

HAM NEWS

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Mr. Bhagawati, VU3BPZ operating from Antarctic



Congratulations to Mr. Bhagawati Prasad Semwal, VU3BPZ who has just completed the 2nd time wintering in the 24th Indian Antarctic Expedition (2004-2006) as communication officer in Maitri.

Originally from Uttaranchal, he has been operating Amateur Radio from there and contacting Indian and other stations. He will return to India in April 2006. His QSL Manager is VU3MKE.

He was also a member of the 20th expedition in 2000-2002.

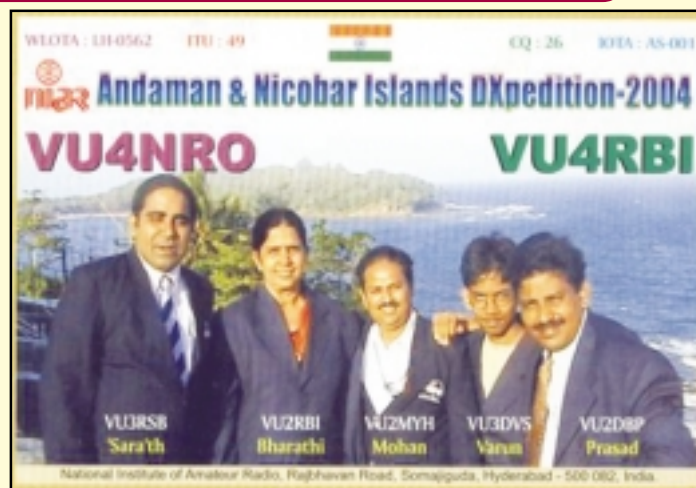
In 1984, Dr. Asutosh VU2IF was the first Indian Radio Amateur to operate from there with the callsign AT0A. Later Mr. M. S. Praksah, VU2MSW, Mr. Harkirat Singh VU3HKQ, Mr. Dinesh Mohan VU3DEN with callsign as AT3D and Mr. Prabhu VU3PDD with callsign as VU2AXA also operated from the Indian Maitri Base.

ARRL International Humanitarian Award for NIAR VU4 Dxpedition team

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Board named members of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands VU4RBI/VU4NRO DXpedition team to receive the 2005 ARRL International Humanitarian Award.

The International Humanitarian Award recognizes "truly outstanding Amateur Radio operators in areas of international humanitarianism and the furtherance of peace."

The winners of the 2005 ARRL International Humanitarian Award will receive an engraved plaque. (Details available at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/01/25/1/>)



Mrs. D. Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI at Asia Pacific DX Convention, JAPAN.



Mrs. D. Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI receiving 2nd Annual Lynch Memorial award from Tokyo International Amateur Radio Association, Japan. (Right)



From the Chairman's Desk.....

Dear Hams & Friends,

I would like to share some of the developments in our activities and congratulate all the members / supporters / Hams in the New Year.

The year 2004-2005 has been a year of performance and excellence for all hams in our country. Amateur Radio activity has seen all round development. NIAR in particular was successful in implementing a project funded by Department of Information Technology, Government of India for establishing 10 amateur Radio stations in various parts of the country. Activities in these centres are still being continued by the active members of these clubs in Gujarat, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Orissa.

The Dx-pedition activity in Andaman and Nicobar Islands was a long pending demand made by amateur radio community in India and abroad. The credit of success for this activity goes to all those hams who supported the idea and writing letters to policy makers in our country. NIAR could finally succeed in realizing this activity by sending a 5 member team led by Mrs. Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, which brought good recognition for our efforts all over the world.

The Tsunami that struck the region in December 2004 and the subsequent relief communications provided by hams has once again proved the potential good of amateur radio as well as ability and commitment of Indian hams to serve the society. Several awards and appreciations were showered on NIAR and its members by several National and International agencies.

