

Newspaper Clips

September 13, 2011

Economic Times ND 13-Sep-11 P6

IIT to Discuss Tuition Fee Hike

OUR POLITICAL BUREAU

NEW DELHI

The IIT Council is expected to consider tuition fee hike and a single admission test, which combines the Joint Entrance Examination with all other engineering admission exams, at its meeting on Wednesday.

The meeting will discuss the report of the committee on JEE reforms, which has been

prepared by science and technology secretary T Ramasami. The HRD ministry had set up a committee under Ramasami to suggest reforms in the JEE to take into account students' performance in Class XII examinations and changes to assess intelligence and aptitude of the candidates.

The Ramasami report favours the single national test and said it should be conducted more than once a year.

Deccan Chronicle Hyderabad 12.09.2011 p-6

SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS

Task force likely on IIT student suicides

New Delhi, Sept. 11: Concerned over rising cases of suicides among IIT students in recent years, the government has proposed setting up a task force to study the situation and suggest "systemic" measures to address the issue.

"The task force would analyse the issue threadbare, study the present situation in IITs, review the support systems available, and suggest the measures which can be undertaken to address the situation," an

HRD Ministry official said.

The constitution of the task force, which would be discussed at the IIT council meeting here on Wednesday, would have representation from students, alumni, deans, parents and teachers.

Some experts on the subject of suicide can also be considered for membership of such a task force, the official said, indicating it could be headed by an eminent person such as director of National Institute of

The task force will study the situation and suggest 'systemic measures' to stop suicides of IITians.

Mental Health and Neuro

Sciences.

The need for such a body was being increasingly felt as steps taken so far to address the problem including measures to de-stress students did not prove sufficient enough, the official said.

Studies have suggested that most of the students took such extreme measure either due to stress-related disorder or had succumbed to depression.

In recent years, cases of suicides have been reported

from several of the IIT campuses — the latest one being from IIT Patna on September 1 where a 20-year-old girl from Andhra Pradesh allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the roof of her hostel as she was depressed with her performance in the elite institute.

IITs have tried to grapple with a series of measures, including one to bar students from using the internet late into the night,

— PTI

Mail Today ND
13/09/2011 P-15

IITs to huddle over suicides

IIT Council, the highest decision-making body of the IITs, will meet on Wednesday to discuss replacing the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and other engineering tests with a single national examination.

Science and technology secretary T. Ramaswami will make a presentation on the issue to all IIT directors at the meeting.

A high-powered committee under Ramaswami has been charged with the responsibility of recommending reforms in the IIT-JEE to reduce financial and mental stress on students. The final report is yet to be submitted.

The IIT Council meeting is also slated to discuss the increasing number of suicides by students on campus. This year, IITs have reported seven suicides already. The number of cases is the highest in the last five years. According to sources, the ministry is keen on forming a task force that will suggest systemic measures to address the issue.

Mail Today Bureau/Delhi

Pioneer Lucknow
11.09.2011 p-2

First phase of FDP for IITs concludes

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
LUCKNOW**

The first phase of faculty development programme (FDP) for ITIs, initiated by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) with Uttar Pradesh government and Tata Motors, concluded on Saturday. The first batch comprising 20 instructors/faculties of ITIs of 'mechanic motor vehicle' trade completed their six-day training in Lucknow.

Chief guest Viresh Kumar, principal secretary (vocational education and training) said the importance of ITIs in shaping the overall quality of a state's workforce could not be overstated. Alok Saxena, vice-chairman of CII (UP State Council) and plant head (Tata Motors), said: "The upgradation of the skill set and knowledge of the faculty by industry experts is of utmost importance as it directly impacts the deliverance standards of ITIs and augments the employability factor in the state."

Ved Krishna, chairman-CII UP State Council, said: "We have chosen the auto sector as the first area under this programme. The supply from ITIs and polytechnics in India for the entire auto sector is in the range of 530,000 graduates per annum."

Pioneer ND 13.09.2011 P-6

Four months on, IIT whistleblower awaits inquiry

MOUSHUMI BASU ■ NEW DELHI

The whistleblower professor of IIT Kharagpur, Rajeev Kumar, continues to be at the receiving end from the management of the premier institute and the HRD Ministry as the inquiry proceedings against him are yet to start even though four months have passed since May 13. Despite the fact that as per the applicable rules, the maximum period of suspension can stretch up to 90 days, if not reviewed for extension, after which it automatically becomes null and void, Kumar has not been communicated of any review of the suspension so far.

