



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Health & Family Welfare Department- Medical Education- Establishment- OA No. 293/2026 filed by Dr.Ashraf T.P, Professor, Department of Paediatrics, Government Medical College, Kozhikode before the Hon'ble Kerala Administrative Tribunal- Complied with- Orders issued.

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (S) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.1941/2026/H&FWD Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 06-06-2026

Read 1 G.O.(Rt). No.673/2026/H&FWD dated 18/02/2026.

2 Final Order dated 13/03/2026 in OA No. 293/2026 filed before the Hon'ble Kerala Administrative Tribunal, Thiruvananthapuram.

ORDER

Dr. Ashraf T.P., Professor of Paediatrics, Government Medical College, Kozhikode, challenged the appointment of Dr. Renjini Kotencheri, Professor and Head of the Department of Ophthalmology, Government Medical College, Kozhikode, as Vice Principal of the institution vide G.O. read as 1st paper above, before the Hon'ble Kerala Administrative Tribunal in O.A. No.293/2026.

2. The Hon'ble Kerala Administrative Tribunal, while disposing of the O.A., directed the Government, being the first respondent, to hear both the applicant and the fourth respondent and to take an appropriate decision after considering their relative merit.

3. In compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal, a personal hearing was conducted on 06.05.2026. Dr. Ashraf T.P., the applicant, and Dr. Renjini Kotecheri, the fourth respondent, were heard in person. Representatives of the Director of Medical Education and the Principal, Government Medical College, Kozhikode, also participated and explained the official position.

4. During the hearing, Dr. Ashraf T.P. contended that he is senior to Dr. Renjini Kotecheri in service and possesses considerable administrative experience, including service as Vice Principal of Government Medical College, Manjeri, holding full additional charge of Principal, functioning as Executive Director of Kerala State Social Security Mission, and serving in various administrative capacities in Government Medical College, Kozhikode. He further submitted that both the Principal, Government Medical College, Kozhikode, and the Director of Medical Education had recommended his name for appointment as Vice Principal and that the appointment of his junior was arbitrary and contrary to established practice.

5. Dr. Renjini Kotecheri, on the other hand, submitted that the post of Vice Principal is not a cadre post and that appointment thereto is not governed solely by seniority. She highlighted her experience as Resident Medical Officer and Deputy Superintendent in Government Medical College, Kozhikode, her role in managing institutional administration during the COVID-19 pandemic and Nipah outbreaks, her membership in the Senate of the Kerala University of Health Sciences and various academic bodies, and her involvement in student welfare and academic administration. She contended that the Government is competent to appoint a suitable officer to such administrative assignments based on institutional requirements and administrative considerations.

6. Government examined the reports submitted by the Director of Medical Education and the Principal, Government Medical College, Kozhikode, the records relating to the appointment, the submissions made by both parties, and the directions issued by the Hon'ble Kerala Administrative Tribunal. On examination, it is noticed that the post of Vice Principal in Government Medical Colleges is not a sanctioned cadre post governed by any statutory recruitment rules. The qualifications and methods of appointment prescribed in G.O.(Ms) No.100/2008/H&FWD dated 07.02.2008 and G.O.(Ms) No.14/2013/H&FWD dated 22.01.2013 do not include the post of Vice Principal. No separate seniority list, select list, panel, or statutory procedure has been prescribed for appointment to the said post. It is also found that the National Medical Commission regulations do not govern appointments to such administrative assignments. Furthermore the appointment of Dr. Renjini Kotencheri was made in exercise of the executive powers of Government in respect of a non-cadre administrative assignment. In the absence of any statutory rules mandating appointment on the basis of seniority alone, Government is competent to assign such administrative responsibilities based on its assessment of institutional requirements and administrative considerations.

7. The Government are of the view that no illegality, procedural irregularity, or violation of any statutory provision has been established in the appointment of Dr. Renjini Kotencheri as Vice Principal, Government Medical College, Kozhikode. The fact that another officer may possess higher seniority or comparatively greater experience does not, by itself, invalidate an appointment made to a non-cadre administrative post in the absence of any statutory prescription requiring selection exclusively on such criteria. However considering the rival

claims, the reports of the competent authorities, the records available, and the directions of the Hon'ble Kerala Administrative Tribunal and observing the relative merit, Dr. Ashraf T.P. is posted as Vice Principal of Govt. Medical College, Kozhikode.

8. The Order dated, 13/03/2026 of Hon'ble Kerala Administrative Tribunal in OA No. 293/2026 filed by Dr. Ashraf T.P is thus complied with.

(By order of the Governor)
THARUN LAL S
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY

The Advocate General, Thiruvananthapuram (with C/L)

The Director of Medical Education, Thiruvananthapuram

The Principal Accountant General (A&E/ Audit) Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram

The Principal, Govt. Medical College. Kozhikode

Dr. Ashraf T.P., Professor, Dept. of Paediatrics, Govt. Medical
College, Kozhikode

Dr. Renjini Kottencheri., Professor, Dept. of Ophthalmology,
Govt. Medical College, Kozhikode

Web & New Media, Information & Public Relations, Govt. Secretariat
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Forwarded /By order

Section Officer

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P.S to Minister for Health & Devaswoms

PA to Additional Chief Secretary (Health)