

Complete Guide to Uploading B10NEWS App to Google Play Store

Part 1: Preparing the App for Release

Step 1: Thoroughly Test the App

You have completed building the B10NEWS app in Android Studio. Now I will explain each step in detail until you upload it to Play Store and make it live:

Before creating a release build, you must thoroughly test the app to ensure it works correctly:

Functional Testing:

- Test Login/Signup flow
- Verify YouTube news feed loads correctly
- Check if Drawer navigation works
- Verify Blog posts are displayed
- Verify Push notifications work
- Test all buttons, forms, and search functionality

Performance Testing:

- Check how much loading time the app takes
- Verify if Battery consumption is excessive
- Check if Memory usage is appropriate
- Test how the app functions when there is no network connection

Security Testing:

- Verify API keys are securely stored in local.properties
- Confirm HTTPS is properly configured
- Verify User data is handled securely

Compatibility Testing:

- Test on different Android versions (at least 5-6 versions)
- Check on various screen sizes and resolutions
- Test on different devices (Samsung, OnePlus, Xiaomi, etc.)

Step 2: Configure ProGuard/R8 (Code Optimization & Security)

You must enable R8 to optimize your app code and make it secure:

In build.gradle.kts (app module):

```
android {  
    buildTypes {  
        release {  
            isMinifyEnabled = true  
            isShrinkResources = true  
            proguardFiles(  
                getDefaultProguardFile("proguard-android-optimize.txt"),  
                "proguard-rules.pro"  
            )  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Add keep rules in proguard-rules.pro file:

```
# Keep your app classes  
-keep class com.b10news.** { *; }  
  
# Keep Retrofit API interfaces  
-keep interface com.b10news.api.** { *; }  
-keep interface retrofit2.** { *; }  
  
# Keep Hilt/Dagger generated classes  
-keep class dagger.hilt.** { *; }  
-keep class javax.inject.** { *; }  
  
# Keep model classes (for Gson/Moshi)  
-keepclassmembers class * {  
    @com.google.gson.annotations.SerializedName <fields>;  
}  
  
# Keep Firebase classes  
-keep class com.google.firebaseio.** { *; }  
-dontwarn com.google.firebaseio.**  
  
# Keep YouTube API classes  
-keep class com.google.api.** { *; }  
-dontwarn com.google.api.**  
  
# Keep activities, fragments, services  
-keep public class * extends android.app.Activity  
-keep public class * extends androidx.fragment.app.Fragment  
-keep public class * extends android.app.Service
```

Step 3: Update Version Code & Version Name

Update the version in build.gradle.kts:

