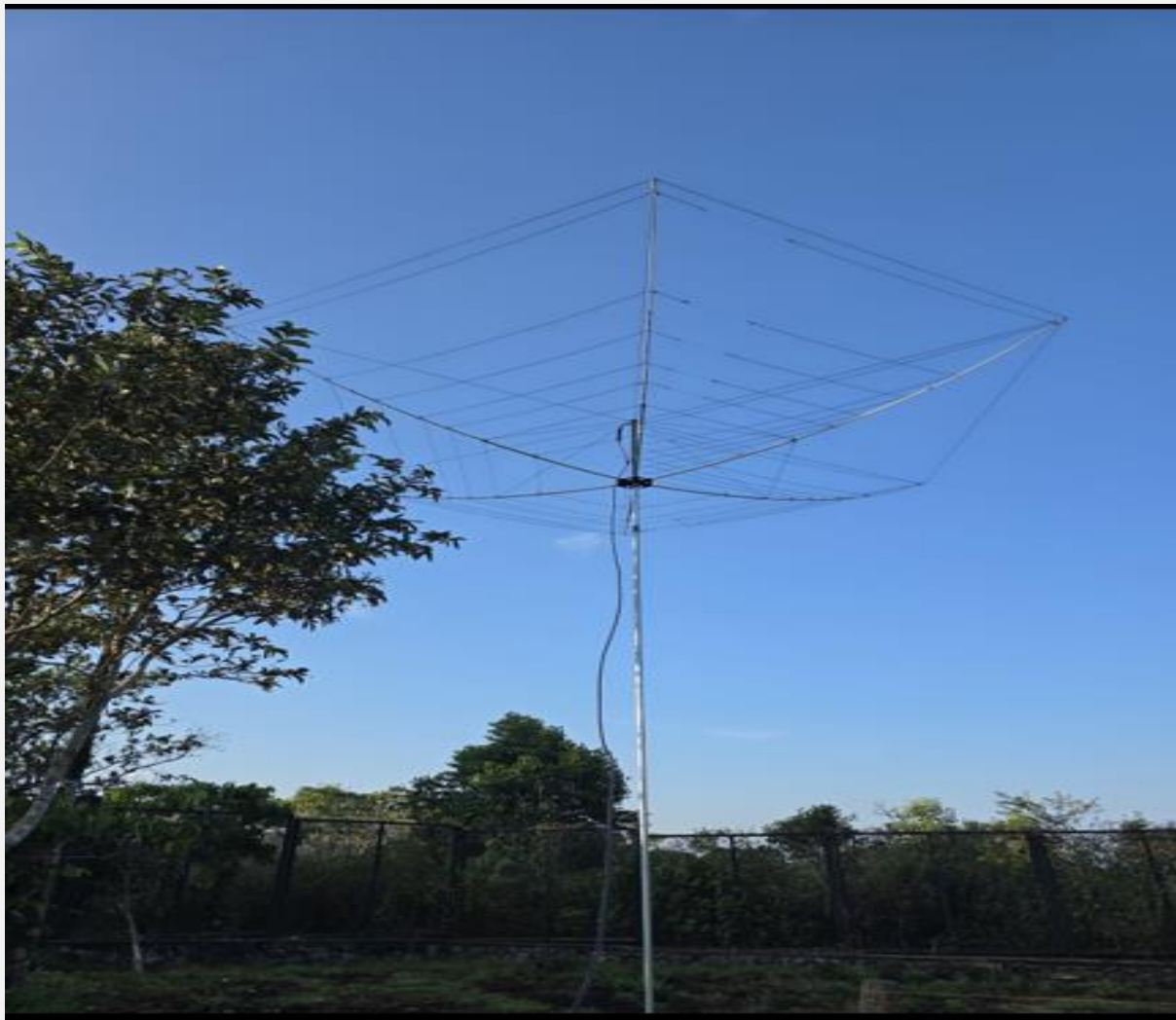




Newsletter of the Amateur Radio Society of India - VU2ZH
Indian Affiliate of the I.A.R.U
April 2025 issue

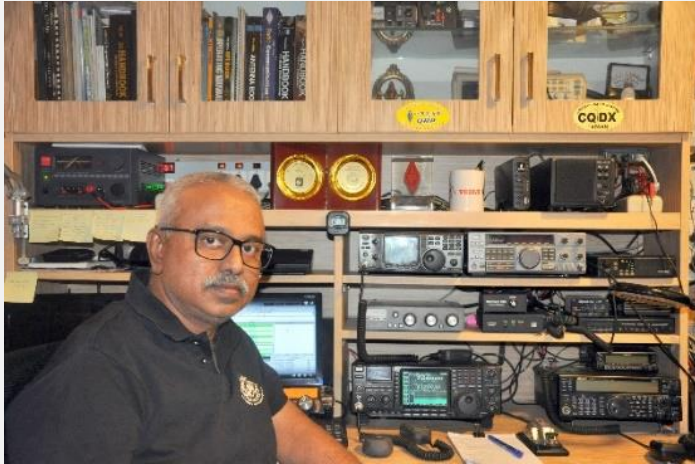


**Hex Beam at ARSI HILLTOP DX CONTEST JANUARY 25, 26 2025.
Team VU2CPL - VAYALADA HILLS, KOZHIKODE MK71WM**

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President's message



Best Wishes on the Centenary Year of IARU

ARSI is celebrating the Centenary of the International Amateur Radio Union and World Amateur Radio Day on Friday, 18 April 2025 at Bal Bhavan, Cubbon Park, Bengaluru.

