चांद पर चलेगा आईआईटी का रोबोट

प्रज्ञा. कानपुर

आईआईटी कानपुर ने भारतीय इसरो के सहयोग से अत्याधुनिक रोबोट तैयार किया है जो मिशन चंद्रयान-2 के साथ चंद्रमा पर भेजा जाएगा। इन्फ्रारेड कैमरा के साथ-साथ सेल्फिंग की क्षमता वाले रोबोट का निर्माण दिया गया है। यह देखने में सक्षम है इसलिए चंद्रमा पर चालकक्षी के दौरान पत्थर से टकराने या फिर गोली मिट्टी में फंसने की समस्या नहीं आएगी। यह चंद्रमा के भीतर का मॉडल दुर्घटनाग्रस्त करनेवाली नहीं है। यह रोबोट चंद्रमा की प्रतियोगिता में फीटेज का अध्ययन करके चंद्रमा पर जाएगा।

चंद्रयान-2 के साथ जाएगा इसरो प्रमुख के प्रवक्ता के अनुसार, इस यान के लिए यह उपकरण बहुत ही अहम है।

आकलन रिपोर्ट भेजेगा

आईआईटी के नैतिक/राजनीतिक विषयों के प्रश्न में आशीर्वाद देने वाला यह यान पर चलेगा। इसका कहना है कि यह रोबोट मशीनिक रूप से सक्षम है। यह पानी, प्रकृति, ग्रीष्मकालीन के आकलन रिपोर्ट भेजेगा।

प्राकृतिक प्रकाश में चंद्रयान-1 में इसके बड़े पंक्तियां के संतुलित किए गए थे। यह मिट्टी में डाले गए रोबोट का मॉडल विभिन्न संख्या में निपटा जा सकता है। अनुमान के तौर पर कहा जा सकता है कि 25 टन हीलियम से उत्पादित, अमेरिका जाने के लिए एक साल तक रोबोट को अपूर्वता की जा सकती है।
IITian is Global TV Industry’s New Disruptive Innovator

Basketball-loving, Steve Jobs-adoring Anand Subramanian wants to change the way you watch television. And Silicon Valley moneybags seems to agree

How Revolutionary Is NimbleTV

"This is probably the biggest thing to have happened to TV in a long time," Subramanian said by phone from New York on Wednesday. "The biggest thing in TV since the Bat screen," a company post on its Facebook page claimed.

Many, including those who know he a thing or two about innovations, seem to agree.

"It is potentially game-changing," journalist Perri Polsz, said on Friday, honouring Subramanian with the prestigious Tribeca Disruptive Innovation Award at the NYU Stern School of Business, barely four days after NimbleTV began the beta test.

The award recognises the contributions of disruptive innovators in the fields of business, technology, arts and entertainment. Subramanian’s fellow honorees on Friday included pop superstar Justin Bieber and Twitter founder Jack Dorsey.

The company says the new technology is born of the twin ideas that consumers “should be able to access the TV they pay for wherever they happen to be” and that “providers and content producers should be paid”. In that sense, the product is “a solution that is both industry-friendly and consumer-friendly,” Subramanian said.

"TV Everywhere” as a concept has been there for a long time, but it is not a reality," Subramanian explained how he reached his Eureka moment. "The question that intrigued me is why is that the case. So when I started digging into it, I saw that it is an industry problem. And started thinking about how to solve it.”

Subramanian said the industry has responded very positively so far. "Cable companies all over the world have contacted us," he said without going into specifics.

The Cable Guy

The response from consumers was also overwhelming, according to Subramanian. "Our survey had been been-up because we had so many people signing up," he said. "So we were a little unprepared for this kind of volume of people. People are interested all over the world.”

One of NimbleTV’s early investors is media giant Tribune, which owns a number of television stations across US. A serial entrepreneur, Subramanian’s maiden venture was in India. After graduating from IIT Bombay in 1996, he founded a medical software firm in the city.

He came to the US in the mid-I990s, after selling that company. And in the next few years, he would launch two more companies: iGate Capital, an IT consulting firm, and ContextWeb, an online ad company, which became a big success.

Before stepping down as CEO of ContextWeb in 2010 to found the latest venture, the company was named as one of the top 500 fastest growing technology firms by Deloitte for four straight years. In 2008, he was a finalist for The Metro New York Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award.

Ball Games

Not unlike many entrepreneurs of his generation, one of Subramanian’s idols is the legendary Steve Jobs, whom he met in India during his IIT days more than two decades ago. "I was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend 20 minutes with him," he said of his meeting with the late Apple founder.

Subramanian, who constantly speaks on the issues of technology, media and their convergence, said he loves to help and mentor other entrepreneurs. "I am a very active person when it comes to entrepreneurship," he said. "Let’s put it this way, my life and my work are the same, to a large extent.”

