

Government of Karnataka
No: KCI-VPP/22/2023[

Secretariat,
Karnataka Government,
Vikasa Soudha,
Bangalore, Dt: 08/10/2024.

Corrigendum

Erstwhile Government order no “KCI-VPJ/25/2024, dated 05/10/2024” for “Media Accreditation Rules- 2024 (revised rules), should now be read as “KCI-VPP/22/2023, dated 05/10/2024”. It may kindly be noted that, by oversight earlier order number was wrongly mentioned.

By order of the Governor, Karnataka
And in his name.

(M. Jacintha)
Under Secretary, Kannada, Culture and Information
Department,
(News Division),
Government of Karnataka

Copies to:

- 1) Chief Accountant General (G&SSA)/(E&RSA), (A&E), Bangaluru.
- 2) Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka.
- 3) All Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of Govt of Karnataka.
- 4) Resident Commissioner, Karnataka Bhavan, New Delhi.
- 5) Secretary to the Chief Minister, Vidhana Soudha, Bangaluru.
- 6) All Deputy Commissioners (Through the Information Commissioner).
- 7) Commissioner, Dept of Information and Public Relations, Bangaluru.
- 8) Representatives of all news papers and media houses of the state.
- 9) Additional Secretary and Nodal Officer, govt of Karnataka, E-Gazette, Kannada, Culture and Information Dept. (To publish in e-gazette).
- 10) Cover file/Additional Copies.

Minutes of Government of Karnataka

Subject: Reg. announcement of Karnataka Media Accreditation Rules- 2024 (revised rules).

Read: Commissioner, Dept of Information and Public Relations, letter No: IPD/M.A. rule/2023-24/3435, dated 04/08/2023.

Proposal:

In view of present day media scenario and the digital- electronic developments and changes in the concerned field, it is felt necessary to revise and review the “Karnataka Media Accreditation Rules- 2009” of the state.

Therefore, revised “Karnataka Media Accreditation Rules” are framed, necessary changes have been made to the said rules and submitted. The Commissioner, Information and Public Relations, Bengaluru, has requested to issue an order in this regard, as read in above mentioned letter.

Proposal is reviewed and order is issued as below:

Govt Order No: KCI-VPJ/25/2024, Bengaluru, Dated: 05/10/2024.

After the contents in the above said proposal are considered and accepted, the Government has issued the order to revise the media accreditation rules- 2024 (revised rules). Revised rules are attached along with this order.

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Karnataka Media Accreditation Rules- 2024 (Revised Rules).

01) Name and the beginning

Rules:

1. Henceforth these rules may be called as “Karnataka State Media Accreditation Rules- 2024”.
2. These will come into force as gazette notification is made.

02) Definition (Terminologies)

Rules:

In these rules, except for financial requirement,

1. **Government: Means Karnataka Government.**
2. **Media Accreditation:** To be considered as media representative, accreditation given by state govt holds valid. Accredited journalist means, private sector media journalists, still photographers and cameramen, information assistants and above grade officers of Information and Public Relations Dept.
3. **Accreditation card:** The card given by Information and Public Relation Dept, to those journalists who fulfill the conditions mentioned in these rules.
4. **Accreditation Committee:** “Karnataka Media Accreditation committee”, a body to issue accreditation card to the journalists of National, State, Regional, District level and in some necessary situations International news media, which acts as per the rules framed herein.
Before giving accreditation to international media journalists, No Objection Certificate (NOC) issued by central Home Department should be submitted before subject is placed in front of accreditation committee.
5. **Commissioner:** means Commissioner, Information and Public Relation Department, Govt of Karnataka.
6. **Director:** means, Director, Information and Public Relation Department, Govt of Karnataka.

7. **Utilization (Use) of accreditation card:** Media accreditation card may only be used to extract public interest information from government offices and officers; to get news from press notes, annexure, various rules of govt, notices and notifications, news oriented information and pictures in the state capitol and other parts. And also the accreditation card allows satellite based media (TV) journalists for video recording. If government protocols are violated, disturbed or neglected, commissioner, Information and Public Relations Dept, reserves the right to withdraw the above facilities given for accredited journalists. Afterwards department has power to table the violated matter in accreditation committee and finalise such a thing. If any complications and issues come up in this matter, then decision of the government is final.

