

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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***GUIDELINES FOR GRANT OF ACCREDITATION TO
NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AT THE
HEADQUARTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND
THE NORMS FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF CENTRAL
PRESS ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE (Effective from
19.3.2007)***

1. SHORT TITLE

These guidelines may be called ‘The Central Newsmedia Accreditation Guidelines, 1999’.

2. COMMENCEMENT AND SCOPE

- 2.1 These guidelines shall apply to the grant of accreditation to representatives of news media organisations at the headquarters of the Government of India and shall supercede all previous rules in this regard.

3. AMENDMENTS

The Central Press Accreditation Committee or the Principal Information Officer can make recommendations to the Central Government for amendment of the guidelines from time to time as considered necessary.

4. DEFINITIONS

- 4.1 “Central Press Accreditation Committee” means a Committee constituted by the Government of India under these Guidelines.
- 4.2 ‘Newspaper’ shall have the same definition as given in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.
- 4.3 ‘News Media’ shall include newspapers, wire service and non-wire service news agencies, News Feature Agencies, Electronic Media Agencies and organisations containing news and comments on public news.

- 4.4 A 'Daily Newspaper' shall be published on not less than five days in a week or as defined in the PRB Act.
- 4.5 A 'Weekly' and 'Fortnightly' newspaper shall have not less than 45 or 22 issues in a year, respectively.
- 4.6 'Principal Information Officer' means the Principal Information Officer to the Government of India, hereinafter referred to as the PIO.
- 4.7 'Working Journalist' means any working journalist as defined in the Working Journalist & Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 1955.
- 4.8 'Accreditation' means recognition of news media representatives by the Government of India for purpose of access to sources of information in the Government and also to news materials, written or pictorial, released by the Press Information Bureau and/or other agencies of the Government of India.
- 4.9 'Electronic News Media Organisation' (Television or Radio) will include any TV/Radio News Programme Production Unit and TV/Radio News Agency.

5. THE CENTRAL PRESS ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

- 5.1 The Government of India shall constitute a Committee called the Central Press Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the CPAC) to discharge the functions laid down under these guidelines.
- 5.2 The CPAC shall consist of PIO as Chairperson and a maximum of 19 other members, representing Associations /Organisations of working journalists/mediapersons who should otherwise be eligible for accreditation under these guidelines.
- 5.3 The CPAC once constituted shall function for a period of two years from the date of its first meeting.
- 5.4 The CPAC shall meet generally once in a quarter or more frequently, as considered necessary.
- 5.5 The decisions of the CPAC shall be taken on the basis of majority of the members present and voting.
- 5.6 There will be a Standing Sub-Committee of the CPAC consisting of five Delhi based members to consider and take decisions on the accreditation cases of urgent nature and other related matters. These cases will be placed before the CPAC at its next meeting.

- 5.7 The PIO will have the power to grant regular accreditation in cases where an accredited news media representative changes his organisation to another accredited organisation.

6. GENERAL TERMS OF ACCREDITATION

- 6.1 Accreditation will be given in accordance with these guidelines to news media representatives of various categories in different types of News-Media organisations as per eligibility conditions laid down in schedule I and within the Quota limits specified in Schedule II & III of these guidelines.
- 6.2 Accreditation shall be granted only to those representatives who reside at Delhi or its periphery.
- 6.3 Accreditation shall not confer any official or special status on news media representatives, but shall only recognise their identity as a professional working journalist.
- 6.4 Accreditation of representatives of only those media organisation will be considered which have been functioning or operating for at least one year, continuously.
- 6.5 The publication should carry at least 50 per cent of its contents as news and/or comments of general public interest. It should also include news and information emanating from the headquarters of the Government of India.
- 6.6 Publications containing information of sectional interest such as house journals, technical/professional publications etc. are not eligible for accreditation.
- 6.7 The organisations owned and run by Cable Operators providing Cable television service through Cable Television Network will not be eligible for accreditation.
- 6.8 Accreditation shall be withdrawn as soon as the conditions on which it was given cease to exist. Accreditation is also liable to be withdrawn/suspended if it is found to have been misused.
- 6.9 If an applicant or a media organisation is found to have supplied false/fraudulent/forged information/documents the representative/media organisation shall be debarred form accreditation upto a maximum of five years but not less than two years, as decided by CPAC.
- 6.10 The CPAC reserves to itself the right to recommend or reject grant of accreditation. In all accreditation cases, decision of the CPAC will be final.

