

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITY
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (NCMEI)**

Case No.115 of 2026

In the matter of :-

**Elpro International School, Survey No. 221/A-7, Amenity Space-2, Hinjewadi Phase 1,
Behind Wipro Company, Hinjewadi, Pune, Maharashtra - 411057.**

.....Petitioner

V/s

**Joint Secretary, Minorities Development Department, Room No. 715, Mantralaya (Annexe),
Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400032.**

.....Respondent

Present: Mr. Junais P., Advocate for the petitioner.
None for the respondent.

ORDER

DATED: 12.08.2026

Dr. Shahid Akhter, Member, (NCMEI)

1. This petition has been received on 14.05.2026 by hand through Mr. Junais P., Advocate of the petitioner institution for grant of Minority Status Certificate (in short 'MSC') to Elpro International School, Survey No. 221/A-7, Amenity Space -2, Hinjewadi Phase 1, Behind Wipro Company, Hinjewadi, Pune, Maharashtra – 411057.
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner filed an affidavit of Mihir Shah, Director of Hind Charity & Welfare Foundation in support of the averments made in the petition and also to prove that the beneficiaries of the petitioner institution are members of the Jain minority community and stating therein that the petitioner institution shall not deny admission of eligible candidate of the Jain minority community subject to the eligibility of the students and availability of the accommodation in the petitioner institution.
3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has filed copy of Unique ID No.: WB/2023/0360601 of the petitioner Company as given by the Niti Aayog Portal NGO Darpan, photocopy of application dated 19.01.2026 sent to the State Competent Authority along with postal receipt and its tracking report, notarized copies of Certificate of Incorporation of Hind Charity & Welfare Foundation as a company under the companies Act, 2013(18 of 2013), Memorandum of Association, Rules and Regulations along with list of founding members, Memorandum of Association dated 25.11.2022 alongwith list of present members of the Hind Charity & Welfare Foundation, notarized copy of recognition order dated 07.01.2026 issued by the Deputy Secretary, CBSE granting affiliation for the period of 01.04.2026 to 31.03.2031 the unaided petitioner institution and resolution of the General Body of the Society in favour of Hind Charity & Welfare Foundation for obtaining MSC from this Commission.
4. As per the information supplied by the petitioner unaided institution with regard to students strength as on Academic Year 2025-26, it is mentioned that out of total 304 students, 09 students were from the Jain minority community, 01 student was from the Buddhist community and 294 students were Hindu. In the year 2026-27, it is mentioned that out of total 688 students, 02 students were from the Muslim minority community, 01 student was

from the Sikh minority community, 01 student was from the Buddhist minority community, 16 students were from Jain minority community, and 668 students were Hindu. It is relevant to mention here that during the academic year 2025-26, out of the total 41 teachers, all the teachers were Hindu. In the academic year 2026-27, out of the total 74 teachers, all the teachers were Hindu. It is stated in the petition that on dated 19.01.2026, the petitioner institution has applied to the State Competent Authority for grant of NOC which was received by the State Competent Authority on 20.01.2026 and the said application is still pending before the State Competent Authority. The State Competent Authority has not granted NOC in favour of the petitioner institution till now and also not rejected the said application and not communicated the same to the petitioner. After 90 days from the receipt of the application for grant of NOC, the petitioner has filed this petition for grant of MSC to this Commission straightway as per the provisions of Section 10 and 11(f) of National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (in short 'NCMEI') Act, 2004.

5. After service of registered notice dated 02.06.2026, no reply/response has been received from the respondent. Thereafter in the facts and circumstances of the case, Commission deemed fit and proper that physical inspection report along with recommendation may be obtained from the Committee constituted by this Commission for issuance of MSC to the petitioner institution vide order dated 09.07.2026. After service of letter/emails to the physical inspection committee dated 10.07.2026, Physical Inspection Committee, vide letter dated 03.08.2026 has sent Physical Inspection Report which was received by post in the Commission's Office on dated 05.08.2026 which was duly signed by all the members of the physical Inspection Committee.
6. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner, perused the pleading of the petition, the documents filed by the petitioner and affidavit of Mihir Shah, Director of Hind Charity & Welfare Foundation.
7. Hon'ble Apex Court, various High Courts as well as this Commission in case of Buckley Primary School, Cuttack, Orissa Vs. Government of Orissa (order passed by the Commission in Case No. 1320 of 2009 dated 06.07.2010) have categorically held that the percentage of admission of students from notified minority community in a minority educational institution is not an indicia for determining the minority status of such institution. This Commission has also decided that there must be reasonable strength of students of particular minority community in a minority educational institution. The percentage could be determined based on the actual proportion of specific minority community in the State population as per prevailing census. Population of Jain minority community in the State of Maharashtra as per the census of 2011 is 1.25%.
8. The petitioner institution has applied for grant of minority status certificate on the ground that the same has been established primarily for the benefit of the members of the Jain minority community and is being administered by Hind Charity & Welfare Foundation which is managed and run by the members of the Jain minority community. The aforesaid averments made in the petition find ample corroboration from the documentary evidence produced on behalf of the petitioner institution and the affidavit of Mihir Shah, Director of Hind Charity & Welfare Foundation.
9. The Memorandum of Association dated 25.11.2022 for the petitioner company and all the documents produced by the petitioner institution clearly reflects that the beneficiaries of the petitioner institution are primarily the members of the Jain minority community. In addition, the said facts also stand proved from the documents and affidavit filed by the petitioner. There is no document on record to rebut the documentary evidence produced on behalf of

the petitioner institution.

10. Relying on the said un rebutted evidence produced on behalf of the petitioner, we find and hold that Elpro International School, Survey No. 221/A-7, Amenity Space-2, Hinjewadi Phase 1, Behind Wipro Company, Hinjewadi, Pune, Maharashtra – 411057 run by Hind Charity & Welfare Foundation is eligible for grant of minority status on religious basis. The evidence also proves that the said educational institution was established with the main objective of sub-serving the interests of the Jain minority community.
11. Consequently, Elpro International School, Survey No. 221/A-7, Amenity Space-2, Hinjewadi Phase 1, Behind Wipro Company, Hinjewadi, Pune, Maharashtra – 411057 is declared as an unaided minority educational institution covered under Article 30 of the Constitution of India with in the meaning of Section 2(g) of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004.
12. A minority status certificate be issued accordingly.
13. In view of the above, the present petition is disposed of in accordance with this order.

Signed, pronounced and published on **Wednesday, 12th day of August, 2026.**

DR. SHAHID AKHTER
MEMBER

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