

THE COMMUNITY RADIO MOVEMENT IN INDIA – A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- SUPREME COURT JUDGMENT ON AIRWAVES, 9 FEB 1995

The Supreme Court delivers a historic judgment in *Ministry of Information and Broadcasting v. Cricket Association of Bengal*, which involves the right of a cricket association to give telecast rights to an agency of its choice. The Court rules that, "Airwaves constitute public property and must be utilized for advancing public good."

- BANGALORE DECLARATION, SEPTEMBER 1996

Policy planners, media professionals and CSOs gather in Bangalore in September 1996 to study how community radio could be relevant in India. A 'Bangalore Declaration' is signed, which has formed the basis of advocacy for community radio since then.

- '*KUNJAL PANCHCHI KUTCHJI*', COMMUNITY RADIO PROGRAMME BROADCAST FROM AIR BHUJ, 16 DECEMBER 1999

The thirty minute sponsored programme is produced by KMVS (Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan) in the Kutchi language, and broadcast on Thursdays at 8pm.

- COMMERCIAL FM LICENSING PHASE-1, MAY 2000

108 FM frequencies were licensed in 40 cities. Only 21 commercial FM stations are currently on air, in 12 cities.

- PASTAPUR DECLARATION / INITIATIVE, HYDERABAD & PASTAPUR, ANDHRA PRADESH, 17-20 JULY, 2000

A UNESCO sponsored workshop from July 17-20, 2000 in Hyderabad and Pastapur (Andhra Pradesh) brings out the 'Pastapur Initiative on Community Radio', urging the government to create a three-tier structure of broadcasting in India -- state-owned public radio, private commercial radio, and a non-profit community radio.

- COMMUNITY RADIO MAILING LIST set up, (on CR-India@sarai.net since January 2002). Around 250 members.

- CONSULTATIONS BY INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (IGNOU), NEW DELHI, 8 / 9 AUGUST 2001

While the consultation focuses on the idea of educational radio (Gyan Vani), it reiterates the importance of community radio and suggests that up to 40 per cent of broadcast time on educational radio could be reserved for community programming. It also articulates the need for a cooperative model.

- DECCAN DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (DDS) APPLIES FOR RADIO LICENSE, MACHNOOR VILLAGE, ZAHEERABAD, MEDAK DIST. (ANDHRA PRADESH), 19 AUGUST 2000

- PANCHGANI, DECEMBER 2000

Media and Human Rights workshop organized by Drishti Media Collective and Magic Lantern Foundation as part of a conference on 'Globalization, Social Movements, Human Rights and the Law', where a range of issues pertaining to community radio are debated in the final two days.

- VOICES -MYRADA APPLICATION FOR 'NAMMA DHWANI' COMMUNITY RADIO LICENSE, BUDHIKOTE, KARNATAKA, JUNE 2001

- FIRST PRIVATE COMMERCIAL FM STATION (RADIO CITY) GOES ON AIR, BANGALORE, 3 JULY 2001.

- '*CHALA HO GAON MEIN*' BROADCAST ON AIR DALTONGUNJ (JHARKHAND STATE), 5 AUGUST 2001.

'Chala Ho Gaon Mein' covers Palamau, Garwah and Latehar districts in Jharkhand State, and some of the bordering regions in Chattisgarh, Bihar and UP. It is initially broadcast through FM band of AIR, Daltonganj every Sunday from 7:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. The frequency is increased to two episodes a week (Sunday and Wednesday) from 1 May 2003.

- INAUGURATION OF 'NAMMA DHWANI' COMMUNITY AUDIO PRODUCTION CENTRE IN BUDHIKOTE, KARNATAKA, 21 SEPTEMBER 2001.

- COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTRE INAUGURATED AT PASTAPUR, ANDHRA PRADESH, OCTOBER 2001.

- INTERNET CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY RADIO, 30 NOV 2001 TO 10 FEB 2002

A media-watch website, <http://www.thehoot.org>, carries out an 'Internet Conference on Community Radio in India'. (Edited proceedings are available on the website)

- LOUD-SPEAKER NARROWCASTING IN BUDHIKOTE, KARNATAKA, JANUARY 2002

Every Tuesday evening for about an hour, the Namma Dhwani programme is transmitted over a loudspeaker as part of the village santhe/mandi (market) place just outside the production centre. Information about goods being sold and crop prices are included in the "narrowcasts", along with social messages and even birthday greetings.