8. **Other Situation:** The accreditation card facilitates the accredited journalists to cover different government activities like rally, programs, take up journey, research, documentation. And also concessions and subsidies given to media representatives may be availed through this card.

03) Media Houses (Institutions)

Rules:

To give accreditation to Mass media which have media registration number (RNI) under 'News paper registration Act- 1867, section 19A, are classified as mentioned.

Dailies and periodicals, Prasaar Bharathi recognized Television/Dooradarshan channel (satellite channel), All India Radio, Electronic and print news Agencies which provide news, news institutions, and Photo agencies which provide news photos.

Explanation:

The publications which bring out news papers not less than five days in a week are classified as dailies; those which publish minimum 45 and 22 issues a year are classified as weekly and fortnightly respectively.

04) Media Representative:

Rules:

Editor:

Those journalists appointed and working for full time in media institutions; media representatives; editors, Editor in chief, executive editors, working editors, managing editors, resident editors, special editors, associate editors, assistant editors, content heads and news editors.

Reporters:

Principal/Chief reporters, senior reporters, special correspondents, senior special correspondents, reporters/sub editors/informers/special informants/principal and chief informers, principal bureau heads/bureau chiefs and those all who are working for collecting news in various names.

Photographer/Cameraman:

Those who provide news photos to print or electronic media. These persons include- principal/chief photographers, senior photographers, special photographers and representatives of recognized digital media.

Accreditation cards are given only to the representatives of dailies and periodicals which publish news. Similarly, satellite news channels representatives are eligible for accreditations.

Representatives of other general entertainment channels and any other kind of channels will not be considered for accreditation.

05) Eligibility for accreditation:

Rule:

1. Media houses should be enlisted in Information and Public Relations department.
2. Applicants should be a full time employee have at least five (5) years of experience in print or electronic media.

06) Media accreditation committee: For giving accreditation, a thirteen (13) member “Karnataka Media Committee” should be formed as under:

1. Commissioner/Department head, Information and Public Relations department- Chairman.
2. Director/Joint Director (Administration), Information and Public Relations department- Member.
3. Government nominated representative of working journalist union- Member.
4. Government nominated member of Bangaluru Reporters Guild- Member.
5. Government nominated member of state’s district editors union- Member.

6. Government nominated electronic media member of Bangaluru reporter guild's - Member.

7. Representative of Bangaluru photographer/cameramen union- Member.

8. Six representatives from media, who are appointed by Government:

a- Schedule caste representative- 1

b- Schedule tribe representative- 1

c- Women representative- 1

d- General- 1

e- Backward class- 1

f- Digital media representative- 1

Those who are appointed to the committee must be accredited media representatives.

07) Tenure of the committee and cancellation of membership.

Rules:

1. Tenure of the committee is two (2) years (twenty four months).
2. Non government members can not be members of the committee for consecutive second term.
3. Old committee only will continue in office till the new one is formed.
4. If committee fails to come to unanimous decision in any matter, Chairman will have the right to vote.
5. Committee must hold not less than three meetings yearly, i.e., 4/3.
6. Meetings should have minimum of 09 (nine) members presence. If any member resigns or in case of a member's death, or a member's place fall vacant for any other reason, vacant posts must be re- nominated (filled) within three months.
7. Those members who are absent continuously for the three meetings of the committee, without any valid reason, shall be disqualified from membership. With approval of committee such absent members membership will be cancelled.
8. If members provide valid reasons for their absence for three consecutive meetings, their membership may be continued with committee's nod.

08) Jurisdiction of accreditation

Rules:

1. Accreditation card's jurisdiction is restricted to the district concerned.
2. Information and Public Relations department must mention name of the district in accreditation cards.
3. Bangaluru accreditation card color should be different from that of other districts, i.e., different color cards be issued for Bangaluru and other districts.
4. Freelancers card color should be different from others.

