

Community Radio Association (CRA)

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting

Date: 29 June 2026 (Friday)

Time: 04:00 PM – 05:00 PM

Venue: Online / As convened

Chair: Mr. Sandeep Parmar, President, CRA

Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

A quorum was established with 17 members present, while the other members were absent.

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

Agenda-wise Proceedings

1. Opening Remarks

Chair: Mr. Sandeep Parmar, President, CRA

The meeting commenced with opening remarks by the President, who welcomed all members and outlined the key objectives of the Executive Meeting.

2. Presentation on SOP for CRA Elections

Dr. S. Chandrasekar, Vice President, CRA, presented the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for conducting CRA elections. The presentation covered the proposed election framework, procedures, schedule, nomination process, scrutiny, withdrawal procedure, voting process, and declaration of results. and operational guidelines to ensure transparency and fairness in the election process. Roles and responsibilities of the Election Committee and EC members were discussed. Members discussed transparency, fairness, and compliance with CRA bylaws during the election. With reference to the CRA Elections held in Hyderabad in 2021, an Election Committee was constituted comprising two Executive Committee (EC) members and one CRA member to assist in conducting the election process.

Now, with the Association having grown to more than 350 members, a three-member Election Support Committee has been constituted to assist the Election Officer in ensuring the smooth, transparent, and efficient conduct of the election process. An Election Committee was constituted comprising two Executive Committee (EC) members Dr S Chandrasekar, Mr Paresh Patel and one CRA office staff member Mr. Sandeep Rana serving as the Secretary to the Committee. The EC members were further requested to nominate and include one additional member in the Election Committee.

3. Discussion on CRA Elections

Mr. Jitender Sharma informed the Executive Committee that Prof. O. P. Dewal of IGNOU had been appointed as the Election Officer for the upcoming CRA elections. Prof. Dewal has successfully conducted several CRA elections in the past. Considering his experience and impartiality, the Committee requested him to undertake this responsibility once again, and he graciously accepted the request. With his acceptance, CRA has taken an important step forward in the election process.

The appointment of the Election Officer was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

Mr. Sandeep Parmar informed Dr. S. Chandrasekar that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Election Officer would be prepared and shared with him. Mr. Parmar further requested that the ToR be sent to the Election Officer at the earliest so that the election process could be conducted in a transparent, fair, and well-defined manner.

The Executive Committee members discussed:

- The proposed election process.
- Timelines for various stages of the election.
- Roles and responsibilities of the Election Committee.
- Suggestions for improving transparency and participation.

Mr. Jitender Sharma, Secretary General, facilitated the discussion and coordinated inputs from the members.

Mr. Jitender Sharma presented the current status of WOL and GOPA compliance among CRA Members. He informed the EC Members that responses had been received from approximately 300 CRA Members. Based on the information received:

- 57 CRS stations do not have a valid WOL.
- 27 CRS stations do not have a valid GOPA.
- 47 CRS stations have not responded despite several reminders.

After detailed discussions, it was proposed that only those CRS stations whose WOL and GOPA are valid and up to date shall be eligible to participate in and vote during the upcoming CRA elections. The EC Members observed that CRS stations should not be operating without valid WOL and GOPA approvals.

Two Executive Committee (EC) Members observed that Community Radio Stations whose Wireless Operating Licence (WOL) or Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA) was not currently valid should not be disqualified from participating in the election, as their names continued to appear in the list of Community Radio Stations maintained by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

The matter was discussed in detail by the Executive Committee. After due deliberation, 15 of the 17 Executive Committee Members were of the view that only those Community Radio Stations holding valid GOPA and WOL as on the date of the election should be eligible to participate in the electoral process, including both voting and contesting the election. Accordingly, the Executive Committee passed a resolution by majority that members whose GOPA and/or WOL was not valid on the date of the election would not be eligible to participate in the CRA election process.

After deliberation, it was decided that the CRA Secretariat would provide the Election Officer with a list of members whose WOL or GOPA has expired or is otherwise not valid. The Election Officer shall issue a communication to the concerned members, advising them to update or renew their WOL/GOPA within one month. Alternatively, members may submit documentary evidence demonstrating that an application for renewal has already been filed with the Ministry, or provide a written explanation regarding the non-renewal or non-updation of their WOL/GOPA status.

The Executive Committee held a detailed, step-by-step discussion on the election process as outlined in Annexure–Table A, including all election activities and timelines. After due deliberation, the Executive Committee resolved that the election process and procedures followed during the previous CRA elections shall be adopted for the forthcoming election to ensure continuity, transparency, and consistency. The Executive Committee further resolved that the Election Officer shall commence the CRA election process from the first week of July, strictly in accordance with the approved election schedule and timelines.

4. Complaint of Radio Janvani Against Radio Gunjan

Regarding **the complaint (attached Annexure B)** filed by Radio Janvani, Odisha against Mr Nihar Pandha Mr. Jitender Sharma informed the Executive Committee that Radio Gunjan, Odisha (Mr. Nihar Panda), who was previously a CRA member, and Radio Janvani, which is a CRA member, are involved in the matter.

