

## CHAPTER 10

### The Radio Station

**Meaning:** The building of a radio station as such may look like any other public building. The offices are also like any other office. In this lesson, you will learn all about a radio station and how it works.

#### 10.1 RADIO STATION

In a radio station, there are three different wings. These are (i) Programme Wing (ii) Engineering Wing and (iii) Administration Wing. While the first two wings are responsible for running a radio station's broadcasts, the administrative wing provides all the support that is required for the functioning of the station.

Let us learn about the working of a radio station.

#### Radio studio

- There are at least two studios in a station. One is known as a simple studio and another studio is called an announcer's booth or a transmission studio.
- The announcer's booth or a transmission studio is small in size and shape.
- There will be a computer, pen drive, sound mixer, etc.
- In the Radio studio, there is a table and a microphone.

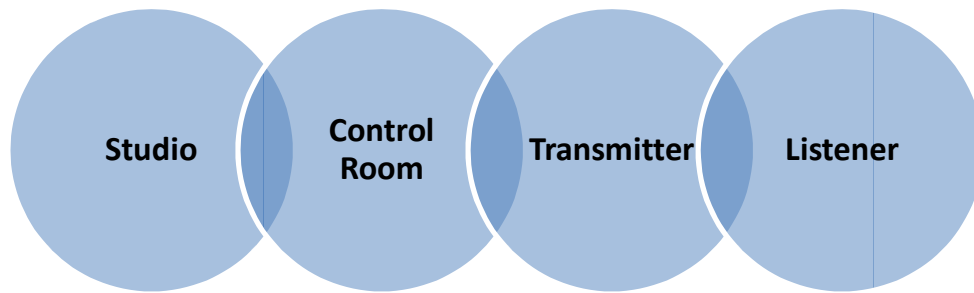
- The room has just one door, which is not very easy to open, as it is very heavy.
- There is a small enclosed place, which has another heavy door.
- This empty space is called a sound lock.
- Radio studio prevents unnecessary outside sounds from entering the studio.
- Radio studio also have ceiling and walls with perforated wooden panels.

#### Control Room

- Control room is the main area of the radio station which.
- All the programmes are sent from here to the transmitter.
- The control room occupies an important place in the radio broadcast. It is the place, connected with all the other segments of broadcast.
- In the control room, technical people control the whole process and immediately send these waves to the transmitter.
- The transmitter sends these sound waves to the listeners' radio sets which convert them into sounds. There is no time gap in the whole process.

- Transmitters are generally located outside the city boundaries.
- The transmitters are of different capacities such as 1 KW to 100 KW, 200 KW, or 250 KW or above.
- Their locations are decided according to their capacity.

- A 1 KW transmitter is normally installed in the vicinity of the studio/control room whereas the high power transmitters are installed outside the city.



## Transmitter

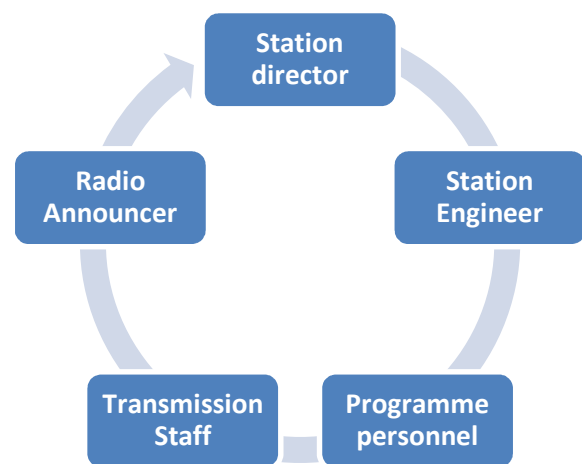
You have learnt about the studio and the control room. It is essential to know about the transmitter also.

- A transmitter is equipment through which we receive the radio broadcast on our sets.
- This is big equipment in comparison to other equipment installed in the studio or control room.
- The strength and type of the transmitter determine the coverage area of broadcast.
- **There are two types of transmitters.**
  - Low Power Transmitter (LPT) and
  - High Power Transmitter (HPT)

- Medium Wave (MW) radio broadcast transmitters and
- Short Wave (SW) radio broadcast transmitters

## 10.2 FUNCTIONARIES OF A RADIO STATION

Functionaries of a radio station are as follows.



– Likewise, there are:

### *Artist*

- In addition to the above staff, there are also music artists such as vocalists and instrumentalists who form part of the programme staff.
- They all are eminent performers in their fields and are graded according to their experience.

## **10.3 RADIO BROADCASTING SYSTEM IN INDIA**

- All India Radio commonly referred to as AIR, which is the main radio broadcaster of India.
- Officially Known as Akashwani.
- AIR is a division of Prasar Bharati or the Broadcasting Corporation of India.

## **COMMUNITY RADIO**

- Community Radio is a type of radio service that caters to the interests of a limited area or a homogenous community. It broadcasts programmes that are popular and relevant to the local audience.
- A community radio license is required to operate a community radio station.
- These stations are expected to produce programmes as far as possible in the local language or dialect.
- Although the stress is on developmental programmes, entertainment is not banned on these radio stations.

- Anna FM is India's first campus community radio operating from Anna University in Chennai, Tamilnadu. This was launched on 1 February 2004.

## **FM Channels**

FM stands for Frequency modulation which is a broadcasting technology or method in radio.

The FM service of AIR has two channels.

- There are 12 FM Rainbow Channels and 4 FM Gold Channels.
- The programme content of these channels is mainly popular in Indian and Western music, presented in a style that is highly popular with the urban youth.
- News bulletins and current affairs programmes are also broadcast from these channels.

## **The private radio station (FM Channels)**

There are many private radio stations functioning around us, some of them are as follows:

- a) Radio Mirchi, b) Radio Mango,
- b) Big FM and d) Times FM.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

- There was a time when listeners used to wait for the familiar voice presenting the 'Binaca Geet mala programme of film songs on the radio. The voice was that of Amin Sayani.
- AIR is one of the largest radio network in the world.
- AIR has a three-tier system of broadcasting namely, national, regional and local.
- The National channel of All India Radio started functioning on May 18, 1988.

### **EXTEND YOUR HORIZON**

- "Basic RADIO and Television" by SHARMA, Tata Mcgraw Hill Education Private Limited
- [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)

### **EVALUATE YOURSELF**

- Which is your favorite FM channel? Make a list of the programmes that you listen to on this channel.
- Find out the other community radio stations in India and the cities in which they are located.
- Name three important equipment found in the announcer's booth.