The Government of India, at its highest level appreciated the work done by hams in helping the Society. His Excellency Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the President of India also made a mention of hams service in his address at the conference of URSI. The Hon'ble Minister of communications and Information Technology gave away certificate of appreciation to all hams who worked in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and DX-Pedition and other members for their valuable contributions to the country.

While the activity is being greatly recognized, the efforts are being made to encourage amateur radio by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Tourism etc.

Already the students of class X are being informed about amateur radio through their Social Science Subject. Premier educational institutions in the country like IITs / NITs / RECs are being encouraged to introduce Amateur Radio through their colleges. The NCC, Scouts and Guides are also promoting Amateur Radio through their activities.

We wish the Government of India would continue to support this activity in the coming years as the country progresses to become developed nation in the years to come. What we need now is a political will to encourage simple Electronics / Science concepts in our country including Amateur Radio promotion as a thrust area in schools/colleges. The budget required is too small compared to several programs taken up by the Governments. A very little amount of encouragement and support could bring a sea change in the field of amateur Radio in our country. Further the simplification of licensing procedures, examination procedure has yet to be liberalised. In our country many major decisions are taken to liberate several sectors, yet a simple but very potentially useful hobby like Amateur Radio known for social good is not thriving due to lack of political and executive will.

I request every ham and their associations to join our efforts to motivate our Legislators, Parliamentarians to adopt this activity and join our vision to see a well developed and vibrant India by promoting Amateur Radio.

Thanking you,

With warm regards,


 S. Suri, VU2MY

CONCOURS 2006

A national level technical fiesta 'Concours 2006' was organised by Kakinda Institute of Engineering & Technology (KIET) and Computer Society of India Visakhapatnam Chapter at Rangarayya Auditorium, Kakinda from 27th to 30th January, 2006. The theme was "Engineering & IT for Rural Development".

On 30th January 2006, as part of Concours 2006, Mr. S. Ram Mohan VU2MYH, Addl. Director of NIAR conducted an Amateur Radio Workshop for the delegates and introduced the latest technologies in Amateur Radio. He was assisted by Jose Jacob, VU2JOS. Thanks to Dr. K. Surayya, Director, KIET and Mr. K. Ravi, Student Representative for inviting us for this program.

HAMBEL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, BELGAUM

The Hambel Amateur Radio Club, Belgaum celebrated its silver jubilee on 8th Nov. 2005 in Hotel Ramdeo. The following hams with their xylys and harmonics were present. OM Ashok VU2ACK, OM Vijaya VU2EXY, OM Manju VU2SMS, OM Prakash VU2KOC, OM Bebu VU2PNU, OM Mohan VU2MRM, OM Pal VU2PAL, OM Jayanth VU2JBP, OM Gaddi VU2CKR, OM Dalpat VU2DLP, Bharat, Santosh (SWLs). On this occasion, Prof. M.A.Hipparagi, VU2PAL and OM Jayanth VU2JBP were felicitated for their dedicated service to the Ham world. OM Pal, VU2PAL was praised by all for his dedicated and untiring service to the Ham fraternity in conducting the Hambel Belgaum Net efficiently, regularly and on time. Both had helped other Hams to come on the air.

SILICON CITY HAM MEET 2005, BANGALORE

The Indian Institute of Hams, Bangalore organised "SILICON CITY HAM MEET 2005" a one day convention on Sunday, 9th October 2005 at S. J. R. College, Ananda Rao Circle, Bangalore-560 009 in association with S.J.R College for Diamond Jubilee Year.

Prof. K. Balaveer Reddy (Vice Chancellor of Visveswararaiiah Technological University, Belgaum) inaugurated the convention. Sri K.B.Krishna Murthy, VU3VIP (Member of Parliament), Sri S. Suri (Chairman, National Institute of Amateur Radio - Hyderabad) and Dr C.U.Manjunath (Principal, S.J.R.College) were present and addressed the gathering.

Video clippings of the "Quiz on Air" program and Video showing Mr. Dayanidhi Maran, VU2DMK (Hon`ble Minister for Communication and I.T) addressing Hams in Delhi that was organized by N.I.A.R was projected.

