

Ham Radio News

Newsletter of the Amateur Radio Society of India - VU2ZH

ARSI is the Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union



January 2026



**Live Satellite Demo for
12000 + students**



**On 29 December 2025, A Historic Live Satellite
Communication Demo was conducted
through International Space Station
in Pransla, Gujarat**

Contents

President's Message	3
Editor's Desk	4
ARSI Contest Calendar 2026	5
Reports from ARSI Institutional Members (Indian Institute of Hams – VU2IIH)	6
Reports from ARSI Institutional Members (MARS Amateur Radio Society, Chennai)	9
Reports from ARSI Regional Coordinators – Maharashtra	11
Reports from ARSI Regional Coordinators – Gujarat	15
Reports from ARSI Regional Coordinators – Madhya Pradesh	12
News from Clubs Across India	17
HamToons	18
ARSI Board Elected for 2025-27	19
ARSI Nominated Posts for 2025-26	19
ARSI Regional Coordinators	20
ARSI Institutional Members	20
Important Contact Details	21
Acknowledgement and Disclaimer	21

President's Message

Seasons' Greetings to all, and best wishes for a Happy New Year 2026

The past few months have been a period of profound loss for the amateur-radio fraternity. Last month, we lost a fellow radio amateur, a true old-timer, and an outstanding CW operator—an individual of exceptional scientific temperament and the editor of the ARSI Ham Radio Newsletter (HRN) for nearly two decades. T. S. Ganesh (VU2TS) passed away after a brief illness on Tuesday, 2 December 2025. His passing has left a void in our community that can never be filled. Let us remember him with gratitude and pray for his soul to rest in peace.



It is also with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Subramaniam (VU2ZUB), affectionately known as Subbu. A senior amateur radio operator and an active net controller on several South Indian VHF repeaters, he passed away on 13 November 2025. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

On 8 January 2026, VU2AF, Adolf, from Mumbai became a Silent Key. He worked tirelessly for the development of ARSI and enrolled numerous hams as ARSI Life Members during his tenure as President. Adolf was also very active in the car racing circuit, where he provided vital communication support. VU2AF will be fondly remembered and deeply missed by every old-timer. May his soul rest in peace.

As we step into the New Year, the 2026 contest calendar has been announced, beginning with the ARSI National Field Day & Hill Topping Contest on 24–25 January 2026. Radio amateurs across South Asia are invited to participate in this exciting and challenging event.

Following the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the IARU on World Amateur Radio Day last year, we are pleased to announce that ARSI Annual Day will henceforth be celebrated every year on the third weekend of April. Further details will be announced shortly.

Let us look forward to an exciting year of contesting, field operations, and homebrewing as we continue to enjoy and grow our beloved hobby—Amateur Radio.

73, de Ramesh Kumar, VU2LU

Editor's Desk

A Tribute to Ganesh, VU2TS

Every newsletter carries the unseen presence of the person who believes in it the most. For us, that presence was OM Ganesh, VU2TS. He was more than an editor - he was the steady hand, the patient guide, and the quiet force that turned scattered thoughts into meaningful conversations for our community.

Ganesh cared deeply about words and the responsibility that comes with them. Accuracy mattered. Fairness mattered. Clarity mattered. But above all, people

Much of his work went unnoticed: the late nights, the repeated follow-ups, the careful rewrites, and the gentle questions that made each piece better. He carried on with dedication even when responses were few, and support was slow, believing in the value of the newsletter and the community it served.

An editor does more than shape pages—they shape spirit. Through his quiet leadership and unwavering integrity, Ganesh helped define who we are. His influence lives on in the standards we strive to uphold and in the sense of responsibility he instilled in us all.

We offer our heartfelt gratitude and deepest respect. Thank you, Ganesh, for your patience, your commitment, and the legacy you leave behind. As we attempt to fill the space left by your absence, we do so with humility and with hope for the continued support of our members and readers, as we carry forward the work you believed in so deeply.

