

# NCM NEWSLETTER

WWW.NCM.NIC.IN



January, 2025 (Edition 4)

## Christmas Day

The teachings of Jesus Christ celebrate love, harmony and brotherhood. We must unite to uphold harmony and confront challenges like violence and disruptions in society.

Shri Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister

## Celebration of Minorities Day on 18th December, 2024



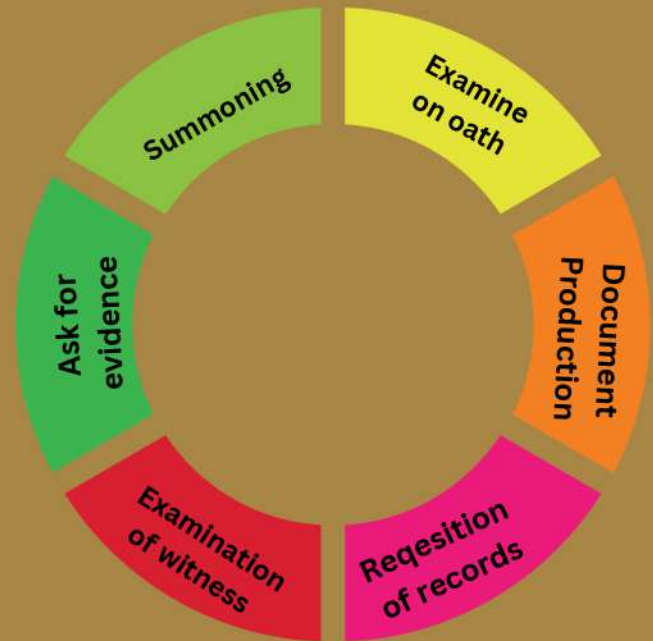
## Highlights

- Meeting with Muslim Community & NGOs.
- Minority Day Celebration.
- 9th NCM meeting and deliberations.
- Central Government Schemes.
- Activities of the month.
- Focus State: Telangana
- Impact of NCM.

01/16

समता सुरक्षा सौहार्द

## Powers of the Commission



As per Section 9(4):

The Commission shall have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and, in particular, in respect of the following matters, namely:-

- a. summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath.
- b. requiring the discovery and production of any document.
- c. receiving evidence on affidavit.
- d. requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office.
- e. issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents.
- f. any other matter which may be prescribed.



## Meeting with Muslim Community on 12.12.2024



## Discussion with Muslim representatives

- A meeting was held on 12.12.2024 including speakers, advocates, Islamic scholars, social activists from Muslim community.
- Hon'ble Chairman Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura assured them of continued support and help for their problems.
- Speakers appreciated the steps taken by Government for welfare of minorities.

## Meeting with NGOs

- Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura chaired a meeting with more than 50s NGOs from diverse areas of work such as animal care, health, education etc.
- NGOs were informed about PMJVK schemes.
- Member, Ms. Rinchen Lhamo urged NGOs to make greater use of online facilities for information regarding government schemes and for approaching District Minority Welfare offices.

## Veer Bal Diwas : 26 December



Veer Bal Diwas marks the extraordinary bravery and martyrdom of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh; the younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh Guru. They showed outstanding bravery by facing challenges against all odds during the reign of the Mughal Empire.

## Discussions in the Meeting



## Important Discussions

- Discussion regarding roles and responsibility of secretarial staff for managing tours and visits of commission .
- 4 visits of Members Ms. Rinchen Lhamo and Shri DhanyaKumar Jinappa Gunde were discussed.
- Rules and procedures for tours and visits by commission were finalized.

## 9th Commission Meeting 2024-25

- 9th Commission meeting was held on 12 December, 2024.
- Approved the proposal for revised NCM handbook based on the NCM Regulation, 1997.
- Approved the proposal of Annual Calendar of Events.

## Grievance Redressal



- 424 fresh petitions were received during the month.
- Total pending grievances were 2715 out of which 768 were disposed off.





## Minority Day 18th December' 2024

### Celebrations

- The Hon'ble Minister of State for Ministry of Minority Affairs, Shri George Kurian graced the function as the Chief Guest which was presided over by Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Chairman, National Commission for Minorities. Shri Dhanyakumar Jinnapa Gunde, Jain Member, Ms. Syed Shahezadi, Muslim Member, Ms. Rinchen Lhamo, Buddhist Member, and senior officials of NCM were present on the occasion.

