

Dear Members of ARTEE,

I have come across a post by our State Secretary Kerala, Sh. Santhosh Kumar, AE, DDK Trivandrum, about LPT closure issue. I fully endorse his view points and it echoes the sentiments of a true ARTEEian and a mature unionist. I also congratulate Sh. Santhosh Kumar for the most effective and vigorous campaign against the closure. We are uploading the article as it and request everyone to read this.

Umesh Chandra, President

Article by Sh. SantoshKumar , SS Kerala.

Dear friends, it is inevitable that LPTs are getting closed today. I assure our members in those LPTs that we will continue to support you and fight for you.

A staff association is marked not by cozy relationship with bosses or by joining hands with opponents but by fighting for its members till the last moment even if the inevitable happens. Thus ARTEE has shown its strength efficiency and efficacy to fight. Our fight compelled the department to postpone a policy decision by seeing the reality. Our Central and Zonal leadership should be congratulated for always keeping the pressure till the last moment today and could alter the decision to an extant. It is not easy to modify a policy decision.

It is really a sad news to see our LPTs which was the hallmark of Doordarshan is going to be closed down tonight.

But at the same time as the State Secretary of Kerala I am satisfied that entire ARTEE members in Kerala worked as a united team and tried their best to avoid the closure and our efforts definitely helped to highlight the problems in public domain.

Something which PB wanted to be a hush hush affair turned out to be an issue of debate due to our efforts.

We met important leaders from all the political parties. Hon C M of Kerala Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, The most powerful CM from the LDF wrote directly to PM which helped us a lot. Shri Kummanam Rajasekharanji State President of BJP personally met hon MIB Smt Smriti Iraniji to take up the closure. Prominent Congress leader and former Under Secretary General of UN , Dr Shashi Tharoor MP offered all help and he along with Shri Jose K Mani and Shri E T Muhammed Basheer, raised questions in Parliament. Shri Suresh Gopi MP took up the issue with the Minister and PB officials. Almost all MPs from Kerala spanning the entire political spectrum raised concern about the issue and wrote letters. We are grateful to Shri N K Premachandran who raised questions in the Parliament and also followed it up with the Minister and officials of PB. Shri V Muraleedharan MP and former State President of BJP was gracious enough to all possible help. Their intervention have given ample signals to the authorities that they cannot impose everything on employees and ARTEE is still strong even after the authorities managed divisions and keeping its recognition in abeyance.*

We come to know that staff of 34 LPTs will not be disturbed and if it is so we must pat ourselves for our strong and continuous efforts.

Any individual cannot kill ARTEE in Kerala instead it is still the roaring lion due to its mass base and the trust our members have in this glorious organization!!

We are grateful to all these leaders who were ready to help ARTEE and the staff of AIR& DD.

We could campaign among the public utilizing various media. The most circulated Daily The Malayala Manorama and Prominent Daily The Janmabhoomi carried a full fledged articles on closure and importance of Doordarshan. All other dailies from nook and corners of Kerala reported in our favour. Due to our campaign, many FB posts were written by viewers thus highlighting the importance of terrestrial transmission.*

We thank all media persons and those who highlighted it in Social Media.

A vibrant association should keep its members informed. State Committee could give precise and true information virtually on daily basis. We sincerely apologise to our members for sometimes keeping tensed as the situation was volatile and we did not want to give rise to any hue and cry.

Our Zonal Leaders who are well connected with the ADGSZ office have been trying to take up the issue of transfers of the staff and we hope ultimately we can manage the best possible. We must thank the officials at ADG office.

I once again salute the valiant warriors of ARTEE in these LPTs and assure them they are not alone.

With warm regards

S Santhosh kumar SS Kerala, ARTEE.