09) Accreditation Card

Rules:

1. Accreditation will not give any official position to the representatives of news media. On the other hand, it only recognizes the accredited journalist as representative of a particular media.
2. Accreditation is personal and it cannot be transferred.
3. Media representatives having accreditation should not mention in their respective media houses or visitors letters or visiting cards as 'accredited journalist from government of Karnataka'. Mentioning like this is illegal.

10) Cancellation of accreditation

Rules:

1. If accreditation is misused and rules are violated, department head may cancel such accreditation card, by obtaining committee's two third members approval. Before cancellation process, show cause notice to be issued to the concerned journalist whose card is to be cancelled and seek explanation/clarification.
2. If chairman does not agree to the decision of the committee to the cancelation of any card, matter shall be appraised to the government and government shall take final decision.
3. If information/s provided in application form of accreditation, i.e., while applying, found not true, accreditation may be cancelled.
4. If uncalled for behavior that sarks professional ethics is found and if the card is misused for any other purpose except for journalistic aspects, accreditation committee shall take call and cancel the card.
5. If media representatives having accreditation card are imprisoned after inquiry, or, are impeached by Press Council of India, or, fined by this body, or, face both; if representative is involved in criminal case and is part of the restriction imposed on the news organization and facing enquiry, such person/s card shall be kept in suspense. Consequently it may be cancelled after informing

in the committee meeting. In this process, if necessary, state police department's review report may be sought.

6. Except for strike period, if any news organization does not bring out its product/does not circulate, accreditation card of the journalist who represents such organization will be automatically cancelled. Afterwards matter shall be brought to the notice of the committee.

11) Renewal of Accreditation

Rules:

1. Period of accreditation card is two years. After the period is over, accreditation is to be renewed and renewal application should be submitted within one month.
2. To obtain renewed card, previous accreditation card should be taken/handed back to the department.
3. If not renewed within one month accreditation will automatically be cancelled.
4. If unable to get renewed in prescribed period, valid and justifiable reasons for delay shall be provided by the accredited journalist, and after the committee's approval accreditation may be continued.
5. Freelancers should provide appropriate document for being still active in field, while renewal of the card. Or, provide document for having participated in the debates of satellite channels. Six month paper cuttings having bylines to show that articles are written continuously, and photos are provided to papers, should be attached, concerned print media copies should be given.

12) In case of transfer

Rules:

If a journalist is transferred from one district to other, the following procedures/rules are to be followed to get accreditation also transferred.

1. If accreditation card is active in the same number of the transferred journalist and validity (period) is not over, erstwhile card cannot be continued in other district. Hence, new application is to be submitted for accreditation.
2. If number of transferred journalists is more than department prescribed number, then card will be issued to the person to whom the editor recommends.
3. If the applications for accreditation are more than the prescribed number by the department for that particular district, accreditation will be given to those, whom the editor/resident editor/bureau chief recommends, without exceeding three depending on the circulation.

13) In case of losing accreditation

Rules:

1. If accreditation is lost, complaint has to be filed in the police station of the jurisdiction of the card and copy of the acknowledgement in this regard has to be submitted.
2. Loser must submit a request letter from the organization, for the duplicate card in proper letter head.
3. A demand draft (DD) for Rs 500/- has to be drawn in favour of 'The Commissioner, Information and Public Relations Department, Bengaluru and submitted through the concerned district Information office.

14) Publication's circulation criteria

Rules:

For representatives, working full time in daily news papers published from Bangalore, accreditation numbers shall be decided on the basis of the circulation of the daily (Media accreditation Rule 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3).

1. If circulation is in between twenty five thousand and fifty thousand, three members shall get accreditation.
2. If circulation is in between fifty thousand and one lakh, six members shall get accreditation.
3. If circulation is in between one lakh and three lakhs ten members shall get accreditation.
4. If circulation is in between three lakhs and five lakhs twelve members shall get accreditation.
5. If circulation is above five lakhs fifteen members shall get accreditation.
6. Rules prescribed for the news papers published from the district places, apply to the dailies which have less than twenty five thousand circulation in Bengaluru city, while giving accreditation to the reporter/editor.