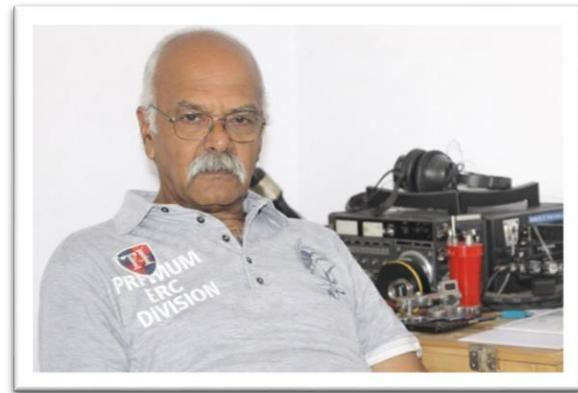
73

Madhukar K R – VU2MUD

&

Ramesh Kumar – VU2LU

Co-editors, HRN-ARSI



ARSI Contest Calendar - 2026

Contest Date	Contest Name	Bands	Modes
24-25 Jan 2026	ARSI National Field Day & Hill Topping Contest Focus on Field Operations	HF, VHF & UHF	CW, SSB, Digital, Mixed & QRP
28-29 Mar 2026	ARSI 40M CQ VU SSB Contest Focus on 40M SSB Activity	40M	SSB
25-26 Apr 2026	VU Rookie Contest Focus on introducing newbies to contesting	HF – 40, 20, 15 & 10M	CW, SSB, Digital & Mixed
27-28 Jun 2026	ARSI QRP-Day Contest Focus on QRP Operations	HF	CW, SSB & Digital
22-23 Aug 2026	VU DX Contest Geographic Focus on India	HF – 40, 20, 15 & 10M	CW, SSB & Mixed
5-6 Dec 2026	ARSI 40M CQ VU CW Contest Focus on 40M CW Activity	40M	CW

Complete details regarding the above contest are announced on ARSI Webpage

News Bits

IARU Region-3 runs a HF Net every Sunday at 0800-0830 UTC on 21.350 MHz SSB. The Net Controller changes every Sunday and is from a different country in the IARU Region-3

Reports from ARSI Institutional Members

(Indian Institute of Hams - VU2IIH)

As reported by Sathyapal, VU2FI

on behalf of Indian Institute of Hams (VU2IIH)

Amateur Radio Field Day

Location: Bettahalli Betta, Ramanagar, Karnataka.

Date: 7th December 2025

A successful Field Day with 118 Hams & SWLs from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Andhra Pradesh participating. The event included Technical Demos & Learning. The event featured Live - Hand-on sessions on HF Portable/Mobile operations, Antenna Systems, Satellite Communication via QO-100, etc. Experienced Elmers Varadan VU3ITI, Madhu Prasad - VU3NPI, Guruprasad VU3GWN, Samarth VU3ZNG, Suganya VU3DUG, Venkat VU2IIM and others explained concepts inspiring the newcomers and veteran operators alike



Guruprasad - VU3GWN explaining QRP Portable operations to the participants

A Satellite communication setup for Geo-Stationary Satellite QO-100 was demonstrated by Venkat VU2IIM, Satish VU3FTW, Neil VU3EFZ & Shilpa VU3FCE. This was a major highlight of the event appreciating exposure to real-time satellite communication.

The participation of the Indian Technical Congress Association team led by Shri Srinivas Durvasula added academic value helping students gain confidence.

The IIH Field Day 2025 stood out as a celebration of amateur radio, community bonding, and continuous learning. It reaffirmed the Indian Institute of Hams' role in promoting technical excellence, emergency preparedness, and the spirit of service through amateur radio.