```
android {  
    defaultConfig {  
        applicationId = "com.b10news"  
        minSdk = 24  
        targetSdk = 35 // From 2025, API 35 (Android 15) is mandatory  
        versionCode = 1 // Increment this each time you update  
        versionName = "1.0.0" // User-visible version  
    }  
}
```

Important Points:

- **versionCode**: This is an integer that must increase with each update (1, 2, 3...)
- **versionName**: This is a user-friendly string (1.0.0, 1.1.0, 2.0.0)
- **targetSdk 35 (Android 15)** is mandatory from August 31, 2025

Step 4: App Signing - Generate Upload Key & Keystore

You need a keystore to sign your app:

Generate in Android Studio:

1. Click Build > Generate Signed Bundle/APK
2. Select Android App Bundle (AAB) → Next
3. Click Create new... (if keystore doesn't exist)

Keystore Details:

- Key store path: C:\Users\YourName\keystores\b10news-release.jks (no spaces)
- Password: Enter a strong password (save it securely!)
- Alias: b10news-key
- Validity: 25-30 years (minimum 25 years required)
- Certificate info: Your name, organization name, city, country

Backup the keystore securely:

- Keystore file (.jks)
- Passwords (keystore & key)
- Alias name

If these are lost, you cannot update your app again!

Step 5: Generate Signed AAB (Android App Bundle)

From 2025 onwards, you can only upload AAB to Play Store (not APK):

In Android Studio:

1. Build > Generate Signed Bundle/APK
2. Select Android App Bundle → Next
3. Enter your keystore path, passwords, alias → Next
4. Select release build variant
5. Build Variants: release
6. Select Destination Folder
7. Click Create
8. Output: app-release.aab file will be generated

AAB vs APK difference:

- **AAB:** For Play Store, Google generates optimized APKs, smaller download size
- **APK:** Can be installed directly but cannot be uploaded to Play Store

Part 2: Google Play Developer Account Setup

Step 6: Create Google Play Developer Account

A developer account is mandatory to publish apps on Play Store:

1. Go to <https://play.google.com/console>
2. Sign in with your Gmail account
3. Click Create account
4. Select account type:
 - Individual (Personal)
 - Organization (Company/Organization)
5. Fill in Developer details (name, address, phone)
6. Pay \$25 one-time registration fee (credit/debit card)
7. Review period: May take up to 48 hours

Step 7: Prepare Privacy Policy

Google Play requires a privacy policy for every app:

Your Privacy Policy must include:

- What data the app collects (location, photos, contacts, etc.)
- Why you collect the data (functionality, analytics, ads)

- Who you share the data with (third-party services)
- How long you store the data
- Whether users can delete their data
- Developer contact information

Free Privacy Policy Generators:

- TermsFeed Privacy Policy Generator
- FreePrivacyPolicy.com
- App Privacy Policy Generator

Host your Privacy Policy:

- On your website at /privacy-policy page
- Or on GitHub Pages
- Copy the URL, you'll need it for Play Console

Part 3: Play Console App Setup

Step 8: Create New App in Play Console

After logging into Play Console, click All apps → Create app:

Fill in the following:

- App name: B10NEWS (50 characters max)
- Default language: Telugu (or English)
- App or Game: Select App
- Free or Paid: Select Free (you cannot change from free to paid later)
- Email address: User contact email

Declarations section:

- Accept "Developer Program Policies"
- Accept "US export laws"
- Accept "Play App Signing Terms of Service"

Click Create app

Step 9: Complete Dashboard Tasks

Fill all sections in Play Console until you get check marks:

A. Store Listing (Store Page Information)

Main store listing:

- **App name:** B10NEWS
- **Short description:** 80 characters - write a catchy description about your app
- **Full description:** Up to 4000 characters - write a detailed description
 - Explain app features
 - Mention benefits
 - Use keywords naturally (for SEO)

Graphics Assets:

App icon (required):

- Size: 512 x 512 px
- Format: PNG (32-bit with alpha)
- File size: Max 1MB

Feature Graphic (required):

- Size: 1024 x 500 px
- Format: PNG or JPG (24-bit, no alpha)
- This is a banner image to promote your app

Phone Screenshots (required):

- Minimum 2, maximum 8 screenshots
- Format: PNG or JPG (24-bit, no alpha)
- Recommended size: 1080 x 1920 px (portrait) or 1920 x 1080 px (landscape)
- Aspect ratio: 16:9 or 9:16
- Min dimension: 320px, Max: 3840px

Tablet Screenshots (optional but recommended):

- Minimum 4 screenshots
