

# Newspaper Clips

December 4, 2010

Times of India ND 4/12/2010

P-11

## IIT student gets ₹70L job offer from Facebook

**Chennai/Mumbai:** Facebook on Friday recruited one of its addicts from India. The website, which recently logged its 500 millionth active citizen, made an offer of about Rs 70 lakh for a posting in the United States, which has created a buzz on all IIT campuses where annual placements are on. In the last three days, no other company, domestic or foreign, has come close to offering this kind of a compensation package.

While Facebook is still interviewing more IITians, the student in question, who gives his name as DKS — he is to graduate from the school of computer science and engineering at IIT-Kharagpur in 2011 and doesn't want his full name to be revealed — has received a "join-us" post from the website. On his wall, DKS announces how he is hooked to Facebook, which cuts his day by half. He now knows that the social networking site, known as the Big Boss of the web-world, will eat up his days.

On the offer letter, officials from IIT-Kharagpur said Facebook offered a starting salary of \$90,000, a relocation bonus of \$10,000 and a one-time signing amount of \$25,000 to the 21-year-old from Jamshedpur. But on the Kharagpur campus, students said DKS had also been offered ESOPs and the entire offer translates to about Rs 1.7 crore. However, sources in the placement cell did not confirm this. DKS, whose father is a government employee, has in his time at IIT interned as a research assistant at the University of British Columbia and at Microsoft India.

Interviews were on till late Friday at IIT-Madras where Facebook shortlisted 10 students. But, after sever-



**BIG DRAW**

al rounds of interviews, it did not select anyone from IIT-Delhi. Close to 30 students were placed from IIT-B on Friday.

At IIT-Madras, the highest domestic offer on Friday came from Transocean, which offered Rs 28 lakh and the high point of the day was when Intel offered positions to 30 students. At IIT-B, Tower Research which offered jobs to six students, was among the high paying companies. Several financial institutions — Goldman Sachs, Bank of American, Deutsche Bank, Citibank, Capital One — have made a come back after lying low in the recessionary years.

N Ramesh Babu, adviser (training and placement), IIT Madras, is both excited as well as in a dilemma of sorts with 250-odd recruiters comprising a mix of old and new economy having lined up in close slots till end-January 2011.

"We are in a position where, say, after 20 days you may not have enough students for recruitment. We have not been able to give dates for some companies. Most companies which hire here, will also be going to the other IITs," he said. In the last two days, IIT-Delhi too has seen 110 students being offered jobs.

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# Now, arrested IIT-Kgp prof's Nov salary docked

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

**New Delhi:** The human resource development ministry has sought a detailed report on the arrest of A K Ghosh, the suspended professor of aerospace in IIT-Kharagpur, from the institute.

Sources said the human resource development ministry is contemplating that instead of a three-member probe panel, as was decided earlier, a senior official might be sent to carry out a comprehensive inquiry into the running of fake institute — Institution of Electrical Engineers (I) —

on the campus of IIT-Kharagpur.

It is believed that directors of two IITs were being made members of the probe team. But, the ministry now feels that investigation by IIT directors might not be a prudent move. "There could have been doubts about credibility. Hence, the ministry is likely to carry out an investigation itself," sources said. Already many faculty members in IIT-Kharagpur have voiced concern about the probe being conducted by IIT directors.

The ministry's probe is not going to be limited to the role of Ghosh, but will also look into how

Sources said the human resource development ministry is contemplating that instead of a three-member probe panel, as was decided earlier, a senior official might be sent to carry out a comprehensive inquiry into the running of the fake institute

other faculty members and former directors like K L Chopra and S K Dube were involved with IEE (I). Complicity of Ghosh — though denied by him — and Dube has already been widely reported. Role of senior faculty members like S K Lahiri, who has

since retired; Y P Singh, former head of department of electrical engineering; J Pal, head of department of electrical engineering and former head of IEE (I) will be probed.

CVC has set a four-week deadline for the ministry to complete

the investigation.

Meanwhile, IIT-Kharagpur authorities have instructed the bank to debit his salary for November. Earlier, the entire salary was credited to his account, though the rule stipulates that he is only entitled to half of it since he is under suspension.

"Now he has been given nothing," an IIT official said.

He pointed out that paying full salary was the fault of the institute for which Ghosh cannot be penalised.

"He should have been paid 50% salary," a source said.