The Hon'ble Minister of State(MoS), released a book on 'Sikhism' authored by Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura along with the third edition of Newsletter of National Commission of Minorities.

“Guided by the principle o Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, we ensure harmony, equality and respect for all communities. ”

-Shri George Kurian

05/16

समता सुरक्षा सौहार्द



## Highlights of the Event



- Shri. George Kurian, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Minority Affairs was present as Chief Guest of the event.
- In his speech, he addressed the six minorities in India and reminded of the invaluable contribution that minority community make socially, culturally and economically.



A Quiz was also launched in the event named as 'Unity in Diversity' encompassing the various minority communities in India.

## Photo Booth



Right to left : Mr. Daniel E. Richards, Joint Secretary, Ms. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, Deputy Secretary in frame.



# The community leaders from six minority communities spoke on the occasion.



**Sikh Speaker : Brigadier (Retd.) P.S. Gothra**



**Boudh Speaker : Acharya Yeshi Phuntsok**



**Parsi Speaker : Shri. Marazban Nariman Zaiwalla**



**Muslim Speaker : Shri. Sirajuddin Qureshi**



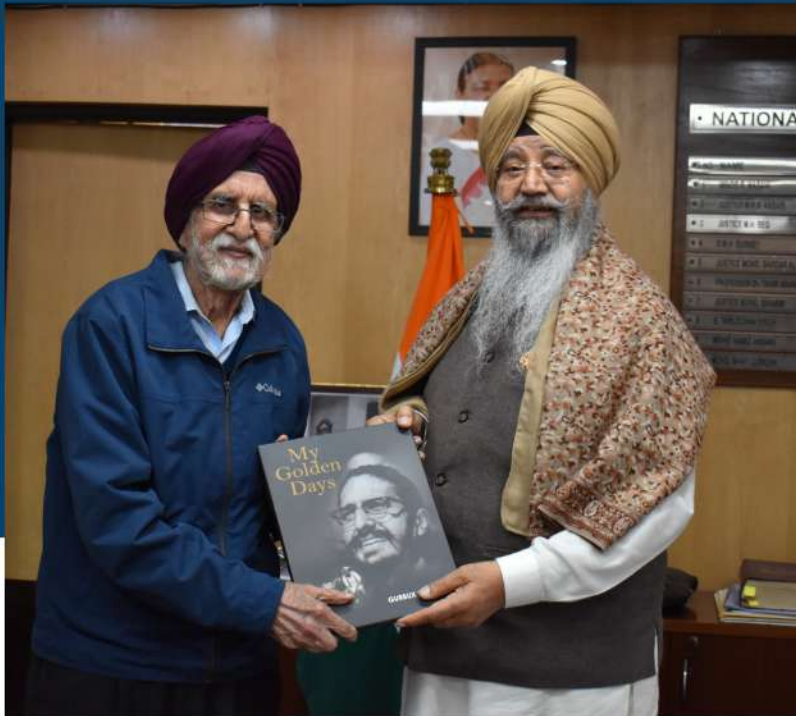
**Christian Speaker : Reverend Francis Ashwani**



**Jain Speaker: Prof. Jay Kumar Upadhyay**



## Visits and Meetings



### Meeting with Sardar Gurbux Singh

- Sardar Gurbux Singh is former Indian field hockey player who was a member of the Indian team that won gold medal at the 1964 Summer Olympics.
- The team won the bronze medal at the 1968 Summer Olympics and the gold medal at the 1966 Asian Games.
- He met Hon'ble Chairman and presented his book " My Golden days ".



### Meeting with Sikh Community

- Hon'ble Chairman Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura visited Mumbai and had a meeting with Sikh Minority Community at at Guru Nanak College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai.
- He heard the problems of representatives from community and assured them of every possible help.





## Visits of the Commission

- Member Shri DhanyaKumar Jinappa Gunde visited Assam, Mizoram and J&K.
- He chaired a meeting with the Vice-Chairman and Members of Assam Minority Department.
- He also had an interaction with Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Hon'ble Governor, Mizoram.