- Size: 1080px to 7680px
- Aspect ratio: 16:9 or 9:16

Video (optional):

- You can add a YouTube link (app demo video)

Categorization:

- Category: Select News & Magazines
- Tags: Add relevant tags
- Contact Details:
 - Website (optional)
 - Email (required)

- Phone (optional)

B. App Content (App Content Information)

1. Privacy Policy:

- Paste your privacy policy URL

2. App Access:

- If your app has login/sign-up, provide details
- Give demo/test account credentials for reviewers

3. Ads Declaration:

- Specify whether your app has ads or not

4. Target Audience:

- Select age groups (13+, 18+, etc.)
- If it's a children-directed app, follow extra guidelines

5. News App:

- Since your app is in news category, mention news sources

C. Content Rating (Age Rating Questionnaire)

Fill the IARC questionnaire so Google can assign an age rating to your app:

1. Click Start questionnaire in Content rating section
2. Select category: Communication or News
3. Answer questions:
 - Is there violence?
 - Is there bad language?
 - Is there fear/horror content?
 - Is there sexual content?
 - Is there gambling?
 - Are there user interaction features? (social, user-generated content)
 - Do you share user data?
 - Is there location sharing?
4. Submit - you'll automatically receive a rating certificate
5. Apply the rating

Important: Provide truthful information, otherwise your app will be rejected or suspended

D. Data Safety (User Data Safety)

Google made the data safety section mandatory since 2022:

Fill in the following:

Data collection:

- Specify what data your app collects (location, name, email, etc.)
- Explain why you collect the data

Data sharing:

- Specify if you share data with third parties (Firebase, YouTube API, analytics)

Security practices:

- Confirm if data is encrypted during transmission (HTTPS)
- Specify if users can request data deletion
- Specify how long you store data

This must match your privacy policy

E. Pricing & Distribution (Price & Distribution)**Pricing:**

- Select Free (B10NEWS is a free app)

Countries:

- Select available regions
- You can choose "All countries" or specific countries
- Or select India, USA, UK, etc.

Program opt-in:

- You can opt-in to optional programs (Google Play for Education, Android TV, Wear OS, etc.)

Content guidelines:

- Acknowledge Google Play policies

Part 4: Testing & Release**Step 10: Enable Play App Signing**

Google Play App Signing allows Google to manage your app signing key (mandatory after 2021):

1. Go to Setup > App integrity > App signing
2. When you create your first release, Play App Signing is automatically enabled
3. Google generates an app signing key
4. You upload the AAB you signed (with upload key)
5. Google automatically delivers optimized, signed APKs to users

Benefits:

- Your app signing key is securely stored in Google Cloud
- Even if the key is lost, you can still update your app
- Upload key is separate (if leaked, you can reset it)

Step 11: Testing Track - Closed Testing (Mandatory for new accounts)

For personal developer accounts created after November 2023, testing is mandatory:

Requirements:

- Minimum 12 testers must opt-in (earlier it was 20, now reduced to 12)
- Testers must remain active for 14 days continuously
- Only after closed testing is complete can you apply for production release

Closed Test Setup:

1. Go to Testing > Closed testing
2. Create new release
3. Upload AAB file (app-release.aab)
4. Write release name: v1.0.0 - Initial Release
5. Write release notes (Telugu/English):
 - First version of B10NEWS
 - YouTube news feed
 - Blog posts viewer
 - Drawer navigation

Create testers list:

- Add email list (friends, family, colleagues)
- Add minimum 12 emails
- Email invitations will be sent to testers

Start closed test and wait for 14 days. Collect feedback from testers and fix bugs.

Step 12: Apply for Production Release

After 14 days of closed testing, you can apply for production release:

1. You'll see "Apply for production access" button on Dashboard
2. Google will ask some questions:
 - What is your app purpose?
 - How did you test it?
 - How do you confirm it's production ready?
3. Submit

4. Google will review and grant production access

Step 13: Create Production Release

Go to Testing > Production:

1. Create new release

2. Upload AAB file (same or updated version)

3. Fill release details:

- Release name: v1.0.0
- Release notes (user-facing, Telugu/English):

□ Welcome to B10NEWS App!

☆ Features:

- Latest YouTube news
