

NCM NEWSLETTER

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February, 2025 (Edition 5)



Happy Republic Day

Today, we celebrate 75 glorious years of being a Republic. We bow to all the great women and men who made our Constitution and ensured that our journey is rooted in democracy, dignity and unity. May this occasion strengthen our efforts towards preserving the ideals of our Constitution and working towards a stronger and prosperous India.

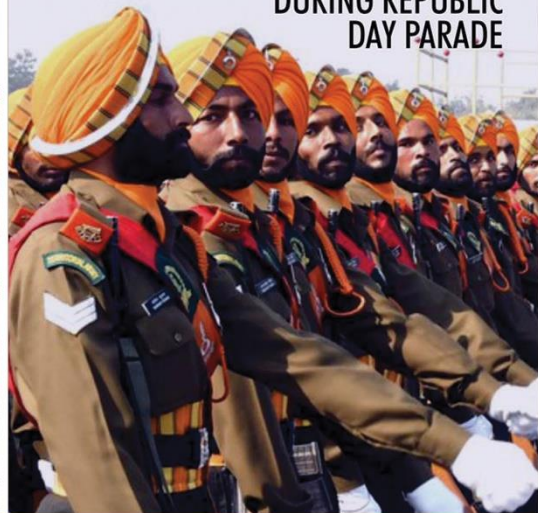
— श्री नरेंद्र मोदी
Prime Minister

Chairman Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura at the annual celebration of 'Sarva Dharma Maitri Sangh' Ajmer



DID YOU KNOW

SIKH REGIMENT IS THE ONLY REGIMENT TO SALUTE TWICE DURING REPUBLIC DAY PARADE



01/16

SAMTA SURAKSHA SAUHARD

About NCM



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक आयोग
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES

Section 15. Power to make rules

(1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:--

(a) salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of, the Chairperson and Members under sub-section (5) of section 4 and of officers and other employees under sub-section (2) of section 5;

(b) any other matter under clause (f) of sub-section (4) of section 9;

(c) the form in which the annual statement of accounts shall be maintained under sub-section (1) of section 11;

(d) the form in, and the time at, which the annual report shall be prepared under section 12;

(e) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.

(3) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

January 9, 2025

Meeting of the 'Taskforce for Preparing Guidelines for Pilgrim Amenities at Places of Worship

Hon'ble Chairman **Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura** presided over the meeting of the 'Taskforce for Preparing Guidelines for Pilgrim Amenities at Places of Worship,' exhorting all stakeholders to synergize efforts with alacrity and purpose, thereby ensuring an enriched pilgrim experience.



January 15, 2025

Hearing on minority community grievances

The Hon'ble Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities, **Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura** led a hearing on minority community grievances, reaffirming the Commission's commitment to safeguarding their rights and addressing their concerns.



03/16

SAMTA SURAKSHA SAUHARD

Meetings and recommendations

Tour Report by Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura to Chandigarh

Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities, visited Chandigarh (UT), Panchkula (Haryana), and Ludhiana (Punjab) from 17th to 18th October 2024. The purpose of the tour was to assess and address the concerns of minority communities in these regions.

Following the visit, it was recommended that letters be sent to the Union Ministers of the concerned ministries regarding issues related to the cycle industry. The Commission decided to formally write to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation to address these matters.

Tour Report by Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura to Nagpur

The Commission reviewed the tour report of Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Minorities, on his visit to Nagpur, Maharashtra, during 17th to 18th November 2024.

The decision was made to write to the concerned Ministry regarding the commencement of air services from Nagpur to Chandigarh or Amritsar sectors. The request has been made to the State Government to provide assistance to Sikligar families through Prime Minister Awas Yojana and other schemes for better living standards.



Tour Report by Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura to Chandigarh

The Commission reviewed the tour report of Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Minorities to Chandigarh and recommended that the Commission should write to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to pursue the establishment of a Medical College at Anandpur Sahib.

It was also decided that a letter will be sent to the Chief Secretary of Punjab and the Ministry of Sports to assist in the establishment of a Sports Stadium for children at Anandpur Sahib.

