

Proposal for Renaming of West Bengal

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Why in News?

West Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya stated that a bill would be introduced in the first session of the state Assembly to rename West Bengal as "Paschim Banga."

The proposal seeks to link the state's official name with its historical and cultural identity.

Constitutional Provisions

The renaming of a state involves the following constitutional provisions:

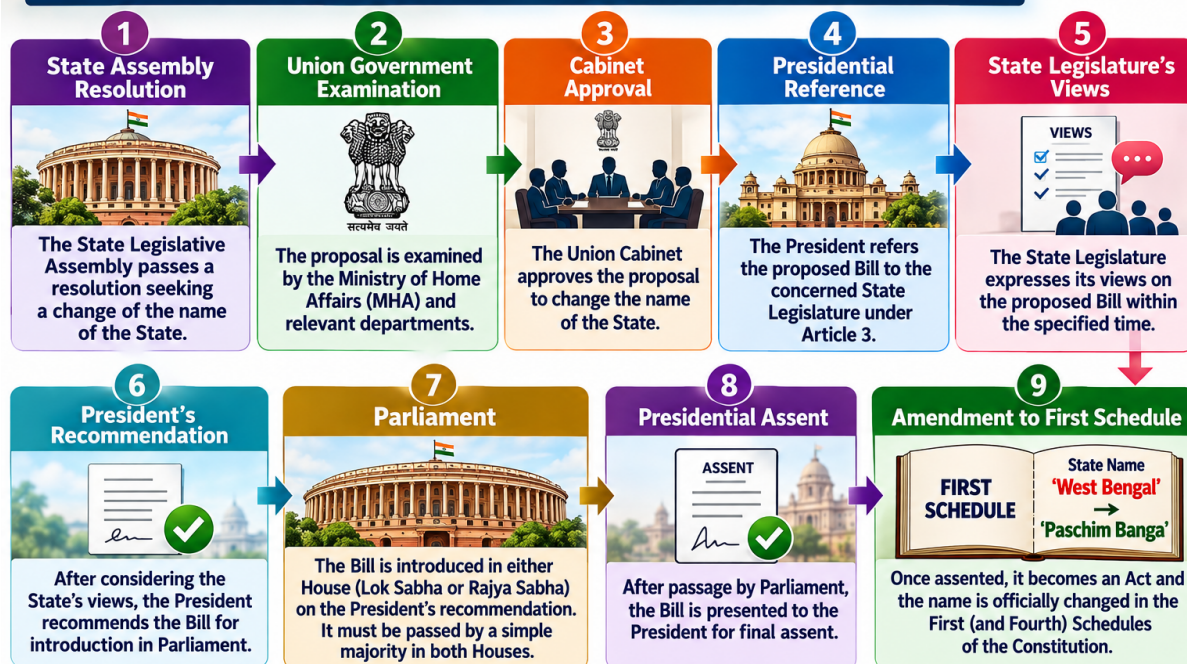
Article	Provision	Relevance
 Article 3	Formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States	Provides the constitutional procedure for changing a state's name.
 Article 4	Laws under Articles 2 and 3 and related amendments to the First and Fourth Schedules	Such laws are not treated as constitutional amendments under Article 368.
 Article 368	Procedure for constitutional amendments	The special amendment procedure under Article 368 is not required for a state-name change under Article 3.



Procedure for Renaming a State

- **Presidential Recommendation** - A bill under Article 3 may be introduced in Parliament solely upon the recommendation of the President.
- **Reference to the State Legislature** - If the proposal concerns the name of a state, the President refers the bill to the relevant state legislature to obtain its views within a specified period.
- **Parliamentary Legislation** - Parliament examines and passes the bill using the standard legislative process.
- **Presidential Assent** - The bill attains the status of law upon receiving the President's assent.

PROCESS TO CHANGE THE NAME OF A STATE



NOTE: The State Legislature's opinion is not binding on Parliament. Parliament can proceed even if the State disagrees.

Historical Background of West Bengal's Renaming Proposals

Year	Development
1999	The Left Front government proposed the name Paschim Banga.
2011	After the Trinamool Congress came to power, the state again proposed Paschim Banga.
2016	The state considered different names in Bengali, English and Hindi before proposing Bangla in all three languages.
July 2018	The West Bengal Assembly passed a resolution proposing the name Bangla.
2019	The Union government informed the Rajya Sabha that the proposed change had not been approved.
October 2026	BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya announced the intention to introduce a Bill proposing Paschim Banga.

Reference

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