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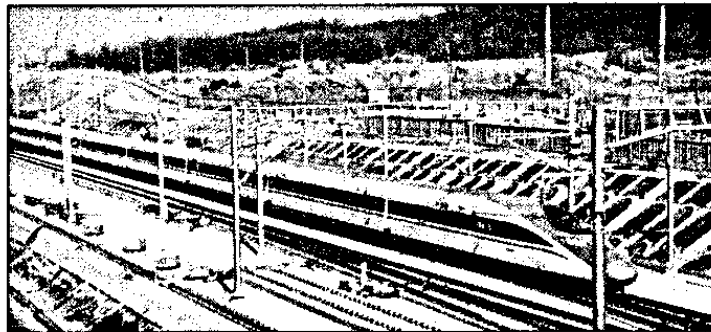
# Train enters record book @ 486kph

## Conventional Chinese Passenger Train Runs Away With 'Fastest' Tag

**Beijing:** Chinese passenger train hit a record speed of 486kph on Friday during a test run of a yet-to-be opened link between Beijing and Shanghai, state media said.

The Xinhua News Agency said it was the fastest speed recorded by an unmodified conventional commercial train. Other types of trains in other countries have traveled faster. A specially modified French TGV train reached 574.8kph during a 2007 test, while a Japanese magnetically levitated train sped to 581kph in 2003.

State television footage showed the sleek white train whipping past green farm fields



**NEED FOR SPEED:** The Chinese high-speed train will cut down travel time between Beijing and Shanghai, covering the 1,318km stretch in just 5 hours

in eastern China. It reached the top speed on a segment of the 1,318km long line between Zao-

huang city in Shandong province and Bengbu city in Anhui province, Xinhua said.

The line is due to open in 2012 and will halve the current travel time between the capital Beijing and Shanghai to five hours. The project costs \$32.5 billion and is part of a massive government effort to link many of China's cities by high-speed rail and reduce overcrowding on heavily used lines.

China already has the world's longest high-speed rail network, and it plans to cover 13,000 kilometers by 2012 and 16,000 kilometers by 2020. The drive to develop high-speed rail technology rivals China's space program in terms of national pride and importance. Railway officials say they want to reach speeds over 500 kph. AP

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Dec 4, 2010; Section: Front Page; Page: 1

# US-based Indian creates first artificial kidney

## Could End Need For Dialysis, Human Trials Soon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: US-based Indian origin researcher Shuvo Roy has created the world's first implantable artificial kidney. What's sensational about Roy's creation is that the organ, no larger than a coffee cup, will be able to mimic the kidney's most vital functions like filtering toxins out of the bloodstream, regulate blood pressure and produce the all-important vitamin D.

The artificial kidney has been tested successfully on a small number of animals. Large-scale trials on animals and humans are expected over the next five years. Once available, and if affordable, this creation by the Roy-led team at University of California will do away with the need for kidney dialysis.

This will be a boon for all patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD). At present in India, of the 1.5 lakh new patients who suffer from end-stage renal failure annually, only 3,500 get kidney transplants and 6,000-10,000 undergo dialysis. The rest perish due to an acute shortage of dialysis centres and nephrologists to man them.

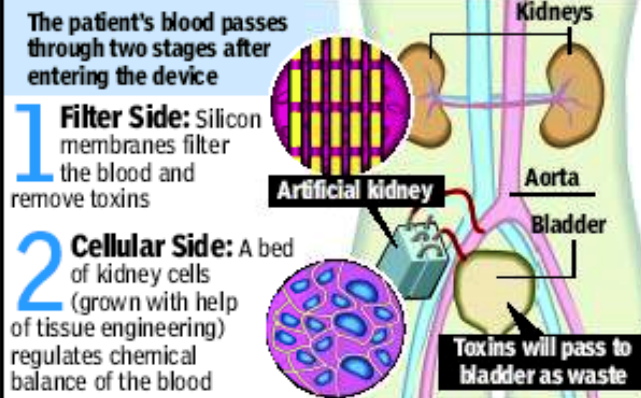
CKD is rising at a rapid pace in India and the majority of those who perish are either unable to find a suitable organ for transplantation or are unable to pay for the high dialysis costs.

