

F.No. A-42/15/2024-LOKPAL



भारत के लोकपाल

Lokpal of India

6, Vasant Kunj Institutional Area
Phase-II, New Delhi-110070

Dated: 25.09.2024

Circular

Subject:- Norms for Accreditation of the Legal Correspondents in Lokpal of India – reg.

The Lokpal is an institution of its kind in independent India, established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 to inquire and investigate into allegations of corruption against public functionaries specified in Section 14 thereof, who fall within the scope and ambit of the above Act. The Lokpal of India is committed to address the concerns and aspirations of the citizens of India for a clean governance. It is committed to make all efforts within its jurisdiction to serve the public interest and endeavour to exercise the powers vested in it to eradicate corruption in public life.

2. The Full Bench of Lokpal of India in the meeting held on 06.08.2024 has approved the Norms for Accreditation of the Legal Correspondents in Lokpal of India and the same is circulated for information and necessary action.

Encl: As above.

Binod Kumar

(बिनोद कुमार/Binod Kumar)

अवर सचिव/Under Secretary

भारत के लोकपाल/Lokpal of India

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Copy to:

1. OSD/Sr.PPS of Hon'ble Chairperson, Lokpal of India.
2. Sr.PPS to all Hon'ble Members, Lokpal of India.
3. Sr. PPS to Secretary to Lokpal of India.
4. All concerned Officers.
5. NIC, to upload on the website of Lokpal of India

NORMS FOR ACCREDITATION OF THE LEGAL CORRESPONDENTS IN THE LOKPAL OF INDIA

Any working journalist/ correspondent who desires to regularly report about the working and activities of the Lokpal, may be considered for regular accreditation by the Lokpal of India on his fulfilling the following conditions:

(i) She/He shall have a Law degree recognized by the Bar Council of India under the Advocates Act.

Provided that the Chairperson, in appropriate cases waive/relax the condition for possessing a Law degree, if the journalist/correspondent fulfils the following eligibility condition:

(a) She/He holds a Bachelor degree of a recognized University; and

(b) Possesses atleast 5 years' experience of reporting events and proceedings of any Constitutional Court.

(ii) She/He should have atleast five years' experience of reporting in a daily newspaper and/or a national or international news agency and/or Electronic Media Organization, immediately prior to the application for accreditation, of which at least three and a half years must be of reporting events and proceedings of any Constitutional Court.

(iii) She/He has regularly reported the events and proceedings of the Constitutional Courts in India for at least six months and continues to do so for a daily newspaper/news agency or for an electronic media organization having circulation of not less than 50,000 and certified by the Authority concerned such as the Registrar of Newspapers, the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) or the Director of State Information Bureau or a national or international news agency or an electronic media organization, on the basis of a temporary accreditation granted to him by the Lokpal.

(iv) The applications for temporary/regular accreditation shall be placed

before the Chairperson or Accreditation Committee nominated by him for that purpose, for consideration.

(v) The Chairperson, for reasons to be recorded in writing, may accord accreditation to any deserving candidate in relaxation of the rules and these norms.

(vi) On being granted temporary/regular accreditation, she/he will be issued an identity card.

(vii) In case, an accredited legal correspondent, temporary/regular, is transferred or otherwise ceases to represent the concerned newspaper, news agency or electronic media organization for which she/he was granted accreditation, shall, within two weeks of such transfer or cessation, return the identity card.

Such legal correspondent will not be extended the privileges of an accredited legal correspondent of the Lokpal unless she/he seeks a fresh accreditation by making an application in accordance with the norms for representing the Press/Agency/Organisation concerned, to the Chairperson.

TEMPORARY ACCREDITATION:

Application for temporary accreditation will be considered upon fulfilling the following conditions:

- (i) She/He is a working journalist and desirous of reporting the Lokpal events and proceedings regularly.
- (ii) Shall furnish a letter from the authorized officer of his newspaper, news agency or other media organization concerned to that effect.
- (iii) Possesses a Law degree recognized by the Bar Council of India under the Advocates Act.
- (iv) The application must be accompanied by an attested copy of the Law degree.

- (v) Must possess atleast three and a half years' of experience of reporting events and proceedings of any Court in a daily newspaper and/or a national or international news agency and/or Electronic Media Organization having standing as prescribed in clause (iii) of the preceding paragraph, immediately prior to the application for accreditation, of which at least three years must be at any Constitutional Courts in India.
- (vi) The application must be supported by clippings showing the Court reportage for the requisite number of years and a letter from the Chief Editor certifying the above-mentioned experience of reportage.

**CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED BY A WORKING
JOURNALIST/CORRESPONDENT AFTER HIS ACCREDITATION:**

- (i) An accredited correspondent, temporary/regular, shall visit the Lokpal premises appropriately dressed, in a manner befitting the décor of the office and displaying prominently his accreditation card.
- (ii) At all times, an Accredited Correspondent, temporary/regular, shall maintain decorum in the Lokpal premises and refrain from doing such things as may interfere with the proceedings before the Lokpal and shall restrict his movement within the prescribed area for the Media (Office of the Spokesperson of the Lokpal), interact only with the Spokesperson of the Lokpal and no other official including shall not attempt to access any confidential or even official records except the ones shared to him by the Spokesperson of the Lokpal.
- (iii) Accredited Correspondent, temporary/regular, shall make a serious endeavour of reporting accurate account of the information shared to him by the Spokesperson of the Lokpal without any distortions and embellishments.

MISCELLANEOUS

- (i) Grant of accreditation will be the sole discretion of the Chairperson, or the Accreditation Committee nominated by the him and the decision in this regard shall be final and binding.
- (ii) The accreditation, whether temporary/regular, can be withdrawn, at any time, without assigning any reason.
