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# Jharkhand Mobile Radio

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July 2012

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Gram Vaani Community Media Pvt. Ltd.

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## 1. Sampling of content submitted on JMR for July

### a. Updates and Announcements

Government departments, NGOs, schools, individuals and other institutions can make announcements through JMR. Some examples are as follows:

- **Announcements**

- NRHM organized health camps for the Tribal Population in Bokaro
- Jharkhand Viklang Manch elects representatives in Lohardaga
- Dhanbad Bachao Morcha Announced its first meeting in Baghmara Block Dhanbad. The morcha intends to work to prevent the damage to land in Dhanbad due to excessive coal mining by the Private entities.
- On occasion of World Population Day, Family Planning Fortnight was celebrated in most of the districts of Jharkhand. Jharkhand Mobile Radio received calls from Latehar, Bokaro and Dhanbad detailing about the different events during this fortnight.
- Visthapit Samiti to inspect the living conditions of the displaced in Bokaro

- **Strike**

- Para Teachers threatened to go on indefinite strike if their demands are not paid heed to by the Government, informs Kailash Giri from Bokaro

- **Culture**

- Lav-Kush Jayanti celebrated in Jamua, Giridih
- "Jalsa" an Islamic Conference organized in Seraikella-Kharsawan
- Many Callers shared messages on the occasion of Ramzan

- **Popularization of initiatives**

- Various land rights activists and organizations staged protests against forceful land acquisition by Government in Kanke Nagdi, Ranchi. The tribals residing in Nagdi do not wish to give their lands away for building IIM and Law College. On the 25 th of July Ranchi Bandh was declared in support of the tribals of Nagdi whose land the Government is trying to acquire.
- Poor state of electricity in Chatra led to burning the effigy of J.M. of the Power Board

- **Visit/ Governance**

- Tourism Minister Subodh Kant Sahay visits Seraikella-Kharsawan
- Baijnath Mahato reports on Panchayat committee meeting in Topchanchi block and also interviews the panchayat committee members and the block head

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- Government subsidy for promoting livestock management

## **b. Information**

Listeners can ask questions on health, agriculture and other subjects and JMR would get them answered by experts. Some examples of tips and questions shared are as follows:

### **• Health**

- Rajendra Prasad Verma, trainer of Sahiya Programme of Jamua Block, Giridih called up to share tips on how to prevent malaria with the listeners of JMR.
- Bipin Bihari Singh provided useful information to combat infections during monsoon season.
- Pramod Kumar from Lohardaga shares with the listeners tips on staying healthy and avoiding diseases like malaria during the rainy season.

### **• Agriculture**

- Jabbar Ansari from Bokaro provided information about benefits of farming using Shri Vidhi Technique
- KVK Program Director shares agricultural inputs

### **• Government schemes**

- Baijnath Mahto from Dhanbad shared the procedure of enrolling for health insurance under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)
- Baijnath Mahato from Dhanbad provided information about Gram Swasthya Samiti-NRHM
- Ritlal Prashad Verma from Giridih shared information about Ladli-Lakshmi Yojana to curb instances of Female foeticide

### **• Weather**

- Weather updates and agri suggestions from Bokaro KVK
- Rajinder Kumar Singh asks for weather forecast and want to know whether there will be sustained rain in coming months

### **• Crime**

- Bipin Behari Singh from Latehar called up to report about the gang rape of a girl in Sinjo Panchayat of Manika Block in Latehar

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- Rital Prashad Verma reported that a man killed wife by burning her
  - Dilip Kumar from Bokaro reported about an incident where police has raided a shop and recovered packets of banned Gutkha
  - N.M. Nilara from Nawadih block of Bokaro reported that a fight broke out between two neighbours in a village of the block where several people have been injured
  - Sameer Kumar from Birni Block Giridih district called up to complain about the electric wires being stolen by some crooks because of which the entire block is in darkness

### **c. Feedback on governance and infrastructure**

Callers' grievances/discontent about government scheme, basic amenities, infrastructure, corruption, etc, are relayed to appropriate authorities. Some examples of issues raised are as follows:

