

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

...

No.Pub.A (3)-1/2002

Dated 18.9.2002

NOTIFICATION

In supersession of this department Notification No-Pub-A(6)-3/92 dated 30.6.2000, the Governor, Himachal Pradesh is pleased to make the following rules for the accreditation and recognition of Press Correspondents in Himachal Pradesh:-

1. Short Title and Commencement:-

- (1) These Rules may be called the Himachal Pradesh Press Correspondents Accreditation and Recognition Rules, 2002.
- (2) These rules shall come into force with effect from the date of their publication in the official gazette.

2. Definitions

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "Accredited Correspondent" means a correspondent who has been granted accreditation in accordance with the procedure prescribed by these rules.
- (b) "Director" means the Director of Information and Public Relations appointed as such by the Government.
- (c) "Editor" means a person who is declared as Editor under the Press and Registration of Book Act, 1867.
- (d) "Government" means the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- (e) "News Agency" means an agency for collection and dissemination of news on All India basis having their own teleprinter/scanner network.
- (f) "News Magazine" means a magazine containing news items and news comments.
- (g) "Newspaper" means a daily or weekly newspaper.
- (h) "Official gazette" means Rajpatra of Himachal Pradesh.
- (i) "Press Accreditation Committee" means a committee set up by the Government under rule 4 of these rules.
- (j) "Press Correspondent" means a correspondent representing any newspaper/news agency as defined in the working Journalists (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 1955 and employed as a whole time regular

- correspondent at State Level or whole time/part time correspondent at the District/Sub-Divisional Level and shall include an Editor in the case of a weekly.
- (k) "Recognised Correspondent" means a correspondent who has been granted recognition in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the rules.

3. Two Type of Cards

There will be two types of cards in different colours one denoting 'accredited' and the other denoting 'recognized'. The accreditation/recognition cards will be given to only those who fulfill the conditions as laid down for each category in these rules.

4. Press Accreditation Committee

The Government may constitute a Press Accreditation Committee to which all matters relating to the accreditation or recognition of Press Correspondents shall be referred and its decision shall be final. The Committee will discharge the functions laid down under these rules. The Committee shall be constituted for a period of three years and shall meet as often as required but at least once in a year.

5. Procedure for Application for Accreditation

- (1) A Correspondent desirous of obtaining accreditation shall apply in the form attached to these rules.
- (2) Such application shall be made through the Editor of the Newspaper or the News Agency, as the case may be, of which he is an employee, to the Director in case of accreditation as a Correspondent at the State level and through the District Public Relations Officer of the district concerned in case of accreditation at the District Level.
- (3) The District Public Relations Officer shall forward the application to the Director, with his comments.

Provided that the District Public Relations Officer shall be competent to withhold an incomplete application and shall forward such an application to the Director when the same is complete in all respects.

- (4) The Director shall place all the complete applications before the Press Accreditation Committee alongwith his comments for decision.

6. Accreditation to the Correspondent of a Newspaper/News Agency and others.

The Correspondent of a newspaper or news agency should fulfill the following conditions for accreditation:

- (1) His residence should be at the headquarter of the State or the headquarter of the District or Sub-Division for which he seeks accreditation.
- (2) He should be a working Journalist as defined by the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955 and should be engaged as a whole time Correspondent as defined in these rules for grant of accreditation at the State headquarters or be a whole time/part time correspondent and be at least in receipt of retainership as prescribed by the Wage Board for grant of accreditation at the District/ Sub-Divisional level. Where a correspondent is appointed on contract basis and where Wage Board recommendations are not applicable, the contribution to CPF will be considered as alternative criteria for accreditation.

Provided further, that a journalist working/engaged on column basis shall not be eligible under this sub-rule.

- (3) The correspondent of a newspaper or news agency should be drawing the prescribed wages in the category of his newspaper or news agency as per the wage board recommendations for working journalists and the relevant notification of the Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India. For this a certificate from the employer will be required to be provided at the time of application.
- (4) At the time of application, he should have spent not less than three consecutive years in the profession of journalism and should be a person of sufficient experience and standing to be able to discharge his duties in a competent and responsible manner.
- (5) He should not have been convicted by any law for any offence involving moral turpitude or criminal extortion during his profession.