A very comprehensive technical session in the morning on various topics and another session in the afternoon kicked off with a presentation on Rural Communication and Disaster management in India by Master Neshant and talk by OM Sridhar VU3SPQ on DX clutter. Delegates received a participation certificate on stage and gifts were sponsored by M.T.R Foods Pvt. Ltd.

Ham Radio stalls on either side of the seminar hall were grabbing the attention of many radio amateurs and SWLs. New and used equipments were sold. Mr. Lalith VU2LB, Mr. Thyagu VU2PTR, Quilon Amateur Radio Club, Mr. Vinay, VU3OJA, Hyderabad and IIH were some of the many who had opened up stalls. Prizes for the "Quiz On Air" programme, HF and VHF Contests were given away.

Mr.S.Suri, VU2MY and Mr.S.B.Ram, VU2LIC represented NIAR at this meet.

EXTRACTS – HAM RADIO

Address at the Inauguration of General Assembly of International Union of Radio Science (URSI) Sirifort Auditorium, 23 October 2005
'Electromagnetic Spectrum: A Friend of the Humanity'
by H.E. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, President of India



Disaster Warning System

It is important to mention and acknowledge the contributions made by the Amateur radio operators called HAMs, who started using radio communication technique particularly the shortwave for long distance communication through the ionosphere during the first decade of 20th century. The experience of HAMs has been used for remote area, disaster management and emergency communication world over during the last hundred years. NASA, ISRO and other space agencies have honoured the HAMs by launching exclusive satellite for them so that they can continue to contribute in the latest trends of satellite communication. During the recent Tsunami it was a coincidence that a Government of India approved amateur radio expedition was in Andaman and was operational during the disaster and provided vital communications to the main land and Indonesia for getting latest updates on the movement of Tsunami waves and rescue operations. The contributions made by Indian HAMs in this Tsunami have been acknowledged at national and international level. Amateur radio and remote area communication are synonymous with emergency communication. It is advisable to promote this hobby to set up amateur radio stations in Panchayats offices, schools and hospitals by voluntary agencies who will be able to locate and operate the HAMs throughout the day and night, on all days. Each Panchayat must encourage this hobby and can make it as a part of the village knowledge centre. This will act as an early warning system for the village community in case of an unforeseen eventuality. At this hour, I would like to remember fondly the significant contribution of the Late Dr. Shrikant Jichkar in promoting HAMs in India.

(From <http://presidentofindia.nic.in/presentation/splangnewPDF%20Format627.pdf>)

Institute News

Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi, Mr.S.Suri, VU2MY gave a guest lecture on "Amateur Radio : Past, Present & Future" on September 30, 2005. Mr. Jose Jacob, VU2JOS and Mr. Sushil Kumar Dhingra, VU2LFA demonstrated the various types of digital communications.

The program was attended by students from various departments of BIT. Special thanks to Prof. M. Puri, Professor in Charge of Amateur Radio Society, VU2BIT, Patron Dr. S. K. Mukherjee and President Prof. R. Sukesh Kumar.

Shaastra 2005 at IIT Chennai

On the occasion of the technical festival called "Shaastra 2005" at Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai Mr.S.Suri, VU2MY gave a talk on Amateur Radio on 7th Oct 2005. On the next day Mr.S.Ram Mohan, VU2MYH and Mr.S.B.Ram, VU2LIC gave demonstrations on the latest modes of digital communications.

The program was attended by students from colleges from across the country. Special thanks to Mr.U.Raghavendra Rao, Co-ordinator, Lectures & Demonstrations for inviting us to Shaastra 2005.

ASOL Examinations:

Puri: ASOL Exam was conducted on 9th & 10th November 2005 at S.C.S. College, Puri, Orissa. 27 Students from S.C.S. College and Govt. ITI, Puri attended the same.