Every April 18, radio amateurs worldwide take to the airwaves in celebration of World Amateur Radio Day. It was on this day in 1925 that the International Amateur Radio Union was formed in Paris.

Year 2025, being celebrated as the Centenary Year of the IARU, ARSI is operating a Special Callsign VU2IARU to mark this special event. See you all on the air!

73, de Ramesh Kumar VU2LU



From the Editor's desk



Best wishes on the occasion of *centenary* of the IARU!

Contests are attracting more members each year! This year, for the ARSI Field Day and Hill Topping, there were 48 contesters – and more than 6,000 log-entries! Some of the reports received, and the results are included in this issue.

IARU is very pleased to announce the theme: “**Entering the Next Century of Amateur Radio Communications & Innovation**”. Along with the centenary of the IARU, the *World Amateur Radio Day* is being celebrated in a big way.

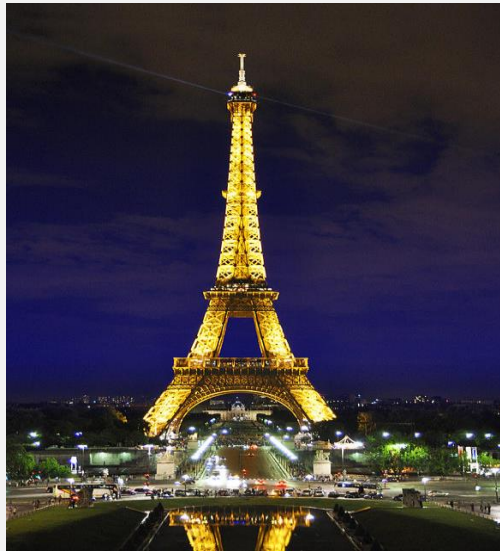
As of April 21, 2025, Solar Cycle 25 is in its active phase, with the predicted maximum occurring in July 2025, according to the Space Weather Prediction Center.

73 de Ganesh, VU2TS



IARU TURNS 100

Entering the Next Century of Amateur Communications and Innovation



In 1925 the IARU was founded at the Sorbonne university in Paris. On 26th April, 2025, a centenary celebration will be held in Paris, France, following the IARU-R1 Interim meeting. Participation by invitation from the IARU International Secretariat only.



M HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE “HART NET”?

"HART" refers to the *Hospital Amateur Radio Team*, a network of amateur radio operators affiliated with hospitals, medical facilities, and related organizations, focusing on emergency preparedness and communication support.



HART-Net focuses on emergency preparedness, providing backup communication infrastructure and services, and supporting safety in public events, including mission-critical medical-surgical missions.

The network includes hams affiliated with hospitals, medical facilities, government emergency organizations, and private non-profit agencies devoted to healthcare. They conduct emergency preparedness drills, training, and continuous improvement in communication infrastructure and services.

Modes of communications in use

Primary day-to-day: cellular phone, calls and text messaging, a Emergency - for drills and actual crisis situations: 2-meter VHF, repeaters and simplex; APRS; GPS with cellular and internet inter-connectivity; High Frequency SSB, Winlink Radio Email via VHF and HF; and Satellite phone.

Full information available:

<https://groups.io/g/HART-net>

ARSI on Social Media

In our effort to bring about the awareness on the activities of ARSI in the social media, we have started a YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRBkvhl3yf_uZ_74vcGqkMg .

In this channel we will be publishing videos related to ARSI activities & monthly webinars on various topics of Amateur Radio interest. In an effort to create a repository of Amateur Radio related video created by Indian operators, we have intended to create playlists for individual ARSI members and Institutional Members. We already have a playlist dedicated to Bangalore Amateur Radio Club (BARC – institutional member of ARSI) and a few individual members which can be accessed at

<https://www.youtube.com/feed/playlists>

ARSI had also received suggestions to create a portal for self-training modules for beginners and restricted grade licence holders to appear for their ASOC examinations. ARSI has now created a playlist on our YouTube channel dedicated to Morse Training – which has been launched on 1st January 2025 and is being regularly updated with lessons ranging from 3-5 minutes each for learning and practicing Morse Code.

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLzUO2IrrhrzhL5aofid1W578FQ6kO7YD&si=z2bZPgx1pE9c4rO>

Feedback and suggestions may please be sent to cwtraining@arsi.info

WORLD RADIO DAY 2025

Pune Hams VU2RCP celebrated "World Radio Day" on 13th February in association with Tech Forum & All India Radio Pune in their Auditorium. A report from Vilas Rabde, VU2VPR, Pune.

