

Annex

SALIENT FEATURES OF PRESS AND REGISTRATION OF PERIODICALS BILL 2023

I. Grant of title allotment and Certificate of Registration Periodicals

- The Bill provides for a simple online mechanism to apply for title verification and grant of certificate of registration by the Press Registrar General to a periodical as a simultaneous process.
- There is no requirement of furnishing any declaration before the local authority or its authentication by the local authority.
- A person who has been convicted by any court for an offence involving terrorist act or unlawful activity, or having done anything against the security of the State shall not be permitted to bring out a periodical.
- Facsimile edition of a foreign periodical can be printed in India with prior approval of the Central Government and its registration with the Press Registrar General.

II. Printing Presses

- A printer of a periodical to furnish an online intimation to the Press Registrar General and the local authority.
- No requirement by the Printer to file any declaration before the local authority or obtain authentication from the authority.

III. Role of District magistrate/local authority

- The Bill envisages minimalistic role of the District Magistrate/local authority with regard to grant of Certificate of Registration and title allotment.
- On receipt of an application, the District Magistrate is expected to provide its comments/NOC to the Press Registrar General within 60 days; thereafter the Press Registrar General can proceed to take a decision for grant of registration even where the comments/NOC are not received from the DM/local authority after 60 days.
- No requirement for a publisher to file any declaration before the District Magistrate.

Difference between the Press and Registration of Books Act 1867 and the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill 2023

- Books which were part of the PRB Act 1867 have been taken away from the purview of the PRP Bill 2023, as books as a subject are administered by the Ministry of HRD.
- Printing presses do not have to file any declaration before the District Magistrate; only an online intimation has to be filed before the Press Registrar General and the District Magistrate.
- No declaration has to be filed by the publisher of the periodical before the District authority; application for title allotment and grant of Certificate of Registration would be

made simultaneously to the Press Registrar General and the district authority and decision would be taken by the Press Registrar General.

- Statute has been substantially decriminalized as against the PRB Act 1867 which had severe penalties leading to conviction and imprisonment up to 6 months for various violations of the Act.
- In the 2023 Bill, punishment of jail up to six months is envisaged only in the extreme cases where a periodical is published without a Certificate of Registration and the publisher fails to cease the printing of such publication even after six months of direction has been issued to that effect by the Press Registrar General.
- In the 1867 Act, only the DM could cancel the declaration of a periodical, the Press Registrar General did not have suo motu powers to cancel or suspend Certificate of Registration granted by it. The PRP Bill 2023 empowers the Press Registrar General to suspend/cancel the Certificate of Registration.

A detailed explainer can be read [here](#)