam. "Kumar's letter has worked," JS Sodhi said on Wednesday, after meeting the vice-chancellor.

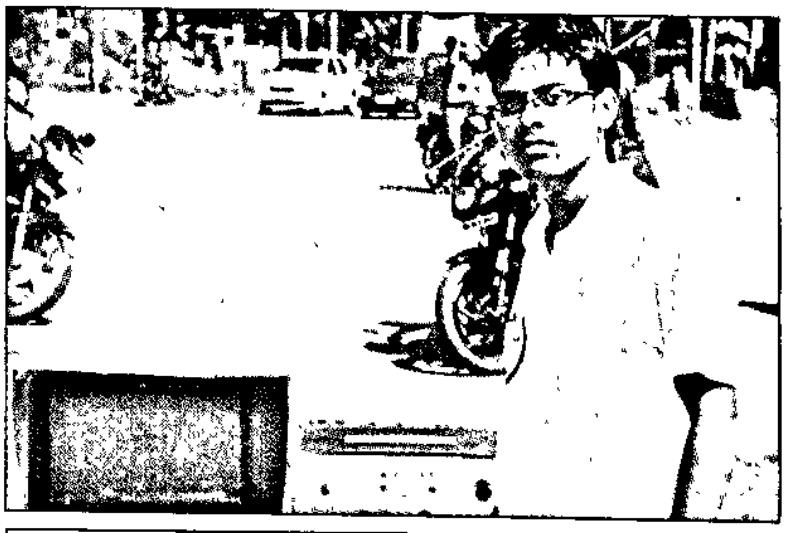
Hindustan ND 06.05.2011 p-3

सूरज पर दाग ढूंढने के नासा के अभियान में आगे आया दिल्ली का होनहार

नई दिल्ली | कार्यालय संवाददाता

सूरज पर दाग ढूंढने के नासा के अभियान में जहां पूरी दुनिया के वैज्ञानिक और शोधकर्ता लगे हैं तो दिल्ली के लड़के ने इन गुत्थियों को सुलझाने के लिए नासा के इस अभियान का हिस्सा बना है। नासा के लोगों की ही एक संस्था सोसाइटी ऑफ एमैच्योर रेडियो एस्ट्रोनॉमर्स ने सूरज और वृहस्पति में दाग ढूंढने के लिए पूरी किट प्रदान की है।

दिल्ली के गुरु गोविंद सिंह इंद्रप्रस्थ विश्वविद्यालय के महाराजा सूरजमल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी के तृतीय वर्ष के छात्र तुषार शर्मा नासा के रेडियो जोव प्रोजेक्ट से जुड़े है। उनके द्वारा बनाई गई डिवाइस के द्वारा सूर्य और वृहस्पति में हो रहे बर्स्ट के बारे में आकलन करना संभव होगा। वह कहते हैं कि हालांकि जो डिवाइस मेरे पास है उससे फिलहाल बीस मेगा हर्ट्ज तक तक सूर्य में हो रहे परिवर्तन और बर्स्ट के बारे में जानकारी दे सकना संभव है जबकि इस काम को करने के लिए बड़ी फ्रिक्वेंसी के एंटीना की जरूरत होगी। वह कहते हैं कि वह अपने लगातार ले रहे पिक्चरों को नासा को भेजते हैं।



कैसे करते हैं आकलन

सूर्य के व्यवहार में लगातार परिवर्तन होता रहता है। जिसकी वजह से सूर्य में डार्क स्पॉट आ जाते हैं। जिनसे लगातार ऊर्जा निकलती रहती है। सूर्य पर उच्च चुंबकीय क्षेत्र है जो कि लगातार उत्सर्जन करता रहता है। वह सूर्य में उठने वाले सोलर बर्स्ट का अध्ययन अपनी डिवाइस के द्वारा करते हैं। उनकी डिवाइस में कॉपर के तार से बना डायपोल एंटीना लगा है साथ ही फीड प्वाइंट सूर्य से आ रही तरंगो को रिसीव कर उन्हें ध्वनि तरंगों में बदलता है। ऐसे में अगर कोई भी बदलाव सूर्य या वृहस्पति में होता है तो उसे कंप्यूटर में ग्राफ के रूप में ऊंची उठने वाली तरंगों और ध्वनि के तौर पर सुना जा सकता है।