Amateurs in Action

Recounts of ham radio operators who have used their effort and skills to help others in a time of need

Landslide in Kerala

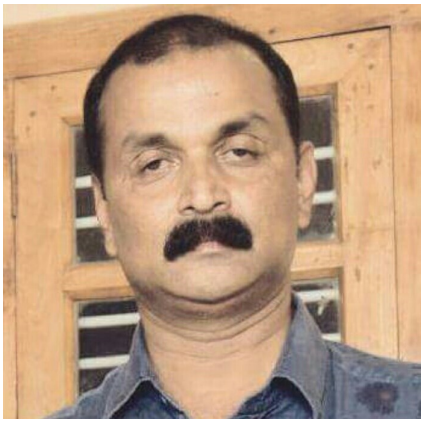


Abraham Jacob VU2OJ

Kerala is a state located on the western shore of the southern tip of India. In the early hours of Tuesday 30 July 2024, a series of landslides took place in Wayanad District (equivalent to a county) of Kerala. The 2024 Wayanad Landslide was one of the deadliest in Kerala history, claiming more than 250 lives. The towns of Chooralmala and Mundakkai, both in Wayanad, were essentially wiped from the map by huge landslides from monsoonal rainfall that saturated the ground and caused hillsides to collapse onto the towns below.

As soon as they learned of the disaster, Sabu Mathew Kadavil VU2ELJ and Abraham Jacob VU2OJ of the Sulthan Bathery DX Association went to work immediately, setting up their stations, and helping a few other hams with theirs. The phone lines were down, so they offered their services to district officials, who accepted their help immediately. This team of ham radio operators was the only way that the affected area and citizens could get any sort of assistance from the outside, and the only way for loved ones to make any contact with each other for assurance.

A later press release credited ham radio operators for establishing crucial communication by delivering important updates to impacted communities and authorities, and the help they provided in the rescue and relief effort. *District Collector Dr. Meghashree reached out to the ham radio operators, and they have been instrumental in keeping the lines of communication open*, read the release. *The situation was dire, with mobile phone services available only to a very limited extent.*



Sabu Mathew Kadavil VU2ELJ

Other ham radio operators in the effort included VU3HBC, VU3MLY, VU3YWT, VU3OYI, VU3AYR, VU2EMR, VU2KNT, VU2MIE, VU3WMU, VU3OJO, VU3FRS, VU2JLE, and VU2SIO. You can read more about amateur radio involvement following the Wayanad, India, landslide disaster on YouTube, another YouTube video, links on Spreaker, and india.com.

