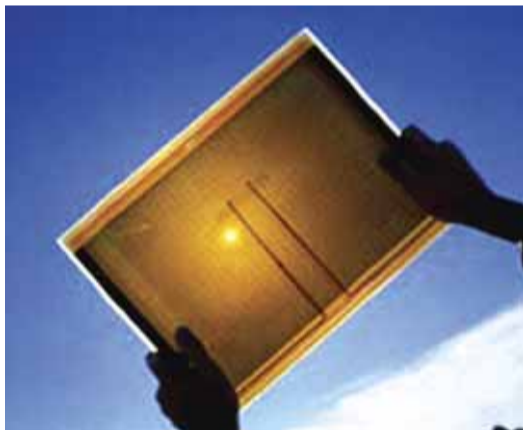


Get ready for

SOLAR AGE



THE NEW REVOLUTION IN SCIENCE IS THE MOST TALKED ABOUT SOLAR FILMS THAT CAN BE A MAJOR SOURCE OF ENERGY PRODUCTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. READ ON TO KNOW MORE



One of the major challenges to the 21st century science and technology is the development of clean energy source. The answer however lies in solar and photovoltaic films which is a non-polluting means of generating energy. Since air pollution is caused by unchecked

consumption of fossil fuels, maintaining the ecological balance of the earth is of paramount importance for scientists. Scientists after many years of research have developed the super-thin solar film that promises to revolutionize the solar energy. Researchers believe

that this will change the way we generate energy. As it is thin and transparent, solar film can be used as tinted window glass that can not only stop harmful sunlight rays from entering your house but also produce electricity at the same time. Interestingly, they are being produced in variety of colours which one can choose from. This super thin film has got a layer of sci-



entifically produced nano-particles which converts the sunlight into electricity. Experts say it can be used across the entire range - from small houses to big buildings to power plants. The beauty of this is that you can use it in rural areas of India without having to lay down power lines or transport fuel. Villages across Asia and Africa that have never seen electricity may soon leapfrog directly into the solar age.

Although it is still expensive, the day is not far when the whole world will use solar film on their windows and roof for heating, lighting and air-conditioning and may be even vehicles will start running on this technology, who knows?

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TAKE A LEAP WITH MILEAP



HCL'S LATEST X-SERIES LAPTOPS IS TAKING STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS BY STORM

After Tata's Nano, its turn of HCL which is targeting the middle-class with its portable and low cost laptops. The company has launched the world's cheapest and user-friendly laptops that connect both style and need of this techno-savvy generation.

X-series MiLeap is for consumers who need to stay connected and informed 24x7. It is light weight, shock proof and fulfills the requirements of consumers to the 'tee'. It has virtual memory of 2GB and RAM - 512MB DDR2, Display - 7" wide, Battery - 6 cells with 4 hours idle condition, and Weight -1.44 kg.

The latest in the series of laptops, the X-series MiLeap is targeted for school children with the motto 'one child per laptop'. Through its strong sales force of 200 representatives across Mumbai, HCL is assisting schools in academics. Interestingly, the response for the X-series has not only been generated by the schools but also the general public.

"Although we want every child to use our laptops, we are also targeting people who use PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) so that they have a proper laptop to work on and that too at the cost of a mobile phone," said Feroz Khan, Business and Development Executive, HCL. "Our customers are stock managers, fashion designer, etc., and it's a boon for people who are always on the move," said Vasant Waghela, Marketing and Sales Executive, HCL. As of now, the company does not see any competition for this laptops as it will cost Rs.15350/-, including VAT and octroi.

However, there is a mixed reaction from students and professionals alike. As Aarnab Maji, a computer engineering student puts it: "Linux operating system of X-series MiLeap as a whole is good for IT and computer professionals but only for specific purposes. They aren't good for general users, especially for gaming or entertainment, since the server does not support these systems."

Russi Chatterjee - a Linux user - prefers to defer. He says, "Rather than buying an extremely low end laptop, it is better to buy a good PDA. What is the point in giving a low space hard disk?"

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