

MINUTES OF 8th CRA Executive Committee Meeting

Organization: Community Radio Association (CRA)

Date: 16th September 2024

Time: 2:00 PM

Venue: Virtual Meeting (Online)

Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

A quorum was established with 13 members present, while the other members were absent.

S.No.	Name of Person	Designation
Members Present for the Meeting:		
1	Dr. Hari Vinayak Kulkarni	President
2	Mr.Jitender Sharma	Secretary General
3	Mr.M S H Beg	Treasurer
4	Ms.Sangya Tandon	Vice President Central
5	Mr.Sandeep Parmar	Vice President North
6	Dr. S Chandrasekar	Vice President South
7	Mr.Pahal Man Rai	Vice President North East
8	Mr.Paresh Kumar Patel	Vice President West
9	Mr.Shivashankaraswamy	Joint Secretary
10	Mr. Manish	EC Member
11	Mr.Jagdishwar Yadav	EC Member
12	Dr. Shivaraj Shastri Herur	EC Member
13	Mr.Parshuram Srivastava	EC Member
Leave of Absence		
1	Ms.Gurjeet Kaur Chawla	Joint Secretary
Absentees		

1	Dr. Sugandha Shrotriya	EC Member
2	Ms.Nidhi Sharma	EC Member
3	Ms. Gayatri Mhaske	Joint Secretary
4	Dr. Sangeeta Kokoty	EC Member
5	Ms. Aarti Devi	EC Member
6	Ms. Barsha Chabaria	EC Member
7	Mr.Sandeep KR. Pandey	EC Member

1. Welcome and Introduction

- **Speaker:** Mr. Jitender Sharma, Secretary General of CRA
- Mr. Sharma welcomed the attendees and requested patience while awaiting the arrival of Mr. Hari Ji, President of CRA.

2. Treasurer's Update

- **Update by:** The Treasurer
- The CRA is poised to secure upcoming projects from:
 - UNICEF
 - Ministry of Panchayati Raj
 - Ministry of Social Justice
- These projects will provide significant opportunities for the community radio stations affiliated with CRA.

3. Discussion on Project Allocation

- **Speaker:** Mrs. Sangya Tondon
- Mrs. Sangya Tondon raised concerns about the process for selecting radio stations for the new projects.
- She questioned the criteria CRA would use, considering that only a limited number of stations will be chosen by the Ministry.
- The discussion emphasized the need for a fair and transparent selection process for CRA members.

4. Meeting Continuation

- Despite a brief delay, the quorum decided to proceed with the meeting according to the circulated agenda.

Mr. Chandrashekar, VP South, announced his intention to submit a motion of no confidence against the current president, Mr. Hari Kulkarni. He criticized Mr. Kulkarni for failing to address the conflict of interest issues and not fulfilling the commitments made during the previous EC meeting.

Mr. Sandeep Parmar, supported the motion, echoing concerns that Mr. Kulkarni has not followed through on his promises from the last EC meeting.

During the discussion, Mr. Jitender Sharma, GS of CRA, revealed that Mr. Kulkarni had sent him a WhatsApp message earlier in the morning, indicating his intention to resign from the position of President of CRA. However, Mr. Jitender requested that Mr. Kulkarni attend the meeting and communicate his resignation directly to the EC members in person.

While this conversation was taking place, Mr. Hari Kulkarni joined the meeting. Once he arrived, everyone present, including the SG, asked President Kulkarni to speak first.

Mr. Kulkarni began his speech by addressing the "Conflict of Interest" issue. He explained that following the election, the EC members had chosen him as the president of CRA. He argued that, in his view, there was no conflict of interest since the workshops involving Radio Viswas had been scheduled before the election. He also noted that Radio Viswas was unable to withdraw his name due to potential repercussions from the ministry if they did so. He mentioned that he had already spent approximately 2 lakh rupees from his own pocket to support CRA's activities. Consequently, he argued that transferring the surplus funds from the workshop to the CRA account was unnecessary. Additionally, he noted that Mr. Shreedhar, a patron of CRA, was speaking against him because he had declined to support Shreedhar's I Radio initiative. Kulkarni had suggested that if Mr. Shreedhar wanted CRA's support, he should change the name to CRA Radio. He also mentioned that he took full responsibility and made decisions regarding the Panchayati Raj Project because he was in direct contact with the Ministry. For the pilot project, he chose his own radio, Radio Viswas, from Maharashtra to ensure the best results. He added that there was no time for further discussion on this matter. Regarding the amounts of 50,000 and 10,000, he mentioned that these deducted funds are currently in the CRA account. He explained that he anticipated these funds would be used in the future for program production, as the Ministry is not providing any additional funding for this purpose. In response to the allegation made by a member of the CRA group regarding his position at Radio Viswas, he clarified that he has over 30 years of experience working in various roles within his organization, including serving as the CEO of a cooperative bank managed by the same organization. He added that, if desired, the organization could appoint him as the GOPA signatory. Currently, he holds the position of Station Director at the station. He mentioned that he has visited several ministries and that many projects are in the pipeline, with CRA expected to benefit from them soon. He also highlighted that many senior officials from the ministries have appreciated CRA's work. He speculated that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) might organize a Sammelan in collaboration with CRA next time. Additionally, he praised the WAVE program. Finally, he expressed His gratitude to all the members for their continued support.

After the speech by President CRA, Mr. Jitender Sharma asked the Executive Committee (EC) members whether they wished to accept the resignation. The Secretary General then posed this question to each EC member individually.

Starting with Mr. Paresh Patel, Vice President (West), he expressed that Mr. Kulkarni had done commendable work and even invested his own funds for the benefit of CRA. Therefore, he suggested that the resignation should not be accepted and urged Mr. Kulkarni to remain in his position until the General Body meeting.

