

Sixteenth Keralam Legislative Assembly

Bill No. 19

**THE SARAL (SIMPLIFIED & ACCELERATED REGULATORY
APPROVALS AND LICENSING) KERALAM BILL, 2026**

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[Translation in English of “2026-ലെ സരൾ (സിംപ്ലിഫൈഡ് & ആക്സിലറേറ്റഡ് റെഗുലേറ്ററി അപ്ലോവൽസ് ആൻഡ് ലൈസൻസിംഗ്) കേരളം ബിൽ” published under the authority of the Governor.]

THE SARAL (SIMPLIFIED & ACCELERATED REGULATORY APPROVALS AND LICENSING) KERALAM BILL, 2026

A

BILL

to provide for the constitution of a Statutory Authority, in accordance with the principle of ‘One State – One Approval – One Document’, for accelerating the issuance of various licences, clearances, permits etc. required under various State laws for the establishment, operation, expansion, diversification or modernization of investment projects having a capital investment exceeding twenty five crore rupees, on the basis of technical scrutiny conducted by the departments or agencies concerned, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Preamble.—WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the constitution of a Statutory Authority, in accordance with the principle of ‘One State – One Approval – One Document’, for accelerating the issuance of various licences, clearances, permits etc. required under various State laws for the establishment, operation, expansion, diversification or modernization of investment projects having a capital investment exceeding twenty five crore rupees, on the basis of technical scrutiny conducted by the departments or agencies concerned, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

BE it enacted in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India, as follows:—

CHAPTER - I

PRELIMINARY

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the SARAL (Simplified & Accelerated Regulatory Approvals and Licensing) Keralam Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. *Definitions.*—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “Act” means the SARAL (Simplified & Accelerated Regulatory Approvals and Licensing) Keralam Act, 2026 ;

(b) “applicant” means a person who submits the application under section 14;

(c) “application” means a single application, in a form as may be prescribed, submitted to the Saral Secretariat through the Portal or in physical mode, for each and every clearances required under various State laws for an investment project, instead of separate applications to each Competent Authority;

(d) “Approval Committee” means the State Level Approval Committee or the District Level Approval Committee, as the context may require;

(e) “Authority” means the authority constituted under section 3;

(f) “capital investment” means the investment made or proposed to be made by an applicant in land, buildings, plant and machinery, equipment and other fixed assets of a project, but does not include working capital, and where a project is implemented in phases, or by more than one entity of the same applicant or Group at the same site, the investment in all such phases and by all such entities shall be added together; the manner of valuation shall be as may be prescribed;

(g) “Central-law Clearance” means clearance required under a Central Act or the rules made thereunder, which is granted by an authority empowered under that Act;

(h) “clearance” means any licence, permit, registration, consent, approval, no-objection certificate or certificate, by whatever name called, required under the relevant law for the establishment, operation, expansion, diversification or modernisation of an investment project;

(i) “Common Renewal Date” means the date specified in the Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate on which the validity of all the State clearances included therein expires;

(j) “Common Renewal Period” means the period before the Common Renewal Date within which a Composite Renewal Application may be submitted under section 18;

(k) “competent authority” means an authority empowered to grant various licences and clearances required under the relevant laws for the establishment, operation, expansion, diversification or modernisation of investment projects falling within the purview of this Act;

(l) “complete application” means an application containing all the particulars and documents prescribed, and in the case of an application wherein a defect has been communicated under sub-section (4) of section 14, means the date on which such defect is cured;

(m) “Composite Renewal Application” means a single application in the prescribed form, made through the Portal within the Common Renewal Period by the holder of an Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate, for the renewal of all the State clearances covered by it which falls due for renewal within that period and also includes an application for the modification of any such clearance arising from the expansion, diversification or modernization of the investment project;

(n) “Composite Renewal Order” means an order passed by the approval committee on a Composite Renewal Application, specifying separately the validity and conditions of each clearance renewed;

(o) “critical investment” means an investment in sectors or categories declared by the Government, by notification, to be of critical importance to the economic development of the State;

(p) “District level Approval Committee” means the Committee constituted under section 8;

(q) “District Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee” means the Committee constituted under section 8;

(r) “existing projects” means an investment project in respect of which any clearance was granted under the relevant law prior to the commencement of this Act, and which is in operation or under implementation at such commencement;

(s) “Government” means the Government of Keralam;

