



UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
Preliminary Minutes of the 22nd Meeting of the
Syndicate held on 01.11.2025

(Re-accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade)

Place of Meeting : University Buildings,
Thiruvananthapuram
 Time : 10.30 AM

Members Present:

1. Dr. Mohanan Kunnumal (*In the Chair*)
Vice-Chancellor
2. Adv.Muraleedharan Pillai G
3. Sri.R. Rajesh
4. Dr.K.G.Gopchandran
5. Dr.Pramod N
6. Dr.M.Leninlal
7. Sri.Ajay D.N
8. Dr.Manoj T.R
9. Sri.Ahamad Fazil. Y
10. Dr.S.Jayan
11. Dr.Vinodkumar T.G.Nair
12. Sri.P.S.Gopakumar
13. Prof.(Dr.) Prakash K.C
14. Prof.Manoj V
15. Dr.K.Rahim.
16. Adv.R.B.Rajeev Kumar
17. Dr.S.Nazeeb
18. Dr.Shijukhan J.S.
19. Sri.Vaibhav Chacko
20. Sri.Rajesh Kumar M., Additional Secretary,
Electronics and Information Technology Department
21. Sri.Anilkumar V.S., Additional Secretary, Higher Education Department
22. Sri.K.Sudhir, IAS, Director of Collegiate Education

Item No.22.01 *Draft Senate Interpellations for the Meeting of the Senate scheduled to be held on 12th November, 2025 - Consideration and approval - reg.*

(Ac.AI)

The answers to the questions given notice by the Members of the Senate for the meeting of the Senate scheduled to be held on 12th November, 2025 are given as Appendix for consideration and approval.

Resolution of the Syndicate

RESOLVED that the draft answers to the questions to be answered at the next meeting of the Senate scheduled to be held on 12.11.2025, be approved with modifications.

Item No.22.01(A) *Grave misconduct of Dr. K.S. Anil Kumar, Registrar (under suspension) – consideration of the continuation of his suspension - initiating civil and criminal disciplinary proceedings – Consideration of- reg.*

(Ad.AI)

Dr. K.S. Anilkumar, who was serving as Registrar of the University, was placed under suspension vide Proceedings No.VC/Proceedings/01/2025 dated 02.07.2025 and Sri P. Harikumar, Joint Registrar, was posted as Registrar in charge.

Subsequently, Dr. K.S. Anilkumar filed WP(C) No. 24724/2025 before the Hon'ble High Court, challenging the suspension order, with the Syndicate of the University being included as a party in the Writ Petition. The members of the Syndicate then requested that a meeting of the Syndicate be convened to determine the stand of the Syndicate on the matter.

Based on the said request, the meeting of the Syndicate was convened by the Vice-Chancellor on 06.07.2025 with a single Agenda ***"To finalize the Statement of Facts to be submitted in connected with WP(C)No.24724/2025, filed by Dr. K.S. Anil Kumar, Registrar (under suspension)"***.

The Vice Chancellor placed a report before the meeting of the Syndicate, regarding the suspension of Dr. K.S. Anil Kumar, Registrar, by invoking the powers under Section 10 (13) of the Kerala University Act. At the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor reported to the Syndicate that Dr.K.S.Anilkumar was placed under suspension, invoking the powers vested under Section 10(13) of Kerala University Act 1974. During the meeting certain members wanted to discuss matters beyond the purview of the single Agenda. The Vice-Chancellor did not permit the same since the matter is sub-judice and also that the provision in the Act contemplates only reporting the matter to the Syndicate. Further, the suspended officer had the statutory right to file an appeal as provided under Statute 51 of Chapter IV Part 3 of the First Statutes. Since the meeting of the Syndicate became disorderly, the Vice-Chancellor declared that the meeting was dissolved.

After the meeting was dissolved, a group of Syndicate members convened a separate meeting in the afternoon, which lacked legal validity. Despite this, they resolved to revoke the suspension order dated July 2, 2025. Records were subsequently created to indicate that Dr. K.S. Anilkumar, the suspended Registrar, had joined duty on July 6, 2025, which was a holiday (Sunday). Sri.P.Harikumar, Joint Registrar, who was put in charge of the Registrar, informed that he handed over the charge back to Dr.K.SAnilkumar on 06.07.2025. The Vice Chancellor reported the whole matter to the Honourable Chancellor and took the stand that the Registrar was still under suspension and the meeting claimed to have been held in the absence of the Vice- Chancellor was illegal. Thereafter, Sri P.Harikumar availed leave and Dr.Mini DejoKappen, Director, Planning & Development was posted as the Registrar in Charge.

