

### Radio Bundelkhand Wins The Radio Festival Award

Development Alternatives (DA) participated in the 5th edition of The Radio Festival (TRF), organised by Seeking Modern Applications for Real Transformation (SMART) in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on 25 and 26 July, 2022 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. During the event, our Radio Bundelkhand 90.4 won the first prize for “The Poshan Ghar Award” in the category of ‘Exclusive Breastfeeding’. In addition, Varsha Raikwar, a radio jockey with Radio Bundelkhand, was awarded a TRF-SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Fellowship by UNESCO, SMART, and The Community Radio Association at the event. Varsha has been working as a climate change worrier since many years and her achievements are highly acknowledged in this sector.



*Kirandeep Kaur, DA, receives ‘The Poshan Ghar Award’*



*Varsha Raikwar, DA, receives a TRF-SDG Fellowship*

It was a two-day event, wherein participants representing community radio stations from across the country were welcomed. On the first day, the curtain was raised by Kashmir’s first beatboxer, Sufiyan Rouf. His unique talent for imitating the sounds of a drum machine with his voice set the correct mood for the day. Following this, an inaugural session was held, which was moderated by Archana Kapoor, founder of TRF. This provided all the participants with an insight into the current scenario of community radios in our country. The importance of radio in a community and how it continues to be the first preference for people of these communities were highlighted too.

Kirandeep Kaur from Development Alternatives received the award on behalf of our Radio Bundelkhand. Also, she was one of the panellists on the panel discussion on ‘Engaging Communities for Nutrition’. Kirandeep spoke about how community radios take the lead to improve the National Family Health Survey-5 figures of nutrition.

Other panellists represented six other community radio stations that had won the same award under different categories. The discussion was led by Dr Monia Khan, Assistant Professor, Time School of Media, and other panellists included Gayatri Usman from Radio Kadalosai, Radha Shukla from Waqt Ki Awaaz, Arushi from Radio Madhuban, Asha More from Vasundhara Vahini, and Krishna from Apna Radio.

The discussion was followed by an intense and fulfilling session on topics related to the advancement of community radios in India.

On the second day, Radio Bundelkhand participated in 'Leading from the Front' – a workshop for Lead Community Radio Stations. This one-day interactive workshop saw the participation of 24 lead community radio stations, the Ministry of Broadcasting and Information, and UNESCO. Mr Gaurishankar Kesarwani, Additional Director, Community Radio Stations had a long and interactive session, wherein grievances and suggestions were received and discussed by the lead community radio stations in consideration of how the Community Radio Association of India can work for the progress of this sector.

TRF, 2022 was overall an informative event, which filled the participants with a spirit of enthusiasm and a will to improve, scale up, and add value to this promising sector of community radios in India.