#### **• Health**

- Aparna Marandi from Pirtand Block, district Giridih called up to inform about the malaria related woes in the Chilga Panchayat after the monsoon down pore began
- Caller calls from Chilga panchayat of Jamua block to share that there is a dearth of proper sources for clean drinking water in their village
- Sugam Kumar from Tupkadih, Bokaro called up to complain about extensive breeding of mosquitoes in the drains near is residence. He requests the government authorities to get spray DDT
- Dr. Laxman Lal Mahato from Tupkadih, Bokaro reported that malaria and Diarrhea are on a rise in the area and urges the panchayat to spray DDT and make basic health care facilities available to the villagers
- Jai Prakash Singh from Sarath Block, Deoghar called up to complain about the lack of doctors in Community Health Center at Sarath.

#### **• Rights based governance schemes and the state of governance**

- Kailash Giri from Bokaro district questions the Minister for Human Resource and Development about the failure to recruit the members of Gram Shiksha Samiti when the elections happened two years back.
- Bipin Behari Singh from Latehar called up to complain about the irregularities under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)

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- Sikandar Ram, a cripple student from Giridih, requests the government to provide reservation benefits in education, jobs, and PDS to persons with disabilities
  - Bipin Behari Singh from Latehar reports that banks are refusing to enroll farmers with unpaid loans in their families for Kisan Credit Card program. The refusal does not take into account loan waivers by the government and is impacting widowed homes

• **Agriculture**

- Lal Bihari Singh from Latehar reports huge losses to local farmers as incessant rains damaged two dams and the dam water flooded the fields.
- Fagu Singh Munda from Khunti shares that Jackfruit is pretty popular in Khunti and since this is the season for the fruit, people are savouring its taste. He delightfully shared that children of the villages are to be found atop Jackfruit trees since the day-break

• **Panchayati Raj**

- Shanti Devi, the mukhiya of Tantri Dakshin Panchayat in Bokaro district called up to request the Deputy Chief minister for completely decentralizing the panchayati raj system and transfer all the powers to the mukhiya so that they are able to govern their panchayats effectively

• **Corruption**

- Raju Kumar from Chhatra district alleges irregularities in purchase of "Agni shaman yantra" in government schools, claiming that the devices have been bought by the schools at twice the market price.
- Aprana bada from Ranchi district alleges that PDS shops provide less food than the 35Kgs that the BPL families are entitled to.
- Kailash Giri from Bokaro district questions the Minister for Human Resource and Development about the failure to recruit the members of Gram Shiksha Samiti when the elections happened two years back, owing to which irregularities are reported in the district in programme implementation

• **Infrastructure**

- Dilip Kumar Singh from Giridih discusses the irony of Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana. While Jharkhand is one of the leading producers of electricity in India, villages in Jharkhand rarely get electricity

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- Kailash Giri from Bokaro called up to express his opinion about the food and water related mis-managements in the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Aawasiya Vidyalaya in Chandrapura Block
  - Barasu Mahato reports that a bridge in Khusru village is in bad condition, adding that only one vehicle can pass over the bridge at a time and that there are chances of accident all the time.

#### **d. Expressions on JMR**

##### **• Cultural**

- Junaid Ahmed from Makoli, Bokaro called up to share a song with the listeners of JMR on the occasion of Ramzan
- Baby Kumari from Boro Panchayat from Giridih district called up to share a "Swagat Gaan" with the listeners of JMR.
- Vijay Kumar Verma from Giridih shared a poetry on dowry system
- Callers contribute Bhojpuri folk song and Bangla Kirtan

##### **• Personal expressions**

- Caller shares plight of child labour, Bokaro
- Prahlad Mahli from Bokaro called up to share the plight of Mahli tribals' community.
- Caller from New Delhi appreciates JMR
- Caller asked the Govt. to use traditional media for dissemination of information related to schemes
- Chotu Kumar from Bokaro called to show his support for the Anna Hazare movemen
- Caller called to congratulate new President of the Nation
- Caller from Bokaro shared why it is important to plant trees

##### **• Children/Students**

- Namrta Kumari from Barwadih, Latehar shared a patriotic song with the listeners of JMR
- Manish Kumar Pandey, a class five student from Dhanbad indulges in storytelling on JMR
- Gali Gali Sim Sim's 13th episode being broadcasted at present