A documentary of this event is available on YouTube <https://tinyurl.com/mww4yuvm>

Practical Antenna Workshop

The workshop at Indian Institute of Hams (IIH) on 21 Dec 2025, was a grand success! IIH Joint Director Rajan, VU2JXM coordinated everything flawlessly with materials, the whole kit-and-kaboodle. Twelve enthusiastic hams got hands-on experience building the Slim-Jim antenna, which will help them set up external VHF/UHF antennas and boost connectivity across Bengaluru.

A Big shout-out to Lakshmi, VU3LXI for nailing the logistics - couldn't have gone smoother! Dr. Sathyapal, VU2FI briefed Hams to erect external antennas as soon as possible and be active on the roll call nets instead of using Echolink. Sathyapal honored the participants with a Certificate and Amateur Radio World map. The Workshop started at 9.30 and concluded at before noon with high tea. Participants received a Certificate of completion of the Workshop.



Official from DoT visits VU2FI Station

Sri Gopal Krishna Sutar, Deputy Director General (T), and Sri Subramani, Telecom Officer, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, visited the shack of Dr. Sathyapal, VU2FI-Director, IIH on 7th January 2026. The officials had an extensive and highly interactive discussion for nearly two hours, focusing on the overall activities of Amateur Radio in India.

The officials appreciated the contribution of Ham Radio operators during COVID-19 and the Ham network, which effectively extended its support to the Govt. of Karnataka for communication and coordination. Sri Gopal Krishna Sutar also interacted with several Ham operators over the VU2IU repeater. The following hams who were present shared their experiences with the visitors. VU3ITI, VU2IIM, VU3UAR, VU3VV, VU3CGY, VU3LVM, VU3IPQ, VU3CRF & VU3DUG



VU2FI & VU3LXI with Mr. Gopal K. Sutar (DDG-T) & Mr. Subramani (Tech Officer)

On behalf of the Amateur Radio fraternity, VU2FI, VU3LXI, VU2TII, and VU3SIM honored the visiting officials in appreciation of their visit and meaningful interaction. The officials expressed interest in exploring future collaboration with NDRF and SDRF, highlighting the importance of Amateur Radio support during large-scale emergencies and disaster management operations.

International Ham visits VU2FI Shack

Kaidi, BI1TPF, an International Amateur Radio Operator from Beijing, Mainland China, visited VU2FI during his business tour to India on 18 Jan 2026.

Mr. Kaidi, 36 years old, is an Automation Engineer by profession and currently working with Amazon as a Business Intelligence Engineer. He is an active Ham Radio operator and a proficient CW, operating at an impressive speed of 30 WPM.

During his visit, Kaidi spent considerable time interacting with the host and family members, sharing experiences about Ham Radio operations, CW practices, and Amateur Radio activities in China and India. The interaction reflected the true spirit of international Ham radio friendship and technical exchange. Kaidi also made radio contacts through the VU2IU VHF Repeater, interacting with Samarth VU3NZG, Suganya VU3DUG, Vikas VU37VV. The visit was a memorable and enriching experience, strengthening global goodwill and camaraderie among Amateur Radio operators, showcasing how Ham Radio continues to connect people beyond borders, cultures, and professions.



Ham Radio Humour

- ☺ QRP feels like diet ham radio.
- ☺ Running 5 watts is an extreme sport.

Reports from ARSI Institutional Members

(MARS Amateur Radio Society – Chennai)

As reported by

Thiagarajan P, VU2PTR,

Regional Coordinator for ARSI, Tamil Nadu

MARS Amateur Radio Society Breakfast meeting

On 2nd November members of MARS Amateur Radio Society had a breakfast meeting at Presidency Club, Egmore from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. About 30 members participated and enjoyed eyeball QSO. Cyclothon event certificates were distributed to the participants.