Two other interests in his life are travel and sports, especially basketball and American football. Asked whether he follows any Indian sports, such as cricket, he said that he had played a lot of cricket in Mumbai. "But it is hard for me to follow cricket here," he says.

And that may change now, thanks to his new product, which will make it easier for him, and millions of others, to follow cricket and other pastimes from back home on any device.■
IIT Madras, Wipro ink MoU

CHENNAI, DHNS: To enhance technology education, teaching and research in the country, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras on Friday signed an MoU with Wipro Limited.

The MoU is with ‘Mission 10X', a not-for-profit trust launched by Wipro, bringing together the internationally reputed IIT and a leading IT organization diversifying into “Education Technology”.

The MoU would help synergise the individual strengths of the organisations to meet the growing needs of “enhancement of the teaching learning process and Research in Engineering Education at the National level,” IIT-M said.

Dainik Bhasker ND 29/04/2012

चेतना की योजना

छात्रों को विदेशी संस्थाओं की तर्ज पर कई तरह से आर्थिक मदद देने की तैयारी

अब उच्च शिक्षा में आदेह नहीं आएगा पैसा!
Indian Express ND 29/04/2012  P-2

Poor transparency in AIEEE a concern

More than 12 lakh candidates to take entrance test today

SHYAMAL YADAV
NEW DELHI 1 APRIL 28

AS MORE than 12 lakh students prepare to take this offline test on April 29, the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) continues to remain opaque.

The other high-profile test for entrance to IITs and other premier institutes, IIT-JEE, on the other hand, has become more transparent, not least because of the intervention of the courts and the Central Information Commission. Cut-off procedure, aggregate cut-off marks and question papers of IIT-JEE are available online for public scrutiny, answer keys are released after 30 days of the test and candidates are provided with carbon copies of their Optical Response Sheets for self-evaluation.

These reforms, most of which have come in the past two years, have brought transparency to IIT-JEE, which was as opaque, if not worse, as AIEEE in 2006 (See table).

"There is general direction of transparency in the entrance exams. We directed the CBSE last year to put answer sheets of candidates on the website as done by IIT-JEE last year but CBSE was unable to do so due to some server-related problems. This year they will do so," said HRD Minister Kapil Sibal.

This poor level of transparency is not limited to AIEEE. The other high-profile test conducted by the CBSE, the All India Pre-Medical Test-

Hindustan Times ND 29/04/2012  P-2

DUTA protests new B Tech course

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has opposed the manner in which the vice-chancellor announced proposal to start a four-year B Tech degree in Humanities on Friday.

"The Vice-Chancellor has unilaterally announced major academic changes and new programmes. A change can become a reform for a system only if it is first identified as an organic need and then brought in through debate and discussion. We wish to highlight that till date there has been no debate or discussion on the four year undergraduate programme, the concept of Meta University or 'B.Tech' in Humanities in any statutory body - be it Staff Council, Committee of Courses, or Faculties," DUTA said in a statement.

The members of DUTA added that the overhaul of the university was being carried out with a vision to commercialise and commodify education.
DU undergraduate courses may take 4 years from 2013

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi University’s undergraduate courses may undergo a sea change from 2013. Another year will be added to the existing three-year undergraduate courses — BA, BCom and BSc — and the courses will be restructured to offer an exit option midway, with an alternative to rejoin later and complete the course.

Students will also have the option of knocking off one or two papers and instead use credits earned through sports or other extracurricular activities to finish the courses. What’s more, students can earn three degrees through this four-year programme.

“We propose to launch the four-year courses from the 2013-14 session. It will be a transdisciplinary course with multiple exit options. As we are simultaneously revamping our open learning system, undergraduate students at colleges will be allowed to complete a semester through open learning and the credits will be counted,” said DU vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh.

According to DU administration, the blueprint is ready and consultations with teachers and other stakeholders are on. The administration also plans to bring the proposal up for discussion at a teachers’ congress in June. “After taking teachers’ input, the plan will be put up at a teachers’ congress. Finally, the proposal will be placed before the academic and executive councils of DU,” said Singh.

The programme will offer students two exit options during the course — at the end of second and third years. If a student decides to opt out of the course after completion of the first two years, he/she will get an associate degree. At the end of third year, the student can opt out with a bachelor’s degree. If the student completes four years, an honours degree will be awarded.

“Even the two-year associate degree will be embedded with enough training to enable a student to become an elementary teacher. Students who opt out after completing second and third years will get 10 years to return and complete the course,” said Singh.

