



The Gangasagar Mela Act, 1976

Act 4 of 1976

Keyword(s):

Gangasagar Mela, Safeguarding, Health, Safety, Welfare, Pilgrims

DISCLAIMER: This document is being furnished to you for your information by PRS Legislative Research (PRS). The contents of this document have been obtained from sources PRS believes to be reliable. These contents have not been independently verified, and PRS makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or correctness. In some cases the Principal Act and/or Amendment Act may not be available. Principal Acts may or may not include subsequent amendments. For authoritative text, please contact the relevant state department concerned or refer to the latest government publication or the gazette notification. Any person using this material should take their own professional and legal advice before acting on any information contained in this document. PRS or any persons connected with it do not accept any liability arising from the use of this document. PRS or any persons connected with it shall not be in any way responsible for any loss, damage, or distress to any person on account of any action taken or not taken on the basis of this document.

©

West Bengal Act IV of 1976¹

THE GANGASAGAR MELA ACT, 1976.

AMENDED

West Ben. Act I of 1984.

[26th March, 1976.]

An Act to provide for the taking of measures with a view to safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of the pilgrims attending the Gangasagar Mela.

WHEREAS it is expedient in the public interest to provide for the taking of measures with a view to safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of the pilgrims attending the Gangasagar Mela and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

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

1. This Act may be called the Gangasagar Mela Act, 1976.

Short title.

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

Definitions.

(a) "Gangasagar Mela" means the fair held at the Sagar Islands in the district of 24-Parganas on the occasion of the *Pous Sankranti* every year;

(b) "notified area" means the area declared as such by notification under sub-section (1) of section 3.

3. (1) If the State Government is satisfied that as a result of the influx of too many pilgrims at a time at the Sagar Islands on the occasion of the Gangasagar Mela the health, safety and welfare of these pilgrims are likely to be endangered the State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, declare that the whole or any portion of the area within the Sagar Islands shall be a notified area.

Power of the State Government on the occasion of the Gangasagar Mela.

(2) Upon the publication of a notification under sub-section (1) it shall be competent for the State Government to take such measures for safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of the pilgrims as the State Government thinks necessary.

(3) The details of the measures to be taken under sub-section (2) and the manner in which they shall be executed shall be laid down by the State Government by rules made in this behalf.

(4) An order made under sub-section (1) shall remain in force for such period as may be specified in the notification.

¹For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary*, Part IV of the 25th February, 1976, pages 1022-1023; for proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, see the proceedings of the meeting of that Assembly held on the 5th March, 1976.

[West Ben. Act IV of 1976.]

(Sections 4-7.)

Imposition
of fee.

4. (1) The State Government may impose such fee not exceeding [rupees ten] per head per year, as may be determined by the State Government by notification, upon every pilgrim visiting the Gangasagar Mela:

Provided that no such fee shall be imposed upon Government servants on duty, children under the age of twelve years, sadhus, sannyasis, beggars and such other persons including members of organisations as may be specified by the State Government by notification issued in this behalf.

(2) The fee imposed under sub-section (1) shall be realised in such manner as may be prescribed by rules made by the State Government.

Repeal of
West Ben.
Act IV of
1953.

5. The Gangasagar Mela Act, 1953, is hereby repealed.

Power to
make rules.

6. (1) The State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the matters which may be or has to be prescribed by rules.

Repeal and
savings.

7. (1) The Gangasagar Mela Ordinance, 1975, is hereby repealed.

(2) Anything done or any action taken under the Gangasagar Mela Ordinance, 1975, shall be deemed to have been validly done or taken under this Act as if this Act had commenced on the 18th day of December, 1975.

West Ben.
Ord. XXI of
1975.

¹The words within the square brackets were substituted for the words "rupees two" by