

01.10.2024
Item No.83
Ct. No.15
S.A.

WPA 24958 of 2024

Shampa Paul & Ors.

-vs-

The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Sabyasachi Chatterjee

Mr. Pintu Karar

Mr. Akashdeep Mukherjee

Mr. Badrul Karim

...for the petitioners

Mr. Sandip Ghose

Mr. Sudarsan Roy

Mr. Debayan Ghosh

Mr. D. Majumder

...for the Municipality

Mr. Lalit Mohan Mahata

Mr. Prasanta Behari Mahata

...for the State

The petitioners assert that they are members of a Durga Puja committee known as the Ramkrishna Durgotsav Committee (Mahila). They allege that their application to perform the Durga Puja has not been processed by the North Dum Dum Municipality due to their refusal to accept a government grant for the Puja. The petitioners further contend that the local Councillor has declined to endorse the application seeking permission from the Municipality.

It is undisputed that the Durga Puja has been conducted by this committee at the specified premises for over two decades. The learned advocates representing the Municipality and the State submit that the organizers have not yet submitted applications for necessary approvals from the fire

licensing authority, the electricity authority, local police, and the concerned Sub-Divisional Officer.

I find no justifiable reason for the Councillor's refusal to endorse the application form. Aside from the non-submission of the prescribed form, no other objections have been raised before this Court by the respondents against the petitioners.

In light of these considerations, this writ petition is disposed of with the following directions:

1. North Dum Dum Municipality shall accept the application submitted by the petitioners (as found on page 36 of the writ petition), regardless of the local Councillor's signature, and grant the necessary permission to perform the Durga Puja within 72 hours from the date of this order.

2. The petitioners are directed to apply for electricity connection, fire license, police permission, and administrative permission within 48 hours from the date of this order.

3. The relevant authorities shall process these applications within 72 hours from the date of receipt of the application to ensure that the Durga Puja is conducted with adequate safety measures. All respondents are expected to provide assistance in maintaining the festive atmosphere.

Accordingly, **WPA 24958 of 2024** is disposed of.

Urgent certified photocopy of this order, if applied for, be supplied to the parties on compliance of usual legal formalities.

(Kausik Chanda, J.)