With the forthcoming meeting of the IIT council scheduled on Wednesday, Kumar has sent advance copies to the chairman, IIT council chairman and members, Board of Governors (BOG), IIT Kharagpur, the HRD Minister and other concerned authorities for resolving the Disciplinary Proceedings Rules, as applicable in his case.

In his submission, Kumar has contended that the suspension order dated May 13 is no longer valid as there was no extension of the suspension order carried out on the basis of the existing provisions. He

has further pointed out that all the charges in the chargesheet are false, frivolous, malafide and motivated, exposing him and his family members to great hardship.

Kumar has also highlighted the fact that IIT-Kharagpur was "acquiring details of his cell phone from February even before his suspension in May, which he said was an infringement of privacy, putting him and his family under total surveillance of those who had been threatening him.

Kumar, a professor in Computer Science, who had brought to light irregularities in Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) on the basis of RTI, was suspended for "defaming the institute". However, his stand had been upheld by the Supreme Court on August 16.

In fact, it had been due to Kumar's efforts that have led to much improvement in the IIT-JEE and other examinations' systems which are now much more transparent. While the management continues to be silent on the disciplinary proceedings against him, the HRD Ministry has also refused to intervene in the case of his suspension arguing that the institute enjoys administrative autonomy.

Hindu, ND 13/09/2011 P-7

Fate of pass-outs from IISER uncertain

Degrees given by institutions at Pune, Kolkata not valid

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: The provisional degrees given by the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) at Pune and Kolkata to students who passed out are not valid as per the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, which says that only Parliamentary law or State law or an institution declared as deemed to be university under Section 3 of the UGC Act can award degrees or equivalent awards.

As Parliament has not passed the amendment to the National Institutes of Technology Act, 2007, that would empower the IISERs to grant degrees, thanks to the poor floor management by the Congress, the dilemma now is that the two institutes at Kolkata and Pune cannot even be declared 'deemed to be universities' as they do not fulfil the criteria prescribed by the Union Human Resource Development Ministry. The HRD Ministry had failed to bring in a law that would empower the IISERs — designated as institutes of national importance — to grant degrees.

Having failed to bring in a law to govern the IISERs for

five years, the HRD Ministry brought in an amendment in the NIT Act, 2007, in 2010, but the Ministry was unable to get the Parliamentary approvals due to frequent disruptions.

The amendment was necessary to grant degrees to over 80 students who passed out from the IISERs at Kolkata and Pune this May. They were given provisional certificates in anticipation of the NIT Act being amended in the monsoon session.

The IISERs cannot even be declared as deemed to be universities owing to the rigorous conditions prescribed by the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010, introduced on the recommendations of the committee of experts which reviewed such institutions. The UGC regulations were tightened following widespread complaints and the intervention of the Supreme Court in an ongoing matter, calling into question the process by which allegedly dubious private institutions were being conferred the status to grant degrees.

Clause 6.7 of the regulations do not permit consideration of any application for

deemed varsity declaration if the institution has already enrolled students, and Clause 4.1 mandates that the institution has to be in operation for not less than 15 years (except in the case of *de novo* universities category).

Earlier, some private institutions allegedly circumvented the mandatory period of existence by claiming to be applying under what was known as the *de novo* category, which was meant to promote new and emerging areas of knowledge. According to the review committee of experts, the *de novo* provision was grossly misused, and even ordinary engineering or medical colleges were declared deemed to be universities although no emerging areas of knowledge were being dealt with by such colleges except the use of fanciful nomenclature for their courses.

The *de novo* category ironically has hit the IISERs adversely. Both have been in existence for less than the mandated period under the UGC guidelines, and the courses in basic sciences offered by them do not fit the definition of new and emerging areas of knowledge.

Education reforms

Need for reality check

CAUGHT between the politics of populism, the much required Bills for education reforms are awaiting a nod from both Houses of Parliament. If the success story of the Indian economy — which rests primarily on the service sector — has to be sustained, it has to pay heed to the educational needs of the 220 million children who go to school, and 13 million of these who reach up to the college level. In fact, according to the projection of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the number of 13 million college/university-going students should increase to 45 million by 2020. India's GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) — the number of children between the ages of 18 and 24 who go to college — is a sad 12.4 per cent, whereas in some developed countries it ranges between 50 per cent and 70 per cent.