(t) “Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate” means the single certificate issued by the authority under this Act to an applicant in respect of an investment project, in which all the clearances granted for the investment project and the common renewal date are recorded together with such other particulars as may be prescribed;

(u) “investment project” means a project in any sector of economic activity within the State including manufacturing, services, trade, infrastructure and allied sectors, for the establishment, operation, expansion, diversification or modernization of an enterprise, having capital investment exceeding twenty five crore rupees, or such lower limit as the Government may, by notification, specify in the case of critical investments. It includes the enterprise established or operating pursuant to such project, but does not include projects of such classes as the Government may, by notification, exclude;

(v) “notification” means a notification published in the Official Gazette;

(w) “portal” means the common online portal designated by the Government, by notification, for the receipt, processing, tracking and disposal of applications, issue of orders and certificates and the payment of fees under this Act;

(x) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(y) “relevant law” means relevant Acts or rules that are related to each application, and included in the schedule;

(z) “Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee” means, as the context may require, either the State Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee or the District Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee;

(za) “risk category” means the classification of a clearance as low, medium or high risk, as specified by the Government by notification;

(zb) “SARAL Secretariat” means the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Limited at the State level and the District Industries Centre concerned at the district level;

(zc) “schedule” means the schedule appended with this Act;

(zd) “State Clearance” means a clearance required as per the related state law;

(ze) “State Level Approval Committee” means the Committee constituted under section 4;

(zf) “State Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee” means the Committee constituted under section 4;

(zg) “Technical Scrutiny Report” means the report, with findings, conditions and a recommendation for grant or rejection of clearance, furnished through the portal by a competent authority to the Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee after technical scrutiny, including inspection where required of an application referred to it by the SARAL Secretariat, within the time specified in section 14.

CHAPTER-II

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE, POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3. *SARAL Keralam Authority*.—(1) The Government may, by notification, constitute a statutory authority under the name “SARAL Keralam” for the purpose of issuing an Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate to an applicant, by accelerating the process of obtaining various licences, clearances, permits, approvals etc., which are required to be granted by the competent authorities under various laws for establishment, operation, expansion, diversification or modernization of investment projects having a capital investment exceeding twenty five crore rupees, on the basis of technical scrutiny by the departments or agencies concerned.

(2) This shall be a framework comprising a two-tier statutory clearance mechanism at the State level and the District level.

4. *State Level Mechanism*.—(1) The State Level Mechanism shall consist of the State Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee and the State Level Approval Committee.

(2) The Government shall constitute the State Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee and the State Level Approval Committee to ensure that various licences, clearances, permits, approvals, etc., which are required to be granted by the competent authorities under various laws for the establishment, operation, expansion, diversification or modernization of investment projects having a capital investment of exceeding fifty crore rupees, are provided to the applicant within the time limits and in the manner as provided under this Act or the rules made thereunder, based on the technical scrutiny of the departments or agencies concerned.

5. *Composition of the State Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee.*—(1) The State Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee shall consist of the following members, namely: —

- (a) Secretary to Government, Industries Department – Chairperson;
- (b) Officer on Special Duty, Coordination & Programme Management Division, O/o the Chief Secretary -Co-Chairperson;
- (c) Secretary to Government, Local Self Government Department;
- (d) Secretary to Government, Power Department;
- (e) Secretary to Government, Environment Department;
- (f) Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department;
- (g) Secretary to Government, Water Resources Department;
- (h) Head of the Departments/agencies concerned whose licenses, clearances, approvals etc., are involved; and
- (i) Managing Director, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation – Convenor.

(2) On receiving the application, the State Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee shall convene meetings on such dates, times and places as decided by the Chairperson and shall evaluate the application, in the manner as may be prescribed, and forward them, along with its recommendation, to the State Level Approval Committee.

(3) The quorum of the State Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee shall not be less than one-third of the total members. The procedure in regard to its transaction of business shall be decided by the Chairperson.

(4) On the basis of the technical scrutiny reports received from the competent authorities under section 14, the State Level Referral-cum- Appraisal Committee if there is any said Committee shall conduct a detailed examination and evaluation, resolve discrepancies, if any, between the departments, and submit a consolidated report, enclosing those reports and including its recommendation regarding each clearance, shall be submitted to the State Level Approval Committee for the final decision.

