  
**Production and On Air Programming**  
**(BAJMC-208)**  
**Unit – 1**  
**Radio News**  
by  
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**(Assistant Professor, BVICAM, New Delhi)**  
**2023**

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**Unit 1- Chapter 1**

**Basics of Radio News**

- Concept of News
- Qualities of News
- News values and element of News
- Radio News Vs. Newspaper News

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**Objective**

**After reading this lesson you will be able to**

- Define the concept of News
- Enumerate the elements and qualities of the News
- Understand the news values



  
**GUGLIELMO MARCONI,**  
**ITALIAN RADIO PIONEER**

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 **Introduction**

**What is Radio ?**  
 Radio is identified as the fastest medium for getting information.

- \*Radio News is different from a newspaper or television news.
- \*Radio is a medium of voice-to-ear, not news-to-eye as in newspapers
- \*Radio news is presented in different formats, viz.,
  1. News Bulletin
  2. News Magazine
  3. Newsreel etc.

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 **Introduction**

- Radio is communication over distance when sounds are converted to electromagnetic waves and sent to a receiver that transfers the waves back to sounds.
- Radio in recent times has developed a new role as informant and companion, besides being the source of entertainment.
- From its first tentative experiments and the early days of wireless, radio has expanded into an almost universal medium of communication.
- At present Radio covers 92 percent of area and 99 percent of population in India.

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 **Brief History of Radio**

- Invention of radio - Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi 1890s. His ideas took shape in 1895 when he sent a wireless Morse Code message.
- Radio In India - Radio Broadcasting began in June 1923 during the British Raj.
- First Radio Station - Bombay station which began on 23 July 1927
- Same year Calcutta station which followed on 26 August 1927
- Establishment of All India Radio on 8 June 1936 by Lionel Fielden

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**Brief History of Radio**

- When India attained independence, there were six radio stations
  1. Delhi
  2. Bombay
  3. Calcutta
  4. Madras
  5. Tiruchirapalli and
  6. Lucknow
- Radio City Bangalore, started on July 3, 2001, is India's first private FM radio station.
- Community Radio started in India on 2004



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**Characteristics of Radio**

- Informs
- Educates
- Entertains
- Radio makes pictures
- Radio speaks to the individual
- Radio is inexpensive
- Radio does not need electric power supply
- One does not have to be literate to listen to radio



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**Radio as a medium of Mass Comm.**

- Radio speaks to millions
- The speed of radio
- Radio has no boundaries
- Radio for society
- Interactive communication
- It motivates

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**Quick Check**

Q1. Inventor of Radio ?  
 A. GUGLIELMO MARCONI (1890's)

Q2. All India Radio established on which date ?  
 A. 8 June, 1936

Q3. India's first private FM radio station  
 A. Radio City Bangalore, started on July 3, 2001

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**Brief History of News**

Several newspapers, editors, news reporters, eminent journalists and many media educators have attempted to define news, but these definitions have not always met the test of the time.

- News is a report of an event that has just taken place.
- News is anything that is new.



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**Brief History of News**

- News is a detailed account that provides information or description.
- It could also include depiction (representation), delineation (description), statement (announcement, declaration), and narration of a development, event, or occurrence (incidents, happenings).
- The event is usually recent, fresh or not known earlier.
- News is something that at a particular moment happens to attract and hold the interest of the reader, or listener or viewer.

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**Concept of News**

**Definition of News for radio depends on –**

- The size of listeners
- The periodicity of Broadcast (Usually AIR broadcasts news hourly)
- The social character and economic base of the listeners
- The focus of attention or emphasis of the listeners.

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**Concept of News**

**Hence, the News is - Perishable (Which news is new at the moment but next moment it will not be news any more it will become an 'information')**

- What is new to the public
- Unusual events and happenings
- Interest to a large number of people
- An event put forward by a reporter, as without a reporter, a news item does not exist.



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**Qualities of News**

There are some basic qualities of the news. These are Accuracy, Balance, Objectivity, Clarity, Concise and Comprehensive.



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 **Qualities of News**

**Accuracy** - Accuracy is basic to any news item. When you fail in accuracy, you lose credibility. Hence it is important to cross check your facts and information.

**Balance** - To be balanced in reporting is as important as being accurate. If you are writing about a controversy, present both sides of the story.

**Objectivity** - You should not mix your opinion in the story. Report only facts and other people's opinions. You should be a disinterested observer, reporting events without taking sides.

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 **Qualities of News**

**Clarity** - A story must be best in the way it expresses the theme. Your introductory sentence should be short and in active voice to the maximum extent possible.

