

Community Radio Association (CRA)

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting

Date: 05 August 2026 (Wednesday)

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 15 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	Mr.Jagdishwar Yadav	EC Member
11	Mr.Sandeep KR. Pandey	EC Member
12	Mr. Manish	EC Member
13	Amol Deshmukh	EC Member
14	Dr. Shivaraj Shastri Herur	EC Member
15	Dr. Sugandha Shrotriya	EC Member
	Absent	
1	Dr. Sangeeta Kokoty	EC Member
2	Mr. Pahal Man Rai	Vice President North East
3	Ms. Gayatri Mhaske	Joint Secretary
4	Sangmitra	EC Member
5	Ms. Barsha Chabaria	EC Member
6	Mr.Parshuram Srivastava	EC Member
7	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. Update on CRA Election

Dr. S. Chandrasekar, Vice President, CRA, provided an update on the current status of the CRA election process. He informed the EC members of the following:

- The CRA Election Committee has held two meetings with the CRA Election Officer to review and coordinate the election process.
- The updated list of CRA members as of **31 July 2026** has been submitted to the CRA Election Officer.
- An introductory email regarding the CRA election process has been sent by the CRA Election Officer to all CRA members.
- Emails have been sent by the CRA Election Officer to CRA members regarding the submission of **WOL and GOPA details**, as the required information from some members is yet to be received by CRA.
- Emails have been sent to members whose CRA membership renewal is pending, requesting them to complete the renewal process.
- A reminder email regarding membership renewal has also been sent to members whose renewals remain pending.
- The CRA election process is progressing in accordance with the approved schedule and timeline.

The CRA Election Committee will continue to coordinate with the CRA Election Officer and closely monitor the progress of the election process to ensure that all activities are completed in accordance with the approved schedule.

3. Update on WAVES Proposal

Dr. S. Chandrasekar provided an update on the WAVES proposal. He informed the Committee that the **Community Radio Association (CRA) has submitted its proposal to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) for consideration under the WAVES initiative.**

He further briefed the Committee on the following:

- The proposal has been submitted by CRA for consideration under the WAVES initiative.
- The Committee noted that the proposal represents an opportunity for CRA to contribute to and participate in initiatives associated with the WAVES platform.
- The Committee discussed the importance of maintaining necessary coordination with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and other relevant stakeholders in connection with the proposal.
- The Committee noted that any further communication or clarification sought by the Ministry would be appropriately addressed by CRA.

- The Committee agreed that the progress of the proposal should be closely followed and that further developments would be placed before the Executive Committee for information and necessary action.
- Dr. S. Chandrasekar will continue to coordinate with the concerned stakeholders and keep the Executive Committee informed of further developments.

4. Discussion on Potential Conflict of Interest – SMART Organization and WAVES Proposal

Mr. Jitender Sharma informed the Executive Committee that **SMART Organization (Radio Mewat)**, a member of the Community Radio Association (CRA), had requested a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** from the concerned radio station in connection with a proposal relating to the **WAVES initiative**.

The Committee noted that CRA had already submitted its proposal for consideration under WAVES. In this connection, the Committee recalled the decision taken during the **General Body (GB) Meeting held on 2 December 2024**, wherein it was approved that if any member of CRA submits a proposal in an area or for an initiative where CRA has already submitted a proposal, such action would be considered a **potential conflict of interest**.

The Committee further noted that the above provision was subsequently incorporated into the **CRA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** and duly recorded by the Executive Committee.

Against this background, the Committee discussed the circumstances relating to the proposed participation of SMART Organization in the WAVES initiative. It was observed that, since SMART Organization is a member of CRA and CRA has already submitted a proposal for the same initiative, the submission of a separate proposal by SMART Organization may give rise to a **potential conflict of interest**, subject to clarification of the facts and circumstances.

Mr. Sandeep Parmar further informed the Executive Committee that SMART Organization had also established another organization, **CMA**, which, as informed to the Committee, appears to be undertaking activities similar to those of CRA. He expressed concern that the establishment and activities of such an organization could give rise to additional issues relating to a potential conflict of interest, particularly where there may be overlap in areas of activity.

The members of the Executive Committee discussed the matter in detail and considered the potential implications of the activities referred to above. The Committee noted that the circumstances discussed may warrant clarification from SMART Organization before any further conclusion is drawn regarding the existence or otherwise of a conflict of interest.

Mr. Sandeep Parmar observed that, in a democratic country, any individual or organization is free to establish a new organization and undertake activities of its choice. However, where an organization is a member of another organization and its activities may overlap with or potentially conflict with the interests, objectives, or established provisions of that organization, the matter should be appropriately examined and addressed in accordance with the applicable provisions.

