Newspaper Clips
June 9, 2012

Times of India ND 09-Jun-12 p1

IIT-Kanpur to skip CET, conduct own exam in 2013

Abhinav Malhotra & Himaanshi Dhawan

Kanpur/New Delhi: IIT Kanpur’s academic senate decided on Friday to conduct its own entrance exam in 2013, upping the ante against the HRD ministry by refusing to be part of the common entrance test (CET) for all IITs, NITs and IIITs.

The move — the first formal rejection of the ministry’s decision to hold a common test — comes when the IIT alumni are planning to move court against CET and there are signs that other IITs too may follow the Kanpur example. If these institutions indeed hold separate exams, the burden on students will mount.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal could not be reached for comment. Sources in his ministry said the IIT Kanpur resolution would have to be examined before a future move could be planned.

More than 60 faculty members at IIT Kanpur’s Friday meeting unanimously backed the decision, S G Dhande, director and academic senate chairman, presided over the session.

“Students from across the country will be able to sit for the entrance exam in 2013. The CET proposal will be reconsidered for 2014. As of now, we’ll conduct our own entrance exam for which a committee has been formed,” said Prof Deepak Gupta, who was at the meeting.

->‘Other IITs in line’, p 12

IIT-Kanpur to go it alone, will others follow suit?

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur will hold a separate entrance test from 2013 if the Centre fails to annul its decision to conduct a joint entrance examination for undergraduate engineering courses.

“The decision was taken by the Senate, and the other IITs will also convene a meeting of their Senates and decide on similar lines,” Sumnath Bharti, president of the IIT-Delhi Alumni Association, told The Hindu on Friday.

The Senate of the IIT-Kanpur said the IIT Council’s recent proposal on admissions is “academically and methodically unsound and in violation of the Institutes of Technology Act (1961) and the IIT-Kanpur Ordinances (Ordinance 3.2, Admissions).”

The Senate of the IIT-Delhi was likely to meet next week and take a more severe decision, Mr. Bharti said.

On May 28, Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal announced the government’s decision to conduct a joint entrance examination from the next academic year. He claimed that the Senates of five of the seven IITs backed the decision as the government conceded their two major demands: they hold the authority to conduct the entrance test, and IIT aspirants be assessed in a different way.

However, within hours of the announcement, the IIT-Delhi Alumni Association threatened to move the court on the ground that a common entrance test would dilute the quality of the institutes.

It is also against giving weightage to the Class XII examination as suggested in the new pattern.
Hindustan Times, ND
9/06/2012

IIT-Kanpur junks JEE, plans its own exam next year

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI / KANPUR: IIT-Kanpur has decided to go its own way on how it picks students from the next academic year.

The institute Friday shot down the IIT council's proposal of a common entrance test for all centrally-funded engineering institutes and announced its own exam.

A resolution to this effect was passed unanimously at IIT-Kanpur's special senate meeting attended by around 80 members. The admission committee for the exam would be announced shortly.

"In the interest of students, we have decided to hold a separate exam. We will not be part of the joint test proposed by the IIT council in 2013," said Dr YN Mohapatra, spokesperson, IIT-Kanpur senate, adding that the rules gave IIT senates the right to decide their admission process and syllabi.

While Dr Mohapatra invited other IITs to follow in Kanpur's footsteps, there was no immediate support. IIT-Bombay director Devang Khakhar said there were no plans of holding a separate test like Kanpur.

"We will go with the decision of our own senate on the issue," said IIT-Delhi director RK Shevgaonkar.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal could not be reached for comment.

If the move comes about, this would be the first time an IIT would not be a part of the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE). The IIT-Kanpur Students' Forum had criticised the single entrance test format for all engineering admissions, saying it would put students under greater stress.
Sibal’s new JEE version rejected by IIT Kanpur

By Ritika Chopra
In New Delhi

THE backlash against the changed format of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) is only getting worse.

In what could be the severest blow to human resource development (HRD) minister Kapil Sibal’s ‘One Nation One Test’ dream, the highest decision-making body of IIT Kanpur on Friday resolved not to participate in the JEE’s new version. In fact, it decided to conduct its own entrance test in 2013.

All meetings of any of the IIT senates are chaired by the Institute director. The IIT Kanpur senate meeting that lasted for two hours on Friday was chaired by Sanjay Dhande who, ironically, was also part of the IIT council that approved the changes to the JEE.