· DDS APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY RADIO LICENSE TURNED DOWN BY GOVERNMENT, 11 JANUARY 2002

· INDIA'S FIRST VILLAGE FM BROADCAST, ORAVAKAL (ANDHRA PRADESH), MARCH 2002

· SCHOOL AUDIO STARTS IN BUDHIKOTE, KARNATAKA, MAY 2002

· FORMAL INAUGURATION OF ORAVAKAL COMMUNITY RADIO, 2 OCTOBER 2002

· CAMPUS/COMMUNITY RADIO GUIDELINES, DECEMBER 2002

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting releases 'Community Radio Guidelines' in December 2002, which restricts community radio licenses to 'well-established' educational institutions. News and Current Affairs programmes and advertisements are banned. Transmitter power up to 50 watts is permitted, with antenna height of 30 metres. *(Note: Anna University 90.4 FM becomes first campus radio station to be launched in India, on 1 Feb 2004. About 30 campus radio licenses were issued under this scheme by 2007. Campus Radio licenses are currently issued under the new CR Guidelines).*

· SEIZURE OF EQUIPMENT, COMMUNITY RADIO, ORAVAKAL, 17 FEBRUARY 2003

The Oravkal Community Radio station was held to be in violation of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (operating a radio transmitter without a license) and shut down. No charges are pressed.

· UNDP SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS ON ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT, 2003

- (i) WORKING GROUP CONSULTATION ON ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, BANGALORE, 11 – 12 MARCH 2003
- (ii) CONSULTATION ON ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CROSS MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS, INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, NEW DELHI, 27 - 28 MAY 2003
- (iii) CONSULTATION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, ICT AND CROSS MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS - THE EMPOWERMENT AGENDA, FORT AGUADA BEACH RESORT, GOA, 15-16 DECEMBER 2003

· 'NAMMA DHWANI' STARTS CABLECASTING IN BUDHIKOTE, KARNATAKA, 28 MARCH 2003

· RADIO BROADCAST POLICY COMMITTEE (AMIT MITRA COMMITTEE), 24 JULY 2003.

An Expert Committee (headed by Dr. Amit Mitra, Secy. General, FICCI) is set up to make recommendations for Phase-II of private FM licensing. Seventy new cities are identified for commercial FM licensing in Phase-II.

- AMIT MITRA (RADIO BROADCAST POLICY) COMMITTEE REPORT, NOVEMBER 2003

The Radio Broadcast Policy Committee report recommends a 'revenue share' model for Phase-II of FM licensing. Also recommends News & Current Affairs on commercial FM.

- TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (TRAI) BECOMES BROADCAST REGULATOR, 9 JAN 2004

- ANNA CR IS FIRST CAMPUS RADIO STATION IN INDIA – 1 FEB 2004

Anna University's campus-based community radio station, Anna CR 90.4 becomes the first campus radio station to be launched in India under the 2002 CR Guidelines. The CR station is inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, J Jayalalitha and headed by the founder-director Dr. R Sreedher. Anna CR operates out of the Adyar Campus of Anna University in Chennai as part of its Electronic Multimedia Research Centre (EMMRC).

- AMIT MITRA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS SENT TO TRAI, 12 FEB, 2004

- MANIPAL COLLOQUIUM ON 'REDISCOVERING RADIO', 16-18 MARCH 2004

Many of the recommendations made at the Manipal Colloquium form the basis for subsequent Community Radio discussions, and a 'consensus document' is circulated during the I&B Ministry's workshop on an enabling framework for CR in May 2004, New Delhi (*see below*).

- TRAI CONSULTATION PAPER ON 2ND PHASE OF FM LICENSING – 14 APRIL 2004

- WORKSHOP ON 'DESIGNING AN ENABLING FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNITY RADIO' ORGANIZED BY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING, NEW DELHI, 5 & 6 MAY 2004

Jointly organized by the I&B Ministry, UNDP and UNESCO, the workshop brings together over 70 stake-holders, experts, donor agencies, media-persons and broadcasters to give their recommendations on Community Radio in India. A draft Community Radio Policy is drawn up by the Ministry, based on the recommendations of the Workshop.

