GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
NABANNA: HOWRAH

NOTIFICATION

No.: 1219/DI/ICA/N **Date: 29.3.2018**

WHEREAS the State Government, in recognition of the contribution of journalists towards society, has been considering a scheme to provide financial support, in the form of a monthly pension, to aged journalists facing acute financial hardship;

NOW, after careful consideration of all aspects of the matter, the Governor is pleased to introduce the following pension scheme for journalists:

West Bengal Pension Scheme for Journalists, 2018

1. **Short title and commencement: –**
   (a) The Scheme shall be called the "West Bengal Pension Scheme for Journalists, 2018";
   (b) It shall come into force on the 1st day of April, 2018.

2. **Definition** – In this Scheme, unless the context otherwise requires, -
   a) "Journalist" means journalists from Print and /or Electronic Media, Photo Journalists and will also include journalists working in Web Portals
   b) "Scheme" means "West Bengal Pension Scheme for the Journalists, 2018"
   c) "State Government" means the Information and Cultural Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal;
   d) "State" means the State of West Bengal.

3. **Applicability of the Scheme** - The Scheme shall be applicable to all the Journalists of the State who have attained at least 60 years of age and have retired from regular employment as a journalist / photo-journalist / correspondent / camera person (news) / journalists engaged in news production, on the date of his application and does not draw any pension from any other source (except under Employees Provident Fund and / or covered under any other personal pension scheme, for which he / she had made contribution personally) and does not receive any regular salary / emoluments from any organization.

4. **Rate of Pension**– A monthly pension of Rs. 2500/- (two thousand and five hundred only) shall be extended to the journalists eligible as per this Scheme but shall not, under any circumstances, be extended to the family members of the journalists concerned.

5. **Eligibility** – Eligibility criteria for being included in this Scheme shall be as follows:
(a) Age of the applicant, on the date of application, shall be not less than 60 years.
(b) Applicant should have served as journalist in the State for not less than a period of ten years preceding his / her date of retirement.
(c) 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.
(d) 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.
(e) 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.

6. **Enrolment: –**
(a) For availing the benefits of this Scheme, journalists found eligible under clause (5) of this Scheme are to be enrolled, and the enrolment shall be taken up for renewal annually at the end of each financial year.
(b) For enrolment, duly-filled in application shall have to be submitted in the prescribed format, as per Annexure-I of the Scheme, to the Principal Secretary, Information and Cultural Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal along with following documents:
(i) Documents of age proof where the date of birth is mentioned.
(ii) Certificate from a Group-A Government Officer in support of the monthly income specifying the amount and non-employment certificate,
(iii) Supporting documents on details of the Bank Account, where the applicant intends to receive the benefits, as per information provided in the Application Form,
(iv) Two copies of signed passport size photographs of the applicant,
(v) Photocopy of the Press Accreditation card, issued to the applicant by the Government of West Bengal, if applicable as per clause 5 of this Scheme,
(vi) A declaration in the form of Affidavit to the effect regarding sub-clause (b), (c) and (e) of Clause 5, in the format "Annexure II-A & II-B" of the Scheme,
(vii) For annual renewal, the applicant shall have to submit within March of every year, a certificate from a Group-A Government Officer in support of the monthly income and non-employment certificate along with Life Certificate to be issued by a Group A Government Officer in the standard format, to be specified subsequently.
(viii) Any other document that the Government may deem relevant and may ask for, in writing.

(c) The selection and annual renewal of journalists found eligible / suitable will be done through a "State Level Screening Committee" to be constituted for this purpose by the State Government. The committee will recommend applications to the State Government for enrolment and renewal, as the case may be.

7. **Mode of Payment –** (1) Monthly Pension under this Scheme will be released to the bank account of the beneficiary through RTGS (Real Time Gross Settlement) / NEFT (National Electronic Fund Transfer) mode.

The Scheme will be implemented by the Information and Cultural Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal.

The charges will be met out of the budgetary provision of the Information and Cultural Affairs Department under Demand no. 30 under the Head of Account

"30-2235-60-102-NP-005-04-00-Pension/Gratuities-V".

This order is issued with the concurrence of Finance Department vide their U.O. no. 0110 dated 27.03.2018.

