

**MINUTES OF 19th CRA Executive Committee Meeting**

**Organization:** Community Radio Association (CRA)

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Time:** 11:30 AM

**Venue:** Virtual Meeting (Online)

**Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum**

A quorum was established with 16 members present, while the other members were absent.

S.No.	Name of Person	Designation
<b>Members Present for the Meeting:</b>		
1	Mr.Sandeep Parmar	President
2	Mr.Jitender Sharma	Secretary General
4	MSH Beg	Treasurer
5	Dr. S Chandrasekar	Vice President South
6	Mr. Pahal Man Rai	Vice President North East
7	Ms. Sangya Tandon	Vice President Central
8	Mr. Paresh Kumar Patel	Vice President West
9	Mr. Shivashankaraswamy	Joint Secretary
10	Dr. Gurjeet Kaur Chawla	Joint Secretary
11	Mr.Sandeep KR. Pandey	EC Member
12	Mr.Parshuram Srivastava	EC Member
13	Mr.Jagdishwar Yadav	EC Member
14	Dr. Shivaraj Shastri Herur	EC Member
15	Dr. Sangeeta Kokoty	EC Member
16	Dr. Sugandha Shrotriya	EC Member
<b>Absentees</b>		
1	Ms. Aarti Devi	EC Member

2	Ms. Gayatri Mhaske	Joint Secretary
3	Mr. Manish	EC Member
4	Dr. Hari Vinayak Kulkarni	EC
5	Ms. Barsha Chabaria	EC Member

### **Welcome and Opening remarks by the CRA President**

Mr. Jitender Sharma, **Secretary General of CRA**, requested the **President** to commence the meeting as per the **pre-decided agenda** and extended a warm welcome to the **President and all members**.

### **Reports on WAVES**

During his presentation on the WAVES Summit 2025 report, **Mr. Jitender Sharma**, Secretary General of the Community Radio Association (CRA), highlighted one of the most significant achievements of CRA's participation — the **four-day continuous live radio broadcast** from the specially designed **AIRWAVES Studio**. This initiative featured **9 hours of daily live transmission**, connecting with a network of over **300+ community radio stations across India**.

He shared that over the course of the summit, the CRA team conducted **more than 100 live interviews** with a diverse range of individuals, including **award-winning participants, international influencers, renowned artists and celebrities, and senior government officials**. This live broadcast transformed the CRA stall into a **lively, interactive media hub**, drawing significant attention from media professionals, summit delegates, cultural personalities, and government representatives.

Mr. Sharma emphasized that the **entire participation was carefully planned and strategically executed** under the visionary leadership of **CRA President Shri Sandeep Parmar**. While the President provided overall guidance, the stall management and on-ground execution were led by Mr. Sharma himself, who also served as the **official spokesperson and representative of CRA** throughout the summit.

He also noted that the AIRWAVES Studio was set up in **collaboration with ATC Labs** and was completed well in advance of the summit's launch. The programming began precisely as scheduled and ran smoothly for the entire duration of the event.

In his concluding remarks, **Mr. Jitender Sharma reflected on the transformative nature of CRA's involvement**, stating that participation in WAVES Summit 2025, hosted by the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB)**, was a **defining moment in the evolution of India's community media landscape**. The event not only showcased CRA's operational capabilities but also elevated **community radio as a relevant, scalable, and impactful communication platform** for inclusive national development.

## Discussion on Nepal MOU

Dr. S. Chandrasekar highlighted the strategic significance of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Nepal** in the domain of community broadcasting. He outlined the key **objectives and vision** of the MoU, emphasizing its role in fostering stronger regional media collaboration.

The main goals of the MoU, as presented by Dr. Chandrasekar, include:

1. **Promoting Cross-Border Collaboration in Community Broadcasting**
  - Strengthening bilateral ties by encouraging mutual support and cooperation between community radio stations in India and Nepal.
2. **Enhancing Capacity Building through Structured RJ Training Programs**
  - Organizing professional training modules and workshops to empower Radio Jockeys (RJs) and content creators with technical and creative skills.
3. **Facilitating Knowledge and Cultural Exchange**
  - Creating platforms for the exchange of ideas, stories, traditions, and innovations between community broadcasters in both countries to enrich their respective programming.
4. **Strengthening People-to-People Ties through Grassroots Communication**
  - Using community radio as a tool to bring together citizens of both nations, nurturing peace, understanding, and regional solidarity from the ground up.

## Discussion on CRS logo Contest for Community Radio Sector

Dr. S Chandrasekar share the concept note on all India Logo Contest for community radio sector. Dr. Chandrasekar explained that the contest seeks to design a logo that reflects the core values of community broadcasting—**spirit, diversity, accessibility, inclusivity, empowerment, and grassroots-based communication**. The goal is to engage Indian citizens in a creative process that strengthens national communication and builds public ownership of the community radio movement.

He further elaborated that the contest is **open to all Indian citizens aged 13 years and above**, and each participant is allowed to submit only **one original logo design**, accompanied by a brief concept note. To encourage widespread participation, attractive prizes have been announced: **₹25,000 for the first prize, ₹10,000 for the second, and ₹5,000 for the third**. Additionally, the top **10 shortlisted entries** will receive **certificates of appreciation**, while **all participants** will be given **digital certificates of participation**. The evaluation and selection process will be overseen by a respected jury comprising representatives from **SMART, CEMCA, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, the Community Radio Association of India, CRA Executive Committee Members, and State Presidents**.

