

Name of the High Court of Kerala

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Why in News?

Recently, Kerala has officially become “Keralam,” but its High Court will remain the “High Court of Kerala” unless Parliament separately approves a name change.

- The State Government may replace the term “Kerala” with “Keralam” in its own government institutions, including the following:
 - Officeal records,
 - Documents,
 - Seals,
 - Publications,
 - Letterheads,
 - Files,
 - and registers.
- **No change/impact** - Kerala’s name change to Keralam will have no impact on the High Court of Kerala.
- Because the judiciary is not part of the State government and has an independent footing as one of the three pillars of democracy.
- The names of some High Courts retained their historical names despite changes in the names of their respective States.



High Courts Retained Their Original Names Despite Changes in State Names

State	High Court
 Maharashtra	 Bombay High Court
 West Bengal	 Calcutta High Court
 Tamil Nadu	 Madras High Court
 Odisha	 Orissa High Court

- **Procedures** - The name change of the High Court can be made only through a High Court Name Amendment Act to be passed by Parliament.



High Court Name Change Process

1



State Executive
recommendation



2



Views of State Judiciary
are ascertained



3



Parliament initiates
the amendment process



4



Bill/Amendment Act
passed by Parliament



5



High Court's
name is changed

- **Unpassed High Court Renaming Bills** - In 2016, proposals to rename the High Courts of Madras and Bombay lapsed as the amendment bills introduced in Parliament were never passed.

Historical Background of Kerala High Court

- **Pre-1949**

- Travancore → High Court at Thiruvananthapuram.
- Cochin → High Court at Ernakulam.
- Malabar District → Under the jurisdiction of the Madras High Court.

- **July 1, 1949** - Travancore and Cochin merged to form the High Court of Travancore-Cochin, seated at Ernakulam.

- **November 1, 1956** - The States Reorganisation Act, 1956 created the State of Kerala by merging Travancore-Cochin with Malabar District.

- The Kerala High Court was established at Ernakulam.

Reference

[The Hindu | Name of Kerala High Court](#)