Resolution / Decision

After detailed discussion, the Executive Committee **unanimously resolved** that CRA shall formally communicate with **SMART Organization** and seek clarification regarding its proposed activities, particularly its participation in the WAVES initiative.

The communication shall seek clarification on whether SMART Organization considers its proposed participation in WAVES and related activities to be in conflict with the interests of CRA and/or with the provision approved by the General Body on **2 December 2024** and subsequently incorporated into the CRA MoU.

The Committee further resolved that a **formal email/communication shall be sent to SMART Organization** requesting its response and clarification on the matter.

The Committee agreed that the response received from SMART Organization, if any, shall be considered by the appropriate CRA office bearers and, where necessary, placed before the Executive Committee for further discussion and appropriate action.

This version is safer for formal minutes because it records the issue as a **potential conflict requiring clarification**, rather than stating that a conflict of interest has already been conclusively established.

5. Discussion on the Legal Notice Received from Mr. Nihar Panda

Mr. Jitender Sharma informed the Executive Committee that, as already brought to the notice of all EC members, **Mr. Nihar Panda had served a legal notice on the Community Radio Association (CRA)**. The said legal notice had previously been circulated/shared with all members of the Executive Committee for their information and consideration.

Mr. Jitender Sharma further informed the Committee that CRA had taken necessary steps to examine the matter and had prepared a suitable reply to the legal notice through its advocate, **Ms. Ashima Kalra**.

Ms. Ashima Kalra was invited to attend the Executive Committee meeting to brief the members on the matter. During the meeting, she presented the legal notice received from Mr. Nihar Panda and explained the proposed response prepared on behalf of CRA. The EC members were given an opportunity to review and discuss the contents of the notice and the proposed reply.

The Executive Committee considered the matter in detail and discussed the issues raised in the legal notice, as well as the response proposed by CRA's advocate. After deliberation, the EC members expressed their views on the proposed reply and **unanimously agreed with the reply prepared by Ms. Ashima Kalra**.

Mr. Sandeep Parmar, President, CRA, further brought to the attention of the Committee the statements and communications allegedly being made by Mr. Nihar Panda concerning CRA. He observed that, in his view, certain statements were damaging to the reputation and image of CRA and its functioning.

Mr. Sandeep Parmar therefore proposed that CRA should consider issuing a **separate legal notice for defamation** to Mr. Nihar Panda, seeking an appropriate response to the statements and allegations made by him and reserving CRA's rights to pursue appropriate legal remedies in accordance with applicable law.

The proposal was placed before the Executive Committee for discussion. The EC members discussed the matter and expressed their views regarding the proposed legal action. After detailed deliberation, **all EC members agreed that a legal notice for defamation should be issued to Mr. Nihar Panda**.

The Committee further discussed the proposed amount to be mentioned in connection with the defamation claim. With the consent of all EC members, an amount of **₹25,00,000 (Rupees Twenty-Five Lakh only)** was agreed upon as the proposed claim amount.

Resolution / Decision

After detailed discussion and deliberation, the Executive Committee **unanimously resolved as follows:**

1. **Approval of Reply to Legal Notice:**

The Executive Committee approved the reply prepared by CRA's advocate, **Ms. Ashima Kalra**, in response to the legal notice served by Mr. Nihar Panda.

2. **Issuance of Defamation Legal Notice:**

The Executive Committee unanimously agreed that CRA shall issue a **legal notice for defamation** to Mr. Nihar Panda in relation to the statements/communications considered by the Committee to be damaging to the reputation and image of CRA.

3. **Proposed Claim Amount:**

The Committee agreed, with the consent of all EC members, that the proposed amount associated with the defamation claim shall be **₹25,00,000 (Rupees Twenty-Five Lakh only)**.

4. **Legal Action:**

The Committee agreed that the proposed legal notice shall be prepared and issued through CRA's legal counsel, in accordance with applicable legal procedures.

5. **Further Proceedings:**

The Committee authorized the appropriate office bearers of CRA, in consultation with the legal counsel, to take the necessary follow-up action in the matter and place any significant subsequent developments before the Executive Committee, as required.

Announcements and Closing Remarks

Mr. Jitender Sharma, Secretary General, informed the Committee that there were **no additional announcements** to be made.

The Secretary General thanked the President and all members of the Executive Committee for their participation, discussions, and contributions to the meeting.

The meeting thereafter proceeded towards its conclusion.

Important: The uploaded Minutes support the approval of the reply, issuance of a defamation notice, and the ₹25 lakh proposed claim amount. They do **not explicitly state that specific office bearers were formally “authorized” to issue it**. I have therefore framed that point as a procedural resolution; if this was **actually approved in the meeting**, it is appropriate to retain it. Otherwise, it should be removed to keep the minutes strictly evidence-based.