- TRAI OPEN HOUSE DISCUSSIONS ON PHASE-II OF FM LICENSING, 7, 11 &

15 MAY 2004.

Community Radio groups take part and demand their right to be heard. TRAI promises a separate consultation for Community Radio.

· COMMUNITY NARROWCASTING, UTTARANCHAL, MAY 2004

Since May 2004, five community radio groups - four in Garhwal and one in Kumaon – have been ‘narrowcasting’ in Uttaranchal state, using basic equipment like a double cassette player. The groups, like Henvanvani CR, Mandakini ki Awaz, Pradeep Community Radio, Raibar CR, etc., operate with the assistance of Himalaya Trust, an NGO based in Dehra Dun with support from UNESCO. Later, 7 more groups are initiated community radio in different parts of Uttaranchal. (*Note: Henvan Vani CR has applied for a CR license through an associated NGO, Aastha. Mandakini ki Awaz applies for CR license after completing three years of registration*).

· WEBSITE - ‘WWW.COMMUNITYRADIONETWORK.ORG’ - SET UP IN JUNE 2004 (*The website still exists, but is not being updated*).

· LOUD-SPEAKER NARROWCASTING STARTS IN AB COLONY (DALIT COLONY) NEAR BUDHIKOTE, AUGUST 2004

· TRAI RECOMMENDATIONS ON PHASE-II OF FM LICENSING, 11 AUGUST 2004.

· TRAI CONSULTATION PAPER ON COMMUNITY RADIO, 25 AUGUST 2004

· TRAI OPEN HOUSE DISCUSSIONS ON COMMUNITY RADIO – 18 & 20 OCTOBER 2004

· VOICES-MYRADA RENEWED LICENSE APPLICATION FOR ‘NAMMA DHWANI’ BASED ON COMMUNITY (CAMPUS) RADIO GUIDELINES, 18 NOVEMBER 2004

· ‘PECHUWALI MAN KE SWAR’ (THE VOICES OF THE MARGINALIZED), AIR RANCHI, JHARKHAND - 31 OCTOBER 2004

Charkha, a development communications NGO, launches community radio program in the Angada Block in Ranchi, Jharkhand. ‘Pechuwali Man Ke Swar’ (The Voices of the Marginalized) a 30 minute magazine programme in the local dialect – Panch Parganiya - is broadcast every Sunday at 6.30pm from All India Radio, Ranchi.

· PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON COMMUNITY RADIO – 23 NOV 2004

· TRAI RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMMUNITY RADIO – 9 DEC 2004

TRAI recommends liberal eligibility criteria, with the possibility of any legal entity, (including individuals and religious groups) being allowed to apply for a community radio license. Recommends that news & current affairs programmes may be permitted on community radio. 5 minutes of advertisements to be permitted per hour of broadcast. (www.trai.gov.in).

- 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUPREME COURT JUDGMENT ON AIRWAVES – 9 FEB 2005

- CABINET NOTE ON COMMUNITY RADIO POLICY SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL – 6 OCT 2005

- CABINET REFERS COMMUNITY RADIO POLICY TO GROUP OF MINISTERS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS – 6 OCT 2005

- GROUP OF MINISTERS APPROVES COMMUNITY RADIO POLICY – 20 SEPT 2006

The GoM approves the draft CR Policy after including State Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutions / Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the list of eligible applicants.

- CABINET APPROVES COMMUNITY RADIO POLICY – 16 NOVEMBER 2006

The new CR Policy opens up community radio to ‘non-profit’ organizations like civil society and voluntary groups, registered societies, autonomous bodies and public trusts registered under Societies Act etc. News is not permitted on CR, but advertising is allowed.

- NEW COMMUNITY RADIO POLICY PUBLISHED – 4 DECEMBER 2006

- COMMUNITY RADIO FORUM ANNOUNCED – 1 FEBRUARY 2007

The Community Radio Forum is the representative body of community radio broadcasters in India.

On 30 Jan 2007, about 20 organizations meet in Delhi (OneWorld South Asia), to discuss the formation of an association of community broadcasters and activists – the CR Forum. This meeting is followed by a two-day CR awareness workshop attended by more than a hundred participants. On 1 Feb 2007, a proposal to form CRF is announced and ratified by the house. The house appoints K Stalin as the Convener of the CR Forum.