The objective of *World Radio Day* is to raise public awareness of the importance of radio and to encourage decision makers to use it to provide access to information, and to improve international co-operation among broadcasters.



The theme for Radio Day 2025 was "Radio and Climate Change," focusing on the medium's ability to spread crucial information about climate change, promote sustainable practices, and amplify voices advocating for environmental protection.

The Visit to the ALL INDIA RADIO studios and the latest Digital Radio EXHIBITION by Dilip Bapat VU3UEL, Alibag, was the star attraction. Then VU2VPR Introduced to Tech Forum & Pune Hams activities.

Speeches by Mr Indrajeet Bagal, ASST. Director AIR Pune & Doordarshan & Mr Adhir Gadpale, Station Engineer created awareness about the activities of ALL INDIA RADIO / AAKASHAWANI



Mr Kishor Kulkarni - *ex program EXECUTIVE AIR Mumbai* - gave a talk on "History of Aakashwani through slide show



SWLMrs Pradnya Deshpande conducted QuizContest based on Radio which was very well received by students and audience. The Quiz contest Prizes were Sponsored & Distributed by MJF Lion Satish Rajhans, VU2SVZ, ex AIR & Doordarshan, MD Spectron.

The program ended with vote of thanks around 5:30PM

73 de Vilas Rabde VU2VPR

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NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY, 2025

Ham Radio Awareness Program at Shri KV Parekh Science College, Mahuva, Gujarat (INDIA)

On the occasion of National Science Day, February 28, 2025, I, Rajesh Vagadia (VU2EXP), had the privilege of conducting a Ham Radio awareness program at the renowned Shri KV Parekh Science College in Mahuva, Gujarat (India). This prestigious institution, established by the founder of the Pidilite Group, played host to an enlightening session on Amateur Radio, coordinated by the Bhavnagar Science Center with the generous support of AMSAT-INDIA and The Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI).



Journey to Mahuva and APRS Experiment

My XYL Kiran Vagadia and I embarked on our journey from Rajkot in the morning, carrying with us a range of Ham Radio equipment for demonstrations. As a live experiment, we utilized Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) to track our travel progress. Our team member Shyama Vagadia (VU3WHG-10) set up the tracking, allowing students, faculty, and ham community to monitor our movement via the aprs.fi network. This interactive exercise was well received and demonstrated real-time radio tracking capabilities.

It was the modern-day version of *'Are we there yet?'*—except this time, students and fellow hams could actually see us moving in real-time!

Warm Welcome and Equipment Showcase

Upon arrival at Mahuva, we were warmly greeted by college authorities, faculty members, and enthusiastic students. We set up an elaborate display of Ham Radio equipment, including transceivers, antennas, walkie-talkies, CW keys, code oscillators, a *Cubesat* model, SDR dongles, measuring instruments, amateur radio documents, logbooks, licenses, awards, and books for reference. This hands-on exposure helped attendees understand the practical aspects of amateur radio operations.



Informative Session and Interactive Presentation

The session commenced with a short video clip from the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) that provided an introductory glimpse into the world of Amateur Radio. Our main presentation covered the rich history of Ham Radio, tracing its evolution and technological advancements from CW to Satellite! Students were particularly fascinated to learn that Ham Radio is the oldest form of social media!

“Before WhatsApp, before Twitter, before Instagram, before even the dial-up internet sound haunted our childhood, Ham Radio operators were already chatting across the globe—without any emoji, instead only smiley icon represented by character HI!”

I introduced our organizations, AMSAT-INDIA and Amateur Radio Society of India and it's role. We did provided an explanation of Ham Radio's technical workings and it's operations. Key topics covered included:

- Types of radios / modes and their applications
- Various modes and frequencies used in amateur radio
- Importance of antennas and their different configurations
- Exciting Ham Radio events such as IOTA (Islands on the Air), Hilltop operations, Lighthouse activations, JOTA (Jamboree on the Air), POTA (Park on the Air), etc
- Usage of RST System, Ham terminology, Q-Codes, abbreviations, and callsign country prefixes
- The procedure for obtaining a Ham Radio license, syllabus, and study resources

I also highlighted modern advancements in the field, such as; Moon Bounce (EME), Satellite Communications (LEO, MEO, GEO), APRS, Tracking High Altitude Balloon (HAB), HF weak signal modes for challenging conditions, repeater usage, Nets, and the thrill of Contesting.



The Power of RTL-SDR for Non-Hams

It was an exciting aspect for students how **anyone** can explore the radio spectrum using an RTL-SDR dongle, without requiring a Ham Radio license. With this affordable device, students are encouraged to experiment to;

- Listen to Amateur Radio conversation & OSCAR Satellite downlinks
- Receive NOAA Weather Satellite real time images
- Track aircraft via ADS-B
- Monitor ISS communications / Voice repeater
- Receive SSTV Images from ISS

“Who needs Netflix when you can explore the airwaves!”

