

Hi-tech digital library inaugurated

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A state-of-the-art digital library was inaugurated here today for Indian researchers, scientists and the public at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) here. The digital library has been set up under the aegis of the Supercomputer Education and Research Centre (SERC) in collaboration with the Tatas and the Tata-IBM. The library was inaugurated by Chairman of Tata group of companies Ratan N Tata.

The digital library is equipped with a digital information services centre (DISC) to host a collection of CD-ROMs of chemical abstracts, current contents, science citation index, full text of journal articles, collection of Indian music, encyclopaedia. All information produced from the institute such as doctoral thesis, journal papers and project reports will now be available in digital form and will be easily amenable for digital dissemination.

IBM's digital library software used in some of the world's best libraries including the Vatican Library is being employed for handling of the voluminous information. The software for the new library has been donated by the Tata-IBM Limited. The software will also store and disseminate multimedia information such as image and sound mainly of the various conferences conducted by the IISc from time to time.

The library would also include some of the education on demand services to make quality education available to students anywhere, anytime. The new library has also plans to scan many of the country's heritage documents for the database aimed at preserving and



Prof G Padmanabhan (left), Director, Indian Institute of Science, Mr J J Bhabha, President, IISc court and Mr Ratan N Tata, Chairman, Tata Group of companies, lighting the lamp to inaugurate the new digital library at IISc, Bangalore, on Thursday. Renowned scientist Raja Ramanna is also seen. DH photo

disseminating Indian culture.

With the creation of the proposed national information infrastructure, the digital library is expected to be accessible from every nook and corner of the nation and become a national asset.

'BANGALORE ON DECLINE?': The chairman of the Tata group of companies, Mr Ratan Tata, said the attraction of Bangalore as the hi-tech city was on the decline and Hyderabad was fast emerging as a computer city.

"What is so attractive about Bangalore?", companies are moving towards Hyderabad", Mr Tata told PTI when asked about the poor response to the Information Technology Park Limited (ITPL) set up by the Tata group in collaboration with the Karnataka government and a consortium of Singapore companies.

Tata's response came in the backdrop that only 30 per cent of the total offered space of the ITPL commissioned last year was sold, despite serious marketing efforts,

and even Microsoft had decided to set up its new facility at Hyderabad.

Asked what would be the strategy of the ITPL, Mr Tata said the park would remain there.

About the Tata-Raytheon international airport project, he said the techno-feasibility study of the project was over, and final clearances were expected from the new government. However, he parried questions on the Tata-Singapore Airlines project.