“In future, we would like to offer credits to students travelling in the Gyan Uday Express and doing projects,” Singh added.
एमबीए के लिए तरस रहा एमबीए
एमबीए में 36 हजार सीटों के लिए 10 हजार ने दी परीक्षा, एक लाख से ज्यादा सीटें खाली रहने की आशंका

(2) अनिता लाहनी

नीहार। कुछ साल पहले एमबीए के लिए परीक्षा की अवसर नाम के अंतर्गत प्रोफेसर कोरसे से अनुमति प्राप्त हो गई थी। इसी समय ने तालिका की प्रमुख परीक्षा। इसी परीक्षा में 36 हजार सीटें बनाए जाने के लिए 10 हजार ने दी परीक्षा। एमबीए के लिए परीक्षा की अवसर नाम के अंतर्गत प्रोफेसर कोरसे से अनुमति प्राप्त हो गई थी। 

उपरोक्त स्तर के अंतर्गत प्रोफेसर कोरसे की परीक्षा की अवसर नाम के अंतर्गत प्रोफेसर कोरसे से अनुमति प्राप्त हो गई थी। इसी परीक्षा में एमबीए की प्रमुख परीक्षा को दी गई थी। इसी परीक्षा में 36 हजार सीटें बनाए जाने के लिए 10 हजार ने दी परीक्षा। एमबीए के लिए परीक्षा की अवसर नाम के अंतर्गत प्रोफेसर कोरसे से अनुमति प्राप्त हो गई थी।
Future of war: flying robots that can spy and kill too

Imagine being at the receiving end of a missile that is targeting 'bad guys' lazing in the sun in the AfPak region, or a ride in a vehicle in Yemen ending in annihilation, courtesy a missile from a Predator drone. It sounds like retribution from the heavens, except that it is a purely human endeavour. The west is determinedly moving towards this type of warfare built around, what the Americans call, remote split operations. It's in our interest that we assimilate the implications of this trend in war-fighting, which looks like the use of the mythical weapon Vajra by Indra.

Remote split operations are unique — an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) could be flying anywhere in the globe while being controlled by a pilot sitting in an air-conditioned room in America. After assuming controls of the UAV, he could be firing a missile to kill a terrorist as part of his task for the day. Once his shift ends, the UAV pilot would return home and maybe, take his family out for dinner! This is not science fiction but an act being played out daily.

'UAV' is a household word; the Americans fielded 5000 UAVs of all types in Iraq and Afghanistan (up from 200 in the 1991 Gulf War). And the plans are grandiose. US Air Force's vision document 'Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) flight plan 2009-2047' charges it 'to harness increasingly automated, modular, globally connected and sustainable multi-mission unmanned systems resulting in a leaner more adaptable and efficient air force.' The attributes of persistence, endurance, efficiency and connectivity, which are inherent in a drone and are potent force multipliers, will be used to overcome human limitations and revolutionize war-fighting.

The UAS developmental plan involves harnessing net centricty that the West has perfected, and having unmanned aircraft available worldwide, ready to be directed to a conflict zone by pilots sitting at home bases. With evolutionary progress in harnessing artificial intelligence, the UAS would be infused with the power to take combat decisions. They would engage in combat to support other manned aircraft or carry weapons to increase fire power availability. The final step would be the use of this technological asymmetry to put the adversary off-balance and, as the US flight plan document says, bring about a “...revolution in the roles of humans in air warfare.”

Where does that place the notion of sovereignty of a state? In Libya last year, Security Council Resolution 1973 mandated protection of civilians, “...while excluding a foreign occupation force of any form...” — implying no foreign troops on ground. However, Apache helicopters fired their missiles from not more than five to eight km from Muammar Gaddafi's troops. Does it imply that, just because they were not actually touching the ground, the sanctity of the UN mandate was upheld? And say, the same scenario repeats itself two decades from now — would the utilization, then, of UASs with offensive capabilities not be in violation of the non-interference resolution of the Security Council a la the Libyan UNSCR 1973, just because there would be no humans on board? Possibly, a 'human' would need to be redefined!

High casualty sensitivity in the western society is driving the robotisation of machines of war. Besides UAS, we would have unmanned ground vehicles capable of kinetic actions on the battlefield. This robotisation has brought in questions of the moral and ethical kind, as such asymmetry in technological progress, where one's own troops are absolutely safe while engaged in mortal combat, would bring in arrogance of power. The asymmetry would be a critical handicap for the less technologically endowed states, making them vulnerable to unilaterism and violation of their sovereignty. While India is no pushover, it is imperative that one acknowledges the existence and repercussions of this asymmetry and works to a plan which would demand accelerated indigenous military technological research and development and close integration of all elements of national power, especially diplomatic and economic.

The writer is assistant chief of Integrated Defence Staff.