Conclusion

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



Jitender Sharma



HQs CRA <headquarters.cra@gmail.com>

Clarification Regarding Circulation of Community Media Alliance (CMA) Communication Among Community Radio Stations

1 message

HQs CRA <headquarters.cra@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 11, 2026 at 11:09 AM

To: Archana Kapoor <archana.radiomewat@gmail.com>, archana kapoor <archana.smart@gmail.com>
Bcc: Sandeep Parmar <sandeep.gocd@gmail.com>, Jitender Sharma <jitu1812@gmail.com>, Mirza Beg <mshbeg.nsapl@gmail.com>, EGS Pillay Group of Institutions Nagapattinam <ceo@egspec.org>, patel paresh <patelpare@yahoo.com>, gurjeet.fas@mriu.edu.in

To,
Ms. Archana Kapoor
Founder & Director, SMART
Founder & Director, Radio Mewat – Community Radio Station

Dear Ms. Archana Kapoor,

Greetings from the Community Radio Association (CRA).

At the outset, the Community Radio Association (CRA) fully respects the democratic and legal right of any individual or organisation to establish an association, alliance, network, or platform in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations. CRA also welcomes all initiatives that genuinely contribute to the development, sustainability, and strengthening of the Community Radio sector in India.

However, based on communications circulated among Community Radio Stations (CRS) and concerns brought to the attention of CRA by some of its member stations, we would like to seek certain clarifications in the interest of transparency and to avoid any possible misunderstanding within the Community Radio sector.

1. Circulation of CMA Communication

The invitation/communication relating to the Community Media Alliance (CMA) has reportedly been circulated among several Community Radio Stations, including some stations that are members of CRA.

We have also been informed by certain CRS representatives that they subsequently received follow-up communications or telephone calls encouraging them to register with CMA and provide consent letters.

As a result, some CRA member stations have approached the Association seeking clarity regarding the purpose, nature, and organisational context of the communication.

2. Expression of Interest Communication

As understood from the communication circulated among the Community Radio Stations, an Expression of Interest (EOI) appears to have been received by you and subsequently shared with multiple Community Radio Stations.

In this regard, we would appreciate clarification on:

The nature and purpose of the Expression of Interest;
The circumstances under which it was received;
The rationale for circulating it among Community Radio Stations; and
The process or basis through which the stations were approached subsequently.

3. Communication with CRA Member Stations

We have also received information that certain Community Radio Stations are being approached under the SMART banner and are being encouraged to consider membership of CMA.

As SMART is associated with Radio Mewat, a Community Radio Station, and as you are the Founder & Director of SMART, some CRA members have sought clarification regarding the organisational relationship, if any, between SMART, Radio Mewat, and CMA, particularly in relation to communications being made to existing CRA member stations.

We believe that clarity regarding these relationships would help prevent any misunderstanding among Community Radio Stations and ensure that all communication is appropriately understood by the concerned stakeholders.

4. Legal and Organisational Status of CMA

For the sake of transparency and better understanding among Community Radio Stations, we kindly request clarification regarding the legal and organisational status of the Community Media Alliance (CMA), including:

The legal status and organisational structure of CMA;
The Act, statute, or legal framework under which CMA has been established or registered;
Whether CMA is registered under the Societies Registration Act, the Indian Trusts Act, Section 8 of the Companies Act, or any other applicable legal framework; and
The relevant registration, incorporation, or other statutory details of CMA, as applicable.

This request is solely intended to provide clarity to Community Radio Stations that may be considering association or membership with CMA.

5. Role of CMA and Existing National Structures

The Community Radio Association (CRA) has been representing and supporting Community Radio Stations across India for several years and has engaged with various Ministries, Government departments, statutory bodies, development organisations, and other stakeholders on matters relating to the Community Radio sector.

CRA has also been associated with and participated in national initiatives, including WAVES 1 and WAVES 2, and has consistently worked towards strengthening the collective voice, capacity, sustainability, and development of Community Radio Stations.

In this context, we would appreciate a better understanding of the objective, proposed role, scope, and rationale of CMA, particularly in relation to existing national platforms and structures working with Community Radio Stations.

Our intention is not to question the formation or functioning of any organisation. However, where multiple platforms operate within the same sector with overlapping areas of engagement, adequate coordination and clarity would be beneficial to avoid:

Duplication of efforts;
Confusion among Community Radio Stations and other stakeholders;
Overlapping or conflicting communication; and
Unnecessary fragmentation of the collective voice of the Community Radio sector.

6. Concerns Raised by CRA Members

The circulation of CMA-related communications, followed in some cases by requests for membership registration and consent letters, has resulted in concerns being expressed by certain CRA member stations.

CRA believes that such concerns can be appropriately addressed through transparency, open communication, mutual respect, and constructive dialogue among all stakeholders in the Community Radio ecosystem.

