



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

WEST BENGAL MINORITIES' COMMISSION



Annual Report

2021-22

West Bengal Minorities' Commission

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Preface

The West Bengal Minorities' Commission was constituted in 1996 through Memorandum 84- P.M. dt.14/07/1994 by enactment of 'West Bengal Minorities' Commission Act 1996'. This Commission acts as apex organization in the state for redressal of discrimination towards minorities in West Bengal.

The Annual Report, containing a brief account of the functions of the Commission during the financial year 2021-22, has been finalised and approved in the 151st meeting of the Commission on 20th February, 2023.

This Annual Report is, therefore, forwarded to the State Government and Hon'ble M.I.C. of Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education Department for kind perusal and consideration.

Mamta Singh

Chairperson,
West Bengal Minorities' Commission

Dated: 20.02.2023

Place: Khadya Bhawan, Block A, Ground Floor,
11A, Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata- 87

About the Commission

The West Bengal Minorities' Commission (W.B.M.C.) is a statutory body under Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department.

The Commission was constituted through enactment of the West Bengal Minorities' Commission Act 1996.

This body, while discharging functions enshrined u/s 4 of West Bengal Minorities' Commission Act 1996, also functions as apex body in the State of West Bengal for the redressal of grievances of Minorities.

Six religious groups namely, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Parsee, Sikh and Jain enjoy the status of Religious Minority in our state.

Apart from that, six linguistic groups namely, Urdu, Hindi, Nepali, Odiya, Gurmukhi and Bengali are recognised as Linguistic Minorities under West Bengal Minorities' Commission Act 1996.

There are Chairperson, Vice-Chairman and 9 other members in the Commission.

Out of 9 members, 6 members are from each religious community, 1 woman member and two open seats. Another 3 are ex-officio members – a) Member Secretary, West Bengal Minorities' Commission and- b) Secretary, Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education Department & c) One nominated Representative from West Bengal Minority Development & Finance Corporation.

The tenure of each member is 3 years.

Staff, recruited here, are permanent.

Sitting Members

Name	Designation
Prof. (Dr.) Mamta Sanghamita, (Ex-MP)	Chairperson
Mr. Michael Shane Calvert, (Ex-MLA)	Vice Chairman
Sri Derek O' Brien, (MP)	Member
Sri Ashok Turakhia	Member
Syed Marhood Ali Al-Quadri	Member
Shri Cyrus Jamshed Madan	Member
Mr. Jaidul Islam Khan	Member
Sri Bikash Barua	Member
Shri Gurbux Singh	Member
Mrs. Shehnaz Quadery	Member
Jb. Rafikul Alam	Member
Md. Ghulam Ali Ansari, I.A.S.	Secretary, Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education Department & Ex-Officio Member
Shakeel Ahmed, I.A.S.	Member Secretary, West Bengal Minorities Commission & Ex-Officio Member

Organizational Structure

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Post	Existing Post	Vacant Post
1.	Member Secretary	1	1	0
2.	Personal Assistant	3	2	1
3.	U. D. Assistant	2	1	1
4.	Typist	2	2	0
5.	Accountant	1	0	1
6.	L. D. Assistant	1	0	1
7.	Peon	4	2	2
	TOTAL	14	8	6

Function of Commission

The Commission performs the following duties as described u/s 4 of West Bengal Minorities' Commission Act 1996: -

- a) Evaluate the progress of the development of Minorities of West Bengal and review implementation of the policies and programme of the State Government.
- b) Monitor the working of the safeguards provided in the Constitution and in laws enacted by Parliament or the State Government.
- c) Make recommendations for effective enforcement and implementation of safeguards for the protection of the minorities provided by the Central or State Government.
- d) Look into specific complaints regarding deprivation of social, economic, educational, cultural and linguistic rights and safeguards of the Minorities and take up such matters with the appropriate authorities.
- e) Recommend to the State Government to accord minority status to religious, linguistic and ethnic groups, who do not enjoy any constitutional or statutory benefits or status.
- f) Cause studies to be undertaken into problems arising out of any discrimination against minorities and recommend measures for their removal.
- g) Conduct studies, research and analysis on the issues relating to socio-economic and educational development of minorities.
- h) Make Annual Report to the State Government on any matter pertaining to any of the functions of the Commission.
- i) The Commission has the power of a civil court trying a suit while performing the functions under sub-section (1).
- j) The Commission shall, while investigating or enquiring into any complaints regarding violation or infringement of any rights of the Minority as guaranteed by the Constitution or as conferred by or under any Central Act or State Act, shall have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and in particular, in respect of the following matters: -
 - i. Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India, and examining him on oath.
 - ii. Requiring the discovery and production of any document.
 - iii. Receiving evidence on affidavits.
 - iv. Requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office.
 - v. Issuing commissions for the examination of witness and documents any other matter which may be prescribed.