7. Accreditation to the Correspondent of News Agencies

- (1) In addition to the conditions laid down in rule 6, while considering an application of a correspondent of a news agency, due weightage to the following matters in regard to the news agency in question shall be given:
 - (a) Nature, standing and type of the news agency.
 - (b) Method of distribution of its service; and
 - (c) Centers of Newspapers served by the news agencies.
- (2) Accreditation shall be restricted to the correspondents of news / feature agencies of at least two years standing and only one member each will be considered for accreditation at the State Level. The news agency should have annual revenue of

at least Rs. one crore. The correspondents of agencies exceeding revenue of Rs. Five lacs may be considered for recognition. Not more than one correspondent at State and District Level will be considered for recognition.

- (3) The correspondents of Electronic News Agencies would be considered for accreditation provided the agency has sufficient network and standing and other conditions like CPF etc. are satisfied. The eligibility will be on the following conditions:

- (a) A minimum annual revenue of Rs. 25 lacs from news clips etc.
- (b) Should supply news clips to at least 5 subscribing satellite T.V./Radio organizations on regular basis.

8. Accreditation for the Correspondent of Daily Newspapers

I(a) The newspaper concerned shall be published daily and without day's break between one edition and another.

- (b) Its circulation should not be less than 25,000 copies as certified by the Registrar of Newspaper of India/Audit Bureau of circulation; of which a circulation of not less than 3000 should be in Himachal Pradesh as certified by the Director of Information & Public Relations. Correspondents of the newspapers published from Delhi, Jalandhar, Chandigarh and Himachal will be eligible for accreditation/recognition.

Provided that for the purpose of this sub rule combined circulation of the newspapers published from more than one center shall be taken into account.

Provided further that each newspaper, irrespective of the number of places it is published from, shall be considered as one newspaper only.

Provided further that in case of newspapers of national importance, the committee may consider and waive off the condition regarding circulation in Himachal Pradesh.

- (c) In case of small newspapers, their combined circulation may be taken into consideration, if a request is made for accreditation for a common correspondent or a correspondent himself seeks accreditation jointly on their behalf.

Provided that only one correspondent each of daily newspaper will be given accreditation at the State headquarters and also one each at District and Sub-Division level.

- (d) Leading newspapers who have more than one staffer at the State level, the accreditation upto two staffers at State Level may be considered provided they are regular whole time employees of the newspaper and adequate proof like appointment letter, CPF contribution etc. is given. Such newspapers should have circulation of more than 60,000 out of which 10,000 should be in Himachal Pradesh.

Provided further that no accreditation will be given for District Level at State headquarter and Sub-Division at district headquarter.

II. Accreditation for Weeklies

- (1) The Weekly published from within the State only will be considered for accreditation as under:-
- (a) The Weekly should be published without any break between one edition and other and
 - (b) The circulation should not be less than 5000 copies.
 - (c) The weekly having completed at least one year of its regular publication will be considered for accreditation to its editor under these rules.
- (2) In case of weeklies published from any where within the Pradesh, district level accreditation will be given to only one person who may be the Editor of the weekly from where the same is published.
- (3) State level Accreditation to the Editor of weeklies published from the State headquarter would be considered provided it has more than ten years of regular publication and Editor is also accredited continuously for more than ten years without any break. Provided further that journalism is their whole time profession.

Provided that the circulation in case of weekly shall be as certified by the Registrar of Newspapers/Audit Bureau of Circulation/District Magistrate of the District from where the weekly is being published.

9. Accreditation to correspondents of All India Radio/TV.

The representative of all India Radio/TV having appointment of correspondent (news section) will also be considered for State or District Level accreditation on the recommendation of Director (news Services) All India Radio/Doordarshan, New Delhi.

Provided further that the number of correspondents for the grant of accreditation at State Level will be limited to the number of regional news bulletins of the AIR/TV.

