



**Minutes of Meeting – Executive Committee Meeting 7th and 8th
December 2021**

Participants:

1.	Dr. B S Panwar	President
2.	Jayesh Joshi	Secretary General
3.	Dr. Priti Bhombe	Treasurer
4.	Sandeep Kulshreshtha	Vice President (Central)
5.	Dr. I. Arul Aram	Vice President (South)
6.	Sachin Menkudale	Vice President (West)
7.	Bhaskar Jyoti Bhuyan	Vice President (North East)
8.	Gayathri Usman	Joint Secretary 01
9.	Kakunuri Venkat Reddy	Joint Secretary 02
10.	Viresh Singh	Joint Secretary 03
11.	Yusuf F Kapadiya	EC Member 01
12.	Yogesh Jangra	EC Member 04
13.	Fr. Xavier Kudiamssery	EC Member 06
14.	Kimjanenge Kipgen	EC Member 08
15.	Vinod Singh	EC Member 09
16.	Debanjana Devbarman	EC Member 10
17.	Abhishek Arun	Co-opted Members
18.	Ajay kumar	Co-opted Members
19.	Sandeep Rana	Project Coordinator CRA

Minutes:

- **Welcome Address by Secretary General and President**

Discussion:

The Secretary General welcomed the EC members. He explained in brief about the working and success of the working of the CRA EC and the various steps taken for the betterment of the overall working of the CRA. Mr Joshi mentioned about the meetings with various officials, Secretaries of various ministries like MIB, Agriculture, health and family welfare. Culture etc...and organizations like DST, UNICEF, CEMCA etc...

The President, Dr Brijendra Panwar in his welcome speech thanked the Executive Council for their cooperation and team efforts and hoped to continue working harmoniously for the remaining tenure.

Brijendra

Conclusion:

The EC members unanimously decided to work for mobilization and capacity building of the association

- Conversation with Joint Secretary MIB Sanjeev Shankar and Additional Director CRS Mr Kesarwani

Discussion:

Mr Joshi welcomed Mr Sanjeev Shankar, JS and Mr Kesarwani, Additional Director and introduced them to the members

The EC members had a fruitful and detailed discussion with Mr Sanjeev Shankar, JS MIB and Mr Gaurishankar Kesarwani, Additional Director CRS. Each member introduced themselves and shared their success as well as grievances in brief.

- Most of the members shared that the cooperation from the local government and state govt was not so satisfactory
- Ministry should support to spread the CR movement in areas where the number of CRS are less
- The members also appealed to increase the wattage of the CRS from 50 watts to 100-250 watts
- Pending empanelment's, no advertisements and pending payments from DAVP to CRS
- GOPA renewal, LOI of some radio stations is pending and the members appealed to Mr Kesarwani to look into it
- The repair and replacement of transmitters takes a long time and is a tedious process. appealed to simplify the same
- Appealed to JS as well as Additional Director to issue a Press Accrediation card or identity card to 2 members of each CR as authorized media people
- Appeal to the ministry to support and guide in cases of damage of tower or equipment due to Natural Calamities

In reply to the points shared with the EC members, Mr Shankar stated:

- The CRS across the country are doing the unique work of reaching to the last segment of the society and conveying the right messages through local languages and dialect. The MIB has decided to strengthen this movement further.
- All CRs should do a baseline survey of the listeners for certain programs and then an endline survey after the program concludes
- The survey will help the CRS to establish their credibility and know the exact number of listenership
- 2 independent portals are in place: Broadcast portal by MIB and Saral Sanchar by DOT. These 2 portals will be linked and all details of clearances of CRS will be available. Will be done in next 3-6 months

- Inter-ministerial process will be activated and both the ministries will meet more frequently.
- MHA clearance for GOPA is essential as it is a sensitive medium, but we will put a timeline for the clearances
- Coordination and Recognition for CRS at the state level will be taken up at ministry level
- The query of issuing identities to CR employees as media people will be raised with the state governments
- New schemes for grants to CR: Raised from 7.5 to 10 lakhs, emergency support has been raised to 100% and grant for replacement of equipment is up to 7.5 lakhs
- An online portal for sharing content and content creation will be established by MIB
- Capacity building programs for new as well as old CRA will be organized
- The CRA needs to share guidelines for the basis for increasing the wattage of CRS from 50 watts to 250 watts. Once the principles for the same are laid down, the policy can be designed
- The MIB will pursue the issues of empanelment of CRS and giving adverts to CRS with BOS
- The stations who have applied for being the Lead stations for their areas/states/zones will be finalized in the coming month and an orientation program for them will be organised
- The CRA should galvanize itself and bring issues from the ground to MIB so that we can act on the same.