## Important Discussion

- Promotion of Central Government schemes for minorities in UT Govt of J&K.
- Discussion regarding Christian and Sikh Community regarding reservation in education .
- .Discussion regarding changing name of botanical garden to Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Park in Assam .
- Discussion regarding rail connectivity from Guwahati to Parasnath, Jharkhand.

## Visit to Karnataka



Ms. Rinchhen Lhamo, Member visited Karnataka . There she had a meeting with the Chairman and other staff of Karnataka State Minority Commission and assessed the implementation of State and Centrally sponsored schemes. She also emphasized to fill the vacant positions in state commission.



## Interaction with Religious Groups



## Christmas celebration at CBCI

- CBCI (Catholic Bishops' Conference of India) is an organisation that unites Catholic bishops in India.
- CBCI organised Christmas celebration on 23 December, 2024, where Hon'ble Prime Minister was the Chief Guest.
- Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura attended the Christmas celebration at CBCI.

## Visit to Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Dargah



Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura visited Ajmer and there he offered Chadar at Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Dargah.

## Meeting with 'Sarv Dharma Maitri Sangh'



Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Chairman, NCM met with all religious representatives present in Annual Festival of 'Sarv Dharm Maitri Sangh', Ajmer. He interacted with people and emphasized on religious unity.



# Honoring our Heroes we lost in 2024



## Dr. Manmohan Singh: 1932-2024

- Dr. Manmohan Singh was an Indian politician, economist, academic, and bureaucrat, who served as the prime minister of India from 2004 to 2014. He was the fourth longest-serving prime minister.
- He was the first Sikh prime minister of India.

## Sir Ratan Tata : 1937-2024



Sir Ratan Tata, a Parsi, was an Indian industrialist, philanthropist, and former chairman of Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group, one of India's largest and most respected conglomerates.

## Dr. Zakir Hussain : 1951-2024



Zakir Hussain Allarakha Qureshi was an Indian tabla player, composer, percussionist, music producer, and film actor. He was widely regarded as the greatest tabla player of his generation and one of the greatest percussionists of all time.



## Central Government Schemes



## Haj Pilgrimage: New Initiatives and Reforms

Haj, one of the Five Pillars of Islam, is a sacred pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia that Muslims aspire to undertake at least once in their lifetime.

The government has implemented several reforms to make Haj travel hassle-free, significantly enhancing digital backbone infrastructure for better accessibility and convenience. These initiatives also promote women's equality, allowing more women to undertake the pilgrimage independently.

## Details of Scheme:

- During Haj 2023, the Government of India allowed single eligible women to apply individually under the LWM (Lady Without Mehram) category. This change led to unprecedented participation, with over 5,000 women applying under the LWM category—an increase of 20% from the previous year.
- **Digitization of Haj Process** :The launch of the Haj Suvidha App on March 3, 2024, marks a significant step forward in enhancing the pilgrimage experience.

## New Initiatives by NCM



Research Study on the topic 'Outreach to the Sikh Community' that aims to understand the socio-economic condition of Sikhs in India.



## Activities of the month



## Christmas Celebration : 23.12.2024

- Hon'ble Chairman Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Ms. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary NCM and community representatives along with other officials of NCM were present during the occasion.
- Chairman emphasized the importance of interfaith dialogue and mutual respect urging everyone to come together in true spirit of Christmas and the leadership of Lord Jesus.

