

MCQ Question · mcqquestion.com

Press Information Bureau (PIB) and Journalist Welfare in India

Free · Share

Press Information Bureau (PIB) and Journalist Welfare in India

A century before India became a republic, the government already had a press office. It has been the bridge between officialdom and journalists ever since. This article covers the PIB and the welfare support for journalists.

> **PIB origin** June 1919, under the Home Ministry.
> **Accreditation** Delhi-NCR journalists.
> **JWS** One-time urgent cash aid.
> **2014-15 to 2025-26** ₹19.41 crore to 456 people.

PIB: Press Information Bureau.

CGHS: Central Government Health Scheme.

JWS: Journalist Welfare Scheme.

Nodal agency: Main coordinating body.

1 Chapter 1: What the PIB Is

Must Know

The government's nodal press agency

- The Press Information Bureau (PIB) is India's nodal government agency for communicating with the press and public.
- It functions under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

What it does day to day

- When a Minister makes an announcement, PIB usually writes the official press release.
- It sends it to every accredited journalist at once, in Hindi, English and regional languages.
- PIB is the government's one central mouthpiece.
- So a journalist does not have to track dozens of ministries separately.

A colonial origin

- PIB traces back to June 1919, as a small publicity cell under the Home Ministry, during British rule.
- Its first head was Professor L.F. Rushbrook Williams.
- It was renamed the "Central Bureau of Information" in 1920.
- It finally became the "Press Information Bureau" in 1946.
- J. Natarajan became the first Indian Principal Information Officer, in 1941.
- After 1947, PIB became a department of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Who gets accredited

- PIB issues journalist accreditation for the Delhi-NCR region.
- A full-time journalist with at least five years' experience can apply.
- The application is subject to a Ministry of Home Affairs security check.

Remember: PIB: 1919 colonial cell → 1920 Central Bureau of Information → 1946 PIB → Ministry of I&B after 1947.

Quick check 1. PIB functions under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

2 Chapter 2: Accreditation and Welfare

Good to Know

The committee behind accreditation

- A 25-member Central Media Accreditation Committee, under PIB, implements the accreditation guidelines.

What accreditation gets you

- Railway-fare concessions.
- Access to certain government buildings and events in Delhi-NCR.
- PIB-accredited journalists and their families are covered under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS).
- This includes treatment at government or CGHS-empanelled private hospitals, at CGHS rates.

The Journalist Welfare Scheme

- The Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS) gives a one-time cash payment, on an urgent basis.
- It is for journalists or media staff facing extreme hardship.
- This covers death, permanent disability, serious illness, or hospitalisation after an accident.

Push, not pull

- PIB actively pushes information out to the press.

- This is the opposite of the citizen-pull model in the Right to Information Act, 2005, where citizens request specific records.

> **Quick check 2.** PIB-accredited journalists and their families are covered under CGHS. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

3 Chapter 3: Reading the Bigger Picture

Great to Know

Welfare without accreditation

- JWS deliberately covers both accredited and non-accredited journalists.
- Welfare support is not limited to those holding a formal PIB or state accreditation card.

PIB is not journalism

- PIB's core function is government-to-press communication.
- That is distinct from journalism as a profession.
- The press-history and press-freedom side is covered in Journalism in India.

From colonial cell to republic agency

- PIB's history spans a small colonial publicity cell in 1919 to the central information agency of a fully independent republic.
- Journalist welfare and PIB accreditation form a government support structure.
- It sits alongside, but separately from, broader debates about press freedom and independence.

Related bodies

- Central Information Commission: it decides RTI appeals rather than issuing press releases.
- IT Rules 2021 and Deepfake/AI Content Regulation: the same Ministry's framework for platforms.
- The Election Commission and Electoral Reforms: another body that manages accredited-press access, during elections.

> **Think it through: Think it through: push or pull?**
>
> PIB sends out what the government wants to say. RTI lets citizens ask for what they want to know. One is a push, the other a pull. A healthy democracy needs both.

4 Chapter 4: Current Affairs

Current Affairs

₹19.41 crore in welfare support

- On 5 August 2026, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan shared details in a written Lok Sabha reply.
- Under the Journalist Welfare Scheme, the Government provided ₹19.41 crore to 456 journalists, media personnel or their families, between 2014-15 and 2025-26. (Source: The Indian Awaaz.)
- As of the reply date, 1,786 journalists are PIB-accredited.

> **Quick check 3.** The Government gave ₹19.41 crore under the JWS to 456 people between 2014-15 and 2025-26. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Quick Q&A

- **PIB origin?** June 1919.
- **Named PIB in?** 1946.
- **Accreditation committee size?** 25 members.
- **JWS aid type?** One-time cash.
- **Accredited journalists?** 1,786.

Practice MCQs

1. In what year was the Press Information Bureau's predecessor first set up, as a small publicity cell under the Home Ministry, during British rule?

A. 1920

B. 1946

C. 1919

D. 1941

See answer ↓

2. Before becoming the "Press Information Bureau" in 1946, what was the Bureau renamed to, in 1920?

A. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

B. Directorate of Public Relations

C. Central Bureau of Information

D. Central Publicity Board

See answer ↓

3. Who became the first Indian Principal Information Officer of PIB, in 1941?

A. J. Natarajan

B. L.F. Rushbrook Williams

C. Surendranath Banerjee

D. Kuldip Nayar

See answer ↓

4. Under the Journalist Welfare Scheme, how much financial assistance had the government provided by 2025-26, and to how many journalists or families, since 2014-15?

A. ₹19.41 crore, to 25 journalists

B. ₹19.41 crore, to 456 journalists or families

C. ₹19.41 crore, to 456 journalists/families, but only from 2020-21

D. ₹19.41 crore, to 1,786 journalists

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **C.** PIB traces back to June 1919, as a small publicity cell under the Home Ministry, during British rule. Its first head was Professor L.F. Rushbrook Williams. ↑ Q1
2. **C.** The Bureau was renamed the "Central Bureau of Information" in 1920, and finally became the "Press Information Bureau" in 1946. ↑ Q2
3. **A.** J. Natarajan became the first Indian Principal Information Officer, in 1941. After 1947, PIB became a department of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. ↑ Q3
4. **B.** Under the Journalist Welfare Scheme, the Government has provided ₹19.41 crore in financial assistance. This went to 456 journalists, media personnel, or their families, between 2014-15 and 2025-26. ↑ Q4

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** ↑ 1
2. **True.** ↑ 2
3. **True.** ↑ 3

Curated by Arsalan Zuberi · mcqquestion.com

Scan to read online

https://mcqquestion.com/articles/press-information-bureau-pib-and-journalist-welfare-in-india/