Dr. Chandrasekar emphasized that **permissions from all partner organizations must be formally obtained** before the official launch. He announced that **Ms. Gayatri Usman has been appointed as the National Coordinator** for the logo contest, who will oversee all operational aspects. The estimated cost of executing the contest is projected at **₹1,00,000**, and the proposal has already been formally approved through a resolution passed in the **CRA Executive Committee meeting**. He concluded by highlighting that the initiative will not only create a symbolic identity for the sector but also foster greater public engagement and recognition for community radio across the nation.

### **MSJE fund Status and approval for CRS Payments**

**Mr. Jitender Sharma**, Secretary General of the Community Radio Association (CRA), informed during the session that the **first instalment of the grant has been successfully transferred to all Community Radio Stations (CRSs)** under the approved project. However, he highlighted a **discrepancy in the total amount received from the Ministry**. As per the original sanction, the total approved grant was **₹2,72,80,000**, but the actual amount received so far is **₹2,64,38,400**, resulting in a **shortfall of ₹8,41,600**. Mr. Sharma stated that the CRA has already **sent an official communication to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** requesting clarification and resolution of the shortfall. In the meantime, he recommended that CRA proceed with **transferring 50% of the allocated amount to each CRS**, pending further instructions.

**Dr. S. Chandrasekar** supported the approach and added that before releasing the payments to all CRS partners, **an orientation session will be conducted** with the participating stations. He emphasized that this orientation will ensure that all CRS stakeholders are aligned with the project objectives, fund utilization guidelines, and reporting requirements. Once the orientation is complete and clarity is received from the Ministry, the pending amount will be disbursed accordingly.

### **Discussion on CRA EC Members Absent in CRA EC Meeting**

**Mr. Jitender Sharma**, Secretary General of the **Community Radio Association (CRA)**, informed the committee that **since June 2023, approximately 19 Executive Committee (EC) meetings** have been conducted. Upon reviewing the attendance records, it was observed that **some EC members have shown consistently low participation**. In response, the CRA Secretariat had sent **an official letter requesting these members to share any specific reasons for their absence**, followed by **three reminders**. However, despite these communications, **no response has been received from certain members**.

**Mr. Sandeep Parmar**, President of CRA, expressed concern over the inactive engagement of these members and stated that **continued non-responsiveness affects CRA's representation at the state level**. He suggested that **if no replies are forthcoming**, CRA should consider **appointing more active individuals in their place** to ensure that the organization's work and state-level presence do not suffer. He further recommended that **termination letters be issued** to the non-participating EC members and **new appointments be made** to maintain the vibrancy and effectiveness of the association.

Mr. Parmar also directed **Mr. Jitender Sharma** to review the **CRA Memorandum of Association (MOA)** and verify the provisions regarding the removal or replacement of EC members due to non-participation. Based on this guidance, the matter was **formally discussed and a resolution was passed in the EC meeting** to initiate appropriate action as per CRA's constitutional framework.

### **Discussion on Community Radio Station – License to broadcast music of PPL**

Mr. Sandeep Parmar informed that a Google form was sent to all community radio stations to collect details related to their PPL (Phonographic Performance Limited) mail correspondence. The collected information has been shared with Ms. Aashima Kalra, Advocate and Legal Counsel, who has been officially hired to assist with the matter.

Ms. Aashima Kalra also participated in the EC (Executive Committee) meeting, during which she addressed and clarified doubts related to PPL issues.

As per the EC meeting decision, Ms. Aashima Kalra will be responsible for sending legal clarifications and responses on behalf of the Community Radio Association members regarding the alleged copyright obligations to PPL.

Mr. Sandeep Parmar further stated that a request will be made to all community radio stations for a minimum contribution of Rs. 100 each, to be deposited into the CRA bank account to support the PPL legal case.

#### **Discussion on Zone Wise CRA Coordinators**

Mr. Sandeep Parmar, President of CRA, emphasized the need to appoint zone-wise part-time coordinators. He suggested employing individuals currently working at radio stations who can dedicate some time to CRA activities. This approach aims to address members' issues effectively at the zone level.

The zone-wise coordinators will be shortlisted and appointed by the CRA Vice Presidents. As approved by the CRA Executive Committee (EC), there is a strong need to decentralize the CRA Head Office (Delhi) and strengthen CRA's presence at the state level.

To support this expansion, CRA will invite applications from community radio practitioners interested in contributing as volunteers with a modest honorarium. Mr. Parmar stated that an official mail will be sent to CRA members announcing the Call for Applications for the Honorarium-Based Volunteer Role for CRA State-Level Representation.

#### **Felicitation and Certification of SMC, Scripts, Coordinators and Project Implementation Committee Teams.**

Dr. S. Chandrasekar acknowledged the commendable work done by the SMC Team in the Avyay project and suggested organizing felicitations and issuing certificates for their efforts.

Mr. Sandeep Parmar, President of CRA, stated that mementos along with certificates have been prepared to be sent to the SMC Team, scriptwriters, and the Implementation Committee members. A resolution to this effect was passed during the EC meeting.

He further informed that the mementos and certificates will be sent by post to all SMC coordinators and project implementation committee members. Following this, an orientation session will be conducted with them.

#### **Vote of Thanks**

Mr Jitender Sharma Secretary General CRA thanked all the members and proposed formal Vote of Thanks.



Jitender Sharma

Secretary General