To meet this moderate target of sending only 30 per cent of school passouts (45 million) for higher education, the country will need another 200 universities and 50,000 colleges, apart from raising the bar of the existing 800 universities and 26,000 colleges. That too in a short period of just nine years! Even if we ignore the jugglery of figures, the moot question remains: how is the ministry going to address the fundamentals of good education — good faculty and a fair selection system for both students and teachers in a system that presently leaves only about 12 per cent seats in the open category, thereby making higher education unrealistically competitive? Moreover, new institutions take time to build a reputation, the unrealistic rise in the cut-off percentages of the reputed colleges has already shown the widening gap between demand and supply for quality education. The need for education reforms is urgent yet the speed to achieve it is tardy.

Since 90 per cent of the youth are educated in state / public universities, these should be the focus of higher education reforms. At the same time, the targets cannot be met without the participation of the private sector. The way the government has allowed Section 25 of the Companies Act to establish educational institutions, it should simplify other vital issues related to higher education like the National Eligibility Test scheme as has been suggested by Kapil Sibal.

Cambridge best university in the world

CAMBRIDGE University is the best university in the world, according to a new league table which sees its rival Oxford awarded fifth place.

The institution topped the eighth annual QS World University Rankings, seeing off competition from leading US institutions.

It is the second year running that Cambridge University has taken the top spot. It wrestled first place from Harvard last year, pushing the American university into second for the first time since the tables began.

The QS World University Rankings questions academics and employers and rates universities worldwide on areas including research, teaching standards, graduate employability and international work.

Oxford University came fifth in the tables, up one place from last year, while Imperial College London came sixth this year, and University College London took seventh place. The rest of the top 10 was made up of US institutions with Massachusetts Institute of Technology in third place, Yale University fourth, University of Chicago eighth, University of Pennsylvania ninth and Columbia University in 10th place.

In total, 17 UK universities were in the top 100. Besides those in the top 10, they were Edinburgh University (20th place), King's College London (27), Manchester University (29), Bristol University (30), Warwick University (50), Glasgow University (59), London School of Economics (64), Birmingham University (67), Sheffield University (72), Nottingham University (74), Southampton University (75), Leeds University (93) and Durham University (95).

—*The Independent*

Farce of an education in engineering

► *Andhra Pradesh's private colleges are mere degree shops, imparting little knowledge skills. Strangely enough, many have AICTE certification.*



Andhra Pradesh being a reservoir of talented engineers is a myth.

T.H. Chowdary
In the over 700 engineering colleges in Andhra Pradesh there are 3,20,000 seats. In the entrance exam, EMCET, 2,50,000 appear. Of these 2,18,000 qualify (i.e get 25 per cent marks). But 30,000 qualified students fail in the intermediate exam, and therefore are not eligible to be admitted.

As many as 30,000 choose not to study in AP; they are not sure whether they would complete the course within four years, in view of the frequent bandhs and postponements of exams caused by agitations for and against Telangana.

Serious students opt to study in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. We are now left with 1,58,000 who may join the engineering colleges, against the admission capacity of 3,20,000.

A large number of engineering colleges have been opened by persons who made lot of money in vari-

ous businesses. Investment in buildings is an outlet for untaxed money.

SHELL COLLEGES

These colleges have all been permitted by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), generally without site inspection or checks on whether the required laboratories, equipment, teachers, library, hostel and other facilities are available.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh is reimbursing the fees for about 85 per cent of those admitted. They are characterised as poor, minority, SC & STs. What is required is only a caste/religion certificate which can easily be purchased.

A person admitted in the engineering college will have to spend about Rs 600 only, and he will get after four years a certificate that he is an engineer.

While the nursery and secondary education is expensive, an engineering degree is very cheap – one can get it for Rs 600. One who joins an engineering college need not study at all. Questions are given and answers are dictated. Exams are confined to these questions.

Those who are unfit to be recruited by any private company join as assistant professors in the college from which they “graduate”.

If a good principal insists upon teachers teaching in English, then agitations are launched, saying that

the principal is anti-social and social justice demands that nobody should be detained and that everybody be passed.

