

## New Callsign prefixes for Radio Amateurs in India

With effect from 25 June 2025, callsigns with new prefixes are being issued to new Radio amateurs in India as follows:

General Grade: VU21-VU29 series followed by 2 letter suffixes

Restricted Grade: VU31-VU39 series followed by 2 letter suffixes

OM Sandy VU22DX of Goa was the very first one to report receipt of his new callsign (ex VU3FGJ) with the brand new prefix ! Other new prefixes issued recently like callsigns like VU24DX, VU25AK, VU26CT, VU27YN, VU29AR, VU32VV, VU33IG, VU36VS, VU37JD, VU38AP and similar combinations represent a new scheme for issuing callsigns to amateur radio operators in India.

Here's the background:

**Traditional Indian Prefixes:** For a long time, Indian amateur radio operators were primarily issued callsigns beginning with VU2 for General (formerly Advanced and Grade-I) license holders and VU3 for Restricted (formerly Grade-II and Grade-II Restricted) license holders. These were typically followed by two or three alphabets (e.g., VU2TO, VU3LMS).

**Need for Expansion:** As the number of licensed amateur radio operators in India has grown, the pool of available traditional callsign combinations starting with VU2 and VU3 followed by alphabets likely began to dwindle.

**New Numbered Prefixes:** To address this, the Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) Wing of DOT, Ministry of Communications, which is responsible for issuing amateur radio licenses in India, has introduced these new numbering schemes.

**VU21.. to VU29..:** prefixes followed by 2 alphabets. These are now being issued for new General Grade licenses.

**VU31.. to VU39..:** prefixes followed by 2 alphabets. These are now being issued for new Restricted Grade licenses.

**International Context:** Amateur radio callsigns are regulated internationally by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Each country is assigned blocks of prefixes. India's assigned prefix blocks are ATA-AWZ, VTA-VWZ, 8TA-8YZ. While the ITU assigns these broader blocks, the national licencing authority in India viz Wireless Planning & Coordination Wing determines the specific structure and sequence of callsigns within those blocks. The addition of numbers after the initial "VU" and a single digit (like VU2 and VU3) is a method to create more unique identifiers.

It is reported that Echolink and LOTW are having problems to accommodate these new prefixes!

**Continuation of Old Callsigns:** Existing callsigns starting with VU2 and VU3 (followed by alphabets) will continue to be valid. The new system applies to newly issued licenses.

In essence, these new prefixes are a practical measure to accommodate the increasing number of amateur radio enthusiasts in India by expanding the available callsign combinations while still adhering to the country's internationally allocated prefix block (VU).

The list of such new callsigns compiled me (which will be updated regularly) is available in [https://qsl.net/vu2jos/New\\_Calls.htm](https://qsl.net/vu2jos/New_Calls.htm)

**Short profiles of Hams who got licences  
with new prefixes in India  
by Jose Jacob, VU2JOS, National Institute of Amateur Radio  
Hyderabad**

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Dr. Abhijit Rabha, a retired Indian Forest Service officer from Guwahati, Assam, has been granted the General Grade Amateur Radio callsign VU22AR yesterday. This makes him possibly the first operator in Assam and the entire Northeast India to receive a callsign under Ministry of Communications' new callsign block policy implemented in June 2025.

Dr. Rabha has long been active in amateur radio, operating on both HF and VHF bands with his Restricted Grade callsign VU3DUK. His passion for radio began in school with BC band monitoring and grew through his involvement in Citizen Band (CB) radio in Guwahati, where he helped form the CB net "Uronia Mau." He continues efforts to revive CB communication in the region. His love for broadcasting also led him to participate in science and youth programs at All India Radio (AIR) Guwahati during his college years at Cotton College. Congratulations Dr. Rabha VU22AR.