By order of the Governor,
Sd/-
(VIVEK KUMAR)
Principal Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal

No.: 1219/DI/1(33)/ICA/N Date: 29.3.2018
Copy forwarded for information to the:

1. Sr. P.A. to the Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, West Bengal
2. P.S. to the HMOS, I & CA Department
3. P.A. to Addl. Chief Secretary, Finance Department
4. P.A. to the Principal Secretary, I & CA Department
5. Chairman, P A Committee
6. Financial Advisor, I & CA Department
7. OSD & Chief of News Bureau
8. Media Advisor, I & CA Department
9. Joint Director of Information (R)
10. All DICOs of this Department
11. Guard file

Sd/-
(MITRA CHATTERJEE)
Director of Information
& ex-officio Joint Secretary

[ANNEXURE - I]

PROFORMA OF APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT IN THE WEST BENGAL PENSION SCHEME FOR JOURNALIST, 2018

To
The Principal Secretary
Information & Cultural Affairs Department
Government of West Bengal
Nabanna, Howrah-711102

Recent passport size photograph (Self attested)

Sir

In pursuance of Govt. of West Bengal notification no. 1219/DI/ICA/N dated 29.3.2018, and being in acute financial hardship. I do hereby apply for enrolment in the West Bengal Pension Scheme for Journalists, 2018.

My particulars are given below:

1. Name (In block letters) :
2. Father's name :
3. Address :

a. Permanent Address :

b. Present Address :

4. Phone no. : (a) Land Line No:

(b) Mobile No.

5. Address for communication:

6. e-mail, if any :
7. Nationality :
8. Date of Birth :
9. Date of attaining 60 (sixty) years of age:
10. Name of organisation from where retired:
11. Designation of the last post held:
12. Press Accreditation Card no. (Issued by the Govt. of West Bengal):
13. Year of Issue Accreditation Card:
14. Period of holding a valid Accreditation Card issued by the Govt. of West Bengal:
From: ..... To: ..... ; (Total Period) in years / Months.
15. Documentary Proof to establish eminence in the field of journalism (in case of Non-Accredited Journalist) [Necessary self attested documents to be furnished]:
16. Whether any pension from Employees Provident Fund or any other Pension Scheme is drawn: Yes/No
(If yes, please furnish)
a) Amount of Pension (Per Annum):
b) Pension sanctioning authority:

Contd…..

17. Particulars of professional experience as a Journalist / Photo Journalist/Freelance Journalist/Journalist worked in News production:

(Strike out whichever not applicable)

(Additional sheet may be used):

18. Bank Details:

(a) PAN Card no.:

(b) Bank A/c no.:

(c) Name of the Bank:

(d) Bank IFSC code :

(e) Branch address :

19. Any other information that may be considered relevant (Additional sheet may be used):

I do hereby declare that the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to submit the original copy of relevant document/paper for verification by the officials as and when communicated to do so.

I, have gone through the terms and conditions of the Pension Scheme and that I consider myself eligible to apply / enrol under the same Scheme. I accept that in case of any information is found to be incorrect or in case there is any suppression of fact, the application is liable to be rejected.

Date: **Full signature of the applicant**

Place:

<u>Enclosures</u>:

(a) Self attested photocopy of the last Accreditation Card of the applicant,
(b) Age proof document (any one): Self attested photocopy of the valid birth certificate /admit card of Madhyamik Examination or equivalent public examination /relevant page(s)of the applicant's valid passport,
(c) Two copies of signed passport size recent photographs of the applicant,
(d) Self attested photocopy of the PAN card of the applicant,
(e) One cancelled bank cheque of the applicant/ First page of Passbook.
(f) Format of declaration(annexure II-A / II-B, as applicable)
(g) Beneficiary Mandate Form (Annexure-II), 2 copies, original to be signed.

ANNEXURE-II

Mandate by the Payee for e-Payment

No. Date:

To
The .....
(The Head of the office)
.....
(Address of the office)

Subject: Payment through electronic mode.

