

Department of Information and Publicity

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Notification

DI/INF/79/LCS/2021

ASSISTANCE FOR PURCHASE OF
LAPTOP/CAMERA FOR JOURNALISTS,
2021

Aims and Objectives of the Scheme.— A free and vibrant media is an essential element of a democratic system, the reason why, both democracy and media have flourished side by side in this country, since independence. Both have also been victims of ferocious attacks from the intolerant sections, and both have emerged the winner in the end, indeed, even with more strength than before.

Quite apart from such challenges, the media in the country has been confronted with the challenge of rapidly changing technology that has impacted the profession. How good a journalist is also now depends on how well one has understood and exploited information enabling technologies. The situation in Goa has been no different. And today, the State of Goa has representative in virtually every major print and electronic media organization and their work is reflected well in all quarters.

The Government of Goa has been performing its mandated role of contributing to the freedom of the press. It has not hesitated to provide assistance, whenever required by the media, to help them to discharge their duties and responsibilities without fear or favour. Goa, perhaps is one of the few State to introduce Goa Journalist Welfare schemes under which retired journalist receive a pension.

Keeping in mind the needs of the Journalist in an environment where technology is crucial, and more so, when the world is switching to digital, the State Government has announced a scheme to provide journalists based in Goa, Laptop/Note pad/camera at subsidized rate, so that it becomes convenient for such journalists to have easier access to what has today become

the basic technology in their profession. It is expected that the scheme would empower journalist with greater means to disseminate and spread information that is crucial to the sustenance of a democratic system, such as ours.

Now, therefore, the Government of Goa is hereby pleased to frame the following scheme, namely:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*— 1) This scheme may be called the “Assistance For Purchase of Laptop/Camera for Journalists, 2021”.

2) It shall come into force with immediate effect.

2. *Definitions.*— In this scheme, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) “Government” means the Government of Goa;

(b) “Journalist” means any journalist who is either a working journalist as defined in the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 (45 of 1955), as amended from time to time or a journalist who has been a full-time journalist for atleast 8 years and does not engage himself in any other activity and whose sole livelihood shall be through his journalistic activities with a newspaper or news agency or media house;

(d) “Photo-journalist” means any photographer who is either a working photographer as defined in the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 (45 of 1955), as amended from time to time or a photographer who has been a full-time photographer for atleast 8 years and does not engage himself in any other activity and whose sole livelihood shall be through journalism with an newspaper or news agency or media house;

(f) Words and phrases used in this Scheme but not defined shall have the