Hyderabad: ASOL exam was conducted at NIAR HQ on November 22 & 23, 2005. 44 Students from Little Flower High School, VU2LFC and 16 candidates from NIAR HQ batch appeared in the same.

Hyderabad: Next batch of ASOL training has been started from December 2005.

Delhi: ASOL exam was conducted at New Delhi on December 21, 22 2005 for 15 NCC Girl candidates.



(ASOL Examination for NCC-Girls in Delhi)

15th National Jamboree of Scouts & Guides at Haridwar

The 15th National Jamboree of the Bharat Scouts & Guides was conducted at Neeldhara, Haridwar in Uttaranchal from 16 to 22 October 2005.

The following staff members of NIAR were deputed to conduct Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Amateur Radio Awareness programs upon the request from the organizers.

Jose Jacob, VU2JOS; Sushil Kumar Dhingra, VU2LFA, K. Leela Krishna, VU2LGX; and P.Ramakrishna Rao. They were allotted a tent at Neeldhara on the banks of the River Ganges which was their shack cum residence for the next 8 days. About 30,000 Scouts and Guides from all over India and also Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka attended the Jamboree.

On 15 & 16 Oct. 2005, Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) was conducted in which Scouts & Guides contacted each other. The Jamboree was inaugurated by His Excellency, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India on 16th Oct. 2005. From 17 to 21 Oct. 2005, they had various Jamboree Award activities and Amateur Radio was also an "Intellectual Activity" for them besides Electronics, Computer Awareness, and Vocational Hobby etc. Hundreds of Scouts & Guides lined up near our tents daily and we gave them short talk on Amateur Radio and also gave live demonstrations.

Several officials and Heads of schools etc. visited our Amateur Radio station and we gave them detailed information about our Hobby.

The following amateurs of the Bharat Scouts & Guides also helped with the Amateur Radio demonstrations.

1. Mr. Narasimha Rao, VU2MNQ, Srikakulam
2. Mr. Brindavan Adhikary, VU2ADB, Chittaranjan
3. Mr. Ranjeet, VU2ANF, Chittaranjan, West Bengal
4. Mr. Rajesh, VU3XRS, Rajkot

Special thanks to Mr.G.B.S.Sajwan, Director, Mr.D.L.Sharma, Joint Director Scouts, Dr. (Mrs.) K.Saiprabhavathi, Joint Director Guides, Mr. Subba Rao, VU3VSQ and Mr.T.S.Rao. Special thanks also to the WPC who issued special permission to shift the VU2BSG Club Station and our operators to Haridwar.

HAM EXPO 2005

Adur Amateur Radio Club conducted the tenth HAM EXPO 2005 at Govt. UP School on 13th November 2005 for the tenth year in succession. About 250 hams and SWLs attended the function. Being a special event XYLs had also been invited and some hams came with their XYLs and harmonics. The function was inaugurated by OM Prem, VU2RPC from Kovilpatti. OM Girish Babu, VU2KGB spoke about his experience as a ham and how ham radio can take active part in the life of people.

OM Gopi, VU2EGM told us how he used amateur radio to communicate between the head office in Idukki district and a remote place in the forest for the

construction of a hydro electric station which was highly appreciated by the authorities. He is now conducting relief net on 7.035 MHz daily from 7:30 to 7:45 hrs which has become popular. OM Natarajan, VU2KGN told the audience that the Quilon Amateur Radio league will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the league by conducting the HAM FEST at Kollam. Prof Eugene Pandala VU2EGN released the souvenir by giving a copy to OM Ibrahim VU3IRH. There was a good display of materials and ham accessories by OM Thyagarajan, VU2PTR, OM Harishankar, VU3NSH and many societies. The XYLs talked about their life with ham husbands with were enjoyed by all.

Amateur Radio Society of Assam (ARSA)

A meeting was organised by some licensed HAMs along with SWLs and Radio enthusiasts to form an amateur radio society in Assam (India) on 25th December'2005 at ICAFI National College, Guwahati-3 for the benefit of Disaster Management in Assam.

