

Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 46/2022)

For Immediate release

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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

New Delhi, 21st July 2022 - The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released a Consultation Paper (CP) on “Issues related to Community Radio Stations”.

2. Community Radio Stations (CRS) serve a local and well-defined community focusing on the day to day concerns of its audience and satisfy their specific information and entertainment needs. The Government announced its policy for the grant of permission for setting up of CRS in December 2002 permitting well established educational institutions, including IITs/IIMs to establish CRS. In order to allow greater participation by the civil society on issues relating to development and social change, the Government on 4th December 2006 announced a revised policy for CRS that has been duly amended in 2017.

2. MIB vide its references dated 11.11.2021 and 17.01.2022 requested the Authority to provide its recommendations, under section 11(1)(a)(ii) and 11(1) (d) of the TRAI Act, 1997 on the following issues:

- (i) Inclusion of not-for-profit companies, registered under Section 8 of Companies Act 2013, in the list of eligible organizations
- (ii) Increasing of permission period from existing period of 5 years to 10 years

(iii) Maximum duration of advertisement per hour of broadcast on CRS

(iv) Number of CR Stations operated in each district of operation by Not-for-profit organizations, operating in multiple districts

3. Accordingly, Consultation Paper has been prepared to seek the comments/views of the stakeholders on the issues related to CRS. Written comments on the consultation paper are invited from the stakeholders by 17th August 2022. Counter comments, if any, may be submitted by 31st August 2022. The comments and counter-comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form on the email ID advbcs-2@traigov.in and jtadvbcs-1@traigov.in.

4. For any clarification/ information, Shri Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Advisor (B&CS) may be contacted at Tel. No. +91-11-23237922.

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

(V. Raghunandan)

Secretary, TRAI