

UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · [UJIYARI.COM](https://ujiyari.com)**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026: The Article 3 Route to 'Keralam'

10 August 2026 ·

POLITY**GS2**

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026: The Article 3 Route to 'Keralam'

10 August 2026 · 5 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha on August 10, 2026, seeking to officially rename the state of Kerala as “Keralam” by amending its entries in the Constitution’s First and Fourth Schedules.

ARTICLE 3: HOW PARLIAMENT ACTUALLY RENAMES A STATE

Renaming a state is not a constitutional amendment in the Article 368 sense. It is an ordinary law made by Parliament under **Article 3** of the Constitution, which gives Parliament the power to form new states, alter the areas, boundaries or names of existing states, and increase or diminish the area of any state. Article 4 clarifies that laws made under Article 3, including consequential changes to the First Schedule (the list of states and Union Territories) and the Fourth Schedule (allocation of Rajya Sabha seats), are not to be treated as constitutional amendments requiring the special majority procedure of Article 368. A simple majority in each House, more than half of members present and voting, is enough to pass such a Bill.

The process has one mandatory procedural safeguard. A Bill under Article 3 cannot be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the President. Where the Bill affects the area, boundaries or name of a state, the President must also refer it to that state’s Legislature to elicit its views within a period specified in the reference. Critically, this is a consultative step, not a veto: Parliament is not bound to accept or even wait indefinitely for the state legislature’s opinion, and can proceed regardless of what the state assembly decides. The mechanism balances the Union’s exclusive constitutional authority over internal state boundaries and nomenclature against a courtesy consultation with the federal unit whose identity is being altered.

KERALA’S FOUR-STAGE JOURNEY TO AUGUST 10

The renaming did not originate as a unilateral Union decision. It began as a demand from the Kerala Legislative Assembly itself and moved through a sequence of institutional steps before reaching the Lok Sabha floor.

DATE	STAGE
June 2024	Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously passes a resolution seeking to rename the state “Keralam”
February 2026	Union Cabinet approves the proposal to rename Kerala as Keralam
June 17, 2026	President Droupadi Murmu refers the draft Bill to the Kerala Legislature under the Article 3 proviso, seeking its views
July 1, 2026	Kerala Assembly unanimously approves all 10 clauses of the draft Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026
August 10, 2026	Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduces the Bill in the Lok Sabha

The rationale offered for “Keralam” is linguistic and cultural: it is the name used for the state in Malayalam itself, and the change is presented as aligning the state’s official English-language constitutional name with its native-language identity, similar in spirit to earlier renamings driven by regional-language sentiment.

PRECEDENTS: STATES THAT HAVE CHANGED THEIR NAMES SINCE INDEPENDENCE

Kerala is not breaking new constitutional ground. Several states have gone through the Article 3 name-change route before, while one recent attempt has stalled at the Union government’s door.

OLD NAME	NEW NAME	YEAR EFFECTIVE	LEGAL INSTRUMENT
Madras	Tamil Nadu	1969	Madras State (Alteration of Name) Act, effective January 14, 1969
Mysore	Karnataka	1973	Mysore State (Alteration of Name) Act, 1973
Uttaranchal	Uttarakhand	2007	Uttaranchal (Alteration of Name) Act, 2006, assented to by President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in December 2006, effective January 1, 2007
Orissa	Odisha	2011	Orissa (Alteration of Name) Act, 2011, passed by Lok Sabha November 9, 2010, Rajya Sabha March 24, 2011, effective November 1, 2011
West Bengal	“Bangla” (stalled)	Not effected	West Bengal Assembly passed a resolution on July 26, 2018; proposal not accepted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs

WHY WEST BENGAL'S ATTEMPT STALLED

The West Bengal case is instructive precisely because it shows the limits of the consultative process working in the opposite direction. The state government proposed renaming West Bengal on more than one occasion: “Paschimbanga” in 2011, and a three-language formulation (“Bangla” in Bengali, “Bengal” in English, “Bangal” in Hindi) in 2016, before the Assembly passed a resolution in July 2018 for a single name, “Bangla.” The Union Home Ministry did not act on the proposal, citing among its concerns the close phonetic similarity between “Bangla” and the neighbouring country “Bangladesh,” which officials assessed could cause diplomatic and administrative confusion. Because a state legislature’s resolution or view under Article 3 is advisory rather than binding on Parliament, and because a Bill can only be introduced on the President’s recommendation, the Union government’s inaction was constitutionally sufficient to stall the proposal indefinitely. Kerala’s Bill has, by contrast, secured the Union Cabinet’s own approval before reaching Parliament, which is the structural reason it has proceeded to introduction while West Bengal’s has not.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2: Indian Constitution, historical underpinnings, features and amendments; Union-State relations; Article 3 and Article 4 and the distinction between Parliament’s ordinary law-making power over state boundaries/names and the special-majority [constitutional amendment procedure](#) under Article 368.

Mains angle: “The power to alter the name of a state under Article 3 illustrates the quasi-federal, Union-heavy character of the Indian Constitution.” Discuss with reference to the procedural safeguards for state legislatures under Article 3 and their non-binding nature, using the Kerala and West Bengal cases as contrasting examples.

 FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA**KERALA (ALTERATION OF NAME) BILL, 2026:**

Introduced by: Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in the Lok Sabha, on August 10, 2026

Proposed new name: “Keralam”

Amends: First Schedule (list of states) and Fourth Schedule (Rajya Sabha seat allocation) of the Constitution

TIMELINE:

Kerala Assembly resolution: June 2024

Union Cabinet approval: February 2026

President’s reference to Kerala Legislature: June 17, 2026

Kerala Assembly approves draft Bill (10 clauses): July 1, 2026

CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM:

Governing provision: Article 3 (Parliament’s power to alter names/boundaries/areas of states)

Bill requires President’s prior recommendation to be introduced

State legislature’s views under the Article 3 proviso are advisory, not binding

Passed by simple majority in each House; not an Article 368 constitutional amendment

PRECEDENTS:

Madras to Tamil Nadu: 1969

Mysore to Karnataka: 1973

Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand: 2007

Orissa to Odisha: 2011

West Bengal’s “Bangla” proposal (2018 Assembly resolution): not accepted by the Union Home Ministry, citing similarity to “Bangladesh”

Sources: PIB, PRS Legislative Research, The Hindu

Source: Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026: The Article 3 Route to 'Keralam' — Ujjayi.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

RELATED EDITORIALS

INDIAN EXPRESS

[Conflict or Capture? The Deep-Tech Fund Debate Needs an Outcomes Audit, Not Outrage](#)

10 Aug

THE HINDU

[Beyond Procedure: Why the Election Commission Must Rebuild Opposition Trust](#)

10 Aug

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

[The 60:40 Dilemma: MGNREGA's Successor Scheme and the New Test of Cooperative Federalism](#)

9 Aug

HINDUSTAN TIMES

[Putting People at the Heart of Parliament's Performance: The Case for Procedural Reform](#)

9 Aug

RELATED KEY TERMS

KEY TERM

[16th Finance Commission](#)

The constitutional body chaired by Arvind Panagariya that recommends...

KEY TERM

[42nd Amendment Freeze on Delimitation](#)

The constitutional freeze that locked Lok Sabha seat allocation to the...

KEY TERM

[74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992](#)

The amendment that gave urban local bodies constitutional status,...

KEY TERM

[ACP/MACP \(Assured Career Progression\)](#)

A government HR scheme granting time-bound pay-scale upgrades to...



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/08/10/kerala-alteration-of-name-bill-2026/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](#)

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com