

1 Renaming of State (Source: *The Hindu*)

Article 3 of the Constitution provides for formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States.

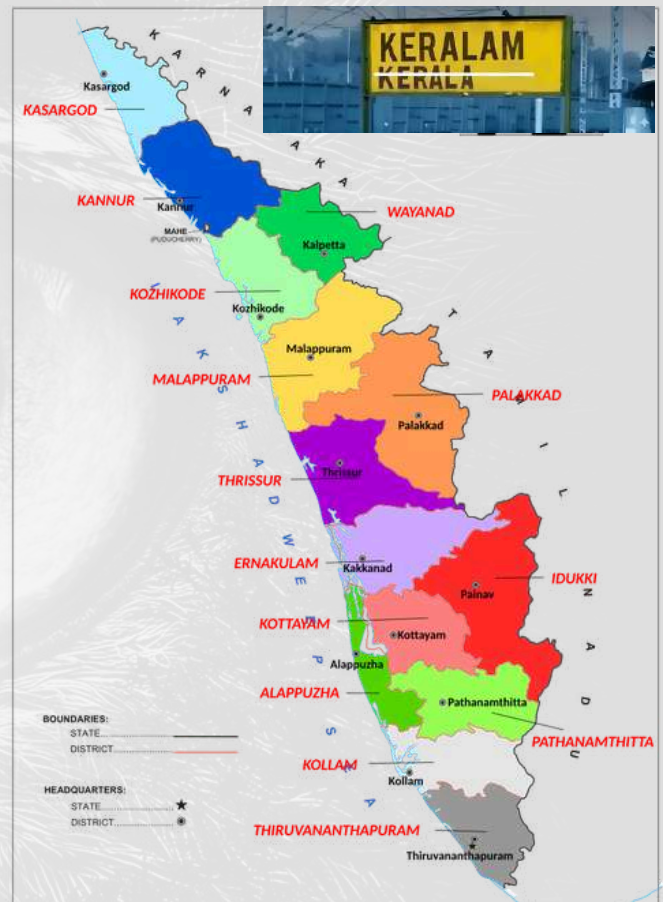
- The proposal to rename Kerala to Keralam has been initiated by the union government.

How can a state be renamed?

- The bill for renaming under Article 3 of the Constitution can be initiated only on the recommendation of the President of India.
- The bill can be introduced in either House of Parliament.
- The President has to refer the bill to the concerned state legislature for their opinion.
- The name of the Union territory cannot be changed based on the above article.

Similar Situations

- Recently call for changing the name of West Bengal is also been considered.
- Earlier names of metros like Bombay was changed to Mumbai; Madras was changed to Chennai and Calcutta to Kolkata.
- Names are changed to erase the colonial legacy and reaffirm the cultural legacy of the area.



What more needs to be looked for?

- Article 3 provides for the formation of new States. From the exam point of view, aspirants are required to understand the procedure. Please go through the above provisions.

Fun Fact

- When the names of Madras were changed to Chennai and Bombay to Mumbai, the names of IIT's their was not changed from IIT Madras/IIT Bombay to the new names. Can you guess why?



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2 ISRO's Launch Vehicle (Source: *The Hindu*)

- Launch vehicles are rockets which help in placing the satellite and space missions to a particular orbit envisioned by the scientist. The type of launch vehicle to be used depends on the orbit to which a particular satellite has to be placed and the weight of the satellite to be placed.

Facts to know about ISRO Launch Vehicle

- India has three active operational launch vehicles: Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-III (LVM3).
- Satellite Launch Vehicle-3 (SLV-3) was India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle, which was an all-solid, four-stage vehicle weighing 17 tonnes.
- The second launcher to be prepared was ASLV, which was configured as a five-stage, all-solid propellant vehicle, with a mission of orbiting 150 kg class satellites into 400 km circular orbits.
- PSLV, or the Workhorse of ISRO can launch satellites to Low Earth Orbits. It can take up to 1,750 kg of payload to Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits of 600 km altitude.
- GSLV can place up to 6 tonnes in Low Earth Orbits, which is helping to place payloads from heavy satellites to multiple smaller satellites into orbit.
- Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is a 3 stage Launch Vehicle configured with three Solid Propulsion Stages and a liquid propulsion based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM) as a terminal stage.

3 Inland Fisheries in India (Source: **PIB**)

Inland fisheries in India constitute over 75% of total fish production, with output rising to 147.37 lakh tonnes in 2024-25.

What do you need to know?

- India is the second largest fish producing country with around 8% share in global fish production.
- Andhra Pradesh is the leading state for inland fisheries, followed by West Bengal.
- Water scarcity, habitat loss, pollution, and climate change pose risks to natural, inland fishing.
- Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS) and Biofloc are newer methods used in aquaculture.

Schemes Promoting Fisheries

- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana**
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana**
- National Rollout Plan for Vessel Communication and Support System
- Implementation of Geographic Information System
- **National Policy on Marine Fisheries (NPMF, 2017)**
- **Uniform Fishing Ban:** A 61-day uniform fishing ban during the monsoon season in the EEZ to allow fish stocks to replenish.



4 Cold Wave (Source: *Down To Earth*)

A cold wave is a weather phenomenon characterized by a rapid, significant drop in temperature over a 24-hour period, bringing unusually cold air to a region for several days.



What is the criterion?

- Cold Wave is considered when the minimum temperature of a station drops to 10°C or less for plains and 0°C or less for Hilly regions.
- It can be classified as a severe cold wave when the departure from normal is -6.4°C or less.

What needs to be known about cold wave?

- The Northwesterly winds blowing during December to February are cold winds from the Himalayas, which allow the prevailing cold conditions to continue and intensify.
- The months from January to February are the wintertime in almost all of India, and the chances of cold wave development are very high.
- Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, UP, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu are the cold wave-prone states in India.



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5 Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) (Source: *The Hindu*)

TRAI to regulate telecom services, including fixation/revision of tariffs for telecom services which were earlier vested in the Central Government.

What is TRAI?

- It has been created under the TRAI Act, 1997.
- Focus on ensuring a level playing field and orderly growth across India's telecom and broadcasting sectors.
- Telecommunications Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) is looking after the adjudicatory and disputes functions .

