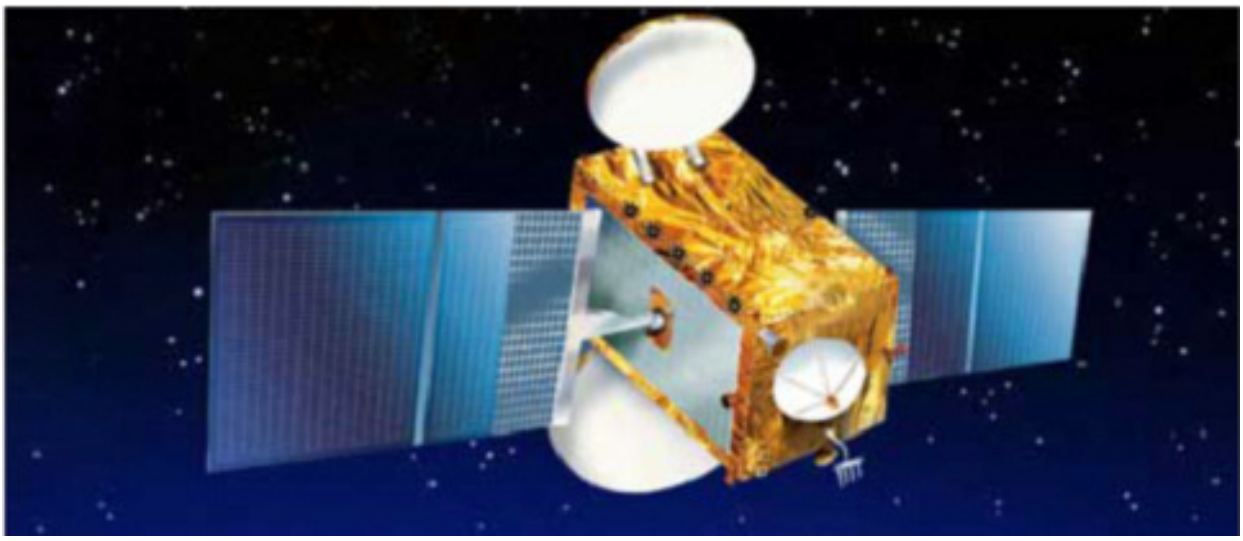
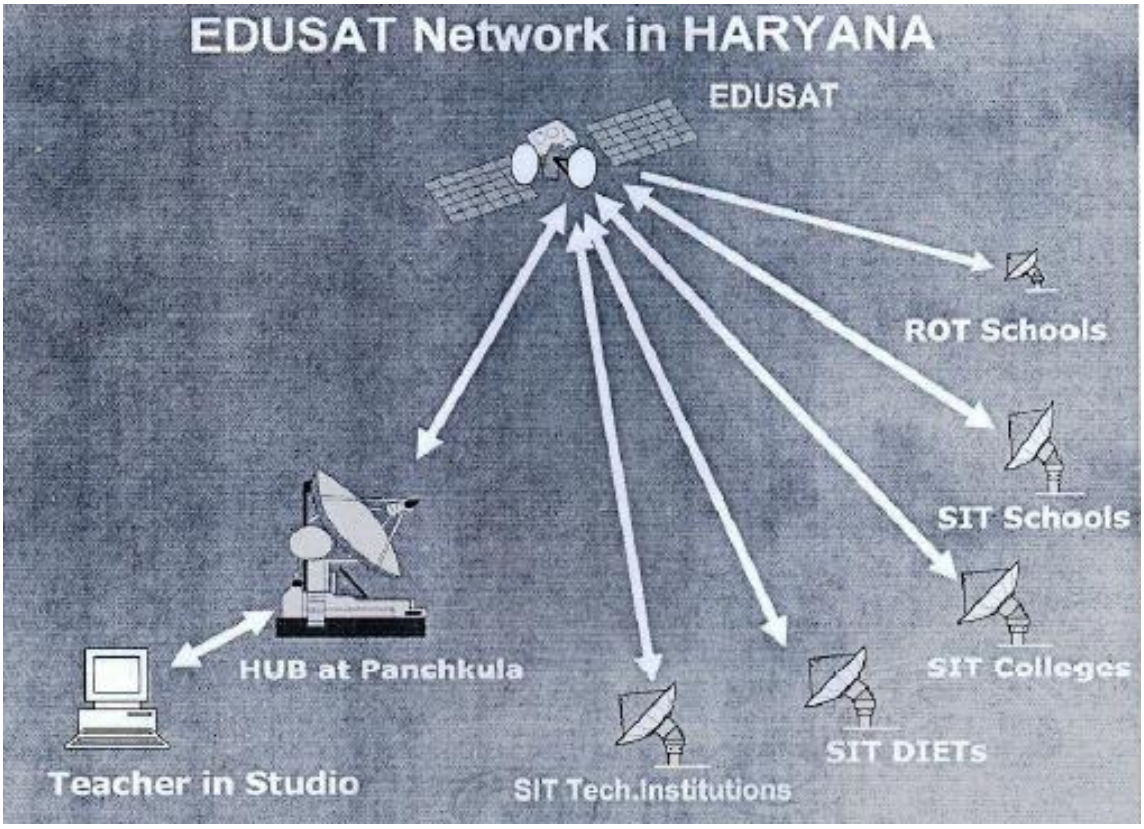
THE EDUSAT



ISRO has launched a communication satellite called GSAT-3 for exclusive use of the education sector. It has envisaged the development of a nation-wide education network called EDUSAT with the aim of providing a sustainable distance education service in India using GSAT- 3 satellite.

