

FAQs regarding 14th Term reconstitution of the Press Council of India

SN	Queries	Clarification
1.	What is reconstitution of the Press Council of India?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Press Council of India, is a quasi-judicial body set by an Act of Parliament i.e. Press Council Act, 1978. • The Composition of the Council shall consist of a Chairman and twenty-eight other members. • Each Member shall hold his office for the period of three years from the date of publishing of official Gazette. • On expiry of such three years term the Council needs to be reconstituted for its next term for a period of 3 years. • 13th Term of Press Council of India ends on 29.5.2021.
2.	Where are the provisions laid down for process/procedure of Reconstitution?	<p>Following are the Act and Rules that describes the process/procedure of the Reconstitution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Press Council Act, 1978 under sections Section 4,5 and 6. b. Press Council (Procedure for Nomination of Members) Amendment Rules, 1999. c. Press Council (Procedure for Notification of Associations of Persons) Rules, 2021. <p>All the above-mentioned Act and Rules can be accessed at the website of the Council under Act/Rules/Regulations head.</p>
3.	Can an individual be Member of the Press Council?	<p>NO,</p> <p>It may be noted that the Council is statutory body governed by the Press Council Act and other Rules, which defines steps of Notification of Members as under:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Council first notifies the Associations of Persons in respective categories. 2. Thereafter, invite panels of names from those Associations of Persons. 3. Further process for notification of Members from those panels of names is initiated.
4.	What are the categories for which Members/Associations of Persons are to be notified? How many among them are press representative?	<p>As per sub section 3 of section 5 of the Press Council Act, 1978, following are the categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Working journalists who are editors. b. Working journalists other than editors, c. Persons who own or carry on the business of management of big, medium and small newspapers, d. Person managing the news agency. <p>There are twenty representatives of Press.</p>
5.	How associations of persons can get notified by the Council?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vide Advertisement dated 7.3.2021, the Hon'ble Chairman, has invited the eligible associations of persons to file their claim through Advertisement Notice released in prominent newspapers as well as its website, with the Press Council of India. • The associations of persons shall fullfill the criteria as laid down in the Press Council Act, 1978 and Press Council (Procedure for Notification of Associations of Persons) Rules, 2021.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thereafter, due scrutiny of all the claims associations of persons will be notified in respective categories..
6.	What are the eligibility criteria for Associations of Persons?	<p>As per Press Council (Procedure for Notification of Associations of Persons) Rules, 2021, following are the eligibility criteria for eligible associations of persons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It must have been registered under the relevant laws for the time being in force for atleast six years prior to last date of filing of the claims; It must be conducting its business continuously thereafter, and shall submit documents in proof thereof, duly certified by the competent authority under such relevant laws; The Memorandum of Association (MoA) of such association of persons shall not restrict its membership to any particular religion, race, caste or language.
7.	Does one also need to submit any supportive documents to validate its claims?	<p>Yes, as per advertisement dated 7.3.2021, following are the supportive documents required to be submitted after authentication/authenticated by Notary Public:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A copy of the MoA/Constitution/MoU of the Association; Copy of the Registration Certificate of the claimant body, with up to date renewal certificate wherever applicable; Minutes of the General Body meetings for the last six years preceding the issuance of advertisement filed before the appropriate authority i.e. Registrar of Societies or such authorities under relevant laws under which the Associations of persons is registered to show their existence for at least six years prior to last date of filing of the claims. Certificate of the Competent Authority under relevant law in the following format: <div data-bbox="699 1400 1465 1809" data-label="Form" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Dated:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Certificate</i></p> <p>I _____(<i>Full Name</i>) do hereby certify _____(<i>Name of the Association</i>) has been registered/incorporated under _____(<i>Name of the Act</i>) on _____(<i>Date, Month & Year</i>) and conducting its business continuously thereafter.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Signature and Seal of the Competent Authority)</p> </div> An upto date detailed list of its members representing the category under which the claim is being filed with complete particulars as set out below, in hard copy as well as soft copy in CD:

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) SURNAME, FIRST NAME (2) RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF THE MEMBER(S) (3) TITLE OF THE NEWSPAPER/ PERIODICAL BEING REPRESENTED ALONG WITH REGISTRATION NUMBER (4) LANGUAGE IN WHICH THE NEWSPAPER/PERIODICAL IS PUBLISHED (5) NEWSPAPER/PERIODICALS PUBLICATION ADDRESS ALONGWITH STATE NAME (6) OFFICE ADDRESS WITH NAME OF THE STATE AT WHICH THE MEMBER IS CURRENTLY POSTED (7) DESIGNATION IN THE NEWSPAPER/PERIODICAL i.e. EDITOR, WORKING JOURNALIST OTHER THAN EDITORS, OWNER/PUBLISHER OR MANAGER (8) CIRCULATION OF THE NEWSPAPER/PERIODICAL OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE MEMBER [INFORMATION REGARDING THIS POINT TO BE PROVIDED BY ORGANISATIONS FILING CLAIM UNDER SECTION5(3)(b)] (9) WHETHER MEMBER OF ANY OTHER PARALLEL ORGANISATION (10) YEAR OF JOINING THE ORGANISATION AND (11) MEMBERSHIP FEE UPTO DATE OR OUTSTANDING
8.	What are the other requirements for filing of the claims?	<p>There are following important requirements that are also required to be fulfilled while filing the claims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The associations of persons shall specify the category they are staking their claims. 2. The President/Secretary/authorized signatory to the association/organization shall make and subscribe to a declaration to be sworn before the Notary Public, verifying that he/she has been duly authorized by the Association of Persons to file the claim and the facts stated in the claim application and the particulars attached thereto are true to the best of his/her knowledge and belief and information. 3. The claimant organization shall also subscribe to a declaration establishing that the claim of the said body is

		<p>valid and free from all encumbrances/disputes/litigation. The Press Council may at its discretion reject any claim if any such encumbrances are brought to its notice.</p> <p>4. The claims shall be filed in a sealed envelope superscribed “Claims with the name of the Association” on the letter head of the organisation carrying the registered address for correspondence, email i.d., contact numbers with the CHAIRMAN, PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA, SOOCHNA BHAWAN, 8, CGO COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003, so as to reach on or before 5:00 PM of 6th April, 2021.</p>
9.	Late filing of claims will be entertained by the Council?	No, The sealed envelope having all the required documents shall reach to the Chairman, Press Council of India on or before 5:00 PM of 6th April, 2021.
10	How do I get to know whether my claim is received in the Council?	The list of the claimant’s Associations shall be published on the website of the Council on or before 8th April, 2021
11.	Can one raise objection for the associations of persons who have filed their claims before the Chairman	Yes, any person can file objection questioning the eligibility of claimant’s Associations by 15th April, 2021.
12.	Who will Scrutinise the claims?	The claims shall be scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committee.
13	How is Scrutiny Committee Formulated and what is its function?	<p>The claims filed by associations of persons under rule 3 shall be scrutinized by a Scrutiny Committee consisting of three persons to 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.</p> <p>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 of the Press Council Act, 1978.</p>