

## **AIR, DD staff oppose outsourcing**

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To boycott work on Aug 9

Hyderabad, July 22:

Thousands of employees of All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan, representing three major unions have given a notice to boycott duties on August 9, protesting against Prasarbharati management's decision to take on board about 3,500 people through outsourcing.

The three unions – ARTEE (Association of Radio and Television Engineering Employees), PSA (Programme Staff Association of AIR) and ADTEA (AIR and DD Technical Employees Association) – have formed Sanyukta Sangarsh Samiti (SSS) and released an eight-point charter of demands, representing 20,000 employees.

On Thursday, they ended a three-day hunger protest at 1,800 stations across the country, demanding a solution to eight issues, that they claim, threatened the very existence of the public sector broadcaster.

“We are a very sensitive broadcaster. Recruiting people on outsourcing could pose a problem. The management is trying to recruit retired employees and others to man important positions in AIR and DD. We strongly oppose this,” Mr Umesh Chandra, an SSS leader and President of ARTEE, told *Business Line* over the phone.

“If the Government fails to meet our demands by August 9, we may even go on an indefinite strike,” he cautioned.

“There should not be any outsourcing in the engineering and programming wings as they are key to functioning of AIR and DD. Instead, the Government should focus on filling up 12,000 vacancies to make the organisation vibrant. There has been no recruitment for the last one decade, seriously crippling work,” he said.

The other demands of SSS include – one cadre one pay and providing security to AIR and DD installations across the country.

“Prasarbharati is the second largest terrestrial broadcasting network in the world. We need to protect its interests,” he said.

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The news is available at following link

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/todays-paper/tp-economy/article2286000.ece>