



Government of West Bengal
Department of Information & Cultural Affairs
Nabanna, 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Howrah-711102

NOTIFICATION

No. 10480 -ICA(N)

Dated: Howrah, the 5th Day of October, 2026

WHEREAS, the State Government recognises the valuable contribution made by journalists in informing the public, facilitating informed democratic discourse and highlighting matters of public interest;

AND WHEREAS, the State Government considers it appropriate to provide enhanced social security support to aged accredited journalists who, after substantial years of service in the profession, are facing financial hardship and do not have regular post-retirement income;

AND WHEREAS, the State Government has considered the matter carefully;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governor is pleased to introduce the following Scheme:

1. Short title and commencement:-

This Scheme shall be called the “West Bengal Pension Scheme for Journalists, 2026”.

The Scheme is deemed to come into force with effect from 1st September, 2026.

2. Definitions:-

Unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “Journalist” means a journalist/photojournalist/news correspondent/camera person engaged in news gathering or news production.

(b) “Department” means the Information & Cultural Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal;

(c) “Director” means the Director of Information, Information & Cultural Affairs Department;

(d) “Pension” means the monthly financial assistance payable under this Scheme.

(e) “State” means the State of West Bengal

(f) “Scheme” means “West Bengal Pension Scheme for Journalists, 2026”.

3. Applicability:

The Scheme shall apply to eligible accredited journalists who have attained the prescribed age and satisfy the conditions specified herein.

4. Rate of Pension:

An eligible beneficiary shall be entitled to a monthly pension of: ₹5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only). The pension shall be credited directly to the beneficiary's bank account through electronic transfer.

5. Eligibility:

- a) He/she shall be a citizen of India with a valid EPIC card and ordinarily resident in West Bengal.
- b) He/she shall have attained 60 years of age on the date of application.
- c) He/she shall have worked as a journalist/photojournalist/news correspondent/ camera person engaged in news gathering or news production for at least 10 years in West Bengal before his/her date of retirement.
- d) The applicant should have had accreditation from the Government of West Bengal for at least 10 years, to be counted covering the entire period of his/her accreditation, with or without break.
- e) In cases of non-accreditation, the applicant shall have to furnish relevant documents to prove his eminence in the field of journalism and should have completed at least 15 years in the profession of journalism.
- f) He/she shall have retired from regular employment/ceased regular professional engagement as a journalist, as applicable.
- g) The applicant should not be engaged in a regular employment and should not draw any pension from any other source (except under Employees' Provident Fund and/or any other personal pension scheme, for which he/she had made contribution personally) and does not receive a regular salary/monthly emoluments from any organization.
- h) The applicant shall be facing financial hardship and his/her monthly income shall not exceed Rs. 10,000/-(Rupees Ten Thousand) per month
- i) The applicant shall not have been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude or professional misconduct of a serious nature, subject to such verification as may be prescribed.

6. Application-

Applications shall be invited from eligible journalists found eligible under clause (5) of this scheme, with effect from 1st September, 2026 in the prescribed Application Form appended to this Notification. Duly completed applications shall be submitted to the: Director of Information, Information and Cultural Affairs Department, Govt. of West Bengal.

7. Documents to accompany the application:-

The applicant shall submit:

- 1) self-attested copy of Press Accreditation Card;
- 2) proof of date of birth;
- 3) documents establishing professional experience for at least 15 years for non-accredited journalists;

- 4) details/proof of accreditation period for at least 10 years (with or without break) preceding the date of retirement for accredited journalist;
- 5) Self-attested copy of PAN Card;
- 6) Self-attested copy of EPIC;
- 7) bank account details and cancelled cheque/passbook;
- 8) recent passport-size photograph;
- 9) prescribed income certificate from a Group A Government Officer in support of the monthly income;
- 10) declaration in Annexure-II A(for accredited) or in Annexure-II B(for non-Accredited); and
- 11) such other documents as may be required by the Department.

8. Scrutiny and Selection

Applications shall be scrutinised by the Director of Information. Eligible applications shall thereafter be placed before the State Level Screening Committee constituted by Government for consideration and recommendation. The recommendation of the Committee shall be placed before the competent authority for sanction.

9. Annual Renewal

Every pensioner shall submit annually, in the prescribed manner:

- i. Life Certificate (in prescribed format)
- ii. Income Certificate (in prescribed format)
- iii. Non-employment Certificate/ declaration;
- iv. Declaration regarding other pensionary benefits; and
- v. such other documents as may be prescribed.

The Department may suspend payment where the required annual renewal documents are not submitted within the prescribed time.

Mode of Payment:- Monthly pension under this scheme will be released to the bank account of the beneficiaries through RTGS/NEFT mode.

The charges will be met out of the budgetary provision of the Information & Cultural Affairs Department under demand no-30 under the Head of Account:-

“30-2235-Social Security and Welfare-60-Other Social Security and Welfare Programmes-102-Pensions under Social Security Schemes-005-Pension to Retired Journalists and Photo-Journalists-31-Grants-in-Aid-02-V”

10. Death of Pensioner:

- The pension shall cease upon the death of the pensioner.
- No family pension shall be admissible under this Scheme.

- Any pension due and payable to the beneficiary up to the date of death may be released to the legally entitled person, subject to applicable rules and verification.

11. Cancellation/Recovery:

If any beneficiary is found to have obtained the benefit by furnishing false information, suppressing material facts or submitting fraudulent documents, the pension may be discontinued and the amount irregularly drawn may be recovered in accordance with law.

12. Power to Verify:

The Department shall have the power to verify any information furnished by an applicant or pensioner and may call for original documents or information from any person, media organisation or Government authority.

13. Interpretation:

If any question arises regarding interpretation of any provision of this Scheme, the decision of the Information & Cultural Affairs Department shall be final, subject to the provisions of law.

14. Relaxation:

The State Government may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, relax any provision of this Scheme in an individual case where it considers such relaxation necessary in the public interest.

15. Relationship with existing Pension Scheme:

Existing beneficiaries receiving pension under the West Bengal Pension Scheme for Journalists, 2018 shall continue to receive benefits under the existing Scheme, unless Government takes a separate decision regarding their migration/revision. Alternatively, existing beneficiaries may be allowed to apply for their enrolment under the new scheme. This will ensure that the rights and benefits of existing pensioners are not disturbed by introduction of the new Scheme.

16. Expenditure:

The expenditure under this Scheme shall be debited to the appropriate Head of Account under the Information & Cultural Affairs Department, subject to availability of budget provision and concurrence of the Finance Department.

This has the approval of Finance Department vide their UO no. Group I/2026-2027/0033 dated 27-08-2026 and approval of Cabinet vide no. 208 dated 23-09-2026.

By order of the Governor,
(Dr. Saumitra Mohan, IAS)
Secretary to the Government of West Bengal.

No. 10480/1(3)-ICA(N)

Dated : 5th October, 2026

Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to:

- 1) The Principal Accountant General (A&E), West Bengal;
- 2) The Director of Information, Information & Cultural Affairs Department;
- 3) The Chief of News Bureau, Information & Cultural Affairs Department;


Special Secretary.