**Concise** - A news story must be concise. It should not be unnecessarily lengthy. Where unnecessary details are to be avoided.

**Comprehensiveness** - It means that complete by all regards and aspects. A news item is considered comprehensive only when it answers the every possible question that may arise in the minds of listeners.

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 **News Values and Element of News**

- Conflict** - Conflict means a kind of clash, quarrel, disagreement, discord or battle between persons, groups, societies or countries. It may be physical, social, economical, political, boundaries between or issues between two states or countries, religious, ethnic or personal. Most conflicts are newsworthy to some extent or degree.
- Victory and Defeat** - Conflict naturally paves way for the victory of one party and defeat of the other one. Whether the conflict is between two hockey or cricket teams striving for a cup or trophy, or two armies combating in a battle or two political parties contesting an election

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 **News Values and Element of News**

**3. Progress and Development** - Progress means any improvement in any field. If the progress is really significant it will be a part of the news bulletin. Progress of student or person, a society, a country, science & technology, relations between two countries, etc. gets attention of public. News related to development issues such as Environment, Ecology, Gender, Health, Population control, Agriculture etc. need to be reported and disseminated..

**4. Government activities and action** - The passing of a law or other order concerning general people, cabinet meetings, parliament and assembly sessions, notifications about new rules and regulations are newsworthy.

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 **News Values and Element of News**

**5. Eminence and Prominence** - What happens to important people makes news. The value of the news increases with the prominence of the person involved. What the prominent people say is also very important for a reporter, particularly, if they make some announcements which have an impact on the common people.

**6. Timeliness (Immediacy)** - Timeliness means freshness. News must be timely and new. "Now" is more newsworthy than "Then". News is about what is happening now. It will not arouse interest if it is already, known, or brought to notice long after its occurrence.

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 **News Values and Element of News**

**7. Proximity (Nearness)** - Local is more newsworthy than "Distant". Proximity is nearness which means that an incident which has taken place near the people. We, naturally, tend to take more interest in the news story that is about us, or our city, or our province, or our country. The closer the accident, the more the interest will be.

**8. Novelty** - Novelty means something different, something against the general routine of people, something amazing, incredible, astonishing or unusual. Anything, any action, any hobby, any incident, people would hardly prepare to believe in something novel and hence carries the characteristic of novelty.

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 **News Values and Element of News**

**9. Human Interest** - People are interested in what is happening to other people. In addition, oddities, humour, tragedy, triumph over handicap, stories involving kids, animals-all make for good human interest stories.

**10. Disaster** - Disaster is destruction, ruin, adversity, calamity, devastation, and catastrophe. Where there is any disaster on a considerable scale, there is an availability of new. Earthquakes, tsunami, floods, famine, starvation, torrential rains, tornados, twisters, all these are natural kinds of disasters and devastations. People wish and deserve to know about such stories.

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 **News Values and Element of News**

**11. History** - History is an important source of news. The digging of thousands and thousands year old ruins, in fact, is an effort to peep into man's past and to explore the basic regarding man's creation, evolution, and old civilizations.

**12. Relevance** - Stories which have direct influence on our lives or have direct relation with us are more important for us. Even a news story that is about my own city will fail to catch my attention, if I am waiting for my own interview on radio.

**13. Weather and Sports** - Both the weather and sports have great news value. The arrival of monsoon or cyclones makes important news. Similarly, fury of drought and floods make news.

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 **News Values and Element of News**

**14. Consequence/Impact** - Any event or statement of any important person in a society, capable enough to affect a larger number of people in future, carries newsworthiness and must be given space in news bulletin.

**15. Consequence/Impact** - Any event or statement of any important person in a society, capable enough to affect a larger number of people in future, carries newsworthiness and must be given space in news bulletin.

**16. Miscellaneous News Values (common public interest)** - There are certain news stories which though do not possess any of the news values mentioned above but still find place in radio bulletin.

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**Radio News Vs. Newspaper News**

- Radio news writing demands the same standard of accuracy, speed, clarity and objectivity as the news writing for newspaper.
- Radio is an audio medium, while news is a written medium.
- Radio news is presented moments after the news event occurs, while newspapers have to wait for about 24 hours before they can publish the news to their readers.
- Radio news bulletins are broadcast at fixed times, while newspapers can be read at the time of one's choice.
- Language used in radio news is to-the-point and very concise, while newspaper news is a little bit detailed.
- Radio news language is conversational and colloquial, while newspaper news language is formal.

