

NAGALAND NEWS MEDIA ACCREDITATION RULES

Title and commencement

1. These Rules may be called the Nagaland News Media Accreditation Rules, (Revised).
2. They shall come into force with effect from the date of publication in the Nagaland Gazette.

Definitions

3. In these rules, the following shall have the meanings assigned to them herein, unless the context otherwise requires.-
 - (1) “Accreditation” means recognition granted to correspondents/media persons to have access to - (i) news materials, (ii) offices and officers of the government of Nagaland for gathering news, (iii) documents, laws, rules, notifications, press releases, background papers etc., relating to the activities of the government of Nagaland (iv) public functions, press conferences, official events and other gatherings related to activities of the government (v) facilities in terms of travel, research, documentation etc., relating to news gathering and (vi) all other incidental facilities which helps news gathering;
 - (2) “Correspondent” includes every employee of a news/media organization by that name or by any other designation who shall be a working journalist under the “Working Journalist Act”, but does not include a part-time employee for the purpose of these Rules;
 - (3) “Cameraperson” includes ‘still’, ‘television’ and ‘movie’ cameraperson employed on full time basis by a media organization for taking photographs or video;
 - (4) “Committee” means the Nagaland News Media Accreditation Committee constituted under these Rules formed by the government for considering and sanctioning of accreditation, and to recommend steps for facilities for news gathering by accredited journalist and news organizations;
 - (5) “Editor” includes a working journalist by that name or by the name of Chief Editor, Editor-in-chief, Managing Editor, Executive Editor, Resident Editor, Content Head or by such name;
 - (6) “Government of Nagaland” includes (i) offices and officers of the Government of Nagaland and (ii) all offices and officers of institutions within and outside Nagaland over which the Government of Nagaland has administrative control;
 - (7) “Media organization” includes an individual or an organization which represents a newspapers, magazine, television channel, radio organization, news portals, wire and non-wire service news agencies, news feature agencies, electronic media agencies and such other news organizations, whether it is a private enterprise or Government enterprise;
 - a) News Media shall include newspapers, wire service, and non wire service news agencies, news feature agencies, electronic media agencies, news portals containing news and comments on on public views;
 - b) “Newspapers” shall have the same definition as assigned to it in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 and a daily newspaper shall be published on not less than five days in a week and a weekly or fortnightly newspaper shall have not less than 45 or 22 issues respectively in a year.
 - c) “News Agency” includes a wire or non-wire organization which supplies news on a minute-to- minute or daily basis to a number of media organizations, both print and electronic;

- d) “News Feature Agency” includes an agency which amongst other things, supplies news and features based on current affairs to newspaper/media organizations on a weekly or fortnightly basis;
 - e) “Radio organization” means any media organization which broadcast news bulletins and carries current affairs programmes, including All India Radio which operates under the Prasar Bharti Act;
 - f) “Television Channel” includes Doordarshan and other news and current affairs channels permitted under the guidelines of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;
 - g) “Television and Radio News Agency” includes a media organization which primarily provides news clips and feeds to Television Channels and Radio organizations; and
 - h) “News portal” includes a news and current affairs website which provides continuous news coverage and current affairs features.
- (8) Accreditation Card: the Directorate of IPR, Nagaland shall issue a photo identity card to the media persons to whom accreditation is granted by the Committee, and wherever necessary the card should have authorization to enter all premises of the Central and State governments, without any requirement of obtaining visitor pass.

Composition of Press/Media Accreditation Committee

4. The State Government shall constitute within 15 days of the coming into force of these Rules, a Committee called the Nagaland State News Media Accreditation Committee, comprising of the following:
- (1) 3 (three) members who are editors of media organizations operating from the State or employees of news organisations nominated by the Secretary/Commissioner & Secretary, IPR not exceeding one member from each organization or media associations.
 - (2) 1 (one) member representing the Private Television Channel as nominated by the Association of Private Television Channels or the Secretary/Commissioner & Secretary, IPR in the absence of such an association.
 - (3) 1(one) member of the State Department of Information and Public Relations representing the “Warrior” and other magazines of the Government, as nominated by the said Department.
 - (4) One member each from the Press clubs of Kohima, Dimapur and Mokokchung. The member should be a working journalist who has been in the field for at least ten (10) years (the members should be selected/nominated by the Press Clubs in such a way the no media organization /agency has more than one (1) member in the SPAC.
 - (5) The Chief Secretary, Government of Nagaland as Chairman.
 - (6) The Secretary/Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Information and Public Relations as Vice Chairman.
 - (7) The Director of the Information and Public Relations Department of the State government as Member – Secretary