- NATIONAL CONSULTATION FOR CR OPERATORS, 6 & 7 MARCH 2007

- REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON CR IN PASTAPUR, BANGALORE, CHENNAI, SHILLONG, AHMEDABAD, DHARAMSALA, DEHRADUN, JHARKHAND, DAHANU, LUCKNOW etc – 2007

- NOMAD'S TRANSMITTER CERTIFIED BY TELECOM MINISTRY – 18 OCT 2007

In 2007, Nomad develops a low cost FM transmitter for use by community radio. The transmitter is the product of “a community driven process of research, development and production in the GNU perspective.” On 5 Oct 2007, the Electronic Regional Test Laboratory under the Union Ministry of Communications and Information Technology undertakes testing of Nomad transmitter, named NIN100, to check its compliance with ITU-R standards. On October 18, 2007 the laboratory issues a Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification to NIN100.

- 2ND ANNUAL MEETING OF COMMUNITY RADIO FORUM, BANGALORE – 2 FEB 2008

- COMMUNITY RADIO FORUM, INDIA REGISTERED ON 26 FEBRUARY 2008.

The Community Radio Forum, India (CRF) is registered as the representative body of community radio groups in India under Societies Act, Registration No: Guj/13459/Ahmedabad and under Public Charitable Trust Act, Registration No: F/13320/Ahmedabad

- BANGLADESH NOTIFIES COMMUNITY RADIO INSTALLATION, BROADCAST AND OPERATION POLICY 2008 ON 12 MARCH 2008.

The Bangladesh CR Policy is substantially based on the Indian policy.

- FIRST CR WIRELESS OPERATING LICENSE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION – 26 JUNE 2008

Mann Vikas Samajik Sansthan (MVSS), founded by Chetna Gala Sinha, becomes first civil society applicant to get a Wireless Operating License for running a CR Station, in Satara (Maharashtra). Their application was sent for clearance on 9.5.2007 and their LoI was issued on 8.11.07. MVSS signed a Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA) with I&B Ministry on 20.6.2008.

- FIRST COMMUNITY RADIO STATION IN INDIA STARTS BROADCASTING. SANGHAM RADIO LAUNCHED IN PASTAPUR, ANDHRA PRADESH ON 15 OCTOBER 2008

Sangham Radio 90.4 MHz is inaugurated at 11am on 15 October 2008 (International Day of Rural Women) by Justice PB Sawant, who had delivered the historic Supreme Court ‘Airwaves judgment’ on 9 Feb 1995. The Wireless Operating License was issued to

Deccan Development Society on 8 October 2008. Sangham Radio is run by 'General' Narsamma and Algole Narsamma with the help of 12 rural reporters. The station broadcasts for about one and a half hours in the morning (7am onwards), with a repeat in the evening. The station is located in the DDS 'Green School' campus in Pastapur village, Zaheerabad Mandal, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh, some 105 kilometres from Hyderabad.

. RADIO BUNDELKHAND 90.4 OF SOCIETY FOR DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES (DA) LAUNCHED IN ORCHHA, MADHYA PRADESH – 23 OCTOBER 2008.

Development Alternatives, a Delhi based NGO, receives its Wireless Operating License on 31 July 2008 (for a Nomad 50 Watt FM transmitter, NIN100) and begins test transmissions on 15 August. The CR station is launched on 23 October. The station is located in the NGO's Taragram campus, Orchha, Bundelkhand (Tikamgarh District, Madhyapradesh), some 12 kilometres from Jhansi. The station is inaugurated by a community worker, Prabha (Devi?) on 23 October 2008 at 11.35am. The station broadcasts on 90.4 MHz, from 10am to 12 noon, with a repeat from 4pm to 6pm.

. 'NAMMA DHWANI', BUDIKOTE VILLAGE, KOLAR DISTRICT, KARNATAKA RECEIVES WIRELESS OPERATING LICENSE (WOL) – 16 DECEMBER 2008

MYRADA receives WOL on 16 December 2008 for its community radio station, "Namma Dhwani", in Budikote Village, Kolar District, Karnataka. Namma Dhwani has a long history of cable radio, loudspeaker narrowcast and school radio. Since 2003-4, Namma Dhwani has made 90 minutes of programmes on a daily basis, and has an extensive database of programmes.

