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The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026

(ACT NO. 18 OF 2026)

[*As on the* 25*th August,* 2026]

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

G.S.R.	*for*	General Statutory Rules.
S.O.	,,	Statutory Order.
Notifn.	,,	Notification.

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THE KERALA (ALTERATION OF NAME) ACT, 2026

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTIONS

1. Short title and commencement.
2. Definitions.
3. Alteration of name of State of Kerala.
4. Amendment of article 31A.
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6. Amendment of First Schedule to Constitution.
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8. Power to adapt laws.
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THE KERALA (ALTERATION OF NAME) ACT, 2026

ACT NO. 18 OF 2026

[14*th August,* 2026.]

An Act to alter the name of the State of Kerala.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. Short title and commencement.—(*1*) This Act may be called the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026.

(*2*) It shall come into force on such date[1] as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

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

(*a*) "appointed day" means the date appointed under sub-section (*2*) of section 1;

(*b*) "appropriate Government" means, as respects a law relating to a matter enumerated in List I in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, the Central Government, and as respects any other law, the State Government;

(*c*) "law" includes any enactment, Ordinance, regulation, order, bye-law, rule, scheme, notification or other instrument having the force of law in the whole or any part of the State of Kerala.

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3. Alteration of name of State of Kerala.—On and from the appointed day, the State of Kerala shall be known as the State of Keralam.

4 Amendment of article 31A.—In article 31A of the Constitution, in clause (*2*), in sub-clause (*a*), in item (*i*), for the word "Kerala", the word "Keralam" shall be substituted.

5. Amendment of article 290A.—In article 290A of the Constitution, for the word "Kerala", the word "Keralam" shall be substituted.

6. Amendment of First Schedule to Constitution.—In the First Schedule to the Constitution, under the heading "I. THE STATES", in entry 5, under the column "Name", for the word "Kerala", the word "Keralam" shall be substituted.

7. Amendment of Fourth Schedule to Constitution.—In the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution, under the heading "TABLE", in entry 9, in the second column, for the word "Kerala", the word "Keralam" shall be substituted.

8. Power to adapt laws.—(*1*) For the purpose of giving effect to the alteration of the name of the State of Kerala by section 3, the appropriate Government may, before the expiration of one year from the appointed day, by order, make such adaptations and modifications of any law made before the appointed day, whether by way of repeal or amendment, as may be necessary or expedient, and thereupon every such law shall have effect subject to the adaptations and modifications so made.

(*2*) Nothing in sub-section (*1*) shall be deemed to prevent a competent Legislature or other competent authority from repealing or amending any law adapted or modified by the appropriate Government under the said sub-section.

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1. 25th day of August, 2026, *vide* Notifn. No. S.O. 4712 (E), dated 25th August, 2026, see Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, s. 3 (*ii*).

9. Power to construe laws.—Notwithstanding that no provision or insufficient provision has been made under section 8 for the adaptation of a law made before the appointed day, any court, tribunal or authority, required or empowered to enforce such law, may construe the law in such manner, without affecting the substance, as may be necessary or proper in regard to the matter before the court, tribunal or authority.

10. Legal proceedings.—Where immediately before the appointed day any legal proceedings are pending to which the State of Kerala is a party, the State of Keralam shall be deemed to have been substituted for the State of Kerala in those proceedings.

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Government of Kerala forwarded to the Central Government, the resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Kerala on 24th June, 2024 stating, *inter alia*, that necessary steps may be taken to amend the First Schedule to the Constitution by modifying the name of State of "Kerala" as "Keralam" in accordance with article 3 of the Constitution.

2. As required by the proviso to article 3 of the Constitution, the President referred the Bill to the Legislature of the State of Kerala for expressing its views thereon. The Legislative Assembly of Kerala considered the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 and adopted a unanimous Resolution agreeing with the Bill.

3. The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 provides for such alteration of name of the State of Kerala and contains necessary amendments to the provisions of the Constitution and also consequential provisions.

AMIT SHAH.

NEW DELHI;
The 29*th July*, 2026.

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