

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE PRESS REGISTRAR GENERAL OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING)
NEW DELHI

ADVISORY (No.3 of 2024) for Publishers/Owners of Periodicals

Subject: Registration of Periodicals under the Press and Registration of Periodicals (PRP) Act, 2023 through the Press Sewa Portal.

The Government of India has notified the historic Press & Registration of Periodicals Act (PRP Act), 2023 and its Rules in its Gazette and consequently the Act has come into force from 1st March, 2024. Therefore, the Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867 stands repealed.

From now on, the registration of periodicals shall be governed by the provisions of the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act (PRP Act), 2023 and the Press and Registration of Periodicals Rules.

The office of Press Registrar General of India - PRGI (erstwhile Registrar of Newspapers for India - RNI) shall be carrying out the purposes of the new Act. Accordingly, this advisory is issued to inform, guide and enable owners, publishers and other stakeholders of periodicals regarding the processes/steps involved in the registration of periodicals as per the new Act.

- **A periodical shall be printed or published in India only in accordance with the provisions of the new Act.**
- Every publisher of a periodical shall, with the authorisation of the owner of such periodical, obtain a certificate of registration from the Press Registrar General. **Therefore, those publishers intending to publish periodicals need to register their title before publishing the periodical.**
- All applications for Registration of Periodicals shall be made in online mode only. For this purpose, the new **Press Sewa Portal(presssewa.prgi.gov.in)** has been created. The Press Sewa portal is accompanied by a **new website (prgi.gov.in)** with all the related information and a user-friendly interface.
- The publisher of the periodical shall, on receipt of the certificate of registration, commence publication of the periodical.
- If the publisher of the periodical fails to publish the periodical within 12 months from the end of the month in which the certificate of registration was issued, the Press Registrar General may cancel the certificate of registration and withdraw the title.
- As per the old PRB Act, 1867, the processes of Registration involved a two-step process of title verification and title registration. However, the new Act provides for a **single application for title allotment and registration.**

- PRP Act, 2023 defines “**Periodical**” as any publication, including a newspaper, which is published and printed at regular intervals containing public news or comments on public news, but does not include a book, or a journal including a book or journal of scientific, technical and academic nature.”
- “**Publishing**” means the process of making a work available to the public by issuing or causing to be issued the copies thereof or in any other manner, whether for a price or free of charge.
- “**Publisher**” means a person responsible to publish any periodical.
- As per the definition of “periodical” provided by the Act, “**book, or a journal including a book or journal of scientific, technical and academic nature**” **does not come under the purview of registration with PRGI**
- Periodicals with **public news or comments on public news** as content only be granted registration under the new Act.

The processes/steps involved in the Registration of periodicals through the Press Sewa Portal are as follows:

- a. **Signing up and Profile Creation by the Owner:** To begin the registration process, the owner of the proposed periodical is required to sign up and create a profile on the Press Sewa Portal by furnishing relevant documents/details as required, along with 5 proposed Titles in the order of priority. The name of the owner should be entered exactly as in the Aadhar Card.
- b. These title options shall not be same or similar to a title already held by any other owner of a periodical either in the same language anywhere in India or in any other language in the same State, and these title options shall conform to the guidelines made by the Press Registrar General for this purpose.
- c. **Simultaneous submission to Press Registrar General and the Specified Authority in the District:** The Applications submitted through the Press Sewa Portal will be accessible/available to the Press Registrar General and the Specified Authority in the District simultaneously. Therefore, there is no need for any separate application to be submitted to any other office/portal.
- d. **Invitation to the Publisher/s by the Owner:** After creation of profile, the owner shall extend invitations to their designated publisher/s associated with their periodical/s, through the portal.
- e. **Signing up and Online Intimation by the Printer (owner/keeper of Printing Press):** The Printer (owner/ keeper of the printing press) is required to create an online account on the Press Sewa Portal by furnishing relevant details as required in the portal.
- f. **Signing up and Profile Creation by the Publisher:** The publisher/s so invited/appointed are required to create their profile on the portal by furnishing relevant documents/details as required. The name of the publisher should be entered exactly as in the Aadhar Card.

- g. **Selecting/Nominating the Printer by the Publisher:** As part of the Registration process, the publishers are required to nominate/select their respective Printing Press from the Press Sewa database in instances where the Printing Press Account is already available in the database. Otherwise, they may request the Printer to create an online profile in the Portal, and thereafter select them as Printer for the proposed periodical.
- h. **Periodical Registration Application to be submitted by the Publisher.** After creation of their profiles, the Publisher can submit the application for registration by filling/furnishing all relevant details/documents, e-signing the application, and by payment of prescribed fee through Bharatkosh.
- i. **Correction Window after submission of Application:** Subsequent to submission of applications, the publishers are accorded 5 days (120 hours) time-window for making minor modifications in the application. No modification can be done in the application after this period.
- j. **Acknowledgement with a unique Application Reference Number:** Upon successful uploading of the application, the Press Sewa Portal shall generate an acknowledgement along with a unique ten-digit alphanumeric **Application Reference Number (ARN)**, and the publisher and the Press Registrar General shall use the Applicant Reference Number for all future correspondences and references.
- k. **Deficiencies in the Application and Timely Response:** Following the initial scrutiny, the office of Press Registrar General of India (PRGI) will issue a deficiency communication, if warranted. The Publishers are required to submit their responses within a 30-day timeframe. Failure to adhere to this specified period will result in rejection of the application.
- l. **Online Payment of Registration Fees through Bharatkosh:** It is mandatory for all publishers to remit a registration fee of Rs. 1000 through the Bharatkosh digital payment system integrated into the Press Sewa Portal. No demand drafts or offline payments/applications will be entertained.
- m. **Revision of Registration details:** The Press Sewa Portal also provides online facility for revision of registration details. All applications for revising the registration vis-à-vis changes in particulars of the Periodicals are to be made through the Portal. These options are available in the owner/ publisher profile.

The owners, publishers and other stakeholders are advised to carefully go through the Title allotment Guidelines issued by the Press Registrar General, and assess the probability for title allotment prior to the submission of application. Titles demonstrating an approximate 80% probability stand higher chance of successful allotment. However, the same does not guarantee the allotment of the particular title.

This advisory is being issued with the approval of Press Registrar General