Mr. Sandeep Parmar, Vice President (North), then stated that the clarifications and points being shared by the President today should have been communicated from the outset. Had this been done, the current situation might have been different. He further expressed concern that the President's failure to address the questions raised by members in the group is damaging the reputation of every EC member. Moreover, he pointed out that the President has not yet resolved the first conflict of interest regarding the workshop and has instead created another conflict of interest with the

Panchayati Raj project. He further noted that the President assigned the Panchayati Raj project to a radio station without consulting the EC members, and even the Secretary General was unaware of this decision. He questioned why, despite the presence of many well-established radio stations in Maharashtra, the President selected his own station for the project. Mr. Parmar suggested that if the President had chosen another radio station from Maharashtra and provided them with mentoring, everyone would have appreciated his decision. He also mentioned that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was not even shared with the EC members. He emphasized that, as CRA EC members, they should aim to garner support from all CRA members and stop viewing some as competitors. He pointed out that other organizations are offering projects to CRA members without any favoritism. Referring to Mr. Kulkarni's mention of the I-radio project, he suggested that instead of rejecting Mr. Shreedhar's proposal outright, the President could have asked him to present his idea to the members and let them decide. He also criticized the Secretary General for not working with transparency. In conclusion, he stated that the EC should accept the President's resignation. He warned that if the situation does not improve, he will resign from his post as an EC member.

Mr. Jitender Sharma then asked Mr. Shivraj Shastri from Anarvani for his opinion on the President's resignation. Mr. Shivraj responded by stating that the resignation should not be accepted, as the President is doing a commendable job. He added that certain members in the CRA Member Group are creating a negative narrative against the President, which is not constructive. He emphasized the need for everyone to work together for the betterment of CRA.

After Mr. Shivraj, Vice President (South), Mr. Chandrashekar expressed that the resignation of Mr. Hari Kulkarni should be accepted. He reminded the committee that during the last meeting, the EC had given the President time to resolve the conflict of interest issue, but he had failed to do so. He also pointed out that, as EC members, they are struggling to respond to questions in the CRA Member Group due to the President's current approach and attitude.

Manish Samadhiya from Radio Bundelkhand also expressed his support for accepting the President's resignation. He noted that under Mr. Kulkarni's leadership, CRA has been unable to secure any projects from the ministry over the past year, highlighting a significant concern regarding the organization's progress.

EC member Mr. Shiva Shankar also voiced his opinion in favor of accepting the President's resignation. He stated that under the President's leadership, there has been a lack of transparency.

EC member Parshuram Shrivastava also supported accepting the President's resignation. He mentioned that the Secretary General is often too busy and does not keep the EC members updated. He further expressed concern about Mr. Sandeep Parmar's statement regarding his potential resignation from the EC, noting that this would be detrimental to the committee. Parshuram stressed the importance of appointing a new president immediately to address these issues and move forward.

Mrs. Sangya Tondon also supported accepting the President's resignation, aligning herself with the views of Mr. Chandrashekhar and Mr. Sandeep Parmar. She highlighted that, although the EC had initiated a good project with the newsletter, this effort was interrupted for unclear reasons. She further pointed out that new radio stations are reluctant to join CRA, citing concerns that CRA is not functioning effectively and is unable to secure projects from the ministry.

Mr. Pahal Man Rai, Vice President (Northeast), also expressed his support for the majority decision to accept the President's resignation. He agreed with the others that a new president should be elected today without delay to ensure smooth functioning of the organization.

Mr. MSH Beg, the Treasurer, also supported the majority decision to accept the President's resignation. He suggested that the new president could be elected from among the current Vice Presidents, ensuring a smooth transition in leadership.

At the conclusion, Secretary General Jitender Sharma expressed his support for the majority decision. He reflected on his 16 years of experience with CRA, during which he has served in various capacities, including as an Executive Committee (EC) member in different terms and twice as Vice President. Drawing from this extensive experience, he emphasized that certain individuals within the main CRA Member Group appear intent on stirring controversy and undermining the organization's unity. Mr. Sharma stressed the importance of staying united and focused on strengthening the CRA, urging all members to work collaboratively toward the organization's long-term success rather than succumbing to divisive tactics.

After the discussions concluded, all EC members agreed to accept the resignation of the President, expressing their gratitude for his contributions to CRA. Following this, Vice President (West), Mr. Paresh Patel, stated that he was not interested in being considered for the President's position. Vice President (North) echoed the same sentiment.

Mrs. Sangya Tondon, Vice President of the Central Zone, then proposed Mr. Sandeep Parmar's name for the role of President. This proposal was supported by Mr. Chandrashekhar, Mr. Parshuram Shriwastav, Vice President (Northeast) Mr. Pahal Man Rai, Mr. Manish Samadhiya, Mr. Paresh Patel, Mr. MSH Beg, Mr. Chandrashekhar, and Mr. Jitender Sharma.

However, Mr. Shivraj Shastri voiced a concern, urging the committee to reconsider and attempt to retain the current President instead of accepting his resignation.

Despite this, the majority supported Mrs. Tondon's nomination, and Mr. Sandeep Parmar was unanimously elected as the new President. All members congratulated him on his new role, while also thanking Mr. Hari Kulkarni for his dedicated service to CRA.

Before closing the meeting, Mr. Jitender Sharma raised the issue of Mr. Hari Kulkarni's resignation from the EC itself, asking whether this should also be accepted. In response, all members unanimously rejected the idea of accepting his resignation from the EC, requesting Mr. Kulkarni to continue serving on the committee.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with a renewed sense of unity and purpose among the EC members.



Jitender Sharma
Secretary General CRA