Hearty Congratulations to Hanumantha Rao Kasukarthi from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, on upgrading his Amateur Radio License to General Grade, now operating under the callsign VU22HR (formerly VU3HRL). He is a Programmer in the Training & Placement Cell at R.V.R & J.C. College of Engineering and is active on VHF. His other hobbies include numismatics (Post-Independence Indian coins), notaphily, and philately, particularly themed around Nobel Prize winners and scientists. Wishing him Happy Hamming in his new avatar as VU22HR.



Sandesh Bhat (Handle Sandy) VU22DX, based in Goa, is the first known amateur radio operator in India to receive a callsign with the new prefix series. Formerly VU3FGJ, he transitioned to full-time amateur radio after a successful corporate career. His well-equipped shack features a 22-foot telescopic mast with a custom rotator and solar-powered battery backup. Sandy has made over 30,000 QSOs, worked 162 DXCC countries, and built/tested over 100 antennas. He's active in POTA, QRP, and conducts awareness programs. His other hobbies include robotics, off-roading, overlanding, drones, skydiving, paragliding, paramotoring and drift racing. He is the Convenor of Hamfest India 2025 held in Goa. Always learning, he's committed to emergency communications and staying active on air.



Hearty congratulations to Adersh of Kozhikode, Kerala, on upgrading his Amateur Radio License from Restricted Grade (VU3WEW) to General Grade, with a brand-new and fitting callsign: VU24DX. Adersh is an exceptionally active DXer, well-known for his 24/7 dedication to DXing. His new callsign VU24DX reflects his passion and commitment. So far, he has worked an impressive 311 DXCC entities and has QSLed 303 of them! He is the proud recipient of the 5 Band DXCC Phone Certificate and also has DXCC for all bands from 80 Meters to 6 Meters from the American Radio Relay League. He has also taken part in IOTA DXpeditions. His main radio is a Flex 6600M. Apart from being a passionate ham operator, Adersh is a successful businessman. He is supported by his XYL Prajeena VU3BZV who has also got DXCC and their son Harinand. Wishing Adersh many more rare contacts and successful expeditions in the future. 73 and good DX!



Hearty congratulations to Gaurav Anand of Hyderabad for getting his Amateur licence with the callsign VU25GA. He works with a leading semiconductor company, handling cloud and security infrastructure and travels between Belgaum and Hyderabad regularly. He is a Microsoft Certified Trainer. His other interests include travel and disaster management. The above photo was taken during his visit to VU2BRJ shack.



Hearty congratulations to 18-year-old Chhathu Gond from Prayagraj, originally from Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, on receiving his Amateur Radio License with the callsign VU26CT. A second-year B.A. student, he was inspired by his elder brother Sanjay VU2AQJ, a former ISRO employee. Passionate about amateur satellites and SSTV events, Chhathu is building his ham shack with walkie-talkies, a homebrew Moxon Yagi antenna, dipole, and RTL-SDR for satellite and digital experiments. As the only active Ham in his area apart from his brother, he is eager to learn, connect with the HAM community, and grow his skills. A warm welcome to the amateur radio fraternity, VU26CT.



Hearty congratulations to Renju Gopi of Kozhikode, Kerala for upgrading his Amateur Radio License to General Grade with new callsign VU29AR. His Restricted Grade callsign was VU3TPW. His house and shack is 100% solar powered. He works as office staff in KSRTC and is very active in DXing, IOTA etc. He has got DXCC Phone certificate from American Radio Relay League.



Hearty Congratulations to Krushnarajsinh A. Gohil (Handle: Krish) of Bhavnagar, Gujarat, on upgrading his Amateur Radio License to General Grade with the new callsign VU29IG! Krish received his Restricted Grade licence VU3KYC at the young age of 17. He is currently based in Gandhinagar, pursuing a B.A. in Psychology, and is active on both VHF and HF bands. He is the harmonic of Anopsingh B. Gohil (VU2LCB) and was inspired from an early age by his father's passion and communication skills in ham radio. This long-standing fascination eventually led him to join the fraternity himself. His other hobby is playing Squash. Now proudly operating under his new identity VU29IG, Krish continues his exciting journey in the world of amateur radio!



