

GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA  
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION CULTURAL AFFAIRS & TOURISM

NO.F.65(167)-ICAT/93/Adv.

Dated, Agartala the 28<sup>th</sup> Aug,2001.

NOTIFICATION

The Governor of Tripura is pleased to make, in supersession of all previous notifications on the subject, the following rules to regulate the matters relating to accreditation to Press Representatives in Tripura, namely :-

1. (1) These Rules may be called the Tripura Press Representatives Accreditations Rules, 2001.
- (2) They shall come into force on and from the date of their publication in the Tripura Gazette
2. In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires –
  - (a) "Committee" means the Tripura Press Accreditation Committee constituted under these Rules
  - (b) "Director" means the Director, Additional Director, Joint Director in-Charge of Information, Cultural Affairs & Tourism Department, Government of Tripura
  - (c) "Editor" means the persons who controls the selection on the matter that is published in a newspaper;
  - (d) "Government" means the Government of Tripura.
  - (e) "ICAT" means the Information, Cultural Affairs & Tourism Department of Government of Tripura.
  - (f) "Newspaper" means any printed periodical work containing public news or comments on public news and includes such other class of printed periodical work as may from time to time, be notified in this behalf by the Central Government in the Official Gazette;
  - (g) "Press Representatives" means –
    - (i) a correspondent or Staff Reporter, of Newspaper, News Agency and News Photo-service or Illustrated Journal; and a Cine-Cameraman of a Cinema or Television News Service.
    - (ii) a Part-Time Working journalist / Correspondent or News Photographer (A Part-Time Journalist means one whose principal avocation is that of Journalism, but who may be employed by or attached to more than one Newspaper or Agency at the same time).
  - (h) "Secretary" means Ex-officio member Secretary or an officer authorised on this behalf under sub-rule(5) of rule 4.

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	<p>(i) a person appointed by the Ministry of Information &amp; Broadcasting, Government of India or the Information Cultural Affairs &amp; Tourism Deptt., Government of Tripura or the Government of any other State or Union Territory in India to act as correspondent or staff reporter or Cine Cameraman, having headquarters at Agartala.</p> <p>(ii) any person as may be specially recommended by the Tripura Press Accreditation Committee on the merit of his having held Accreditation Card for a long period of not less than twenty five years or for outstanding contribution to public news, articles, comments, lead and editorial writing in continuum. This provision shall not, however, apply as a general rule.</p> <p>(i) "Working Journalist" means a person whose principal avocation is that of a Journalist as defined under the provisions of the Working Journalists Act, 1955. - " a person whose principal avocation is that of a Journalist and who is employed as such in or in relation to any Newspaper establishment and includes an Editor, a Leader Writer, News-Editor, Sub-Editor, Feature Writer, Copy Tester, Reporter, Correspondents, Cartoonist, News Photographer and Proof-Reader, but does not include any such person who -</p> <p>(i) is employed mainly in managerial or administrative capacity or,</p> <p>(ii) having been employed in a supervisory capacity, performs either by the nature of duties attached to his office or by reasons of powers vested in him, functions mainly of a managerial nature.</p>
Application.	3. These rules shall apply to all Press Representatives stationed at Agartala or headquarters of a District or Sub-Division of a District of Tripura.
Constitution of committee.	4. (1) The Government shall constitute a committee to be called the Tripura Press Accreditation Committee.  (2) The Committee shall consist of not more than 9(nine) members of whom at least -

	<p>(i) one shall be the Secretary of the Press Club, Agartala ;</p> <p>(ii) two shall be from the Working Journalists associated with Local Newspapers ;</p> <p>(iii) one shall be from the Editors of the Local Newspapers ;</p> <p>(iv) one shall be from correspondents of out station newspapers and one from News Agencies;</p> <p>(v) two shall be from persons having prominent personalities and devoted to the cause of mass media and mass communication ;</p> <p>(vi) one shall be from local Sports Journalists ;</p> <p>(3) All members shall be nominated by the Government .</p> <p>(4) The Government shall appoint one of the member to be the Chairman.</p> <p>(5)The Director of Information, Cultural Affairs &amp; Tourism, Government of Tripura shall be ex-officio Member-Secretary of the committee but shall not have any right to vote. In the event of Director's absence from station, a duly authorised subordinate Officer not below the rank of Deputy Director may act as Secretary without any voting right.</p>
Term of Office.	<p>5. (1) The term of office of Chairman and members of the Committee nominated under rule-4 shall be 2(two) years from the date of constitution of the Committee and they shall be eligible for re-nomination.</p> <p>Provided that the Government may, if it considers necessary so to do, extend the term of appointment of a member for a period not exceeding six-months.</p> <p>(2) The Chairman or a member of the committee may resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Secretary, ICAT, Government of Tripura and such resignation shall take effect on the expiry of thirty days from the date of tendering resignation.</p>