Special ARISS Audio Clip and Live VHF Demonstration

A particularly inspiring moment came when we played a recorded audio clip from the ARISS student outreach program, where my daughter Sakshi Vagadia (VU3EXP) had a live telebridge conversation with astronaut Sunita Williams KD5PLB aboard the International Space Station on November 14, 2012. The students were thrilled to witness the real-world impact of Ham Radio in space communications.

(YouTube link: [Click Here](https://youtu.be/MWoyliHRPg4?si=Zv86X2e4_VBb5eST)) https://youtu.be/MWoyliHRPg4?si=Zv86X2e4_VBb5eST

To give students hands-on experience, we conducted a live VHF demonstration. Dividing participants into three groups, we enabled them to communicate using Ham Radio terminology. The excitement among students and faculty was evident as they pressed the PTT button and spoke over the radio for the first time!

Encouraging Future Participation

The event concluded with very positive feedback and a vote of thanks delivered over the radio by college teachers and Shri Harshad Joshi Sir. A notable outcome of the session was the overwhelming interest shown by students and faculty in establishing an amateur radio club on campus. We assured our support in guiding them through the process.

Visit to Jegri Island Lighthouse

After the event, we took the opportunity to visit the picturesque Jegri Island Lighthouse, located just 11 km away. Surrounded on three sides by the sea, this magnificent 30-meter-high square masonry tower, adorned with 4 black and white bands, left us mesmerized.



Standing at the Jegri Island Lighthouse, surrounded by the sea, I couldn't help but think—what a perfect place for my possible 3rd lighthouse activation! I hope to return here to activate this lighthouse under the International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend (ILLW) program.

Conclusion

With a total journey spanning 550 km in a day, this was a rewarding experience dedicated to educating young minds about the fascinating world of Ham Radio on National Science Day. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Shri KV Parekh Science College, Bhavnagar Science Center, AMSAT-INDIA, ARSI, and all those who contributed to making this event a success. A special thanks to my XYL, Kiran Vagadia, for her constant support throughout the program.

73,

Rajesh Vagadia - VU2EXP vu2exp@gmail.com
Rajkot - Gujarat - INDIA
Regional Coordinator for • AMSAT-INDIA
The Amateur Radio Society of India

Amateur Radio Demonstration during LEO day celebrations

LEO day celebrations were held at Bal Bhavan, Cubbon park Bangalore today 14th March 2025. Lion Ajoy – VU2JHM invited BARC to make a presentation on the occasion. They celebrated the day by distributing aids for specially abled persons.

A station was setup with the help on Om Rajesh – VU3TBU, Om Jim - VU3JIM, Om Achar – VU2MLA Om Ajoy – VU2JHM, Om Balwanth – VU2BRT, Om Krishna Kumar – VU2YUU, and Om Ramesh – VU2LU. We had 2 HF stations, one with End Fed antenna and battery set up by Rajesh. Another was with a 20, 40M dipole antennas. VHF GP antenna for VHF was set up by JIM.

A 20 minute presentation was made with Q&A session. This included a Kannada address by Balwanth. It was received well by the audience which included over 50 LEOs – under the age group on 25 years, there were over a 100 Lions. On discussing with few members that included students from a very popular engineering college and IT professionals that they are hearing about HAM radio for the first time. **This only tells us that we need to make more such awareness programs.**



73, Ram / VU2GRM

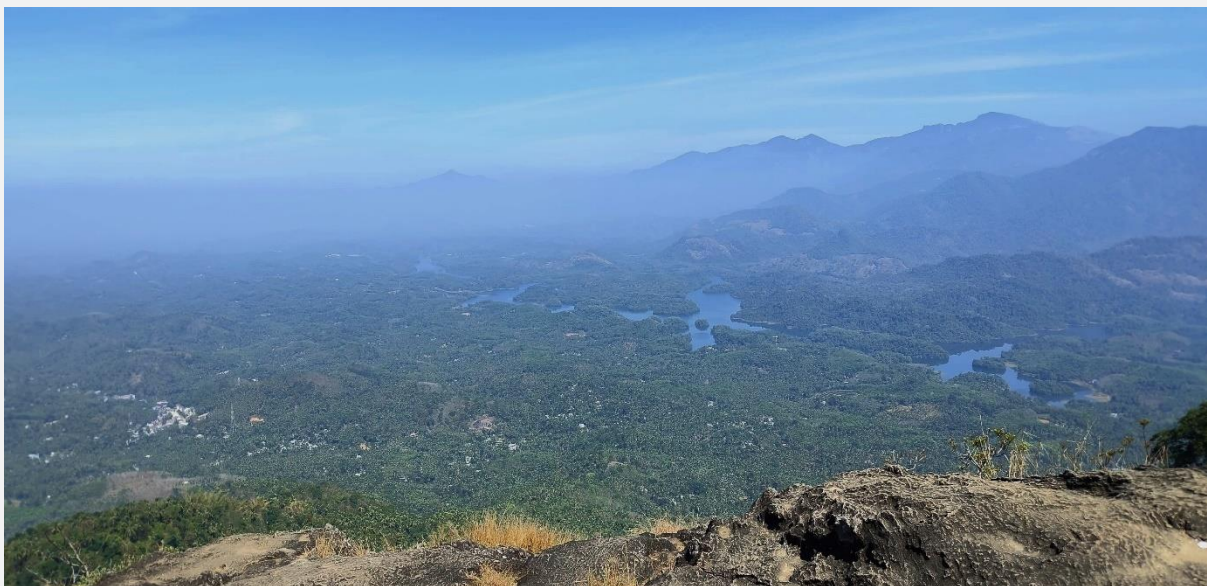
ARSI HILLTOP DX CONTEST JANUARY 25, 26 2025.