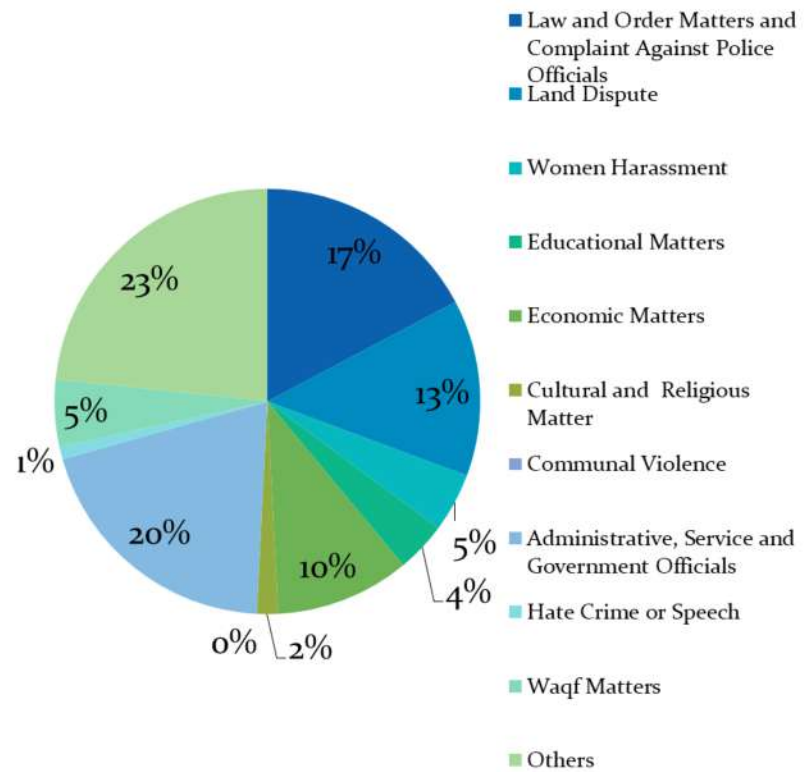
## Farewell to Members

- Every Member appointed in Commission holds a term of three years from the date they assume the office.
- Shri DhanyaKumar Gunde, Jain Member, Ms. Rinchen Lhamo, Bouddhist Member, Ms. Syed Shahezadi, Muslim Member completed their term of three years in December, 2024 and relinquished their charge .





## Category-wise Complaints in Telangana



### Expectations from the Telangana State Government

- Commission must be fully functional
- Updates regarding schemes for minority welfare must be updated in website .
- Timely reporting of the matters forwarded by the NCM.
- Effective redressal of pending grievances in state.

For further information, please visit:  
[www.telangana.gov.in](http://www.telangana.gov.in)

### Visit of Commission in Telangana



Member Ms Syed Shahezadi visited Telangana Girls Minority Residential School in Wanaparthy ,Telangana and had interaction with Students.



# Focus State: Telangana



## Suggestion for improving Grievance Resolution by state commission

There may be proper mechanism for :-

- Regular monitoring of Minorities issues at the State level at least once in a month.
- Dissemination of welfare schemes.
- Mechanism for grievance resolution at the district level (District Minority Committees).
- Resolution of Service Matters within the Govt. system – GAD circular.

## Demographics

Total Population : 3,50,03,674

- Sikh : 0.30 lakh
- Muslim : 44.6 lakh
- Christian : 4.5 lakh
- Buddhist : 0.33 lakh
- Jain : 0.26 lakh

Population in City/District :

### a. Hyderabad:

- Total Population: 69,93,262
- Muslim – 21.07 lakh
- Christian – 1.93 lakh

### b. Warangal

- Total Population: 69,93,262
- Muslim – 0.12 lakh
- Christian – 0.04 lakh

## Governance Structure in Telangana for Minorities

Head Department :

- Department of Minority Welfare

Sub-departments :

- Commissionerate / Directorate, Minorities Welfare.
- Telangana State Minorities Finance Corporation, Ltd., Hyderabad.
- Telangana State Christian (Minorities) Finance Corporation, Ltd.
- Dairatul-Maarif-il-Osmania.
- Waqf Tribunal, Hyderabad.
- Survey Commissioner of Waqf, Hyderabad.
- Telangana State Haj Committee, Hyderabad,.
- Telangana State Minorities Commission, Hyderabad .



# Impact of NCM



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## Mortal remains of 11 Indians in Georgia

- The National Commission for Minorities took Suo-moto cognizance of the incidence of the unfortunate demise of eleven Indian nationals from the minority community who were working in the restaurant business in Gudauri, Georgia.
- The Matter was taken up with the Ministry of External Affairs on 20.12.2024 for facilitating the return of bodies to their families in India as most of them were from poor background.
- In response, the Ministry of External Affairs vide their letter no. 18143/FS/2024 dated 31.12.2024 has informed that the mortal remains of all the Indian Nationals have been sent back to their families through its intervention.

Stay tuned for next  
issue!

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