Filling of casual vacancy	6. When a vacancy occurs in the office of the Chairman or a member of the Committee by reason of resignation, death or otherwise the vacancy shall be filled by fresh nomination in the manner and from the source from which the same was originally filled under rule-4 and the person so nominated to fill a casual vacancy shall continue to be a member for remainder of his predecessor's term .
Meeting of Committee	7. (1) The Committee shall meet at least once in every three months, but may meet more frequently if so required by the Chairman .  (2) The Chairman shall preside at the meeting of the Committee , and in his absence , the members present shall elect one of them to preside at the meeting of the committee.
Notice of meeting	8.(1) At-least seven clear days before the date of a meeting a notice shall be given to all members. Provided that in case of emergency, the meeting may be convened at a shorter notice of not less than 24 hours with prior consent of at-least 4 members including the Chairman .  (2) The Director shall convene a requisition meeting which should be demanded in writing by the Chairman and at least 3(three) other members for discussion over an important issue . Only the listed agenda items shall be discussed in an urgent meeting .
Quorum	9. The majority of members shall form quorum. Provided that no quorum shall be necessary in an adjourned meeting
Place of meeting .	10. The Committee shall ordinarily meet at the office of the Director unless the Chairman decides any other venue for any meeting of the Committee for the convenience of the members.
Members not entitled to allowance or honorarium.	11. No member shall be entitled to any allowance (including traveling allowance ) or honorarium for discharge of his duties under these rules.
Secretarial assistance.	12. The Government shall provide the Committee with necessary secretarial assistance, postage etc. as it considers appropriate for smooth functioning .
Functions of the Committee.	13. The Committee shall advise the Government as to the suitability of a press representative for grant of accreditation.

Application for accreditation.	<p>14. (1) A press representative shall apply in prescribed Form-'A' for the grant of accreditation. For renewal of accreditation, Press Representative shall apply in Form-'B'.</p> <p>(2) Every application for grant of accreditation shall be placed before the Committee by the Secretary for consideration.</p> <p>(3) Particulars of the application shall be circulated to the members along with the notice convening the meeting of the Committee. *</p> <p>(4) The Committee may consider any application for grant of accreditation which has not been circulated to the members as per sub-rule-(3). Such an application shall be accompanied by a report from the Secretary stating the reason for not circulating the same.</p>
Manner of submission of application.	<p>15. Every application for grant of accreditation shall be addressed to the Secretary through the Head of the Organisation in which the applicant is employed.</p> <p>Explanation :-The head of the organisation in this context means, an Editor, Executive Editor, Associate Editor, Deputy Editor, News Editor, Joint News Editor, Deputy News Editor, Chief of Bureau and Chief Reporter.</p>
Condition of grant of accreditation.	<p>16. (1) No accreditation shall be granted to a press representative unless his basic profession is journalism or news photography or he is a cine-cameraman, and unless he has spent not less than five consecutive years in the profession of journalism, news photography, cine-cameraman ship or television news service.</p> <p>Provided that a press representative working as a whole time correspondent or working journalist or news photographer or cine-cameraman in a district or sub-division and has completed five consecutive years in the profession as such correspondent or working journalist or news photographer or cine-cameraman, shall be eligible to apply for grant of accreditation. Eligibility criterion in regard to professional experience may be waived by the Committee in its discretion provided the members are otherwise satisfied that the applicant represents a reputed newspaper, magazine, news agency, television company providing regular news service and has genuine professional credentials. In respect of television news channels, formal letters from the organisation identifying person / persons whose assistance may be required by the Chief representative shall be submitted for accreditation.</p>

(2) Accreditation to a Press Representative shall be ordinarily restricted to a daily or well circulated weekly newspaper or magazine, television company having regular news channel or illustrated journal.