Left-MARS ARC Office bearers; Right-Members Group Photo



Group Photo of MARS ARC Members

Members' Meeting

The members' meeting of MARS Amateur Radio Society was held on Saturday, 29th Nov 2025 at 6.30 pm in the "Kasturba Hall" of the Thakkar Bapa Vidyashram, T.Nagar, Chennai. It was an august gathering that enabled many of the members to have an eyeball QSO amongst themselves and to

exchange pleasantries with fellowship. OM N. Deepan - VU2DPN requested all the members to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to OM Subbu VU2ZUB who became silent key. The President, OM P. Thyagarajan - VU2PTR, welcomed the gathering and expressed his pleasure at the enthusiasm shown by the members in attending the meeting despite the rain. He briefed the members about the programmes in the pipeline.

After the President's address OM Ragav - VU2RFI introduced the speaker of the evening. Dr. Jayaraman gave an excellent presentation on "Nano satellites and its applications". Dr. Jayaraman dealt in detail the construction details, communication mode, power supply system with solar panels and specifications of every sub system of the Nano satellite. He explained in greater detail the applications of the Nano satellites.

Antenna Workshop

A VHF and HF antenna workshop was organized by MARS-ARS on 28th of December at the Defence Officers Colony Institute, Ekkatuthangal. Around 25 hams and SWLs took part in the event.



Briefing before the Workshop; Deepan, VU2DPN, Thyagu, VU2PTR & VU2OW Rajesh; Workshop in progress

The organisers, participants and the visitors gathered at the venue by 10:00 AM and the event began with a short introduction by OM Thyagu, VU2PTR, about our club and the activity planned for the day. OM Deepan, VU2DPN, took over the session and addressed and started the workshop for antennas that were planned for the day, a 2 Meter band "TV twin lead" slim-jim and a loaded dipole for the 40M band. He explained the basic theory behind both the antennas and went through the pros and cons of the antennas. Finally, all antennae were tested and SWR adjusted.

Reports from ARSI Regional Coordinators - Maharashtra

As reported by Vilas Rabde, VU2VPR

ARSI Regional Coordinator, Maharashtra

On the 7th of December 2025, about 30 Hams and SWLs participated most of whom were young engineering students. Visiting Hams Shripal VU2SPM (Mumbai) & Vivek VU39VB (Manipal) were warmly welcomed along with the self-introduction of participants.

Manish VU3IFQ gave a knowledge sharing presentation on nanoVNA focusing on Antenna measurements which was well received.

Antariksha Ham Radio Club of Dhole Pate CoEP under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Dr. Puja Pal showcased their various ambitious projects.

SWL Ajinkya Ingulkar shared the Chinese Weather Satellite Monitoring system with a new antenna design using nanoVNA. He also projected the launch of the microsatellite and its monitoring using APRS. The Balun Project with transponder payload was interesting.

SWL Makarand and Prateek VU3YEK updated the latest status of the APRS Project having two Digipeaters.

Monthly Meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of Pune – VU2RCP (4 Jan 2026)

About 20 Hams & SWLs participated in the monthly meeting. The meeting paid tribute to OM Dilip Bapat VU3UEL by observing a silence.

OM Ranga VU3IZK demonstrated the latest sBiTx V3 all-band 20W SDR Transceiver from HFSignals, Hyderabad. All features of the rig were explained with a live demo. OM Indrajeet VU32GO explained his recent experiments on End fed HF Antenna (with 49:1 Balun) and propagation results



Ham Radio Humour

- ☺ My fingers know Morse better than my brain knows English.
- ☺ Morse code - because the silence was too quiet.

Reports from ARSI Regional Coordinators - Gujarat

As reported by Rajesh Wagadia, VU2EXP

ARSI Regional Coordinator, Gujarat

Historic Live Satellite Communication Demo Thro' ISS in Pransla, Gujarat

ARSI Regional Co-Ordinator for Gujarat, OM Rajest Vagadia VU2EXP who is also the coordinator for AMSAT - India, was invited by Shri Vedik Mission Trust to conduct a demonstration programme on Live Science and Space Outreach along with AMSAT - India and Upagraha Amateur Radio Club (ISRO Club Station) at Pransla, Gujarat on 29th December 2025.



