



HAM NEWS

Vol 15 Issue 7 INDIA'S LEADING JOURNAL ON AMATEUR RADIO Special Issue, December - 2004

DX-PEDITION TO ANDAMAN ISLANDS BY NIAR TEAM FROM 3rd TO 31st DECEMBER, 2004.

His Excellency the Governor of A.P Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde has flagged off the team on 26th November, 2004 and the team arrived at Port Blair on 2nd December, 2004.



(L to R) 1. S.B.Ram, VU2LIC, 2. Prasanth, 3.His Excellency the Governor of A.P. Shri. Sushil Kumar Shinde
4. Ms. D. Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, Team Leader, 5. Sri. S. Suri, VU2MY, Chairman, NIAR,
6. Sri S. Ram Mohan,VU2MYH

National Institute of Amateur Radio is pleased to inform that the Government of India, Ministry of Communication & I.T has granted a special permission to a team of 5 members under the leadership of Mrs.Bharathi Prasad VU2RBI to conduct their Amateur Radio operations called Dx-Pedition on 3-31st December, 2004. The other members of the team are 1. Mr. S. Ramamohan VU2MYH 2. Mr. Sarath Babu VU3RSB, 3. Mr. D.N. Prasad VU2DBP 4. Mr. D. Varun Sastry VU3DVS. Master Varun Sastry is 15 years old and is the youngest ham to participate in such an expedition. Master Varun's achievement is going to be a world record.

This expedition is sponsored by NIAR and several international Hams and their Dx Associations thus it is a multinational co-operation. The main aim and purpose is to test the propagation conditions using the latest devices/techniques as far as possible. Also testing the abilities of the team members to contact as many countries/territories by logging as many hams in those countries/territories in the given time. It is expected more

than 5,00,000 Hams around the world will also be testing their skills and their equipment including antenna systems. Ultimately it is a few thousand hams succeed and get their acknowledgements confirmed by the team members operating from Port Blair, Andaman Islands. All permissible modes, power emission conditions will be tried by the hams. These hams trying to reach out to the team in Andamans will have to be heard and confirmed of the two way contact against several hundreds of people piling up on the frequency of the operation. So the hams coming from all walks of life like Kings, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Industrialists, doctors, lawyers, bureaucrats, students, armed forces personnel, able and disabled will have to keep trying till they achieve to get confirmed contact with the team. It is not an easy task and hence several attempts will be made by the unsuccessful hams otherwise they in their life time may not get another chance unless these islands have regular radio amateurs and able to contact with rest of the world hams. That is why there is tremendous publicity for this operation also international co-operation to see that many hams are satisfied. There are many international and popular DX forums work round the clock through out the year and make big headlines in their press and other media. There is tremendous excitement all over the world for this teams operation in Andaman as this is rated as no. 1 among the sought after territory to establish a contact. By the time this report went to the press (ie 3-12-2004) more than 50 Countries and over 800 hams have contacted the team.

Technology developments:

1. It is through such operations all Indian hams get to know the current status of technology in use in communication and I.T., Amateur digital / computer modes and Amateur satellites etc., all the countries including most advanced countries.
2. Tremendous R&D effort goes on by the most popular manufacturers of the transceiver & antenna manufacturers to be sure their equipment is the latest state of the art. The results like readability of signal and the signal strength will be recorded by the team member on each and every contact made. It has to be confirmed both ways.
3. Upgrading skills of many amateurs (Hams) in the use of various kinds of equipment, antennas and others. Advanced countries hams test their equipment with as low wattage as possible while transmitting by using several kinds of antennas like simple Dipole to Yagis and masts ranging from roof top base to over 150 feet. Some use antenna forms.
4. Corroborating or otherwise new findings noting on the propagation technologies on several modes/frequencies and time of operation day or night etc. This is based on solar flux/radation.
5. Several home made kits like simple transmitters /receivers, power amplifier etc., will also be tried and their efficiency to use in pile ups and in interference conditions. Technical data is evaluated to provide for future emergency communication needs.
6. There will be exchange of several technical notes international hams gathering on the size of 10,15,& 25,000 people (all HAMS). There is no other widely participated technical / scientific groups than hams. Thus Hams are regular international travellers combine their hobby with tourism. In the seminars/ conferences/ lectures conducted by hams at various national and international forums. Many European, American and Japanese hams will try to visit Port Blair / Andaman Islands during these operation to appreciate effort. They will take media material like Vedio / Audio / Photos & write series of articles in most of the Amateur Radio magazines of the world.

