

Embassy of India
Thimphu

Visit of ISRO delegation led by Chairman Shri S. Somnath to Bhutan

1. A delegation led by Shri S. Somanath, Secretary, Department of Space, Government of India and Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) paid an official visit to Bhutan from 13-14 March 2023. Shri S. Somanath was accompanied by Shri Prakash Chauhan, Outstanding Scientist & Director, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) and other senior scientists from ISRO. During the visit, Chairman (ISRO) received an audience with His Majesty the King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, met with Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji, jointly inaugurated the S-band ground earth station in Thimphu, and held consultations with Acting Secretary of GovTech Agency Mr. Jigme Tenzin.
2. On 13 March, Chairman (ISRO) Shri S. Somanath jointly inaugurated the S-band ground earth station in Thimphu with Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, and Lyonpo Karma Donnen Wangdi. The station has been established at the premises of GovTech Agency by the team of scientists and engineers from Bhutan and ISRO. The station has the capacity to receive data from the India-Bhutan SAT, the first satellite jointly developed by India and Bhutan that was launched by ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on 26 November 2022. The India-Bhutan SAT will provide high resolution images to Bhutan for the management of its natural resources and several other applications.
3. Chairman (ISRO) Shri S. Somanath held a bilateral meeting with Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade to discuss ongoing bilateral cooperation between India and Bhutan in the space sector. Separately, both sides reviewed the ongoing bilateral space collaboration initiatives between ISRO and GovTech Agency, Bhutan, and discussed plans for future cooperation and projects in the space sector covering areas such as capacity building of engineers and experts from Bhutan at ISRO Centres on satellite building and testing, processing and analysing satellite data, as well as joint development of satellites, and application of space technology across sectors in Bhutan.
4. Chairman (ISRO) Shri S. Somanath visited the Druk Gyalpo's Institute in Pangbesa, Paro, and interacted with enthusiastic students on advances being made in the space sector, benefits of space applications and technology for the people, and opportunities for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in frontier science and technology.
5. This visit of a high-level delegation led by Chairman ISRO to Bhutan reflects the joint commitment to expand India-Bhutan partnership in the sectors of space and other emerging technology domains for mutual benefit.

14 March, 2023