



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR.  
INFORMATION DEPARTMENT.  
CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K.

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Subject: **Jammu and Kashmir State News Media Accreditation Scheme, 2017.**

**Government Order No: 17 - ID of 2017.**

**Dated: 05 - 06 - 2017.**

In supersession of Government Order No. 18-ID of 1998 dated 20.05.1998, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir hereby notifies the following scheme; namely:-

**1. SHORT TITLE, COMMENCEMENT AND SCOPE:**

- (1) This Scheme may be called Jammu and Kashmir State News Media Accreditation Scheme, 2017.
- (2) It shall apply to the grant of accreditation to representatives of news media organizations in Jammu and Kashmir and shall supersede all previous rules in this regard.
- (3) It shall come into force with immediate effect.

**2. DEFINITIONS:** - In this scheme unless the context otherwise requires:-

- (a) **'Accreditation'** means recognition of news media representatives by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for purposes of access to source(s) of information in the Government and also to news materials, written or pictorials released by the Department of Information and or other agencies of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) **'Director'** means Director Information and Public Relations, Government of J&K;
- (c) **'Government'** means the Government of Jammu and Kashmir;
- (d) **'News Media'** shall include wire services, online news agencies, news portals, non-wire services, audio and audio visual networks dealing with the news of public interest or for comments on news of public interest;

- (e) **'News Media Representative'** means the Correspondent, Photographer, Videographer or Cartoonist, representing any daily Newspaper, News Agency, News Portal, News Weekly, TV News Channel, AIR, Doordarshan News, Photo Agency, Fortnightly, Monthly Magazine and other periodicals both in English or other languages;
- (f) **'Newspaper/Periodical'** means any publication, printed and distributed at fixed intervals, which contains news and comments of public interest as defined in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1987 but not a publication containing information of sectional interest such as House Journals;
- (g) **'State Media Accreditation Committee'** means a committee appointed by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir; here-in-after called 'SMAC'.
- (h) **DAVP'** means Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India).

**3. CONSTITUTION OF STATE MEDIA ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS:**

- (1) The SMAC shall consist of not more than twelve (12) members who shall be non-officials to be nominated by the State Government from amongst the representatives of news media, news agencies, correspondents, press photographers/videographers and editors of daily newspapers of repute, provided that no person who has less than eight years experience in Journalism shall be nominated as a member of SMAC.
- (2) The Director Information shall be the Convener of the Committee to convene meetings of the SMAC, and shall preside over such meetings and maintain all records and proceedings of their deliberations.
- (3) The SMAC once constituted shall function for a period of two years.
- (4) The SMAC shall meet once every year.
- (5) One third of the members of the Committee present in any meeting will form the quorum and the meeting will be adjourned if this quorum is incomplete but any number of members present in the subsequent meeting will form the quorum, if it is convened to consider the business placed in the earlier meeting adjourned due to lack of quorum.



#### 4. SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION:

- (1) Accreditation may be given in accordance with the provisions of this scheme to news media representatives representing newspapers, news agencies, news portals, broadcasting concerns, photo-journalists, video-journalists, cartoonists and such other categories of news media personnel as may be notified by the Government.
- (2) Accreditation of representatives of only those news media organizations will be considered SMAC which have been functioning or operating for a period of at least 5 years continuously.
- (3) Accreditation shall be given to the representatives of only such regional newspapers, except for Freelancer journalists, which are empanelled by the Directorate of Information for advertisements. Similarly, accreditation shall be given only to the representatives of such National Newspapers in J&K which are approved by DAVP.
- (4) Accreditation shall be granted only to those news media representatives who operate within the territorial limits of State of Jammu and Kashmir.
- (5) Right to get Accreditation is personal and shall in no case be transferrable.
- (6) Accreditation shall not confer any official or special status on the recipient but shall only recognize and identify him/her as a professional journalist dealing with the news of public interest.
- (7) The Accreditation Card shall not be admissible for attending such official functions or conferences, where the entry is covered by the security passes.
- (8) Accreditation shall be used solely for journalistic purposes and for not other purpose.
- (9) An accredited news media representative shall not use the words "Accredited to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir" on visiting cards, letter heads or any other form of personal stationery or any other literature.
- (10) Whenever an accredited news media representative ceases to represent the concerned newspaper/periodical/news agency/news portal or broadcasting concern on whose behalf he/she is accredited, the fact shall be brought to the notice of the Director of Information (Convener SMAC) in writing within 15 days by both the concerned news media representative



and Head of the editorial Department of the concerned Media Organization and the accreditation card issued to him/her shall be returned to the Director of Information, failing which the facility of accreditation to the News Media Organization will be withdrawn by the Convener SMAC and the action taken shall be communicated to the SMAC for information.

