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Dell XPS 13: Arguably the smallest 13-inch laptop in the world, it features a borderless infinity Quad HD display and up to 15 hours of battery life with an Intel Broadwell processor. It weighs all of 1.17 kg and is priced \$799 in the US. Asus Zenfone 2: The new ZenFone flagship features a 13 MP PixelMaster camera, and a 64-bit Intel Atom Z3580 Sony Walkman: The NW-ZX2 processor with 4 GB RAM. features a new rigid chassis The ZenFone 2 has a 5.5-inch design to achieve an even Full HD IPS+ screen and higher-quality sound. It is powered by a 3000mAh gives 33 hours of 192 kHz/24 battery. bit playback over a HTC Desire 826:

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and wearables

As always at the Consumer Electronics Show, one gets to see the most interesting and insanely bizarre gadgets at the same time and under one roof. The world's largest annual consumer technology trade show is also a good place to spot the trends that will dominate the tech world in the coming months. Nandagopal Rajan, who was in Las Vegas to attend CES 2015, captures some of the biggest trends that will dominate the gizmo world this year.

4K everywhere

K, or Ultra HD, is not something very new. But 2015 could be the year you will see these high-end displays enter a lot of new devices as well as touch new price points. If Dell's new Inspiron and Alienware ranges are any indication, 4K screens will hit the budget as well as top-end computing devices this year. On the other hand, we expect price points of 4K televisions to come down drastically by the end of the year. Meanwhile, companies like MediaTek are putting in place delivery mechanisms for this high resolution content. On the other hand, Sony and Panasonic have launched cameras that make creation of 4K content much easier.

More Android

Sony will launch the world's first Android Lollipop televisions in collaboration with Google and powered by MediaTek processors. While over-the-top Android boxes have been there for televisions for the few years now, it will be the first time that users will get a true blue Google experience on their large screen televisions. We noticed that a lot of other stuff, from virtual reality glasses to smart watches were also drawing heavily from Android. The domination of the Android operating system is almost complete.

Too many wearables

Every tech company, at least those who think they need to stay relevant, will have wearable device in the market by the end of this year. While the jury is still out of how much value these devices actually bring to the users, it is clear that these

devices are now looking much beyond fitness tracking. There will soon be devices that look at everything from ultra-violet radiation and alert you of sunburns to those that let you talk to your pets wherever you are.

The business of fitness

Tech companies have realised that there is money to be made in keeping people fit. So innovation is nowlooking much beyond fitness trackers. In fact, you will see devices that try and keep you fit whatever you are doing. For a change, there will be devices that look at mental health too, striving for achieving total relaxation as if it were the final

The affordable smartphone

The affordable mid-size smartphone is now as good, if not better, than any flagship. Recent launches like the Lenovo Vibe X2, the Meizu MX4, OnePlus One and Yu Yureka have shown that phones priced between \$100 and \$300 can take on the top-end smartphones when it comes to specs and performance. Thanks to this democratisation of technology it remains to be seen if the smartphone giants change their strategy and start focussing more on the mid segment where the margins could be much lower.

Breaking barriers

We think 2015 could be the year in which cross ecosystem chatter between devices and technologies becomes easier to execute. In fact, the cloud could become the big facilitator for this to happen. All this will mean the user will get a better experience even if he is not completely on a single brand ecosystem.

Lenovo Vibe X2 Pro: This limited edition phone has a 5.3-inch Full HD display and runs on a 1.5 GHz 64-bit Qualcomm Snapdragon Octa-core processor. It has 13 MP auto-focus cameras on both sides with gesture controls and 2410 mAh

core 64 bit Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 CPU with 2 GB RAM. It sports a 13 MP rear camera and an ultra pixel front camera.

The successor

5.5-inch 1080p display and is powered by a 1.7 GHz octa-







Monalisa Sen

ET's face it, today's schools and colleges are vastly different from the ones we attended back in the 80s and 90s. A present-day school or college is literally a small society comprising of students, faculty, administrators, staff, parents and alumni with its own dynamics. Many educational institutions have deployed technology in the form of student information systems which are merely databases; some have even streamlined their administrative and management processes with expensive hardware-software mix. Can one system meet the needs of the entire school or college community, which can create a high quality educational ecosystem, where all stakeholders including parent community are able to associate and contribute meaningfully to the

wholesome development of the child? Definitely yes, says Partha Mohanty, vice-president—technical, MGRM Net, headquartered in New York with a presence in more than 34 countries, including India. "MGRM's global relationship management team of over 150 analysts has studied worldwide educational systems, covering more than 100,000 schools, 300 colleges and 120 universities to develop educational egovernance systems under the brand name M-Star Education Expert System. MGRM's M-Star School Expert Sys-

Tech in the classroom

Innovative technology from MGRM is changing classrooms in a big way, making the learning environment more creative and collaborative

tem and M-Star College Expert System have been deployed across 150 educational institutions in the country. Some of these include Bal Bharati Public School, Noida, St Peter's School, Faridabad, Delhi Public School, Amritsar, Ahlcon International School, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1 and Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Lodhi Estate in Delhi, Mahaveer Public School and BVB Vidyasharam in Jaipur, among others.

According to Mohanty, world over it has been demonstrated that education institutions which have implemented integrated IT solutions have benefitted much more than streamlining their administrative and management processes. Through the use of such solutions, educational institutions are able to create a high quality school ecosystem, where all stakeholders including parent community are able to associate and contribute meaningfully to the common objective-the wholesome development of the child.

Mohanty reveals that educational institutions in India are undergoing a

transformation with extensive use of modern technology to improve their operations. Students and teachers need opportunities to participate, interact and shape their learning experiences; parents demand anytime access to in-

their wards; administrators and staff members need a practical blend of academic and business processes. Alumni want to stay in touch with each other and with their school.

M-Star Expert System is a Pactop



e-governance application for schools and colleges, encompassing all academic and administrative processes. The solution has been developed by MGRM after a thorough study of educational systems. Mohanty says that it is flexible in a way that it can be applied to any educational system and yet be customised to a very high degree to fit in with all the required parameters and diverse needs of an institution.

Through the use of MGRM system, schools have been able to create a high quality school ecosystem where all stakeholders including parent community are able to associate and contribute meaningfully to the wholesome development of the child

agement believes that the M-Star School Expert System has enabled it to greatly aid in the physical, psychological and social development of the students and has been akey factor in the rapid rise of it becoming one of the topmost schools in New Delhi injustover a decade. Through the use of the system, the school has been able to create a high quality school ecosystem where all stakeholders including parent community have been able to associate and contribute meaningfully to the wholesome development of the child. This has immense advantages on the child's learning and development as the entire set of people within the school and at home that are responsibleforthechild's development areable to play a coordinated role towards the same; minimising the chances of conflict in approaches and inputs to the

In fact, for one of the schools its man-

developing mind of the child. From a technology point of view, the vital and most visible element of M-Star is micro-processor chip embedded multi-functionality "Online Multi-Domain Value Card (OmVcard), This card serves as a personal ID as well as allows to access school/collegelibrary, certify attendance, handle cafeteria/uniform/book store charges, user's health history, collect school fee and other functions.

Put simply, school doesn't have to be boring anymore. M-Star technology is turning the traditional teacher-led class on its head.