Tenure of the Committee

5. (1) The members of the News Media Accreditation Committee, except the officers of the State Government, may resign from their membership at any time.
- (2) The agencies concerned from whom members are nominated to the Committee, shall nominate the members to vacancies caused by such resignation, at the earliest.

(3) Every member, who is not a State Government Officer, shall hold office for a term of three years and on expiry of his tenure, the Government or the agency concerned shall nominate new members, at the earliest.

(4) No member, whose term has expired as above, shall be re-nominated immediately, but only after the interval of 3 years.

(5) State Government officers shall hold their membership, including the office of member-secretary, on ex officio basis.

Offices of the Committee

6. The Chief Secretary, Government of Nagaland shall be the Chairman and the Commissioner and Secretary/Secretary to the Government of Nagaland, Department of Information and Public Relations, shall be the Vice Chairman of the Committee.
7. The Director of the Information and Public Relations Department of the State Government shall be the Member-Secretary of the Committee.

Proceedings of the Committee

8. The Committee shall have at least one sitting in six months.
9. Simple majority will constitute quorum at any sitting.
10. All decisions shall be taken unanimously failing which; issues will be resolved by vote, with one vote in favour of each member.
11. The Chairman shall not have vote in the first instance but shall have a casting vote in case of a tie.
12. The member-Secretary shall keep record of the proceedings and circulate the same to the Chairman and members within 10 days of the date of meetings.
13. The member-Secretary shall issue notices of all meetings to the Chairman and other members 7 days prior to the date of sitting unless expediency requires shorter notice.

Functions of the Committee

14. The Committee shall perform the following functions:
 - (1) to decide the grant of accreditation to journalists;
 - (2) to decide the cancellation of accreditation; and
 - (3) to decide the basic facilities that can be extended by the State Government to the media for effective functioning and for further strengthening of media operations in the State.

Applications for accreditation

15. All applications for accreditation in respect of media organizations, which are institutions, shall be recommended and forwarded by the Chief of that institution. All such applications for accreditation shall be addressed to the Member-Secretary of the Committee.

Procedure for accreditation

16.
 - (1) Applications received for accreditation shall be placed before the Accreditation Committee by the Member-Secretary.
 - (2) At a meeting held for the purpose, the Committee shall consider the merit of each request on the basis of the following;
 - (a) the number of years of service in the field, a minimum of three (3) years in a news organization as a working journalist shall be requirement for accreditation;
 - (b) the possible gain to the media and the society, if accreditation is granted etc.;
 - (3) Every accredited person will be issued one Accreditation card valid for the year ending 31st March.

- (4) The following will be the maximum number of Accreditation cards that may be issued to a particular media organizations.
- (a) Six (6) from one daily newspaper published in Nagaland
 - (b) One (1) from news agencies, periodicals (weeklies/monthlies etc)
 - (c) One from regional/national newspapers/magazines published from outside the State.
- (5) No fee or any other charge shall be collected for issue of an Accreditation card, which shall be issued in the name of the Committee and under the signature of the Member-Secretary, with the photograph of the journalist properly affixed with his signature thereon.
- (6) Annual renewal of accreditation shall be done by the Director, Information & Public Relations, Nagaland and Member Secretary of the Committee on a written request from the accredited media person certified and forwarded by the head of the concerned media organization.