We therefore consider it appropriate to seek clarification directly from you rather than allowing any assumptions or misunderstandings to develop among Community Radio Stations.

7. Request for Clarification

In the interest of transparency and to maintain a constructive environment within the Community Radio sector, we kindly request your clarification on the following:

The purpose and rationale for circulating CMA-related communications among CRA member stations;
The nature and manner in which the Expression of Interest was received and subsequently shared;
The objectives, scope, and proposed role of CMA;
The legal and registration status of CMA;
The relationship, if any, between CMA, SMART, and Radio Mewat in this context; and
The basis and process through which existing CRA member stations are being approached regarding CMA membership or association.

CRA has always maintained that the Community Radio sector can be strengthened through collaboration, mutual respect, transparency, coordination, and collective efforts. We believe that different organisations and platforms can contribute positively to the sector when their roles, objectives, and areas of engagement are clearly understood.

We hope that your clarification on the above matters will help address the concerns raised by our members and contribute to greater transparency and a constructive, cooperative, and positive environment within the Community Radio sector.

We look forward to receiving your clarification and continuing to work towards the collective strengthening of Community Radio in India.

Yours sincerely,
Jitender Sharma
Secretary General

Community Radio Association

Flat No. 5B, 2nd Floor DDA Flat Shahpur Jat New Delhi -110049

Email: headquarters.cra@gmail.com, Website: www.craindia.in

Mr. Sandeep Parmar, President

Mr. Jitender Sharma, Secretary General

Mr. MSH Beg ,Treasurer

CRA Help Line Number : +91 -8920686092 (Timing 10AM to 06PM)



BY REGISTERED POST A.D. & EMAIL

Date: 04 Aug 2026

From:

Community Radio Association

Through its Secretary, Mr. Jitender Sharma

Office: Flat No. 5B, 2nd Floor, DDA Flat

Shahpur Jat, New Delhi-110049

Email: headquarters.cra@gmail.com

To:

Mr. Nihar Ranjan Panda

Station Director, Radio Gunjan

Bargarh, Odisha

Mobile: 8895150888

Email: radiogunjan90.4@gmail.com



legalaashima@gmail.com
aashima@crawfordattorneys.com

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+91-9891-22-7313



116, 1st Floor, Laxmi Deep, Laxmi Nagar
Distt. Centre, Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092

Subject: Reply to your Representation / Legal Notice concerning your membership with the Community Radio Association.

Sir,

Under instructions from and on behalf of my client, the **Community Radio Association** (hereinafter referred to as “**the Association**” or “**CRA**”), a society duly registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, bearing Registration No. S/606/Distt. South/2011, I hereby issue this detailed reply to your representation / Legal Notice received by my client on 25 July 2026, which is being treated as a legal notice for the purpose of this response.

I. PRELIMINARY DENIALS AND OBJECTIONS

- a. At the outset, my client categorically and unequivocally denies each and every allegation, assertion, contention and claim contained in your notice, save and except for what is expressly and specifically admitted herein. The contents of your notice are a concocted, misleading and self-serving narrative designed to conceal your own gross indiscipline and malicious acts against the Association.
- b. It is stated that your notice is a deliberate and mischievous attempt to conflate distinct and separate issues, namely:
 - i. the comprehensive disciplinary proceedings initiated against you in 2023, which culminated in your expulsion for three years after full compliance with the principles of natural justice
 - ii. the subsequent resolution of the General Body in its meeting dated 02 May 2026, formalizing your termination and

- iii. the recording of a third-party complaint against you in the Executive Committee minutes dated 29 June 2026.
- c. This reply is being furnished to place on record the correct and verifiable factual matrix, supported by contemporaneous documents and to rebut the baseless and defamatory averments made by you. Nothing stated herein shall be construed as an admission of any liability and my client reserves the right to supplement this reply and initiate appropriate legal proceedings against you for your actions.

II. THE CORRECT FACTUAL MATRIX

The sequence of events, which you have conveniently suppressed and distorted, is as follows:

- a. In and around 2022-2023, you, in a flagrant act of misconduct, initiated a malicious campaign against the duly elected office-bearers of the Association. Forsaking all internal grievance redressal mechanisms, you addressed letters to external authorities, including the Central Bank of India (where the Association holds its Bank account), the Registrar of Societies and the Economic Offences Wing, Delhi Police. In these letters, you levelled grave and unsubstantiated allegations of financial misappropriation and demanded that the Association's bank accounts be frozen, an act calculated to paralyze the functioning of the Association.
- b. The Executive Committee (EC) of the Association, in its meeting dated 06 June 2023, took cognizance of your derogatory and harmful actions. In adherence to due process, the EC unanimously resolved to issue a Show Cause Notice to you.