The said meeting was attended by people from different walks of life including students who decided to name the society as "Amateur Radio Society of Assam (ARSA)". The meeting was presided by Mr. Ranjit Chaliha, VU2RCH and attended by HAMs such as Debajit Sarma, VU2DBM & Asst. Director, Earth Station, STPI, Guwahati, Rudra Pd. Sarma, VU2PTF & an officer of SBI; Mrs. Bijoya Roychoudhury (Chaliha), VU3BCH & a senior lecturer of Nowgong College and other Short Wave Listeners and many more Radio Enthusiasts as well as reputed personals. The meeting dealt in depth the role of HAMS in times of Disasters such as earthquakes, floods, cyclones, tsunami etc. and urged the people in general to take up this noble and fulfilling scientific hobby.

The meeting nominated the ARSA's first Executive Body w.e.f. 25th December 2005 as follows:

Advisory Body : Dr A. K. Bhagabati,
(Head of Dept., Geography,
Gauhati University &
Working President of Assam
Science Society.)

: Mr. Anong Perme, VU2ARJ

: Mr. Nangkong Perme, VU2HQY

Co-coordinator : Mr. Sandeep Baruah, VU2MUE
(New Delhi)

Chairman : Mr. Ranjit Chaliha, VU2RCH

Vice Chairman : Mr. Prasanta Saikia, Addl
S.P.(Commn.), APRO, Assam

Secretary : Mr. D. K. Das, Principal, ICAFI
College, Guwahati-3

Joint Secretaries : Mr. Debajit Sarma, VU2DBM
: Mr. Rudra Prasad Sarma, VU2PTF

Treasurer : Mr. Bhagaban Barman, SWL

Executive Members : Mrs. Bijoya Roychoudhury (Chaliha),
VU3BCH

Mr. Jagadish Nath, Mr. Pranoy
Bordoloi

Mr. Golap Swargari, Mr. Pankaj Das
Mr. Prasenjit Sinha, Mr. S. P. Sinha

Student Members : Mr. S. Bhowmick, Mr. Anirban
Bordoloi

Mr. Prasenjit Das, Miss Payal Saini

Correspondence

Address : Mr. D.K.Das, Secretary, ARSA
c/o ICAFI National College,
Silpukhuri, Guwahati-781003,
Assam

E-Mail id : assamham@rediffmail.com

HAMFEST (VU4) INDIA - 2006

Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

April 18-20, 2006

First Information Circular

Dear fellow hams,

WISH YOU A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 2006!

Congratulations!!! – Foreign and Indian Hams may get ready to operate from VU4

National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), Hyderabad had earlier organized a successful Dx-pedition (VU4NRO/VU4RBI) in Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands during December, 2004. The team members prematurely stopped the Dx-pedition activity after tsunami disaster struck the South Asian region on 26th December 2004 and mobilized their communication resources to provide humanitarian service to support essential rescue and relief operations. The services of these amateur radio operators were appreciated by several agencies in India and Abroad.

Thereafter, several requests were forwarded to NIAR from International amateur radio organizations, Dx forums, and Individual hams to organize a suitable event in a befitting manner to highlight the benefits of amateur radio technologies for social and scientific development.

NIAR further made a proposal to Government of India to organize an International Convention of Amateur Radio Operators “HAMFEST (VU4) INDIA – 2006”, to be held at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands during April 18-20, 2006.

The purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for presentation and discussion on Latest technology developments, Antennas & Propagation, Dx-peditions, HF & VHF Communications, Digital amateur radio, Emergency Communications, Promotion of amateur radio / open forum in the field of amateur radio communication. The conference will cover all interdisciplinary aspects of amateur radio in various sessions.

The other major attractions during the event include arena for exhibitors to display and demonstrate amateur radio communication technologies as well as allow foreign hams to operate from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Local tours to exotic locations are planned for participants and much more.

Hams are also requested to contribute articles for favor of publication. Audio/Visual arrangements will also be made at the venue for presentations.

