

वी के अग्रवाल
संयुक्त सलाहकार
प्रसारण एवं केबल सेवाएं
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
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Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 9:59:16 AM
Subject: Consultation Paper on FM Radio

Dear Sirs/ Madams

Please find below my comments as an individual on the recent Consultation Paper on Issues related to FM Radio Broadcasting.

Q3. Is there a need to review the present Policy guidelines as regards the News and current affairs on private FM radio stations? If so, please provide detailed justification, including the additional compliance/ reporting (if any), duration of news and current affair programmes and method of effective monitoring may be suggested.

> There needs to be policy to allow news and current affair programmes on FM Radio to be on par with the policy for Television. A full mandate to air all news, views and related current affairs programmes is the need of the hour to help radio become a worthy and profitable medium of communication. The same restrictions (if any) as applied to TV news broadcasting should also be considered.

> Along with news, a special category for broadcasting sports related content also needs to be created and dedicated channels may be allowed to broadcast live sporting events, news, interviews and other sports related content that would help take the sports, including the not so famous ones, to the masses.

Q4. Is there a need to mandate that all the Mobile Handset manufactured/ sold in India will require to have an in-built FM Radio receiver? Please provide detailed justification for your comments.

> There was a time when most mobile handsets carried receivers for FM radio. This actually killed the standalone radio sets that were available in the market as owning a mobile phone became common. An open survey of exclusive FM radio handsets on e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart would reveal that no manufacturers of international repute make any standalone AM/FM radio sets. With the advent of online music streaming platforms, the conventional radio has become endangered. To add to this, manufacturers of handsets (barring a few) have done away with the 3.5mm headphone jack which used to work as an FM radio antenna. Sales of keypad type feature phones have dwindled to their lowest in

memory and most mobile operators are bundling data services with almost all tariff plans, and some are in the process of deprecating 2G and 3G services in favour of 4G and 5G.

The same revolution is happening with car radios as most vehicles sold [today](#) are now equipped with Bluetooth enabled entertainment systems or with Android Auto / Apple Car Play which enables them to use online streaming apps.

Radio channels like Radio Mirchi have launched their own apps and streaming platforms online to stream the same content as their local FM stations.

If conventional Radio needs to be alive, all phones and car entertainment systems need to be mandatorily equipped with FM Radio receivers. If not, the end of the FM radio as we currently know it is not far.

Thank You,

Regards
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