Mr Gaurishankar Kesarwani :

- We have simplified the GOPA renewal procedure and requires only 3 documents. CRS can contact us on email in case of queries for renewal
- Once GOPA is renewed, CRS can renew their WOL for five years directly.
- In case of stations who have some issues about Bharat Kosh portal do write to us or call us
- In case CRS want to replace equipment's, they can apply for the grants

Conclusion:

The overall interaction with Mr. Shankar and Mr Kesarwani was extremely productive and the EC members unanimously appreciated the time the two officials spared for the CRA

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Mr. Jayesh Joshi shared the work done by the appointed committees and urged the members to come forward voluntarily for taking up responsibilities. The previous committees whose work is still pending were continued while some new committees were formed.

Conclusion:

- Following committees were formed:

Beijender

Technical Committee: Yogesh Jhagra will head the committee, need to choose and share the names of 2 more members

IT committee: Abhishek Arun will head the committee, need to choose and share the names of 2 more members

Disability Committee: Mr Kapadia will head the committee and Gayathri will be a member

The EC members will have to voluntarily announce their names for the committee for taking up responsibility of chapter formation, creating framework, sharing the draft for planning and execution, organizing regional workshops and seminars etc...

- **Financials till date and Steps taken for improvement in finance and accounts**

- The finance and account details, expenditure and Appraisal for Sandeep were shared by treasurer Dr Priti Bhombe and Secretary General Mr Jayesh Joshi

Discussion:

- We have been saving the admin cost of the working of the CRA and all the salaries, remunerations, rents have been paid without any backlogs. The current balance in our account is @Rs.2.40 lakh approximately
- Earlier the recurring expenditures of the association were covered through the membership fees obtained but now we have been covering the same through the 5% admin cost which we get from the budget approved by our partners (about 5-7% of the total budget). Arranging for the finances for Organizing an EC meeting was a challenge for us but was overcome in a similar way
- **How much we have mobilized and comparison of last year**
 - a. Total fund raised by the current working body in last Ten Months-March to Dec 2021 is Rs. 1,79,48,000 (Rs. One Core Seventy-nine Lakh Forty Eight Thousand only)
 - b. Total fund raised by CRA in 30 months by previous working body is Rs. 1, 94, 00,000 (Rs. One crore Ninety four Lakh only).

Conclusion:

- The committee members appreciated the new initiatives with regards to finance and savings taken up and agreed that such practices should continue further
- The finances and accounts were approved by the EC members unanimously
- **Session by RMPL VP Mr Pradeep Nigam**

Discussion

- Mr Pradeep Nigam explained the need of RMPL and the copyright act and why the CRS should enter an agreement with such an agency. The fees for licensing were also depicted in the presentation
- All the EC members explained that the CR stations are service oriented and a significant number of CRS are not able to make break even.

Conclusion:

- The CRA has asked Mr Nigam to share the list of music companies which are empaneled with them and also the presentation of the subject so that it can be shared with the CRS. The decision about the same remains pending
- Session with katha.org representative

Discussion

- An official from Katha, a story telling organization, Ms. Deepti, explored the possibility of involving community radio stations for storytelling. They organisation has already tried this format of story-telling for school children across the country and have found out that story telling develops reading skills, besides creativity and thinking. Their website has audio stories in some of the Indian languages.

Conclusion:

- CRA has confirmed that we will be exploring the idea of a funded programming with katha.org and involve maximum radio stations in the same.
- Session with Mr Nakul from Zone4solution New Delhi

Discussion:

- Mr Nakul from Zone4 solutions New Delhi, shared his concern about Disaster management and risk reduction and urged the EC members to take up this issue with all community radio stations. He added that CRS like Radio Bramhaputra have been doing excellent work in the natural calamities and hence the strength of the CRS can actually help in creating awareness about the issue.

Conclusion:

The CRA will continue the discussion with Zone4 Solutions to further explore the possibilities

- Approval of previous MOM and new resolutions

Discussion:

Beijesh

- The Minutes of the previous EC meeting held on 6th July in the online mode were shared for the Executive committee

Conclusion:

- Approved the MOM of previous meeting held on 6th July 2021 unanimously
- Objectives of CRA

Discussion:

- a. CRA needs to be a strong bridge between Community Radios and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- b. Mobilization and Capacity Building should be the main objective of CRA

Conclusion:

- The committee unanimously agreed that the objective of CRA should be of capacity building and strengthening of member CRS
- Program update regarding UNICEF and path ahead

Discussion:

- c. The ongoing project with UNICEF will conclude in December 2021 and a new project for the next 6-7 months has been almost finalized. It will be implemented by 170 stations @Rs 1.85 lakh approximately
- d. All the Vice Presidents and Joint Secretaries need to take up the responsibility to ensure that the reporting of all such programs reaches CRA within the given timelines so that the final reporting is done on the right time

Conclusion:

