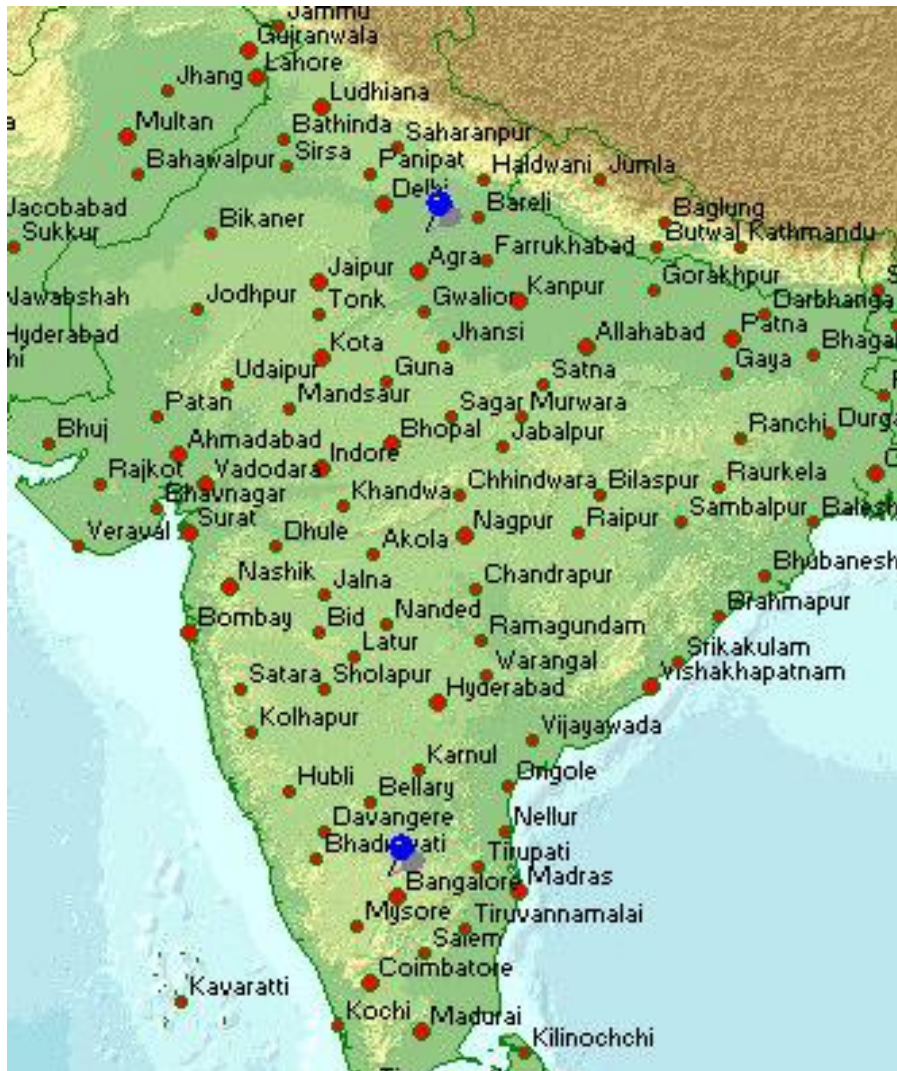


ENIGMA 2000

E22 number station



Secrets revealed by Mikesndbs

December 16th 2005

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/enigma2000>

E22 is not what it seems!



'This one is fun, it appears to be breaking all the rules'

I somehow knew the very first time I heard E22 that it was going to keep me busy!

One thing is clear with this elusive station, you need to be dedicated and spend a great deal of time listening to noise on the frequencies. I really want to know more about this station so I have been studying it closely for some time.

Putting aside the actual calls I have been working on the background sounds and the other transmissions that come up on 15040 and 17387 kHz, this has led me a very merry dance from Bollywood to mathematical plotting to find the maximum usable frequency (MUF) Here I present a description of my efforts plus a major new discovery for E22!

On the 2nd December 2005 I was parked up on 15040 when at 09:23 a big +10db carrier came up! I scrambled for the tape recorder anticipating a E22 transmission.

However while the usual tuning tone did come up this was followed by Indian film music! Signal levels were variable and the audio was broken at times, hmm some sort of test. I put the tape recorder on anyway as the tune was quite pleasant.

You can hear it if you visit my E22 page on my web site.

<http://mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/thesecondsiteofmike/e22/e22.htm> You will find the clip towards the bottom of the page just before the file size details.

I spoke to Paul about it and he identified the style of singing as Indian film playback and the singer as Lata Mangeshkar.

After some considerable internet digging I discovered that the Film was from 1991 and called 'Henna' the actual song is called 'chiTThiye dard firaag vaaliye' more commonly shortened to chiTThiye. Lata is now in her 70's but is a huge star having sung many thousands of these types of song. The story is about the forbidden love between an Indian male and a Pakistani female and love traversing the tensions of cross border unrest.