YL Gourinandhana Sathyadas, a 14-year-old 10th-grade student from Idukki, Kerala, received her Amateur Radio callsign VU32GS a few days back. Inspired by watching police officers use wireless communication as a child, she pursued her interest and became a Ham radio operator. She received training from Mr. Subbu, VU2NSL of the Institute of Amateur Radio in Kerala, with support from her mother, Ginumol K.G. Apart from Ham radio, Gouri is a Police Student Cadet and enjoys collecting stamps and coins. She is now one of the youngest Hams in India. Congratulations, Gouri VU32GS.



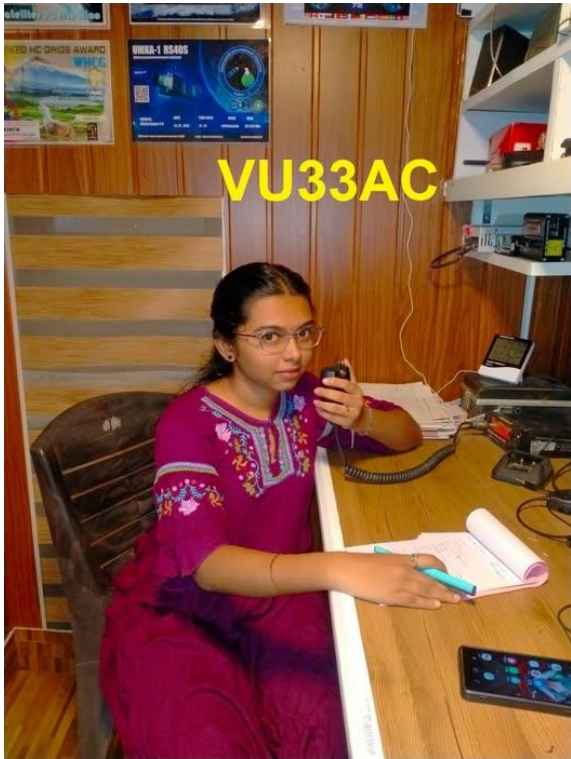
Huge congratulations to Afrinsha from Anthikad, Thrissur Dist., Kerala on receiving his Amateur Radio License with the callsign VU32AB. Aged 17, he is studying in Plus Two class (Biology Science). He is a Rover Scout of Sakthan Thampooran Crew. His Scout Achievements: Rajyapuraskar Scout, Nipun Rover It's inspiring to see young people like him getting involved in Ham Radio Welcome to the Ham Radio fraternity, VU32AB.



Congratulations to Dharmaraj K. from Udumalpet, Tamilnadu on receiving his Amateur Radio Restricted Grade License with callsign VU32DR. A 35 year old businessman with a passion for ham radio since school, he revived his interest last year and with guidance from local hams (VU3EHT, VU2JFF,VU2FFM) successfully became a licensed operator. His other hobbies include biking, car travel and trekking. Welcome to the world of ham radio, Dharmaraj VU32DR.



Hearty congratulations to Dr. Nevin Alexander from Thrissur, Kerala, on receiving his Restricted Grade Amateur Radio Licence with the callsign VU32IA. Originally from Pathanamthitta and introduced to ham radio through by offroading Trivandrum Jeepers Club, Dr. Nevin enjoys learning new skills, playing badminton and volleyball, travelling, offroading, and driving. He is supported by his wife, Dr. Alinta. Welcome to the world of Amateur Radio, Dr. Nevin!



YL Aavani Dileep, a final year student of Civil Engineering from Kottayam, Kerala has received her Amateur Radio License with the callsign VU33AC recently. She got inspiration from her father Dileep VU3WYA to become a Ham. She has started operating on VHF and her other hobbies are journaling, crafting, drawing, cooking etc. Congratulations to Aavani VU33AC.



Hearty congratulations to Uma Shankar of Bengaluru, Karnataka for receiving his Amateur Radio License with the callsign VU33AM. He works as Deputy General Manager – Human Resources, with over a decade of experience in people management, talent strategy, and organizational development. Passionate about HR automation, he is also pursuing a Ph.D. in Human Resources with a focus on the intersection of psychology and recruitment. An avid traveler and trekker, Uma is also the author of the upcoming book “The Recruiter’s Playground”.



