

Awareness Talk on

The Role of

Ham (Amateur) Radio in today's technologies & Disaster Management

“Technology is best when it brings people together.” - Matt Mullenweg

As students of Electronics & Telecommunications Engineering, it is imperative that we understand one of the most important and iconic modes of communication: The electronic Telegraph more commonly known as a HAM Radio.

This talk was organised by the Dept. of Electronics & Telecommunications Engineering with Dr Shankar Sathyapal (VU2FI), Director, Indian Institute of HAMS hosting the talk for 4th semester students on 6th August, 2022.

Dr. Shankar started off with a quick introduction on HAMS and how intrigued he was by the technology. He explained the ease with which communication could take place without the use of modern internet with people 1000s of kms away upto even the International Space Station with the right equipment and shared many of his own experiences over the years.

He then spoke about his experiences with many past calamities that struck India where he and his team were the sole form of communication between the people and quintessential infrastructure such as banks and emergency supply chains.

He also familiarised us to the fun and creative side of HAM radios where he spoke about the numerous events that the Indian Institute of HAMS has organised over the years such as *Radio direction Finding* (RDF Sports) and radio contests.

Dr. Shankar also mentioned how he and his team train amateurs interested in becoming certified as HAMs and beginning their journey into the vast exploration that communication has to offer. He also spoke in depth about the process to get certified and how he provides training for the same.



He concluded the talk by giving us an example of communication between HAM operators in the vicinity. By the end of the event, the students were made aware of HAM and its advantages and the need for more awareness in India. The students were very intrigued by the talk and found it to be very knowledgeable and may proceed with getting trained as HAMs in the future.