

Kerala will now be called Keralam

Cabinet approves state govt's proposal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 24 February

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved a proposal of the Kerala government to change the name of the state to Keralam, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The decision, which comes ahead of the assembly elections in the state, was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at its first meeting held at Seva Teerth, the new PMO complex.

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for altering the name of Kerala to Keralam, Vaishnaw said.

Prime Minister Modi hailed the Cabinet decision, saying it reflects the will of the people of the state.

"It is in line with our efforts to strengthen the connect with our glorious culture," he said in a post on X.

The Kerala assembly elections are due in April this year, with the tenure of

Three railway projects worth ₹9K cr okayed

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday approved three Railway ministry projects with a total cost of approximately ₹9,072 crore. The three projects include the doubling of the Gondia-Jabalpur section, and the laying of the third and fourth lines between Puna-rakh-Kiul and Gamharia-Chandil sections. The government said that these projects covering eight districts across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand will increase the existing network of the Indian Railways by about 307 km. PTI

the 140-member current assembly ending on May 23.

After the Union Cabinet's approval, the president of India will refer a Bill, namely the Kerala (Alteration of Name)

Higher equity funding limit for Powergrid

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Tuesday approved an enhanced permissible equity investment limit for Powergrid Corporation from the current threshold of ₹5,000 crore per subsidiary to ₹7,500 crore per subsidiary while retaining the existing cap of 15 percent of the company's net worth. The approval will enable the company, the largest transmission service provider, to expand its investment in its core business and support the evacuation of renewable energy capacity. It will help achieve the target of 500 Gw from non-fossil-based sources. BS REPORTER

Bill, 2026, to the Kerala Assembly for expressing its views under the proviso to Article 3 of the Constitution of India.

After receipt of the views of the Kerala Assembly, the government of

India will obtain the recommendation of the president for the introduction of the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 to alter the name of Kerala to Keralam in Parliament, an official release said.

Asked why a decision like this was coming just ahead of the assembly elections in Kerala, Vaishnaw said decisions are taken by the Union Cabinet under Prime Minister Modi without keeping elections in view.

"Decisions of setting up new rail corridors and starting of Vande Bharat trains in Kerala were taken up when elections were not there. Elections will be held, but all decisions which are in the interest of the country will be taken," he said.

The Communist Party of India (CPI) congratulated the "people of Keralam" as the Union Cabinet accepted the proposal to officially rename the State of Kerala.

In a statement, the CPI said the decision represented the "culmination of a longstanding and democratic demand of the people of Kerala, rooted in the state's linguistic heritage and collective self-respect."