The college managements are not worried – they are, after all, getting their tuition fees from Government of Andhra Pradesh, though very late. So 90 per cent of the engineering colleges in Andhra Pradesh are turning out young men who are certified as “engineers” but not qualified to be employed except perhaps by government. Soon, this bubble of Andhra Pradesh becoming a reservoir of talented engineers will burst.

Professors must have an M. Tech degree. Many who are unfit to be employed by any private company are taking to M. Tech.

Not finding any employment, they take to M. Tech because they get a stipend. The infusion of such students will further degrade the quality of teaching and of course, the quality of learning.

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

The degradation of education has started at the intermediate level. A number of private junior colleges have come up. Though the number of colleges is far fewer than government colleges, these have more students. In these corporate colleges, education has been ‘poutrified’; hens are kept in cages, are fed to grow and then cut as broilers, or

they lay eggs. In a similar manner, those admitted to these corporate colleges are made to read day and night. It is not textbooks that they read, it is answers to hundreds of questions that are likely to appear in exam papers.

The answers are rote-learned. No concept, no theory, no basic principles are taught. The colleges don't have laboratories. The training is for choosing the correct answer and not for understanding the subject or solving the problem. So, what is turned out is an exam talent and not knowledge talent.

Students know how to pass an exam, get into a professional college, get a job somehow and make money by whatever means. The rise in crime can be related to the rampant commercialisation of education.

Now, these corporate education businesses are invading secondary education. Techno-schools, concept-schools, IIT foundation-schools and so on are coming up. We might see the ‘poutrification’ of secondary education.

At this rate, is it ever possible to build a prosperous, powerful and intellectual India?

(The author is Director, Centre for Telecom Management & Studies, and Chairman, Pragna Bharati, Andhra Pradesh.)

Punjabi students hit language barrier in UK

BALWANT GARG
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, SEPTEMBER 12

Four months after the UK made changes in its student visa rules, many Punjabi students in the UK have already been sent back and more may follow for failing to clear the newly introduced English language requirement test.

From April 6 this year, the English language requirement has been changed from B1 to B2 level. This means that those going to the UK for graduation will have to appear for the English language test at the B2 level of the Common European

WHY THE STUMBLING BLOCK

- Those going to the UK for graduation have now to appear for the English language test at the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference
- Indian students in the UK are required to clear four English Language Foundation Stage tests if the institutions in which they are enrolled feel that their English level is not up to the mark
- The initial fee for the test is 1,000 pounds and the re-appearing fee is a whopping 2,500 pounds, say students
- Travel agents are misleading students by not telling them about the new rules for studying abroad, says Lok Bhalai Party chief Ramoowalia

Framework of Reference.

Now, Indian students in the UK are required to clear four English Language Foundation Stage tests if the institutions in

which they are enrolled feel that the English level of the students is not up to the mark.

“If a student fails to clear these tests in three attempts,

he or she is repatriated,” said Kushdeep Kaur (name changed) of Langeana in Moga district.

Kushdeep took admission in a London college nine months back. She failed the language test twice and the college removed her name from the course. “The initial fee for this test is 1000 pounds and if the student fails in clearing the test in the first attempt, the re-appearing fee is 2500 pounds,” she explained.

Though the students are given the visa after they have cleared the IELTS or TOFEL tests in India, many face problems in comprehending spoken English in the first

six weeks of the course and are told to clear the four English Language Foundation Stage tests.

Jaspreet Singh, a student from Faridkot, returned home two weeks back after he failed the test and his name was removed from the college rolls.

Former Union Minister and president of the Lok Bhalai Party Balwant Singh Ramoowalia said the government had failed to make the younger generation aware about the new rules for studying abroad.

“A large number of unscrupulous travel agents are misleading innocent students”, he alleged.

IT hiring grows 7% in Aug: HSBC

fe Bureau

Bangalore, Sept 12: With the global market is grappling to model the extent of the slowdown in IT demand, hiring in the Indian technology sector remained strong during the month of August. According to a HSBC research report released on Monday, IT hiring in India has grown 7% month-on-month.

"Unless the macro situation deteriorates materially from here, we do not see significant downside risk to our average 10-15% USD top-line growth forecast for the sector," the HSBC report said.