6. *Composition of the State Level Approval Committee.*—(1) The State Level Approval Committee shall be responsible for taking final decisions on matters legally vested in the Authority, and shall consist of the following members, namely:—

- (a) Chief Secretary to Government – Chairperson;
- (b) Secretary to Government, Industries Department;
- (c) Secretary to Government, Finance Department;
- (d) Secretary to Government, Revenue Department;
- (e) Secretary to Government, Law Department;
- (f) Secretary to Government, Programme Implementation Evaluation and Monitoring Department;
- (g) Secretary to Government, Information and Public Relations Department;
- (h) Managing Director, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation - Convenor; and
- (i) Officer on Special Duty, Coordination & Programme Management Division, O/o the Chief Secretary - Joint Convenor.

(2) On receiving the application, the State Level Approval Committee shall convene meetings on such dates, times and places as decided by the Chairperson and shall consider the recommendation made by the State Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee and take appropriate decisions on the application.

(3) The quorum of the State Level Approval Committee shall not be less than one-third of the total members. The procedure in regard to its transaction of business shall be decided by the Chairperson.

7. Powers and Functions of the State Level Approval Committee.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in relevant law, where an investment projects submitted by an applicant requires any clearance under any law specified in the schedule, the Approval Committee shall, in place of the competent authority specified under the relevant law, have the power to:—

- (a) grant such clearance;
- (b) refuse to grant such clearance for reasons to be recorded in writing;
- (c) grant such clearance subject to conditions ensuring compliance with the provisions of the relevant law; or
- (d) renew or modify any clearance granted under this Act.

(2) Every clearance granted by the Approval Committee under sub-section (1) shall, subject to the conditions specified therein, be deemed to have been granted by the competent authority to grant permission under the relevant law.

(3) With effect from the date of commencement of this Act, the competent authority under the relevant law shall not exercise the powers vested in the Approval Committee in relation to clearances under the laws specified in the schedule.

(4) The Approval Committee shall communicate its decision to the applicant in writing and where the clearance is refused or granted subject to conditions, the reasons for the same shall be recorded.

8. *District Level Mechanism.*—(1) The District Level Mechanism shall consist of District Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee and District Level Approval Committee.

(2) The Government shall constitute the District Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee and the District Level Approval Committee to ensure that various licences, clearances, permits, approvals, etc., which are required to be granted by the competent authorities under various laws for the establishment, operation, expansion, diversification or modernisation of investment projects having a capital investment exceeding twenty-five crore rupees and up to fifty crore rupees, are provided to the applicant within the time limits and in the manner as provided under this Act or the rules made thereunder, based on the technical scrutiny of the departments or agencies concerned:

Provided that in the matter of critical investments, the Government may, by notification, fix a limit lower than twenty five crore rupees.

9. *Composition of District Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee.*—(1) The District Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee shall consists of the following members, namely:—

(a) District Development Commissioner o2.00r Sub Collector designated by District Collector- Chairperson;

(b) General Manager, District Industries Centre - Convenor;

(c) Deputy Director, Local Self Government Department;

(d) District level officers of all Departments/agencies concerned whose licence, clearance, approval etc. are involved; and

(e) Secretary of the Local Self Government Institution concerned.

(2) On receiving the application, the District Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee shall convene meetings on such dates, times and places as decided by the Chairperson and shall evaluate the application, in the manner as may be prescribed, and forward them, along with its recommendation, to the District Level Approval Committee.

(3) The quorum of the District Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee shall not be less than one-third of the total members. The procedure in regard to its transaction of business shall be decided by the Chairperson.

(4) On the basis of the technical scrutiny reports received from the competent authorities under section 14, the Committee shall conduct a detailed examination and evaluation, resolve discrepancies, if any, between the departments, and submit a consolidated report, enclosing those reports and including its recommendations regarding each clearance, shall be submitted to the District Level Approval Committee for the final decision.

10. *Composition of District Level Approval Committee.*—(1) The District Level Approval Committee shall consists of the following members, namely:—

- (a) District Collector – Chairperson;2.00
- (b) Joint Director, Local Self Government Department;
- (c) Executive Engineer (Roads), Public Works Department;
- (d) District Planning Officer, Planning and Economic Affairs Department;
- (e) District Level Officer not below the rank of Deputy Chief Engineer in Kerala State Electricity Board;
- (f) District Level Officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer in Kerala Water Authority;
- (g) General Manager, District Industries Centre - Convenor.

(2) On receiving the application, the District Level Approval Committee shall convene meetings on such dates, times and places as decided by the Chairperson and shall consider the recommendation made by the District Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee and take appropriate decision on the application.