“Everyone felt that JEE’s new format was not good for either the future of the students or the Institute. Now, a panel will be constituted and will outline our own admission guidelines. This decision will be communicated to the IIT council and other IIT senates,” a faculty member who attended the meeting said.

According to the professors, the senates of the first five IITs — Kanpur, Delhi, Madras, Kharagpur and Bombay — which first agreed to admit students through a joint entrance test also have the power to disassociate themselves at will. Mail Today could not confirm this independently from the HRD ministry.

JEE’s new format was announced on May 28. Sibal had, after chairing a joint meeting of the IIT and Institute to conduct its own test in 2013

National Institute of Technology council, announced that from next year the JEE will be valid for all centrally funded technical institutions such as the IITs, NITs and IISERs. And that the test will be conducted in two parts, main and advanced.

The IITs, however, were allowed to follow a different admission process, wherein the Class XII Board marks and performance in JEE’s main test will only be considered for filtering the best candidates.
IIT-K defies Sibal, to hold own test

LUCKNOW: In apparent defiance of the union minister for HRD Kapil Sibal, who had proposed 'one nation, one test' concept, the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has decided to conduct its own entrance test from the next academic session.

The Senate of the Institute at its meeting held at Kanpur on Friday decided to conduct the entrance examination for admissions to its undergraduate programmes in 2013, according to the sources. Institute director Sanjay Dhanve was not available for comment.

A resolution adopted by the meeting also authorized the chairman of the senate to form a committee for conducting JEE 2013 by IIT Kanpur and said that the undergraduate admissions committee would organize the entrance examination and counselling, and deal with all other matters pertaining to the undergraduate admissions in 2013.

Sources said the senate members were unanimous in their criticism of the new proposal by the union minister and termed it as "academically and methodically unsound and in violation of the Institutes of Technology Act (1961) and IIT Kanpur Ordinances (Ordinance 3.2 (Admissions))."

The new proposal by the centre to hold the common test under the new format had cleared at a meeting of the Councils of IITs, NITs and IIITs on May 28.

DH News Service
IIT Kanpur rejects common engg test; will hold own JEE

The IIT Kanpur faculty unanimously rejected the move to hold a single engineering entrance test for admission to central technical institutions from 2013 and said it will conduct its own test for admissions to UG courses. In doing so, IIT Kanpur led the way for others to reject the new test and hold their own exams.

Aditya Tandon  
Tribune News Service

New Delhi, June 8

The IIT Kanpur faculty unanimously rejected the move to hold a single engineering entrance test for admission to central technical institutions from 2013 and said it will conduct its own test for admissions to UG courses.

In doing so, IIT Kanpur led the way for others to reject the new test and hold their own exams. If most IIT senates (there are seven) decide to hold a Joint Entrance Exam, they would stand accused from the single test which Sibal had planned to be pan Indian.

The senates of IIT Delhi and Bombay are expected to meet any time soon to take a call on the matter. Already, All India IIT Faculty Federation has written to the PM, accusing Sibal of eroding their academic autonomy. They are likely to meet the PM next week.

Meanwhile, the IIT Kanpur senate today discussed the May 28 decision of the IIT council to conduct a single test by scrapping JEE and resolved “to record its forceful dissent of the council resolution related to JEE”.

The IIT Kanpur senate discussed the May 28 decision of the IIT council to conduct a single test by scrapping JEE and resolved “to record its forceful dissent of the council resolution related to JEE”. The senate asked Director of IIT Kanpur Sanjay Dhonde to send his dissent in writing to the HRD Minister.

The senate resolution further reads, “The recent IIT Council proposal on admissions to IITs is academically and methodically unsound and in violation of the Institutes of Technology Act 1961 and IIT Kanpur ordinances. Invoking Ordinance 3.2, the senate resolves that IIT Kanpur will conduct the entrance examination for admissions to its undergraduate programmes in 2013.”

Prof YN Mohapatra, member of IIT Kanpur senate, told TNS, “We have also resolved to constitute a committee to conduct JEE 2013 by IIT Kanpur. To the extent possible, we will coordinate with other IITs to hold a common JEE. Today, we have acted to restore our autonomy, which is provisioned in the IIT Act and which the IIT Council seeks to undermine.”