. FIRST CR WIRELESS OPERATING LICENSE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION IN SATARA, MAHARASHTRA – 26 JUNE 2008

Mann Vikas Samajik Sansthan (MVSS), founded by Chetna Gala Sinha, becomes first civil society applicant to get a Wireless Operating License for running a CR Station, in Satara (Maharashtra). Their application was sent for clearance on 9 May 2007 and their LoI was issued on 8 Nov 2007. MVSS signs a Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA) with I&B Ministry on 20 June 2008 and the community radio station, Manndeshi Tarang Vahini 90.4 is launched in Mhaswad, Mann Taluka, Satara District, Maharashtra on 17 November 2008.

. DHAN FOUNDATION SIGNS GOPA FOR 'KALANJIAM COMMUNITY RADIO', NAGAPATTINAM, TAMIL NADU – 5 FEBRUARY 2009

DHAN Foundation, Madurai, signs Grant Of Permission Agreement (GOPA) to establish, maintain and operate a Community Radio Station at Nagapattinam, Tamilnadu. The Community Radio Station is expected to be operational within three months as per the agreement. DHAN Foundation, Madurai is a Non Governmental Organization. The

Kalanjiam Community Radio Station will be established at Village-Vizhunthamavadi, Block-Keelaiyur, Distt-Nagapattinam, Tamilnadu.

. COMMUNITY RADIO FORUM HOLDS 3RD ANNUAL MEETING IN ORCHHA, MADHYA PRADESH – 13-14 FEBRUARY 2009

Community Radio Forum of India, the association CR broadcasters and enthusiasts, held its 3rd annual meeting in TARAGraam, the campus of Development Alternatives in Orchha, Madhya Pradesh, on 13 & 14 February. In the meeting of the core members of the Forum on 13 Feb, it was confirmed that Drshti (Ahmedabad) would no longer continue as the Forum Secretariat, and that the Secretariat would be shifted to Delhi. A membership drive was conducted at the Forum meeting, and about 25 of the participants applied for CRF membership.

. INDIAN SOCIETY FOR AGRIBUSINESS PROFESSIONALS (ISAP) SIGNS GOPA – 25 FEBRUARY 2009

Indian Society for Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP), a Delhi-based Section 25 company signs Grant of Permission Agreement on 25th February 2009 for setting up a CRS at Sironj Tehsil, Vidisha District, Madhya Pradesh. ISAP is a professional, “not for profit” organisation with a wide network of agriculture & allied sector professionals in India and the SAARC countries. It has 15,000 members, including 1500 Agri-Experts, about 1700 Disseminators, 900 Partner NGOs, more than 1000 Researchers, and a large number of Agriculture Journalists amongst others.

. SMART, NEW DELHI, SIGNS GOPA FOR CR STATION AT NUH, MEWAT, HARYANA – 19 MARCH 2009

Seeking Modern Application for Real Transformation (SMART), New Delhi is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) engaged in the processes development of communities through Information and Communication Technologies as a development tool. SMART believes in promoting community radio as a catalyst in the development of rural and under privileged urban communities particularly women.

. SOCIAL WORKS AND RESEARCH CENTRE, (BAREFOOT COLLEGE) TILONIA, (AJMER) RAJASTHAN SIGNS GOPA – 19 MAY 2009

Tilonia is a tiny village of about 2000 inhabitants situated 400 miles south-west of New-Delhi. It is best known for the success of its grassroots empowerment movement spearheaded by the Social Works and Research Centre (popularly known as The Barefoot College). Tilonia’s CRS GOPA is the 45th in the country. The programmes broadcast from this station will focus on issues concerning health, education, employment generation, rainwater harvesting, environmental matters and agriculture programmes for the rural community.

. WAYANAD SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY, MANANTHVADY, WAYANAD,
KERALA SIGNS GOPA – 8 JUNE 2009

Wayanad Social Service Society, Mananthvady, Wayanad, Kerala signs GOPA for its CR service in Mananthvady, named 'Community Radio Mattoli'.

Wayanad Social Service Society was established in 1974, to establish and maintain Social Welfare Centre, Social Training Centres, Technical Schools, Social Institutes, Dispensaries, Hospitals, Clubs, Recreational centers, Reading Rooms, to give practical and technical Knowledge to the people and to conduct cooperative societies, Marketing organizations, Housing Projects, Plantation, Animal Husbandry, Agricultural Development and training projects, and other activities conducive to the realization of the objectives.

