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'Digitalise varsity libraries'

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“There is a great need to digitalise libraries in universities and institutes to better educational opportunities for the youth. INFLIBNET will surely serve them in a better way,” said E.Ahmed, Union Minister of State for External Affairs, here today.

He was speaking after inaugurating the three-day international convention on automation of libraries in education and research institutes - CALIBER-2005, organised by Cusat. “Information and library network centre, initiated by the University Grants Commission (UGC) has augured revolutionary changes in facilitating resources-sharing at various levels,” said the Minister.

Academicians should make use of IT for improving and promoting communication and information services throughout the country. This is important, while taking into consideration the diverse patterns of the country. IT will facilitate global connectivity and bring all its users to the national mainstream, he said.

The Minister also pointed out India was expected to have a software yield of 80 billion and this would create jobs for two million people.

Cusat Vice-Chancellor P.K.Abdul Asiz emphasised the need to digitalise all traditional



Minister of State for External Affairs E.Ahmed inaugurating CALIBER-2005 at the Town Hall on Wednesday. Cusat Vice-Chancellor P.K.Abdul Asiz and UGC member P.Prakash are also seen: Express

and regional knowledge in the country. He further requested the Minister to declare Cusat as a centre of higher education, so that foreign students from West Asian countries can come here for education.

Around 140 universities and 4,300 electronic journals are already linked through the INFLIBNET. More than 80,000 students have become the beneficiaries of this facility.

Around 280 delegates from all over the country are participating in the convention. Foreign delegates too will be present at the event. Around 120 technical papers would be presented at the convention.

The convention was also attended by Dr S.Ramani, chair-

man, INFLIBNET, T.A.V.Murthy, director, INFLIBNET, Dr A.Ramachandran Nair, Registrar, Cusat, Dr M.D.Baby, organising secretary, Cusat, P.Prakash, member, UGC, and syndicate members Lopez Mathew and A.Aravindakshan.

“The External Affairs Ministry has already issued a statement regarding recent developments in Nepal. The Ministry is now keeping track of the situation there but it's too early to say anything about it now,” said E.Ahmed, while talking to reporters on the sidelines of the convention.

The Minister, however, denied to comment on what implications, the developments in Nepal will have on the upcoming SAARC summit.