LET'S CELEBRATE COMMUNITIES POWER 'RADIO'

23rd October 2021 - 13th November 2021

BACKGROUND

In times of the COVID-19 pandemic, community radio stations 'CRs' have become the most popular and effective medium for information dissemination to a larger audience, specifically in marginalised and rural regions.

In an effort to recognise the value of CR stations during this pandemic, Jadeite Solutions and Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) under CDREP 2.0 programme in collaboration with CR stations are organising series of online event from 23rd October 2021 – 13th November 2021 to address the issues of information access and communicative equity, creation of a level playing field in the infrastructural domain, provision of public funding for community media, and forging enabling policy formulations to support these measures.

OBJECTIVES

☐ Launch of the Booklet - Community Radio in India: Unsung heroes in the time of COVID-19

☐ Bringing the voices of CR stations sharing their experiences and challenges during the pandemic

☐ Strategies to reaching out wider audience and dealing with the second wave of COVID

☐ Exploring the solutions to sustain the CR stations in time of crisis

REALISING THE BOOKLET

Community Radio in India
Unsung heroes in the time of COVID-19

This booklet comprises the experiences of community radio stations from India who have stepped forward to help local communities living farthest regions in loneliness, build awareness, demolish fake news and bringing awareness about social distancing during the ongoing pandemic in form of case stories. This publication attempts to understand the commonalities; differences & uniqueness of the programmes broadcasted by CR stations. This publication is dedicated to all CR stations and to the countless unknown faces behind the CR stations who have worked tirelessly in order to bring relevant information timely to the people who are deprived of information in local language and dialect.

Author: Ritu Srivastava, Chair, IEEE Working Group IGSA and Director, Jadeite Solutions

DAY 1

SESSION 1
Releasing the booklet, Community Radio in India: Unsung heroes in the time of COVID-19

🕓 4.00 pm to 4.45 pm (45 minutes)

PANELISTS

Prof. Vinod Pavarala, UNESCO Chair on Community Media, University of Hyderabad

Mr. Osama Manzar, Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF)

Mr. Mohd. Niyaz, Founder & Station Head, Radio Bulbul

Ms. Gayathri Usman, Station Head, Kadal Osai

Ms. Ritu Srivastava, Author & Director, Jadeite Solutions

MODERATOR
Mr. Madanmohan Rao, Research Director, YourStory Media; BIG APC's Innovation Officer

☕ Break: 15 Minutes

SESSION 2
Voices of CR stations in North India: Experiences & Challenges

🕓 5.00 pm to 5.45 pm (45 minutes)

PANELISTS

Ms. Nitika Kakkar, Senior Program Manager, SMART

Ms. Barsha Chabaria, Station Head, Salaam Namaste

Mr. Rakesh Kumar Pandey, CEO, Shramik Bharti, Waqt ki Awaaz Radio

Ms. Pooja O. Murada, Head, Alfaz-e-Mewat FM

MODERATOR
Ms. Sania Farooqui, Journalist & Host: The Sania Farooqui Show

✅ Summarising the Day (15 minutes)

DAY 2

SESSION 1
Voices of CR Stations in Western India: Experiences & Challenges

🕐 4.00 pm to 4.45 pm (45 minutes)

PANELISTS

Mr. Sachin, RJ, Mann Deshi Tarang Vahini

Sis. Krishna, Production Head, Radio Madhuban 90.4 FM

Ms. Neeta Tai Joshi, Station Head, Yeralavani

MODERATOR
Mr. Ravi Guria, Media Consultant and Filmmaker

☕ Break: 15 Minutes

SESSION 2
Voices of CR Stations in Eastern India: Experiences & Challenges

🕐 5.00 pm to 5.45 pm (45 minutes)

PANELISTS

Mr. Mohd Niyaz, Founder & Station Head, Radio Bulbul

Dr. Shisir Kumar Das, Director, Radio Surabhi

Mr. Bhaskar Bhuyan, Coordinator, Radio Brahmaputra

Father Paul, Station Head, Radio Salesian

Summarising the Day (15 minutes)

DAY 3

SESSION 1
Voices of CR Stations in Southern India: Experiences & Challenges

🕐 4.00 pm to 4.45 pm (45 minutes)

PANELISTS

Mr. Mukesh Mohankumar, Station Head, Radio Rathinavani

Mr. Father Bijo, Station Head, Radio Mattoli

Ms. Gayathri Usman, Station Head, Kadal Osai

Father Peter, Station Head, Radio Benziger

MODERATOR
Ms. Venu Arora, Co-Founder, IdeoSync

☕ Break: 15 Minutes

SESSION 2
Sustaining the CR in times of COVID

🕐 5.00 pm to 5.45 pm (45 minutes)

PANELISTS

Mr. N.A Shah Ansari, Chairperson, Namaskar Community Media Network

Ms. Ekta Mittal, Media Practitioner and Researcher, Maraa

Ms. Venu Arora, Co-Founder, IdeoSync

Ms. Pooja O. Murada, Head, Alfaz-e-Mewat FM

MODERATOR
Ms. Sarbani Banerjee Belur, Asia Regional Coordinator, Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

Summarising the Day (15 minutes)

DAY 4

SESSION 1 — Frugal innovations for sustaining CR stations

🕐 4.00 pm to 4.45 pm (45 minutes)

PANELISTS

Ms. Jane Coffin, Senior Vice President, Internet Growth, ISOC

Mr. Osama Manzar, Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF)

Mr. Sarbani Banerjee Belur, Asia Regional Coordinator, Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

Ms. Ritu Srivastava, Author & Director, Jadeite Solutions

MODERATOR
Mr. Ravi Guria, Media Consultant and Filmmaker

☕ Break: 15 Minutes

SESSION 2 — Policy shift to recognize CR stations as the last-mile information providers

🕐 5.00 pm to 5.45 pm (45 minutes)

PANELISTS

Prof. Vinod Pavarala, UNESCO Chair on Community Media, University of Hyderabad

Mr. Osama Manzar, Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF)

Ms. Archana Kapoor, Founder, Radio Mewat

Ms. Ritu Srivastava, Author & Director, Jadeite Solutions

MODERATOR
Mr. Syed S. Kazi, Deputy Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF)

Closing the event (15 minutes)