“The Ministry is pushing an unsound proposal in haste. There is no clarity if the weightage of school marks will work. We had said we will use the school marks and the test’s main component to screen 50,000 students and subject the screened to an advanced test for final admissions. But IIT Council says everyone who sits for the single test will also sit for the advanced test. Why should you force 20 lakh students to take the advanced test when annually, only about five lakh students take IIT-JEE?” Mohapatra, spokesperson for the senate, said. Sibal says four of seven IIT senates have fully backed the single test proposal in the current form as passed by IIT Council.
IIT-Kanpur defies Sibal diktat

To hold separate entrance exam

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA • NEW DELHI

In complete defiance to HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, the prestigious IIT Kanpur on Friday announced that it would hold a separate entrance examinations for entry to IIT-K 2013.

The special requisition meeting of the IIT-K academic senate on Friday passed a resolution that the institute would conduct an independent examination for the engineering aspirants for 2013.

Simultaneously, they also decided not consider to scores obtained under the new format JEE-2013 announced by the HRD Ministry last month. The Senators, which decided on an independent exam pattern, is expected to make a formal announcement in this regard soon.

The four resolutions discussed in the IIT-K Senate meeting included rejecting the proposal of Council IITs, forming a committee to look into the conduct of examination, filing of a dissent certificate at all levels, and authorising a section of Senators to brief the media.

Incidentally, the Institute Director is the Chairman of the Senate (in this case IIT Kanpur Director Prof SK Dhande). During the State Education Ministers Conference, Dhande had made a presentation favouring the new proposal of JEE-2013. Even in his capacity as the Director of IIT-K, Dhande did not agree to the Senators’ resolution, sources said.

Last week, The Pioneer reported that the IIT-Kanpur was unlikely to cooperate with the Joint Admission Board (JAB) in preparing the questions for JEE-2013. Mains and JEE Advanced.

Friday's decision comes in the wake of apprehension among the IIT-Kanpur senate members that the IIT Council's proposal could seriously compromise the autonomy so essential for IITs.

The new format, considered a brainchild of Sibal, has been mired in controversy ever since it was announced on May 28 this year. Several States also rejected the new proposals and registered their dissent early this week during the State Education Ministers’ Conference.

Even the IIT Alumni Associations wrote to the Prime Minister and sought an urgent meeting to express their concerns.

IIT-Kanpur had suggested that JEE-2013 be held for a small number of students following a preliminary examination so that the main examination was relatively easier.

Continued on Page 4

IIT-Kanpur defies...

1 From Page 1

A test for truly talented could be designed better than it was possible through a standard Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) measure.

The IIT Council proposal, on the other hand, makes the top ten thousand students for IITs by merely applying a numerical filter on the results of an examination meant to select an estimated one lakh out of twelve lakh students.

"Clearly any such filtering will not work. For students aspiring to appear in JEE-2013, the IIT Council proposal is a breach of trust. Both the processes and content of the new examination will not be clear to them any time soon because work on details has not even started," Prof Y N Singh at IIT Kanpur told The Pioneer.

The Friday decision, which could trigger similar moves by different IITs and their central technical institutes, will also put the students into dilemma.

The examination announced by MHRD is a unilateral decision of IIT Council against the advice and decisions of IIT Kanpur Senate, which has the prerogative of deciding its admission criteria. This format announced is a piecemeal patch-work with serious academic and organizational lacunae in each of the components of the test. We will conduct our own examination which we can do anyway," Singh added. The IIT Senate said that it was always of the opinion that using school board marks through percentile based normalisation, as proposed, is untested, and based on questionable hypotheses. In fact, the procedure has not been fully endorsed even by the expert committee that was consulted for the purpose.

Furthermore, making the board marks count numerically will put undesirable stress on fairness of examination and uniformity of standards across different school boards, said an expert of the Senate committee in this regard.

Tell-tale photos...

From Page 1

Melting snow in and around the holy cave area. The front view of the cave, with minor traces of snow and the steps connecting the holy cave are shown to be totally snow free, discounting the claims of accumulation of 5-10 ft of snow. Even the blue-chromatic iron grill fixed along the steps was clearly seen with the naked eye in the picture shot from a close distance of the holy cave. Interestingly, the SSB authorities are yet to release these images of the holy cave.

Earlier, in a run up to the assembly over the actual date of yatra this year, the shrine board authorities carried out series of aereal surveys where Chairman of the board, Governor VN Vohra, himself took stock of the situation and issued directions to expedite the operations.