Head-hunting companies feel there won't be any impact in terms of hiring for the next three to four months. "It is too early to feel any kind of impact in terms of hiring. For most of the MNCs head-counts and budgets follow the January to November or December cycle. We will mostly see the impact beginning of next year," said Sangeeta Lala, senior vice-president, TeamLease Services.

For the top-tier Indian IT firms there has been no changes so far in hiring plans. "We have not seen any major changes. Nobody has stopped hiring.

However there is a slowdown in certain verticals like the banking and finance," Lala added.

Country's second-largest IT services company Infosys has not made any changes for the year. "We are continuing on our hiring plans. We are aggressively hiring," Kris Gopalakrishnan, executive chairman, Infosys said recently in Bangalore. "If at all there will be any cutback in budgets, it will be next year. If at all there is an effect, it will be seen next year when budgets are finalised," he said.

According to a study released by job portal Naukri.com last week ITeS sectors saw maximum movement in the hiring front during the month of August compared with the previous month.

The hiring activity in all the key IT hubs of the country Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai saw their indices moving up by 13%, 11% and 7% respectively in August over July. Among the key industry sectors, hiring activity has been upbeat for both ITeS and IT sectors where the index moved up by 19% and 8% respectively in August over the previous month.

Financial Express ND 13/09/2011

P-7

Industry will need 15,000 HPC professionals: C-DAC

Geeta Nair

Pune, Sept 12: The country will see the roll out of a ₹10,000 crore national supercomputing programme. The Planning Commission has recently given an in-principle approval for the national programme with an outlay of around ₹6,000 crore and along with other infrastructure expenses it will work out to be a ₹10,000 crore project.

High performance computing (HPC) has become mainstream as the next generation tool for R&D with its capability for simulation, modelling and data analysis and India will be moving forward to have more HPC, Hemant Darbari, executive director, C-DAC, said. "There is a big demand in the country for high performance computing professionals and this will grow more in the next 5-10 years as more applications and application oriented work gets done in the area of HPC. Building machines is not enough now and the driver now will be applications and we will require a larger base to work in the area of HPC," Darbari said. C-DAC estimates that there could be a requirement of about 15,000 HPC professionals across the government and pri-

vate industry. The financial markets, pharma, aerospace and automotive industry are amongst those who have started using HPC and are demanding more applications. The HPC segment in the country is estimated to be growing at 25% a year. Companies such as IBM and HP, too, face problems

has been launched anywhere in the world, Pradeep Sinha, senior director, HPC C-DAC, said. A lot of the existing systems have not been utilised fully because of the lack of trained HPC people who can understand, use, run and maintain HPC systems, Sinha said. This will also help gov-

HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING (HPC) HAS BECOME MAINSTREAM AS THE NEXT GENERATION TOOL FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT WITH ITS CAPABILITY FOR SIMULATION, MODELLING AND DATA ANALYSIS

while recruiting resources for their HPC requirements. There has been talks between these companies, C-DAC and government to sort this out.

Goldi Misra, group coordinator and head, HPCS Group, C-DAC, said this is a global problem with the IDC report saying that manpower is one of the biggest challenge for the HPC programme. Companies currently spend a lot of time and resources in training them and there is a long lead time, Misra added. C-DAC Pune has announced the launch a Certified HPC professional certification programme. This is for the first time such a programme

ernment, R&D and IT industry to recruit the right candidates from a pool of HPC industry ready and certified professionals. About 5,000 certified HPC professionals are expected to come out of this programme in the first year.

Designed by the High Performance Computing Solutions (HPCS) Group of C-DAC, the certification exam will be conducted online, initially every three months and in due course, on-demand 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the existing C-DAC ACTS Authorised Training Centre located across India acting as prometric centers.

Cloud Computing, e-Com Boost M&As in Start-ups

August saw 49 M&A deals worth \$2,181 m against 42 deals worth \$401 m last year

PEERZADA ABRAR
BANGALORE

Merger and acquisition activity among Indian start-ups is gaining strength in hot sectors, such as cloud computing, e-commerce and mobile.

In Chennai, Vembu Technologies, which provides cloud-based data backup and retrieval solutions to small business owners, has acquired another city-based firm, CloudNucleus, in a deal valued at around \$10 million.