Sir,

I/we am/are giving option for availing the facility of e-Payment. Kindly arrange to remit the amount to my/our Bank Account hereinafter. The details of my/our particulars are furnished below:

1. (a) Name of the Claimant/ Payee/Recipient:
   (Capital letters)
   (b) Address:
   (c) Contact No. Land Line: Mobile :
   (d) E-mail:
   (e) ID No.: ** Nature of ID: **
2. (a) Name of Bank:
   (b) Name of Branch with Bank Branch Code:
   (c) Account Type: Savings / Current / Cash Credit
   (d) Bank Account No. [CBS allotted a/c. no.]:
   (e) Branch IFSC [11-digits]:
   (f) Branch MICR [9-digits]:

The Bank particulars furnished above is correct and true.
I/we hereby declare that I/we and my/our heirs and successors accept the liability of making good to Government the overpayment, if any, made to me/us under the scheme.
I/we hereby authorise.....Branch (name of the Branch) of the _____ Bank to receive amount on my/our behalf for credit to my/our account as stated above and further authorise that the receipt of credit given by the bank for the amount of my/our account shall be treated as legal quittance.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature of the Claimant/ Payee/Recipient)

ANNEXURE-II (A)
(For Accredited Journalist)

FORMAT OF DECLARATION

Affidavit to be submitted by the applicant along with application in prescribed format before the Principal Secretary, Department of Information & Cultural Affairs, Government of West Bengal for enrolment in the West Bengal Pension Scheme for the Journalists, 2018.

I,_____, son/daughter of_____

residing at _____ do hereby solemnly affirm as under:-
(Strike out whichever is not applicable)

1. I have attained the age of 60(sixty) years on _____,

2. I served for a period of not less than 10(ten) years in West Bengal before attaining the age of 60 (sixty) years as an Accredited Journalist/Photo Journalist by holding a valid Press Accreditation Card issued by the Government of West Bengal, during the said period.

3. I was in possession of valid Press Accreditation Card (No._____) issued by the Government of West Bengal for_____ years.

4. I draw/ do not draw pension from Employees Provident Fund and do not draw any other pension from any source(s).

5. I do not have any regular income from any organization and I am facing acute financial hardship.

6. I will not draw any other pension which is not duly admissible for being eligible under West Bengal Pension Scheme for Journalists, 2018.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, the deponent above named, do hereby verify and declare that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief; no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at_____, the_____day of_____, 20_____

DEPONENT

ANNEXURE-II (B)
(For Non-Accredited Journalist)

FORMAT OF DECLARATION

Affidavit to be submitted by the applicant along with application in prescribed format before the Director of Information, Department of Information & Cultural Affairs, Government of West Bengal for enrolment in the West Bengal Pension Scheme for the Journalists, 2018.

I,_____, son/daughter of_____

residing at _____ do

hereby solemnly affirm as under:-
(Strike out whichever is not applicable)

1. I have attained the age of 60(sixty) years on _____,

2. I served for a period of not less than 15(fifteen) years in West Bengal before attaining the age of 60 (sixty) years as a Journalist/Photo Journalist.

3. I have worked as journalist with eminence for which I am enclosing supporting documents.

4. I draw/do not draw pension from Employees Provident Fund and do not draw any other pension from any source(s).

5. I do not have any regular income from any other organization and I am facing acute financial hardship.

6. I will not draw any other pension which is not duly admissible for being eligible under West Bengal Pension Scheme for Journalists,2018.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, the deponent above named, do hereby verify and declare that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief; no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at_____, the_____day of_____, 20_____

DEPONENT

ANNEXURE-III

INCOME CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that to the best of my knowledge the monthly income of_____

Son of / Daughter of / _____

Residing at _____

is Rs. _____ ,

In words (_____)

Signature: _____

Designation: _____

Seal

Income Certificate to be issued by a Group 'A' Govt. officer for each new financial year. The documents need to be renewed on annual basis. All information provided for the certificate must be true.

ANNEXURE-IV

Life Certificate for Renewal in the West Bengal Pension Scheme for Journalists, 2018

(To be submitted by Pensioner once a year in March at the time of renewal of application)

Certified that I have seen the Pensioner Shri/ Smt./Ms. _____,

Pensioner enrolled under the West Bengal Pension Scheme for Journalists, 2018 and that he / she is alive on this date.

Name	
Designation of Group A Govt. Officer	
Seal	
Place :	
Date:	