The SSB had fixed June 25 as the date of yatra while Vishwa Hindu Parishad-led socio-religious organisations were adamant on undertaking the pilgrimage on the auspicious occasion of Jyeshha Purnima [June 4]. For three consecutive days large number of unregistered devotees who assembled here to participate in the parallel yatra courted arrest in Jammu after they were prevented from moving further by the district administration.

Even spiritual Guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, who headed the sub-committee to decide the schedule of yatra, appealed to the devotees not to agitate or court arrest as the decision to start the yatra in the last week of June was taken after holding discussions and taking stock of the logistics involved. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also kicked up a storm on the micro blogging site while responding to a follower: "Actually, right now God is stopping you because there is so much snow on the route that it is not possible to move on the route."
IIT Kanpur defies Sibal’s one-test plan, says will set own JEE

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 8

REJECTING union HRD Minister Kapil Sibal’s idea of “one nation, one test” from 2013 for entrance to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and all centrally funded technical institutes as “a decision in haste”, the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, today decided to conduct its own entrance examination for 2013—on the pattern of the traditional Joint Entrance Examination (JEE).

This decision that pits IIT Kanpur against the central government was taken unanimously in the special meeting of the institute’s senate today. The senate set up a nine-member committee headed by Neeraj Mishra, professor in the department of mathematics and statistics, to design and administer this test, and coordinate with other IITs to join in.

Sources confirmed that IIT Delhi has warmed up to the idea and may bring in a similar resolution next week.

Sibal refused to comment.

Announcing its defiance, the IIT Kanpur senate passed a resolution that called the common exam “academically and methodically unsound” and in violation of the Institutes of Technology Act (1961) and IIT Kanpur Ordinances (Ordinance 3.2 (Admissions)). It recorded its “forceful dissent of the council resolution related to JEE”.

Sibal, who is chairman, IIT Council, had on May 28 announced a new common entrance exam for IITs and all other centrally funded technical institutes from 2013. This exam gives 40 per cent weight to Class XII board marks while screening students for admission to IITs. The exam is in two stages: Main (for elimination) and Advanced which will decide the IIT merit list.

This was a “fraud” on the students, said Ajay Chaturvedi, spokesperson of the IIT Kanpur Senate. Speaking to The Indian Express, he said: “The Senate in five of seven IITs said that no changes should be made in the exam process in 2013. The reason is we want to give students time to prepare for a new format. Also, those who appeared for JEE in 2012 are eligible for a second attempt in 2013. It is only fair they do so in the familiar format. This basic demand was not agreed to. Accordingly, the IIT Kanpur Senate has resolved to conduct its own exam in 2013, this will be the usual JEE”, Chaturvedi said.

“The IIT council/HRD Ministry’s proposal on the new exam is not properly thought through. It is based on data and theory and hasn’t been tested at all. While changes are welcome, they cannot be pushed through forcibly”, Chaturvedi added.

When asked if the IIT Senate was empowered to conduct its own exam, Chaturvedi pointed out that existing ordinances say that IITs can jointly conduct an exam hence the effort to approach other IITs. Ironically, IIT Kanpur Director S G Dhanve had closely worked with the HRD ministry to formulate the new common entrance exam format.

IIT Kanpur Senate’s resolution was welcomed by the All India IIT Faculty Federation and IIT Delhi. Said Atul Mittal, Secretary AIIITF: “IIT Delhi will call a special Senate meeting next week and is likely to pass a similar resolution. Other IITs will also be consulted and hopefully join us.” . . .

IT Guwahati Director Gautam Barua disagreed. “A Senate resolution does not mean anything in itself legally or practically,” said Barua. “An ordinance has to be moved and then taken to the Board of Governors of the IITs which has to mull whether an IIT Council decision can be overruled as is proposed by IIT Kanpur.”

Deepak Gupta, IIT Kanpur Senate Coordinator, said that the decision to conduct the common examination was a unilateral decision of the Ministry and Council of IITs against the advice and decisions of the IIT Kanpur Senate. The decision did not include 300 faculty members of the IITs, he said.