. FIRST PILOT OF 'GRINS' SOFTWARE AT RADIO BUNDELKHAND BY GRAM
VAANI, 23 AUG 2009

Gram Vaani builds innovative communication technologies to for poor and marginalized communities. With a seed grant from Knight Foundation (USA) and incubated at IIT Delhi, Gram Vaani begins the development of an open-source radio automation system called GRINS in Jan 2009. The first pilot of GRINS software runs at Radio Bundelkhand, Orchha, towards the end of Aug 2009. By 18 Feb 2012, GRINS completes 25 installations in India and Africa.

. DATAMATION FOUNDATION CHARITABLE TRUST RECEIVES LETTER OF
INTENT – 24 AUGUST 2009

Datamation Foundation is the first NGO to receive an LoI for a CR station in New Delhi. The CR station will come up in Seelampur, New Delhi.

. 'PARD VAANOLI' COMMUNITY RADIO STATION LAUNCHED IN MADURAI
– 8 SEPTEMBER 2009

'PARD Vanoli', the community radio station licensed to PARD Madurai was officially inaugurated on 08.09.2009. The District Collector officially launched the Community Radio Station. Dr.G.Nammalvar, Natural Scientist, declared opened the Recording Room and Dr.Sundara Aavudaiyappan, Programme Executive, AIR, Madurai Radio declared open the Broadcasting Room.

. DAVP (I&B MINISTRY) ANNOUNCES Re.1 PER SEC AD RATE FOR CR, 4 NOV
2009

I&B Ministry order finalizing DAVP advertising rates for community radio stations at Re. 1/- per second is issued on 4 Nov 2009. The guidelines allow community radio stations to seek advertisements/ sponsored programmes from the central and state governments and other organizations. To be eligible for DAVP empanelment, CRS should have completed three

months of continuous operation for a minimum of two hours of broadcasting per day.
(*Empanelment begins in Feb 2011*)

. 'GURGAON KI AWAAZ' LAUNCHED IN GURGAON, DELHI NCR – 19
NOVEMBER 2009

Gurgaon ki Awaaz got its LoI in July 2008, signed their GOPA in August 2009 and started broadcasting on November 19, 2009. They are the first (and so far, only) civil-society-led community radio station in the National Capital Region of Delhi. Gurgaon ki Awaaz broadcasts 24X7, in Hindi and Haryanvi.

. 'RADIO NAMASKAR' IS FIRST COMMUNITY RADIO STATION IN ODISHA –
12 FEB 2010

Radio Namaskar, launched on 12 Feb 2010, is licensed to Young India, a civil society organization. It broadcasts from Konark in Puri, Odisha (Orissa) State.

. 1ST ELECTIONS – COMMUNITY RADIO FORUM, 19 FEB 2010

Elections were held to the Governing Board of the Community Radio Forum of India on 19 February 2010, at the annual general body meet held in Bangalore. The following CRF members were elected to the Board: Dr. Vinod Pavarala; Sajan Venniyoor; N Ramakrishnan; Mitu Varma; Ashish Sen; Hemant Babu; Aligole Narsamma; Nagaraj. The following additional members were co-opted to the Board: Kutch Mahila Vikas Sanghatan, Gurgaon Ki Awaz, Heval Vani and Radio Bundelkhand.

The office bearers of the CRF Executive Committee were: Dr. Vinod Pavarala, President; Sajan Venniyoor, General Secretary; Mitu Varma; Vice-President; N Ramakrishnan, Treasurer.

. 'KUMAON VANI' COMES UP IN UTTARAKHAND – 11 MARCH 2010

Kumaon Vani CR is licensed to The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and broadcasts from TERI's Trisha Farm in Supi village, Mukteshwar, Ramgarh Block, Nainital in the State of Uttarakhand. It's the first community radio station in Uttarakhand and believed to be the first CR station in India that runs entirely on solar power.

. 'TASHI DELEK' TIBETAN COMMUNITY RADIO INAUGURATED BY DALAI
LAMA IN DHARAMSALA – 1 JUNE 2010

Licensed to the Tibetan Children's Village School in Dharamsala, Kangra (Himachal Pradesh), Tashi Delek 90.4 FM is believed to be the first licensed community radio station in the Indian Himalayan Region. Tashi Delek broadcasts from the Tibetan Children's Village (TCV) in Dharamsala, serving the Tibetan, Indian and expatriate communities of the region with music and local information.