VU2CPL VAYALADA HILLS, KOZHIKODE MK71WM

It was the time of the year again for the field day/ hilltop contest. After the dates were announced by ARSI, the previous years team had some discussions and realised many of the regulars might not be bale to make it this time.

Girish VU2KGB, Rahul VU2KKG, Peter VU2PJP, Rakesh VU3RGP, Ajith VU3EMR and Manoj VU2CPL also was working on these dates. Jacob VU2ADV, Rajeesh VU3FWR, Uthamaraj VU3WTD, Manoj VU2DTH, Easwaran VU2ACT, SWL Mahi and Akhil will also be giving it a miss this time.

Manoj and Adersh VU3WEW had visited a hill near Kozhikode last year and had plans to work from there sometime and the idea was revisited. Manoj was on work related posting during that time and Adersh and Shaji VU2WJ were locals and were able to travel during the weekend. The idea was floated and Girish and others agreed that an activity at a smaller scale would be good to keep the continuity and team spirit alive.



A view from Vayalada Hills View Point

During December last week, a group was formed with Adersh VU3WEW, Shaji VU2WJ and Manoj VU2CPL to discuss our plans. Abraham VU2OJ, after seeing the location realised its a short 2 hours drive for him and immediately volunteered to join despite his busy schedule. We needed some more operators to ensure sufficient manpower to install antennas and operate. Mujeeb VU2DP, Salim VU2FGG and Anees VU2EVQ who were good operators and located near to Kozhikode were contacted and they agreed to join the team.

Tahir VU2TAH was contacted to discuss antennas and he agreed that a 6 band hex beam and wire antennas were a good option. He was building a 10m single element Delta loop and suggested we can try it out as an experiment. He agreed to reach on 24th morning with the required gear.

The location was studied for both VHF and HF with the help of softwares, (*Thanks to Rakesh VU3RGP and Prasad VU2PTT*) for the suitability and expected reach to different parts of the country / world. HF looked promising, but VHF propagation was limited due to nearby hills. Rajeesh VU3FWR was kind enough to share a soft copy of last years banner which was used to print this editions copy with necessary modifications. He also suggested a suitable VHF frequency to be used.

Suitability of the V/UHF frequencies were confirmed after discussions with Lucky VU2LBW and Pop VU2POP. Manoj VU2CPL travelled to Kozhikode by road on 15th January and carried most of the HF setup. Reaching Kozhikode, he and Adersh VU3WEW travelled to the location as a Pilot team. The location itself had its challenges were vehicles had to be taken to about 500m below the hill and all gear carried uphill either by hand or hire a 4 wheel dedicated vehicle with an expert driver to carry the gear up through a treacherous forest route.

On 15th itself an initial survey was done with all requirements like power connections and antenna locations decided. The pilot team installed a 40m vertical and a Diamond X510 dual band vertical. Initial tests revealed HF sounded very good with low noise levels and VHF/ UHF were having a good opening towards Bangalore, but South towards Thrissur, Kochi etc were blocked. We were not able to copy or work anyone from that area.

On 23rd, Manoj and Adersh installed an Inverted L antenna for 160M and a 90M bi-directional reversible beverage at the site. That night it was decided to try out 160M band on CW to check the propagation. Unfortunately, the radio behaved erratically and the plan had to be dropped. This issue with the radio meant we were one radio short and calls were made to ensure the rest of the members carried spare radios. Most of the team members were using SDRs and this proved to be a challenge to have a seamless interchangeable setup which can switch modes and bands. Lesson learned: Carry conventional radios for these events.



Power seemed to be fair and only when nearby users were using heavy loads, voltage was fluctuating between 230 and 180. This time Manoj was carrying a **Lithium Phosphate** pack as a backup power (12V 100AH) which was very compact and easy to handle. It was redundant as the power never failed. But the new battery pack will be a very useful addition to all our activities in the future. Thanks to a Bangalore company called *Battery Inc* and SWL Adithya was very helpful in understanding our needs.

On the 25th morning, the team had started operations on different HF bands and VHF. The special call sign permission was not received, and so it was decided to use team

leader callsign VU2CPL for the event. But the numbers didn't look very promising. We decided to dedicate daytime operations to SSB, FT8 and FM on VHF and try CW

during late evening and night especially on 160M. The team assembled the rest of the antennas including the hex beam and tested all operations. Tahir VU2TAH was down with some health issues on 24th and couldn't travel. This was a big disappointment as he was a very valuable team member who helped us get our antennas in shape.