From Paul: The Chitthiye music is about the passing of a note between the two cultures [the two lovebirds] but the total meaning of the title is elusive. With the two cultures being at variance, Muslim and Hindu, I wonder if its inclusion is anything but an accident. Good point Paul and many thanks for all your research on this matter. Paul likes Indian Films and playback music but prefers the slower more deliberate style of the mid seventies such as that heard in the films 'Abhimaan' or 'Julie'.



Here she is some years back.

So what does this tell us? Well nothing definite just an indication of links with that part of the world maybe. More importantly do these tests and part broadcasts have any bearing on the activity of E22? Nothing more was heard that day, nor the next day.

I received an unexpected phone call the following Sunday morning at 10:00 from Paul who alerted me to E22 in progress, I rushed up stairs to my radio room (rushed as fast as my current knee injury would allow J) I switched on my FRG100 that was already tuned to 15040 and there was E22 calling Foxtrot Yankee Six in its own inimitable style! I took some bearings with my loop and these suggested 90° to my West Sussex QTH.

11:00 produced E22 again this time calling Lima Whisky Four, both 15040 and 17387 were strong signals being greater than S9 most of the time. I noted a slight echo on 15040 and that 15040 was slightly ahead of 17387!

12:00 produced E22 calling Sierra Yankee Two, the usual noises and poor operating discipline accompanied the transmission! That was to be the last transmission that day!

The next time E22 came up was to be Wednesday 7th December. Large carriers (+10db) up at 07:39 on 15040 and 17387 AM 08:05 carrier back on 17387 only. Maybe there had been a 07:30 TX?

08:21 tones at +20db now, at the same time 15040 becomes active background noise and mic noise.

08:29 tones up on both 15040 and 17387.

Then at 08:30 E22 came up calling Foxtrot Papa Three.

Having heard and seen the large carriers at 07:39 I was sure that E22 had been on earlier! No more transmissions were heard. This inspired me to create a simple automated record and alarm device using a 12vdc relay and the squelch switch output of my FRG 100, now my tape would start and an alarm would sound so I could note the time.



Sunday 11th December 2005 my home brew automated record and alarm facility triggered at 07:32 my radio had been tuned to 17387 during the night and the squelch was set for S7.

07:35 E22 came up with Quebec Romeo Seven (Q sent as Cubic) at S7 to +10db with deep fades! The usual buzz was not noted! Carrier dropped at 07:38. I think this was the second sending of a 07:30 TX.

At 08:24 now on 15040 a S5 to S9 carrier came up, nothing noted on 17387 at this time.

08:29 tone came up 08:30 E22 sends Yankee Bravo Eight, 17387 was not being heard on my Sony 2001D and its telescopic antenna! Carrier off at 08:37.

09:23 S9 carrier up on 15040 tone up 09:29 (much mic fumbling noted) 09:30 E22 sends Kilo Uniform Three

However during "This is" the signal dropped off making the heard TX Th-----s Kilo Uniform Three. Lots of background sounds S8-9 variable.

Now it gets very interesting!

As I said I have been looking for every possible lead for E22 and when I saw the group post from Mark Taylor on 8/12/05 mentioning he had been reading the DX listening Digest and had found that E22 had been noted calling OP3 back in November and more interestingly that a listener in India, Jose Jacob had heard the 7th December TX of FP3 and had noted the huge signal he was getting.

I followed up this lead and eventually found Jose's e-mail address using the QRZ database.

When I heard back from Jose, he mentioned the fact that he had heard a similar transmission on 11620 kHz one of All India (A.I.R) Radios busy frequencies!

Here is what he said: On Nov 16, 2003 at 1430 UTC on 11620 test tones and following announcements heard "This is Tango Uniform Two Eight". Sign off at 1437 UTC. Normally at that time AIR External Service in English is heard but it was absent then.

Some of you may know Jose who represents the National Institute of Amateur Radio, Hyderabad, India and founder of

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dx_india/

I placed this in my FRG100's memory next to the other E22 frequencies. I have to admit I was not hopeful about this new frequency producing E22 as it was very busy with A.I.R. traffic!

Wednesday the 14th December was to produce more interesting sounds from the E22 channels!

Things were not looking too promising then suddenly at 07:17 on 17387 a carrier came up. Then to my surprise I heard an English speaking man start talking about Sri Lanka and cricket! He then handed over to his colleague who started speaking in a foreign language that sounded very like the one on my clip of 15040 E22 TX recorded 22/07/2005 from 13:59.

This new clip had music and an advert for Honda! Again you can visit my E22 page to hear this and judge for yourself.

<http://mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/thesecondsiteofmike/e22/e22.htm> from information received from a solid source I can report that this broadcast was very likely to have been A.I.R re-broadcasting a local FM station such as Jaipur FM here are some more details about the clip:

AIR is broadcasting in two languages some period in English and some period in Hindi language the man was speaking Hindi cricket commentary and the Honda ad which you heard was part of the commentary as Hero Honda is a motor bike company who are the largest manufacturers of motorbikes in India. They are sponsors for the India Sri Lanka cricket series so they keep on posting advertisements in between the cricket commentary. Just shows how much can be gleaned from so little!

Shortly after this, strong S9 carriers came up on 15040 and 17387 with the usual tone, then 15040 signals dropped off at 09:58.

