

## My experience with Her Majesty Queen of England

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The Royal Commonwealth Society had invited me to present a testimony on the eve of Commonwealth Observance Day, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at the West Minster Abbey, London in the presence of Her Majesty Queen of England, Prince of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, High Commissioners of Commonwealth Countries and a group of school children etc., narrating my experiences in the field of Amateur Radio Communication and contribution to the society for promoting Science & Technology. I am the only person who got an invitation from amateur radio field from the 54 Commonwealth countries, which is a rare honor to an Indian lady.



After the ceremony, i had attended the tea party at Royal Commonwealth Society and a reception at Buckingham Palace where i met Her Majesty the Queen of England and explained the Queen about my involvement in the promotion of Amateur Radio Communication in India and the activities of National Institute of Amateur radio, Hyderabad in the last three decades in

disaster management.

The Commonwealth Foundation, London has shown great interest in promoting Amateur Radio Communication as a part of disaster management in the Commonwealth Nations.

I also met Mr. Dave Wilson, M0OBW, President of Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) and other Officials and exchanged the information on the subject of development of Amateur Radio Communication in India and UK.

Please find below my testimony at the Royal Commonwealth Observance Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

## **MY TESTIMONY**

Communication is one of the most general needs of the society and the way we fulfil it has varied from smoke signals to telephones to satellite communications, but our main aims have always been the same -- that is to "say what we want" and "to hear when we wish to". Though these may seem simple, but to achieve them when required has been one of the most important challenges of communication technology.

I have 30 years of experience in Amateur Radio communication, which I adopted in 1980 under my guru Mr. S. Suri, VU2MY, Founder and Chairman of National Institute of Amateur radio, supported by Ministry of Information Technology, Govt. of India. I believed in promoting this subject by conducting training classes and demonstrations and introducing to youngsters to inculcate scientific thinking in their minds. Besides being a scientific hobby, Amateur Radio communication provides one with discipline and interaction between fellow amateurs and scope to serve the society in the hour of need. To mention one such opportunity I intercepted an SOS sent out by a team of four foreigners in distress in the Bay of Bengal and alerted the Navy who saved their lives.

I have closely associated my self with emergency communication through Amateur Radio during different disasters including the 2004 Tsunami in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Orissa super cyclone in 1999 and Gujarat earth quake in 2001.

I have been fortunate to have practiced all modes of communications covering voice, telegraphy, digital and satellite through Amateur radio during my career. Even in 2010 ,it's a fact that telecommunication is still a very rare service in many parts of the world including Commonwealth Nations which has lead to a great divide between nations or even within nations themselves. It is also a fact that billions of dollars are being spent for development of telecommunications by various countries but the simple technologies such as Amateur Radio communications have been put on the back burner. I believe it is critical to promote Amateur Radio as a second line of communication, as it is a time tested means in case of emergencies and a scientific hobby.

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