. 'RADIO MEWAT' GOES ON AIR IN NUH – 1 SEPT 2010

Radio Mewat, set up by SMART (NGO) goes on air in Nuh, district headquarters of Mewat, Haryana. SMART promotes radio as a catalyst in the development of rural and under privileged urban communities, particularly women.

. 'LALIT LOKVANI' LAUNCHED IN ALAPUR, BIRDHA BLOCK, LALITPUR DISTRICT, UTTAR PRADESH– 3 SEPTEMBER 2010

'Lalit Lokwani' went on air in Alapur, Birdha Block, Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP) state, India on 3 Sept 2010. Licensed to Sai Jyoti, a Lalitpur based NGO and supported by UNICEF, the region's first radio station was jointly put on air by Ranvir Yadav, District Magistrate (DM Lalitpur), Jugal Kishore, Jt. Director Bharatendu Natak Academi UP and Rajeshwari Chandrashekar, Programme Manager, UNICEF Lucknow.

. 'RADIO DHARKAN' LAUNCHED IN SHIVPURI, MADHYA PRADESH – 9 OCTOBER 2010

Radio Dharkan, licensed to 'Sambhav' (NGO) and supported by UNICEF was launched on 9 Oct 2010 by Shivpuri District Collector Raj Kumar Pathak. Champa Adivasi's voice was the first to go on air, on FM frequency 107.8 MHz, the frequency of Radio Dharkan.

. 'JNAN TARANGA', FIRST CAMPUS-BASED COMMUNITY RADIO IN THE NORTH EAST – 20 NOVEMBER 2010

Jnan Taranga 90.8 MHz is licensed to the Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University and broadcasts from Guwahati, Assam.

. 'LOKOBETAR' COMMUNITY RADIO BEGINS TEST TRANSMISSION IN BANGLADESH – 27 MAY 2011

Lokobetar, one of 14 community radio stations licensed in Bangladesh under its 2008 CR policy, begins transmission in the district town of Barguna. Lokobetar is licensed to Mass-Line Media Centre (MMC), a development organisation, and is set up with financial and technical support from UNESCO. The CR station, which broadcasts on 99.2 MHz frequency, can be heard within a 17 kilometers radius of Barguna town and serves a population of 12 lakh people.

. COMMUNITY RADIO FACILITATION CENTRE SET UP BY CEMCA – 15 JULY 2011

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) sets up a CR Facilitation Centre (CCFC) on 15 July 2011. The Facilitation Centre undertakes a range of activities to facilitate both new applicants as well as functioning CR Stations which include online application processes, post-LOI (Letter of Intent) procedures like Frequency Allocation

and SACFA clearance, Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA) and WOL (Wireless Operating License) Clearances. CCFC is supported by Ford Foundation.

. COMMUNITY RADIO ASSOCIATION (CRA) LAUNCHED, AUGUST 2011

CRA is formed on the sidelines of First National Community Radio Sammelan in April 2011, where over 55 delegates from various parts of India sign the [Delhi Declaration](#) expressing their resolve to join hands and strengthen the Community Radio movement in the country. CRA is registered in August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act. Membership of CRA is open to all functional Community Radio Stations in the country, as well as GOPA holders. The Association has 6 chapters - North, South, East, West, Central and Northeast.

Elections to the Governing Body of CRA takes place on 19 Feb 2012, and the current (March 2012-Feb 2014) office bearers of CRA are Dr. Kandarapa Das, President; Virender Singh Chauhan, General Secretary and Archana Kapoor, Treasurer.

. 'RADIO PADMA' BECOMES FIRST COMMUNITY RADIO STATION IN BANGLADESH – 7 OCTOBER 2011

At 6.30pm on 7 Oct 2011, the Minister for Information & Culture of Bangladesh, Abul Kalam Azad, inaugurates Radio Padma by handing over the CR license to the station Coordinator, G.M. Martuza. Radio Padma is the first community radio station officially to go on air in Bangladesh.

Radio Padma is licensed to the Centre for Communication and Development (CCD) and is located in Rajshahi, Bangladesh. It broadcasts on 99.2 MHz frequency.

. 'RADIO SHARDA', FIRST CR STATION IN JAMMU & KASHMIR INAUGURATED – 6 DEC 2011

Radio Sharda, which broadcasts in Kashmiri and Hindustani on 90.4 MHz in Jammu (Buta Nagar), is billed as “a community radio for the displaced people of Kashmir”. It is licensed to Pir Panchal, a CESES organization.

