

Press Release on
Celebration of Minority Day on 18th December 2024

18.12.2024

The National Commission for Minorities celebrated the Minority Day on December 18th 2024. The United Nations on December 18, 1992 adopted and broadcast the Statement on the individual's Rights belonging to Religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities. Minority Rights Day upholds the right to freedom and equal opportunities for the minorities in India and creates awareness about their rights.

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 community leaders from six minority communities – Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains, and Zoroastrians and the majority community spoke on the occasion.

In his remarks, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Ministry of Minority Affairs, Shri George Kurian emphasized to ensure the effective implementation of government schemes as the clarion call of the Hon'ble Prime Minister for "SabkaSath, SabkaVikas, SabkaVishwas". He said that Minority communities have given invaluable contributions to the rich social, cultural, and economic fabric of our nation. The Ministry of Minority Affairs, along with the National Commission for Minorities, has been working tirelessly to create an inclusive and equal society. He mentioned regarding implementation of various initiatives to uplift minority communities, including schemes for education,

skill development, financial support, and empowerment. Government actions were with the vision to ensure that no one is left behind, and that all communities, regardless of their background, have equal opportunities for progress and prosperity. He also emphasized on continuous dialogue between different communities.

The Chairman Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura while addressing the audience said that "Since its inception, the National Commission for Minorities plays a pivotal role in ensuring the protection, welfare, and empowerment of religious and linguistic minorities in India. The National Commission for Minorities has always worked to ensure that the voices of minorities are heard, their issues addressed, and their aspirations fulfilled. Through continuous engagement with State Governments, stakeholders, and minority communities, we have made significant strides in improving the lives of our citizens from all walks of life." He reiterated that with the support of the Ministry of Minority Affairs and our esteemed partners, National Commission for Minorities will continue to work towards building a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous India.

The Members of the National Commission for Minorities emphasized the Commission's efforts and stressed the importance of working diligently for the welfare of minorities.

The representatives of minority communities shared the challenges faced by minorities in India, their expectations from the State, and also offered recommendations for improving existing schemes and programs for minority welfare.

The Hon'ble Minister of State(MoS), Ministry of Minority Affairs(MoMA) released a book on `Sikhism' authored by Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura and the third edition of Newsletter of National Commission of Minorities. He also launched the Minority Day Quiz in the event encompassing the various minority communities in India.

The celebrations also included an exhibition showcasing the various schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs and work done by National Commission for Minorities.

National Commission for Minorities remains committed to advocating for the rights of minorities and promoting social harmony, believing that diversity is not only a strength but the foundation of a more prosperous and compassionate society. As we move forward, we renew our pledge to continue supporting and amplifying the voices of all communities, ensuring that Minority Day remains a catalyst for positive change towards Viksit Bharat.
