

COMPANIES P2

Microsoft acquires IIT alumnus' start-up

A California-based start-up founded by an IIT-Delhi alumnus has been acquired by Microsoft.

The firm, Wand Labs, develops messaging technology for applications. It was

founded in 2013 by Vishal Sharma, who earlier was vice-president, products, at Google.

The terms of the acquisition have not been revealed. It takes Microsoft a step ahead in strengthening its position in combining the power of human language with advanced machines.

"This acquisition accelerates our vision and strategy for 'Conversation



as a Platform', which Satya Nadella introduced at our Build 2016 conference," David Ku, corporate vice-president, information platform group, Microsoft, said. India-born Microsoft chief executive officer

Nadella, during the Build conference in March, told thousands of developers he envisaged a future where computer software can learn human languages, enabling natural conversations with people. Wand Labs founder Sharma said it was an "exciting time" to be working in the area of semantics and conversation – which Nadella has termed the core of the future.