

communications among the emergency response managers. Such Amateur volunteers provided commendable services during the Orissa super cyclone in 1999 and Gujarat earthquake in 2001.

In efforts to popularize the Amateur Radio in the country and develop a trained force of licensed Amateurs, Department of Information Technology has initiated a nation wide programme to establish Amateur Radio Stations at various places and provide the necessary training for interested Amateur Station Operators.

### SATELLITE BASED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

Satellite based Communication systems mean communication systems intended for users on the Earth but which have some equipment in space, i.e. a satellite. Different satellites carry out different jobs, such as taking weather pictures or finding accurate positions on earth in terms of latitudes and longitudes. Communications satellites are essentially radio relay stations in space and are sometimes referred to as COMSATS. The other words you may hear are SATCOMS for satellite communications in general and SATPHONE for a satellite phone terminal.

The most important feature of a communications satellite is the transponder - a radio that receives a conversation at one frequency and then amplifies it and re-transmits it back to Earth on another frequency.

#### HAM operator helps families connect with tsunami victims

New Delhi, December 28 .The Tribune



An amateur radio enthusiast based in the Capital has succeeded where most government agencies have

failed. Sandeep Baruah, a licensed HAM operator who works in a government organisation by day and pursues his hobby from home at night, has managed to establish communication links with Port Blair, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and has helped relay messages between the people stranded on the island and their families back home.



When deadly floods struck central and southern Texas-USA in mid-October 1998, amateur radio operators from four states volunteered their time. A volunteer is shown helping with communications at a Red Cross office.



A Ham operator is on the radio, reporting a new flare up during the forest fires that broke out in several counties in Florida-USA during June and July of 1998.

YOU CAN ALSO BECOME AN AMATEUR AT THIS AGE BY PASSING THE AMATEUR STATION OPERATORS LICENSE (ASOL) EXAMINATION TAKEN BY WPC WING, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION, GOVT. OF INDIA



A young operator enjoys making friends over the radio. Amateur radio is a fascinating hobby for people of all ages and all walks of life irrespective of educational qualifications and status.

A satellite normally contains hundreds or thousands of transponders. Data, television, image and some telephone transmissions are routinely received and re-broadcasted by these transponders of communication satellites.

Present operational Indian space systems include Indian National Satellite (INSAT) for tele-communication, television broadcasting, meteorology