

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

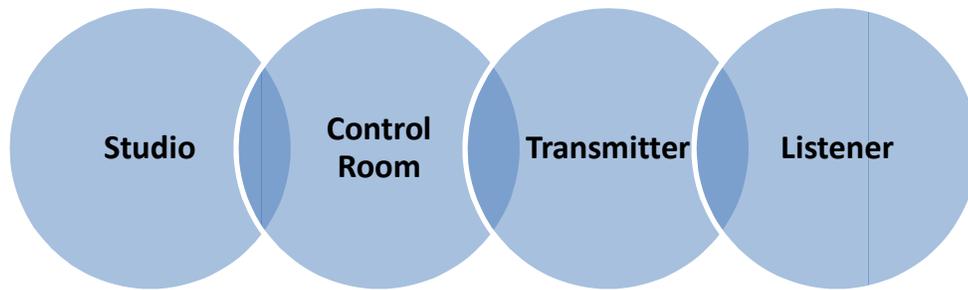
- There are at least two studios in a station. One is known as a simple studio and another studio is called an announcer's booth or a transmission studio.
- The announcer's booth or a transmission studio is small in size and shape.
- There will be a computer, pen drive, sound mixer, etc.
- In the Radio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

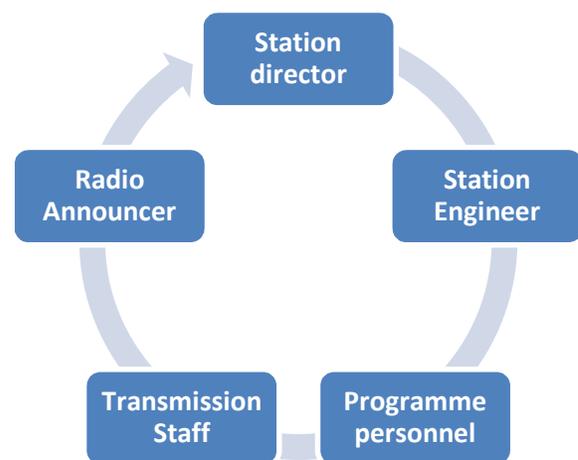
- A transmitter is equipment through which we receive the radio broadcast on our sets.
- This is big equipment in comparison to other equipment installed in the studio or control room.
- The strength and type of the transmitter determine the coverage area of broadcast.
- **There are two types of transmitters.**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

– Likewise, there are:

- 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.



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

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.