(3) The quorum of the District Level Approval Committee shall not be less than one-third of the total members. The procedure in regard to its transaction of business shall be decided by the Chairperson.

11. *Powers and Functions of the District Level Approval Committee.*—(1)

Notwithstanding anything contained in relevant law, where an investment projects submitted by an applicant requires any clearance under any law specified in the schedule, the Approval Committee shall, in place of the competent authority specified under the relevant law, have the power to:—

- (a) grant such clearance;
- (b) refuse to grant such clearance for reasons to be recorded in writing;
- (c) grant such clearance subject to conditions ensuring compliance with the provisions of the relevant law; or
- (d) renew or modify any clearance granted under this Act.

(2) Every clearance granted by the Approval Committee under sub-section (1) shall, subject to the conditions specified therein, be deemed to have been granted by the competent authority to grant permission under the relevant law.

(3) With effect from the date of commencement of this Act, the competent authority under the relevant law shall not exercise the powers vested in the District Level Approval Committee in relation to clearances under the laws specified in the schedule.

(4) The Approval Committee shall communicate its decision to the applicant in writing and where the clearance is refused or granted subject to conditions, the reasons for the same shall be recorded.

12. *Duties of the SARAL Secretariat and Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee regarding application.*—(1) The SARAL Secretariat shall,—

- (a) forward each registered application to the competent authorities concerned;
- (b) the competent authorities concerned shall consolidate the defect memo which is to be recorded and issued as a single instance as per sub-section (4) of section 14 and the same shall be intimated to the applicant as consolidated defect memo;

(c) the documents so received from the applicant, after rectifying the deficiencies, shall be forwarded to the competent authorities for providing technical scrutiny reports;

(d) to ensure that technical scrutiny reports from the competent authorities are made available within stipulated time limit, where such report is not received within such time limit, inform the same to the Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee for further action; and

(e) perform such other duties related to it.

(2) The Referral-cum- Appraisal Committee shall,—

(a) consolidate the various technical opinions and conditions from competent authorities;

(b) submit a consolidated report, along with its recommendation, regarding each clearance to the Approval Committee withing the time limit specified under item (iii) of sub-section (2) of section 14.

13. *Protection of the Powers of Competent Authorities.*—(1) Nothing in this Act shall affect the powers of a competent authority under the relevant law to inspect or enforce compliance with the conditions of a clearance in the event of a violation thereof:

Provided that the power to suspend or revoke a clearance included in the Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate shall vest exclusively in the Approval Committee concerned.

(2) The inspections under sub-section (1) shall be carried out through a Centralised Inspection System, as may be prescribed by the Government by notification:

Provided that this sub-section shall not apply to inspections required to be carried out before the grant of a clearance.

(3) Where a competent authority finds that the conditions of a clearance have been violated, it may recommend, through the SARAL Secretariat, to the concerned Approval Committee, with reasons recorded, that such clearance be suspended or revoked.

(4) Upon receipt of a recommendation under sub-section (3), the Approval Committee shall, after providing the applicant with a reasonable opportunity of being heard, decide on the recommendation and, where it decides to suspend or revoke the clearance, record the reason for the same and communicate the decision to the applicant in writing.

(5) Where a clearance is suspended or revoked under sub-section (4), the SARAL Secretariat shall make an endorsement to that effect on the Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate and intimate the applicant and other competent authorities included in the certificate through the portal.

(6) Where, after the suspension or revocation of a clearance, the Approval Committee withdraws such action or restores the clearance, either on the recommendation of the competent authority or on an application made by the applicant, the SARAL Secretariat shall make an endorsement to that effect on the Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate and issue an intimation referred in sub-section (5).

CHAPTER III

APPLICATIONS, CERTIFICATES AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO

14. *Application Procedure and Timelines.*—(1) Every application comes within the purview of this Act shall be made either online through the portal or in physical mode to the SARAL Secretariat.

(2) The applications received in physical mode shall be uploaded in the portal by the SARAL Secretariat on the date of receipt itself.

(3) Every application received under sub-section (1) shall be disposed within a period of seventy five days from the date of receipt of a complete application in the following stages:—

(i) *Preliminary examination and registration:* The SARAL Secretariat shall, within ten days from the date of receipt of the application, register the application and forward it, through the portal, to the competent authorities and to the Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee;

(ii) *Technical scrutiny:* The competent authorities shall, within thirty days from the date of receipt of the application under item (i) conduct a technical scrutiny, and where no defect memo has been issued under sub-section (4), submit the Technical Scrutiny Report, to the Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee through the portal;

(iii) *Consolidation:* The Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee shall, within fifteen days from the date of receipt of Technical Scrutiny Report under item (ii), submit a consolidated report, along with its recommendations to the Approval Committee;

(iv) *Decision:* The Approval Committee shall, within twenty days from the date of receipt of the consolidated report, take a decision;

(v) *Issue of Certificate:* The Approval Committee shall issue the Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate on the same day on which the decision on the application is taken.