- (11) The Director Information can call for any information and documents considered necessary for the purpose of ensuring credibility and genuineness of cases for accreditation, at the time of accreditation or at its renewal or at any other time, if so required.
- (12) Accreditation shall be withdrawn if the news media organization/ newspaper/periodical/news agency/news portal/broadcasting concern on whose behalf the news media representative is accredited ceases its publication or the network ceases to function except for a short period for reasons of industrial dispute or on account of any natural calamity.
- (13) The SMAC reserves the right to recommend or reject grant of accreditation. In all accreditation cases, decision of the SMAC will be final.
- (14) In determining the entitlement of number of accredited news media representative for a News Media Organization, its character, quality, credentials, volume of coverage and the service limitations of the Department of Information will be taken into account.

#### **5. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR ACCREDITATION:**

- (1) Accreditation shall be given only to the full-time correspondents / photo-journalists / video-journalists / cartoonists of newspapers / periodicals being published from Metropolitan cities, regional newspapers of repute, periodicals, TV News Channels, Radio News, News Agencies and Online News Portals.
- (2) Accreditation shall be given only to such news media representatives, except Freelancers, who have minimum of 5 years professional experience as full time working journalist/photo-journalists/video-journalists/cartoonist in a News Media Organization. The same shall have to be substantiated by documentary evidence at the time of submission of application for Accreditation.



- (3) Editors of Newspapers / Periodicals, Stringers, Part-Time Correspondents, Part-Time Reporters, Part-Time Photojournalists, Part-Time Video-journalists, Part-Time Cartoonists shall not be entitled for Accreditation
- (4) Freelance media-persons who have earlier worked as fulltime Correspondents / Photojournalists / Video-journalists / Cartoonists with a News Media Organization for a minimum period of 15 years shall be considered for Accreditation by the SMAC. Accreditation will be given as a matter of honor for his/her contribution in the field of journalism. However, such Freelance, News Media Representative(s) shall have to provide the documentary evidence at the time of renewal of Accreditation to the fact that they have not completely given up the profession and are contributing to newspapers / periodicals and other News Media Organizations.
- (5) The News Media Representatives applying for Accreditation shall be operating within the territory of the Jammu and Kashmir State during the period of his/her accreditation.
- (6) Correspondents/Press Photographers of Foreign News Media Organizations fulfilling other requirements of eligibility shall get their applications sponsored from the Regional Bureau Chief of the concerned agency.
- (7) The Information Officers / Assistant Information Officers / Photographers / Videographers of the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of J&K, who join the journalism profession post-retirement, shall be given accreditation subject to the condition that they have served the Department in the capacity of Information Officer / Assistant Information Officer / Photographer / Videographer for a minimum period of 5 years.

## **6. PROCEDURE FOR ACCREDITATION:**

- (1) An application for accreditation shall be submitted by news media representative to the Director of Information, J&K Government on proforma as per annexure 'A' with this scheme. The application duly recommended should also be supported by a letter of appointment and salary statement from the concerned News Media Organization. The news media representative shall also furnish documentary proof about requisite experience in the field.
- (2) An accreditation card shall be issued in favour of the applicant after it has been approved by the State Media Accreditation Committee (SMAC) under the seal and signatures of the Director of Information Jammu and Kashmir.



- (3) An accreditation on provisional basis for a period not exceeding six (6) months may be granted by the Director of Information in consultation with any six members of the SMAC as may be available in Jammu/Srinagar till such time as the SMAC meets thereafter provided the applicant fulfils the terms and conditions laid down in this scheme. They can be conferred accreditation on permanent basis by the SPAC when it meets.
- (4) The Director of Information in Consultation with any four members of the SMAC may grant provisional accreditation to the News Media Representatives who already possess accreditation cards and have during the course of time, for any reasons changed the News Media Organization.  
  