- c. Accordingly, a formal Show cause Notice dated 07 June 2023 was served upon you, detailing your misconduct and providing you with an opportunity to explain your conduct within seven days.
- d. You submitted your reply via email dated 14 June 2023, wherein you admitted to writing the said letters and attempted to justify your indefensible actions.
- e. The EC convened a meeting on 16 June 2023 to meticulously consider your reply. The EC found your explanation to be wholly unsatisfactory and devoid of any remorse. Consequently, the EC unanimously resolved to expel you from the membership of CRA for a period of three years for gross indiscipline and for acting against the interests of the Association. This decision was formally communicated to you via an Expulsion Letter dated 20 June 2023.
- f. To ensure the highest standards of fairness and transparency, the decision of the EC was placed before the General Body in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 28 June 2023. The minutes of the said meeting record that you were personally present, were given a full opportunity to present your defense and that another member, Mr. N.A. Shah Ansari, also spoke in your favour. After due deliberation, the General Body, which is the supreme authority of the Association, overwhelmingly ratified the decision to expel you, with 94 members voting in favour of the resolution.

- g. Subsequently, in the Annual General Meeting held on 02 May 2026, considering your persistent indiscipline and activities detrimental to the Association over the preceding three years, the General Body passed a resolution to convert your ongoing disciplinary status into a formal and permanent termination of membership.
- h. Separately, in the EC meeting dated 29 June 2026, a complaint received from another CRA member, Radio Janvani, against you concerning alleged financial irregularities was tabled. The EC, in discharge of its duties, resolved to constitute a committee to inquire into the matter.

III. PARA-WISE REPLY TO YOUR NOTICE

Without prejudice to the foregoing, a specific para-wise reply to the objections raised in your notice is as under:

Re: Objections 1, 2, 3 & 4 (Alleged lack of agenda, violation of natural justice, non-passing of resolution and lack of quorum for the 02 May 2026 meeting):

- a. These objections are denied as being contrary to the official records of the Association. The minutes of the AGM dated 02 May 2026, a copy of which was duly submitted to the Registrar of Societies vide letter dated 17 June 2026, are the authentic record of the proceedings. The said minutes expressly record that the Vice President confirmed the completion of the quorum and that a unanimous resolution was passed to convert your suspension into a formal termination. Your notice does not state or identify who challenged the quorum or provide an attendance record, CRA

therefore denies that your assertions establishes that the meeting was non est.

- b. Your allegation of a violation of natural justice is preposterous and a blatant falsehood. The principles of audi alteram partem were complied with in their entirety during the 2023 disciplinary proceedings, which form the bedrock of all subsequent actions. You were served a Show Cause Notice, you submitted a written reply, your reply was considered and you were personally heard by the supreme authority of the Association - the General Body - on 28 June 2023. The 2026 resolution was a formalization of the consequences of your established misconduct and did not require a fresh, de-novo inquiry. Your vague and unsubstantiated claims based on alleged conversations with unnamed members are legally untenable and are rejected.

Re: Objection 5 (Alleged lack of authority of an outgoing EC):

- This objection is denied. The Executive Committee was functioning with full legal authority as per the bye-laws of the Association. In any event, the decision of 02 May 2026 was a resolution of the General Body, not the EC. Therefore, the status of the EC is irrelevant to the validity of the said resolution.

Re: Objections 6, 7 & 8 (Alleged arbitrary suspension and victimization):

- It is vehemently denied that the disciplinary action against you was arbitrary or an act of victimization. The action was a direct and proportionate consequence of your own malicious conduct. You

were not disciplined for raising a governance query; you were disciplined for attempting to sabotage the Association by making unsubstantiated public allegations of financial fraud and seeking to freeze its bank accounts. This constitutes the gravest form of indiscipline.

- Your attempt to portray yourself as a whistleblower is a sham. The issue regarding the eligibility of the Treasurer was openly discussed in the General Body meeting of 18 March 2023 and a democratic process to ascertain the views of all members via a Google Form was initiated. Your actions were a deliberate bypass of this democratic process, aimed at creating chaos and defaming the office-bearers.

Re: Objection 9 (Alleged fresh termination after expiry of suspension):

- This is factually incorrect. The three-year expulsion period commenced on 20 June 2023. The AGM of 02 May 2026 took place well before the expiry of this period. The resolution was not a "fresh termination" but a decision to make the existing disciplinary measure permanent due to your unrepentant conduct.

Re: Objections 10, 11 & 12 (Alleged defamation, lack of jurisdiction and pattern of victimization):

- a. These objections are misconceived and denied. The EC minutes of 29 June 2026 do not constitute a finding of guilt against you or Radio Gunjan. They are a factual and internal record that a complaint has been received from a member and that a committee will be constituted to examine it. It is the fiduciary duty of the EC to take cognizance of such complaints. Not doing so would be a dereliction

of duty. The EC has not acted as a court of law but has initiated a preliminary internal inquiry, which is well within its jurisdiction.

