

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

LAW DEPARTMENT

Legislative

West Bengal Act XVIII of 2001¹

**THE WEST BENGAL CAPITAL CITY
(CHANGE OF NAME) ACT, 2001.**

[*Passed by the West Bengal Legislature.*]

[Assent of the Governor was first published in the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary*, of the 28th August, 2001.]

An Act to alter the name of the Capital City of the State of West Bengal, Calcutta.

WHEREAS it is expedient to change the name of the City of Calcutta and to give effect to the changed name, *Kolkata*, in place of Calcutta, so far and so long accepted universally in any law or document or instrument, on any structure, building, monument, road, lake, ground or any object of public importance or any other instrument having the force of law;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to rename '*Calcutta*' as '*Kolkata*' in consideration of the historical, social and cultural aspect of this State and its Capital City;

It is hereby enacted in the Fifty-second Year of the Republic of India, by the Legislature of West Bengal, as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the West Bengal Capital City (Change of Name) Act, 2001.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from the 1st day of January, 2001.

Short title
and
commence-
ment.

¹For proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, see the proceedings of the meeting of that Assembly held on the 30th July, 2001.

(Sections 2-5.)

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

- (1) “Approved Spelling” means the spelling as stated in section 3;
- (2) “Calcutta” means the name of the Capital City of the State of West Bengal prior to the commencement of this Act;
- (3) “*Kolkata*” means the name of the Capital City of the State of West Bengal on and from the date of commencement of this Act;
- (4) “Law” includes any enactment, ordinance, regulation, order, rule, scheme, notification, bye-law or other instrument having the force of law in the whole or any part of the State.

Spelling.

3. Approved spelling of the name of the Capital City of the State of West Bengal shall be described as follows:—

Bengali

Roman

Devanagari

কলকাতা

Kolkata

कोलकाता

Substitution
of the name
of Calcutta
to *Kolkata*.

4. The name of the Capital City of the State of West Bengal, Calcutta shall on and from the date of commencement of this Act be known as *Kolkata*.

The word
‘Calcutta’ to
be read as
‘*Kolkata*’.

5. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the word ‘Calcutta’ occurring in any Act, Ordinance, Order, bye-law, rule, regulation, notification, custom or usage or other instrument having the force of law shall be read as ‘*Kolkata*’ having the boundaries of ‘Calcutta’ as defined in sub-section (9) of section 2 of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation Act, 1980.

West Ben.
Act LIX of
1980.

XVIII of 2001.]

**Statement of Objects and Reasons on the West Bengal Capital City
(Change of Name) Bill, 2001 (Bill No. 25 of 2001).**

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

Consequent upon an all-party resolution adopted by our Legislative Assembly, the State Government made out a proposal to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs to rename 'Calcutta' as '*Kolkata*'. On receipt of 'No objection' from the Government of India, the State Government decided to bring about the change in the name of 'Calcutta' with effect from the 1st day of January, 2001, and issued a notification to that effect. The said notification was published in an *Extraordinary* issue of the *Calcutta Gazette* being No. 376-Home (Cons.) dated, Calcutta, the 27th December, 2000.

2. The State Government now considers that a legislation should be made in order to give effect to the changed name '*Kolkata*' in place of 'Calcutta', so far and so long accepted universally in any law or document or instrument or on any structure, building, monument, road, lake, ground or any object of public importance or any other instrument having the force of law.

3. The Bill has been framed with the above objects in view.

KOLKATA,
The 23rd July, 2001.

BUDDHADEB BHATTACHARJEE,
Member-in-charge.