Provided they apply for accreditation along with proper appointment letter from the Editor/Bureau Chief concerned. Their cases for accreditation on a permanent basis can be considered by the SMAC when it meets next.
- (5) The Director Information can refuse to issue an accreditation card to any particular news media representative for security reasons, if the situation demands so.
- (6) If the SMAC for reasons duly recorded in its minutes decides not to grant accreditation to an applicant, the reasons for such a decision shall forthwith be communicated to the applicant and the concerned news media organization.
- (7) The Director Information shall maintain a list of accredited news media representatives both from Kashmir and Jammu Divisions. The SMAC will review the list of Accredited Correspondents annually.

## **7. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATIONS:**

Newspapers/Periodicals shall be eligible to seek accreditation of their Correspondents/Photographers and Cartoonists in accordance with the following criteria:-

- (1) The contents of the newspapers should include news and information emanating from the headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir and mainly contain information and or comments, features, illustrations etc. on current social, political, economic, scientific, cultural and other matters of public interest.
- (2) A daily newspaper in English should have minimum eight pages with a minimum paid circulation of not less than 1000 copies per publishing day.



- (3) Daily newspapers in Urdu, Hindi, Dogri, Kashmiri, Ladakhi or any other recognized language of Jammu and Kashmir should be of minimum eight pages with minimum paid circulation of 500 copies per publishing day.
- (4) A weekly newspaper should be of minimum 16 pages with a minimum paid circulation of 2000 copies per week.
- (5) A fortnightly news paper should have minimum 24 pages with 2500 paid copies per two weeks.
- (6) A monthly news paper should be of minimum 32 pages having a minimum paid circulation of 3000 copies per month
- (7) A News Agency should be registered having at least 20 paid subscribers. The contents of the news items circulated/produced by the agencies mentioned above should include news and information emanating from the headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir Government.
- (8) TV/Radio News Production Organizations should have at least one news bulletin/programme of minimum 15 minutes duration per day.
- (9) Television News Agencies should be supplying news clips to at least 5 subscribing Satellite TV News telecasting organizations on regular basis.

**8. Online News Portals: A news site / portal means a website which has at least 1/3rd of its visible content related to news & current affairs emanating from Jammu and Kashmir and originally reported by its own correspondents. 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 etc. The accreditation to be given to the representatives of the Online News Portals shall be guided by following conditions; namely:-**

- (1) The publications on behalf of which accreditation has already been given will accommodate their online journalists within their existing quota.
- (2) The site should be updated regularly and at least 6 times daily.
- (3) The news portal should be observing the laws of the land in terms of content, service, promotions, finances and any other aspects of functioning.
- (4) The news site should have been functioning for at least one year.



- (5) The domain name of the site should be registered for at least next 5 years from the date of application.
- (6) The site should have at least 10,000 page views per day of its news-portion.
- (7) The issue of determining the authenticity of the site may be decided in consultation with IT Department of J&K Government in case of any doubt.
- (8) In the event of a website/portal found involved in any activity perceived as a cyber crime, all accreditations given to representatives of that website/portal will be withdrawn.

**9. QUOTA OF ACCREDITATION FIXED FOR VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATIONS:**

- (1) The quota of accreditation for news media representatives of Newspapers and Periodicals published from J&K will be given as per the classification of such publications listed in J&K Government's Advertisement Policy-2016 in the following format:

S No	Newspaper Category	Number of Correspondents	Number Photographers	Cartoonists
1	A	6	4	1
2	B	4	3	1
3	C	3	2	1
4	D	2	1	1
	<b>WEEKLIES</b>	2	1	1
	<b>FORTNIGHTLY</b>	1	1	1
	<b>MONTHLY</b>	1	1	1

- (2) The Accreditation Quota for Newspapers/Periodicals will be applicable separately for the editions published from Jammu and Srinagar.
- (3) The newspapers/periodicals shall accommodate their District Correspondents within the allotted quota.

**10. ELECTRONIC MEDIA:**

The quota of accreditation for news media representatives of Electronic Media operating from J&K will be given as per the following format separately for Jammu and Srinagar:

S No	News Media Organization	Number of Correspondents	Number of Video Journalists
1	Regional News Unit Doordarshan	2	3
2	Regional News Unit Radio	2	
3	All India Radio	1	
4	TV News Channels	4	4



**11. NEWS AGENCIES:**

The registered News Agencies operating from Jammu and Srinagar will be given accreditation for two Correspondents and two Photographers each.