On the night of the 25th, Manoj operated on 20, 40, and 160 meter bands CW but QSOs were hard to come by. Most of the stations were using the FT8 mode and even the contest on 160 meters did not help much – and so we ended up with only 4 QSOs on 160 meters, and a few more on the higher bands. The 10 meter Delta Loop installed on the 25th worked very well and added flexibility to our operations. *The best part about this antenna was the way it looked. The sight of this antenna with the sun setting in the background was gorgeous.*



On the night of 25th, we heard some stations talking in arabic (*A41XX and A46DOH*) on 145.750 and we tried to trace the signals. It turned out to be a repeater in Muscat, Oman and we tried our level best to breaking in to the QSO. Despite our best efforts of tracing the repeater uplink frequency and the published tone, we couldn't trigger the repeater. Even though repeater QSO is not counted for the contest, a 2way QSO into Oman would have been great. Some videos were taken of the signals and shared with the VHF DX community and we had lot of excited DX

hunters contacting us on WhatsApp and email to try out a QSO. It was probably too late and we might have missed the nice tropo duct which had developed at that time. However we plan to look into such a QSO during a future event w i t h b e t t e r a n t e n n a s a n d coordination. Abraham VU2OJ and Tahir VU2TAH had to leave early and we decided to stop operations for a short while and used this time to get some team photos.

By late afternoon, we started winding down and antennas were uninstalled one by one with just 1 HF and VHF station running. By 1545 IST. We went QRT and all antennas were removed and packed. The trusty 4 Wheel Jeep with our skilled driver was there to help us to take most of our gear down.

Compared to last few years, we ended up with a low QSO score. But as always team ended up having a great weekend installing antennas, trying out different modes and operating. For most of the team there was something new to see and learn. The new members Anees, Mujeeb and Salim gelled very well with the team and proved their worth and usefulness in any future event.

We regrouped at the base camp and repacked our gear and bid goodbye promising to meet for a future event and to learn from our mistakes and improve the way we install and operate for a field day/ Hilltop contest. We would like to express our gratitude to Adersh VU3WEW and his family who whole heartedly supported the event and did all the ground work.

Band	DXCC	CQ	QSOs	Dupes	Total
160m:	3	3	4	0	4
80m:	0	0	0	0	0
60m:	0	0	0	0	0
40m:	38	16	182	0	182
30m:	0	0	0	0	0
20m:	23	20	69	0	69
17m:	0	0	0	0	0
15m:	35	15	147	0	147
12m:	0	0	0	0	0
10m:	47	17	333	0	333
6m:	0	0	0	0	0
2m:	1	1	27	0	27
70cm:	1	1	1	0	1
23cm:	0	0	0	0	0
13cm:	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	70	27			
Sum	148	73	763	0	763

Band	CW	RTTY	Data	Phone	%
160m:	4	0	0	0	0.5%
80m:	0	0	0	0	0.0%
60m:	0	0	0	0	0.0%
40m:	28	0	75	79	23.9%
30m:	0	0	0	0	0.0%
20m:	3	0	55	11	9.0%
17m:	0	0	0	0	0.0%
15m:	0	0	147	0	19.3%
12m:	0	0	0	0	0.0%
10m:	10	0	265	58	43.6%
6m:	0	0	0	0	0.0%
2m:	0	0	0	27	3.5%
70cm:	0	0	0	1	0.1%
23cm:	0	0	0	0	0.0%
13cm:	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total:	45	0	542	176	
	5.9%	0.0%	71.0%	23.1%	100%



From L to R Shaji VU2WJ, Abraham VU2OJ, Tahir VU2TAH, Manoj VU2CPL, Anees VU2EVQ, Mujeeb VU2DP, Adersh VU3WEW and Salim VU2FGG.

73, The VHF Hilltopping/contest team, Vayalada Hills Kozhikode / Kerala

AT76HYD - HYDERABAD

ARSI National Field Day & Hill Topping Contest



Hyderabad Hams



Event Dates: 25th & 26th January 2025

Special Call Sign
AT76HYD

Category **C**
QTH: Koheda Gutta, Hyderabad
QRA locator: MK97hg, Telangana
Longitude: 79.0955723
Latitude: 18.1723592
Elevation: 487 m / 1600 feet



1. TEAM MEMBERS

VU2AZK	Kishore Veju
VU2MZK	Raghupathi Reddy
VU2NHK	Sreshta Veju
VU2FGD	Ramcharan Jasthi
VU2JCH	Masthan N
VU2TIO	Giridhar Reddy
VU3IHK	Nehad Khan
VU2LWA	Shivaramakrishnan V
VU3WXM	Vijay Kumar S
VU3EDA	Mahesh Kulkarni
VU2FFQ	Sridhar Reddy



From L to R: Ramcharan (VU2FGD), Sridhar (VU2FFQ), Mastan (VU2JCH), Kishore (VU2AZK), Sreshta (VU2NHK), Nehad (VU3IHK), Lohit, Vijay (VU3WXM), Raghu (VU2MZK), Sreekar, Mahesh (VU3EDA), Ashwin, Shivaram (VU2LWA), Giridhar (VU2TIO)

All the above hams are licensed and based out of Hyderabad, TG. They have all used the Special Event callsign AT76HYD, very kindly approved by WPC. The Dates and the location are mentioned in the above poster that was prominently displayed at multiple places at the venue. Children who were interested in become hams also joined the event.