According to Roy, the device has a filtration section to remove toxins from the blood, alongside a compartment with renal cells to conduct other functions of a kidney. He believes the artificial kid-

### THE ULTIMATE RELIEVER?



The artificial, implantable kidney developed by **Dr Shuvo Roy** is the size of a coffee cup and is ready for test on humans. If successful, it could replace the need for dialysis and transplants for lakhs of people suffering from chronic kidney diseases



#### SHUVO ROY

Roy's father is from India while his mother is a Bangladeshi. Born in Bangladesh, young Roy spent some time in India as well. Studied in Uganda, where his father was a doctor. Went to US for higher studies

#### KIDNEY DISEASE IN INDIA

▶ Every year, **1.5 lakh new patients end up suffering from end-stage renal failure**. Only 3,500 get transplants and 6,000 undergo dialysis. The rest die due to shortage of dialysis centres and nephrologists

▶ Patient undergoing dialysis spends **₹10,000 a month**, with the process taking up to 72 hours

ney could last for decades and require no pumps or batteries. Patients wouldn't require anti-rejection drugs (as is required after transplants) either because there would be no exposed natural tissues for the immune system to attack.

The University of California team is awaiting approval to conduct larger scale animal and human trials. Already, it has successfully tested the implant in a few rats and pigs.

"The payoff to the patient community is tremendous," said Roy. "It could have a transformative impact on their lives...With the right financial support, I think we could reach clinical trials in five years. But it's hard to say how long after that it becomes commercially available due to the uncertainties of the FDA and commercialization prospects."

▶ 'Will be boon for India', P 16

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# Heat is on: 2010 to be among 3 warmest years

**Cancun (Mexico):** This year is set to be among the three warmest since records began in 1850 and caps a record-warm decade that is a new indication of man-made climate change, the United Nations said.

"The trend is of very significant warming," Michel Jarraud, head of the World Meteorological Organization, told a news conference on the sidelines of a meeting of almost 200 nations in the Caribbean resort of Cancun trying to curb global warming. He said 2010 so far was slightly warmer than both 1998 and 2005, the previous top two, but could slip if December is a cool month.

The WMO said that land and sea surface temperatures so far in 2010 were 0.55°C above a 1961-1990 average of 14°C. The years 2001-10 were the warmest 10-year period, it said. "There is a significant possibility that 2010 could be the warmest year," he said. A final ranking for 2010 is due to be published early in 2011.

Asked if the data were new evidence that human emissions of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels were warming the climate, he said, "Short answer: yes.

"If nothing is done ... (tem-



**COLD FACT:** 2001-10 was the warmest decade, says UN

peratures) will go up and up," he said, saying the findings would guide negotiators meeting in Cancun from November 29 to December 10.

Temperatures have already risen by about 0.8°C since pre-industrial times. The WMO said warming had been especially strong in Africa, parts of Asia and parts of the Arctic. Pakistan, hit by devastating floods, recorded a record temperature of 53.5°C the warmest in Asia since 1942. REUTERS

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**4/12/2010 P-21**

# **New anti-shock material endures extreme heat too**

**Singapore:** Researchers in Japan have invented a new shock-resistant material that can withstand extreme temperatures, which they hope can be used in the engines of spacecraft and cars.

Made entirely of carbon, it can flow and stretch slowly like thick honey and spring back to its original form, said materials scientist Xu Ming at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology in Japan. "It looks like a metal sponge that is porous, it is made from trillions of entangled carbon nanotubes," she said. "When you stretch and release it, it can come back slowly (to its original shape)."

**The material can withstand extreme temperatures. Made entirely of carbon, it can also flow and stretch slowly like honey and spring back to its original form**

A report on their invention was published on Friday in Science magazine. Grown in a mixture of silicon, iron and water, the carbon nanotubes are 5 nanometres in diameter, and can retain their form and function within a huge temperature range of between -196 and 1,000°C in an oxygen-free environment.

A nanometre is a billionth of a metre. "This material is totally new and unique. It can potentially be used in space, in fuel tanks of spacecraft and rockets, in car engines to isolate vibration," Xu said.

"There is no other material showing such stable properties ... unlike rubber which cannot conduct electricity, our material has electronic connectivity, so it can be used in more applications," Xu said. REUTERS

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### **Protein that affects breast cancer severity found**

Scientists claim to have made a major breakthrough in breast cancer research, by identifying a protein which plays a key role in influencing the severity of the growth of tumours. A team, led by Clare Fedele of Monash University, has discovered the levels of the protein, inositol polyphosphate 4-phosphatase-II (INPP4B), in tumours determine the severity of breast cancer in women. The scientists have also devised a new antibody which could identify the protein and measure its presence in breast cancer tissue.