**** Circulation number of the state only shall be considered while taking this aspect into an institution has in the country.**

15) District edition and Bureau

Rules:

1. If a daily, which has over one lakh circulation and is published from Bangaluru, has district edition and is printed at the same district, accreditation shall be decided on its circulation in the district concerned.

2. If state level daily, published from Bangaluru and having over one lakh circulation, does not print at district level, but has a bureau, in such case, accreditation will be decided on the basis of circulation in that particular district.

** Applicable to other districts of the state except Bangaluru.

** Name of the district edition has to be mentioned at “Mast Head” area (place) only.

Rules:

Rule 15-A

Circulation of the paper- Minimum 2,500 to 5000. = **Edition- One. Bureau- One.**

Rule 15-B

Circulation of the paper- Minimum 5001 to 10,000. **Edition- Two. Bureau- Two.**

Rule 15-C

Circulation of the paper- Minimum 10,001 to 25,000. = **Edition- Three., Bureau- Three.**

Rule 15-D

Circulation of the paper- Minimum 25,001 to 50,000. = **Edition- Four. Bureau- Four.**

Rule 15-E

Circulation of the paper- Minimum 50,001 and above., **Edition- Six . Bureau- Six.**

Rule- 15-A1: If the circulation is below two and half thousand, rules for the district papers are applicable to this also (rule).

16) District correspondents and photographers (applicable to state level news papers).

If a daily, which has over a lakh of circulation, shelters its head office at Bangaluru or in any other district of the state, but does not have bureau or edition in any district, in such case full time correspondents and photographers of the paper shall be considered for accreditation in districts.

Rules:

Rule- 16A

Circulation of the paper- Minimum 2,500 to 5000.= **Number of Accreditation- One.**

Rule- 16B

Circulation of the paper- Minimum 5,001 to 10,000 = Number of Accreditation - Two

Rule- 16C

Circulation of the paper- Minimum 10,001 to 25,000. = Number of Accreditation- Three.

17) District level papers

Rules:

Accreditation shall be given to the editors, reporter cum editors, sub editor cum reporters, reporters and photographers of the papers published from any district of the state.

1. For this, the paper should have minimum circulation of one thousand.
2. Border area Kannada paper should have minimum 1000 circulation.
3. Should fulfill the general conditions No 1 to 10 of media accreditation.
4. In order to show that the paper is published regularly, attested letter of district Information officer has to be attached/provided.
5. To show the regularity postal concision permission letter's attestation copy has be provided.
6. Circulation number will be considered on the basis of the report of the district media committee, headed by the deputy commissioner. Should be considered in accordance with the circulation number given by commercial publicity division of the Information and Public Relations Department.
7. Reporters cum editors and Sub editors cum reporters should submit self declaration letter in this regard.
8. News papers published from 371 (J) jurisdictional districts of 'Kalyana Karnataka', must have minimum circulation of 1000.

****** For circulation figures of district papers, audit report, notary certified circulation number or letter heads showing the circulation numbers on the basis of distribution by hawkers should not be considered.

Rules:

Rule- 17 A

Circulation of the paper- Minimum 1000 to 5000.

Number of Accreditation- One editor or one reporter.

Rule- 17 B

Circulation of the paper- Minimum 5001 to 10000.

Number of Accreditation- Two (editor and one reporter only).

Rule- 17 C

Circulation of the paper- Minimum 10001 to 25000.

Number of Accreditation- Three (editor- 1 and reporters- 2).

Rule- 17 D

Circulation of the paper- Minimum 25001 to 50000.

Number of Accreditation- Four (editor- 1, reporters- 2, photographer- 1)//including the original district of the publication and circulation in the districts of regional paper.

Rule- 17 E

Circulation of the paper- Minimum 50,001 and above.

Number of Accreditation- Six (editor- 1, reporters- 4, photographer- 1)// including the original district of the publication and circulation in the districts of regional paper.

Rule- 17 F

Reporter of a regional paper which has more than 25,000 thousand circulation, may be given accreditation at Bangaluru.