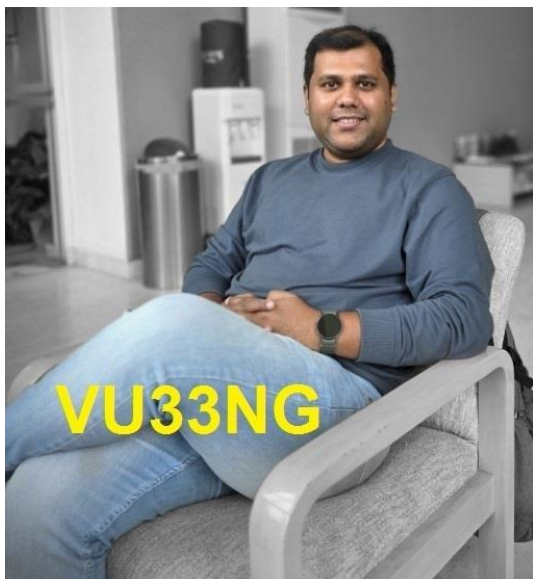
Warm congratulations to Roshan Babu from Kottarakkara, Kerala, on receiving his Amateur Radio License with the callsign VU33BR. Aged 38, Roshan runs a CSC Digital Service Centre. His passion for wireless communication was sparked in childhood—fueled by its use among police personnel and in films. Though he couldn't join the police force or films, his "Dream of Decades" finally came true with this achievement in the world of amateur radio very recently. Roshan is supported by his loving family—his wife and two sons—on this exciting journey into the world of wireless! Welcome to the Ham Radio fraternity, VU33BR !



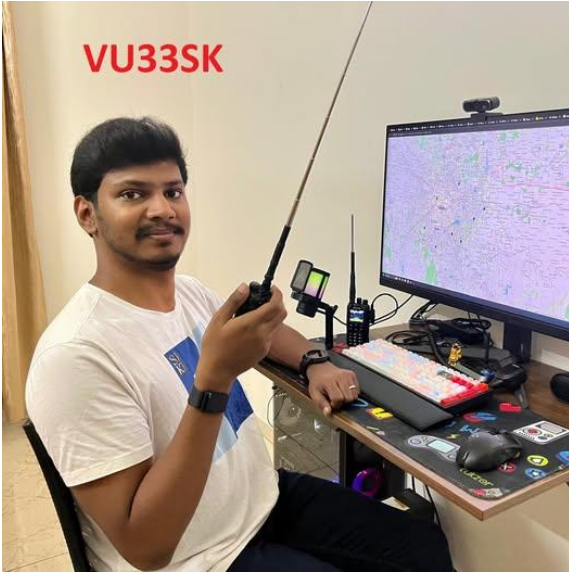
Abhinav R. Nair, a 10th-grade student from Asramam, Kollam, Kerala, received his Amateur Radio License with the callsign VU33IG as a special gift on his 15th birthday today! With this, he joins his ham-licensed family—father Rajesh RK Nair (VU2IDB, Secretary of the Quilon Amateur Radio League), mother Seethal Nair (VU3JES), and sister Meera S. Nair (VU3IDT)—forming a fully licensed and active ham radio family with a well-equipped shack at home. Congratulations to Abhinav VU33IG and his ham family!



