

Important decision of the West Bengal Information Commission

Full Bench of the West Bengal Information Commission has assessed the situation of **Covid – 19** and has observed that the current situation does not allow holding of physical hearings of the appeals and complaints filed / pending with it due to restricted transport operation and movement in containment zones.

Therefore, as decided earlier, Commission will continue hearing pending cases of urgent nature and such other cases in which scrutinizing of records is not required by use of I.T. enabled platform. It is also observed by the Commission that most of appellants and complainants have not provided their contact details (e.g. Mobile no. and e-mail id) in their petitions nor did they provide the same in spite of notice on Commission's website, making it difficult for the Commission to send hearing notice in time.

Therefore, full Bench of the Commission has decided to consider such pending cases (where petitioner's contact no. is not available) on basis of records and pass interim orders, for compliance by the Public Authorities and subject to final decision after hearing both parties on a subsequent date (through V.C., teleconferencing or other means of communication)

This Commission has so far conducted hearings by hybrid methods including video-conferencing and telephony. The Commission has passed orders in respect of 51 cases during June, 2020 and in respect of 45 cases up to 15th July, 2020.

However, Commission desires that the appellants and complainants should come forward and provide their contact details to the office through official e-mail id (scic-wb@nic.in) so that more and more cases are disposed of by conduct hearings.

Let the decision be put up on Commission's website for information of all concerned.

Sd/-

(Raj Kanojia)
State Information Commissioner
West Bengal

Sd/-

(G.M.P. Reddy)
State Information Commissioner
West Bengal

Sd/-

(B. Banerjee)
State Chief Information Commissioner
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