



Ruud Jansen

Translation by Chris van Lint

Following our visit to Brazil (*KM2005-1 and GEO Quarterly No 6*), my wife and I planned to revisit Goa, India's smallest state. Goa is a former Portuguese colony and enjoys special status within India: taxes are lower, beer is cheaper and the average standard of living is higher compared to the rest of India. This is mainly due to the presence of bauxite, which is used in aluminium production, and at the coast, on the river mouth near the township of Panjin, bulk carriers are loaded with this ore by means of a large number of small barges. The privileged position of Goa is responsible for the fact that on Sundays and other public holidays, dozens of buses from other provinces and from the city of Mumbai discharge their cargo of day visitors at various beach locations. The most popular of these is the village of Calangute, which boasts a beach approximately 20 kilometres wide, dozens of shops, big markets, small hotels and restaurants.

Although one sometimes nearly breaks one's neck tripping over stinking heaps of garbage and has to be careful not to step on the holy cows which roam free everywhere, a lot of resources are expended to ensure the streets and beaches are clean. On the part of the beach most frequented by tourists, a team of women ensures that the whole area is free from snippets of paper, empty bottles and other rubbish.

Even smoking is prohibited in the public areas of the beach. The shops recommend bringing your own plastic bags to carry your groceries, as the ones purchased from the shops are relatively expensive.

To put it in a nutshell, Goa is a nice holiday destination providing you are sensitive and aware of local culture. This means no topless appearances on the beach and no shopping in a bikini etc. Be

aware that, when you ask an Indian a question and he or she replies whilst shaking their head in a 'no' fashion, he or she means 'yes'. This will avoid quite a few problems when bartering in the market!

Satellite Imaging

Although my wife and I had already visited Goa for two weeks last December, we went there again in February/March for a few weeks. This latest time I brought along my weather satellite gear,



The Arabian peninsula - NOAA-18 at 09:49 UT on March 2, 2006

consisting of the *KECIL137* receiver, the *PITA137* aerial and a minidisk recorder, together with a small *Sony* notebook computer.

The notebook was used to calculate the pass times of the NOAA-18 satellite, using David Taylor's *WXtrack* program, as well as for saving the minidisk sound recordings. This would also enable me to