Suhas V. from Bengaluru has received his Restricted Grade Amateur Radio Licence with the callsign VU33II very recently. He is a final-year Information Science and Engineering student, inspired by his uncle Dr. S. Sathapal (VU2FI) and family to pursue amateur radio. Suhas thanks the Indian Institute of Hams for their guidance and training. His hobbies include playing games, public speaking, running, and hiking. He looks forward to connecting with others on the Amateur Radio spectrum. Congratulations and best wishes to Suhas VU33II



Nabin Gour, a banker from Kolkata, has recently received his Amateur Radio License with the callsign VU33NG. His interest in communication, space, and radio waves led him to Ham radio and RF signals, where he combines his passions for technology, communication, and discovery. Ham radio allows him to connect with a global community and embrace curiosity and resilience. He currently operates using a QYT KT-8900D mobile transceiver and a Quansheng UV-K5 handheld radio, along with an RTL-SDR for exploring and analyzing radio signals. His Ham radio interests include contacting the International Space Station, exploring satellite passes, decoding signals, learning Software Defined Radio, and monitoring VHF/UHF bands. Nabin works in banking as a credit analyst and enjoys driving, exploring new places, and studying computer networking in his free time. Congratulations to Nabin on his achievement!



Hearty congratulations to Sanoj Kumar for getting his callsign VU33SK. He is the first known VU ham to be active on band with the new prefix series very recently issued by WPC Wing. He is a Bangalore based Red Teamer and Threat Researcher originally from Madurai, Tamilnadu. He specializes in Penetration Testing, Exploit Development, Malware Analysis, and Bug Bounty Hunting. He has been recognized by major companies like Microsoft, Facebook, and Sony for securing their infrastructure. He also runs an Anycast BGP network (ASN 202340) and also holds USA callsign KJ5LPU. His other interests are BGP, AI/ML, Reverse Engineering, Homelab / OSS, and all things DIY. Definitely a remarkable person to be following and a great inspiration for anyone interested in tech, security, and amateur radio!



Hi folks, this is Sanjay from Mysore, Karnataka with callsign VU33SV. I'm a Product Security Engineer working with Honeywell, excited to meet all of you. I'll be pentesting the hardware devices and an IoT fanatic, currently researching the capabilities of RTL-SDR and HackRF.

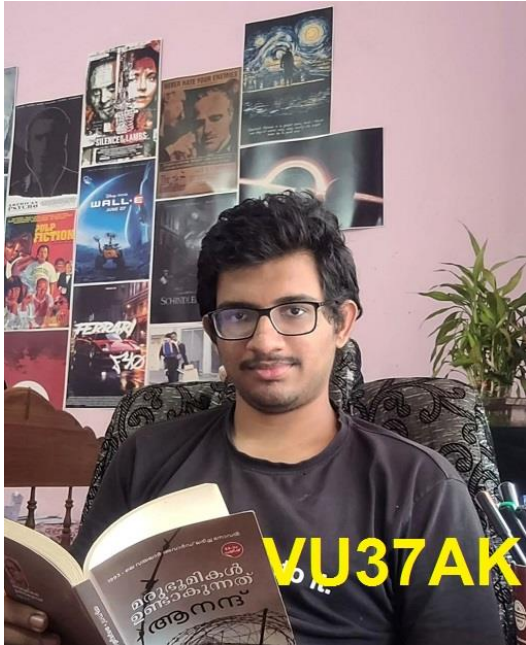
As a lifelong stargazer, dating back to my childhood, I've always been fascinated by observing the ISS and other satellites in the night sky. This hobby has brought me immense joy over the years. Now, with the capability to communicate through these satellites, I'm so happy to take my enthusiasm to the next level and be an active part of this incredible community. Also, my major interests are satellite communications and homebrewing antennas.



