

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V.G.ARUN

Wednesday, the 26th day of November 2025 / 5th Agrahayana, 1947
WP(C) NO. 42795 OF 2025(Y)

PETITIONER:

STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE ADDITIONAL
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.

RESPONDENTS:

1. THE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT TIRUR-CALICUT ROAD, THENHIPALAM, KERALA,, PIN - 673635
2. UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT, REPRESENTED BY ITS REGISTRAR, TIRUR-CALICUT ROAD, THENHIPALAM, KERALA,, PIN - 673635
3. PROF.(DR.) ELUVATHINGAL D. JEMMIS, NATIONAL SCIENCE CHAIR PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF INORGANIC AND PHYSICAL, CHEMISTRY (IPC), INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE, PIN - 560012
4. PROF. RAVINDRA D. KULKARNI, VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD, MUMBAI, PIN - 400032
5. PROF. SABU A., MEMBER SECRETARY, KERALA STATE COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT (KSCSTE), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695004

Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to stay all further proceedings pursuant to Exhibits P1 and P2 Notifications issued by the first respondent Chancellor, pending disposal of the Writ Petition.

This petition coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C), this court's order dated 17/11/2025 and upon hearing the arguments of SRI.K.GOPALAKRISHNA KURUP, ADVOCATE GENERAL, SRI.V.MANU, SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER & SRI.BIJOY CHANDRAN, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER for the petitioner, SRI.P.SREEKUMAR (SENIOR ADVOCATE) along with SRI.S.PRASANTH, STANDING COUNSEL for R1, SRI.SURIN GEORGE IPE, Advocate for R5, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.

V.G.ARUN. , J.

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Dated this the 26th day of November, 2025

O R D E R

The 5th respondent entered appearance through Counsel and submits that he is not interested in being a member of the Search-Cum-Selection Committee. As such, the requirement of there being minimum three members in the Search-Cum-Selection Committee for the post of Vice Chancellor is not satisfied. Being so, the question arises as to whether the process of selection can be continued.

2. According to the learned Advocate General, going by Regulation 7.3.ii of the UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and Other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2018, the selection process can commence only after a properly constituted Search-Cum-Selection Committee is in place.

3. Per contra, the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the Chancellor contends that it is well within the powers of the Chancellor to invite applications from interested persons, the role of the Search-Cum-Selection Committee being confined to the selection of the most suitable person from among the applicants.

4. Undoubtedly, the process of selection to the post of Vice Chancellor cannot commence without the Search-Cum-Selection Committee being in place. At the same time, applications having been invited *vide* Ext.P2, the receipt of applications is not interdicted, but made subject to the outcome of the writ petition. It is made clear that the selection process shall commence only after the Search-Cum-Selection Committee is duly constituted.

5. The next question is as to how the constitution of the Committee is to be proceeded with in view of the 5th respondent's stand that he is not interested in continuing as a member of the Committee. Here, the submission of the learned Standing Counsel for the University that the procedure is to convene a meeting of the Senate to elect a

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new member to the Search-Cum-Selection Committee assumes relevance. Learned Standing Counsel points out that under special circumstances, the Senate can be convened in thirty days.

6. Considering that the selection for the post of Vice Chancellor, which is of utmost importance, has come to a standstill, the 2nd respondent shall convene the meeting of the Senate of the Calicut University to elect a new member to the Search-Cum-Selection Committee within thirty days of production of a copy of this order. As the members elected to the Search-Cum-Selection Committee earlier were unwilling to sit in the Committee, it will be appropriate to obtain the consent of the elected member, before forwarding the decision of the Senate to the Chancellor for approval.

Post on 05.01.2026.

sd/-

V . G . ARUN , JUDGE

Sru

APPENDIX OF WP(C) 42795/2025

Exhibit P2

A TRUE PHOTOCOPY OF THE NOTIFICATION DATED 03.11.2025.