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**Unit 1- Chapter 2**

**News Sources**

- News agencies
- Reporters
- Correspondents and
- Monitoring Services



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**Objective**

**After reading this lesson you will be able to**

- Identify various sources for gathering the news for radio.
- Know the responsibilities of reporters and correspondents of AIR.

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 **News Sources**

- News gathering is a specialized job which needs lot of skill.
- News sources are the ways and routes through which a news channel gets news.
- Some important news sources are –

1. Reporters / correspondents/ foreign correspondents
2. News Agencies
3. Newsroom diary
4. Newsroom Files and records
5. Monitoring services
6. Handouts and Press releases
7. Press conferences
8. Interviews

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 **News Sources**

**Reporters / correspondents/ foreign correspondents**

- A fairly large team of trained reporters and correspondents based in the capital is responsible for covering, national and international events
- A reporter/correspondents needs to have a variety of reliable and well-placed contacts to fork out information.
- Reporting major developments in the area, keeping in view the Indian interest
- They have to be quick in filing reports and accurate in facts as they faced a tough competition from other sources.
- These correspondents are generally Part-time Correspondents at District headquarters, who may be reporters or stringers.

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 **News Sources**

**Qualities of Reporters/Correspondents**

- Nose for news/ Curious
- Sharp Observation
- Public Relations
- Active and Dynamic
- Well informed
- Shrewd yet well behaved

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 **News Sources**

**News Agencies**

- A news agency is an organization of journalists established to collect or gather news and supplies to different newspapers, magazines, radio stations and television channels who are subscribing to its services.
- They are also known as wire services or news services.
- After receiving and selecting news from the agencies, the copy has to be rewritten in the spoken word idiom to meet the requirement of the radio.
- News agencies have a well-organized wide network which provides a continuous flow of information through electronic tele-printers or computers.

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 **News Sources**

**News Agencies**

- National News Agency

1. PTI – Press Trust of India (1947)
2. UNI – United News of India (1961)
3. IANS – Indo-Asian News Service (1986)
4. ANI – Asian News International (1971)
5. Hindustan Samachar (1948)

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 **News Sources**

**News Agencies**

- International News Agency

1. AP – Associated Press (1846) – United States of America
2. REUTERS (1851) – United Kingdom
3. ITAR TASS - Information Telegraph Agency of Russia (1902)
4. AFP – Agence France Presse (1835) - France
5. XINHUA (1931) - China
6. BBC – British Broadcasting Corporation (1922) - British

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 **News Sources**

**Newsroom diary**

- Newsroom diary is a kind of diary or register in which information about coming important events to be covered are logged in.

Normally following information about following five W's is put in these columns:

**What:** Nature of the function/ gathering

**Who:** Name of the Chief Guest or persons involved

**When:** Time & date of the event to be covered

**Why:** Importance of the event

**Where:** Complete address of the place where the event has to be held

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 **News Sources**

**Newsroom Files and records**

- Newsroom cabinet contains files and previous records with titles showing different captions.
- Each file is about any national or international issue and is updated as and when there is any progress in the issue.
- The purpose of these files is to provide the reporter with the factual background of any problem.

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 **News Sources**

**Monitoring services**

- Various radio and television broadcast channels of other countries are monitored to obtain information.
- Monitoring officers listen to the transmissions in different languages, translate them into English and make a report of it.
- For good monitoring a monitor must be proficient in the language he is monitoring.
- Senior monitors scrutinize the monitoring reports and finally the news items to be made a part of news bulletin are sent to the news editors.

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**News Sources**

**Handouts and Press releases**

- The Government offices and private organizations issue handouts and press releases from time to time.
- Most of these handouts and press releases are exercises in publicity and public relations.
- The news value of these handouts should be closely examined before including them in the news bulletin.
- There is need to look for the lead point, give the story a logical sequence, roundup the figures and add background information wherever necessary.

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**News Sources**

**Press conferences**

- A press conference is a media event in which newsmaker (person who holds press conference) invites journalists to hear him speak and most often, ask questions.
- In a press conference, one or more speakers may make a statement, which may be followed by questions from reporters
- Sometimes only questioning occurs
- sometimes there is a statement with no questions permitted.



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**News Sources**

**Interviews**

- Interviews can lead to exclusive stories and scoops.
- For producing a good interview, a great deal of planning and home work is essential.
- The interviewer should also be conversant with the handling of tape-recorder and a micro-phone.
- Before starting an interview, the correspondent should carry out a thorough check of the sound recording system, micro-phone and the batteries.