### **Brain damage makes fake memories:**

Brain damage not just erases one's memories, in some cases it may also create a false sense of familiarity with the new objects, a new study has claimed. Researchers from the University of Cambridge, London, who made this surprising discovery said it could help explain similar memory problems for humans suffering from amnesia or Alzheimer's disease.

**Unmanned spacecraft returns:** The US air force's secrecy-shrouded X-37B unmanned spaceplane returned to Earth after more than seven months in orbit on a classified mission, officials said. The winged craft autonomously landed at Vandenberg Air Force Base on the California coast, Vandenberg spokesman Jeremy Eggers said. The X-37B was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on April 22, 2010, with a maximum mission duration of 270 days.

# Indian develops world's first implantable artificial kidney



University of California's Shuvo Roy led the team that developed the coffee cup-sized kidney.

AN AMERICAN team led by an Indian-origin researcher claims to have created the world's first implantable artificial kidney, no larger than a coffee cup.

Shuvo Roy and colleagues at the University of California have developed the artificial kidney which they say not only filters toxins out of bloodstream, but also uses human kidney cells to perform other vital functions such as regulating blood pressure and producing vitamin D.

The team has tested the new device on animals, and it now plans to test the same on humans.

If the trials on humans succeed, it is likely to bring affordable treatment to millions

of kidney failure patients.

Roy — who worked tirelessly with a team of engineers, biologists and physicians to shrink the device to the size of a coffee cup — is “excited about advancing it towards large animal and human trials”.

“A key requirement is financial support and the team. We have most of the latter in place, and the former is a work-in-progress,” Roy, an associate professor in the university’s School of Pharmacy, said.

“There are almost 1.5 million people worldwide on dialysis. The primary cause of end stage renal disease is diabetes and hypertension, which are both growing problems in South Asia,” Roy noted.

Roy spent part of his childhood in India and Bangladesh and received most of his education in Uganda. He later obtained his undergraduate degree from Mount Union College in Ohio.

The ideal treatment for kidney failure patients is transplant. But there is a shortage and the patients require dialysis, which costs \$9,000-\$14,000 (about ₹4.08 lakh-₹6.34 lakh) per patient in India, Roy said.

Given “the shortage of transplant kidneys and associated complications like transmission of infectious agents from donor to patient, our device might provide some benefits”, he added.

IANS

Indian Express, ND 04-Dec-10  
p-10

# With PMO push, Panjab Univ gets centrally funded status

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

**P**RIME Minister Manmohan Singh's alma mater where he also once taught Economics, Panjab University, has finally got the status of a centrally funded educational institute that will help it tide over its financial deficit and ensure it is flush with funds.

Behind the scene, it was a pro-active Prime Minister's Office, which held regular meetings on the issue with the Human Resource Development Ministry and the Ministry of Home Affairs, that helped the university get the status.

Interestingly, it is possibly the first university to get the centrally funded status, accorded to all IIMs and IITs, without being a central university.

The new status effectively means that the 128-year-old university, which was first established in Lahore and moved to Chandigarh after Partition, will get 100 per cent central government funding.

Previously, the university was the only interstate university — it once catered to Haryana and Himachal Pradesh besides Punjab — which was given a funding share by both the Centre and the Punjab government in 60:40 ratio. This translated roughly to some Rs 32 crore and Rs 16 crore respectively. This Rs 48 crore funding was, however, insufficient for Panjab University to tide over its financial deficit, which now stands near Rs 75-80 crore per annum.

## Why it never got Central varsity tag

**FOR NEARLY** two years now, the Union HRD Ministry has been trying give Panjab University the Central University status, but the state government was not responsive.

**POSSIBLE REASON** is that it would have meant that the varsity would have slipped out of the state's control; power to make appointments would have been with the President.

**THE CENTRE** had sent a proposal to Punjab government in 2008, suggesting the status for the university, but the Akali government did not give its 'no-objection certificate' needed for the clearance. It cited objections from the 'intelligentsia' in Punjab as a reason.

This financial burden along with that of paying arrears to employees under the 6th Pay Commission was further compounding the university's problems. Finally, the PMO got into the picture to help out the university and HRD ministry accorded the centrally funded institute status to take care of the funding after the Attorney General of India also advised for the same. The funds which will now be channelised through the University Grants Commission.

The status will also mean that the university will have to implement 27 per cent OBC quota for student admissions, which in turn entitles it to more funds to improve and expand its infrastructure and recruit more faculty in accordance with increased student strength.