(3) While deciding accreditation, the committee shall take into consideration the following facts :-

(a) for news agency :-

- (i) Type of Agency ;
- (ii) Method of distribution of service ;
- (iii) Centres and newspapers catered for ;
- (iv) Numbers of subscribers ;
- (v) A copy of letter of appointment of the applicant, and ;
- (vi) Age proof certificate .

(b) for Daily and Weekly Newspapers, Magazines and T.V. news channels :

- (i) Nature and type of newspaper, magazine or TV news channel;
- (ii) Periodicity and regularity of publication, telecasting ;
- (iii) A copy of letter of appointment ;
- (iv) Age proof certificate.

Provided that the applicant fulfils other conditions prescribed by these rules.

(4) Where an applicant for an accreditation is free lancer Correspondent or Photographer - he shall satisfy the Committee with suitable clippings, records etc. regarding his experience and consistent contribution to the profession.

(5) In case of TV News Channels, accreditation required beyond the specified number as per second schedule may be considered on the basis of recommendation of Accreditation Committee.

Classification of press representatives	17. The accredited press representatives shall be classified as specified in the first Schedule.
Classification of media for determination of number of accreditation.	18. The classification of news media for the purpose of determination of number of accreditation shall be as specified in the Second Schedule.
Classification of media for determination of number of accreditation	19. Every accreditation shall be personal and shall not be transferable.

Accreditation shall not confer official status.	20. No accreditation shall confer any official status on a press representative nor shall it be construed to mean more than a mere recognition of the identity of a press representative and his relationship with the newspaper or news agency or news photo service or cinema or television news service or any other organisation which employs him.
Accreditation shall not confer official status	21. No press representative shall use any letterheads or visiting cards inscribed with the words "Accredited to the Government of Tripura".
Issue of Accreditation Card.	22. A press accreditation card shall be issued to a press representative by the Director, ICAT.
Term of Accreditation.	23. Every press accreditation card shall remain valid for one year from the date of issue and may, subject to the other provisions of these rules, be renewed, on the expiration of the period for a period not exceeding one year at a time.
Renewal of Accreditation.	24. (1) For the purpose of renewal, Journalists, Correspondents or Reporters shall submit the accreditation card to the Secretary at least 15 days before the expiration of its validity with an application in Form 'B' and necessary photographs.  (2) If a Press Representative fails to submit his accreditation card for renewal within the stipulated time due to his absence from station or due to any other reason, he shall inform the Director, CAT of the matter within 7 days.  (3) If an accredited journalist fails to inform the reasons for non-renewal within the specified period to the Director, ICAT, his name shall be deleted from the list of accredited journalist.
Review of list of accredited journalist.	25. The Director, ICAT shall review the list of accredited journalists once in every three month.
Loss of accreditation and issue of fresh card	26. (1) In case of loss of any press accreditation card during the period of its validity, an information shall be given to the nearest Police Station without loss of time and an application addressed to the Secretary shall be made for issue of a fresh card.  (2) Every such application shall be accompanied by a copy of the Information duly signed and sealed by an Officer of the concerned Police Station.  (3) A fresh card shall be issued for the unexpired period of validity.