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 **Unit 1- Chapter 3**

**Structure and Functioning of News Services Division and News Room**

- **Objective**
- Describe organizational structure of News Service Division of All India Radio
- Elaborate the functioning of General News Room of All India Radio

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 **News Broadcasting in India**

- The first official news bulletin was aired on January 19, 1936 from Delhi Station.
- News bulletins in English and Hindustani, talks on current affairs were also started from the Station in both the languages.
- The Central News Organization (now known as News Service Division) was set up on August 1, 1937.
- The Monitoring Service was set up in 1939 to monitor foreign broadcasts.
- In 1943, the External Broadcast Unit was set up under the Director of News.
- By 1945, the Central News Organization was handling news bulletins in different Indian languages as well as in the External Services

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 **News Service Division (NSD)**

- News Services Division of All India Radio handles all news bulletins and news related programmes.
- News Service Division is one of the largest radio news organizations in the world.
- From 27 news bulletins in 1939-40, AIR today puts out 647 bulletins daily.

**Home Service** - Home Service of News Services Division broadcasts from Delhi 178 daily news bulletins in English, Hindi and 33 languages for duration of 22 hours and 17 minutes.

- 56 bulletins in external services in 22 languages.
- 21 news bulletins, In Hindi
- 26 news bulletins In English
- 48 news bulletins in 18 Indian languages

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**News Service Division (NSD)**

**Regional Service** - Regional news bulletins were introduced in the early fifties. The first such news bulletins were broadcast in April, 1953 from Lucknow and Nagpur Stations.

- In 1954-55, Regional News Units were set up at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.
- At present there are 45 Regional News Units functioning in different parts of the country.
- 469 news bulletins in 75 regional languages/dialects including English and Hindi are being broadcast

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**News Service Division (NSD)**

**External Service** - Initially, the External Services were part of the News Services Division. They were de-linked from the Division on September 15, 1948.

- The responsibility of compiling the external news bulletins remains with the News Services Division.
- A total of 66 news bulletins are broadcast daily in 26 languages.
- 56 of these go on-Air from Delhi.
- Remaining 10 Bulletins from 6 Regional News Units.

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**News Service Division (NSD)**

**News on FM Rainbow** - The News Services Division has been putting out news headlines on FM Rainbow channel since Delhi from May 28, 1995.



- Twenty four news headline bulletins on FM Rainbow are broadcast round-the-clock from Delhi.
- The duration of each headline FM Rainbow bulletin from Delhi is one minute approx.
- At present 40 AIR stations are broadcasting FM Headlines.

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**News Service Division (NSD)**

**News on FM Gold** - FM Gold, the news and entertainment channel was launched on September 1, 2001. The Channel carries news on the hour originating from Delhi.

- Composite news programmes **Dopahar Samachar** in Hindi & **Midday News** in English are broadcast daily for 30 minutes duration each.
- The channel has also some specialized programmes like **'Market Mantra'** (Business Magazine) and **'Sports Scan'**.
- Other news-based programmes mounted on FM Gold include **'Vaad Samvaad'** and **'Countrywide'** based on interviews with prominent personalities

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**News Service Division (NSD)**

**News on Phone Service** - AIR's News-on-Phone (NOP) service was introduced on February 25, 1998 from Delhi.

- The service provides the latest news highlights in Hindi and English to a listener anywhere in the world on phone by dialing specified numbers.
- NOP services are now available from 14 AIR stations including Delhi.

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**Functioning of General News Room**

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graph TD
    AIR[ALL INDIA RADIO AIR] --> NSD[NEWS SERVICE DIVISION NSD]
    NSD --> ANN[AIR NEWS NETWORKS]
    ANN --> NSDHQ[NSD HEADQUARTER, NEW DELHI]
    NSDHQ --> GNR[GENERAL NEWS ROOM GNR]
    GNR --- NA[News Agencies]
    GNR --- RSNU[Regional Service News Units]
    GNR --- RU[Report Unit Delhi]
    GNR --- NB[News Bulletins]
    GNR --- H[ Hearings]
    GNR --- HSNU[Home Service News Units]
    GNR --- ESNU[External Service News Units]
    GNR --- NS[News Sources]
    NS --- HP1[Home Pool Pool-I]
    NS --- FP2[Foreign Pool Pool-II]
    NS --- SP[Sports Pool]
    NS --- PP[Parliament Pool]
    NS --- EP[Election Pool]
    
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 **Unit 1- Chapter 4**

**Structure and Functioning  
of  
FM Radio Stations**

- Organizational Structure of Government FM Radio Station
- Organizational Structure of All India Radio
- Private FM Radio Station: Initiatives in India
- Organizational setup of Private FM Radio Station

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 **Objective**

**After reading this lesson you will be able to**

- Identify various sources for gathering the news for radio.
- Know the responsibilities of reporters and correspondents of AIR.