# 2010 in the top three warmest years: WMO

Meena Menon

**CANCUN:** The year 2010 is almost certain to rank in the top three warmest years since the beginning of instrumental climate records in 1850, according to data compiled by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) that were released here on Thursday.

A WMO statement said the global combined sea surface and land surface air temperature for 2010 (January-October) is now estimated at 0.55 degrees Celsius plus or minus 0.11 degrees Celsius above the 1961-1990 annual average of 14 degrees Celsius. At present, 2010's nominal value is the highest on record, just ahead of 1998 and 2005.

The data also indicates that the January-October 2010 temperatures are near record levels. The final ranking of 2010 will not become clear until November and December data are analysed in early

2011. Preliminary operational data from November 1 to 25 indicate that global temperatures from November 2010 are similar to those observed in November 2005, indicating that global temperatures for 2010 are continuing to track near record levels.

From 2001 to 2010, global temperatures have averaged 0.46 degrees Celsius above the 1961-1990 average, 0.03 degrees Celsius above the 2000-09 average and the highest value ever recorded for a 10-year period. Recent warming has been especially strong in Africa, parts of Asia, and parts of the Arctic; the Saharan/Arabian, East African, Central Asian and Greenland/Arctic. Canada sub-regions have all had 2001-10 temperatures 1.2 to 1.4 degrees Celsius above the long-term average, and 0.7 degrees Celsius to 0.9 degrees Celsius warmer than any previous decade. Surface air tem-

• **January-October 2010 temperatures are near record levels**

• **Surface air temperatures over land were above normal across most parts of the world**

peratures over land were above normal across most parts of the world.

Pakistan experienced its worst flooding owing to exceptionally heavy monsoon rain. The event principally responsible for the floods occurred from July 26 to 29, when four-day rainfall totals exceeded 300 mm over a large area of northern Pakistan. There were additional heavy rains further south, from August 2 to 8, which reinforced the flooding.

More than 1500 lives were lost and over 20 million people displaced as large parts of Pakistan's agricultural land were inundated. In terms of the number of people affect-

ed, the United Nations rated the floods as the greatest humanitarian crisis in recent history. The total monsoon season rainfall for Pakistan was the fourth-highest on record and the highest since 1994.

Summer rainfall was above normal in western India and China experienced its most significant monsoon flooding since 1998, with south-eastern China and parts of the northeast most severely affected. The latter floods extended to the Korean Peninsula too. These floods, directly as well as through landslips in China, claimed more than 1400 lives in Gansu Province in China.

However, monsoon season rainfall averaged over India was only 2 per cent above normal, and it was well below normal in north-eastern India and Bangladesh, which had its driest monsoon season since 1994.

Only limited land areas had below-normal temperatures in 2010, the most notable being parts of western and central Siberia in Russia, parts of southern South America, interior Australia, parts of northern and western Europe, eastern China and the southeast United States. It was the coldest year since 1996 for the northern European region, and since 1998 for northern Asia, mainly due to below-normal temperatures during winter.

A number of northern European countries are also likely to have their coldest year since 1996, including the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Norway.



## आप जल्द गुनगुनाएंगे, मेरी आवाज ही पहचान है...

एस आर महादेव प्रसन्ना की अगुवाई में IIT-गुवाहाटी की टीम आवाज पहचानने वाला भरोसेमंद सिस्टम कर रही है डेवलप

विकास सिंह | देवजाय सेनगुप्त  
गुवाहाटी | कोलकाता

**पहला दृश्य:** एक अनपढ़ व्यक्ति थोड़ा थोड़ा अपने पासवर्ड बोलकर एटीएम से पैसे निकालता है। राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना (नरेगा) के तहत काम करने वाला मजदूर अपनी दिन की हाथिरी बॉयस सिनेचर से लगाता है। **दूसरा दृश्य:** रणनीतिक दृष्टि से अहम देश के रक्षा विभाग के गोपनीय ऑफिस में प्रवेश के लिए विभाग के अधिकारियों को आवाज की पहचान करने वाले सिस्टम से गुजरना होगा।

आगर आपको लगता है कि यह बात सिर्फ फिल्मों में ही सकती है तो आप गलत हैं। भारत में आवाज से व्यक्ति की पहचान करने वाले सिस्टम पर काम हो रहा है। इस सिस्टम के बनने के बाद पासवर्ड की जगह आवाज ले लेंगे। लॉन्च होने के बाद इस सिस्टम को ऑफिस, रेलवे स्टेशन, एयरपोर्ट और एटीएम में इंस्टॉल किया जा सकता है। साल 2011 में इसका पायलट प्रोजेक्ट शुरू होगा। उसके एक साल बाद इसका इस्तेमाल ज्यादातर जगहों पर



