

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

GUIDELINES FOR JOURNALIST WELFARE SCHEME
(as modified w.e.f. March 20, 2018)

1. TITLE OF THE SCHEME The Scheme may be called the Journalists Welfare Scheme
2. PERIOD OF OPERATION It shall come into force with effect from March 20, 2018.
3. PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME To provide one time ex-gratia relief on urgent basis to journalists and their families.

A journalist for the purpose of this scheme would mean,

- (i) a working journalist as defined under the Working Journalists and other Newspaper employees (Condition of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, or
- (ii) 'Media Personnel' whose principal avocation is that of reporting/editing for news channels of radio, TV or web-based services and who is employed as such, either whole-time or part-time, in or in relation to, one or more such establishments and includes news editor, reporter, photographer, cameraman, photo journalist, freelance journalists, but does not include any such person who --
- a) is employed mainly in a managerial or administrative capacity, or
- b) is being employed in a supervisory capacity, performs, either by the nature of the duties attached to his office or by reason of the powers vested in him, function mainly of a managerial nature.

Family for the purpose of this Scheme will mean the journalist, spouse, dependent parents and dependent children.

4. CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEME The Scheme will be constituted under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and will be administered by a Committee comprising:-

Secretary(I&B)	-	Chairperson
Principal DG , PIB	-	Member
JS(P&A)	-	Member

Non-official Members : for a period of two years effect from March 20, 2018 -

Sl. No.	Name of the Non-official Members	Concerned organization
1.	Shri Vikas Bhadauria	TV Journalist, ABP News

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| 2. | Smt. Richa Anirudh | Freelance Journalist and TV News Anchor. |
| 3. | Shri Ashok Upadhyay | Chief of UNI |
| 4. | Shri Sujit Thakur | India today |
| 5. | Ms. Sipra Das | Freelance photojournalist. |
| 6. | Shri Ravindra Singh | TV Journalist Zee News |

*** Decision of Government of India nominees would be treated as final**

5. ELIGIBILITY FOR AVAILING ASSISTANCE FROM THE SCHEME

A journalist shall be eligible for relief from the Scheme, provided that -

- 1) He/she is a citizen of India,
- 2) He/she is ordinarily resident of India,
- 3) He/she should be accredited to PIB at the Headquarters of the Govt. of India

or

at the Headquarters (Capitals) of the State/UT Governments.

- 4) Journalists who are not presently accredited to either the Government of India or any State/UT Government shall also be eligible for relief from the Scheme if they have been journalists as defined under these guidelines for a minimum period of five continuous years.

6. PROCEDURE FOR SANCTION FROM THE SCHEME

Proposals received for assistance from the Scheme will be processed by the Principal Director General (Media & Communication), Press Information Bureau (PIB) and will be sent to the Committee with specific recommendation and supporting documents.

The recommendation will be considered and decided by the Committee and the assistance will be released with the approval of Minister of Information & Broadcasting. However, in cases of urgency, the Chairman may initiate a case for approval of Minister of Information & Broadcasting. Such approvals will be reported in the next meeting of the Committee.

7. APPLICATION FORM

The application for the grant of financial assistance under this scheme shall be submitted to the Principal DG (M&C), PIB in the form prescribed in schedule-I. Any other additional information may be asked by the Committee. The Committee may amend the application format as and when required.

The Committee may also suo moto take up cases for grant of financial assistance even if an application has not been received from the journalist/beneficiaries.

8. ASSISTANCE
AVAILABLE
UNDER THE
SCHEME

- (i) Upto Rs.5 lakh may be provided to the family under extreme hardship on account of death of the journalist.
- (ii) Upto Rs.5 lakh may be provided to the journalist in case of permanent disability rendering the journalist incapable of earning a livelihood.
- (iii) Upto Rs.3 lakh may be provided towards the cost of treatment of major ailments such as cancer, renal failure, heart ailments requiring by-pass/ open heart surgery, angioplasty, brain hemorrhage and paralytic attack etc. This would be subject to the medical expenditure not being covered under CGHS, or any other insurance/ departmental health schemes, etc. However, relief under this provision is available to the journalist only upto the age of 65 years.
- (iv) Upto Rs.2 lakh may be provided in case of accidents causing serious injuries necessitating hospitalization. This would be subject to the medical expenditure not being covered under CGHS, or any other insurance/departmental health schemes, etc.

However, in case of non-accredited journalists, the quantum of assistance available for cases (ii), (iii) and (iv) above will be limited to Rupees One Lakh for journalists having worked as such for 5 continuous years and thereafter Rupees One Lakh for every additional 5 years of working in the same manner subject to the maximum ceiling provided in each case.

9. EXCEPTION

Notwithstanding anything contained in these guidelines, the Committee if it feels necessary in very special/ exceptional cases may recommend higher level of assistance or suggest any other deviation of the guidelines for approval of Hon'ble Minister of Information & Broadcasting.

10. PAYMENT FROM
THE SCHEME

The payments shall be made from the budgetary allocations earmarked for the Journalist Welfare Scheme during the financial year.

11. BUDGET HEAD

2220 - Information and Publicity (Major Head)(Non-Plan)
60 - Others (Sub-Major Head)
60.103 - Press Information Services (Minor Head)
01 - Press Information Bureau
01.02 - Journalist Welfare
01.02.50 - Other Charges.

12. GENERAL

Grant of financial assistance from the Scheme to any working journalist is not a matter of right. Assistance would be extended depending on the Committee's satisfaction regarding the eligibility/merits of the cases and the financial resources available for the purpose. The Committee reserves the right to reject or accept any application without assigning any reasons therefor.