- Blog posts
- Easy navigation
- Telugu language support

4. Review release details

5. Save → Review release → Start rollout to production

6. Select rollout percentage:

- 20% (staged rollout - safer approach)
- Or 100% (full release)

7. Confirm

Part 5: Review & Go Live

Step 14: Google Review Process

After submitting your app, Google will review it:

Review Time:

- Standard apps: 24-72 hours (1-3 days)
- Complex apps (news, finance): 4-7 days
- Updates: 12-36 hours (faster)
- Holiday seasons (Q4): May take up to 10 days

Google checks for:

- Policy compliance (content, privacy, permissions)
- Technical stability (crashes, performance)
- User experience quality

- Security practices

Track status:

- You can check review status on Play Console Dashboard
- Email notifications will be sent

Step 15: What If Your App Is Rejected?

Common rejection reasons:

- Policy violations: Content or IP issues
- Technical flaws: Crashes, bugs
- Misleading info: False claims
- Privacy concerns: Missing policy, improper data handling

How to fix:

1. Read the reason in the email
2. Fix the issues
3. Upload new version and resubmit

Step 16: Go Live & Monitor

Once your app is approved:

- Your app will be live on Play Store (in selected countries)
- Users can search and install it
- Share your Play Store link: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.b10news>

Monitor:

- Dashboard: Check installs, uninstalls, crashes, ratings
- User reviews: Read feedback and reply to reviews
- Android Vitals: Monitor app performance, crashes, ANRs
- Ratings: Give updates to maintain good ratings

Part 6: Post-Launch Maintenance

Step 17: Release Regular Updates

When to release updates:

- Bug fixes
- New features
- Security patches

- Performance improvements
- Policy compliance (support new Android versions)

Update Process:

1. Make code changes
2. Increment versionCode (1 → 2)
3. Update versionName (1.0.0 → 1.0.1)
4. Generate new signed AAB
5. Create new release in Play Console
6. Write release notes (explain changes)
7. Submit

Step 18: Provide User Support

Respond to user feedback:

- Reply to negative reviews with solutions and assure you're fixing issues
- Collect and prioritize bug reports
- Provide email support (email will be listed in Play Store)

Complete Pre-Launch Checklist

Pre-Launch:

- ✓ App thoroughly tested (functionality, performance, security, compatibility)
- ✓ ProGuard/R8 enabled and configured
- ✓ Version code & version name set (targetSdk 35)
- ✓ Keystore generated and backed up securely
- ✓ Signed AAB file generated
- ✓ Privacy policy created and hosted
- ✓ Developer account created (\$25 paid)

Play Console Setup:

- ✓ App created in Play Console
- ✓ Store listing filled (name, descriptions, icon, screenshots, feature graphic)
- ✓ App content filled (privacy policy, ads, target audience)
- ✓ Content rating completed (IARC questionnaire)
- ✓ Data safety section completed
- ✓ Pricing & distribution configured
- ✓ Play App Signing enabled

Testing:

- ✓ Closed testing completed (12+ testers, 14 days) [if personal account created after Nov 2023]
- ✓ Production access approved

Release:

- ✓ Production release created
- ✓ AAB uploaded
- ✓ Release notes written
- ✓ Review submitted
- ✓ Approved and live

Post-Launch:

- ✓ Monitor dashboard (installs, crashes, ratings)
- ✓ Respond to user reviews
- ✓ Plan regular updates
- ✓ Provide user support

Important Files Backup (Backup These Securely)

On Local Machine:

- b10news-release.jks (keystore file)
- Keystore password, alias, alias password (save in text file securely)
- app-release.aab (release versions)
- local.properties (API keys backup)

Cloud Backup:

- Keystore backup in encrypted folder on Google Drive/OneDrive
- Save passwords in password manager

Additional Tips (Extra Advice)

Use Staged Rollout: First release to 20% users, if there are no issues then rollout to 100%

Screenshot Quality: Use professional, clean screenshots. Highlight features with text overlays

Localization: Provide store listing in both Telugu and English so more users can reach your app

ASO (App Store Optimization): Research keywords and use them naturally in your description

Compliance: Google policies change regularly, read email notifications

Testing Devices: Test on real devices, not just emulators

This is a complete step-by-step guide to successfully launch your B10NEWS app on Play Store. If you follow each step carefully, your app will go live smoothly! ☺

If you have any doubts, ask me, I will help! ☺