The Event was attended by many students. The International Space Station footprint was expected to cover the area in the morning. The students started to assemble in a large open area as early as 7:00 AM and by 8:00AM more than 12,000 students had assembled for the Live Two - Way amateur radio satellite communication via the International Space Station (ISS).

Basic yet essential concepts like ham radio, satellite communication, uplink & downlink, azimuth, elevation, frequencies, etc., and satellite tracking were explained so students could truly understand

and enjoy the upcoming live ISS pass. With the approaching ISS pass around 8:45 AM; the program moved on to live tracking. At 08:47 AM IST, the ISS passed over Pransla, Gujarat at an altitude of around 400 km, orbiting Earth at nearly 28,000 km/h. Using a portable satellite ground station, VU2EXP called CQ on the ISS cross band FM repeater.

Subsequently, successful contacts were made with: VU2KYZ (Ashokbhai, Surat) and VU2AAP (Amar, Hyderabad) with a successful QSO completed on the second attempt

In total, three confirmed two-way contacts were made during the single ISS pass. Despite challenges such as a brief power outage affecting the PA system and the physical complexity of managing microphones, antennas, tracking, logging, and public audio simultaneously, the demonstration concluded successfully and safely.

A detailed video on the event can be viewed on YouTube -
<https://youtu.be/qS1oRCAPbJg?si=FmwJFz-jdXMj-Gv5>

The event ignited curiosity, inspiration, and dreams among thousands of students—transforming space science from textbook theory into a live, unforgettable experience.

The next day, 30th December 2025, an additional experimental live satellite demonstration was conducted for a smaller group of approximately 120 students. This session was aimed at providing a comparative learning experience using a much smaller satellite.



The satellite chosen was HADES-ICM (SO-125), a **PocketCube** satellite. Students were first briefed on the basics of ham radio and satellite communication.

VU2EXP operated using a portable ground station, and after a few calls, a strong downlink signal was received from VU2JEK (OM Nitin, Bangalore)—59, loud and clear. A comfortable QSO and report exchange followed. Despite an excellent overhead pass, no additional stations were copied until LOS.

Congratulations from ARSI :

VU2EXP has been recognized by OMG Books of Records for the “Largest Live Amateur Radio Satellite Demonstration via the International Space Station (ISS)”.

Amateur Radio Society of India Congratulates Rajesh and all those involved on the achievement.

As reported by Rajesh Wagadia, VU2EXP

ARSI Regional Coordinator, Gujarat

During a personal three-day family visit to Nathdwara, Rajasthan, on 23rd January, I had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Kapil Parekh, Academic Director of the prestigious Shrinathji Institute of Technology & Engineering. I briefly discussed the possibility of conducting an awareness session on Amateur Radio and Space Communication for their students.



To my delight, Dr. Parekh warmly welcomed the proposal and immediately arranged a special 45-minute slot with a batch of around 40 B.Tech. students. Making the most of this unexpected opportunity, I conducted an introductory session covering the fundamentals of Amateur Radio, its scientific and experimental aspects, and the exciting prospects of space communication.

The session turned out to be an enriching learning experience for the budding engineers, many of whom were being introduced to the hobby and its applications for the first time. The students showed keen interest and curiosity, and the institute expressed enthusiasm for organizing a more detailed seminar or workshop in the future. At the conclusion of the program, I was felicitated by Prof. Naveen Sir for the presentation. It was truly satisfying to conduct this spontaneous outreach activity and spread awareness about our fascinating scientific hobby. My sincere thanks to AMSAT-INDIA and ARSI for their continued support and encouragement in promoting Amateur Radio and space communication activities.