17387 still active. 09:59 and 45s tone came up. 10:01 and 20 tone stops and the sound of mic opening but no voice!

Tone started again at 10:01 and 50 s then everything dropped at 10:02 and 15 s. Was E22 having trouble?

After this there were some more anomalies! 10:41 15040 tone up S9, 10:53 tone up 17387 S9 10:57 15040 loud hum and open mic.

17387 just carrier. Tone back on both fqs at 10:59

Then at last E22 came up at 11:00 with Quebec Romeo Seven (again Q sent at Cubic)

Something of a stir was caused when Simon from Sydney, Australia reported very strong signals (30dB) on both 15 and 17 MHz and told us this was the first time he had caught E22. Well done Simon!

At 12:00 E22 came up again although 17387 was suffering very deep fast fades now! The call was Yankee Bravo Eight. 15040 was the best frequency with a >S9 most of the time.

It's also worth noting that these two calls were repeats of Sunday the 11ths TXs!

I was therefore expecting a 13:00 transmission with KU3 to complete the set.

However no carriers were noted on 15040 of 17387 at 12:57. I felt a little disappointed and just flicked my FRGs channel change knob.

It landed on **11620**. There was a large carrier up followed shortly by a tone at 12:59.

I expected to hear All India Radio's haunting signature tune but instead I was greeted with the unmistakable noise and fumbling of E22!

Up he came calling Delta Sierra Two. WOW! A new E22 frequency!

I wonder how many times we had missed this one?

11620 is without doubt one of A.I.R's frequencies and is sent from its transmitters located at Delhi_Khampur, Bangaloren and Aligarh.

Was this E22 sent from the same location or transmitter? We can't be sure but shortly after E22 went off air, A.I.R came up on 11620 with just a slightly weaker signal.

A word about the accents of the announcers. I have been in contact with two radio persons from India they have said that the accents are Indian and the recent recordings are in fact a Punjabi man (North India)

He also thinks these are test transmissions from A.I.R by engineers using links to various transmitters.

So we have a new frequency of 11620 and it's a good bet that this will be paired with another in the same way as the 15 and 17 MHz ones. I did search for it at the time but only with my Sony 2001D and its telescopic antenna and I did not find anything.

Have to admit I was still in pleasant shock at finding E22 in its new home.

Talking of E22's new home -

I decided to give it its own web page so that it could be examined without all the clutter. I have given the link several times above.

Now this article would not be complete without trying to address that burning question would it?

Where IS E22 and Who is behind it?

My own personal feeling has always been that it's from India and probably from the A.I.R transmitters. Now before you scream "don't be silly" I offer this as just my own feeling and I am well aware of the considerable weight of expert knowledge that says I am wrong. But in my defence I would ask you to consider the ease of access to an international transmitter, the very India influence behind the various 'test' transmissions (if that's what they are) we have that lovely song by Lata Mangeshkar, we have re-broadcasts of local India stations with coverage of, at the time, current local cricket and adverts for Honda Hero motor bikes. Of course the people we hear speaking could be anywhere in the world. The E22 messages could arrive on cassette tape!

We also had an investigation into a sound clip that transpired to be in Thai! This was directly about India and taken from a Newscasts.

See News Letter En31 page 21 for more information.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/enigma2000/files/>

Now with thanks to Joes and 'A' from India for their help I have some exiting news to pass to my fellow E2K members!

E22 has been uncovered.

Yes its true, I have been endlessly digging for information and a couple of days ago following my hunch that this was something to do with All India Radio and encouraged by my two new friends in India I contacted All India Radio direct.

Today 16/12/05 I have had responses from one Sunil Bhatia Dy. Director (Engg.) Spectrum Management & Synergy Division

Directorate General : All India Radio.

Here is what was said:

I asked if E22 was from AIR (Obviously I actually gave some times and examples of the calls we all know.)

The reply came: 'Your observation is correct'

I asked for confirmation : " are these transmissions from the engineers of All India Radio?"

The reply came: " These test transmission were from AIR. I am not aware of the meaning of these call signs. However, you may send comments on technical details and summary giving date wise reception quality and location of monitoring."

I asked if there was a schedule?

The reply came: " Thanks for the prompt mail. These are not preplanned tests. Hence, no more information is available on them."

This was backed up by 'A' from India who explained in answer to my questions about the number of years E22 has been with us: "The very long time span can be following reasons [1] there are many AIR long range transmitters on HF bands. Even when they carry out maintenance they speak such codes. Or the codes would be for particular settings, or it can be target areas or may be the transmitter numbers."

The engineers send the transmissions a number of times as we know making slight adjustments for each send, they then receive reports on signal reception at the receiving location.

So there it is, a numbers station uncovered. Kind of sad in a way.

I would like to send a very big thank you to all of you who were involved in this investigation, for sending in your logs and observations and for keeping the interest high. It just shows what can be done.

All that remains is for me to thank E2K for asking me to write this little piece and to wish all E2K members and any spooks and spies that may be looking in a very happy Christmas and a safe lucky new year.

Mike

Oh, shameless ad for my web page. <http://mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/thesecondsiteofmike/index.html>

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