2. EQUIPMENT & ANTENNAS

HF: Yaesu FT891, 100W, SBITX, 25W, 2 band Fan Dipole for 40m, 20m, Vertical antenna for all other HF bands VHF & UHF: Kenwood TM V7, 25W, Hand-held yagi for VHF & UHF Solar power and Batteries were used to power the radios. 50Wp Solar Panel with a PWM Solar Charge controller and 2X 75AH Lead Acid Batteries were used to power the VHF and HF equipment.

3. CAMPING

An outdoor tent was setup at the location and the food for all the participants was also prepared for the duration of the event.



L to R: Raghu (VU2MZK), Nehad (VU3IHK) and Sreshta (VU2NHK)



Ramcharan, Vijay and kids making dinner. Right: Shivaram with a cake he baked

4. OPERATIONS – AT76HYD

A total of 72 QSOs were made on VHF, UHF and HF during the Field Day Event. The team operated during the day and the night as well. New hams were guided to make QSOs under difficult band conditions and also log the QSOs correctly. Team members took turns operating the HF and VHF equipment and understood various nuances of operating different bands at different times of the day. Multiple DX QSOs were also made and the DX operators were glad to have contacted our Special Event Station. The callsign AT76HYD was registered with QRZ.COM and adequate details provided. Posters for publicity were hung at different locations around the Field Day Site. Staff from the Police Communications Dept also visited the FD location.



Left: Nehad (VU3IHK) operating HF. Right: YL Sreshta operating HF



Left: Ramcharan in a VHF DX QSO. Middle: Raghu starting a VHF QSO; Right: Giridhar showing a ham app to the kids.

5. WRAP-UP

Operations were wrapped up by 12PM on the 26th of Jan 2025. All the garbage was properly disposed off and the camp site restored to its original state. Important lessons in Field Operations which will help in quick deployment of an Amateur Radio Field Station during Disaster Relief Operations were learnt by the operators. It was a great team-effort and the event was a great success for all Hyderabad Hams.



73, TEAM AT76HYD - HYDERABAD

VU2ARC - KRS BACKWATERS, MYSURU - MK82GK





Bangalore Amateur Radio Club



ARSI NATIONAL FIELD DAY & HILL TOPPING CONTEST
25th & 26th January 2025

Station CallSign: **VU2ARC**

Modes: CW,SSB,Digital
 QRV: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10

Grid:MK82GK

Location: **KRS Backwaters-Mysuru**

Operators:

Rajesh-VU2RPS	Jacob- VU3EWN
Raghunath- VU2MYS	Sudhakar- VU3LLC
Guru- VU3GWN	Samarth- VU3NZG
Shyam- VU3UZD	Renu- VU3CQM




The Planning: The team met at Konark, Kanteerava Stadium, to discuss and finalize the contest modalities, including the category, gear to carry (batteries, antenna, radios, solar panels, cables, required accessories, and snacks), and transportation to the location.

The Location: VU3NZG OM Samarth found a fantastic farmhouse on the backwaters of River Kaveri with a grid location MK82gk. The location had crisp, fresh air, a fantastic night sky, and the team was lucky enough to witness the heavenly alignment of planets.

The Gear: The team carried various equipment, including coax cables, batteries, solar panels, power supplies, radios, laptops, patch cables, extension boxes, and antennas.

The Travel: The team met at Kadambas for a quick breakfast and coffee. Despite Bangalore traffic, they regrouped at Shivalli Restaurant for a proper breakfast and coffee. They stayed connected on 144.900 throughout the drive and stopped for a quick leg stretch.



The Arrival: The team arrived at the homestay by 12:30 PM, unpacked essential gear, and set up the antennas and radios. They enjoyed a homemade ragi ball meal and scouted the property for optimal antenna placement.



The Contest: The contest began on January 25th at 0900 IST. Each operator was stationed at strategic points, and the team managed to log over 400 contacts by the morning of January 26th, which also happens to be India's Republic Day.

The Antennae Setup

First antenna we setup was a Homebrew EFHW with radial for 40m



to 10m, end tied up to a tree in the compound. This was a N-S setup.

Second one we setup another EFHW with a radial for 80m to 10m, radial tied up across the fence on a neighbouring property. This was a NW-SE setup.



The Team also installed a VFH antenna on the Terrace using the rock-solid mount of VU2MYS – Raghunath.



