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MADE IN IIT-BOMBAY

## Animation to make engineering lessons easier, more fun

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**MUMBAI:** You are in a laboratory, experimenting with ammonia gas. You place one flask into another, place a test tube into the flask and pour water into the test tube. Only, this is a virtual lab.

Engineering students across India will soon get animated programmes to help them understand complex theories and experiments. The Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-

B) is working on 2-D and 3-D animated programmes that will help classroom teaching.

Under the Open Source Courseware Animations Repository (OSCAR) project, the institute's computer science department will create web-based animations for experiments that students or teachers can follow on their personal computers.

Students can also play around with the animations, like enter different variables or modify the procedure for the same experiment.



ILLUSTRATION: JISHU

While there are portals where students can view the animations without paying a fee, the courses can also be

downloaded.

Started in May, the pilot project will be completed in December.

"These will help visualise concepts like chemical reactions involving three-dimensional bonds. For distance learning, the animations can substitute classroom apparatus that a less privileged institute may not afford," said Chirag Raman, a student at D.J. Sanghvi College of Engineering, Vile Parle.

Students at IIT-B and other engineering colleges are developing animations from concepts explained through video lectures of 231 engineering courses under

the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning and about 200 courses from IIT-B's Centre for Distance Engineering Education Programme.

"We will zero in on concepts that can be better understood through animations," said professor Sridhar Iyer, the brain behind the project.

Under the National Mission of Education, OSCAR is not restricted to IIT-B alone. The project is inviting contributions.

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