Back ground:

The whole globe is divided into 335 territories /countries as per the International Amateur Radio Union and each territory is identified with a particular call sign which is based on the International Telecommunication Union classification. Thus India has three different call areas like VU2 & VU3 for mainland India and VU4 for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and VU7 for Lakshadweep Islands. A call sign may consist of 3 or 4 or 5 letters but in every call sign the prefix letter like VU2, VU4 and VU7 indicate the country and area identification for India and followed by other letters like RBI (VU2RBI for Mrs. Bharathi Prasad). It is the ambition of many active Radio Amateurs (Hams) to reach out to these 335 areas/countries in their life time at least once by way of two way confirmed contact and thus claim many awards/ certificates issued by most popular international Amateur Radio organizations like American Radio Relay League and others. Those who are able to communicate over 300 territories and more get into special category of privileged/recognized class and they get honor role.

Tourism development:

Many international hams get to know more about Andaman Islands, the operators and their culture also about several cities in India. Many international hams have already evinced keen interest even to visit Andamans also Hyderabad city where NIAR is located and many other cities of India. These hams in many words expressed how tourism interest is created by this single operation and further how technology developments take place with mutual appreciation and interaction. Hams come from all walks of life and their interaction results in economic and S&T developments.

The economic superiority arising out of S & T efforts comes from the holistic approach to the professional and amateur facets going together. It is interaction among interdisciplinary group of all walks of life, able and disabled together build the nation - certainly not by Islands of excellence alone. That is the difference between developed country and non developed country. The developed countries treat Hams as national resource.

Some Wrong Notions on Ham :

Amateur Radio (HAM) no doubt plays a significant role in any major natural or man made calamity. But HAM is not all about disaster management as some perceive it in India. It is one of the many equally important activities including Dx-Peditions. There are more than 25 facets to ham and all the other facets development is essential and is a pre-requisit, so that disaster mitigation becomes more effective and cost effective. That is why more than 5,00,000 active Radio Amateurs get involved when such opportunity comes like Dx-Pedition.

Need Pro-Active Role :

Indian industries, Educational institutes, the Government need to take more pro - active role on promotion of Amateur Radio, if they really want India to be a super power. People's participation in communications and I.T. is possible more through ham movement and easiest way to get near the goals. Amateur Radio is a term includes Amateur Television, Amateur Satellite, Amateur Internet related activities.

Realising the potential good of ham as a national resource, late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, VU2RG was instrumental in initiating many ham related projects including establishment of National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) at Hyderabad in 1983.

It was during Rajiv's period there were good initiatives and support received from ham promotion particularly between 1981 - 1994 particularly support received from department of electronics, Govt., of India. The Govt., of A.P. also gave lot of support in this period.

Again it is recently Dept., of Information Technology Govt., of India took initiatives to promote Amateur Radio by encouraging setting up of Amateur Radio centers all over the country in a phased manner. The Ministry of Home Affairs which deals with Disaster Mitigation efforts has also stepped in to support Amateur Radio. Thanks to these Ministries / Departments efforts and the special permission granted by Wireless Adviser's office of Department of Telecom. Once again after 17 years this DX-Pedition is made possible. We are happy that Mrs. Sonia Gandhi VU2SON is also encouraging the promotion of Amateur Radio and without her support this DX-Pedition could not take place. We are proud that Sri. Dayanidhi Maran VU2DMK Hon'ble Minister is a ham and made this DX - Pedition possible.

HAMFEST INDIA - 2004

(24th to 26 th December at MUMBAI)

We at NIAR wish the **HAMFEST INDIA 2004**
a grand success.

Book - Post

PRINTED MATTER

To :

If undelivered please return to

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AMATEUR RADIO

6-3-1092/93, Raj Bhavan Road Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500 082, India.

E-mail : niarindia@hotmail.com, info@niar.org

URL : www.niar.org Telefax : 040-23310287, Tel : 040 - 55167388

Club Station : VU2NRO 14.160 Mhz, Echolink - Node: 133507.

This edition is compiled by S.B. Ram VU2LIC & Jose Jacob, VU2JOS Printed and Published by the Editor on behalf of NIAR and Printed at Sri Vani Print & Pack, 7-1-282/C/44 & 55, Balkampet, Hyderabad - 18. Ph. 23815691.