

CABINET MEMORANDUM

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Subject

Ex-post-facto approval to ***“Republic Day Journalism Award”*** for excellence in the Field of Journalism

Introduction

An innovative scheme, namely, ***“Republic Day Journalism Award”*** for excellence in the Field of Journalism to honour persons of eminence in the field of journalism in Assam has been launched from the Republic Day 2017 under the Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Assam. This scheme has been launched in place of the *“Kamala Saikia Award for excellence in the field of journalism”* approved earlier by the Cabinet in its meeting dated 20th February’2016.

Objective :

The main objective of the ***“Republic Day Journalism Award”*** for excellence in the Field of Journalism is to honour persons of eminence in the field of journalism in Assam.

This will boost the journalists in preparing high-impact stories to improve our society as a Modern-day Republic. The Award will also motivate the journalists to work in difficult conditions.

The Award will recognize media professionals who demonstrate a passionate commitment to journalism that makes a difference in the lives of people.

Scheme:

The ***“Republic Day Journalism Award”*** for excellence in the Field of Journalism will be an annual scheme and will consist of an amount of Rs.1,00,000.00 (Rupees One lakh only) , a citation, a memento and *Angabastra*

Governance/ Management

1. Procedure for nomination and selection:

- (A) The Government of Assam through Information and Public Relations Department shall invite nominations from the following within a stipulated time.

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- (i) Assam Union of Working Journalists
- (ii) Journalists Union of Assam
- (iii) Assam Press Correspondent Union
- (iv) All Assam Small Newspaper Association
- (v) Assam Sports Journalists Association.
- (vi) Assam Photo Journalists Association
- (vii) All Assam Media Employees Federation
- (viii) Electronic Media Forum of Assam

Beside these organizations, the IPRD may also nominate Journalist if situation warrants.

(B) The nominations as received will be placed before the Award Committee by the Information and Public Relations Department within specific date. The Award Committee will be constituted with the following members:

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|-------|---|---|------------------|
| (i) | Minister, IPRD | : | Chairman |
| (ii) | Media Adviser to the Hon'ble CM, Assam | : | Member |
| (iii) | Senior most Secretary, I&PRD | : | Member |
| (iv) | Director, I&PR, Assam | : | Member |
| (v) | One prominent Journalist to be nominated by Govt. | : | Member |
| (vi) | Joint /Dy. Secretary, IPRD | : | Member Secretary |

(C) The Committee will prepare a select list of the proposed Awardees and place the same before the Chief Minister, Assam for selection of the Awardees.

The Chief Minister may however, if he desires, consider names besides those recommended by the committee.

(D) The approval of selection of the Awardee by the Chief Minister will be final. Persons recommended by the Committee but not selected for the award may be re-considered in the following year.

(E) The entire process for the selection of the awardee should be completed by the specific date.

2. The award presentation ceremony:

- (i) **Date of presentation ceremony:** The award will be conferred on the Republic Day of India i.e. 26th January every year.
- (ii) **The place of the award presentation ceremony:** The presentation of the award will be made at a ceremony at Guwahati or any other place of the state of Assam as advised by the Minister, IPRD/Chief Minister.
- (iii) The awardee shall be invited to receive the honour in person

3. General:

The Government of Assam shall have the right to amend these guidelines with the approval of the Cabinet as and when considered necessary.

Purpose& Use

1. **Purpose of the Scheme:** The purpose of the scheme is to honour persons of eminence in the field of journalism in Assam.
2. **Period of Operation:** It shall come into force with immediate effect from the date of Notification
3. **Number of Award:** One person shall be conferred with the award annually.
4. **Terms of the award:** The awardee will be given an amount of Rs.1,00,000.00 (Rupees One lakh only) , a citation, a memento and *Angabashtra*.
5. **Eligibility:**

- (i) The award is open to all persons of eminence in the field of journalism in the state of Assam.
- (ii) An association, institution or organisation is not eligible for the award.
- (iii) No person below the age of 50 will ordinarily be considered for the award.
- (iv) A deceased person cannot be considered for the award. However, if the death of a person occurs subsequent to the decision of the State Government, the award will be given posthumously.
- (v) A person who has received the award once will not be eligible for the same honour a second time.
- (vi) Canvassing in any form will be treated as disqualification.

Source of Funding

A head of account (H/A) is to be created for budget allocation for the Award. The H/A will be 2220-Information & Publicity-60-Others-103-Press Information Service-0805-Press Research & Reference Section-819-**"Republic Day Journalism Award"** for excellence in the Field of Journalism- 26-other charges-12-Award Money/Award in kind. The source of fund of **"Republic Day Journalism Award"** for excellence in the Field of Journalism will be Govt. fund to be provided by Government of Assam after approval of Cabinet Memorandum i.e. the budget would cover the Award Money, Cost of Citation in Copper Plate, Japi, Xarai,'angabastra' for the awardee, miscellaneous expenditure and award-function expenses in case award presentation is made in separate ceremony on Republic Day

Budgetary Provision

An amount will be allocated in the H/A mentioned above in the next Financial Year and the same will be included in the list of Priority Schemes to be implemented during next financial year.

Financial Implication

Keeping in view the expenditure of award giving ceremony alongwith the Award Money a tentative estimate is prepared.

Proposals for approval of the Hon'ble Cabinet

The Information & Public Relations Department seeks ex-post-facto approval towards already implemented **"Republic Day Journalism Award"** for excellence in the Field of Journalism *with* the modalities/norms mentioned above

Views of concerned Department/s

Personal (A) Department's views

Personal (A) Department have no objection to the Cabinet Memorandum & Draft Rules for changing the name of the award from "Kamala Saikia Award" to "Republic Day Journalism Award" as proposed by the Information & Public Relations Department for placing the matter before the Cabinet.

Sd/-
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Personal (A) Department
Date- 17/1/17

Finance (EC-II) Department's views,

Finance Department conveys its no objection to the draft Cabinet Memorandum & the draft Rules as proposed for changing the name of the award from "Kamala Saikia Award" to "Republic Day Journalism Award" for excellence in the field of Journalism.

Sd/-
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Finance (EC-II) Department,
Date- 20/1/17

The matter is placed before the Hon'ble Cabinet for ex-post-facto approval to the above proposal.

L.S.Changsan, IAS
Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Deptt. of Information and Public Relations