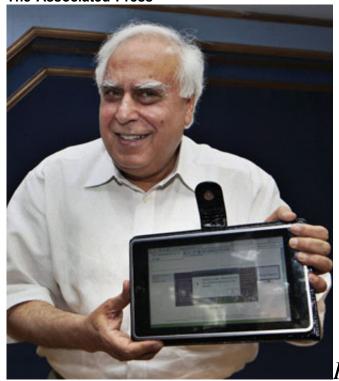# India unveils $35 computer
Tablet uses memory card, open-source software
Last Updated: Friday, July 23, 2010 | 11:33 AM ET **Comments149Recommend114**
The Associated Press

India's human resource development minister Kapil Sibal displays a low-cost $35 US tablet at its launch in New Delhi. (Associated Press)

It looks like an iPad, only it's 1/14th the cost: India has unveiled the prototype of a $35 US basic touchscreen tablet computer aimed at students, which it hopes to bring into production in early 2011.

If the government can find a manufacturer, the Linux operating system-based computer would be the latest in a string of "world's cheapest" innovations out of India, home to the $2,100 Nano car, a $16 water purifier and $2,000 open-heart surgery.

The tablet can be used for functions like word processing, web browsing and video conferencing. It has a solar power option — important for

India's energy-starved hinterlands — though that costs extra.

"This is our answer to MIT's $100 computer," Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal told the Economic Times as he unveiled the device Thursday.

In 2005, Nicholas Negroponte, co-founder of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab, unveiled a prototype of a $100 laptop for children in the developing world. India rejected that as too expensive and embarked on an effort to develop a cheaper option.

Negroponte's laptop ended up costing about $200, but in May his non-profit association, One Laptop Per Child, said it plans to launch a basic tablet computer for $99.

Sibal, meanwhile, turned to students and professors at India's elite technical universities to develop the $35 tablet after receiving a "lukewarm" response from private-sector players. He hopes to get the cost down to $10 eventually.

Mamta Varma, a ministry spokeswoman, said falling hardware costs and intelligent design make the price tag plausible. The tablet doesn't have a hard disk, but instead uses a memory card, much like a mobile phone. The tablet design cuts hardware costs, she said, and the use of open-source software adds to savings.

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DavidHuston **wrote:**Posted 2010/07/23
at 6:10 PM ETGuess they never heard of markup.. THANK GOD!!!

Oh, Markmyword, the software is open source. It is better than cheap, it is free.

Of all the emerging and developed economies, there is a lot to like from India, there are things not to like, but damn, this will be very helpful to many people.!

- *1*
- *0*

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120 plus **wrote:**Posted 2010/07/23
at 5:43 PM ETMade for the US buy American market. Will sell for $500.00 US but must show a made in America sticker that is the sticker. Will India own Wal Mart - time will tell.

- *1*
- *5*

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viceversa **wrote:**Posted 2010/07/23
at 5:26 PM ETIt will not work in Canada, there is no hi-tech for Internet use.

Can it work on low-tech?

- *3*
- *8*

*3*Agree *8*DisagreePolicy Report abuse
Praveen **wrote:**Posted 2010/07/23
at 5:18 PM ETLooks like its gonna be a pretty rough ride for Jobs and his cult from here on out.

If you own Apple stock, sell now while its peaked.

- *6*
- *8*

*6*Agree *8*DisagreePolicy Report abuse
Markmyword **wrote:**Posted 2010/07/23
at 5:15 PM ETit's about time, now just make some cheap software please

- *20*
- *1*

*20*Agree *1*DisagreePolicy Report abuse

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