- b. The only discernible pattern is one of persistent indiscipline and misconduct on your part, which has compelled the Association to take necessary and procedurally sound actions to protect its integrity, reputation and functioning.

IV. LEGAL POSITION

- a. It is a settled principle of law that courts are circumspect in interfering with the internal affairs and disciplinary proceedings of a private body like a society, especially when the society has acted in good faith, in accordance with its rules and in compliance with the principles of natural justice. My client has met and exceeded these standards.
- b. Your attempts to impute criminality to a matter of internal society governance are legally untenable. My client cautions you that should you file any frivolous or malicious criminal complaint based on these false allegations, my client will be constrained to initiate appropriate proceedings against you for malicious prosecution under the applicable laws, entirely at your cost and risk.

V. RESPONSE TO YOUR DEMANDS

In light of the above, your demands are responded to as follows:

Your Demand	My Client's Response
1. Immediately withdraw the purported decision terminating Life Membership.	Rejected. The decision was validly taken by the General Body, the supreme authority of the Association and will not be withdrawn.
2. Restore all rights and privileges as a Life Member.	Rejected. Consequent to the valid termination of your membership, you hold no rights or privileges in the Association.
3. Withdraw, modify or suitably correct all minutes and publications containing defamatory references.	Rejected. The official minutes of the Association are an accurate and factual record of the proceedings. They are not defamatory. No part of the minutes will be withdrawn or modified.
4. Preserve all records, Zoom recordings, attendance records, emails and documents.	Accepted, subject to reciprocity. My client preserves its records as a matter of standard procedure. You are hereby put on notice to preserve all records, communications and metadata related to this matter, as my client may require their production in future legal proceedings.

VI. CONCLUSION

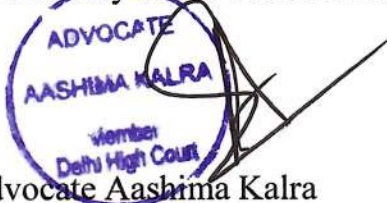
- a) Your notice and the demands contained therein are devoid of any merit, factually incorrect and legally unsustainable. The seven-day ultimatum issued by you is rejected.

- b) My Client further hereby expressly reserves all its rights, remedies, claims and causes of action available to it in law and equity including, without limitation, the right to institute and pursue appropriate civil, criminal, disciplinary and/or other legal proceedings against you in respect of your unlawful, malicious, defamatory and/or otherwise actionable acts and conduct.
- c) Without prejudice to the foregoing, my Client further reserves the unequivocal right to initiate appropriate proceedings against you for defamation, both civil and criminal and for recovery of damages and compensation arising from and/or occasioned by the false, malicious, reckless and defamatory statements, allegations, imputations and communications made, published, circulated or otherwise attributed by you against my Client and/or its office-bearers, representatives or associated persons.
- d) My Client shall be entitled to seek substantial damages and compensation for the injury caused to its reputation, goodwill, standing, credibility and professional interests, as well as for the mental distress, embarrassment, loss of goodwill, financial loss and other consequential harm suffered and/or likely to be suffered as a direct or indirect consequence of your acts and omissions.
- e) My Client further reserves the right to seek recovery of all costs, expenses and professional fees, including legal fees and other incidental expenses incurred or to be incurred in taking legal action against you, defending its reputation and protecting its rights and interests. My Client shall also be entitled to seek such injunctive, declaratory, mandatory and/or other equitable reliefs as may be permissible under applicable law, including orders restraining you from repeating, publishing, circulating,

communicating or disseminating any such defamatory, false or disparaging statements in any manner whatsoever.

- f) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing contained herein shall be construed as a waiver, abandonment or relinquishment of any right, remedy, claim or proceeding available to my Client. All such rights and remedies are hereby expressly reserved, whether presently known or arising subsequently upon further investigation or upon the occurrence of any further act or omission on your part.
- g) My Client further reserves the right to initiate separate or concurrent proceedings before the competent courts, authorities, tribunals and/or other forums having jurisdiction, as may be considered necessary and appropriate, without any further notice to you, should you fail to immediately cease and desist from the aforesaid conduct and/or continue to commit, repeat, publish or disseminate any defamatory or otherwise actionable material. This reservation of rights is made without prejudice to any other rights, claims, remedies and reliefs available to my Client under the applicable statutory, common and other laws, all of which are expressly reserved.

