

Karnataka State, India: Name Changes

Karnataka is a state in South West India. The official language of the state is Kannada¹.

Karnataka comprises 30 second-order administrative divisions, known as districts². The governor of Karnataka has issued a notification, which came into effect on 1st November 2014, officially changing the spellings of the names of 12 cities in the state to reflect the names in the local Kannada language. Several of these cities are the administrative seats of the districts of the same name. While the official notification refers to the cities, it appears that the district names are also changing³.

These name changes are not yet reflected on all Indian government websites. The previous spellings are still used in the list of districts on the Official Website of the Government of Karnataka, but the new names are included on the National Informatics Centre (NIC) website⁴ and they can also be found on some district and city websites (see the table on the next page). It is likely to be some time before all names on signs are updated to reflect the changes⁵ and institutions such as Mysore University and Bangalore University are expected to retain their existing names⁶.

PCGN policy for India is to use the Roman-script geographical names found on official sources⁷. The new names listed on the next page should be used for the populated places and the districts on all future UK government products or updates. In cases where the previous name is well-known or differs significantly from the new name, e.g. Bengaluru (Bangalore), Mangaluru (Mangalore), Vijayapura (Bijapur), Kalaburagi (Gulbarga) and Mysuru (Mysore), it may be helpful to include the previous name in brackets. The bracketed names may become obsolete in the future as the new spellings gain currency.

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December 2014

¹ [http://dpal.kar.nic.in/30%20of%201981%20\(E\).pdf](http://dpal.kar.nic.in/30%20of%201981%20(E).pdf) The Karnataka Local Authorities (Official Language) Act, 1981.

² <https://www.karnataka.gov.in/pages/district-list.aspx> Official Website of the Government of Karnataka.

³ <http://www.kar.nic.in/proj2.asp> National Informatics Centre (NIC): list of Karnataka district centres.

⁴ <http://www.kar.nic.in/nicdist.asp> The National Informatics Centre, Karnataka State Unit.

⁵ <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/city-yet-to-embrace-mangaluru/article6639333.ece>

⁶ <http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/bangalore/bangalore-is-now-bengaluru/> ,

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysore/University-of-Mysore-to-retain-name-for-now/articleshow/45002894.cms>

⁷ The primary source for names in India is Survey of India mapping.

New Roman-script Names (approved by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India)

Previous name	New Roman-script name ⁸	Official Administrative Websites	PCGN Recommended Name
Bangalore	Bengaluru*	Bangalore Rural district website http://bangalorerural.kar.nic.in Bangalore Urban district website http://bangaloreurban.nic.in City website http://bbmp.gov.in	Bengaluru (Bangalore)
Mangalore	Mangaluru	City website http://www.mangalorecity.gov.in	Mangaluru (Mangalore)
Bellary	Ballari*	District website http://www.bellary.nic.in/home.htm City website http://bellarycity.gov.in/	Ballari
Bijapur	Vijayapura*	District website http://www.bijapur.nic.in City website http://bijapurcity.gov.in/	Vijayapura (Bijapur)
Belgaum	Belagavi*	District website http://www.belgaum.nic.in/admin.html City website http://belgaumcity.gov.in/citystaff	Belagavi
Chikmagalur	Chikkamagaluru*	District website http://www.chickmagalur.nic.in City website http://www.chickamagalurcity.gov.in/	Chikkamagaluru
Gulbarga	Kalaburagi*	District website http://www.gulbarga.nic.in City website http://www.gulbargacity.gov.in/	Kalaburagi (Gulbarga)
Mysore	Mysuru*	District website http://www.mysore.nic.in City website http://www.mysorecity.gov.in/	Mysuru (Mysore)
Hospet	Hosapete	City website http://www.hospetcity.gov.in/	Hosapete
Shimoga	Shivamogga*	City website http://www.shimogacity.gov.in District website http://www.shimoga.nic.in	Shivamogga
Hubli	Hubballi	City website http://www.hdmc.gov.in	Hubballi
Tumkur	Tumakuru*	District website http://tumkur.nic.in City website http://www.tumkurcity.gov.in/	Tumakuru

⁸ Names marked with an asterisk indicate that this is the name of both the district and its administrative seat.