7. PROCEDURE FOR ACCREDITATION

- 7.1 The procedure for accreditation shall be laid down by the PIO in consultation with the CPAC.
- 7.2 The PIO can call for any information and documents considered necessary for the purpose of ensuring credibility and genuineness of cases of accreditation, at the time of accreditation or at its renewal or at any other time if so required.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

(Rule 6.1)

(A) **News Representatives**

Sl. No.	Category	Conditions
1.	Correspondents/Cameraman and other categories except freelance	Minimum 5 years professional experience as a full time working journalist/cameraman in news organisation(s). Working Journalist seeking accreditation should also be getting the gross salary at least equivalent to the total emoluments of the lowest grade as notified by the Govt. for the journalists in the light of the recommendation of the wage board. (Rs.4500/- per month as on 1.10.2005). Latest revision of pay scales will be taken into account. For accreditation on behalf of news organisations, the journalist should be working full-time for the organisation and persons working on honorarium/retainership/part-time basis will not be treated as working journalist for the purpose of accreditation
2	Cameraman-cum-Correspondent	Minimum 5 years of professional experience as a full-time working journalist as a cameraman /correspondent. His/Her designation should be shown as Cameraman-cum-correspondent in the appointment letter and the Editor/head of the organization should specifically recommend for his/her accreditation in this category..
3.	Freelance Correspondents / Camerapersons	(a) Minimum 15 years professional experience as a full time working journalist. (b) Annual income not less than Rs. 36,000/- per financial year from the journalistic work only, for correspondents and still photographers. (c) For TV camerapersons/correspondent-cum-cameramen, a minimum revenue of Rs. 5 lakh per year from news related programmes.

4.	Journalists of Long and Distinguished Service	<p>PIO may issue accreditation card to a freelance journalist in the category of Long and Distinguished Service subject to the following conditions.</p> <p>a) Journalist should have attained the age of 65 years.</p> <p>b) He/She has been in the profession of journalism for at least 30 years in reputed news organisation(s) whose correspondents are accredited with PIB</p> <p>c) He/She should have been accredited with PIB for at least 20 years and hold valid accreditation on the date of application.</p> <p>d) Journalists associations/unions having representation in the CPAC should recommend their case to PIO for issue of I/card.</p> <p>e) The accreditation card will be eligible for automatic renewal annually for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of the accreditation card.</p>
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(B) News Organisations (Print Media)

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Conditions</u>
1.	Newspapers(Daily)	Circulation should not be less than 10,000 copies of 6 full size pages or 12 pages of tabloid size per publishing day.
2.	Newspaper (Weekly/fortnightly)	Circulation should not be less than 10,000 copies per publishing day. The size of the newspaper should be 6 full size pages or 12 pages of tabloid size for weekly newspaper; and 8 full size pages or 16 pages of tabloid size for fortnightly newspaper.
3.	Periodicals/Magazines (Upto fortnightly only)	Circulation should not be less than 10,000 copies with a minimum of 40 pages per publishing day.
4.	Wire News Agency	<p>(a) Annual Revenue not less than Rs. 20.00 lakh</p> <p>(b) Should have at least 30 news subscribers.</p>
5.	News Photo Agency/News Feature Agency	<p>(a) Annual Revenue not less than Rs. 2.50 lakh</p> <p>(b) Should have at least 20 paying subscribers.</p>

