

Commission resumes hearing of pending cases online

Full bench of West Bengal Information Commission has decided in its review meeting dated 18.05.2020 through teleconferencing that the Commission will resume hearings of 2nd Appeals and Complaints pending before it in the following manner:–

- For enlisting cases for hearing, chronology of date of receipt of 2nd Appeal / Complaints in the Commission will be followed as usual, as far as practicable except such cases that cannot be resolved by hearing from distance / where verification of reports or files cannot be avoided etc., although the cases may be in chronology.

The Commission will decide the matters to be taken up for hearing on case to case basis.

- Hearings will be conducted online using ZOOM platform. Public authorities will be required to download Zoom application on their computer / mobile / tablet to join the hearing from their own place.

Appellants / Complainants may participate in hearing process through Zoom / WhatsApp Call / Telephone Call from their own place.

To enable the appellants / complainants in joining the hearing, Commission will take up such cases where the petitioners have provided their contact No. and / or e-mail ID for communication of hearing date / time etc.

- Hearing notice need not be sent by post in the current situation.
- Office of the West Bengal Information Commission will communicate the hearing schedule to the petitioner and the Public Authority by whatsapp / e-mail / telephone call until further instruction.
- Order of the Commission in respect of the cases heard as above, will be uploaded in the Commission's website.
- Those petitioners who initially did not provide their contact details, may share the same with the Commission by e-mail clearly mentioning their name, date of submission of 2nd appeal / complaints along with docket number to facilitate the Commission take up their cases for hearing in distant mode, following chronology.

Commission will review the situation periodically and will start normal hearings after the COVID – 19 pandemic comes under control and availability of public transport becomes regular.