Rule- 17 J

Maximum three full time reporters of the district level daily, which is published from Bangaluru city and has more than 25,000 circulation, may be given accreditation, making it applicable to neighbouring districts.

18) Satellite Channel Rule:

Full time representatives of the private or government national channels, international and state channels which telecast news programs from satellite may be given accreditation, based on how much time schedule is fixed for news. (Media accreditation rule 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3). For this following rules are to be full filled.

1. Telecast must be in accordance with 'Prasara Bharathi' rules.
2. Channel must telecast news and news based programs only.
3. Minimum eight hours should be dedicated in twenty four hours.
4. Religious channels or the channels that telecast news for political motives or produce some other kind of programs, are not entitled for accreditations.
5. Channels dedicated for entertainment and other programs should not be considered for accreditation.

**** 'Chandana Vahini' of central government's Doordarshan is exempted from this rule.**

**** In any condition, accreditation number for representatives of a channel should not be more in number than cameramen.**

Rules:

Rule- 18 A

Area- Bangaluru

News telecast duration/24 hour news channel- 15 including cameramen.

Rule- 18 B

Area- District center- one reporter and one cameraman

Rule- 18 C

Area- Other state (state capitol only)- one reporter and one cameraman.

Rule- 18 D

Area- International- one reporter and one cameraman.

Rule- 18 F

Four representatives of international channels, including cameraman, may be given accreditation at Bangaluru, which shall be applicable to the city only. It again depends on the duration of news telecast of that channel, necessity and requirement.

Rule- 18 G

Maximum six representatives, including cameraman, of 'Chandana Vahini' of central government's Doordarshan, are entitled to avail accreditation at Bangaluru (applicable to Bangaluru). In district one person each is eligible for accreditation.

19) All India Radio, Press Information Bureau (PIB) and Film Division

Rule:

1. Four representatives of All India Radio, Two from PIB, one representative of central government's Film division may be given accreditation at Bangaluru.
2. One full time correspondent of All India Radio in district may also be given accreditation.

20) News agencies (News Institutions)

Rule:

While giving accreditation to news agencies (news institutions) in the state, the criteria should be the connection. Any news agency that has provided minimum of ten connections in the state is to be considered. Also, officially registered news agencies' representatives shall only be considered for accreditation. While

accrediting such agencies, a letter regarding their number of connections is to be taken.

Rules:

Rule- 20 A

Language- kannada news agency.

Area- Bangaluru/District Centre.

Number of subscribers from media institutions- Bangaluru- 10-15 two.... 15-25 Four

District centre- 10-15 One, 15- 25 Two.

Rule- 20 B

Language- English news agency.

Area- Bangaluru/District Centre.

Number of subscribers from media institutions- Bangaluru- 10-15 One.... 15-25 Three

District centre- 10-15 One, 15- 25 Two.

Rule- 20 C

Language- Other National languages news agency.

Area- Bangaluru/District Centre.

Number of subscribers from media institutions- Bangaluru- 10-15 One.... 15-25 Two

District centre- 10-15 One, 15- 25 One.

- If news correspondent of the agency is a foreign citizen, No Objection Certificate from Home ministry is must. If agency is from oversea, internal affairs department's permission is needed and central/state rule and policies have to be followed.
- If correspondents are Indians accreditation may be given.

21) Photo and Video Agencies

Rule:

Photo and video news agencies which provide news based photographs, video footages and news videos to the various media houses and mass media of the Nation and oversea may be considered for accreditation. But both agencies should be registered and minimum ten (10) media institutions must be subscribers of these agencies. In this regard, recommendation letter from concerned institutions is to be taken and attached.

Rules:

Rule- 21 A

Language- News Photo Agency.

Area- Bangalore/District Centre

Number of subscribers from media institutions-5-10... 11-25

Bangaluru 5-10... Two, 11-25... Four

District centre 5-10... One, 11-25... Two.

Rule- 21 B

Language- News video agency.

Area- Bangaluru/District centre.

Number of subscribers from media institutions-5-10... 11-25

Bangaluru 5-10... Four, 11-25... Six

District centre 5-10...One, 11-25... Two.