Yours faithfully,
For and on behalf of the
Community Radio Association



Advocate Aashima Kalra
Member Delhi High Court
Managing Partner – Crawford Business Attorneys
aashima@crawfordattorneys.com
+91-9891-2273-13



BY REGISTERED POST A.D., WHATSAPP AND EMAIL

Date: 8th August 2026

To

Mr. Nihar Ranjan Panda

Station Director, Radio Gunjan H.L.O. Colony

Sambalpur – 768001, Odisha.

Email: radiogunjan90.4@gmail.com

Mobile: 8895150888

Subject: Legal Notice for Defamation, Malicious Falsehood and for Recovery of Damages amounting to ₹25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Lac only) under Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023



Sir,

Under the instructions and on behalf of my client, the **Community Radio Association (CRA)**, a society duly registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, bearing Registration No. S/606/Distt. South/2011, having its office at Flat No. 5B, 2nd Floor, DDA Flat, Shahpur Jat, New Delhi-110049, through its Secretary General, Mr. Jitender Sharma (hereinafter referred to as “my Client”), I do hereby serve upon you, the addressee, this legal notice as follows:

- 1) That my Client is India’s premier and oldest association of Community Radio broadcasters, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the growth, development and sustainability of the community radio sector across the nation. My Client enjoys immense goodwill, credibility and an unimpeachable reputation amongst its more than 350+ members, various Ministries of the Government of India, regulatory bodies, funding agencies and international partners.
- 2) That you, the addressee was a Life Member of my Client association and are fully aware of its functioning, objectives and esteemed standing in the public domain. The present notice is necessitated by a series of malicious, defamatory and illegal acts perpetrated by you with the sole and explicit intent to tarnish the reputation of my Client and its duly elected office bearers, disrupt its operations and cause irreparable harm to its goodwill.
- 3) That the Association represents a vast national network whose membership expanded to **350 members** as of 31 March 2026, as formally recorded in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) minutes

dated 02 May 2026. The defamatory statements and malicious communications circulated by you have consequently caused severe reputational injury across this extensive institutional network

THE CORRECT FACTUAL MATRIX & CHRONOLOGY OF DEFAMATORY ACTS

- 1) That the entire sequence of events supported by contemporaneous documentary evidence exposes a calculated and sustained campaign of defamation launched by you against my Client. The key events are chronicled hereunder:
 - i. That in and around 2022, you initiated a malicious campaign against the then-elected office bearers of my Client. Instead of utilizing the internal grievance redressal mechanisms of the association, you with a clear intent to defame, addressed baseless and scurrilous communications to external authorities
 - ii. That specifically, you addressed a letter received by the Central Bank of India on or about 22.04.2022 wherein you made gravely defamatory allegations of a criminal nature. In the said letter, you falsely alleged that the President, Secretary General and Executive Committee members were involved in “illegal spending of association’s finances” and demanded the Bank not to entertain any financial transactions from my Client’s bank accounts. This act was a direct and malicious attempt to paralyze the financial operations of my Client based on manufactured falsehoods.

- iii. That you further circulated copies of your said defamatory letter to the Registrar of Societies, New Delhi and the Economic Offences Wing, Delhi Police thereby publishing your false and unsubstantiated allegations of financial misappropriation to statutory and law enforcement authorities which constitutes defamation per se and is an act of utmost gravity.
- iv. That in response to your egregious misconduct, the Executive Committee (EC) of my Client in its meeting dated 06.06.2023, followed due process and unanimously resolved to issue a Show Cause Notice to you. Accordingly, a Show cause Notice dated 07.06.2023 was duly served upon you providing you an opportunity to explain your conduct.
- v. That in your reply to the Show Cause Notice, dated 14.06.2023, you not only admitted to having written the aforesaid letters but also showed no remorse or regret for your actions. You failed to produce a single shred of evidence to substantiate your wild allegations thereby confirming that your actions were driven by malice and not by any purported "good faith".
- vi. That the EC, in its meeting dated 16.06.2023, found your reply to be wholly unsatisfactory and after due deliberation, unanimously resolved to expel you from the membership of CRA for a period of three years for gross indiscipline and acts intended to defame the association. This decision was

formally communicated to you via an Expulsion Letter dated 20.06.2023.

- vii. That the decision of the EC was subsequently placed before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of my Client held on 28.06.2023. It is a matter of record that you were present in the said AGM and were given a full opportunity to present your case before the General Body. After hearing you, the General Body comprising 94 members overwhelmingly voted to ratify and endorse the decision of your expulsion thereby confirming that the action taken against you was just, fair and in accordance with the principles of natural justice.
- viii. That despite the expiry of the initial disciplinary period, your conduct showed no improvement. Consequently, owing to your persistent indiscipline and continued violation of the ethical norms of the association, the General Body of my Client in its AGM dated 02.05.2026 unanimously resolved to convert your suspension into a formal termination of your membership with immediate effect.
- ix. That the pattern of your bad faith and financial malpractice is further evidenced by an official complaint lodged against him by Radio Janvani (Janakalyan Pratisthan, through its Secretary, Durga Madhab Panda) as recorded in the Executive Committee meeting minutes dated 29 June 2026. That you extracted an advance of ₹2,00,000 for setting up a studio and acoustic work but failed to execute the project resulting in a six-month operational delay and exploiting a fellow member station.