(4) The timelimit specified in sub-section (3) shall be computed from the date of receipt of a complete application containing all the particulars and documents as may be prescribed. The time taken by the applicant for rectifying any deficiency in the application shall be excluded in computing the time limit mentioned in sub-section (3).

(5) Where at the stage of scrutiny, if any particulars or documents is deficient or defective in the application the Competent Authority shall notify the SARAL Secretariat of such defects and deficiency through the portal by a single defect memo, and the SARAL Secretariat shall inform the same to the applicant by a Consolidated Defect Memo requiring him to submit a complete application. No documents shall be called for in a piecemeal manner.

(6) The Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate shall be in such manner, as may be prescribed, and it shall be issued under a digital signature or electronic signature, as the case may be, under the Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000), and shall contain all the particulars specified in clause (t) of section 2.

15. *Clearances under Central Laws.*—(1) Nothing in this Act shall affect the powers of the authority competent under the relevant Central Act to grant, renew, amend, suspend or revoke a Clearance or the time limit prescribed under that Act for its disposal or the manner for making an application thereunder.

(2) Every applicant shall declare in the application, the clearances necessary for the investment project under the Central Act and shall make separate applications for each such clearance directly in such manner as provided under the relevant Central Act.

(3) The applicant shall furnish the date and reference number of each application made under sub-section (2) to the SARAL Secretariat and the SARAL Secretariat shall record them on the portal.

(4) Every Central-law Clearance, when granted, shall be furnished by the applicant before the SARAL Secretariat and SARAL Secretariat shall endorse the number, date of issue and validity of such clearance on the Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate, without any further decision of the Approval Committee.

16. *Clearances to be granted after completion of project.*—A State clearance which can be granted only after completion of the investment projects shall be granted by the Approval Committee or by an officer authorised by it on this behalf, on the basis of the report of the inspection conducted by the competent authority within such period, as may be prescribed, and such clearance shall be specifically endorsed in the Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate.

17. *Safety standards.*—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as permitting any relaxation of the safety standards or quality requirements specified under various laws for the time being in force for ensuring public health, welfare of workers, public safety and protection of the environment.

18. *Provisions relating to renewal, modification and expansion of investment projects and existing projects.*—(1) SARAL Secretariat shall maintain, on the portal, an electronic renewal calender in respect of every investment projects holding an integrated enterprise clearance certificate and shall remind the applicant before the commencement of the common renewal period.

(2) The validity of every state clearance granted or renewed under this Act shall cease on common renewal date. The Government may, by notification determine the unified period of validity.

(3) The renewal of all State clearances covered by an Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate shall be sought only by a single composite renewal application made to the SARAL Secretariat through the portal, not earlier than one hundred and twenty days and not later than sixty days before the common renewal date, along with such fee as may be prescribed.

(4) The State clearances held by an existing project shall be brought under an Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate at the time of its first composite renewal application, and the Approval Committee shall, by the composite renewal order, issue the Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate to the applicant and specify the common renewal date applicable to the project.

(5) No information or document that is already available on the portal, required to be submitted again unless such information or document has changed or expired, or is specifically demanded under the relevant law concerned.

(6) A Composite Renewal Application shall subject to the following procedure on the basis of the Risk Category, shall be decided within thirty days from the date of receipt of a complete application,—

- (i) in the case of low risk, self-certification through the Portal;
- (ii) in the case of medium risk, limited scrutiny; and
- (iii) in the case of high risk, inspection or technical verification, as the case may be, by the competent authority.

(7) The Composite Renewal Order shall specify separately, in respect of each clearance renewed thereby, the period of its validity and its conditions.

(8) A Central-law Clearance that falls due for renewal shall be renewed by the applicant directly under that relevant Central Act. The SARAL Secretariat shall intimate the due date of renewal to the applicant through the renewal calendar, and the renewed clearance, when furnished by the applicant, shall be recorded as endorsement on the Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate.

(9) The procedure provided under this section shall also apply to modification of clearances for the expansion, diversification or modernization of an investment project.

