

## ISRO inks MoUs with central Ministries

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Department of Space (DoS), Government of India represented by its Development & Educational Communication Unit (DECU), Ahmedabad has entered into the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2016 with two central Ministries, as briefed below:

- (i) **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, New Delhi, represented by National Instructional Media Institute (NIMI), Chennai**

MSDE has an ambitious target for increasing skill development in the country for creating a large workforce with appropriate skill sets as a large mismatch exists between supply and demand of the skilled workforce. The vocational training facilities in the country have grown substantially in the last few years. There are around 2200 government & 10800 private ITIs (Industrial Training Institutes), which is the biggest vocational training infrastructure in the country.

MSDE plans to extend distance learning to all ITIs in the country, which has potential to benefit around 18 lakh students, attending courses in different fields. MSDE comprehends that space technology is an important tool which must be leveraged for increasing and strengthening training and outreach activities and is keen on adopting satellite based communication to reach out to this large population in a short span of time. Accordingly, a MoU between ISRO (represented by DECU) and MSDE (represented by NIMI) is signed in presence of Secretary and Joint Secretaries of MSDE, to setup a Space-based Distance Learning Programme (SDLP), which includes deployment of both interactive and non-interactive terminals in thousands of ITIs spread across the country.



The MoU was exchanged between Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Space and Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) in August in the presence of Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee during the India Skills-2016 event organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The occasion was also graced by Hon'ble Ministers Shri Venkaiah Naidu (Urban Development), Smt. Smriti Irani (Textiles) and Shri Prakash Javadekar (Human Resources Development).



(ii) **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Government of India, New Delhi**

MoH&FW is primarily responsible for defining policies for health services, establishing the necessary health infrastructure for providing good quality of medical & health services to people across India. MoH&FW and ISRO share the view that the gap between the rural and urban areas of the country in terms health services needs to be bridged. The satellite communication is an important tool, which can provide connectivity between the far-flung rural areas and the urban areas for low cost treatment, and can prove to be a vehicle to provide medical treatment to the people, who are still deprived from getting treatment from the good doctors at low cost.

In view of the above, a MoU between DECU & MoH&FW is signed for handing over of existing ISRO Telemedicine nodes to MoH&FW and setting up of new nodes. The two parties have agreed to work jointly towards effective utilization of ISRO's satellite based Telemedicine network and identify their respective roles and responsibilities.



The MoU was signed between Shri Virender Kumar, Director, DECU and Shri Jitendra Arora, Director, e-Health, MoH&FW.