

Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 27/2014)

For Immediate release

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

TRAI releases Consultation Paper on “Issues related to Community Radio Stations”

New Delhi, 21st May, 2014- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released a Consultation Paper (CP) on “Issues related to Community Radio Stations”.

2. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) had requested the TRAI to examine the issues relating to extension of permission granted to Community Radio Stations in India, as some of these permissions have begun to expire. Community Radio Stations typically serve a specific community in a well defined geographical area using low powered transmitters. They seek to address the specific information needs of the community. The permission to operate these radio stations are granted to educational institutions and other not-for profit organisations. The Government neither charges any fees nor share the income from these radio stations for grant of the permission.

3. The Authority has conducted a pre-consultation exercise to help identify issues for the growth and orderly development of this sector. Based on the responses received, a formal consultation process has now been initiated. In this Consultation Paper, some of the major issues identified for comments are:

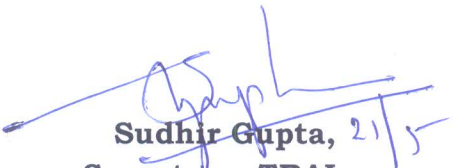
- (i) The period of permission to be granted henceforth and the period of extension of such permission.



- (ii) Should the Community Radio Stations be allowed to carry news bulletins of AIR and community based non-news current affairs programs?
- (iii) Should they be allowed to broadcast advertisements beyond 5 minutes per hour, which is presently allowed and if yes, for how many minutes per hour?
- (iv) What should be the operational guidelines for participation of the community radio stations in the rescue/ rehabilitation work during natural calamities or other emergency situations? And
- (v) Other measures that should be taken for the growth and spread of the community radio stations in India.

5. As part of the consultative process, the CP has been uploaded on the TRAI website. Stakeholders have been requested to offer their comments/ views at the latest by 11th June 2014. Counter-comments, if any, may be submitted by 18rd June 2014. The comments and counter-comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form to Mr. Agneshwar Sen, Advisor (B & CS), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, on the e-mail: asen@traigov.in or traicable@yahoo.co.in. For any clarification/ information, Mr. Agneshwar Sen, Advisor (B & CS) may be contacted at Tel. No.: +91-11-23234367, Fax: +91-11-23220442. Comments and counter comments will be posted on TRAI's website.

6. The full text of the consultation paper is available on TRAI's website www.traigov.in.


Sudhir Gupta, 21/5
Secretary, TRAI