

## **Embassy of India, Thimphu**

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### **Press Release: ISRO launches customized training program on Satellite Data Analysis for Bhutan**

1. A customized training program on satellite data analysis for Bhutanese officials was inaugurated by Shri Somanath S., Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation/Secretary, Department of Space, Government of India (ISRO) in the presence of Ambassador of India Ruchira Kamboj, Scientific Secretary ISRO Shri Shantanu Bhatawdekar and Directors of ISRO Centres on 6 May 2022. The virtual inauguration was attended by the officials from the Royal Government of Bhutan, Ministry of External Affairs and ISRO.
2. The objective of the unique month long training program is to augment in-house capacity within Bhutan to receive, process and analyze remote sensing data received from the INS-2TD, the technology demonstrator satellite launched on 14 February 2022. The training program will also equip participants to process the data received from the India-Bhutan joint satellite, slated for launch this year.
3. The training will benefit Bhutan immensely in areas viz. disaster management, resource mapping and monitoring of various indices concerned with the country's terrestrial environment. The earth observation applications will be particularly useful to the agriculture, forest and water management sectors.
4. A total of 21 Bhutanese officials, researchers and space scientists from across 7 government departments in Bhutan such as Agriculture, Forests and Park Services, Disaster Management, Human Settlement, Geology and Mines, Information Technology and Telecom as well as the National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology will participate in the training program.
5. The training will cover both theoretical and practical modules. The sessions will also be conducted physically in Ahmedabad where Bhutanese officials will be given hands-on experience on python based data processing and analysis.
6. Space Technology is a promising new frontier of India-Bhutan cooperation. In accordance with the vision of His Majesty the King of Bhutan and Prime Minister Modi, the India-Bhutan relationship to expanding to new and emerging areas of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The India-Bhutan joint satellite project is in accordance with the Government of India's Neighbourhood First policy under which high priority is accorded to its relations with Bhutan.

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