(10) Where the validity of clearance is shortened to the unified period of validity, the fee payable shall be proportionately adjusted, or credit shall be given for the unexpired period, as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER IV

CONDITIONS FOR APPEAL

19. *Appeal.*—(1) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the District-Level Approval Committee under sub-section (4) of section 11 may, within thirty days from the date of receipt of the notice of such decision, prefer an appeal against such decision before the State Level Approval Committee.

(2) In every appeal under sub-section (1), the following procedure shall apply, namely:—

(a) the appeal shall be submitted to the Appellate Authority through the portal, in such manner and form as may be prescribed, along with a copy of the decision appealed against and the prescribed fee:

Provided that the Appellate Authority may condone the delay and admit an appeal, if it is satisfied that there is sufficient cause for not preferring appeal within such period;

(b) the Appellate Authority may, call for the records or reports of the case from the District Level Approval Committee or from the competent authority and shall dispose of the appeal after giving the appellant and the persons concerned, a reasonable opportunity of being heard;

(c) the Appellate Authority shall dispose of the appeal within forty five days from the date of receipt of the appeal, by a written order recording the reasons therefore, and may, by such order, confirm, modify or set aside the order appealed

against, or remand the matter to the District Level Approval Committee along with directions to take a fresh decision within such period as may be specified by it; and

(d) the order of the Appellate Authority shall be communicated to the appellant through the portal, and the SARAL Secretariat shall record any consequential change resulting from it, by way of endorsement on the Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate.

(3) In respect of the rejection, suspension or revocation of any clearance included in the schedule to this Act, or of any condition attached thereto, the appellate mechanism provided under this section alone shall apply, in place of the appellate mechanisms provided under the relevant laws.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in the relevant laws, the decision taken by the State Approval Committee under this section shall be final.

CHAPTER V

FEES AND RATES

20. *Provisions relating to fees and rates.*—(1) An applicant shall pay to the Authority, in respect application under this Act, such fees as may be determined by the Government by notification under sub-section (2).

(2) The Government may, from time to time, by notification, determine or revise the rates of fees, the mode of payment and the period within which the payment shall be made.

(3) All fees payable under this Act shall be paid only through the portal, under such Head of Account as may be prescribed.

21. *Apportionment of fees regarding.*—The SARAL Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, design and maintain a web application with an automated fee apportion mechanism wherein the amounts collected in accordance with the rates in force under the respective laws are apportioned without causing loss of revenue to the departments, local self-government institutions, agencies and other entities concerned under the relevant laws.

CHAPTER VI
MISCELLANEOUS

22. *SARAL Secretariat.*—SARAL Secretariat shall assist the SARAL Authority in discharging its functions and shall coordinate with various departments and agencies in discharging such functions.

23. *Amendment of the schedule.*—The Government may, by notification in the gazette, make necessary amendments to the entries in the schedule appended to this Act and every such notification shall, as soon as may be after it is issued, be laid before the Legislative Assembly:

Provided that no additions shall be made to the entries in the schedule except by the authority of a law made by the State legislature.

24. *Duties and responsibilities of officers under the relevant Act.*—(1) Every competent authority shall appoint a nodal officer for the purposes of this Act, who shall ensure that the competent authority concerned submits the technical scrutiny report within the prescribed period.

(2) Any officer who, without reasonable cause, fails to discharge any duty cast on him under this Act within the specified period, shall be reported to the Government, and such failure shall be treated as dereliction of duty under the service rules applicable to that officer.

25. *Overriding effect of the Act.*—The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any of the Acts specified in the schedule.

26. *Protection of action taken in good faith.*—No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the State Government or any officer of the State Government or any officer or other employee of the Government for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done under provisions of this Act or rules made thereunder.

27. *Power to remove difficulties.*—(1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear, to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of two years from the date of the commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before the State Legislature.

28. *Directions by the Government.*—The Government may, from time to time, issue to the Authority such general or special directions as it considers necessary for the implementation of the objects of this Act and the authority shall be bound to comply with every direction issued and shall take the necessary steps accordingly.