- The committee unanimously agreed that 170 stations will be included in the UNICEF project and the VC and JS will take up the responsibility to ensure reporting from all the stations in the given timelines
- Regarding appraisal and Salary raise for coordinator Sandeep Rana and appointment of Nilofer Ali for reporting and data collection for UNICEF project

Discussion:

- Salary for Sandeep Rana, coordinator has been increased by 15%.
- Nilofer Ali has been appointed as a Data organizer for the UNICEF project. Both have been issued appointment letters which were not given to either of them earlier

Conclusion:

- All the members approved the salary raise for coordinator Sandeep Rana
- The new appointment of Nilofer Ali for reporting and data collection for UNICEF project was unanimously approved
- Discussion regarding Strategic planning

Discussion:

- e. Strategic planning for the next 5 years and discussion on the present constitution is the need for the proper working and progress of the CRA. A 7-member committee has been formed for the same.

Conclusion:

- The committee appointed has been approved by the EC members. The 7 member committee will start working on the strategic planning. The following points will be included in the discussions.
- Committee for strategic planning and amendment:
Dr Brijendra Panwar, Jayesh Joshi, Dr Priti Bhombe, Gayathri Usman, Ajay Kumar, Viresh Singh, Debanjana.
- **Some points to be considered regarding the Strategic Planning for CRA:**
Discuss about the vision/mission/objectives/constitution with respect to elections, elected members, their tenure, roles and responsibilities, decentralization of duties.
Where we see CRA in next 5 years with respect to strength, recognition by the various govt bodies.
How can we improve the role of CRA in mobilization and capacity building of community radios?
How to increase the visibility of CRs in the audio world?
And similar relevant points regarding programing, sustainability, content creation, etc...

State wise chapter formation

Discussion:

- State wise chapter to be created under the umbrella of CRA. Where there is less or no representation, zonal or similar options can be explored. The Vice Presidents, Joint Secretaries and EC members can take up this work and roles and responsibilities will be finalized for decentralization of the work

Conclusion:

Brijendra

The state wise chapters will be formed and a detailed discussion about the same will continue further. The EC members should volunteer for the same.

- Regarding the next EC and General body meeting

Discussion:

- The General body meeting and the next EC meeting will be held for 4 days.
- Tentative month will be March 2022. Following agenda was suggested:
- Discuss about some disputable points from the GB meeting held in Jan 2021
- Need to finalize the bylaws and revise some points in the constitution and get it signed. Later endorse the same from the relevant office of the govt.
- Acquire the revised constitution
- Venue of the meet to be finalized
- A 5 year planning exercise will be done with an invited expert in the EC meeting
- Budget and finances will be approved and work done for 1 year will be presented in the GB meeting

Conclusion:

The agenda was approved for the next General body and EC meeting.

The date will be finalized depending on the COVID pandemic situation

Venue will be finalized once the dates are finalized.

More points for discussion will be added to the agenda if necessary

Discussions regarding various points put forth by members about miscellaneous issues

Discussion:

President Dr Panwar:

- We offer our deepest condolences to the precious member of the Community Radio family Savina from Radio SOA CR, Odisha to COVID. An amount of Rs.70000 will be deposited in the 'Balika Samrudhi Yojana' or similar for her daughter education.

Conclusion:

The point has been approved unanimously

Other EC members:

Discussion:

VP Sundeep Kulshreshtha /VP Sachin Mendkudale/EC member Ajay Kumar/ EC member Mr Yusuf Kapadia :

- CRA can have a list of 2 or more technical experts from each zone or state which can be recommended to community radios in case they face any issues regarding technicalities of the station
- CRA should have a standard rate list for authentic companies for spare parts, transmitters, towers etc... Our Technical team head, Yogesh Jhagra will help us to compile such a list which will be shared with Community Radios whenever the need arises. Yogesh and his technical committee will also create a document regarding the relevant procedures for technical compliances eg: Using transmitters from non DPL holder companies etc:
- The CRA needs to issue an I card to all EC members which will be duly signed by President and Secretary. A design of the visiting card can also be shared with the EC members and they can print it if they feel the need
- Mr Yusuf Kapadia stated that CRs should emphasize and create programs to remove the misconceptions and taboos surrounding the physical handicap and visual impairment. Online workshops for content generation can be arranged by their CR.

Conclusion:

- All points have been approved by the EC members unanimously. Two technical experts will be enlisted with the CRA.
- A standard rate list will be compiled and kept with CRA, which will be enlisted by technical committee headed by Yogesh.
- I Cards will be issued by CRA and a design for visiting cards will be shared which the EC member can print
- The EC members answered in affirmative and soon a workshop on the subject of misconceptions and other issues with regards to handicap people will be organized

The Executive Committee meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr Jayesh Joshi.


Jayesh Joshi
Secretary General
Community Radio Association