The deal was a mixture of cash and equity, according to a person with direct knowledge of the transaction. This is the first acquisition for the seven-year-old firm and was funded through internal accruals.

"We are open to more acquisitions," said Sathish Subramanian, vice-president storage products, Vembu Technologies. "This current deal will increase Vembu's ability to deliver complete data protection and recovery solutions to small and medium businesses," he added.

The firm with global customers, such as the US-based Acxential Business Solutions and EMCS, has been increasing revenues by over a fifth every year and expects a steep increase in profits after the acquisition.

M&A activity in India's start-up ecosystem is gaining popularity with sectors like as cloud computing, e-commerce and mobile at the epicentre. According to Grant Thornton's latest Dealtracker report, there were as many as 49 merger and acquisition transactions worth \$2,181 million in August, while in the previous year there were 42 deals worth \$401 million.

"The merger should be very synergistic since the two product offerings dovetail well into each other, both companies share a common target market," said Ravi Gururaj, vice-president for engineering, data centre and cloud division at global technology firm Citrix Systems. Gururaj's start-up, VMLogix, was acquired by Citrix last year.

On Cloud Nine

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In India, the current total cloud market of \$400 million will grow over 10 times, reaching a market value of \$4.5 billion, by 2015, according to Zinnov-EMC India Study released in July this year

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In July this year, Cloud.com, a start-up backed by Nexus Venture, was acquired by Citrix for around \$200-\$250 million.

"We will see additional acquisitions in the short and medium term. Funds that have exposure to leading companies in the cloud space are likely to do well," said Naren Gupta, co-founder and MD of Nexus Venture Partners, who has invested in over six cloud computing start-ups in India.

Vembu, founded by IIT-Madras alumnus Sekar Vembu in 2004, has grown into hundred-person company with a customer base of nearly 2,600 managed service providers. Srivatsan Venkatesan who began CloudNucleus almost two years ago will join Vembu as vice-president, product management.

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Naren Gupta, co-founder & MD,
Nexus Venture Partners

KAMAL

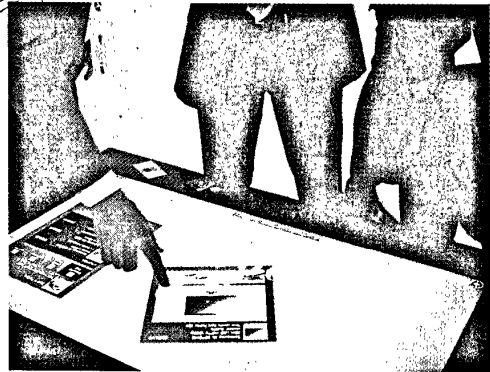
over 10 times, reaching a market value of \$4.5 billion, by 2015, according to Zinnov-EMC India Study released in July this year.

Cloud-based services, which cost just half of what traditional services do, is prompting entrepreneurs across telecom and networking, facilities and fabric, hardware, software, internal labour and external IT services to change track.

In cloud computing, the information is stored and processed on computers 'in the cloud' or the web instead of local servers. This data can then be remotely accessed through a personal computer, cell phone or any other device.

CloudNucleus has developed a technology that provides continuous backup or real-time backup, of computer data by automatically saving a copy of every change made to that data.

"This is what small businesses wanted, but the cost of such technologies is very high we are trying to make it affordable," said Venkatesan of CloudNucleus.



Samsung's interactive surface table SUR40, developed in conjunction with Microsoft, on display at the IFA consumer electronics fair in Berlin

Microsoft plans to challenge iPad with Windows 8 touchscreen interface

SOFTWARE

By Richard Waters in San Francisco

Microsoft is set to counter the technology revolution triggered by Apple's iPad, with the unveiling on Tuesday of software intended to turn touchscreen computing into something more familiar to the world's 1bn PC users.

The software will be shown off at a Microsoft conference for software developers in California. Persuading developers to write applications that run on its operating systems has been key to the company's historical success, but has been under threat as attention shifts

to a new generation of tablets and smartphones.

"Without the developers, they won't have much of a platform," said Michael Cherry, an analyst at Directions on Microsoft, a research company.

The test, or beta, version of the forthcoming Windows operating system represents a bet that iPad does not represent the final shape of tablet computing.