Additionally, it has been decided to write a letter to the concerned authorities regarding the expansion of the road at the Flyover near Kharar in District Mohali.

The recommendations and subsequent decisions are aimed at improving transportation, healthcare, and youth facilities, which will enhance the socio-economic conditions of the communities involved. Further follow-up actions will be undertaken to ensure these recommendations are implemented effectively.



Tour Report by Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura to Amritsar and Gurdaspur

The Commission reviewed the tour report of Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Minorities to Amritsar and Gurdaspur and recommended that a letter will be sent to the government on Sports Complex in Village Sathiwala and Sports Complex in Government College, Amritsar.

The Commission decided to send a letter to the concerned authorities to establish a sports complex in Village Sathiwala, District Amritsar, in commemoration of the 350th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

Similarly, the Commission decided that a letter will be sent to the concerned authorities for the establishment of a sports complex in Government College, Amritsar, to enhance sports facilities for students and the surrounding community.

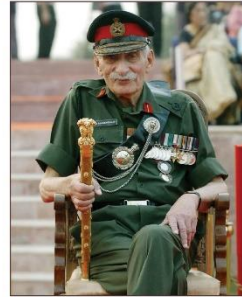
Minorities of India: Contributors to a Stronger Nation

Part - 1



Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a tireless champion for Dalit rights and social justice. A scholar, jurist, and reformer, he later embraced Buddhism, initiating a social movement toward equality. His legacy remains central to India's democratic ethos and commitment to justice for the marginalized.



Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw led India to a decisive victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak war, resulting in the creation of Bangladesh. A charismatic leader, he became the first Indian Army officer promoted to the rank of Field Marshal. Known for his wit, integrity, and courage, he remains one of India's most iconic military leaders.



Brigadier Mohammad Usman

Brigadier Mohammad Usman, known as the "Lion of Nowshera," refused to migrate during Partition and chose to serve India. He played a heroic role in the 1947-48 Indo-Pak war and was martyred in action, becoming the highest-ranking Indian Army officer to be killed in battle. He symbolizes unwavering patriotism and sacrifice.



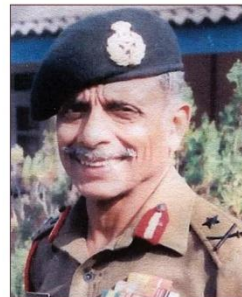
Marshal of the IAF Arjan Singh

Arjan Singh was the only officer of the Indian Air Force elevated to the five-star rank of Marshal. He led the IAF during the 1965 Indo-Pak war with exceptional skill and leadership. A war hero and a symbol of dedication, his legacy continues to inspire generations of officers in India's armed forces.



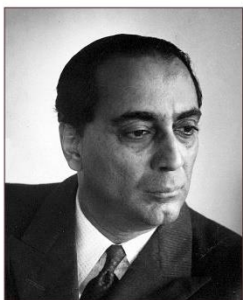
Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Arora

Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Arora was the Eastern Command Chief during the 1971 war. He led the Indian Army to a historic victory, accepting the surrender of 93,000 Pakistani soldiers in Dhaka. His leadership played a pivotal role in the liberation of Bangladesh, marking one of the most significant moments in military history.



Maj. Gen. Ian Cardozo

Major General Ian Cardozo became India's first war-disabled officer to command a battalion. During the 1971 war, he stepped on a landmine and famously amputated his own leg with a khukri. Refusing to be limited by disability, he returned to active service, exemplifying unmatched courage, resilience, and commitment to the nation.



Dr. Homi J. Bhabha

Dr. Homi J. Bhabha is hailed as the father of India's nuclear program. A visionary physicist, he played a foundational role in establishing India's atomic energy infrastructure. He founded premier institutions like the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), laying the groundwork for India's scientific and technological advancement.



Bhikaji Cama

Bhikaji Cama was a pioneering freedom fighter and one of the first to raise the voice for Indian independence on the global stage. In 1907, she unfurled a version of the Indian flag in Stuttgart, Germany. An outspoken nationalist and advocate for women's rights, she inspired generations with her courage, intellect, and unwavering commitment to India's liberation.

