

The Press Council (Procedure for Notification of Associations of Persons) Rules, 2021¹

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (2) of Section 25 read with sub-section (4) of Section 5 of the Press Council Act, 1978 (37 of 1978), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) These rules may be called the **Press Council (Procedure for Notification of Associations of Persons) Rules, 2021**.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions.—In these rules—

- (a) “Act” means the Press Council Act, 1978 (37 of 1978);
- (b) “associations of persons” means associations of persons of the categories referred to in clause (a), clause (b) and clause (c) of sub-section (3) of Section 5;
- (c) “Committee” means the Scrutiny Committee constituted by the Chairman under Rule 5 in exercise of powers under Section 8;
- (d) “section” means a section of the Act;
- (e) words and expressions used but not defined herein shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Act.

3. Associations of persons to be notified.—The Central Government in the case of first Council and the retiring Chairman of the previous Council in the case of any subsequent Council shall, for the purpose of notifying associations of persons under sub-section (4) of Section 5, invite filing of claims from eligible associations of persons by giving wide publicity in at least two widely circulated national daily newspapers.

4. Eligibility of association of persons.—For being eligible to file claims under Rule 3, an association of persons must have been registered under the relevant laws for the time being in force for at least six years prior to last date of filing of the claims and must be conducting its business continuously thereafter, and shall submit documents in proof thereof, duly certified by the competent authority under such relevant laws:

Provided that the memorandum of association of such association of persons shall not restrict its membership to any particular religion, race, caste or language.

5. Scrutiny of Claims.—(1) The claims filed by associations of persons under Rule 3 shall be scrutinized by a Scrutiny Committee consisting of three persons to

1. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Noti. No. G.S.R. 102(E), dated February 5, 2021 and published in the Gazette of India, Extra., Part II, Section 3(i), dated 5th February, 2021, pp. 2-3, No. 64

be nominated by the Chairman from amongst members of the Council who are not associated in any manner with any of such claimant associations and shall submit its report to the Council.

(2) The Council shall, after considering the report submitted by the Scrutiny Committee, take appropriate decision and notify the associations of persons as required under sub-section (4) of Section 5:

Provided that where the decision of the Council is at variance with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee, such decision shall be taken by not less than three-fourth majority of members, other than members of the Scrutiny Committee, present and voting, and in case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.