(C) **News Organisations (Electronic Media)**

Sl. No.	Category	Conditions
1.	<u>TV Programme Production/Telecast Organisations</u> (i)TV/Radio News Production Organisations having air time arrangements with Channels/Stations (ii)Satellite Channels (iii)News magazine producing organisations having telecast/broadcast tie-up with TV Channels/Stations.	<p>Should have at least one news bulletin/programme of minimum 30 minutes duration per day.</p> <p>At least 15 percent of their respective air-time (approx. 3.5 hours in a 24 hours cycle) dedicated to telecast/transmission of news and news related programmes per day.</p> <p>A minimum total cumulative programme duration of 60 minutes per week on news and news related contents.</p>
2.	Television News Agencies	<p>a) A minimum annual revenue of Rs. 20.00 lakh from news clips etc.</p> <p>b) Should supply news clips to at least 5 subscribing Satellite TV News telecasting organisation on regular basis.</p>
3.	Radio News Agencies	<p>a) A minimum annual revenue of Rs.15.00 lakhs from news clips etc.</p> <p>b) Should supply news clips to at least 5 subscribing Radio organisation on regular basis.</p>
4.	Online Media	<p>1) The general terms and conditions prescribed for the representatives of print and visual media will also be applicable in case of online editors, correspondents, camerapersons .</p> <p>2) A news site / portal means a website which has at least 1/3rd of its visible content related to news & current affairs originally reported by its own correspondents.</p>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) The publications on behalf of which accreditation has already been given will accommodate their online journalists within their existing quota. 4) The site should have paid subscribers. However, it should not be insisted on the subscribers right now but some preference will be given to the news sites having subscribers. 5) Online news agencies will be governed as per the existing rules prescribed for news agencies 6) The site should have a minimum annual revenue of either Rs.20 lakhs from its news portions only OR Rs.2.5 crores from the entire website including its news portion. 7) The site should be updated regularly and at least 6 times daily. 8) The news portal should be observing the laws of the land in terms of content, service, promotions, finances and any other aspect of functioning. 9) The news site should have been functioning for at least one year. 10) The domain name of the site should be registered for at least the next 5 years from the date of application. 11) The site should have at least 10,000 page views per day of its news-portion. 12) The issue of determining the authenticity of the site may be decided in consultation with VSNL in case of any doubt. 13) In the event of a website/portal found involved in any activity perceived as cyber crime now or in future, all accreditations given to representatives of that website/portal will be withdrawn at the discretion of the DG(M&C)
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- (D) Foreign News Media Representatives and Organisations will also be governed by the same eligibility as mentioned at (A), (B) and (C) of this schedule. However, **no foreign freelance journalist** will be eligible for grant of accreditation.

Schedule – II

**SCHEDULE OF QUOTAS FIXED FOR VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF
NEWSPAPERS/MEDIA ESTABLISHMENTS**

(Rule 6.1)

PRINT MEDIA

1. <u>Newspapers Belonging To Chains And Common Ownership Units With Aggregate Circulation :</u>	Maximum No. of Accreditation
1. Between 75000 and One lakh	15
2. Between 1 lakh and 2 lakh	18
3. Between 2 lakh and 3 lakh	33
4. Between 3 lakh and 5 lakh	45
5. Between 5 lakh and 10 lakh	60
6. 10 lakh and above	67
2. <u>Dailies with Circulation :</u>	
1. Between 10,000 and 15,000	01
2. Between 15,000 and 25,000	03
3. Between 25,000 and 35,000	04
4. Between 35,000 and 50,000	06
5. Between 50,000 and 75,000	07
6. Between 75,000 and one lakh	12
7. 1 lakh and above	15
3. <u>Periodicals with Circulation :</u>	
1. Between 10,000 and 25,000	03
2. Between 25,000 and 75,000	04
3. Between 75,000 and 1 lakh	06
4. Between 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh	09
5. Between 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh	12
6. 2 lakh and above	18
7. Periodicals belonging to chains with common ownership/multi-lingual editions and combined circulation above 5 lakh	22
4. Cartoonist and Cartographers of Newspapers	01 each

5. Cameramen :

1. Circulation between 10,000 and 25,000	02
2. Circulation between 25,000 and one lakh	04
3. Circulation between one lakh and 5 lakh	12
4. Circulation above 5 lakh	22