**12. ONLINE NEWS PORTALS:**

The registered Online News Portals operating from Jammu and Srinagar will be given accreditation for two Correspondents and one Photographer each.

**13. CANCELLATION OF ACCREDITATION:**

A media-person Accredited under this scheme shall be liable to be discredited if:-

- (1) if an accredited journalist uses information and facilities accorded to him/her for non-journalistic purposes, or publishes official secrets in violation of the Official Secrets Act.
- (2) in the course of his/her duties he/she behaves in an undignified or un-professional manner.
- (3) he/she ignores or violates the conditions on which information and facilities are provided by the government or acts contrary to any provision of this scheme.
- (4) he/she indulges in promoting disharmony or feeling enmity, hatred or ill-will between different racial, religious, linguistic or regional groups or castes or communities or disturbs public tranquility.
- (5) he/she publishes or circulates any statement or report containing rumors of alarming nature with intent to create disturbances or enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious linguistic, regional or racial groups etc.
- (6) he/she deliberately acts against the security of the nation and the state and promotes secessionism, terrorism and communal violence.
- (7) an applicant or a media organization is found to have supplied false / fraudulent / forged information / documents, the representative/media organization shall be debarred from accreditation upto a maximum of five years but not less than two years, as decided by SMAC.
- (8) an accredited journalist joins a political party and is actively associated with political activities.



**Note: Action under para 14 will be taken by the Director of Information in consultation with at least five (5) members of the State Media Accreditation Committee (SMAC).**

**14. REVIEW:**

- (1) There shall be a periodic review of the accreditation granted to news media representatives to ensure that only genuine news media representatives continue to get the facility.
- (2) The list of accredited representatives will be subject to review preferably every six (6) months by the Director of Information in consultation with the SMAC in the light of the demands for accreditation from various sections of the news media and the facilities availed of by those already accredited.
- (3) For the purposes of such review any, information regarding circulation etc. may be called for and media persons/press photographers can be asked to provide clippings of published dispatches or photographs from the news media organization concerned.
- (4) With a view to ensure that only genuine news media persons remain accredited on behalf of foreign media organization / Television / Broadcasting agencies, the Director of Information (Convener, SMAC) may from time to time, call for their published dispatches for a review or enquire through their Bureau Chief about the work of their representatives.
- (5) Accreditation Committee shall also cross check the circulation and influence of such regional papers before giving accreditation.

**15. APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION:**

- (1) Application in prescribed format should be addressed to the Director Information and Public Relations, Government of Jammu and Kashmir in duplicate accompanied by two copies of passport size photographs of the Applicant with documentary evidence that he/she has been continuously working for the past 5 years.
- (2) The Director shall refer the applications to SMAC for its decision.
- (3) The accreditation will lapse in case the press cards are not renewed within three month from the date of expiry.



- (4) At the time of submitting application for renewal of Accreditation, the news media representative shall have to provide fresh documentary evidence of working with a News Media Organization.

By order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

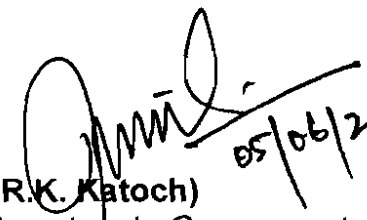
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**(M.H. Malik)KAS**  
Secretary to the Government.  
Information Department.

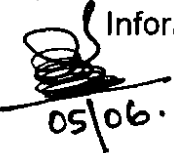
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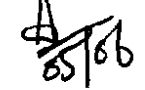
Dated: 05/06/2017.

Copy to the:-

1. Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India.
2. Secretary, Press Council of India, New Delhi.
3. Commissioner/Secretary to Government, General Administration Department.
4. Secretary to Government, Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs.
5. Director Archives, Archeology & Museums, J&K.
6. Special Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
7. Director Information, J&K Jammu.
8. Joint Director Information, Jammu/Kashmir.
9. General Manager, Government Press, J&K Jammu for publication in the next issue of the Government Gazette.
10. Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary.
- ✓ 11. Incharge Website GAD.
12. Government Order file (w.2.s.c.).
13. Stock file.

  
(R.K. Katoch)  
Additional Secretary to Government.  
Information Department.  
05/06/2017

  
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