

# Is this Secularism or Encouraging Communalism?

The West Bengal Government on Saturday (08/10/2022) organised a grand Durga Puja Immersion Carnival on the city's Red Road in which about **100 big ticket community Puja committees participated**. The carnival, which was held after a gap of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was conceived by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in 2018.

Ms. Banerjee along with her Cabinet colleagues, top officials of the State Government, dignitaries from foreign embassies and consulates were present at the venue on Red Road as the hundred Durga Puja organisers along with the idols and a cultural troupe went past the city thoroughfare with a song and dance celebrating the autumn festival.

The event started with a performance by Kolkata Police's 'Daredevil' force displaying acrobatics on motorcycles followed by a performance of over 300 dancers by the dance troupe of Dona Ganguly. This was followed by the community Durga Puja clubs going past one after the other with cultural performances which included various traditional forms like Chhau dance and folk dance forms from different parts of the country.

From the Red Road, the Durga Puja idols went for immersion to different ghats of river Hooghly. Ms. Banerjee witnessed the ceremony that went on for more than three hours.

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