Prasar Bharati wins two ABU honours in Colombo – Special Commendation for Akashvani Bengaluru and Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award

Awards · 3 November 2026 · https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/current-affairs-english/2026/11/03



News

At the 63rd General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 30 Oct to 3 Nov 2026, Prasar Bharati received two honours: (1) in the ABU Prizes 2026, a Special Commendation in the Audio Public Service Announcement category for Akashvani Bengaluru's 'Beyond the Call'; (2) the 'ABU Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award 2026' to Prasar Bharati engineer Nongmaithem Nandakumar Singh, who developed 'DDPlayout', indigenous playout software for Doordarshan, and 'DDSlowMo', a low-cost slow-motion replay system. The Assembly's theme: 'Media for Peace and Humanity: Truth, Trust, and Transformation'.

Key facts

Event	63rd ABU General Assembly – Colombo, Sri Lanka; 30 Oct – 3 Nov 2026
Honour 1	ABU Prizes 2026 – Audio PSA Special Commendation; Akashvani Bengaluru, 'Beyond the Call'
Honour 2	ABU Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award 2026 – Nongmaithem Nandakumar Singh (DDPlayout, DDSlowMo)

ABU	Founded 1964; HQ Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia); about 224 member bodies in 66 countries
WAVES OTT	Prasar Bharati's OTT platform (Nov 2024) – showcased at the Assembly

Background

- Prasar Bharati: a statutory autonomous body set up under the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, which came into force on 23 Nov 1997. Akashvani (AIR) and Doordarshan are its two wings; it works under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- History: the Indian State Broadcasting Service became 'All India Radio' (AIR) in 1936 and 'Akashvani' from 1957. Doordarshan began as an experimental telecast in Delhi on 15 Sept 1959.
- ABU: a non-profit professional association of broadcasters of the Asia-Pacific; founded 1964; HQ Kuala Lumpur. The ABU Prizes are annual awards for radio, TV and digital programmes. Prasar Bharati hosted the 59th ABU General Assembly in New Delhi in 2022.

Tamil Nadu link: Doordarshan Kendra Chennai began telecasting in 1975. Its 'DD Podhigai' channel was upgraded at ₹39.71 crore and relaunched as 'DD Tamil' by PM Modi in Chennai on 19 Jan 2024; at the same event foundation stones were laid for FM transmitters at Yercaud, Kumbakonam and Vellore.

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