THE HARYANA INITIATIVE

The Haryana government has launched the **biggest initiative in the country** in the EDUSAT programme. It is planned to broadcast education content through **five channels** to cover the entire gamut of education, viz. Primary Education, Secondary Education (two channels), Colleges and Technical Institutions.



The Satellite Trans-receiver HUB with 3.8 meter antenna for uplink is installed in DIET

Campus at Panchkula. The lectures are transmitted to the satellite from where they are beamed back to earth covering the entire State of Haryana.

BROADCAST CONTENT

- Regular School/College curriculum (started)
- Coaching for AIEEE (started)
- Training on Soft Skills (under development)

OBJECTIVES

a) Providing uniform, good quality of curriculum teaching for final year students of colleges, Senior Secondary Schools & primary schools, and also for technical institutions.

b) Improving the level of science education among the students, as well as to improve English.

c) To ensure that teacher absenteeism does not disturb the study of children.

d) Reviving the interest of children in classroom studies.

e) Providing quality teacher training, so as to improve the subject knowledge of the teachers, as well as to train them to use ICT in education.

f) To improve the 'soft skills' of the children, so that they are able to obtain employment, particularly in the ITES sector.

g) To train children for appearing for All India Engineering Entrance Exam.

h) To train/familiarize children about appearing in examinations with 'objective type' questions.

i) To provide access to quality education, particularly for far flung/remote location schools.

PROJECT PHASING

In the first phase, Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs) are being made functional in 220 Science Stream Senior Secondary Schools, 41 Urban Schools, 62 Government Colleges, and 17 DIETS.(SITs have already been installed in 218 schools, 58 colleges and 17 DIETS).

The broadcast to Senior Secondary Schools for class XII in Math, English and Science and to colleges for B.Sc. IIIrd year has begun from July, 2006.

Subsequently, all 9000 Primary Schools and 1250 Arts Senior Secondary Schools are being installed with DTH Receive Only Terminals (ROTs). Later, 92 Government Aided Colleges and the technicians (Engineering colleges and polytechnics) will be installed with SITs.

INNOVATIVE METHOD USED

The resource persons for delivery of lectures from the studio have been selected from the Haryana Education Department and provided training, not only to face the camera, but also to use ICT in education. While initially, only live lectures are being broadcast, it has been decided that all the good lectures will be recorded, so that quality material is available for subsequent years. Programmes for training for the AIEEE exam; training of soft skills; training of teachers for use of ICT for education, and subject 'teacher training' are to be broadcast after school/college hours. Leading private organizations have been engaged to develop content, for the programmes of AIEEE preparation, soft skills, and for training of teachers in use of ICT in education.

The script for an individual topics prepared by the

resource persons, is got evaluated by an Internal Evaluator of the Department, and there after also by an external evaluator from outside the Department. Under the channels for Senior Secondary Schools and colleges, the broadcast schedule for the whole year has been finalized and conveyed to all the schools/colleges and a uniform time table for the subjects has been adopted in all the Govt. Senior Secondary Schools/colleges. This uniformity has helped in ensuring timely coverage of the syllabus during the year. This has also helped in successful implementation of the 1st semester examinations in the schools. To ensure greater interest amongst the teachers and children, prizes are being initiated for 'best question' asked by children, as well as for 'best teacher'/. 'best coordinator'. Teacher training, which is presently restricted to 20 days under SSA (because of funds constraint and constraint of holidays), would be now

under taken through EDUSAT Network throughout the year.

POSITIVE OUT COMES / CHANGES FROM THE PROJECT

a) The most significant out come from the project is that for the final year science students in Govt. Senior Secondary Schools, the full syllabus is being covered through uniform good quality subject teaching. Similarly, for the final year students of colleges, the majority of the course content of Science, Commerce & English and the difficult topics of some other important subjects, is being fully covered through uniform quality teaching.

b) While Govt. has approved filling up of vacant posts through guest faculty, it is ensured through use of EDUSAT that even where a teacher is absent, uniform quality instruction is provided to

the children.

c) The project has led to a significant enhancement in the interest of the students for the science stream. A large number of demands have been received to start science stream in Govt. schools and colleges next year.

d) The project has led to a much greater interest amongst students in class room studies. In addition to the live lectures, the resource persons are using multi media, including slides and video clippings. For recorded lectures, 'animations' are also being used, so that there is not only greater interest among the students, but also enhanced conceptual clarity of the subject.

e) There is exceptional enthusiasm among the teachers, who have been selected as the resource persons. There is also great interest among the teachers for obtaining training on use of ICT in

education.

f) While so far practically no student from the Govt. schools was able to clear the AEEE exam, it Is expected that after the programme planned for AIEEE exam preparation, a number of students will succeed in the coming AIEEE entrance exam.

g) The programme for improving soft skills of children will, at the school level, improve the basic English language skills, and at the college level, it will definitely improve employability of the graduating students, since, in the Soft skills programme there is the added innovation that a graduating student who clears the end of course exam securing more than 50% marks, will be ensured employment by the private collaborating agency(s).

h) The programme has definitely helped all the children of class 12th in understanding the objective type questions used in the 1st semester examination held in September, 2006.