Rule- 21 C

Language- Other national languages institutions

Area- Bangalore/District centre

Number of subscribers from media institutions-5-10... 11-25

Bangalore 5-10... One, 11-25... Two

District centre 5-10... One, 11-25... One.

22) Web Portal/Digital Media

Rules:

1. Should be in the accepted list of Information and Public Relations department.
2. News publishers of this media should have provided necessary information to information and publicity ministry under IT rules- 2021, sub rule 18.
3. Website should be minimum one year old and should continue to work in the same name for next two years. Totally it must be minimum of 3 years age.
4. Last six months monthly average hits (views) are to be evaluated, reported and certified by chartered accountants empanelled/ approved by CAO.
5. Journalists in these official media institutions should have minimum 5 years of experience and should be appointed by recognized digital news publishers for full time as news provider.
6. Website should be registered in India and have a registered office in state. News editor of such portals must be Indians.
7. Judiciary jurisdiction should be published every time in portal.

8. Correspondents, photographers, appointment letter of the portal; details of provident fund, premium amount details, that is payed to the Employees State Insurance (ESI) corporation by the portal is must.

9. Minimum 30 news items must be published in the portal daily.

Rules:

1 to 1.50 lakh viewers- Two.

1.51 to 2.50 lakh viewers- 3 (Three).

2.51 lakh to 4 lakh viewers- 4 (Four).

Above 4.01 lakhs- 6 (Six).

23) Periodicals

Rules

1. Periodicals published in Karnataka and have minimum 25,000 circulation, one representative may be given accreditation in Bangaluru.

2. Either the editor or one reporter of the periodicals published in Bangaluru which have more than 25,000 circulation and those published from district centers which have more than 8000 circulation may be accredited.

3. One representative of the periodical, published out side Karnataka in any language having more than one lakh circulation, may be given accreditation.

4. Journalists of the periodicals which publish news and current affairs are only eligible for accreditation. Journalists who are in special media list of the department are not eligible for accreditation.

24) Other states and Overseas media

Rules:

1. If a Kannada daily is published regularly in other state, one reporter of such publication may be given accreditation at Bangalore. For regularity of the publication ABC report should be attached.

2. One reporter and photographer of a daily, published in any language, out side Karnataka, may be given accreditation at Bangaluru. But such a daily should have more than one lakh circulation. ABC report has to be attached in this regard.

3. Journalist and photographer representing foreign media may be accredited in Bangaluru. Internal affairs department of Karnataka's permission and no objection certificate in this regard is to be attained before accrediting. This matter is subject to the rules and regulations issued by the central government

25) Conditions for freelancers of various media

Rules:

To get accreditation, freelancers have to full fill the following conditions:

1. Freelancers who have minimum of 25 years of uninterrupted experience in print or electronic media may apply for accreditation as freelance journalists. For this appropriate documents must be provided.
2. Applicants for freelancer accreditation should not be working in any particular media. They must be independently as freelancers.
3. Accreditation as freelancers may be given to those who have retired/taken voluntary retirement from print or electronic media, and are below 65 years of age.
4. Central and state government retired employees or employees who have taken voluntary retirement are not eligible for accreditation. Similarly, monthly 'journalist pension' scheme holders and family pension availing persons are not eligible for accreditation. Community radio representatives and citizen journalists are not considered for accreditation.
5. Cutting/s of byline story/report and a recommendation letter from the editor of the publication to which applicant is contributing regularly after retirement should be attached along with application.

26) Temporary accreditation

Rule:

1. Head of the Information and Public Relations Department bestows power of giving temporary accreditation till media accreditation committee completes application scrutiny process. Such a temporary accreditation card is valid for six months or till the next meeting of the media accreditation committee is held, whichever occurs first.
2. The authorities must see to it that all conditions laid down for regular accreditation are full filled while issuing temporary accreditation also.

Stand Cancelled

It is hereby declared that all other rules of and amendments subsequently to 'Karnataka Media Accreditation Rules 1983, 1984, 2001 and 2009' stand cancelled.