

EduSat to bride rural, urban digital divide



RONO HILLS, Sep 05: The EduSat, country's first tele-education satellite Network would bridge the urban-rural digital divide as it would link the remote areas through video conferencing, said Ahmedabad-based ISRO DECU group head, Vikram Desai after the network was formally launched by Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh at the HUB station in Rajiv Gandhi University here today.

EduSat has 69 networks operating with 36,000 satellite interactive terminals (SITs), said Dr. Desai, who is looking after tele education and tele medicine projects of the ISRO.

Each North East state being special category one has been provided with a Hub and SITs free of cost which would bring 400 villages of the region under its coverage. He said in Arunachal, 50 SITs are installed in 50 different places, which include 6 in DIETs, 37 in higher secondary schools, 5 other schools and 2 in polytechnic. The Hub

here has a capacity for 500 SITs, he said and congratulated the state government for becoming member of the EduSat family

Pointing out that the network aimed at revolutionizing state's education scenario, the governor said it will be a force multiplier for state's education system through fundamental changes. He said lack of adequate infrastructure and non-availability of sufficient good teachers in the past were proving a drag and the network will enhance efficiency and effectiveness to achieve the goal, reports his PRO.

He requested for establishing more such centers in the interior places, especially in border areas and ensuring the credibility of study materials used and their updating and regular monitoring student-teacher interaction. He urged the teachers and students to utilize the high tech facility provided by the Indian Space research Organization (ISRO).

Singh advocated conduct of refresher courses based on

health, education, agriculture for teachers to update them with the latest developments in the fields. Coaching classes could also be conducted for the provided to the UPSC aspirants, he added.

He along with first lady Anupama Singh also interacted with teachers and students of government HS school at Tawang, Bomdila and Seijosa, VKV at Tafragaon, Rajiv Gandhi Polytechnic at Itanagar and trainees of district institute of education and training at Dirang, Pasighat and Roing through tele-conference and responded to their queries.

Emphasizing on the need to bring the best teachers to impart quality education to the students, RGU Vice Chancellor Prof K C Belliappa said that the network would play an important role in the field of education.

Earlier, higher and technical education (H&TE) director Dr Joram Begi said with the launching of the network the entire state will be converted in a virtual classroom. Pointing

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From P.1... that good teachers are concentrated in the urban areas and students have problems in certain subjects like Mathematics, Science and English to some extent, the network will be the best alternate to teach them.

Dr Begi also highlighted on teething problems like appointment of SITs' technical officials, its power supply and safety.

Dr Begi, the man behind the project, also thanked ISRO for providing equipment worth of Rs 4 crore for the network.

Organized by the H&TE department, the programme was attended by RGU faculty members and other dignitaries.