

**SCHEME FOR THE GRANT OF FREE BUS PASSES TO MEDIA PERSONS IN THE UNION  
TERRITORY OF PUDUCHERRY IN PONDICHERRY ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION (PRTC)  
BUSES -2006**

**1. Short title, extent and commencement -**

- (a) This Scheme may be called “The Scheme for the Grant of Free Bus Passes to Media Persons in the Union Territory of Puducherry in Pondicherry Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) Buses – 2006”.
- (b) It shall extend to the whole of the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- (c) It shall come into force on and from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**2. Object.** – The object of this scheme is to issue Free Bus Passes to Media persons in the Union Territory of Puducherry, in PRTC Buses, keeping in view the special nature of service rendered by them to the society in creating a sense of socio-political awareness among the people.

**3. Definitions.** – In this scheme, unless the context otherwise requires;

- (a) **“Directorate”** means the Directorate of Information and Publicity , Puducherry.
- (b) **“Electronic Media’** means Audio & Visual media units engaged in broadcasting/ telecasting of news, and registered with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, New Delhi.
- (c) **“Form”** means any of the forms appended to this scheme.
- (d) **“Government”** means the Administrator of the Union Territory of Puducherry appointed by the President of India under Article 239 of the Constitution.
- (e) **“Media Person”** means media person who has rendered service within the Union Territory of Puducherry as Full time Editor / News Editor / Sub-Editor / Reporter / Press Photographer / Videographer / Correspondent of Print / Electronic Media / News Agency.
- (f) **“News Agency”** means an agency, which is engaged in the business of collecting news and selling them to the Media Organisations.
- (g) **“Print Media”** means a newspaper / periodical registered with the Registrar of News papers of India, Government of India, New Delhi.

**4. Eligibility Conditions** - Any media persons fulfilling the conditions as stipulated below, shall be eligible for the grant of free bus pass in the Union Territory of Puducherry in Pondicherry Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) buses:-

- (a) The media person shall be a Citizen of India and a resident of the Union Territory of Puducherry by birth or by having continuous residence for a period of not less than 5 years immediately preceding the date of his application for the grant of free bus pass under this scheme A Nativity / Residence Certificate obtained from the competent revenue authority should be produced;
- (b) The media person should have at least three years of service as Media Person in the Print/Electronic Media/News Agency in the Union Territory of Puducherry;
- (c) The media person should be working in any Print / Electronic Media / News Agency in the Union Territory of Puducherry at the time of submitting his/her application for the grant of Free Bus Pass.

**5. Making of application** - Application for grant of Free Bus Pass under this scheme shall be submitted to the Director of Information & Publicity, Puducherry in Form-I along with a Service Certificate in Form-II and Nativity / Residence Certificate issued by an appropriate revenue authority.

**6. Issue of Bus Pass** - The Photo affixed Bus Pass (in Form-IV) shall be issued by the Director of Information and Publicity who is the competent authority for the grant of free bus passes to the media persons.

**7. Modality of operation of the Scheme.-**

- (a) Eligible media person has to apply in the prescribed form to the department along with necessary certificate and three stamp sized photographs for issue of Free Bus Pass.
- (b) The pass would be signed by the Director with an assigned code number.
- (c) The Directorate would maintain register showing details of passes issued under the scheme with code no, expiry date, photographs etc; and a statement showing the said details with photographs would be sent to the PRTC for their records and to prepare suitable software for the operation of the scheme.
- (d) The media person, while making a reservation for travel has to show the Bus pass in original at the reservation counter.
- (e) The PRTC will then verify the authenticity of the media person and the bus pass issued to him and upon satisfaction, will issue tickets free of cost to the media person.
- (f) The media person, however, has to pay the reservation charges in cash immediately to the PRTC. The reservation charges are not refundable by the PRTC or by the Department. Only the ticket fare would be refunded to the PRTC by the Department and the reservation charges are to be borne by the media person.
- (g) In the event of cancellation / postponement of journeys, the media person should return the ticket to the counter for cancellation of entries of travel so that the reimbursement is not claimed by the PRTC for travel not undertaken. However, the department would reimburse the penalty on cancellation to PRTC.
- (h) The media person has to show the Bus pass as and when required, in original to the conductor of the bus / to an Inspecting Authority, whenever he undertakes a free trip
- (i) In the event of unreserved journeys, the media person has to show the Original Bus Pass and upon satisfaction about the validity/authenticity of the Pass, the conductor will issue ticket to him free of cost subject to availability of seats. The conductor will also note the code number of the Bus Pass and ticket number to enable the PRTC to submit Vouchers/Demand Notes to the Directorate for the purpose of reimbursement.
- (j) The PRTC will raise cumulative demand for reimbursement of ticket fare in every three months to the Directorate and the Directorate will arrange to get Government sanction for the claimed amount and will reimburse the amount to PRTC within a month
- (k) The pass will be acceptable in all the buses operated by the PRTC except in town buses.

- (l) The Media Person will not be entitled for any priority in reservation / allocation of seats in the buses.
- (m) The Directorate will review the operation of the scheme with PRTC from time to time for administrative reasons/projecting fund requirements in the scheme etc and shall undertake steps necessary for effective maintenance of the scheme.

**8. Renewal of Bus Pass.** - The Free Bus Passes issued under the scheme shall be valid for one year only and thereafter it should be renewed by the Director of Information & Publicity on an application in Form-III for renewal of the Bus Pass received from the media person well before the date of expiry of the Bus Pass along with an attested copy of the Bus Pass

**9. Loss of Bus Pass and Issue of Duplicate Bus Pass.** - In case the pass is lost, it should be reported to the Directorate of Information and Publicity immediately which would make arrangements to block the card at the first instance. A duplicate Bus Pass with different code number will be issued on payment of Rs. 50/- as penalty. However, the Duplicate Bus Pass issued, will be valid only upto the period for which the original Bus Pass was issued.

**10. Powers of the Director of Information & Publicity.** - The Director of Information and Publicity, Puducherry shall be in charge of implementing the scheme.

**11. Budget Provision.** - The expenditure towards the implementation of this scheme shall be debitable to the budget of the Information & Publicity Department Head of Account "2220 - Information and Publicity - 60/800 - Other expenditure - 60 /800 (02) Welfare Programme for Media Persons - 60/800 (02) (01) Pondicherry region - (50) - Other Charges (PLAN)".

**12. Interpretation and clarification.** - If any doubt arises as to the interpretation of these rules, the decision of the Government thereon shall be final.

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