DEFAMATION AND MALICIOUS FALSEHOOD

2) That your actions as detailed above squarely fall within the definition of defamation. The statements made and published by you in your letters to the Central Bank of India the Registrar of Societies and the Economic Offences Wing were:

- i. False and Defamatory: The allegations of "illegal spending" and financial misappropriation were to your knowledge, utterly false, baseless and intended to impute criminal conduct upon my Client's office bearers.
- ii. Published to Third Parties: You deliberately communicated these falsehoods to respectable third parties including a nationalized bank and government authorities whose perception of my Client is of paramount importance.
- iii. Made with Malice: Your intent was not to seek information but to inflict maximum damage by attempting to freeze my Client's bank accounts and trigger unwarranted investigations thereby demonstrating clear malice.
- iv. Calculated to Cause Harm: The natural and probable consequence of your allegations was to lower the reputation of my Client in the eyes of right-thinking members of society, its members and its institutional partners and to cause it severe financial and operational distress.

- 3) That your conduct demonstrates a persistent and vexatious pattern of behaviour aimed at subverting the democratic functioning of my Client. When your objections regarding internal policy matters (such as the eligibility of an office bearer) were democratically addressed and decided by the General Body, you resorted to a malicious external campaign thereby abusing the process of law and communication.
- 4) That your actions were not merely defamatory but also constitute the tort of malicious falsehood. You knowingly published false statements with the intent to cause financial harm to my Client. Your demand to the bank to freeze my Client's accounts is irrefutable proof of your intent to cause such financial injury.
- 5) That the defence of acting in "good faith" is not available to you as your actions were reckless, unsubstantiated and aimed at destruction rather than reform. You deliberately bypassed internal remedies to launch a public attack which is the very antithesis of good faith.
- 6) That the damages caused by your sustained campaign are immense and multifaceted. My Client has suffered:
 - i. Grave Reputational Injury: Your allegations cast a cloud of suspicion over the financial integrity of my Client, a non-profit organization that runs on trust and transparency.
 - ii. Harassment and Diversion of Resources: My Client's elected office bearers were forced to divert their valuable time and the

association's resources towards defending against your baseless allegations before multiple forums.

- iii. Mental Agony and Distress: Your actions have caused immense mental agony and harassment to the office bearers and staff of my Client.
- iv. Risk to Financial Stability: Your attempt to freeze the bank accounts posed a direct and existential threat to my Client's operations including its ability to execute projects and pay salaries.

7) That the cumulative damage to my Client's reputation, goodwill, business prospects and the emotional and professional well-being of its leadership is conservatively at ₹25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Lac only). This amount is claimed towards compensatory, aggravated and exemplary damages for your malicious and high-handed conduct.

In light of the foregoing, you, the addressee is hereby called upon to comply with the following requisitions within a period of **fifteen (15) days** from the receipt of this legal notice:

- i. Immediately cease and desist from making, publishing or circulating any further false, malicious or defamatory statements, allegations or imputations against my Client, its office bearers or its members in any form or on any platform whatsoever.
- ii. Tender an immediate, unconditional and public apology to my Client. The text of the said apology shall be approved by my

Client in advance and shall be circulated by you at your own cost, to the Branch Manager, Central Bank of India, Gulmohar Park Branch, Delhi; the Registrar of Societies, New Delhi; the Economic Offences Wing, Delhi Police; and to all members of the Community Radio Association.

- iii. Pay a sum of **₹25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Lac only)** to my Client as damages for the loss of reputation, mental agony, harassment and financial injury caused by your defamatory acts.

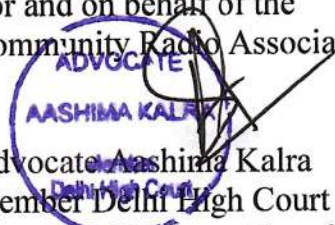
Please take notice that if you fail to comply with the aforementioned requisitions within the stipulated period of fifteen (15) days, my Client shall be constrained to initiate appropriate legal proceedings against you, including but not limited to:

- a. A **Civil Suit for Defamation and Recovery of Damages** before a competent court of law; and
- b. A **Criminal Complaint** under Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and other relevant provisions of law.

Be advised that in the event of such litigation, you shall be solely liable for all costs, risks and consequences thereof.

A copy of this notice is retained in my office for future records and further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,
For and on behalf of the
Community Radio Association


ADVOCATE
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