29. *Power to make Rules.*—(1) The Government may, by notification in the Gazette, make Rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) Every Rule under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before the Legislative Assembly while it is in session for a total period of fourteen days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions and if before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following, the Legislative Assembly decides that the rule should be either modified or annulled, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or have no effect, as the case may be, so however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

ANNEXURE

SCHEDULE

(see section 7 & 11)

Provisions in relevant laws

No.	Relevant Law	Relevant Section/Rule
1.	The Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (13 of 1994)	232, 233, 233A, 236
2.	The Kerala Municipality Act, 1994 (20 of 1994)	311, 387, 388, 448, 449
3.	The Kerala Cinemas Regulation Act, 1958 (32 of 1958)	3, 4, 6, 11
4.	The Kerala Panchayat Building Rules, 2019	Provisions in the rules relating to clearances applicable to projects under this Act.
5.	The Kerala Municipality Building Rules, 2019	Provisions in the rules relating to clearances applicable to projects under this Act.
6.	Kerala Panchayat Raj (Issue of License to Enterprises) Rules, 2025	Provisions in the rules relating to clearances applicable to projects under this Act.
7.	Kerala Municipality (Issue of Licence to Enterprises) Rules, 2026	Provisions in the rules relating to clearances applicable to projects under this act.

8.	The Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, 2008 (28 of 2008)	27A
9.	The Kerala Paddy land- Wetland Conservation Rules, 2008	5, 12
10.	The Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland (Regularisation of Unauthorised Reclamation) Rules, 2015	3, 5
11.	The Kerala Promotion of Tree Growth in Non-Forest Areas Act, 2005 (46 of 2005)	6
12.	Kerala Promotion of Tree Growth in Non-Forest Areas Rules, 2011	3, 4
13.	The Kerala Lifts and Escalators Act, 2013 (18 of 2013)	3, 4, 6, 7, 8
14.	The Kerala Lifts and Escalators Rules, 2013	3, 4, 5
15	The Kerala Groundwater (Control and Regulation) Act, 2002, (19 of 2002)	7, 12
16	The Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003 (31 of 2003)	4
17	The Kerala Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 1986 (14 of 1986)	38(4), chapter VII
18	The Kerala Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2018 (2 of 2018)	14, 16
19	The Kerala Shops and Commercial Establishment Act, 1960 (34 of 1960)	5A

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Government has decided to enact comprehensive legislation to constitute a statutory authority, in accordance with the principle of “One State – One Approval – One Document,” for accelerating the issuance of various licences, clearances, permits, etc., required under various State laws for the establishment, operation, expansion, diversification, or modernisation of investment projects involving a capital investment exceeding twenty-five crore rupees, based on the technical scrutiny conducted by the departments or agencies concerned, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill is intended to achieve the above object.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

If this Bill is enacted and brought into force, no additional expenditure will be incurred from the Consolidated Fund of the State at present. But expenses may be incurred during the implementation stage for the establishment and strengthening of State and District SARAL Secretariats/Nodal Offices, the development and integration of office infrastructure, equipment and the digital platform, the maintenance and operational support of the digital system, capacity building and training, and other operational requirements.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to appoint the date on which the Act shall come into force.

2. Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government,—

- (i) in clause (c) to prescribe the form for submitting an application;
- (ii) in clause (f), to prescribe the method for calculating the value capital investment with respect to the applicant;
- (iii) in clause (m) to prescribe the form of the composite renewal application;

(iv) in clause (o) to declare, by notification, investments in sectors or categories of critical importance as critical investments;

(v) in clause (t) to prescribe the other particulars to be included in a Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate;

(vi) in clause (u) to specify, by notification, the limit for critical investments;

(vii) in clause (w) to fix public online portal by notification;

(viii) in clause (aa) to classify the risks associated with a clearance by notification.

3. Sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to constitute, a statutory authority under the name “SARAL Kerala” by notification.

4. Clause 5 of the Bill,—

(a) sub-clause (2) seeks to:—(i)empower the Chairperson to fix the date, time and place of the meeting of the State Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee; and

(ii) empower the State Government to prescribe the procedure for the evaluation of applications by the said Committee.

(b) sub-clause (3) seeks to empower the Chairperson to prescribe the procedure for the conduct of business of the said Committee.

5. Clause 6 of the Bill, seeks to empower the Chairperson,—(i) sub-clause (2) to fix the date, time and place of the meeting of the State Level Approval Committee.

(ii) sub-clause (3) to prescribe the procedure for the conduct of business of the said Committee.

6. Clause 9 of the bill,—(a) sub-clause (2)—

(i) empower the Chairperson to fix the date, time and place of the meeting of the District Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee,

(ii) empower the State Government to prescribe the procedure for the evaluation of applications by the said Committee.

(b) sub-clause (3) seeks to empower the Chairperson to prescribe the procedure for the conduct of business of the said Committee.