On 07.07.2025, Dr.K.S. Anilkumar withdrew the Writ Petition (WP(C)No.24724/2025) challenging his suspension order, claiming that he has been reinstated into service. However, he did not produce the copy of the decision before the Hon'ble High Court and the Standing Counsel, who represented the University, did not endorse his stand in the Hon'ble High Court. The Hon'ble High Court disposed of the case holding that any further dispute could be resolved by the appropriate authority.

The Vice-Chancellor rejected the decision made by the Syndicate in his absence and instructed the Security Officer to secure the Registrar's office, restricting unauthorized access. However, some Syndicate members and a group of University employees supported the suspended Officer's actions, leading to a politically charged situation. Student organizations subsequently staged protests, resulting in violence and unrest in the Campus.

Despite the suspension order and explicit directions, the suspended officer entered the Office, defying the Security Officer's objections. The Security Officer reported this serious breach to the Vice-Chancellor on 10.07.2025. Although this was a serious breach of discipline, the Vice-Chancellor exercised restraint to avoid further escalation and violence in the campus.

Simultaneously, the Vice-Chancellor directed that the suspended Officer be denied access to both digital and physical files. Initially, access was restricted as per the directive. However, the suspended Officer later instructed officials to restore his access, which was done. In response, the Vice-Chancellor ordered that all files be routed through Dr.MiniDejoKappen, who was put in-charge of the Registrar.

The actions of the suspended Officer plunged the University into chaos and confusion. Media statements from certain quarters endorsing the Officer's unauthorized actions worsened the situation. The suspended Officer then approached the Hon'ble High Court with a Writ Petition (WP(C)No. 28246/2025), seeking to resume duties as Registrar, but the Hon'ble High court denied interim relief, ultimately rejected his claims and disposed of the petition directing the 2nd respondent (Vice-Chancellor) **to convene a meeting of the Syndicate through the Registrar in Charge to consider whether the suspension should be continued and the Syndicate may decide accordingly. The decision taken by the Syndicate will necessarily be binding on the Vice Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor will have to give effect to it, subject to the powers of the Chancellor.**

In the judgment rendered by the Hon'ble High Court, the contention that the suspension of Dr. K.S. Anilkumar was revoked and the Syndicate meeting convened without the authority of the Vice-Chancellor were not accepted.

Meanwhile, the Syndicate at its meeting held on 02.09.2025, resolved to relieve Dr. Mini Dejo Kappan, Director, Planning and Development from the post of Registrar i/c with effect from 02.09.2025 and Smt. Resmi R, Joint Registrar, Campus Administration was put in full additional charge of the Registrar. This decision effectively nullified Dr. K.S. Anilkumar's claim of reinstatement, undermining his assertion that he had resumed service on 6th July, 2025.

The suspended Officer and his supporters created law-and-order problems in the Campus, prompting the Hon'ble High Court to affirm the Vice-Chancellor's authority to maintain discipline in the Campus (I.O dated 22.08.2025 in W.P.(PIL) No. 83 of 2025). The suspended Officer's actions also caused widespread confusion across administrative, academic, and financial domains. It also made necessary for one Syndicate member to approach the Hon'ble High Court seeking police protection for the functioning of the University.

Notably, a suspended Officer is not expected to occupy his office during suspension. However, in blatant disregard for the Vice-Chancellor's and Syndicate's authority, the Officer entered the Office, took custody of the official seal, and proceeded to dispose of numerous files while under suspension. He also misused the official vehicle assigned to the Registrar during the suspension period. **(details of the usage of the official vehicle is appended). (Appendix I)**

A preliminary inquiry was caused to be conducted through Smt. Sindhu George, Joint Registrar, CBCSS on the conduct of Dr. K.S. Anilkumar during his suspension period.

The report's key findings include:

- Handling approximately 522 files and making decisions while under suspension
- Attending office during suspension and marking attendance on multiple days
- Issuing directives to Officer's despite being suspended.

The copy of the report, submitted by Smt. Sindhu George, Joint Registrar, is appended. (Appendix II).