Rather than the pallet of icons and "apps" popularised by Apple, Microsoft is set to show software that combines elements of both tablets and PCs.

A trial version, known as Windows 8, is expected to be released to developers this week, though devices employing

the software will not go on sale for at least a year, based on Microsoft's typical release timetable.

Windows 8 will have two interfaces: the traditional "desktop" familiar to PC users, and a touch-based interface using the same large "tiles" used on Windows software for smartphones. It will work on both the Intel-designed chips used in PCs, as well as the low-power chips found in smartphones and based on designs from UK-based Arm Holdings.

The software will also be designed to bridge the gap between the "apps" found on tablets and smartphones and the full-featured applications of PCs. "The distinction between notebook [PCs] and

tablets will blur," said Rick Sherlund, software analyst at Nomura Securities in New York.

Microsoft and its hardware allies had a good chance of winning over business customers with a new generation of thin, lightweight notebooks, many of which would have detachable screens or use other ways of combining touch with the traditional PC experience, said Mr Sherlund. The wave of notebook upgrades by business customers triggered by Windows 8 could finally shake Microsoft's share price out of its decade-long slump, headed.

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आईआईटी सिखाएगा हिंदी

आईआईटी छात्रों को हिंदी की बारीकियां सिखाने की तैयारी कर रहा है। आईआईटी, मुंबई के प्रोफेसर डा. पुष्पक भट्टाचार्य ने एक ऐसी वेबसाइट तैयार की है जो आम व्यक्ति को हिंदी के विविध पहलुओं से परिचित कराएगा। उन्होंने एक हिंदी शब्द तंत्र बनाया है, जो कि हिंदी के माध्यम से 15 भाषाओं में आपको महारत हासिल करने में मददगार साबित होगा। <<http://www.cfilt.iitb.ac.in>> नामक यह हिंदी शब्द तंत्र हिंदी के शब्दों के अर्थ, उनके पर्यायवाची के साथ-साथ उनके लिंक, उनके कांसेप्ट, उससे संबंधित प्रकार, उनके संभावित भाव आदि के बारे में जानकारी देगा। इस हिंदी शब्द तंत्र में तमिल, नेपाली, उर्दू, मराठी, कोंकणी, कश्मीरी, कन्नड़, गुजराती, असमी आदि भाषाओं में भी पूरी जानकारी मिल सकेगी। डा. भट्टाचार्य कहते हैं कि कई स्कूलों में इसका प्रयोग बच्चों को हिंदी सिखाने के लिए किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि किसी भाषा को जानने के साथ-साथ उसके विविध पक्षों को भी जान लिया जाए तो भाषा बेहतर होती है।

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अमेरिका में बनेगा आईआईटी का सेंटर

कानपुर, शिक्षा संवाददाता: भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) अमेरिका में अपना एक सेंटर बनाने की तैयारी कर रहा है। इसको अंतिम रूप इसी माह न्यूयार्क में हो रहे पैन आईआईटी (पूर्व छात्रों का संगमन) में दिया जायेगा। संस्थान यहां रिसर्च पार्क बनाने को पूर्व छात्रों से मदद भी लेगा। संस्थान के तमाम पूर्व छात्र अमेरिका के विभिन्न शहरों में प्रशासनिक पदों, व्यावसायिक केंद्रों व विश्वविद्यालयों में काम कर रहे हैं। न्यूयार्क में 30 सितंबर व पहली अक्टूबर को हो रहे पैन आईआईटी में दुनिया भर में फैले पूर्व छात्रों का संगमन होगा। इसके पहले 29 सितंबर को वहां आईआईटी प्रबंध मंडल के अध्यक्ष एम आनंद कृष्णन व निदेशक प्रो. संजय गोविंद धांडे की उपस्थिति में बैठक होगी जिसमें न्यूयार्क में सेंटर खोलने की रूपरेखा को अंतिम स्वरूप दिया जायेगा। पैन आईआईटी की तैयारी कर रहे डॉ. मनींद्र अग्रवाल कहते हैं, संगमन में यहां पर रिसर्च पार्क बनाने का ले आउट प्रस्तुत किया जायेगा। पूर्व छात्र इसके लिए मदद को तैयार हैं। अधिष्ठाता शोध एवं विकास डॉ. अजित चतुर्वेदी तैयारी कर रहे हैं।