Validity of accreditation.	27. A press accreditation card issued to a press representative in a district or a sub-division shall, unless otherwise directed, be valid for such district or sub-division, as the case may be .
Admission to special events or protected places.	<p>28.(1) Admission to special events and places may be regulated by invitations or admission tokens.</p> <p>(2) Admission to protected places or photography in restricted places shall not be permissible by virtue of press accreditation card.</p> <p>(3) In determining the number of press representatives to be admitted to an event or a place, the character and volume of coverage required in each case and the limitations of the services of the Information, Cultural Affairs &amp; Tourism Department of the Government available in such case shall be taken into consideration and such number shall be subject to such revision as the Government may think fit to make from time to time.</p>
Duty of press representative and his organization on ceasing to represent the organization.	29. Every press representative shall, on ceasing to represent the newspaper, news agency, news photo service, Cinema or television news service or other organisations as the case may be , report the fact within fifteen days and such report shall also be furnished by the head of the concerned organisation. In the event of failure on the part of the accredited Journalist or / and the head of his organisation to do so, the Director, CAT shall bring the matter to the notice of Chairman of the Committee for appropriate action.
Dis-accreditation of press representative	<p>30. A press representative shall be liable to dis-accreditation if –</p> <p>(a) he uses for non-journalistic purpose ,any information or facility accorded to him as an accredited representative or otherwise utilise the contents, in full or in part, of any classified official document, the publication, broadcast or use otherwise, of which is considered as detrimental to the maintenance of law and order or the security of the State or the relations with a foreign Government or the apprehension of criminal offender or the administration of justice ; or</p> <p>(b) he behaves in the course of his duties in an undignified or un-professional manner ; or</p> <p>(c) he ignores or violates the conditions on which information and facilities are provided by the Government or acts in a manner contrary to the provisions of these rules.</p>



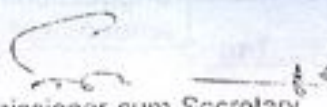
Authority who can pass order of dis-accreditation	<p>31. (1) An order of dis-accreditation shall be passed by the Director, CAT on the advice of the Committee after giving the press representative and the Head of the organisation which he represents an opportunity of being heard, either in person or through a memorandum but not through any lawyer.</p> <p>(2) A copy of the order of dis-accreditation shall be sent to all concerned by the Director, CAT by registered post.</p>
List of accredited press representatives	<p>32. The Director, CAT shall maintain a list of accredited press representatives.</p>
Issue of provisional press accreditation card.	<p>33. In emergent circumstances the Director, ICAT may, on the recommendation of the Chairman issue provisional press accreditation card to a press representative, but every such case shall, as soon as be reported to the Committee.</p>
Dis-accreditation in emergent cases.	<p>34. (1) if at any time the Secretary is satisfied of the need for taking an immediate decision on dis-accreditation of a Press Representative, he may arrange to convene an emergent meeting.</p> <p>(2) The decision of the Committee on dis-accreditation shall be final and binding.</p> <p>(3) Any dis-accreditation under sub-rule(1) of this rule may be reviewed by the Committee either of its own or on an application made in this behalf by the aggrieved press representative.</p>
Signing of correspondence	<p>35. All correspondences on behalf of the Committee shall be made in the name of the Committee and shall be signed by the Secretary.</p>
Production of Accreditation card.	<p>36. A press representative may, for his access to or attendance at a press conference or a Government office, be required to produce the press accreditation card for recognition of his identity.</p>
Power to remove difficulties.	<p>37. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of these rules, the State Government may, by order, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of these rules as appear to it be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.</p>
Suggestion for amendment.	<p>38. The Committee may suggest amendment of these rules to the Government.</p>

FIRST SCHEDULE

Serial No.	Continuous experience in journalism	Age	Classification.
1.	5 years or more but less than 15 years.	From 25 years to below 40 years.	Junior
2.	15 years or more but less than 25 years.	From 40 years but below 50 years.	Senior
3.	25 years or more.	50 years and more.	Veteran

SECOND SCHEDULE

Serial No.	NEWS AGENCIES T.V.CHANNEL, DAILIES, WEEKLIES, FORTNIGHTLIES	Number of accreditation
1.	National News Agencies	2 nos.
2.	T.V. CHANNELS	2 nos.
3.	DAILIES :- a) Metropolitan b) The Local having paid Circulation of :- (i) 10,000 and above (A-I Category) (ii) 10,000 and above (A Category) (iii) Between 8,000 to 9,999 (iv) 7,999 and Below	2 nos. 12 nos. 8 nos. 5 nos. 3 nos.
4.	Weeklies having Published at least 45 issues in a year.	1 no.
5.	Fortnightlies having published at least 22 Issues in a Year.	1 no.
6.	Press Photographers :- (i) A-I Category (ii) A Category	2 nos. 1 no.
7.	Free Lancers	Having the Experience of more than 20 years and associated with more than 3(three) Journals / News Agencies.

  
 Commissioner-cum-Secretary  
 to the Govt. of Tripura.