

Sibal launches IIT-I virtual classroom from New Delhi

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INDORE: The virtual classroom at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-I) was launched at a ceremony through videoconference by the union minister of communication and information technology Kapil Sibal from Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on Saturday.

He also launched the official website of National Knowledge Network (NKN) while minister of communication and IT Sachin Pilot launched the brochure of NKN.

IIT-Indore was among the 8 institutes from the country, which had joined to Vigyan Bhawan for the purpose. Only 3 IIT's were called upon to participate, IIT-I being one of them.

On the occasion, IIT-Indore director Prof Pradeep Mathur, Dean academic affairs and coordinator for virtual classroom Prof Niles K Jain were present along with the faculty and students. Nuclear scientist and principal scientific advisor to government of India R Chidambaram demonstrated the uses of NKN with the help of an electronic presentation.

He coordinated with all the institutes from Vigyan Bhawan. At the launch ceremony, all the institutes were asked to suggest new uses of NKN and how they were getting benefited by it. IIT-I brought forward an innovative approach of recording a lecture from any professor elsewhere and using it to the advantage of differently-abled students. Those

who are hearing impaired can visually access the lecture while those who are not sound visually can cater to the service.

According to Prof Jain, the facility will enhance the quality of education through collaborative learning. He said that the new IIT's can easily share course materials and lectures among themselves, by taking advantage of the service. "The problem of shortage of faculties can be resolved since students from IIT, Indore can attend lectures by the professors of IIT-B in Mumbai," he said. Also, meetings, conferences, trainings sessions will become an ease with the coming up of virtual classroom.

As of now, a total of 104 institutes are connected to the services of NKN in the country.