6. News Agencies (Wire) with Gross Annual Revenue:

1. Between Rs. 20 lakh and 1 crore	18
2. Between Rs. 1 crore and Rs. 5 crore	27
3. Between Rs. 5 crore and Rs. 10 crore	37
4. Rs. 10 crore and above	60

(Having services in one or more languages)

7. News Feature Agencies with Gross Annual Revenue :

1. Between Rs. 2.50 lakh and 5 lakh	03
2. Rs. 5 lakh and above	06

8. Indian News Photo Agencies with Gross Annual Revenue:

1. Between Rs. 2.50 lakh and Rs. 5 lakh	03
2. Rs. 5 lakh and above	07
3. Photo (Wire) Agencies	15

9. Foreign Based Dailies and Periodicals 07

10. Foreign News Agencies:

1. Foreign News Agencies	15
2. Foreign Photo News Agencies	07

Schedule – III

SCHEDULE OF QUOTAS FIXED FOR VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA

(Guideline 6.1)

1. TV News Production/Telecast/Organisation:

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| ➤ The Electronic Media Organisation having news Bulletins/current affairs programmes of a minimum of 30 minutes per day | 5 Cameramen and
5 Correspondents |
| ➤ An electronic media organisation having news Bulletins/Current Affairs programmes of more than 30 minutes and upto 2 hours per day | 8 Cameramen and
8 Correspondents |
| ➤ An electronic media organisation having news Bulletins/Current Affairs programmes for more than 2 hours per day | 15 Cameramen and
15 Correspondents |
| ➤ A TV Programme production/telecast organization producing a minimum total cumulative programme duration of 60 minutes per week on news and news related contents. | 3 Cameramen and
3 Correspondent |

2. Electronic Media News Agencies:

The eligibility of quota of accreditation in respect of TV/Radio News Agencies from news and news related programmes with a verifiable revenue will be as follows:

a) Radio News Agencies

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| ➤ Revenue of Rs. 15 lakh to 25 lakh per annum | 3 Cameramen and
3 Correspondents |
| ➤ Revenue of more than Rs. 25 lakh to 75 lakh per annum | 6 Cameramen and
6 Correspondents |
| ➤ Revenue of over 75 lakh and upto 2 crore per annum | 9 Cameramen and
9 Correspondents |
| ➤ Revenue of more than 2 crore and upto Rs. 10 crore per annum | 12 Cameramen and
12 Correspondents |
| ➤ Revenue of more than Rs. 10 crore Per annum | 15 Cameramen and
15 Correspondents |

b) TV News Agencies

- Revenue of Rs. 20 lakh to 2.5 crores per annum 3 Cameramen and 3 Correspondents
- Revenue of more than Rs. 2.5 crores to 5 crores per annum 6 Cameramen and 6 Correspondents
- Revenue of over 5 crores to 10 crores per annum 9 Cameramen and 9 Correspondents
- Revenue of more than Rs. 10 crore Per annum 12 Cameramen and 12 Correspondents

3. Foreign Electronic Media:

- Radio Broadcasting Organisations 4 Correspondents
- TV News Telecasting Organisation and News Agencies 8 teams of one Cameramen and one Correspondent each
- TV and Radio News Channels with hourly telecast of News and current affairs programmes 12 teams of one Correspondent and one cameraman each

4. Online Media

<u>Annual Revenue</u>	<u>Quota</u>
Annual Revenue between Rs.20 lakhs to Rs.1 crores earned from news subscriptions only OR Rs.2.5 crores to Rs.5 crores from the entire website	3 correspondents and 1 cameraman
Annual Revenue between Rs.1 crores to Rs.2.5 crores earned from news subscriptions only OR Rs 5 crores to Rs.7.5 crores from the entire website	6 correspondents and 2 cameramen
Annual Revenue between Rs.2.5 crores to Rs.5 crores earned from news subscriptions only OR Rs.7.5 crores to Rs.10 crores from the entire website	12 correspondents and 4 cameramen
Annual Revenue above Rs.5 crores earned from news subscriptions only OR Rs.10 cores and above from the entire website	15 Correspondents and 5 cameramen.

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