. BECIL DEMONSTRATES 50W TRANSMITTER FOR CR AT JAMMU – 9 DEC 2011

Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd., a public sector enterprise under the I&B Ministry, demonstrates its new 50 watt transmitter for community radio stations at CR awareness workshop in University of Jammu, J&K, 9 Dec 2011.

. COMMUNITY RADIO STATUS, 1 FEB 2012

1. Licence Applications received from 2004 to 01.02.2012 (including 104 under old guidelines): 991

2. Letters of Intent (LOI) issued: 363
3. Grant of Permission of Agreement (GOPA) signed: 161
4. Operational Community Radio Stations: 126
5. Number of applications rejected: 361
6. Applications under process: 267

(I&B Ministry update)

The list and details of operational CR stations are available in "[COMPENDIUM 2011 – Community Radio Stations in India](#)" released by I&B Ministry.

. UNESCO CHAIR ON COMMUNITY MEDIA, 6 FEB 2012

Prof. Vinod Pavarala, Dean, Sarojini Naidu School of Arts & Communication, University of Hyderabad becomes first UNESCO Chair on Community Media. The Chair serves as a knowledge and resource centre for the study and promotion of community media.

. DAVP INCREASES AD RATES FOR CR FROM Re.1 TO Rs.4, 18 Feb 2012

The Secretary, I&B Ministry announces the increase of DAVP ad rates for CR from Re.1 per sec to Rs.4 per sec while inaugurating the Second National Community Radio Sammelan, 18 – 20 Feb, 2010. The Rate Revision Committee headed by Brahmanand Brahma, Economic Adviser to the Information & Broadcasting Ministry recommends the hike in ad rates for CR following I&B Minister, Ms. Ambika Soni's 2011 assurance.

. FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNITY RADIO AWARDS, 18 FEB 2012

To encourage better programming and competition among Community Radio Stations, I&B Ministry gives away National Community Radio Awards in five categories. Cash prizes of Rs.50,000, Rs.30,000 and Rs.20,000 are given away in each category.

The awardees are:

1. Thematic Award: Radio Namaskar, Konark; CMS CR, Gomati Nagar; Radio Active CR, Bangalore
2. Community Engagement Award: Radio Namaskar, Konark; CR Benzigar, Kollam; Kalpakam CR, Kalpakam
3. Promoting Local Culture Award: Radio 7, Jaipur; Radio Sarang, Mangalore; Gurgoan Awaaz, Gurgoan
4. Most Creative /Innovative Programme Content Award: PGP CR, Namakkal; Rudino CR, Ahmedabad; Radio JU, Kolkata
5. Sustainability Model Award: Radio Mewat, Nuh (Haryana).

. 2ND ELECTIONS – COMMUNITY RADIO FORUM, 21 FEB 2012

Elections are held to the Governing Board of the Community Radio Forum of India on 21 February 2012, at the annual general body meet held in New Delhi. The following CRF

members are elected to the Board: Stalin K, Ram Nath Bhat; N Ramakrishnan; Ms. Arti Jaiman; Debarun Dutta; Vasuki Belavadi; Anujaa Shukla; Hemant Babu.

The office bearers of CRF Executive Committee are: Stalin K- President; Ram Nath Bhat- Vice President; N Ramakrishnan- General Secretary; Arti Jaiman- Treasurer.

. HENVAL VANI GOES ON AIR IN CHAMBA, UTTARAKHAND – 2 MAR 2012

Henval Vani, one of several community radio groups in Uttarakhand that began narrowcasting in 2004, begins test transmissions in Chamba, Garhwal. Henval Vani is partly supported by UNESCO.

. ‘RADIO UJJAS’ (KMVS) GOES ON AIR IN KUTCH, GUJARAT – 10 MAR 2012

Radio Ujjas is probably the first community radio station close to India’s international borders. It began its test transmission at around 6.30pm on 10 Mar 2012. Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan has been broadcasting its flagship Kutchi language programme, *‘Kunjan Panchchi Kutchji’* from AIR Bhuj since 16 Dec 1999.

Radio Ujjas, promoted by KMVS, is located in Bhimsar village in Nakhatrana Taluk, Kutch District of Gujarat, close to the Pakistan border. They applied for a CR license in 2007.