Further investigation revealed that Dr. K.S. Anilkumar accessed the digital file system during his suspension, as evidenced by login details. Despite being suspended, he continued to exert control over Officers and office administration. **The report detailing the login access records is appended. (Appendix III).**

Dr. K.S. Anilkumar has flagrantly disregarded the suspension order issued to him by the competent authority. Despite Dr. Mini Dejo Kappan being duly placed in charge of Registrar as per the Vice-Chancellor's directive, Dr. K.S. Anilkumar entered the Office and continued to discharge functions of the Registrar during the period of his suspension. He also ignored explicit instructions from the Security Officer to refrain from entering the Office premises. Apart from the above, he also instructed the Standing Counsel of the University to file a response in WP(C) No.28246 of 2025, filed by him contradicting the stand of the Vice-Chancellor. There occurred serious lapses when the petitioner in a writ petition himself, especially when he is under suspension, instructed the Standing Counsel to take a stand supporting his contentions. The Standing Counsel of the University, who is a senior member of the bar was also not vigilant when he adopted the stand of the petitioner as the stand of the University despite the specific instructions forwarded to him through the Legal Section. This act resulted in some observations made by the Hon'ble High Court in the judgment. Such actions constitute a blatant disregard for administrative authority and represent serious misconduct. In the light of these acts of gross disobedience and misconduct, it is recommended that the Syndicate should initiate disciplinary action against Dr. K.S. Anilkumar.

A detailed enquiry should be conducted into the disposal of 522 files by the suspended Officer, with a view to determining any irregularities and taking appropriate remedial actions at the earliest. The enquiry needs to be thorough and impartial, without being influenced by Dr. K.S. Anilkumar, who could impact upon the same once reinstated. An enquiry alone can bring out the involvement of other Officers who helped him to have access to the University records by violating specific directions issued by the authorities.

In accordance with Statute 19 of Chapter 4, Part 3 of the Kerala University First Statutes, 1977, suspension of the employee is warranted under the present circumstances. As long as the conditions justifying suspension persist, the suspension should continue. The present case falls under sub-statutes (a) and (c) of Statute 19. The conduct of the suspended Officer in entering the Office,

performing official duties, and willfully disobeying the instructions of higher authority constitutes very serious misconduct. Accordingly, proceedings for the imposition of a major penalty are warranted and should be initiated.

Dr. K.S. Anilkumar is currently under suspension and it is essential that his suspension be continued as such. Reinstating him at this stage would directly affect the integrity of the detailed enquiry to be conducted into his actions during the period of suspension. It is noted that even while under suspension, Dr.K.S Anilkumar managed to control the affairs of the Office of the Registrar, in violation of established directives.

The enquiry to be conducted in this regard has to review official records and system logs, both of which fall under the Registrar's direct control. Allowing Dr. K.S. Anilkumar to resume his duties, while he is the subject of the enquiry, would pose a significant risk to the impartiality and effectiveness of the investigation.

The Syndicate is required to take a decision regarding the initiation of disciplinary proceedings and issuance of a charge sheet to Dr.K.S. Anilkumar in respect of his actions on 25.06.2025. Furthermore, it is imperative to initiate disciplinary proceedings against Dr.K.S.Anilkumar for his conduct during the period of his suspension.

Above all, the suspended Officer has not so far not filed any appeal against the order of suspension as contemplated under statute 51 of the Chapter 4, Part 3 of the Kerala University First Statutes. The Syndicate is not conferred with any appellate authority over the decision of the Vice-Chancellor. When the appellate authority is specifically defined in the Statutes no other authority can act as an appellate authority. The Syndicate has to consider the question of continuation the suspension of Dr.K.S.Anilkumar in the light of the above facts and law.

In the light of the aforesaid acts of grave misconduct on the part of Dr. K.S. AnilKumar, that warrants proceedings for the imposition of a major penalty and in the light of the statutory provisions stated. It is also necessary to consider the initiation of the criminal proceedings against him for forcefully entering into his office during the period of his suspension, keeping the custody of the official seal of the University unauthorisedly.

The matter is placed before the Syndicate, for consideration of the following:

- i. To initiate disciplinary actions and issue charge sheet against Dr. K.S. Anil Kumar for his actions on 25.06.2025, leading to his suspension.
- ii. To initiate disciplinary proceedings against Dr. K.S. Anil Kumar for his grave misconduct during the period of his suspension
- iii. To conduct a detailed enquiry into the disposal of 522 files and all other illegal activities by the suspended Officer as per the Enquiry Report and
- iv. To consider initiating criminal action against Dr.K.S.Anilkumar for the criminal offence of trespassing into the Office during the period of his suspension, handling the files and keeping the official seal of the University unauthorisedly.

