

17-01-2025  
Item No.7  
Subrata  
Bhattacharyya  
AR(C)

**IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA**  
CONSTITUTIONAL WRIT JURISDICTION  
Appellate Side

**WPA No.1373 of 2025**  
**Visva Hindu Parishad, Dakshinbanga & Anr.**  
**-vs-**  
**The State of West Bengal & Ors.**

Mr. Subir Sanyal, sr. adv.  
Mr. Partha Sarathi Deb Barman, adv.  
Mr. Osman Mallick, adv.  
Ms. Sumouli Sarkar, adv.  
Mr. Anindya Sundar Das, adv.  
Mr. Surajit Mukherjee, adv.  
Mr. Arup Dasgupta, adv.  
Mr. Syed Ali Afzal, adv.  
Mr. Suman Halder, adv.  
Mr. Pronay Basak, adv. ...for the petitioners

Mr. Anand Farmania, adv.  
Ms. Nibedita Barui, adv. ...for the State

Mr. Supratim Laha, adv.  
Mr. Suman Kumar Mukherjee, adv.  
Ms. Esha Majumdar, adv.  
Mr. Arijeet Doss Mullick, adv. ....for the Guild

1. Affidavit of service filed in Court be taken on record.
2. In response to the advertisement published by the Publishers & Booksellers Guild inviting applications from participants to participate in the 48<sup>th</sup> International Kolkata Book Fair to be held from January 28, 2025 to February 9, 2025, the petitioners applied for a stall on October 22, 2024.
3. In the application, it was specifically mentioned that the petitioners were participants in the same book fair for the last several years, and that this

year also a place may be allotted to them. The application was kept pending.

4. On January 10, 2025, a representation was made seeking information with regard to their application. As no response was forthcoming and the said book fair is scheduled to start from January 28, 2025, the petitioners approached this Court for relief.
5. Learned counsel appearing for the Guild, the eighth and ninth respondents herein, submits that the application of the petitioners was not in form and hence the same stood rejected at the very threshold. It has also been contended that the petitioners do not qualify the conditions required for participating in the said book fair. The petitioners approached this Court at a very delayed stage only after filing a representation on January 10, 2025.
6. The question of maintainability of the writ petition has also been raised on behalf of the Guild.
7. From the documents annexed to the writ petition, it appears that the petitioners participated in the Kolkata Book Fair for the last several years. The book fair is being conducted by the Guild for the last several years and the Guild must be having all documents of the petitioners, because the Guild permitted the petitioners to participate in the earlier book fairs as well. All on a sudden, without intimating any shortcomings in the petitioners' application, the authority claims to have rejected their application.
8. However, to enable learned counsel for the Guild to obtain proper instructions as to whether the terms and conditions of the present book fair

were made known to the petitioners or not, hearing is adjourned.

9. List the writ petition as an urgent motion for consideration on January 20, 2025.
10. All parties are to act on the server copy of this order duly downloaded from the official website of this Court.

[Amrita Sinha, J]