Redressal of Complaints

Complaint Received;	57
No. of Complaints Action Taken for;	57
No. of Complaints Disposed of till Date;	52

Meetings Held

	Meeting No.	Date
1	141 st Meeting	16/07/2021
2	142 nd Meeting	03/11/2021
3	143 rd Meeting	25/11/2021
4	144 th Meeting	01/12/2021
5	145 th Meeting	23/02/2022

Study Visit

As per power conferred under section 4(1) of West Bengal Minorities' Commission Act 1996, the Commission conducts district study tours in order to (a) evaluate the progress of the development of minorities of West Bengal and review implementation of the policies and Programme of the State Government, (b) monitor the working of the safeguards provided in the Constitution and in laws enacted by Parliament or the State Legislature and (c) make recommendations for the effective enforcement and implementation of safeguards for the protection of the interests of minorities provided by the Central or State Government.

The Study visit team usually comprises of Hon'ble Chairperson and/ or Vice Chairman and other Hon'ble members of this Commission. In the Administrative meeting, generally held at the District Head quarter, the members of this Commission meet the entire District Administrative heads and Police Administration. The Commission enquires about the development of minorities and review implementation of different policies and Programme of the State Government in the District, listens to the difficulties faced by the minorities and advises The District Administration accordingly. In the Financial Year 2021-22, the Commission only managed to visit 3 districts, namely, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Malda due to Covid Protocol.

	District	Date
1	Dakshin Dinajpur	22.03.2022
2	Uttar Dinajpur	22.03.2022
3	Malda	23.03.2022

Pictorial View of Study Visits



Study Visit at Dakshin Dinajpur on 22.03.2022



Study Visit at Uttar Dinajpur on 22.03.2022



Study Visit at Malda on 23.03.2022

Success Stories

The Commission receives complaints on a regular basis in the form of written letters submitted by hand or sent via post or e-mail and tries to provide redressal to those complaints early and as effectively as possible. A few noteworthy cases for the Financial Year 2021-22 are listed below: -

Petitioner	Complaint	Action taken	Outcome
Yunus Ali Mondal, Vill. – Chandpur, Post-Chakla, P.S.- Deganga, Dist.- North 24 parganas, PIN- 743424	The Petitioner brought accusation against Investigating Officer of her daughter's death case (Case no. 200/2021 dt. 08.04.21), S.I. Pranab Kr. De of Deganga P.S. According to the petitioner, Sri Pranab Kr. De intentionally tried to cover-up the matter for the accused persons. The petitioner also accused Shri De for threatening his son, Khairul Islam, over phone asking him to arrange for bail of the accused persons.	The Commission asked for an enquiry report from S.P. Barasat, North 24 Parganas.	The investigation report revealed that all the accused persons (3) have been put under judicial custody by the investigating officer. It has also been revealed that Sri De did threaten Khairul Islam, but it was for unlawfully taking possession of a motorcycle which the complainant gifted to his accused son-in-law.
Kazi Md. Sowghat Hussain, 113, Surya Sen Road, P.O.- Baranagar. North 24 Parganas, PIN- 700035	The petitioner complained against the representative of Alam Bazar Shree Shyam Dhwaja Mondal, Shri Govind Agarwal for trying to forcibly evict him from his shop and possession at 113, Surya Sen Road, Kolkata-35.	S.P. North 24 Parganas was asked to look into the matter and if needed to provide protection to the complainant.	The problem has been resolved by mutual understanding between the two parties.
Farida Begum, w/o late Sk. Abdul Daud, Vill-Khajuria, P.O. & P.S.- Haripal, Dist.- Hooghly, PIN- 712403	The petitioner complained against one Manoj Kumar Pakhira, an auto driver of Vill-Khajuria, P.O. & P.S.- Haripal, Dist.- Hooghly, PIN- 712403, for irrational driving which caused the death of the husband of the petitioner and severely injured the petitioner.	S.P. Hooghly and D.M. Hooghly were asked to submit the investigation report.	Charge sheet has been filed against the accused auto driver Manoj Kr. Pakhira by Haripal P.S. vide charge sheet no. 203/2020 dt. 04.09.2020.