Reports from ARSI Regional Coordinators – Madhya Pradesh

As reported by Manmohan Bhagat, VU3YBH

ARSI Regional Coordinator, Madhya Pradesh

Advancing Amateur Radio Preparedness in Madhya Pradesh:

A Collaborative Vision of DoT and ARSI

A detailed and constructive discussion was held in Bhopal with Mr. B. P. Vishwakarma, Deputy Director General (DDG), Department of Telecommunications (DoT), and his team, focusing on strengthening the preparedness, outreach, and institutional support for amateur radio operations across Madhya Pradesh. The interaction underscored the growing importance of amateur radio as a national asset for technical education, emergency communication, and community service, while highlighting opportunities for deeper collaboration between the DoT and the Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI).



The discussion emphasized the strategic role of amateur radio in supporting the objectives of the Department of Telecommunications, particularly in capacity building, spectrum awareness, and development of skilled human resources in wireless communication. Amateur radio was recognized as a practical and experiential platform for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, offering hands-on exposure to electronics, radio propagation, antenna design, digital communication modes, and operating ethics. Integrating amateur radio activities into STEM

initiatives can significantly enhance technical literacy and inspire innovation among students and young professionals.

A key outcome of the interaction was the proposal to conduct structured workshops, training programs, and awareness sessions under the guidance of DoT, in partnership with ARSI and local amateur radio clubs. These programs would focus on licensing awareness, examination preparation, operating practices, emerging digital modes, and regulatory compliance, while also familiarizing participants with the role of amateur radio in disaster management and public service communication.

The critical importance of amateur radio during disasters and emergencies was highlighted as a core area of preparedness. In situations where conventional communication infrastructure is disrupted, trained amateur radio operators serve as reliable auxiliary communicators for disaster response agencies and district administrations. Strengthening this capability through coordinated training, simulation exercises, and capacity-building initiatives was identified as a priority aligned with national disaster management frameworks.

The discussion also stressed the need for sustained institutional engagement with educational institutions. Encouraging the formation of amateur radio clubs in schools, colleges, and technical institutes, supported by mentorship from ARSI members and guidance from DoT, was seen as a long-term investment in building a skilled and disciplined amateur radio community. Such initiatives would not only promote technical competence but also instill a strong sense of civic responsibility and service among participants.

The interaction with Mr. B. P. Vishwakarma and the DoT team reaffirmed a shared commitment to strengthening amateur radio as a self-regulated, service-oriented, and technologically progressive community. Through collaborative efforts involving DoT, ARSI, and local amateur radio operators, Madhya Pradesh can emerge as a model of state for integrating amateur radio with education, innovation, and disaster preparedness.

This collective vision reflects the enduring relevance of amateur radio in the evolving telecommunications ecosystem and reinforces its role as a bridge between technology, education, and public service—core values upheld by both the Department of Telecommunications and the Amateur Radio Society of India.

News from Clubs Across India

Delhi Institute of Ham Radio - VU2DHI

As reported by V K Arya VU2VAB



On 17th January 2026, few team members of Delhi Institute of Ham Radio (DIHR-VU2DIH) had the privilege of attending "Meet the Astronaut session" at National Science Centre, featuring Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla. It was an engaging interactive session with students, teachers, and the public.

We, the team from the Delhi Institute of HAM Radio (DIHR), were honored to meet him personally and presented a memento bearing his HAM radio callsign VU2TNI. He warmly appreciated the gesture and took the initiative to highlight the importance of HAM radio in fostering practical learning and developing scientific temperament among students.