Provided that not more than two staffers of All India Radio irrespective of news bulletin at State Headquarter and not more than one at District Level will be accredited. Similar criteria shall apply to staffers of Doordarshan.

10. Accreditation to the Press Photographers/TV Personnel

- (1) In case of Press Photographers only State Level accreditation will be considered to one photographer appointed as authorized whole time Cameraman by a Daily Newspaper on the recommendation of the Editor. He should also get wages as per working Journalists (Conditions and Service and Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 1955.
- (2) In case of TV channels, State level accreditation will be given to only one Cameraman/Correspondent who will be allowed to have Camera Assistants not exceeding two in number. This accreditation will be considered on the recommendations of Director/Editor of the TV channel provide that all other requirements viz residence, wages as per wage Board etc. of these rules are fulfilled by the concerned person. If there are more than one correspondent from the same channel covering different programmes of the channel, only one correspondent who is directly employed and recommended by the channel, will be considered for Accreditation / recognition.

For T.V. Programme telecast organization fulfilling the following criteria will only be considered, T.V./Radio News production organizations having air time arrangements with channels/stations should have at least one news bulletin/ programme of minimum of 15 minutes duration per day.

Satellite Channels:-

At least 15 % of their respective air-time (Approx. 3.5 hours in a 24 hours cycle) dedicated to telecast/transmission of news and news related programme per day.

News Magazine producing organizations having telecast/broadcast tie-up with TV channels/stations:

A Minimum total cumulative programme duration of 60 minutes per week on news and news related contents. The other correspondents/programme producers in appropriate cases may be considered for district Level Recognition.

- (3) TV channel for this purpose will not include City Channels who will be entitled only for District level recognition

11. Procedure for Application for recognition

- (1) A Correspondent desirous of obtaining recognition shall apply on the form attached in these rules.
- (2) Such application shall be made through the Editor of the Newspaper or the News Agency, as the case may be, of which he is an employee to the Director in case of recognition as a correspondent at the State level and to the District Public Relations Officer of the District concerned in case of recognition at the District level or Sub-Divisional level.
- (3) The District Public Relations Officer shall forward the application to the Director with his comments.

Provided that the District Public Relations Officer shall be competent to withhold an incomplete application.

- (4) The Director shall place the complete application before the Press Accreditation Committee with his comments for decision.

12. Eligibility Criteria for Recognition

A correspondent shall fulfill the following conditions for getting recognition:

- (1) His residence should be at the headquarters of the State or headquarter of the District/Sub-Division for which he seeks recognition.
- (2) He should be a whole time or part time press correspondent working with one or more newspapers or agency/agencies/ news magazines or retainer, column basis or both on a scale provided under Wage Board Regulations or a notification issued by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India in this behalf.
- (3) He should represent a daily newspaper with a minimum circulation of 25,000 copies of which a circulation of not less than 3,000 should be in Himachal Pradesh as certified by the Department of Information & Public

Relations Himachal Pradesh, or a weekly/with a minimum circulation of 5,000 copies. The circulation in case of dailies should be certified by the Registrar of News papers of India and in case of other periodicals by the district Magistrate. The Director may conduct further inquiry to verify the circulation as may be considered necessary.

- (4) He should not have been convicted by any court of law for any offences involving moral turpitude or criminal extortion during his profession.

13. Facilities available to the Recognized correspondents

"Recognized" correspondent shall not be entitled to any facility except entry into the office of the Government, semi- government organizations any entry to functions by invitation.

14. Disaccreditation or Derecognition of Correspondent

- (1) A correspondent shall be liable to be disaccredited/ derecognized if :-
 - (a) He commits any offence under the Press and Registrations Act, or
 - (b) He uses information received and facilities accorded to him for a non-journalistic or illegal purposes or
 - (c) In the course of his duties as correspondent, he behaves in an undignified or unprofessional manner or commits an offence involving moral turpitude or
 - (d) He engages himself in work other than journalistic such as soliciting business or advertisements for a newspaper or news agency, or
 - (e) He is convicted by a court of law for defamation or any other criminal offence arising out of his writings/coverage.
- (2) The power to disaccreditate or derecognize correspondent will vest in the Press Accreditation Committee which shall not exercise this power except after giving to the correspondent concerned a show cause notice and also an opportunity of being heard.

