West Bengal Cabinet approves 'Paschim Banga' as the State's name

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News

The West Bengal Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, on 23 Nov 2026 approved a proposal to rename the State 'Paschim Banga'. A resolution will be placed in the Legislative Assembly on 9 December (winter session from 4 December). The Chief Minister said the change needs the Union Government's approval and the constitutional and legal formalities; the new name takes effect only after Parliament passes a law; until then the official name stays West Bengal.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Decision	State Cabinet approval, 23 Nov 2026
Next step	Assembly resolution (9 Dec), then Union Government and Parliament
Earlier attempts	2011 ('Paschim Banga') and 2018 ('Bangla') not approved by the Centre

Background

- Article 3 of the Constitution lets Parliament change the name, area or boundaries of a State by simple majority. The Bill needs the President's recommendation, and the President refers it to the State

Legislature for its views, which are not binding on Parliament. Such a law is not a constitutional amendment under Article 368.

- Earlier renamings: Mysore → Karnataka (1973), Uttaranchal → Uttarakhand (2007), Orissa → Odisha (2011).

Tamil Nadu link: Madras State became Tamil Nadu under the Madras State (Alteration of Name) Act, 1968, effective 14 January 1969, under Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai. Sankaralinganar fasted unto death in 1956 demanding this name.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The West Bengal Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, on 23 Nov 2026 approved a proposal to rename the State 'Paschim Banga'. A resolution will be placed in the Legislative Assembly on 9 December (winter session from 4 December).

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Decision: State Cabinet approval, 23 Nov 2026; Next step: Assembly resolution (9 Dec), then Union Government and Parliament; Earlier attempts: 2011 ('Paschim Banga') and 2018 ('Bangla') not approved by the Centre.

What is the background to this news?

Article 3 of the Constitution lets Parliament change the name, area or boundaries of a State by simple majority. The Bill needs the President's recommendation, and the President refers it to the State Legislature for its views, which are not binding on Parliament.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. What new name for the State did the West Bengal Cabinet approve on 23 Nov 2026?

A) Banga Pradesh

B) Paschim Banga

C) Gauda Banga

D) Bangla

Answer: B – Explanation: The Suvendu Adhikari government will move a resolution on 9 Dec; earlier renaming proposals were not approved by the Centre.

2. Which Article empowers Parliament to change the name of a State?

A) Article 368

B) Article 370

C) Article 2

D) Article 3

Answer: D – Explanation: Article 3 covers forming States and changing their area, boundaries or names; Article 2 is about admitting new territories.

3. Consider – which is/are correct?

1. Parliament can rename a State by simple majority.

2. The State Legislature's views bind Parliament.

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A – Explanation: An Article 3 law passes by simple majority; the President seeks the State's views, but they do not bind Parliament.

4. In 2018, the West Bengal Assembly passed a resolution to rename the State, in Bengali, English and Hindi alike, as:

A) Bangla

B) Paschim Banga

C) Gauda Banga

D) Banga Pradesh

Answer: A – Explanation: The July 2018 resolution proposed 'Bangla', but the Centre did not approve it; a 2011 resolution had proposed 'Paschimbanga'. Under Article 3 the final decision rests with Parliament.

5. What was the main demand of Sankaralinganar, who died fasting in 1956?

A) Opposing Hindi imposition

B) Retrieving Katchatheevu

C) Rights over Mullaperiyar dam

D) Renaming Madras State as 'Tamil Nadu'

Answer: D – Explanation: Sankaralinganar of Virudhunagar fasted 76 days and died on 13 Oct 1956; the name came true in 1969.