Tour Report by Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura to Chandigarh

Report on Chandigarh Tour of Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Minorities on 22nd December 2024 was discussed. The objective of this tour was to address various issues concerning minority communities in the region and consider the request for granting minority status to St. Stephen's School, Togan, New Chandigarh.

It was decided to write to the Chief Secretary of Chandigarh to request the competent authority to grant minority status to St. Stephen's School, Togan, New Chandigarh. This will be addressing the educational needs of minority communities, with a particular emphasis on granting minority status to St. Stephen's School, Togan. The Commission's decision to approach the Chief Secretary of Chandigarh will ensure that the school's request is processed, and the appropriate action is taken for the betterment of the institution and its students from minority communities.

Report on Mumbai Tour of Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura

Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Minorities on 8th January 2025 was discussed at the meeting. The objective of the Tour was to address various issues concerning the Sikh community in Maharashtra. The visit was aimed at reviewing the status of specific demands and grievances put forth by the community in relation to socio-religious events, legal matters, and property concerns in Mumbai and surrounding areas.

Key Areas of Focus & Recommendations:

Implementation of Anand Marriage Act in Maharashtra:

- Observation: The Sikh community has been advocating for the proper implementation of the Anand Marriage Act in Maharashtra to legally recognize marriages conducted under Sikh traditions.
- Recommendation: The Commission recommended writing to the State Government for the issuance of certificates under the Anand Marriage Act.

Rehabilitation of Displaced Sikh Families in Sion, Mumbai:

- Observation: Displaced Sikh families, particularly those who settled in Mumbai in 1947, are in need of rehabilitation and adequate support.

Recommendation: The Commission recommended writing to the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra to ensure appropriate rehabilitation measures for the affected Sikh families.

Provision of Ground for Socio-Religious Events:

- Observation: There is a need for land allocation in Greater Mumbai to facilitate the celebration of socio-religious events and gatherings for the Sikh community.
- Recommendation: It was recommended that the State Government of Maharashtra provide a Community Hall for smaller events and a ground for larger socio-religious events for the Sikh community.



Restoration of Democratically Elected Board at Sachkhand Gurudwara, Nanded:

- Observation: The community has expressed concerns over the lack of democratic representation at the Sachkhand Gurudwara in Nanded.
- Recommendation: The Commission recommended writing to the concerned authorities to restore the democratically elected board at Sachkhand Gurudwara, Nanded.



Adequate Representation in State Minority Commission & Censor Board:

- Observation: The Sikh community has raised concerns about the underrepresentation of their community in the State Minority Commission and Censor Board.
- Recommendation: It was recommended to request adequate representation for the Sikh community in both the State Minority Commission and Censor Board.



Premises Occupied by MSEB at Dadar:

- Observation: The premises at Dadar, occupied by Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB), is proposed to be restored back to the Trust for better management and use by the Sikh community.

Decisions Taken:

Anand Marriage Act Implementation:

The Commission decided to write to the State Government of Maharashtra for the issuance of certificates under the Anand Marriage Act.

Rehabilitation of Displaced Sikh Families:

The Commission decided to write to the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra regarding the rehabilitation of displaced Sikh families in Sion, Mumbai.

Ground for Socio-Religious Events:

The Commission decided to write to the State Government of Maharashtra to provide land and Community Hall for the celebration of socio-religious events of the Sikh community.

Restoration of Elected Board at Sachkhand Gurudwara:

The Commission decided to write to the concerned authorities regarding the restoration of the democratically elected board at Sachkhand Gurudwara, Nanded.

Representation in Minority Commission & Censor Board:

The Commission decided to write to the State Government of Maharashtra to ensure adequate representation for the Sikh community in the State Minority Commission and Censor Board.

6. Restoration of Dadar Premises to Trust:

The Commission decided to write to the State Government of Maharashtra for the restoration of the premises occupied by MSEB at Dadar back to the Trust.

Interaction with Community



Hon'ble Chairman **Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura** offered obeisance at Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Dadar, Mumbai and prayed for the well-being of all and Inauguration of first of its kind Career and Skill Development Academy for Sikh Youth, dedicated to the fond memory of Late Sardar Manmohan Singh Former Prime Minister of India.