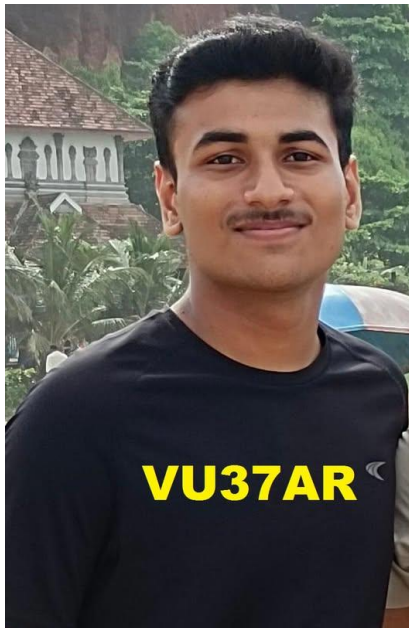
Hearty Congratulations to S. Vijay Prabhakar from Palani, Tamil Nadu, for receiving his Amateur Radio Restricted Grade License with callsign VU33VP. Vijay is passionate about learning new skills and has a YouTube channel, VJ Mixed Creations, which has nearly 1 lakh subscribers. His other hobbies include drawing, traveling, exploring tourist places, shooting videos, gaming, exercising, and practicing yoga. He has won a Gold Medal in a National Yoga Competition and a Silver Medal in State-level competition. Welcome to the wonderful world of Amateur Radio, Vijay!



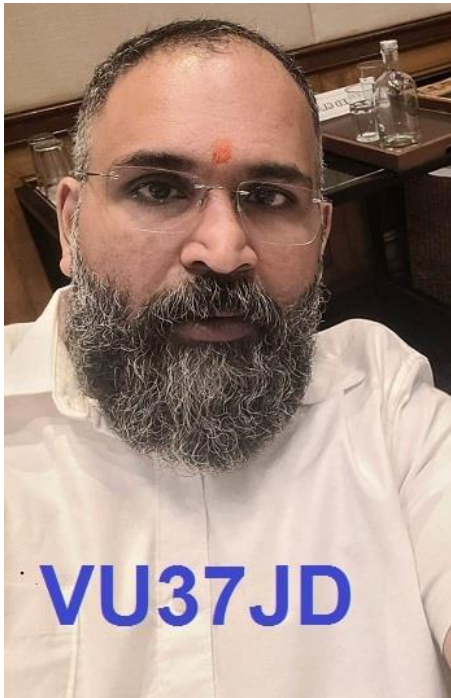
Hearty congratulations to Vishnu C. Sharma of Thrissur, Kerala for receiving his Amateur Radio Restricted Grade Licence yesterday with the callsign VU36VS. He is working as Music Producer in film industry and doing background scores for the films. He was a Rashtrapathi Scout in his childhood days. He was trained by Mr. Subbu, VU2NSL of Institute of Amateur Radio in Kerala . All the best Vishnu VU36VS.



Hearty congratulations to Anandha Krishnan B. from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on receiving his Amateur Radio Restricted Grade License with callsign VU37AK. Currently a final-year MBBS student at Govt Medical College, Anandha has a deep interest in technology, electronics and books. He's also an astrophotographer, cyclist and actively promotes science and scientific thinking among students. Additionally, he conducts health talks for school and college students. Anandha pursued the Ham license to connect with like-minded people in electronics and make friends over the airwaves. The concept of communicating over long distances using homemade equipment truly fascinates him. Welcome to the wonderful world of ham radio, Anandha Krishnan, VU37AK.



Amitabh Krishnan A. from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, is a first-year BSc Artificial Intelligence & Data Analytics student at Bharata Mata College, Kochi. He received his ham radio callsign VU37AR on 25 August 2025, fulfilling a long-time dream. Using a Baofeng UV9R Plus, he made his first contact the same day. Passionate about electronics, he looks forward to upgrading his equipment and connecting with hams worldwide. All the best Amitabh.



Jerry Ramachandran, a lawyer from Bengaluru, has recently received his Amateur Radio Licence with the callsign VU37JD. His interest in radio started in his school days inspired by his father's mention of it which grew during his autocross days when he used walkie talkies for communication. Jerry credits his mentor VU2NSL of Institute of Amateur Radio in Kerala, whom he affectionately calls "Swamy", for guiding him in this field.

A travel enthusiast and a lover of Great Danes, Jerry enjoys classical rock music and has a passion for automobiles. He has competed in several autocross and off-road events. He is also a political analyst and serves as a panelist for debates on Doordarshan TV.

With a deep excitement for Radio, he looks forward to expanding his involvement in Ham Radio.

73

Jose Jacob, VU2JOS  
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