Initially we request Amateur radio organizations and Individual hams interested to operate from Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands to forward a letter of intent with the following details (email only) to niarhamfest@gmail.com to enable us to provide better facilities to participants.

Name of the Club :
 Number of persons :
 Name of the Individual :
 Callsign :
 Address :
 Country :
 Tel/Fax :
 Passport Number :
 Email :

More details of the event will be circulated in due course, as the time is too short and the number of participants may be limited, we request you to forward the above details immediately.

The format of application form for foreign hams interested to operate from VU4 – as per the guidelines of Department of Telecommunications, Government of India is available at <http://www.niar.org>

The foreign visitors are requested to obtain visiting permit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands along with a valid Indian visa.

This event was made possible with untiring efforts of amateur radio community in India and abroad particularly the sponsors and supporters of the earlier VU4NRO/VU4RBI dx-pedition.

We request you to make it convenient to participate and make this event a grand success.

Thanking you.

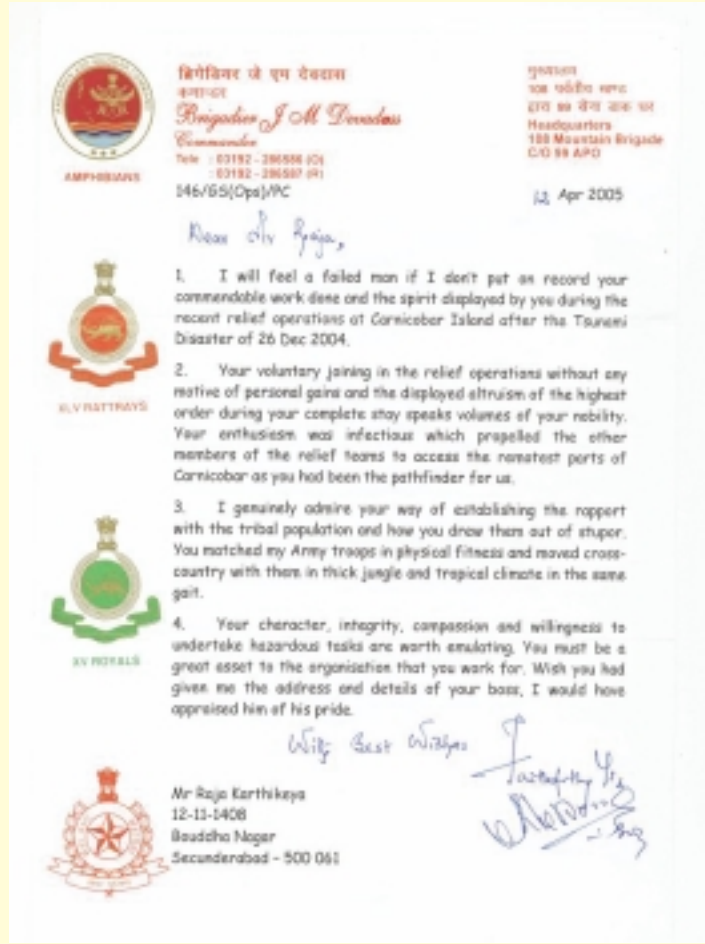
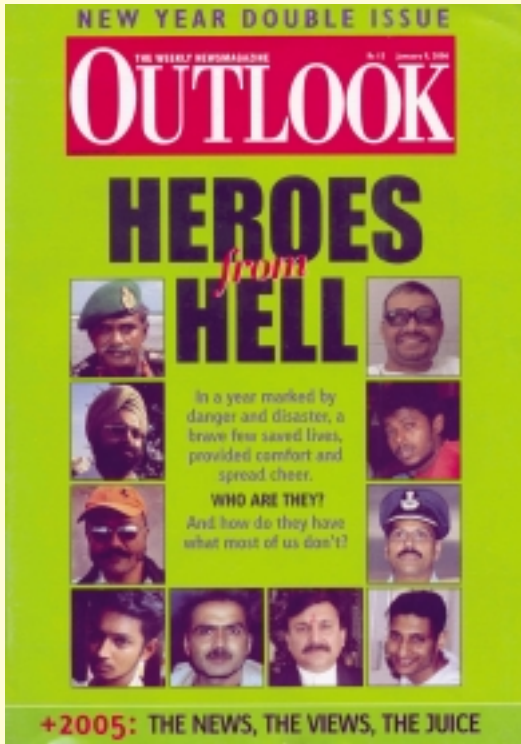
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Yours sincerely,

