Geostationary satellites

- Geostationary satellites are those with the same orbital velocity and direction as that of the earth.
- Orbit the earth at a height of about 36000 km
- Positioned in the equatorial plane.
- Since the orbits are at great heights, one third of the globe is brought under their observational unit.
- Since they move according to the same orbital movement of the earth, they always face the same region of the earth.
- Constant data collection of any one part of the earth is possible.
- Used for understanding the differences in weather conditions and for telecommunications.
- Eg: INSAT satellites of India.

Sun synchronous satellites

- These are satellites that move at a very low heights.
- The orbital height is below 1000 km from the earth's surface.
- Move by traversing the north south poles.
- Less observation limit.
- Come over a particular region at a fixed interval of days.
- Continuous collection of information about a region is possible.
- Used for collecting information about natural resources, land use and ground water.
- Eg: IRS and Landsat