GS Article – West Bengal Assembly passes resolution to rename State as 'Bangla'

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West Bengal Assembly passes resolution to rename State as 'Bangla'

In the news

West Bengal state assembly on 26th July 2018 has unanimously passed resolution to change state's name to ‘Bangla’ in all three languages – Bengali, Hindi and English. The name change will only become official when resolution gets approval from Union Home Ministry and Parliament passes Bill.

What lead to Name Change?

- The main reason given by State Government for changing name of West Bengal to Bangla is that whenever there is meeting of all states, West Bengal figures at bottom of the list, as it is prepared according to alphabetical order.

- With change in its Bangla, it will appear (or leapfrog) to fourth place after Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in the list of states in alphabetical order.

- One other common reason for change in name of West Bengal is that there is no East Bengal anymore and so calling the state West Bengal is irrelevant, to say the least. East Bengal came into being with the partition of Bengal in 1905, which was reversed in 1911. In 1947, Bengal was partitioned again, but the eastern portion was named East Pakistan, which became Bangladesh in 1971. Thus, there exists a strong case for renaming West Bengal as simply Bengal.

Background

- The move of comes West Bengal state assembly to change name of state comes almost two years after it first passed a resolution to change the name of the State in August 2016. The state government had earlier submitted a proposal to the Centre to change the name of West Bengal to to Bengal in English, Bangla in Bengali and Bangal in Hindi. The proposal was turned down by Union Home Ministry.

- Prior to 2016, the state's legislative assembly had passed a proposal twice to change the name of the state to Bangla—once in 1999, under the Left rule and, again in 2011,

- CM Mamta Banerjee always wanted the state to be referred to as Bengal in English, but in the end she had to settle for Bangla. The decision to take Bangla as the new name was made in 2017.
History of Change of Name for States of India.

Many traditional place names were changed in India during British rule, as well as a limited number during earlier Muslim conquests. Ever since the British left India in 1947, Many States throughout India were changed back to their original names. Certain traditional names that have not been changed, however, continue to be popular.

States or province

1) East Punjab to Punjab (change effective from 26 January 1950; state later trifurcated into modern-day Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab under the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966; Chandigarh becomes a Union Territory and the shared capital city of Punjab and Haryana)

2) United Provinces to Uttar Pradesh (change effective from 26 January 1950)

3) Madras Presidency’s Telugu region (known as Andhra at the time or Trilingadesa or Andhra in old times) and Hyderabad state’s Telugu region (known as Naizam at the time) were combined and formed as Andhra Pradesh in 1956. Andhra Pradesh was divided in 2014 and Naizam formed as Telangana state and Andhra (with the exception of most of Bhadrachalam Constituency, Munagala enclave, etc which were part of original Andhra of Madras Presidency) is referred to as Andhra Pradesh or Navya Andhra Pradesh.

4) Travancore-Cochin to Kerala (change effective from 1 November 1956)

5) Madhya Bharat to Madhya Pradesh (change effective from 1 November 1959)

6) Madras State to Tamil Nadu (change effective from 14 January 1969)

7) Mysore to Karnataka (change effective from 1 November 1973)

8) Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand (change effective from 1 January 2007)

9) Orissa to Odisha (official as of November 2011)

Procedure of changing name of state

Process for changing the name of a state can be initiated by state itself. However, by virtue of article 3 of Constitution, Parliament has power to change name of state even if such proposal does not come from the concerned state.

If initiated by state assembly, it will first pass a resolution for such change and this passed resolution will be sent to Central government (Union Home Ministry). Then Union Home Ministry prepares note for Union Cabinet for amendment to Schedule 1 of Constitution. Thereafter, Constitution Amendment Bill is introduced in Parliament under Article 3 of Constitution, which has to be approved with simple majority, before President gives his assent to it. Thereafter name of state will be changed.
The example of such change is change in name of Orissa to Odisha. The Government of Orissa initiated this change in 2008 when it forwarded resolution passed by State Legislative Assembly to Union Government to change name of state from Orissa to Odisha. This bill was passed by Parliament as Orissa (Alteration of Name) Act, 2010 to rename state.

Without a proposal of state Article 3 empowers the parliament make changes in area, boundaries, territory, name of states even if such proposal does not come from the concerned state. For this purpose, the central government can simply get a bill passed in the parliament. However, constitution mandates that whenever such things need to be done, states must be given an opportunity to express their views. Thus, first central government will create a bill, but this bill can be introduced in parliament only by recommendation of the president. Before making such recommendation, President would send this bill to concerned state legislature and give it a fixed time to express its view on that matter. However, state’s view has no actual impact for fate of such bill. Whether the state says yes or no, once the time given to it has passed, the President may recommend the bill to be introduced in any house of parliament. Once passed the name of state gets changed.

Conclusion

- Alternation of names, boundaries etc. of states is a prerogative of parliament and parliament has final say on this matter.

- Such a bill is introduced in parliament by prior recommendation of president {because states’ interests may be involved here}

- States are asked to express their views in stipulated time but practically their view does not matter. Once that time is expired, parliament can enact the law even if they say no.

Source : TH, India today, wiki

Important Question for Exam

Q. Procedure for creation of New state in India and renaming state of India.