(continued on page 2)
People, Not Robots
Reforming the IIT admission process will help India build a creative society

The Centre’s decision to change the IIT admission procedure makes eminent sense. From next year, admission to IITs and other centrally-funded educational institutions will involve a common two-part entrance exam and 50% weighting to Class XII board scores. A common exam will ease the burden on students who now write several exams for admission into undergraduate engineering or medical colleges. Today, the drive for admission involves a breathless rush to crack the entrance exams. This involves rote learning on a gargantuan scale, leaving no room for creative thinking, asking questions or creativity. Kids exposed to the punishing grind for these exams neglect coursework to finish school. Giving weighting to board exam results will help break this vicious cycle. Kids will still slave for the entrance exams, but the new system will give a chance to admit young people who have done well in school leaving exams too. Over time, this could help our institutions develop skilled humans with wide-ranging interests and questioning minds, rather than disciplined robots.

For over a century, the US has led the world in innovation, science and technology because of its open education system where there is no room for rote learning and where it is common for students to question teachers. To build a creative society, India has to work towards this. While taking school scores into account is welcome, the government has to ensure that these scores are normalised to a common measure. For example, a topper in Delhi could have more marks than one from Bengal, where marks are given more stingily. While considering them for admissions, both toppers’ scores should be equalised. This will sort out the differentials in exam marking that exist across India’s many state education boards. The IIT council wants to dither, and normalise scores only from 2015. It should be told to do it from the 2013 academic session. Education reform is a long slog and this is only a small step in the right direction. Having thought of it, the government must implement the reform before vested interests have a chance to scuttle it.
एकेडमिक सीनेट ने जेडी में बदलाव का फैसला रद्द किया, खुद कारागार अपना एंट्रेस
आईआईटी कानपुर की सिभल को चुनौती

अमर उजाला, ND 9/06/2012 P-1

सिंगल टेस्ट पर बागी हुए आईआईटी

हिंदू, ND 9/06/2012 P-1
आईआईटी कानपुर खुद कराएगा प्रवेश परीक्षा

आईआईटी कानपुर ने कॉमन टेस्ट के प्रस्ताव को नकारा

टिप्पणी: इन्हे कॉमन टेस्ट के प्रस्ताव को नकारने का फैसला आईआईटी कानपुर का है। यह फैसला उनके संघर्ष के बाद आईआईटी कानपुर के प्रस्ताव को रद्द करने के लिए दे रहा है।
आईआईटी कानपुर
अलग टेस्ट लेगा
छोटी कानपुर

आईआईटी कानपुर ने अपने साल से अपना अलग पूर्वस टेस्ट कराने का निर्णय किया है। संस्थान ने आईआईटी सहित सभी इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों के लिए कमांड पूर्वस टेस्ट कराने के बंटे सरकार के प्रमाण को डूबा दिया। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिंहवाल ने यह प्रस्ताव किया था।

संस्थान की 210 छात्रों की सीनेट की बैठक में यूक्रेन को अलग टेस्ट कराने का फैसला किया गया। सीनेट के मुख्यमंत्री आईआईटी में प्रवेश पर आईआईटी काउंसिल का प्रस्ताव इंटरनेशनल ऑफ़ टेकनोलॉजी एफ्स-1961 और आईआईटी कानपुर के निम्नों के विवरण हैं।

शेष पृष्ठ 4

आईआईटी कानपुर...

आईआईटी दिल्ली प्रेसिडेंट सोमनाथ भारती ने कहा कि अन्य सीनेट भी ऐसा ही नहीं अपना सकती है। सिंहवाल ने कहा था कि आईआईटी काउंसिल के बैठक में एक प्रश्न का प्रस्ताव दिया किसी अभाव में केवल दो घंटे हो गया। इसे सारांश आईआईटी में से चार की सीनेट का सम्पन्न है। संदर्भ ने यह भी कहा था कि अगर किसी एक को भी अभाव में भी यह सारांश आईआईटी में से चार की सीनेट का सम्पन्न है। संदर्भ ने यह भी कहा था कि अगर उसे बढ़ाया गया।

Jansatta ND 9/06/2012 P-8

अपनी प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित करेगा आईआईटी कानपुर

कानपुर, 8 जून (भाषा)। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिंहवाल के ‘एक देश एक प्रवेश परीक्षा’ के प्रस्ताव को खरिज करते हुए आईआईटी कानपुर ने अपने साल से अपनी खुद की प्रवेश परीक्षा कराने का फैसला किया है।

