

'Talk on Law' on your radio waves

Following traffic rules helps to keep us safe. Still, we come across alarming numbers of road accidents and instances of reckless driving. To raise public awareness, Alfaz-e-Mewat community radio devoted the first live show in a new radio series, ***Kanoon Ki Baat*** (Talk on Law), to the topic of the Motor Vehicle Act and Traffic Rules. Mewat's Chief Judicial Magistrate cum Secretary Mewat District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Mr. Sunil Shoeran, and lawyer Mr. Tahir addressed callers' queries. Thirteen listeners called in during the 30-minute show. One of the topics of special interest to Mewat truck drivers was renewal of heavy vehicle driving licenses.

The Haryana State Legal Services Authority (HALSA) and three community radios in Mewat and Gurgaon launched the weekly show, *Kanoon Ki Baat*, on January 7, 2015. Each episode focuses on laws relevant to people living in the radio's reach. For example, villagers in Mewat are often unaware of their rights under old-age pension and other government programs, and laws on labor, domestic violence, and voter ID



cards. With this unique initiative, radio listeners in Gurgaon and Mewat districts of Haryana learn about law while at home, and call the station to ask questions to the legal experts on the show. The experts include judges, chief judicial magistrates, and subject-specialist lawyers.

Though few villagers know about it, free legal services are available from Mewat DLSA, which has offices across the district. The series aims to spread the word that free legal services are available to low income citizens, as well as women, children, those with physical disabilities, and members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The three community radios selected for this initiative--Alfaz-e-Mewat in village Ghaghas, Radio Mewat in Nuh, and Gurgaon Ki Awaaz in Gurgaon -- provide platforms for the voices of the most marginalized citizens. Pooja O. Murada, Director, Communications at S M Sehgal Foundation, which guides community radio Alfaz-e-Mewat, said, "As the court cases and legal issues are on the rise in Mewat, *Kanoon Ki Baat* radio program offers relief to those who have to travel miles, many times, to get information from legal authorities. These people miss their daily wages

in the process. Each episode of *Kanoon Ki Baat* addresses the needs of communities in the broadcast area.”

Listen to *Kanoon Ki Baat* at community radio Alfaz-e-Mewat FM 107.8 on Wednesday and Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Radio Mewat FM 90.4 listeners can tune in to the program on Monday and Friday at 3.00 p.m., and Gurgaon Ki Awaaz FM 107.8 listeners can listen to it on Tuesday and Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

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