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 **Introduction**

- The organizational structure of FM Radio stations are designed in accordance with their objectives and functions.
- There are several broadcasting networks in the world, some are public service broadcasting organizations, and others are commercial networks.
- The policy objectives of FM radio stations differ widely depending on the policy of those who own or control them.
- The organizational structure of a broadcasting organization differs organization to organization

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**Organizational Structure**

**Organizational Structure of Government FM Radio Station**

- In India government owned FM radio station is running by All India Radio (AIR) under the control of Prasar Bharati Board of India.
- At present AIR have 206 FM stations (transmitters) across the country.

This Includes

1. 35 FM Rainbow stations
2. 4 FM Gold stations
3. 26 FM Vividh Bharati stations
4. Rest are local radio stations

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**Organizational Structure**

- The headquarters of All India Radio is located in New Delhi is headed by a Director General.
- There is not a separate infrastructure for Government FM radio stations.
- These are using basic infrastructure of All India Radio network spread all over the India

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**Organizational Structure**

**ALL INDIA RADIO**

- The All India Radio is headed by The Director-General.
- The Director General is answerable to the Parsar Bharati Board of Management.
- The Director-General provides the professional leadership.

```

graph TD
    DG[Director General] --> DG_News[DG (News)  
41 Regional  
News Units]
    DG --> Eng_Chief[Eng. in Chief  
Zonal Offices  
at 4 Metropolis]
    DG --> ADG_DDG[ADG/DDG  
Programmes  
of Radio Stations]
    DG --> DDG_Admn[DDG (Admn)  
Admn & A/cs  
at Radio Stations]
    DG --> DDG_Security[DDG (Security)  
Security  
at Radio Stations]
    
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**Organizational Structure**

- Each radio station except the smaller ones, has Programme, News, Engineering, Administration, Accounts, Audience Research and Security Units.
- The head of the station reports to the Director-General directly or through regional/zonal heads.
- He achieves the various objectives of organization through the station's programming and other activities.

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    graph TD
      A[Head of Station (Station Director)] --> B[Program Wing]
      A --> C[News/Current Affairs Wing]
      A --> D[Engineering Wing]
      A --> E[Administration & Accounts Wing]
      A --> F[Audience Research Wing]
    
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**Organizational Structure**

**Private FM Radio Station: Initiatives in India**

- FM broadcasting was initiated on 23 July 1977 in Chennai (Madras) and was expanded in other metropolitan cities i.e. Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai during the 1990s.
- when India first experimented with private FM broadcasts, Goa was the fifth place in this country where private players got FM slots.
- Times FM (now Radio Mirchi) began operations in 1993 in Ahmedabad. Until 1993, All India Radio or AIR, a govt undertaking, was the only radio broadcaster in India.



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**Organizational Structure**

**Private FM Radio Station: Initiatives in India**

- The government then took the initiative to privatize the radio broadcasting sector.
- The Times Group operated its brand, Times FM, till June 1998.
- The format of programming in private stations was totally different as compare to traditional stations (Government).
- In 2000, the government announced the auction of 108 FM frequencies across India.
- Radio City Bangalore, started on July 3, 2001, is India's first private FM radio station.

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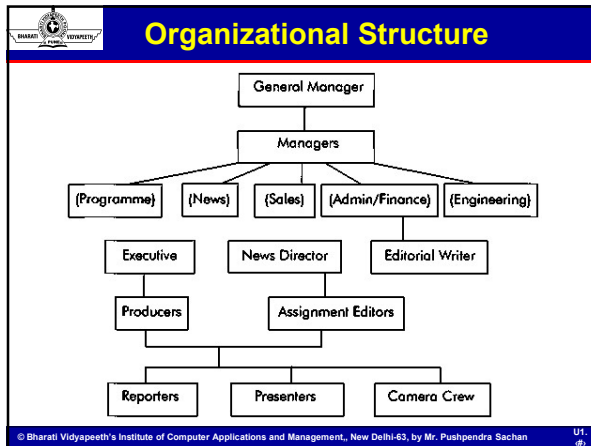
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- Organizational Structure**
- To hook the listeners, in a competitive environment, these stations are usually organizing interactive programmes, chat shows, phone-ins, prize schemes etc.
  - In case of corporate body, which are getting license for operating a number of radio stations at many cities/centers, the situation is different. These could be 'functional' type of organizations.
  - In community radio stations the organization would be distinctively different depending on the informational resources.
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**THANKYOU**

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