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## 2. Statistics

- Total number of calls: 22017
- Number of districts covered: 18
- Newly Introduced district: Chatra
- Most active districts: Bokaro, Giridih, Seraikella-Kharsawan, Latehar, Deoghar, Dhanbad
- Principal issues reported: Road, Electricity, Health, Education, Government Scheme

## 3. Introduction to Jharkhand Mobile Radio

### **What is Jharkhand Mobile Radio?**

Jharkhand Mobile Radio (JMR) is a mobile based community media that provides the people of Jharkhand with a platform to share their day-to-day stories, governance issues, interactive programs for children, educational programs on health and agriculture for adults, folk songs, etc.

### **Who is the audience of JMR?**

The same people who listen to the content on JMR, also contribute content, ie. anybody with a mobile in Jharkhand can call on the JMR number to listen to audio programs as well as contribute whatever they wish to share with others.

### **What are the objectives that JMR wishes to accomplish?**

To provide the people of Jharkhand with a platform to:

- Discuss their problems, tell their stories, to be heard and empowered
- Share existing knowledge about culture, agriculture, government schemes, etc, and generate awareness about these within the community
- Highlight community-level grievances and get linked with JMR's network of dedicated NGOs, activists, and government officials
- Portray different facets of an issue that are often not emphasized in other media streams by sharing the citizen sourced news



**088-000-97-458**



## **How does JMR function?**

People can give a missed call to 088-000-97-458 and they will receive a call back from JMR. They can then record whatever content they want to share and the team at JMR will publish it over the phone so that whoever calls can listen to the content. Any requests for information on grievance redressal, questions on agricultural services, feedback on health or employment related government schemes, etc will be conveyed by the JMR team to their network of NGOs, activists, and government officials, to solicit a response that can be conveyed back to the callers

## **4. Phased schedule**

### **JMR Phase 1: Jan to May 2012**

We recently concluded the first phase of JMR where we solicited various updates and information from the listeners.

### **JMR Phase 2: Jun to Dec 2012**

In the current phase, we are focusing on building a dedicated organizational structure of district and block-level coordinators in 5 districts of Jharkhand, to spread awareness among communities about using JMR in the following priority thematic sectors:

- Health and education
- Agriculture
- Rights based sectors on livelihood, food, land, and forests
- Announcements about government schemes, job vacancies, and updates
- Panchayati Raj and convergence
- Culture
- Programs for school children and youth

We are doing this by building a network of resource partners from amongst grassroots NGOs, community organizations, activists, and social workers, who will assist in



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responding to problems and questions posed by JMR listeners, and provide regular information and tips to the communities.

If you or your organization wants to join us as a resource partner then please do write to us or call us, or visit our Ranchi or Delhi offices.

### **JMR Phase 3: Jan 2013 onwards**

Once we have successfully established processes and structures for seamless functioning of Jharkhand Mobile Radio, we will begin to focus on the financial sustainability of the initiative.

## **5. What's new and upcoming on JMR**

We are working hard to extend JMR with multiple channels and automatic location selection, so the listeners can hear messages in priority from their own block and district, or about their favorite issue. Specific channels we are initiating include the following:

- Channel for school children and students
- Health channel
- Women rights channel
- ASHA workers channel
- Agriculture information channel
- Forest and land rights channel
- Panchayati raj channel
- Culture channel

## **6. Important contacts for JMR**

- **Ranchi Office:**
  - Shambhu Mahato: 97981-36599
- **Delhi office**
  - Advise or feedback on content, Aparna Moitra: 98185-72570
  - Project management, Sayonee Chatterjee or Roshan Nair: 96547-14814 For technology
- **Our local partners so far include**

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- Public Health Resource Network (PHRN)
  - Members of the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (GSA)
  - Coordinators of the NREGA Sahayata Kendras
  - Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti
  - NREGA Watch
  - Members of the Right to Food forum
  - And several independent social workers. We are rapidly expanding our set of resource partners.

**Contact Us**

Website: <http://gramvaani.org>

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