

007 Kolkata (India)

13,8 million inhabitants according to the UN's *Urban Agglomerations 2003*.

1. Territorial Levels, Population and Area

Name	Population	% of total	Area, km ²	Density, people/km ²
Kolkata	*4.580.544	0.4 %	185	24.759
Metropolitan Area of Kolkata	*13.216.546	1.3 %	1.026	12.883
	** (aprox.) 14.000.000	1.4 %	1.785	7.843
West Bengal State	*80.221.171	7.8 %	88.752	904
India	*1.028.610.328	100 %	3.166.414	324

* According to the official census 2001.

*** According to the *Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority* for 2003.

2. Administrative Designation and Number of Municipalities

Name	Designation	Number of Municipalities
Kolkata	Kolkata Municipal Corporation*	1 Municipal Corporation 15 Boroughs 141wards
Metropolitan Area of Kolkata	Metropolitan Area of Kolkata	3 Municipals Corporations: Kolkata, Howrah and Chandannagore. 38 Municipalities 72 Cities 527 Towns and villages
West Bengal State	West Bengal State	1 State 18 Districts (<i>Panchayats</i>) 341 Sub-districts (<i>Tahasils</i>) 375 Cities 40.782 Towns and villages
India	Republic of India	28 States 7 Union Territories 601 Districts (<i>Panchayats</i>) 5.470 Sub-districts (<i>Tahasils</i>) 5.161 Cities 638.588 Towns and villages

* The city officially changed its name from Calcutta to Kolkata in January 1st 2001.

3. Institutional framework and political powers

Calcutta

General Aspects

The Calcutta Municipal Corporation has authority in the areas of primary-school education, municipal markets, urban planning and architecture, land planning, public health, waste management, water supply, sewerage, urban infrastructure maintenance (streets, lights, parks, etc.). As well as planning, it is responsible for funding and, for some projects, developing execution.

Mayor

Leads the sessions of the Municipal Corporation and is the maximum representative of the city. Has maximum responsibility for executive power for the city and the Council. Is elected by majority vote in the Municipal Corporation and the position is renewed annually.

Council

Acts as the Government of the Municipal Corporation. The Council is responsible for defining municipal policies and on-the-ground action by the local government. Each Council member develops his or her activity in line with the assignation of departments. The Council is made up of the Mayor and 10 councillors picked from among the members elected to the Municipal Corporation. The responsibility for choosing the councillors lies entirely with the Mayor.

Municipal Corporation

Has legislative power in the city. Responsibilities also include appointing and endorsing the Mayor each year. Is made up of 141 members democratically elected in the districts.

Commissioner

Leads the administrative structure of the municipal corporation that executes the policies defined by the Mayor, the Council and the Municipal Corporation. Appointment depends of the Governor of the State of West Bengal.

Calcutta Metropolitan Area

Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority

This is the authority with responsibility for urban planning and development in the metropolitan area. Its authority covers infrastructures, traffic and transport, water supply, sewerage, the development of new settlements, economic promotion and occupation. The presidency and management of this authority corresponds to the Minister for Municipal Affairs and Urban Development in the Government of the State of West Bengal.

State of West Bengal

General Aspects

Has the authority typical of a federal state in India, defined in additional provision no. 7 of the Constitution. Its fields of authority include: transport infrastructure (highways, bridges, trams, etc.) and traffic management; the definition of the political and administrative framework of the local government; water resource management; land organisation; public order, police and prisons; public health (hospitals and primary care); social services; culture (monuments, museums and libraries); agriculture and disaster prevention and response, etc. It shares authority with the state in the areas of public welfare (employment, pensions, etc.), education, major river and seaports, trade and industry, etc.

Governor

The Constitution gives the Governor state executive power, but it is delegated to the Prime Minister and Government. The Governor is also an institutional figure and develops the function of maximum representative of the State of West Bengal. He or she is appointed and removed by the Government of the Republic of India and there is not limit on the mandate.

Chief Minister

Formally, the Chief Minister's function, together with the Cabinet, is to help the governor in the executive and managerial functions of the state administration. The CM is elected by a majority vote in the state Legislative Assembly and is thus politically responsible before it.

Legislative Assembly

This institution embodies the legislative power of the State of West Bengal. Composed of 294 members democratically elected in single-member districts to serve five-year terms.

India

President

The President is the Head of State and formally the maximum organ of executive power. His or her election corresponds to an electoral collage and the appointment is for a five-year term.

Prime Minister

Together with the Cabinet, the PM exercises executive power in India. He or she is appointed at the proposal of the President following the parliamentary elections and is thus politically responsible before the parliament. The mandate is associated to the life of the legislature of the Chamber and its confidence in the PM.

Parliament, *Sansad*

Legislative power is shared between two chambers, i.e., the House of the People (*Lok Sabha*) and the House of the States (*Rajya Sabha*). The 543 seats in the former are assigned in line with a single-member district plurality system. Terms are for five years, while the members of the House of the States have six-year terms with one-third of the House being renewed every two years. Of the 245 members, 12 are appointed by the President of India, while 233 are elected by the states in an indirect system that includes the participation of the assemblies of each state.

4. Relevant websites and online documents

Kolkata Municipal Corporation <http://www.kolkatamunicipalcorporation.com>

Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority: <http://www.cmdaonline.com>

Government of the State of West Bengal <http://www.wbgov.com/>

West Bengal Census <http://www.wbcensus.gov.in/>

India's Official Portal: <http://indiainfo.nic.in/>

Rajya Sabha <http://rajyasabha.nic.in/>

National Institute of Urban Affairs: <http://www.niua.org/newniuaorg/index.htm>

India Urban Information Resource Centre: <http://www.indiaurbaninfo.com/niua/index.htm>

Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation: <http://www.urbanindia.nic.in/>