

No.NS-MISC00THR/26/2024-NPCS(RNI)  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**OFFICE OF THE PRESS REGISTRAR GENERAL OF INDIA**  
**(MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING)**

Dated: .05.2025

**ADVISORY No. 19 of 2025**

**Subject: Advisory regarding Role and Responsibility of Specified Authority under the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023-reg.**

The Government of India enacted and implemented the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act with a view to streamline the process of registration of Periodicals in the country. Therefore, it is expected that the processing of applications through **Press Sewa Portal** ([presssewa.prgi.gov.in](http://presssewa.prgi.gov.in)) will remove all cumbersome processes and unnecessary delays in the registration of titles of periodicals. The PRP Act also envisages timely, efficient and transparent processing of applications so that the publishers of Newspapers/Periodicals face no unnecessary hurdles in the registration process.

2. As you are aware, the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act (PRP Act), 2023 assigns specific roles and responsibilities to Specified Authorities in the process of registration of newspapers/Periodicals. The Act defines Specified Authority as "a District Magistrate or Collector or such other officer as the State Government or as the case may be Union Territory Administration may, by notification, specify."

3. To facilitate online applications under the Act, the Press Registrar General of India (PRGI) has developed the Press Sewa portal (<http://presssewa.prgi.gov.in>) and it provided a dedicated dashboard for the Specified Authorities of the State to provide their comments/ No Objection on applications by publishers/owners of periodicals. The verification by the SA includes the following:

- a. Place of publication
- b. Printing Press premises (If the press is located in the same district)
- c. Identity and credentials of Publisher, Editor, Printer and Owner as per the provisions of the PRP Act 2023 and Laws of the state government in this context.
- d. In the case of Ownership Transfer of periodicals, the Specified Authority of the transferee owner's business location shall also provide comments or NOC after verification of the transferee's business address. Specified Authority will also check the identity and legitimacy of the new owner and ensure no adverse security concerns exist. This may include objections

by the legal heirs of the transferor owner in the transfer of ownership (in case of individuals) or members of the board/ council etc (in place of non-individual owner like a company).

**4. Criminal Antecedents of the Applicants under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.** Sec 4(1) of the PRP Act, 2023 prescribes that the person (Owner and Publisher) bringing out the Periodical should not have been convicted by any court for an offence such as Terrorist act, Unlawful activity, or for having done anything against the security of the State defined under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The Specified Authority shall report adverse background of or activity by the persons publishing/owning the periodical prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India.

5. The Specified Authorities (SA) are expected to process the applications promptly on Press Sewa Portal. Delays or omissions in verification may have implications for public accountability and regulatory oversight. The SA shall furnish its no-objection or comments on the application to the Press Registrar General within a period of sixty days using the e-signature of the SA concerned. **Applications not acted upon within 60 days will be treated as deemed verified by the Specified Authority.**

6. In case the State Government has not yet notified the PRP Act, District Magistrates shall be considered the Specified Authority by virtue of the provisions of PRP Act, 2023.

7. All communications between the SA and PRGI to be done on Press Sewa Portal using the **e-signature of the Specified Authority**. Accounts for all District Magistrates / SAs have been created on the Press Sewa Portal ([presssewa.prgi.gov.in](http://presssewa.prgi.gov.in)).

8. It is clarified that as per the provisions of the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023, the Press Sewa Portal is designed to create only one official account per district, mapped to the designated District Magistrate or any other Authority as notified by the State Government. No additional user accounts are permitted at subordinate levels such as Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), Tehsildars, or other officers unless notified so by the State Government. The Act does not provide for any delegation or forwarding of applications beyond the Specified Authority.

9. The Press Sewa Portal does not support internal routing or forwarding of applications from the Specified Authority to any lower-level administrative unit. Applications flow strictly from the Press Registrar General of India (PRGI) to the designated Specified Authority and vice versa, in compliance with the statutory provisions.

10. If deemed necessary, any internal examination or administrative movement of the application within the district (e.g., from DM to SDM/Tehsildar for field-level verification) may be managed through separate local systems or administrative channels already in use in the district. However, all official inputs to PRGI must be uploaded directly by the designated Specified Authority through the Press Sewa Portal within the prescribed timeline of 60 days.

11. For any clarification or assistance, the office of Specified Authority may contact us at **[it-helpdesk.rni@gov.in](mailto:it-helpdesk.rni@gov.in)**.

This issues with the approval of Press Registrar General

Digitally signed by  
Rajith Chandran M R  
Date: 03-06-2025  
17:32:26

(Rajith Chandran M.R.)  
**Deputy Press Registrar General**  
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