

Parliament Passes Bill to Rename Kerala as 'Keralam'

Parliament passed a legislation to officially rename the State of Kerala as 'Keralam'.

A constitutional measure under Article 3 to alter the official name of a State in the First Schedule.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Rajya Sabha** passed the renaming legislation by a voice vote, a day after **Lok Sabha** approved it.
- The **Union Government** stated that the renaming reflects the cultural heritage and native **Malayalam** pronunciation of the State.
- The legislation amends the **First Schedule** of the Constitution to update the official name to '**Keralam**'.
- The **Kerala Legislative Assembly** had earlier passed a **unanimous resolution** urging the Centre to rename the State.
- The renaming process will be complete after receiving the assent of the **President of India** and formal notification in the **Gazette**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Article 3 empowers **Parliament** to form new States and alter the areas, boundaries, or names of existing States.

A bill for altering the name or boundary of a State can be introduced in Parliament only on the **recommendation of the President**.

The **President** must refer the bill to the concerned **State Legislature** to express its views within a specified time period.

The views expressed by the **State Legislature** regarding name or boundary changes are **not binding** on Parliament.

A bill to alter a State's name requires only a **simple majority** in both Houses of **Parliament**.

Article 4 clarifies that laws made under Article 3 for renaming states are not treated as constitutional amendments under **Article 368**.

Orissa was renamed as 'Odisha' and Oriya language as 'Odia' through the **113th Constitutional Amendment Act** in **2011**.

Uttaranchal was officially renamed Uttarakhand in **2006**, while Pondicherry was renamed **Puducherry** in the same year.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Parliament renames States under Article 3 with a simple majority; views of State Legislatures are not binding.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for TNPSC Group 1, 2, and 4 under Unit 5 (Indian Polity - Union and its Territory & Article 3 process).

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