

National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

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Why in News?

Over a month after the Delhi High Court sought the Centre's response on delayed appointments in the National Commission for Minorities, Union Ministry for Minority Affairs remained non-committal.

- It is established to **safeguard and protect the interests of the country's minority communities.**
- **Established in** -1978 under a Ministry of Home Affairs resolution.
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi.
- **Purpose** - To address feelings of inequality and discrimination among minorities despite constitutional safeguards.
- **Statutory Status** - By enacting the ***National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992***, the commission became a **statutory body**.
- In 1988, its jurisdiction was narrowed; **linguistic minorities excluded** by resolution of Ministry of Welfare.
- **Constitutional Provisions** - To safeguard the interests of minorities are mandated under
 - Preamble,
 - Fundamental Rights (Article 14, 15, 16, 25-30),
 - DPSP (Article 38, 46),
 - Fundamental duties, and
 - Other articles - Article 347, 350A, 350B.
- **Notified Minority Communities** -

Religion	Number(In crores)	%
Muslims	17.22	14.2
Christians	2.78	2.3
Sikhs	2.08	1.7
Buddhists	.84	0.7
Jains	.45	0.4
Total	23.37	19.30
Source : Census 2011		
NOTE: Population of Parsis is not mentioned in Census 2011. However, it is estimated to be around 57,000.		

- **Composition** - As per NCM Act, 1992, a ***total of 7 members*** - Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, 5 Members were nominated by the Central Government.
 - All the members are drawn from diverse minority communities.
- **Tenure** - Each member serves ***3 years*** term.
- **Removal** - The Chairperson and members are removed by the Central Government if they -
 - Are adjudged insolvent,
 - Take up paid employment outside their duties,
 - Refuse or become incapable of acting,
 - Are declared of unsound mind by a court,
 - Abuse their office, or
 - Are convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude.
- **Powers** - It has ***quasi-judicial power*** and enjoys powers equivalent to a ***civil court*** under the Code of Civil Procedure.
- **Functions** - It acts as an advisor, and researcher by evaluating progress, monitoring safeguards, addressing complaints, suggesting policies, and reporting to the government to protect minority rights.
- **Complaints handled** - Common complaints includes police atrocities, service matters, minority educational institutions and encroachments on religious properties.

References

1. [The Hindu | Delay in appointments to NCM](#)
2. [NCM | National Commission for Minorities](#)