Radio Janvani has submitted a complaint against **Mr. Nihar Panda alleging financial irregularities amounting to approximately Rs. 2 lakh** and has requested CRA to examine the matter.

Mr. Jitender Sharma further informed the members that a five-member committee would be constituted to review the case. The committee will comprise two Executive Committee members, namely Ms. Sangya Tandon and Dr. Gurjeet Kaur Chawla, along with three members from the state of Odisha.

The committee will thoroughly review the case and submit its findings and recommendations to CRA for further consideration and appropriate action.

5. Continuation of CRA's Engagement with WAVES 2027

The Executive Committee discussed CRA's ongoing engagement with the WAVES initiative. It noted that the current Executive Committee has been actively working on various aspects of WAVES for the past year in close coordination with relevant Ministries and stakeholders. The Committee noted that WAVES 2027 is a key national initiative offering a unique opportunity to enhance the visibility, recognition, and contribution of the Community Radio Sector nationally and internationally. The Executive Committee unanimously affirmed that sustained engagement with this initiative is essential for the sector's growth and development. The Committee noted that Season II of WAVES is scheduled for February 2027, while the CRA elections are expected to be held in November–December 2026. Given that the current Executive Committee members (Mr. Sandeep Parmar, Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, Mr. Jitender Sharma, Dr. Gurjeet Kaur Chawla, Ms. Sangya Tandon, and Mr. Baraha Chabriya), along with National Program Coordinator Mr. Sandeep Rana, are actively involved in the planning and coordination of Phase II activities through the WAVES Secretariat, the Executive Committee deliberated on the need to ensure continuity of the existing CRA team for this important national initiative. Accordingly, it emphasized the importance of maintaining the current coordination mechanism. The Committee acknowledged that the current Executive Committee members have been closely engaged with various Ministries and key stakeholders on WAVES-related matters. It was noted that any last-minute change in the CRA-WAVES Coordination team following the election of new members could disrupt the smooth coordination and implementation of ongoing activities.

Resolution:

After detailed deliberations, the Executive Committee resolved that the current members shall continue to coordinate and lead all WAVES 2027 matters, in consultation with the incoming President and the newly elected Executive Committee. This arrangement will remain in effect until the successful completion of WAVES 2027 in February 2027, to ensure seamless continuity of CRA's participation and representation. The resolution was unanimously passed by the Executive Committee.

6. Any Other Matter with Permission of the Chair

Members were invited to raise additional matters for discussion. General announcements were made by the Secretary General.

Announcements and Closing Remarks

By: Mr. Jitender Sharma

- No additional announcements were made.
- The Secretary General thanked all members for their participation.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded at **05:00 PM** with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



Jitender Sharma

Annexure-A CRA Election Process and Estimated Time line of CRA Election

Sr. No	Steps to be followed	Activities/ action	Time Line Days	Remarks
1	GOPA WOL Status Renewal Timing	WOL/GOPA Status Google Form	30 days (01 July 2026-30 July 2026)	Time being provided to CRA members for renewal of their WOL and GOPA status to determine the final number of eligible voting members.
2	CRA Membership Renewal Time	Membership Renewal Payment, Reminder follow-up on calls		Membership renewal notice to be circulated to all CRA members via email
3	Collection of Authorized Letter from CRA Members for Nomination.	A mail has been sent to all CRA members requesting an Authorized Letter for Nomination.	20 days (01 August 2026-20 August 2026)	• A minimum period of 20 days is being provided for submission, considering that some CRS GOPA holders may be out of station. • Both hard copy and soft copy of the authorized letter will be accepted.
4	Finalization of Voting List as per Nominations Received	Finalization of Voting List	10 Days (31August)	
5	Decision on Election Date, Venue & Appointment Election Officer for CRA Election	Discussion and decisions on election date, venue and appointment of Election Officer's fees.	10 Days (10 Sep.)	• Offer /Appointment Letter sent to the CRA Election Officer. • Waiting for confirmation from the Election Officer.
7	Preparation of Ballot Paper & Election letter	Print Ballot Papers & Election Letters duly Signed by the Election Officer	08 (20 Sep. 2026)	
8	Ballot papers to be sent to all CRA members by Speed Post. Election closing date to be intimated.	Dispatch of post to CRA members	40 (21 Sep. 2026 – 31 October 2026)	• Dispatch the Ballot Papers to the 350 members of CRA through post • Receiving of Ballot Papers to Election Officer (Soft / hard copy)
9	GB Meeting and New EC Announcement	Counting and election declaration Ten Days after Closing of Ballot Papers	15 days (15 November 2026)	• Counting of 350 ballot papers completed. • Each ballot paper contained 17 votes, resulting in a total of 5,950 votes. • All votes were counted by the CRA Election Officers. • Verification of the voting list and validation of documents was conducted by the Election Officer.









