# e-learning project to be launched soon

## Students Of State-Run Institutes To Have Access To IIT-K Faculty

By Akhilesh Kumar Singh/TNN

**Kanpur:** Students of state-run technical institutes will now have direct access to prominent faculties of the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K) from the coming session. The state technical education department has decided to introduce the promising e-learning project in five technical institutes from the coming session.

The IIT-K would not only provide technical assistance in the project, but its faculties would give lectures to students of these five institutes through e-learning at regular intervals. A decision to this effect was taken during a meeting held in Lucknow on June 14. Secretary (technical education) PK Jha had presided over the meeting.

The final touches to the project would be given at IIT-K on July 6 in another meeting in which several experts, besides senior state officials, have been invited, informed IIT-K's computer centre head Phalguni Gupta on Wednesday. Gupta is among the six-member committee which prepared the e-learning project proposal. IIT-K faculty PK Kalra, special secretary (technical education) SK Raghuvanshi, HBTI faculty Vinay Pathak, UPTU registrar US Tomar and GP Distributors director Gopal Sutwala are the other committee members. Chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav had given clearance to the project on March 17.

Gupta informed that a contract had already been signed for use of the education satellite (Edusat) from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Project coordinator of Edusat Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, PS Bhatia, and his team would also attend the July 6 meeting at IIT-K. Gupta said, "we are already running a similar project in Chhattisgarh."

In its first phase, the project would be introduced in HBTI (Kanpur), BIET (Jhansi), IET (Lucknow), KNIT (Sultanpur) and MMM Engineering College (Gorakhpur). These institutes had already been asked to set up smart-classes for at least 120 students to be educated together under the project. The institute directors and their respective nodal officers for the project had also been directed to be present at the next meeting.

The budgetary requirement for the project is Rs 196.00 lakh of which Rs 63.5 lakh would be funded by the IT ministry and Rs 132.5 lakh by the technical education department from the World Bank grant under the Technical Education Quality Improvement Project (TEQIP).

Technical institutes in the state are short of faculties and the initiative was aimed at fulfilling the required number of lectures in one session, said project coordinator at HBTI Vinay Pathak, who had been to Chhattisgarh recently to take stock of similar projects running there.