Resolution of the Syndicate

The 'Resolution' moved by Adv. Muraleedharan Pillai G, Member Syndicate (Convenor, Standing Committee of the Syndicate on Finance), after detailed discussions and comprehensive deliberations, the Syndicate, being the appointing as well as disciplinary authority of the Registrar resolved to constitute a Committee with Adv. Muraleedharan Pillai G, (Convenor, Standing Committee of the Syndicate on Finance), Shri R. Rajesh, (Ex. M.L.A.), Dr. S. Nazeeb, Members of the Syndicate, to enquire into all the matters which led to and connected with the action taken against Dr. K.S. Anil Kumar, since 25.06.2025 to this day. Since the above Committee will enquire into all the matters regarding the subject, the report of Smt. Sindhu George, Joint Registrar referred and appended along with this Agenda need not be considered for the time being. The matters noted in the Agenda notes and the report of the Joint Registrar shall be considered by the Committee during the enquiry. The Committee shall submit the report with recommendations to the Syndicate within two months for its consideration and appropriate decision.

Since, Dr. K.S. Anil Kumar has been suspended from the post of Registrar by the Vice-Chancellor since 02.07.2025 and nearly four months have elapsed since then, the Syndicate being the disciplinary authority of the Registrar, resolved to revoke the said suspension of Dr.K.S. Anil Kumar and reinstate him as Registrar with immediate effect. Since the matters relating to the subject is covered by the Enquiry Committee, no coercive action shall be taken against Dr.K.S Anil Kumar by the Vice-Chancellor.

The 'resolution' moved by Adv.Muraleedharan Pillai G, Convenor, Standing Committee of the Syndicate on Finance was supported by the following 18 members out of total 22 members, who have participated in the Syndicate meeting. Further, resolved to issue University Order in terms of reinstating Dr.K.S. Anil Kumar as Registrar, University of Kerala immediately.

Dr. K.G. Gopchandran, Dr. Manoj T.R., Dr. M. Leninlal, Shri Vaibhav Chacko, Dr. Pramod N, Shri Ahamad Fazil Y, Dr. S. Jayan, Prof. Manoj V, Shri Ajay D.N., Dr. K. Rahim, Adv. R.B. Rajeev Kumar, Dr. Shijukhan J.S., Shri R. Rajesh, Dr. S. Nazeeb, Shri Rajesh Kumar M, Additional Secretary, Electronics and Information Technology Department, Shri Anilkumar V.S., Additional Secretary, Higher Education Department, Shri K. Sudhir I.A.S., Director of Collegiate Education.

Two Members of the Syndicate (Dr.Vinodkumar T.G. Nair and Shri P.S. Gopakumar) formally dissented to it stating that it is in violation of the Kerala University Act and Statutes.

The Vice-Chancellor, the Chair of the Meeting expressed his dissent to it stating the reason that as per Section 10 (16) of the Kerala University Act, 1974, it is the duty of the Vice-Chancellor to see that the Proceedings of the University are carried out in accordance with the provision of the Act, the Statutes, the Ordinances, the Regulations, the Rules and the Bye-laws and to report to the Hon'ble Chancellor every proceeding which is not in conformity with such provisions. Hence, it is found that the opinion of the majority Members of the Syndicate of the University with respect to the suspension and consequential actions of Dr.K.S. Anil Kumar appears to be in violation of the provisions contemplated under Clause 17(1) and 18 (3) Chapter 2 of the Kerala University First Statutes, 1977.

Dissented for the reason that the action of the suspended employee forcefully attending the Office, taking decisions, removing Office seal etc., have to be viewed seriously. Since the Syndicate has decided to conduct an enquiry, the person against whom the enquiry has to be conducted, shall not be permitted to be in a position where he could influence the enquiry by manipulating the records which are in his custody and influencing the witnesses who are subordinates to him.

Clause 19, Chapter 4 Part III of Kerala University First Statutes 1977 will be specifically violated in this process and the same would be against the interest of the University. Further, the reinstatement of the Officer in the given circumstances will send a message of compromise on the misconduct of the Officer.

Also, the above resolution moved by 18 members of Syndicate is in violation of the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court in WP (C) No.28246/2025:

"The decision taken by the Syndicate will necessarily be binding on the Vice-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor will have to give effect to it, subject to the powers of the Chancellor".

Hence, invoking Section 10 (16) of the Kerala University Act, 1974, the whole matter is hereby reported to the Hon'ble Chancellor for consideration and further action.

All other items in the agenda deferred to the next meeting of the Syndicate.

The meeting was dissolved at 8.15 p.m.

REGISTRAR (I/C)

VICE-CHANCELLOR

University Buildings,
Thiruvananthapuram
01.11.2025

REGISTRAR (I/C)

VICE-CHANCELLOR