आईआईटी कानपुर की 210 सदस्यों सीनेट की शुक्रवार को हुई बैठक में यह फैसला किया गया। आईआईटी दिल्ली के पूर्व छात्र प्रविशन के अध्यक्ष सोमनाथ भारती ने इसे आहम घटना बताते हुए कहा, ‘अन्य सीनेट इस कदम का अपना सकती है।’ आईआईटी कानपुर की सीनेट ने कहा कि आईआईटी संस्थानों में प्रवेश के लिए आईआईटी परीक्षा का हालिया प्रस्ताव अकादमिक और राष्ट्रीय तरीके से अनुस्मरित है और प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान अभिनियम (1961) और आईआईटी कानपुर अध्यादेश का उल्लंघन है। सीनेट ने कहा, ‘सीनेट प्रस्ताव परिः करती है कि आईआईटी कानपुर 2013 में स्नातक कार्यक्रमों में दाखिले के लिए प्रवेश परीक्षा कराएगा।’
आईआईटी टॉपर
अर्पित को मिलेगा
एक लाख का इनाम

चंडीगढ़, 8 जुलाई (हार्दिक)। हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र सिंह डूंगरे ने आज आईआईटी व जीआई प्रवेश परीक्षा, 2012 में प्रथम स्थान पाने वाले हरियाणा के छात्र अर्पित अग्रवाल को एक लाख रुपये का पुरस्कार देने की घोषणा की है।

यह घोषणा उन्होंने आज नये दिल्ली में उस समारोह में, जब अर्पित अग्रवाल अपने स्कूल-मॉडर्न विद्या निकेतन, फरीदाबाद की प्रधानाध्यापक संतोष शर्मा, उप-प्रधानाध्यापक जयप्रकाश गौड और प्रधान श्रीमती कांता शर्मा के साथ उनसे उनके नये दिल्ली निवास पर मिलने आए। डूंगरे ने अर्पित अग्रवाल को उसकी सराहनीय उपलब्धि पर बधाई दी और भविष्य में भीशानदर सफलताएं प्राप्त करने के लिए शुभकामनाएं दी। प्रधानाध्यापक संतोष शर्मा ने इस अवसर पर बताया कि वर्ष 2009 की आईआईटी-जीआई की परीक्षा में भी मॉडर्न विद्या निकेतन, फरीदाबाद के ही छात्र नितन मैन ने प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया था।
Here comes a tablet-laptop hybrid: Ultrabook

TAIPEI: Slide it, flip it or snap it on and off. The way keyboards are connected to touch screens on the latest generation of computing devices is making it tough to differentiate a tablet from notebook or an ultrabook.

Microsoft, which has long been the dominant force in PCs but has fallen far behind in the tablet race, is set to unveil its Windows 8 operating system later this year, designed to run on super-thin laptops called ultrabooks and tablets powered by Intel's chips.

The impending launch has prompted PC vendors to come up with a rash of hybrid designs, featuring touch screens and myriad configurations of moving or detachable keyboards.

"In future, it'll be a blur in the definition of an ultrabook and a tablet because of convertibles with either detachable or sliding keyboards," said Tracy Tai, a Taipei-based analyst at research firm Gartner.

At Computex Taipei, the world's second largest computer show, visitors flocked to the booths trying out every twist and turn that converts an ultrabook into a tablet.

Lenovo Group's IdeaPad Yoga and AsusTek Computer's Taichi have screens that bend all the way back. Samsung Electronics' Hybrid becomes an ultrabook when the tablet clips onto a keyboard with magnetic hinges.

One tablet-ultrabook convertible that garnered attention was Asustek's Taichi, whose dual-sided screens can run different applications at the same time.

"There's a lot of use cases on tablets and tablet convertibles that people might approach with lots of fun, content consumption type of activity, but want to pop into it and use a productivity application and a desktop mode," said Chris Walker, Intel's director of microprocessor product marketing.

Despite all the fanfare surrounding these hybrids from Microsoft, Intel and PC vendors banking on these gadgets to make up for lost time in the tablet sector, there remains some nervousness in the industry and uncertainty among consumers about whether they will take off in a big way. "Most of us have a laptop for work and an Android or Apple tablet now, so whether I'll buy one of these hybrids will depend on the performance and price," said one Computex attendee in his 30s.

Prices for these touch-based ultrabook convertibles will not be announced until Windows 8 is formally released, widely expected to be in the fourth quarter. But the hybrids are already prompting some analysts to ponder whether they should be classified as tablets or laptop PCs. "A way to settle the argument is by the size of the gadget. Anything that is 10 inches or smaller should be categorized as a tablet, while those that are 11 inches or bigger should be called an ultrabook," said Ricky Liu, an analyst with KGI Securities.