Provided that the order of Director shall be competent in the case of an emergency and a grave misconduct on the part of a correspondent to suspend his accreditation or recognition pending the completion of proceedings before the Press Accreditation Committee.

Provided that the order of disaccreditation or derecognition shall contain reasons therefore.

- (3) A correspondent aggrieved by an order passed by the Press Accreditation Committee under this rule may prefer a review petition before the Accreditation Committee within 15 days of the passing of the order or after communication of the order to him/her, if it is passed in his/her absence.

15. Withdrawal of Accreditation or Recognition

When an accredited or recognized press correspondent ceases to represent a news agency or a newspaper on behalf of which he was accredited or recognized, the fact shall be brought to the notice of the Director in writing by the correspondent as well as the Editor/ Manager concerned within 15 days. The Director may also withdraw the accreditation or recognition suo-moto if he receives information to the same effect from any source. Such an order, however, shall be put up for information and confirmation of the Press Accreditation Committee in its next meeting.

16. Periodical Review of Accredited / Recognized Correspondents List.

The list of accredited/ recognized correspondents will be reviewed periodically, preferably once in a year.

17. Accreditation or Recognition shall be personal

Accreditation or recognition shall be personal and non-transferable and given as facility and shall not be claimed as of right. It does not confer any official status on the correspondent. Government merely recognizes that the accredited or recognized press correspondents represents the newspaper or news agency which employs him. Correspondents should not have letter-heads and visiting cards with the words. "Accredited /Recognized by the Government of Himachal Pradesh

18. Authority Competent to issue cards

Press Accreditation / Recognition card will be issued to each accredited /recognized correspondent. The admission to special function will be governed by invitations. The photograph on the card will be duly attested by the Director at the State level and the District or Sub-Division level by District Public Relations Officer of District concerned. The card will be issued under the signatures of the Director.

19. Grant of Provisional Accreditation/ Recognition

If a correspondent/editor fulfils all the condition enumerated in these rules for the grant of accreditation or recognition as the case may be, the Director of Information & Public Relations may grant provisional accreditation/ recognition to him which shall be valid till the next meeting of the Press Accreditation Committee pending decision of the Press Accreditation Committee on the application for grant of accreditation/ recognition.

20. Renewal of Accreditation Cards

The Accreditation card/ recognition cards will be issued for a period of one year or such shorter period as issuing authority may decide and shall be renewed from time to time. The maximum period of renewal will be one year. The card shall become invalid of the holder if he ceases to be an employee of the newspaper/ periodical/T.V channel concerned and such holder shall immediately surrender the card issued to him/her.

21 .Issue of Temporary Identity Card

A Press correspondent/ Cameraman who is neither accredited nor recognized may be issued temporary identity card with validity not exceeding one week to cover a particular event or function. These cards will be issued by the Director at State level and DPRO at District /Sub Divisional level.

22. Veteran Journalists

Veteran journalist who are above 70 years of age and have done outstanding contribution in the field of journalism may be given special recognition and issued a card as a Veteran Journalist. The card will be valid for life of the journalist provided he continues to have his permanent residence in the State of Himachal Pradesh. A new card with new photograph may be issued to such veteran journalists on request. For Veteran Journalists, present employment with any newspaper / weekly/ electronic media would not be necessary.

23. Relaxation of Rules

The Government may, if it considers necessary, proper or expedient to do so, in consultation with the Press Accreditation Committee, relax any of the provisions of these rules.

24. Repeal and Savings

(1) On and from the date of commencement of these rules, the Himachal Pradesh Press Correspondents Accreditation and Recognition Rules, 2000 shall stand replaced.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions contained in sub-rule (1) supra any action taken, proceedings initiated concluded, passed, granted, suspended or withdrawn in accordance with the repealed rules shall be deemed to have been validly taken, initiated, concluded, passed, granted, suspended or withdrawn till a review is made under these rules.

