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THE CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNEY OF RENAMING KERALA TO KERALAM

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ABSTRACT

The new term Keralam is not only about the changes that is made in the spelling of the State it is the process of bringing the Cultural Linguistic identity by the way of constitutional mechanism. By renaming the name as Keralam it bring the way to upload the cultural regional identity of a state where to preserve the identity of the roots of the state not only the state plays a major role it is the Constitution of India lays down the procedure for changing the name of a State. In the case of Kerala, Articles 3 and 4 explain how the proposed change to "Keralam" can be carried out legally. The State Legislature is given an opportunity to express its views, but the final decision rests with Parliament. Thus, the Constitution provides the legal framework for the proposed name change while recognising the role of both the State and the Union. This article thus examines the Constitutional perspective of renaming a state.

Keywords: *Kerala, Keralam, Constitutional Law, Article 3, Article 4, State Renaming, Linguistic Identity, Cultural Identity.*

INTRODUCTION

In India States are diverse in nature it can't be stated to have uniform culture ,linguistic identity rather it depends on the history and Cultural roots that each state carries. Each states carries a unique tradition same has that way the renaming of state Keralam is more about to bring the ethnicity of the Malayalam language of the state to cherish the importance of their own identity in every aspect like regional, cultural linguistic identity. And Renaming is not only mere name change it takes a Constitutional Mechanism, Since Kerala's

official name is mentioned in the First Schedule of the Constitution of India, the change must follow the constitutional procedure. Therefore, it is important to understand the provisions of the Constitution and the roles of the State Legislature and Parliament in the proposed renaming.

CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION

The official name of a state Kerala to its renamed version Keralam is possibly understood its Cultural and Linguistic identity and adding to that the change should also be known through the lens of Procedure given in the Constitution.

The main Constitutional aspects are discussed below.

1. Constitutional Procedure under Articles 3 and 4

Article 3 of the Constitution of India gives Parliament the power to change the name of a state that already exists. It also covers the creation of states and any changes to the areas and borders of current states. Because of this the idea to change the name of Kerala to Keralam has to follow the process described in this article.

Before a bill is brought to Parliament to change the name of a state the President must send it to the states legislature to get their opinion. The state legislature is given a chance to share their thoughts within the time set by the President. However their opinion does not have to be followed by Parliament and the final decision is made by Parliament.

Article 4 gives the changes to the First Schedule and if needed the Fourth Schedule because of a law made under Article 2 or Article 3. Such a law is not considered an amendment for the purposes of Article 368. This means that the special process for amending the constitution under Article 368 is not needed to make the changes allowed by Article 4. So Articles 3 and 4 together form the basis, for officially changing the name of a state

2. Linguistic Identity and Constitutional Recognition

Every state in India is closely connected with their Own regional language which marked as their own identity that is the most significant reason for renaming the name of the State as Keralam which is mainly because of the Malayalam language to be reflected in the name of the state in order to uphold the identity in a wholesome manner,Other state name modifications that take linguistic, historical, or geographical factors into account have also occurred in India. For instance, Uttaranchal was renamed Uttarakhand in 2007, while Orissa was renamed Odisha in 2011. These

illustrations demonstrate how states' official names can be altered through the constitutional process to reflect the names that are used to identify them regionally or culturally.

Every plan, however, needs to be evaluated in light of its unique situation and the relevant legal requirements. The linguistic importance of "Keralam" in the context of Kerala offers a crucial framework for comprehending the proposition.

3. Legal Effect of Changing the State's Name

A change in the official name of a State do not alter its constitutional status or the powers granted to its government and do not automatically change the State's boundaries, create additional legislative powers or modify the constitutional rights of its residents. The existing constitutional framework and the distribution of powers between the Union and the State would continue to apply unless separate legal measures were introduced to change them. If Kerala is officially renamed Keralam, the principal change would concern the State's formal designation in the relevant legal and official records.

The renaming Kerala–Keralam lies primarily in the formal recognition of the State's name through the constitutional procedure. It very much important to analyze how a matter arising from language and cultural identity can be addressed within the existing framework of Indian constitutional law.

IMPORTANCE OF THE NAME "KERALAM"

State names are not just name tag it belongs the roots of history, language ,culture etc .Using "Keralam" as the official name would not change how the state is governed or how its borders are defined. It would be a step. It would bring the name used in official documents into line, with the name people use every day. This alignment respects the identity of the people. It acknowledges their right to define their place in their own voice.

FEDERALISM AND THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT

India has a system where the Central Government and the State Governments each have their own roles and responsibilities. Every State has its language, its own culture and its own regional identity. However the Constitution also allows Parliament to change the names, boundaries and areas of States.

Article 3 of the Constitution describes how these changes can happen. Before a Bill is brought to Parliament to change the name or boundaries of a State the President sends it to the State Legislature to get its opinion.

The State Legislature can share its thoughts. Parliament is not required to accept them.

The idea to change the name of Kerala to "Keralam" is an example of how regional identity and constitutional rules can work. The name comes from the Malayalam language. Represents the culture of the State. At the time the change has to follow the rules set out in the Constitution.

This proposal shows how the identity of a State and the powers of Parliament are connected. It also shows how the Indian Constitution lets States share their views while keeping Parliament in charge of making the decision.

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES INVOLVED

The proposal raises constitutional questions. First there's the process under Article 3. Since Kerala's name is already in the Constitution changing it must go through Parliament following the Constitution's rules. That's how things work.

Second this is about language and identity. India has always respected languages in its Constitution and government systems. So giving status to "Keralam" would be a way of honoring Malayalam culture and its people.

Third there's the question of federalism. The State Legislature can speak up. Share its view but the final power to pass laws is with Parliament. This shows how the Constitution balances the State's voice, with the government's authority.

Importantly changing the name wouldn't give the State any powers or special rights. It would only change how the State is officially called. Nothing else would change.

CONCLUSION

The initiative to rename Kerala to Keralam goes far deeper than correcting spelling or altering vocabulary; it is an act of cultural and linguistic recognition. Yet, however strong the popular desire, regional sentiment must operate within the rule of law. By requiring the State Legislature's views while vesting final legislative power in Parliament, Articles 3 and 4 strike a balance between regional identity and federal unity. Ultimately, the renaming of Kerala is a testament to how India's constitutional system accommodates local heritage within a unified sovereign framework.

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