Renaming Kerala to Keralam

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Why in News?

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal to alter the name of the State of Kerala to Keralam.

Origin of the names

- **Ancient Record –** The earliest epigraphic record that mentions Kerala is *Emperor Asoka's Rock Edict II of 257 BC.*
  - The inscription refers to the local ruler as Keralaputra, and also the son of Chera, referring to the Chera dynasty.
- About Keralam, scholars believe it could have originated from Cheram.
- **Reorganisation –** When it was decided to reorganise states on a linguistic basis, the State Reorganisation Commission of the Union Government recommended the creation of the state of Kerala.
- **State Formation –** The state of Kerala came into being on November 1, 1956.
- In Malayalam, the state was referred to as Keralam, while in English it was Kerala.

Constitutional Provision

- **Article 3 –** Under the article, the Parliament may take the following actions –
  - It can form a completely new State by separating the territory from any State by uniting two or more states or parts of states, or by uniting any territory to a part of any state.
  - It can increase or decrease the area of any State.
  - ***It can change/alter the name of any State.***
  - It can also make changes to the boundaries of a State.
- **President's Recommendation –** A Bill for altering a State's name ***can only be introduced after the President's recommendation***.
- **State Legislature Opinion –** The Bill is sent to the affected State Assembly for its views within a specified period; the opinion is advisory and not binding.
- **Process –** The State Assembly passes a resolution for the name change and sends it to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Ministry forwards it to the President for recommendation.
- The Bill is introduced in either the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha and *passed by a simple majority.*
- After Parliamentary approval, the Bill is sent back to the President for assent.

- Once signed, the name is ***officially altered in the First and Fourth Schedules*** of the Constitution.

References

1. PIB | Alteration of State Name from Kerala to Keralam
2. TH | Kerala to Keralam

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