होने लगेगा। इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी गुवाहाटी (आईआईटी-जी) के इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं कम्प्यूटेशन इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर डॉ. एस आर महादेव प्रसन्ना ने बताया, हमने कुछ कंपनियों से ऑफिस और प्रोडक्शन यूनिट में इस सिस्टम को लगाने के लिए कहा है। प्रसन्ना को अगुवाई वाली इस टीम में आठ लोग हैं। साईंस एवं टेक्नोलॉजी विभाग इसको फंडिंग कर रहा है। उन्होंने कहा इस प्रोजेक्ट को पूरी तरह गया नहीं कहा जा सकता है। इसे लागू करने में सबसे बड़ी चुनौती यह है कि यह सिस्टम सिर्फ अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन के लहजे वाली इंग्लिश को ही पहचान पाता है। प्रोफेसर ने बताया, सिस्टम को भारतीय भाषाओं के अनुकूल बनाना हमारे

**एस आर महादेव प्रसन्ना, एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर, आईआईटी-जी**  
हमने कुछ कंपनियों से ऑफिस और प्रोडक्शन यूनिट में इस सिस्टम को लगाने के लिए कहा है। इस प्रोजेक्ट को पूरी तरह गया नहीं कहा जा सकता है। इसे लागू करने में सबसे बड़ी चुनौती यह है कि यह सिस्टम सिर्फ अमेरिका और ब्रिटेन के लहजे वाली इंग्लिश को ही पहचान पाता है

लिए बड़ी चुनौती है। हमें अलग-अलग लहजे वाली हिंदी और भारत में बोली जाने वाली इंग्लिश के मुताबिक इसे ढालना होगा। साथ ही इस बात के भी उपाय करने होंगे कि यह भीड़-भाड़ वाली जगहों पर भी ठीक काम करे।

इस प्रोजेक्ट में शामिल टीम के एक सदस्य और आईआईटी-गुवाहाटी के असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर डॉ. रोहित सिन्हा ने बताया, ब्रिटेन, अमेरिका से भारतीय कंपनियों के ऑफिस का माहौल अलग होता है। हमारे यहां ऑफिस में काफी शोरगुल होता है। रेलवे स्टेशन, एयरपोर्ट, एटीएम में कमोबेश यही माहौल रहता है। सिस्टम को इस हिसाब से बनाया जाएगा, जो बाहरी आवाज को अनसुनी कर केवल यूजर की आवाज सुने। हां, यह हो सकता है कि गलत

फंसेन या सही लगने से व्यक्ति को आवाज में फर्क आए। हम सिस्टम को बनाते वक़्त इसका भी खयाल रख रहे हैं।

आवाज पहचानने वाले सिस्टम में स्पीच प्रोसेसिंग सिग्नोएट्री एंफ्लिकेशन लगा होता है, जिसे आई-सिग्नोएट्री जोन के अलावा ई-कॉम्पस एंफ्लिकेशन पर इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है। सिस्टम को हिंदी, अंग्रेजी समेत देशभर की 11 भाषाएं बोलने वाले 100 लोगों को लेकर परखा गया। इन लोगों के भाषाई लहजे भी एक-दूसरे से अलग थे। सिस्टम को हेडफोन, टैबलेट पीसी, माइक्रोफोन, हेडफोन और डिजिटल वॉयस रिकॉर्डर जैसे अलग-अलग वॉयस सिस्टम के जरिए वेबद शोरगुल वाली जगहों पर परखा गया। बाद में सैपल साइज को बढ़ाकर 200 कर दिया गया। साथ ही भाषाओं की संख्या भी 18 से ज्यादा कर दी गई। हालांकि इसके बावजूद संशय खत्म नहीं हुआ है। आईटी, उससे जुड़ी सेवाओं के स्पेशलिस्ट, कैपीएमजी के एंफ्लिकेटिव डायरेक्टर नितिन खानपुरकर ने बताया, ऐसे सिस्टम पहले बहुत ज्यादा सफल नहीं सके हैं। आंखों को तुलना और अंगुठों के निशान के मुकाबले आवाज को नकल बड़ी आसानी से की जा सकती है।