**Inauguration of Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) on 4th October, 2011**

The ISLRTC was inaugurated by Union Minister Kapil Sibal minister for HRD, Communications and IT and Union Minister Mukul Wasnik minister for Social Justice and Empowerment on 4th October on IGNOU campus. There were about 800 people in attendance. Amongst these, there were about 350 deaf people. VC IGNOU Prof V N Rajasekharan Pillai called this a historic event and said that this will lead to independence among deaf people.

Pro VC Prof Ramanujam introduced all guests and broached the program. Union Minister Shri Sibal mentioned how the establishment of ISLRTC will result in better education and, therefore, better employment of deaf people. Shri Wasnik pointed out that he had been involved in the establishment of ISLRTC for many years and was happy that the dream has come true. Professor Madan Vasishta, Honorary Director and a deaf Indian who is teaching in the USA, shared his experience of his being here during the last week.

Felicitations were offered by Mr A.S. Naraynan, general secretary of the National Association of the Deaf, Shri K.M. Acharya, secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Smt. Vibha Puri, Secretary, Ministry of Human Resources Development also addressed the gathering expressing their happiness about the establishment of ISLRTC.

The event ended with the signed rendition of the national anthem by students of BAASLS program IGNOU.