Procedure for cancellation of accreditation:

17. (1) If the editor informs the committee that the journalist has been reassigned outside the State or to a non journalistic assignment.
- (2) If the editor informs the committee that the journalist is no longer an employee of the organization.
- (3) If the editor informs the committee that the journalist that news organization has closed down or is no longer carrying 50 per cent content as news which is a requirement for an organization to be recognized as a news organization.
- (4) If a journalist has been censured at least twice by the Press Council of India for professional misconduct.
- (5) If a complaint is received from a public servant or from a private individual including the chief of any media organization that the holder of an accreditation card has indulged in any criminal activity or committed an offence that is grossly unethical of a journalist, the same shall be placed before the Committee by the Member-Secretary for inquiry and report.
- (6) With the approval of the Committee, the Member-Secretary, by himself or with the aid of an Inquiry Committee constituted specially for that purpose, investigate into the complaint and a report thereof shall be submitted to the Committee within one month of the complaint.
- (7) If the complaint is of serious nature, the Committee may recommend suspension of the Accreditation Card, which means surrender of the card by the holder for a temporary period to the Member-Secretary.
- (8) If the Committee, on receipt of the inquiry report, finds that the holder of the card has breached ethical standards of a journalist, shall cancel the accreditation card issued to him.

Provided the Inquiry Committee shall not come to any conclusion against the journalist concerned unless due opportunity to defend himself has been provided to him.

Privileges attached to the accreditation card

- (9) The following are the privileges attached to the Press Accreditation Card:
- a. the holder shall have free access to offices and officers of the Government of Nagaland and offices and officers over which the Government of Nagaland has administrative control;

- b. the holder shall have free access to public functions, ceremonies, conferences, seminars etc. to which public functionaries and Government officers are invited;
- c. the holder is not required to pay entry fees to any exhibition, display hall etc, which is organized by the State Government;
- d. the holder is also entitled to have access to offices and officers of the Central Government located within the territory of Nagaland with prior intimation to the offices and officers concerned.
- e. the holder is not required to pay bus fare in any bus of the State Government Undertakings for travels within the State of Nagaland; and
- f. the holder is entitled to free access to State Government organized special information cells, such as Election Information Cell, etc.

Amendment of these Rules.

- (10) These Rules shall be amended, if by a majority of votes, amendments are adopted by the Accreditation Committee and approved by the Government of Nagaland.

Supersession of earlier Rules

- (11) All earlier rules, orders, notifications on the subject, shall stand superseded by these Rules.

Removal of doubts

- (12) All doubts relating to implementation of these rules shall be removed by the Government of Nagaland by issue of necessary orders and any dispute relating to such removal of doubts shall be resolved by majority by the Committee.

Application form for Press Accreditation to the Government of Nagaland

1. Name of the applicant (in block letter) _____
2. Fathers name _____
3. Present address _____

4. Permanent address _____

5. Designation/assignment _____
6. Name of News Paper/Organisation _____
7. Duration of employment with current employer _____
8. Length of experience in the profession _____

(Sample of last six month's assignment/reports published to be enclosed)

Date _____

Place _____

(Signature)

CERTIFICATION OF EDITOR/PUBLISHER

I _____ (name) Editor/Publisher of _____
_____ (name of news organisation) hereby certify that the applicant works as a _____
_____ for our paper/organization and that the above given information are correct to the best of
my knowledge, and I recommend and forward his name for accreditation to the Government of Nagaland.

(Signature)

Name _____

Designation _____

N. B.

1. Any false information/claim will automatically result in the disqualification of the applicant.
2. A maximum of four (4) press persons from a newspaper published in the State, and one (1) from agencies, periodicals and newspaper published outside the State are eligible for accreditation. Editors/Publishers should therefore select the persons in respect of their paper/organisation to whom accreditation should be given.
3. Accreditation is initially for one year and renewable under the relevant sections of the 'Press Accreditation Rules'.
4. News papers/organisations seeking accreditation of their press persons should submit a photocopy of :-
 1. 'No Dues Certificate' from the Press Council of India.
 2. Registration with the Registrar of Newspaper for India. Without these documents no accreditation will be possible for as per the rules and direction of the PCI.

FOR OFFICE USE

Comments/Remark

Section Officer