This initiative aims to empower Sikh youth with career opportunities, skill training, and a brighter future, honoring the legacy of service, education, and leadership. A significant step towards youth empowerment and community development!



Maharashtra State Profile

Total Minority Population in the State as per census 2011 : 11,23,74,333 (11.23 Crore)



Muslim	1,29,71,152 (1.29 Crore)
Sikh	2,23,247 (2.23 Lakh)
Christian	10,80,073 (10.80 Lakh)
Buddhist	65,31,200 (65.31 Lakh)
Jain	14,00,349 (14.00 Lakh)

Department of minority Welfare

- (i) Maharashtra State Minorities Commission
- (ii) Maulana Azad Minority Economic Development Corporation
- (iii) Maharashtra State Haj Committee
- (iv) Maharashtra State Urdu Sahitya Akademi
- (v) Maharashtra State Wakf Board
- (vi) Chairman, Maharashtra State Wakf Tribunal

Minority related Socio-Economic issue with the State :

- To take action on the Murder case and investigation of Sikh boy in Nanded properly and provide the compensation to the poor families.
- Acquisition of Sacred Shamsan Bhumi Land owned by Poona Parsi Panchayat since around year 1825, adjacent to Army firing Range at Lullanagar.
- Look into the issue of the criteria for issuance of Minority Certificate during admission of minority students.
- Problem faced by Christian Schools and Colleges in renewal of Minority Status.
- To take suitable action for enrolment of Prakrit language as one of the Public language in NCERT syllabus.

Subject-wise/Category trends of Complaints/ Grievances 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25* (*upto 22.11.2024)

Category	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2023-24
Educational Matters	11	10	11	12
Service Matters	8	17	8	12
Law and Order Matters	18	11	18	39
Economic Matters	5	11	5	27
Cultural Rights	0	2	0	0
Religious Rights	11	3	11	9
Waqf Matters	0	3	0	7
Land Disputes	13	15	13	15
Complaint Against Administration	2	0	2	1
Harassment misbehave against Women	14	5	14	15
Complaint against Govt. officials	10	2	10	9
Complaint against Police Officials	6	14	6	5
Complaints on communal violence	1	0	1	4
Hate Crime or Speech	6	8	6	3
Others	35	49	35	37
Total	140	150	140	195



Restoring Dignity, Honoring Legacy: A Step Towards Justice for 1984 Riot Victims

In a landmark move towards healing and justice, the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has successfully advocated for the renaming of 'Vidhwa Colony' in West Delhi to Mata Gujri Colony. This decision, long pursued by the NCM through continuous appeals and follow-ups, marks a significant step in restoring dignity to the survivors of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Once a painful reminder of loss and displacement, the colony now bears the name of Mata Gujri Ji, the revered mother of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, symbolizing strength and resilience. Chairman Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura extended heartfelt gratitude to Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena and all stakeholders who contributed to this historic change.



Beyond renaming, the NCM's persistent advocacy led to another major breakthrough—educational and age relaxation for 1984 riot victims seeking government jobs as MTS. This long-overdue policy shift, achieved through consistent engagement with authorities, ensures that survivors and their families receive meaningful opportunities to rebuild their lives with dignity.

These initiatives are more than administrative changes—they are the result of dedicated efforts, continuous follow-ups, and unwavering commitment by the NCM. By preserving the legacy of the victims and creating avenues for a better future, this movement brings hope, respect, and recognition to a community that has endured immense hardship.

Empowering Minority Women Nai Roshni Scheme

Launched by: Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India

Objective: Leadership development of women from minority communities

Target Beneficiaries: Women from Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, and Parsi communities

Key Features:

- Provides leadership and skill development training to empower minority women.
- Covers areas like health, financial literacy, digital awareness, legal rights, and social participation.
- Training is provided free of cost through NGOs, civil societies, and government institutions.
- Helps women become self-reliant, confident, and active participants in decision-making.

Impact:

- Thousands of women have benefitted across India.
- Encourages entrepreneurship, employment, and social awareness among minority women.
- Supports the Modi government's vision of women-led development and inclusive growth.

Motto: "Empowering Women, Transforming Lives!"



Contact us @

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