PM Modi to launch flexible electronics centre today

KANPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a unique National Centre for Flexible Electronics under the Digital India programme in New Delhi on Wednesday. The centre will be set up at the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K) and spearhead development of electronics products that are flexible, bendable and can be printed like newspapers.

The launching function will be held at Indira Gandhi Indoor stadium in Delhi on Wednesday evening. The National Centre for Flexible Electronics is being established jointly by the department of electronics and information and IIT-Kanpur with a sum of Rs 133 crores, of which the total contribution by the institute is Rs 20 crores.

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To ensure the success of the flexible electronics project, IIT-K is entering into partnerships with the industry so that prototypes of the products developed could be commercially produced. IIT-K is also looking for international collaborators to accelerate the pace of research and commercialisation.

The centre will work on seven different domains to bring them out as a product. The domains are: organic solar cells, disposable sensors, smart cables, flexible displays and lighting. The institute has been given five years for the development and demonstration of prototype flexible electronic products.

"The institute has grabbed the opportunity of setting up the flexible electronics centre where this upcoming technology will be transformed into products. The Prime Minister, under the Digital India initiative, will launch the centre on July 1 in New Delhi and dedicate it to the nation," IIT-Kanpur director Prof Indranil Manna told reporters here on Tuesday.

"Apart from engaging in the development of the prototypes of flexible electronic products, IIT-K will also be responsible for developing the manpower for this "new age technology". We have competent people who were among the first to begin working on flexible electronics in the country and therefore, we have hands on experience to go ahead and roll out the prototypes of such electronic products," said Prof Manna.

He added that both the Union government's department of Electronics and Information Technology and IIT-K are jointly in the process of setting up the electronics centre with a sum of Rs 133 crores of which Rs 20 crores had been pledged by the institute.
Terming the Rs 113 crores funding by the Central government as "unique", Prof Manna said never in the past over Rs 100 crores have been given by the Centre to a single project as in the case of flexible electronics centre. "The Prime Minister is himself taking interest in the new age technology and IIT-K is motivated to do well" he added.
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