The Challenges: The team faced power cuts and heavy RF noise from nearby pump sets. Despite these challenges, they clocked their first 100 contacts by 1700 hrs on Day 1 and continued to operate throughout the night.

The Field Op: The team conducted a field operation on the banks of River Kaveri, snagging quick QSOs, including a DX. They were accompanied by the local guard-dog Gunda.

The Solar Op: VU3NZG OM Samarth operated a Xiegu G90 powered by a solar panel, paired with an EFHW.

The Guests: The team was visited by ARSI Contest Manager VU3GDS OM Girish, VU3PKE OM Kiran, and VU3VQY OM Vijay Das.

The Conclusion: The team left KRS backwaters with a sense of accomplishment, having learned valuable lessons about simultaneous FT8 operations, antenna setups, and overcoming obstacles as a team.

73, TEAM VU2ARC

QSL World is your trusted blog for HAM radio operators, electronics enthusiasts, and DIY radio projects. Explore expert guides, hands-on builds, and operating tips—from QSL card exchanges and DMR digital radio to antenna designs and homebrew circuits. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned operator, we're here to inspire and support your amateur radio journey. Join our community and keep the spirit of HAM radio alive, one frequency at a time! <https://qslworld.com>

ARSI National Field Day & Hill Topping Contest 2025

Team: VU2SAA - Roving Hams, Chennai



From left to right: VU2DH Das, VU2VAU Srimi (visitor), VU2DPN Deepan, VU2FFW Divakar, VU3WAW Ravi, VU2CWO Clement, VU2FFV & VU2SAA Sampath

Contest Details:

Event Dates : 25th & 26th January 2025
Name : V R Sampath
Call : VU2SAA
Grid : MK92wo
Location : Thirumalai Vaiyavoor
Email Id : VU2SAA@gmail.com
Phone Number : +91 93828 69636
Category : C

About the location:

We operated from Thirumalai Vaiyaavoor Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal temple, which is situated on a small hill at Vaiyavoot village, about 70 kms from Chennai.



Thirumalai Vaiyaavoor Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal temple

Team Members:

Wg Cdr Sampath	~ VU2SAA
OM Deepan	~ VU2DPN
OM Divakar	~ VU2FFW
OM Karthik Raj	~ VU2FFV
OM Devadas	~ VU2DH
OM Ravi	~ VU3WAW
OM Clement	~ VU2CWO

Rigs

HF ~	Icom IC745, Yaesu FT-7800, Yaesu FT-891
VHF/UHF ~	Kenwood TMV71A, Yaesu FT-7800
HF/VHF/UHF ~ <i>VHF</i>	QRP – Ailunce

Antenna

VU2FFV ~ OM Karthik Raj's Home brew triple collinear wire antenna and double 5/8

VU2DPN ~ Om Deepan's Diamond SG500

VU2SAA ~ Om Sampath's Home brew 3 element Yagi

VU2SAA ~ Om Sampath's Car mounted 1/4 whip



VU2SAA's homebrewed VHF element Yagi



OM Deepan & OM Karthik installing the wire antenna.



OM Deepan installing the wire 3 antenna



Rigging the Fan Dipole



Hoisting the dipole



Left: OM Sampath setting up the tents. Right: OM Diwakar operating FT891 and OM Das operating VHF

Operations



Wg Cdr Sampath, VU2SAA, operating from his mobile shack. HF Rig Icom IC-745 with Comet manual tuner. Inverted V Fan Dipole antenna for 7,14 and 28 MHz. The vhf rig was FT 7800, The antenna was a homemade 3el tape Yagi. The whole station including laptop was operated using power sourced from car battery.



OM Das & OM Divakar operating VHF & HF at the base of the VHF tower.

QSO Summary

Dx QSOs	HF	16
VU QSOs	HF	43
VU QSOs	VHF	17
	Total	76

Thanks

Our special thanks to OM Srinu VU2VAU, for the local contact who supplied us with sumptuous food and kept us going. Without his help, we would have spent many hours and driving many kilometers for food.

Very nice of OM Saravanan VU3KVB, OM Srinu VU2VAU & OM Ravi VU2OVG for visiting us at the field day location. Thanks OVG & VAU for the photographs !! Hope you all had a wonderful time at Vedanthanga!!

Postscript

This was the second field trip organized by the Roving Hams of Chennai, and it was an enriching experience for all of us. We learned a great deal and had a fantastic time, and we're eager to improve our operations for the next outing. We hope this inspires others in the amateur radio community to venture outdoors and operate their rigs as well. Here are some comments from our participants:

OM Deepan VU2DPN ~Thank you all for the wonderful team work.

OM Karthik Raj VU2FFV ~ Very nice outing well coordinated.

OM Divakar VU2FFW ~ Thanks all of you for a great outing.

OM Sampath VU2SAA ~ Big thank you for the nice comraderie.

OM Clement VU2CWO ~ It was a wonderful trip.

OM Das VU2DH ~ Very impressive from every angle.

73 – Roving Hams, Chennai

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