

PROCEDURE/GUIDELINES FOR VERIFICATION OF TITLES

1. Application for title verification for newspapers and other periodicals must be sent through the Executive Magistrate concerned in the District in prescribed format. As per the provisions of PRB Act, 1867,
 - a. same or similar title shall not be verified in a State in any **language**,
 - or
 - b. no title, same or similar to the existing ones, shall be verified in the **same language in whole of India.**

2. Titles same or similar to a Foreign Title (F.T) in any language may not be verified until a valid license agreement with the foreign title owner is produced.

3. The applicants/ owners are advised:
 - a. to get the titles, already verified to them, **registered**, before applying for more titles to avoid squatting and blocking opportunity for other intending publishers;
 - b. not to send applications in **bulk**; and
 - c. to check their proposed options with the existing titles in "Title Search" menu on RNI website.
 - i. The applicants/owners can also make same/similarity search with respect to **foreign titles through internet search engines.**

4. Since RNI registers only printed publications, applications should not be sent for:
 - i) registration of news agencies,
 - ii) feature agencies,
 - iii) publications containing solely coaching material, or

- iv) electronic versions of publications including titles options using words dot com, dot in, blog, portal, facebook, twitter, orkut, linkdian, you-tube, yahoo, google, Wikipedia, wickiliks, etc.

5. The application must clearly mention:

- i) **upto 5 title options** (Along with English meaning of titles as far as possible for languages other than English and Hindi),
- ii) **its language,**
- iii) **periodicity,**
- iv) **owner"s name,**
- v) **place of publication, and**
- vi) **address/contact number/E-mail address of applicant.**

- In case more than one language is mentioned in the application it will be understood that the application is for bilingual/multilingual and will be verified accordingly.
- If separate publication is to be brought out in each language, **separate application** should be submitted.
- The publication in bilingual or multilingual should contain news/articles in **all the languages** in which the title has been verified. Advertisements published in various languages alone will not be accepted as a multi-language publication.
- If new edition of the existing publication is to be brought out from **some other district in the same state & in the same language no prior title verification is required.** The publisher can directly file declaration and then submit required documents to RNI for issuance of Registration number & Certificate. **However if the proposed new edition is from**

**other state or different language (same or other state),
prior title verification is required.**

- In case **owner is individual, they should apply themselves.**

6. The application forwarded by District Magistrate concerned **must:**

- bear legibly name,**
- seal, and**
- signature of Magistrate concerned with date and reference number.**

7. Applications for title verification, incomplete in any respect would be liable for rejection.

8. The proposed publication should **primarily** contain:

- news/views/articles etc.
 - However, there can be advertisement or other information in addition.
 - Hence the title options using words like ad/ advertisement, classified, tender, calendar, panchang, matrimonial, yellow pages or directory (in the language proposed in the application or their meaning in any other language) may not be verified keeping in view intention of their sole commercial considerations and that such publications generally may not contain news/views/articles etc.

9. Applicant should not give his/ her name as title option (in part or full), to avoid any confusion to the readers in this regard.

- a. Name of the owner organization can however form part or full title options.
- b. The applicants are also advised **NOT** to apply for journals in individual name, but can be in organization"s name on behalf of which authoritative research based publications are proposed to be published.

10. Since RNI does not register books, the title options containing the word "Book" (in the language mentioned in the application or meaning in any other language) should not be applied.

- a. Similarly titles containing the word "Channel" should not be applied to avoid confusion of it being associated with any TV Channel.
- b. The titles containing the word "Gazette" should not be applied except by Government Organizations.

11. The applicants are advised to avoid abbreviations in titles as an abbreviation may have many meanings in its full form and can be misleading to the readers. Also Indian numerals between two complete words are to be avoided. Abbreviation with numeral like B2B to be avoided.

12. Titles would be allotted on first-come-first-serve basis, except in the following cases where title may be allotted on priority basis:

- ❖ Where applicant produces NOC from Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in case of a Foreign Title.

- ❖ In case of a direction from the court or any statutory authority, which is binding and it is decided not to appeal against the direction/order.
- ❖ In all other cases as decided by Press Registrar.

13. In cases where an applicant has applied for a title and a Discrepancy Letter (D/L) is issued, the title would be blocked/held for a period of one month and the applicant would be asked to furnish reply to the discrepancy within two weeks of issue of the letter.

14. Titles having words same or similar to name of government scheme, government organization, foreign government organization, institutions, prominent titles, prominent trademarks, prominent brands, landmarks and prominent personalities shall not be verified as these may mislead public or exploit/misuse the name of the scheme/organization/institution/person and may also violate trade mark and copy right Acts.

15. Titles shall not also be verified; if they resemble:

- i) names of Prominent National Leaders, or
- ii) Heads of the Government functionary
 - However, names of prominent political parties of national or State recognition shall be considered with proper justification.

16. Any title which is same or similar to any national emblem or name or given the impression of the patronage of Central Government or State Government or shows any connection with any local authority or any corporation or body or body corporate constituted by the government under any law, or any international organization such as UN etc., shall not be allotted, as provided under "The emblem and names (Prevention of improper use) Act, 1950."

17. In case of a periodical pertaining to a government department/institution or any association/organization, the ownership shall be allotted in the name of the organization and the applicant would be advised accordingly.
18. Titles may also not be allotted if they make use of any kind of;
- i) symbol other than alphabets/numerals,
 - ii) words sounding absurd or meaningless, or
 - iii) Religious overtones.
19. Titles may not be verified in public interest if they contain:
- i) obscene or offending to public sense,
 - ii) negative connotations or symbols or,
 - iii) any other object which may not be in public interest/taste.
20. Combining two independent titles to make one new title and extracts from any existing title/s which does not make the new title substantially dissimilar shall not be verified.
21. Titles shall be considered similar if they contain the same words whether in same or in different order irrespective of language, place of publication and periodicity.
22. Suffixing or prefixing the words relating to city, state, periodicities, language, prepositions/adjectives, articles (A, An, The) etc., to an existing title cannot be considered as different. Some such most commonly used words are: The, Times, Daily, Dainik, Weekly, V/Wartha, Aaj, Today, Express, News, Khabar, Samachar, Bulletin, Diary, India, National, Rashtriya etc. Suffix or prefix of such words does not necessarily change the meaning of **a title already**

verified. Therefore, titles with such prefixes and suffixes shall be considered as similar titles.

23. Prefixing or suffixing any generic word to any existing titles, this does not substantially alter formation or meaning to the existing title, shall be considered similar to the existing titles.

❖ However generic words shall not be treated as proprietary.

24. In case of any doubt regarding same or similarity, the decision of Press Registrar shall be final.

Note: The list is illustrative, but not exhaustive.