7. Clause 10 of the Bill, seeks to empower the Chairperson,—

(i) in sub-clause (2) to determine the date, time and venue of the meeting of the District Level Approval Committee.

(ii) in sub-clause (3) seeks to empower the Chairperson to determine the procedure for the conduct of business of the said Committee.

8. Sub-clause (2) of clause 13 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to specify, by notification, the centralised inspection system for conducting inspections relating to violations of the conditions of clearances.

9. Sub-clause (6) of clause 14 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to prescribe the form of the Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate.

10. Clause 16 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to prescribe the time limit for conducting inspections for granting a State Clearance that may be issued only after the completion of the project.

11. Clause 18 of the Bill, seeks to empower the Government,—

(i) sub-clause (2) to prescribe, by notification, the unified period relating to the common renewal date;

(ii) sub-clause (3) to prescribe the fee for the common renewal application; and

(iii) sub-clause (10) to prescribe the fee payable in cases where the validity period of a clearance is reduced to the unified period.

12. Sub-clause (2)(a) of clause 19 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to prescribe the manner, form and fee for an appeal.

13. Clause 20 of the Bill, seeks to empower the Government,—

(i) sub-clause (2) seeks to provide for the prescription or revision, by notification, of the rates of fees payable under this Act, the manner of payment thereof, and the time limit for such payment;

(ii) sub-clause (3) seeks to empower the Government to specify the Head of Account under which fees are to be remitted through the portal.

14. Clause 22 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to prescribe the terms and conditions governing the functioning of the Saral Secretariat.

15. Clause 23 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to amend the schedule by notification in the Gazette.

16. Clause 27 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to issue orders for the removal of difficulties.

17. Clause 28 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to issue such general or special directions to the Authority as it may consider necessary and expedient for carrying out the purposes and objectives of this Act.

18. Sub-clause (1) of clause 29 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

The matters in respect of which rules may be made notifications or orders may be issued are matters of procedure and are of routine or administrative in nature. Further, the rules, are subject to scrutiny by the Legislative Assembly. The delegation of legislative powers is, thus, of a normal character.

P. K. KUNHALIKUTTY

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1.—Sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to appoint the date on which the Act shall come into force.

Clause 2 .—This clause seeks to define certain words and expressions used in the bill.

Clause 3.—This clause seeks to constitute SARAL Keralam Authority.

Clause 4.—This clause seeks to provide for the constitution of the State Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee and State Level Approval Committee.

Clause 5.—This clause seeks to provide for the composition of State Level Approval Committee.

Clause 6.—This clause seeks to provide for the composition of State Level Approval Committee.

Clause 7.—This clause seeks to provide for the powers and duties of State Level Approval Committee.

Clause 8.—This clause seeks to provide for the constitution of the State Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee and the State Level Approval Committee.

Clause 9.—This clause seek to provide for the composition of State Level Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee.

Clause 10.—This clause seeks to provide for District Level Approval Committee.

Clause 11.—This clause seeks to provide for the powers and duties of District Level Approval Committee.

Clause 12.—This clause seeks to provide for the reponsibilities of Referral-cum-Appraisal Committee.

Clause 13.—This clause seeks to provide for the protection of the powers of the Competent Authorities.

Clause 14.—This clause seeks to provide for the procedure and timeline of the application.

Clause 15.—This clause seeks to provide for the clearances under Central Law.

Clause 16.—This clause seeks to provide for the clearances to be granted after completion of project.

Clause 17.—This clause seeks to provide for safety standards.

Clause 18.—This clause seeks to provide for the provisions relating to renewal, modification and expansion of existing projects.

Clause 19.—This clause seeks to provide for provisions relating to appeal.

Clause 20.—This clause seeks to provide for the payable fees.

Clause 21.—This clause seeks to provide for the constitution of SARAL Secretariat.

Clause 22.—This clause seeks to amend the schedule appended as annexure to this act.

Clause 23.—This clause seeks to provide for amendments for schedule.

Clause 24.—This clause seeks to provide duties and responsibilities of departmental officers under the relevant laws.

Clause 25.—This clause seeks to provide for the overriding effect of the Act.

Clause 26.—This clause seeks to provide for protection for acts done in good faith.

Clause 27.—This clause seeks to provide for the removal of difficulties.

Clause 28.—This clause seeks to provide for directions issued by the Government.

Clause 29.—This clause seeks to provide for the power to make rules.