Group Captain Shukla delivered an in-depth and fascinating presentation on his recent Axiom-4 mission to ISS sharing real footage of India as seen from space. He beautifully summed up the experience by noting that during his orbits, he travelled 100 meters in space for every Indian, covering crores of kilometers - a thought that filled everyone present with pride and inspiration

HamToons

Cartoons by Ramesh, VU2RMS



ARSI Board Elected for 2025-27

Office	Name	Callsign	Location
President	Ramesh Kumar	VU2LU	Bengaluru
Vice President	Vijay Yadav	VU2YVK	Bengaluru
Secretary	Krishna Kumar	VU2YUU	Bengaluru
Treasurer	Madhukar K R	VU2MUD	Bengaluru
Governing Council Member	Venkatesh S.	VU3IMV	Bengaluru
Governing Council Member	Sreevathsa	VU3SPD	Bengaluru
Governing Council Member	Rajani Mohan	VU2HW	Noida
Governing Council Member	Kesari M T	VU2MTK	Mysore
Governing Council Member	Shankar Prasad	VU2SPK	Mysore

ARSI Nominated Posts for 2025-26

Office	Name	Callsign	Location
Chairman	Gopal Madhavan	VU2GMN	Chennai
Vice President	Vijay Yadav	VU2YVK	Bengaluru
Secretary	Krishna Kumar	VU2YUU	Bengaluru
Treasurer	Madhukar K R	VU2MUD	Bengaluru
Governing Council Member	Venkatesh S.	VU3IMV	Bengaluru
Governing Council Member	Sreevathsa	VU3SPD	Bengaluru
Governing Council Member	Rajani Mohan	VU2HW	Noida
Governing Council Member	Kesari M T	VU2MTK	Mysore
Governing Council Member	Shankar Prasad	VU2SPK	Mysore

ARSI Regional Coordinators

Region	Name	Callsign	Location
Delhi & NCR	Kaustav Saha	VU2UUU	Noida
Gujarat	Rajesh P Vagadia	VU2EXP	Vadodara
Madhya Pradesh	Manmohan Bhagat	VU3YBH	Bhopal
Maharashtra	Vilas Rabde	VU2VPR	Pune
Tamil Nadu	Thiagarajan P	VU2PTR	Chennai

ARSI Institutional Members

Callsign	Institution Name	District	State
VU2IIH	Indian Institute of Hams	Bengaluru	Karnataka
VU2AR	Bangalore Amateur Radio Club	Bengaluru	Karnataka
VU2BK	Mount Abu International Ham Radio Club	Mount Abu	Bhopal
VU2BPA	Mumbai Amateur Radio Institute	Mumbai	Maharashtra
VU2GIN	Amateur Radio Convention & Conference Samity	Kolkata	West Bengal
VU2RD	Mangalore Amateur Radio Club	Mangalore	Karnataka
VU2ECB	Disaster Amateur Radio Emergency Services	Mumbai	Maharashtra
VU2LCI	Lions Club International Amateur Radio Club	Bengaluru	Karnataka
VU2ISL	Dhruva Space Amateur Radio Club	Hyderabad	Telangana
VU2TH	Tripura Ham Radio Club	Agartala West	Tripura
VU2CWN	Club for Radio Operation & Wireless Network	Mumbai	Maharashtra
MARS Amateur Radio Society		Chennai	Tamil Nadu

Important Contact Details

Office	Name	Callsign	Email ID
President	Ramesh Kumar	VU2LU	president@arsi.info
Vice President	Vijay Yadav	VU2YVK	vicepresident@arsi.info
Secretary	Krishna Kumar	VU2YUU	secretary@arsi.info
Treasurer	Madhukar K R	VU2MUD	treasurer@arsi.info
Newsletter Editor	Co-editors VU2LU & VU2MUD		editor@arsi.info
QSL Manager	Ramesh Kumar	VU2LU	qslbureau@arsi.info
Contest Manager	Girish Doss	VU25EE	contests@arsi.info
Sr. Regulatory Advisor	Virendra Arya	VU2VAB	aryavk@hotmail.com
WPC Liaison	Rajani Mohan	VU2HW	wpc-liaison@arsi.info
Monitoring Coordinator	Sanil M. Deep	VU3SIO	monitoring@arsi.info



Amateur Radio Society of India

Registered Office: 635, 6th Main Road, Hanumanth Nagar, Bengaluru, PIN 560019, India

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