By Order

Secretary (IPR) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No:- Pub-A(3)-1/ 2002

Dated Shimla-2 the 18-9-2002

Copy to : -

1. All Administrative Secretaries to the Government of Himachal Pradesh .
2. All Heads of Department in H. P.
3. All the Deputy Commissioners in H.P.
4. The Deputy Controller, Printing & Stationary, H.P. Govt. Press. Shimla –5 for Favour of Publication in Rajpatra. Two copies of the Rajpatra may be sent to this department.
5. Director, I & PR, H.P. Shimla – 171002.
6. All the District Public Relations officers in HP.
7. Accountant General, H.P. and Chandigarh.
8. Guard file.

Joint Secretary (IPR) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

APPLICATION FORM FOR ACCREDITATION/ RECOGNITION OF EDITORS/
PRESS CORRESPONDENT FOR STATE/ DISTRICT /SUB DIVISION LEVEL.

- 1) Full Name (in block letters) :
- 2) Father's Name (in block letters) :
- 3) Date and place of birth :
- 4) Accreditation / recognition sought on behalf of :
- 5) Is your principal avocation that of a Press correspondent working at the State Headquarters/ District Headquarters. Are you engaged in any other work. Give details, if so:
- 6) Will you be employed whole time as an accredited/ recognized correspondent of Newspaper/ News Agency/ All India Radio/ Doordarshan mentioned against Col. No. 5 or will you also work partly for some other organization. Give details including emoluments :
- 7) Educational and other qualifications :-
- 8) Experience in the profession of journalism

Papers or Agencies where salaried posts were held	Post held	wages/ benefits	period of service (specify dates)
1	2	3	4
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- 9) Any other Experience :

- 10) Details regarding services
under Central/ State Govt. if any and date
of leaving Govt. service with reasons.
- 11) Permanent Home Address:
- 12) Residential Address:
- 13) Since when residing at State / District Hqrs.
- 14) Place of stay during the last three years with
full address.
- 15) Address to which the correspondence can be made
- 16) Telephone No. Office & Residence.
- 17) Press bearing telegram authority number:
- 18) Information about the Newspapers e.g.
subjects in which interested, periodicity,
circulation areas served give details :
- 19) Type of News / features agency.
Method of distribution of the services. Number
of newspapers served regularly on commercial
basis, if necessary attach separate sheet.
- Signature of the Correspondent
- 20) Certified that the applicant correspondent is drawing minimum wages/ is in
receipt of the retainership prescribed under the wages Board recommendations for
working Journalists and the relevant notification issued by the Ministry of Labour,
Government of India (attach Provident Fund number also).
- 21) Certified that the applicant correspondent is working regularly with us for the last
years on payment basis and has drawn the following wages and benefits form as
year wise.

Signature of Editor/
General Manager/
Director News Service/
Station Director.

For Weeklies and Other Periodicals

22) Name & Address of the Newspaper Establishment.

23) Types of Establishment

Proprietary / partnership / Pvt. Ltd. / Public Trust/

/ others :

24) Date of Establishment.

25). No. of papers published :

26)Details of Newspapers published as detailed below :-

Name of the Newspaper alongwith Date of Commencement.	Language in which published	Periodicity weekly fortnightly monthly etc.	Price	Circulation per copy
1	2	3	4	5

Certified regarding circulation above 2000 may be verified either through Audit Bureau of Circulation/ Registrar of Newspapers and less than 2000 through District Magistrate.

27)Please furnish following information of your publication:

- a) Name of the Paper:
- b) Size of the paper: Length & Breadth- cms.
- c) No. of the publishing days for the year
- d) Average No. of copies printed per publishing edition.
- e) Total No. of copies printed for the year
- f) Average No. of papers per edition:
 1. Normal Issue
 2. Supplements.
- g) Average No. of paid copies per edition sold.

- h) Average number of complementary copies distributed:
- i) Total number of copies of the year:
- j) Mode of distribution:
- k) Trade terms allowed to distributors:

Signature of Editors

1. Give name and address of agents and subscribers.
2. Application for District Accreditation should be sent through concerned District Public Relations Officer.