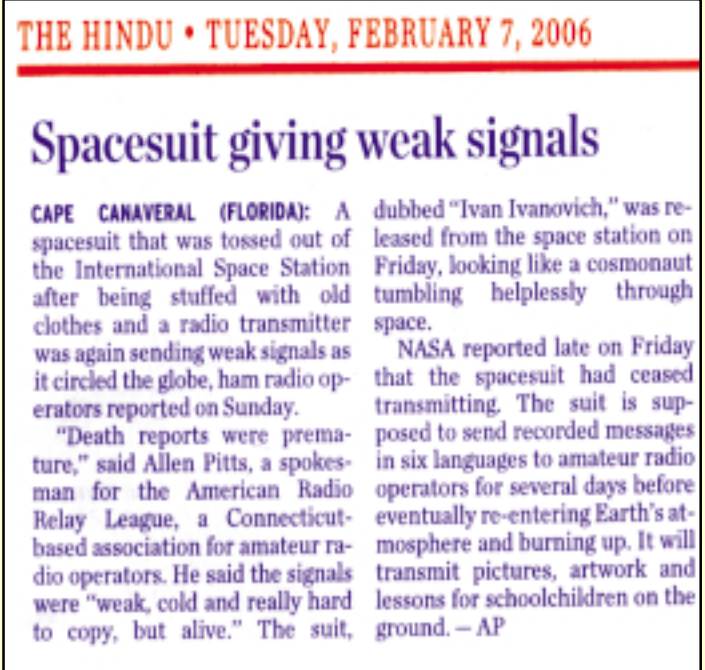


(S. Suri, VU2MY)
 Chairman, NIAR

Focus on Raja Karthikeya, NIAR Volunteer



On the occasion of the first anniversary of the Tsunami Relief operations, the Outlook Magazine prominently featured who did yeomen service in Car Nicobar.



Mrs. Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI & Mr. Prasad VU2DBP in Japan Asia Pacific DX Convention, Japan

Mrs. D.Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, Chief Co-coordinator, NIAR, along with her husband Mr.D.N.Prasad, VU2DBP, members of the NIAR VU4 DX-pedition attended the Asia Pacific DX Convention being organised by Osaka International House Radio Club, Osaka, Japan during 18th Nov to 20th Nov 2005. Mrs. Bharathi also was awarded the 2nd Annual Lynch Memorial Award by Tokyo International Amateur Radio Association (TIARA) by its President OM Steve.

RSGB HF Convention 2005, UK

The Radio Society of Great Britain organized the HF Convention 2005 at Crawley, West Sussex, UK on 7-9 October, 2005. One attraction at the convention was a special presentation by Mr. S.Ram Mohan, VU2MYH, Addl. Director, NIAR on the VU4 / Tsunami Relief operations.

NIAR PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

Dayton Hamvention 2005, USA



Left to right : U.S.A ham -VU2DBP- K3LP- VU2RBI-U.S.A Ham with Mr. Ajeer Vidya (JS&FA, Dept. of Information Technology, Govt. of India) - Mr. S.Suri VU2MY

Ham Radio 2005, Friedrichshafen, Germany



Indian Consul General Mr. Mukul (center) at NIAR stall at Ham Radio 2005, Friedrichshafen, Germany

Get Ready - HAMFEST (VU4) INDIA – 2006

APRIL 18-20, 2006 at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

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