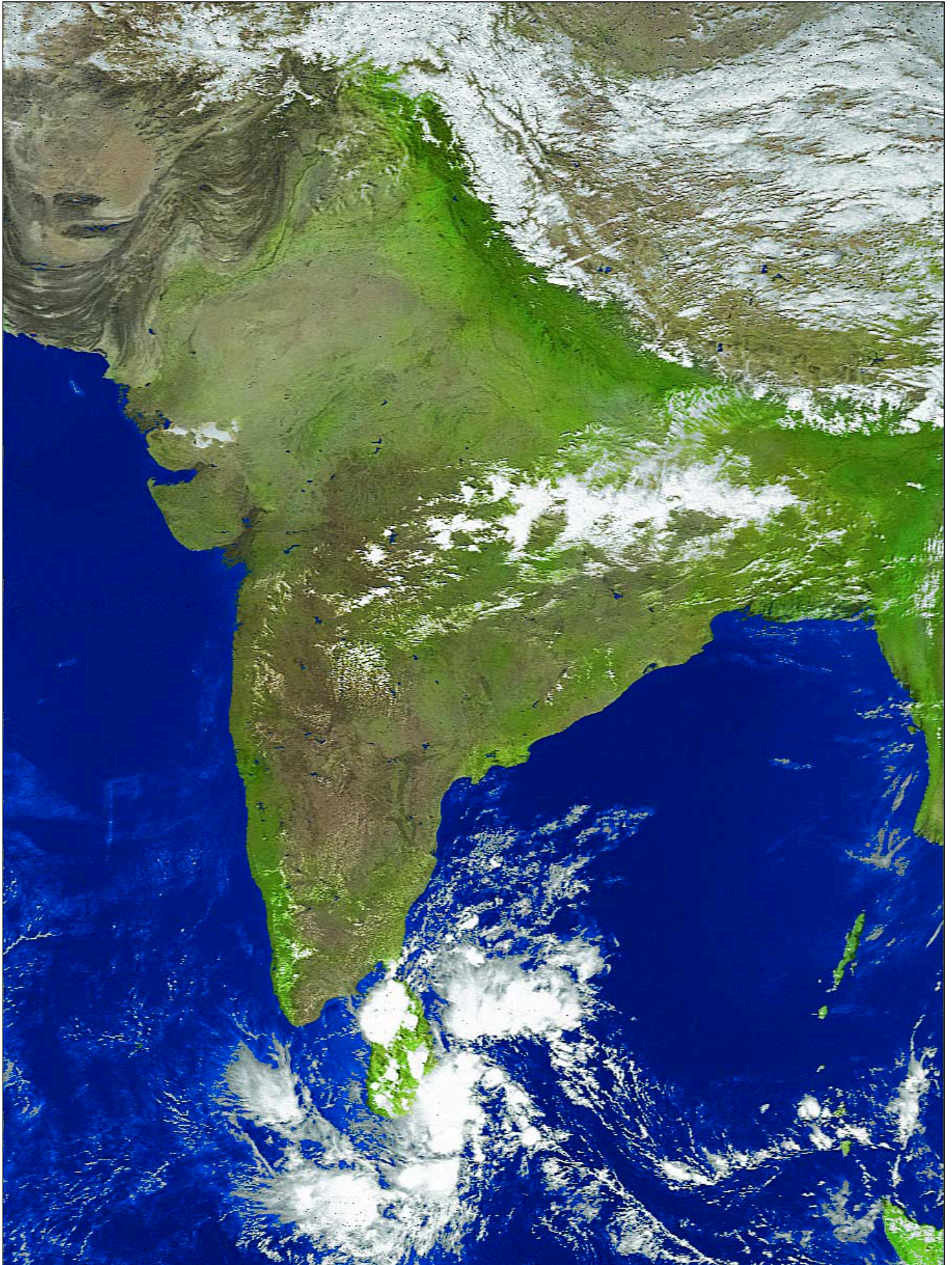
check whether or not the images were satisfactory. The final images were processed at home.

For both recording and imaging I used Craig Anderson's *WXtoImg* software. I chose the NOAA-18 satellite so that I would not have to get out of bed early, or have to wait at the beach until late in the evening. The aerial was partially hidden from sight and was hung under the roof of a so-called 'shack' (a beach tent with a straw and corrugated iron roof, situated close to the dunes). Notwithstanding this, I still attracted a large gathering of inquisitive locals. I had attached a piece of paper to my aerial on which I had written 'Danger - Radiation' in English in order to prevent touching, disassembly or distortion of my *PITA137*. I also had a visit from an angry shack owner who complained that I was scaring his customers away because of the radiation danger!

When the satellite was approaching, I would head for the aerial with my gear, connect it to my receiver, start the minidisk recorder and in the meantime drink a *Kingfisher* (local beer brand, named after one of the prevalent birds). By the time my bottle was empty, the satellite would have disappeared behind the dunes and I could disconnect my gear and return to my wife, followed by a cooling bath in the sea (28°C) as a fitting conclusion.

I have made a few images in this fashion. The most easterly pass (just behind the dunes) covered Thailand and the western point of Sumatra (Indonesia). The next pass was nearly overhead India and the following one produced images of the Arabian Peninsula. Unfortunately most of my images are marred by sun reflections (sun glint) on the sea surface. This is one of the unpleasant consequences of bright sunlight and almost no clouds (just a joke – the other consequences are a big thirst and a suntan).

By placing all the images I have made during my various holidays next to each other, I can cover an overlapping area from west Greenland to the south east coast of Australia. I also still have an image of part of South America (*GEO Q No 6*). In order for me to cover the whole world a few more holiday trips will be required, so there is still plenty to do in the future.



This splendid image of India was acquired by Ruud Jansen at 08:08 UT on March 2, 2006
KECIL137 receiver, PITA137 antenna and WXtolmg software