

KGMOA slams panchayat officials for locking medical officer's office

LSG officials said lack of communication from the officer prompted them to take the action

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kasaragod

THE Kerala Government Medical Officers Association (KGMOA) has voiced strong disapproval of the Panathur panchayat authorities' action of locking the office of the Panathur Family Health Centre medical officer following a dispute concerning the appointment of a nurse for palliative care on Wednesday.

In a press release, KGMOA condemned the panchayat president's actions, accusing the local body authorities of threatening the medical officer,

obstructing official duties, and locking the office.

The controversy began when a nurse with extensive experience in palliative care, whose contract had been extended until June due to election regulations, returned on Wednesday for contract renewal. The Palliative Monitoring Committee had recommended retaining her services. However, Dr Shabana Basheer, the medical officer at the health centre, refused to renew her contract, citing an invalid fitness certificate.

"We did not obstruct the medical officer's work but sought clarification on the nurse's non-appointment. We believe the issue stemmed from a conflict between the nurse and the medical officer. On August 21, the nurse's application was repeatedly denied by the medical officer, who left the office without explanation despite our attempts to contact her. After waiting for hours and receiving no response, we locked the room. We would have left if she had communicated earlier, but she only provided an explanation after

we left," panchayat president Prasanna Prasad said.

The KGMOA accused the panchayat authorities of pressuring the medical officer to appoint someone they deemed unfit.

"I refused her appointment because the fitness certificate she provided was inadequate. She is under medication for mental instability and has a history of suicide attempts. Additionally, there were numerous irregularities in her past work performance, which I had previously pointed out. She even implicated me in a suicide note," said Dr Shabana.



EXPRESS READ

MP donates 1-month salary to CMDRF

Kannur: Kasaragod MP Rajmohan Unnithan has donated his one-month salary to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to offer help to survivors of the Wayanad landslides. He handed over the financial assistance to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan after the inauguration of Peringome fire and rescue station.

E-health project launched at gen hosp

Kannur: The e-health project was launched at Thalassery General Hospital on Thursday. Under the first phase, a uniform identity card was given to outpatients. Hospital superintendent said facilities including online tokens will be made available in phase-II.

Nepotism allegations rock Kunhimangalam grama panchayat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kannur

An interview for the post of an anganwadi teacher in Kunhimangalam grama panchayat has sparked controversy amid allegations of nepotism. The controversy arose after panchayat president Prarthana A, aligned with the CPM, allegedly interviewed her sister for the role. The person subsequently secured the second rank among 150 applicants.

The anganwadi teacher post is expected to be vacant in April next year. The selection process took place at the panchayat office, involving an eight-member panel that included the president, secretary, and officials from the block panchayat office. Traditionally, board members with close family ties to candidates would recuse themselves from the interview process. However, this convention was reportedly ignored in this instance. The Kunhimangalam grama panchayat oversees 19 anganwadis, and the rank list from this interview will remain valid for three years.

Additionally, an anonymous letter accusing the panchayat president of favouritism is currently circulating among the CPM leaders and members. The letter claims that such recruitment practices could harm the party and calls for immediate action. However, recipients of the letter are being charged Rs 10, as the sender used a revenue stamp instead of a postal stamp.

In response, the CPM Madayi area committee has launched an investigation into the matter.

Meanwhile, Prarthana denied any wrongdoing, asserting that the interview process was managed by the block panchayat. "The interview was primarily based on document verification, which accounted for 85 out of 100 marks. The interview board could only award 15 marks. With eight members on the board, it's impossible for me to control the outcome," Prarthana told TNIE.

Regarding the anonymous letter, Prarthana acknowledged its existence but expressed uncertainty about its origins. "I have heard about the anonymous letter, and even the opposition has sent me a copy. I am not sure if this is an internal issue, but I have explained my position to the party," she said.

Pinarayi lauds fire force for exemplary disaster response

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kannur

CHIEF Minister Pinarayi Vijayan praised the Kerala Fire and Rescue Force for its consistent and successful response to disasters, emphasising its crucial role in the state's emergency management efforts. He was speaking after inaugurating the new building for the Peringome fire and rescue station on Thursday.

Pinarayi highlighted the force's active involvement during various crises, particularly the 2018 floods and the Covid-19 pandemic. He further noted that the recent intervention by the special task force and scuba diving unit at Amayizhanchan Thodu in Thiruvananthapuram was particularly commendable. He also pointed out the remarkable rescue operation during the Wayanad landslides, which displayed an unparalleled collaboration between the fire force and the local communities. The CM attributed the effectiveness of such operations to the strong cooperation and support from the people of Kerala, which he described as a unique characteristic of the state.

Addressing the increasing threat of climate change, Pinarayi stressed the need for preparedness and quick response capabilities. He stated that the state government has undertaken significant reforms in the fire and rescue department since the 2018 floods, including the establishment of a water safety training centre in Fort Kochi.

He also emphasised the importance of swift response during rescue operations, acknowledging the crucial role of local volunteers. To harness local expertise, the government established the Civil Defense system in 2019, which has proven invaluable.

It's good news! Survey shows stable growth in heronry birds population

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kasaragod

THE survey of heronry birds nesting sites, conducted by the Kasaragod Social Forestry Division and Malabar Awareness and Rescue Centre for Wildlife (MARC), in the district is over. It has shown a stable growth in the population of heronry birds in Kasaragod.

As per experts, counting colonial nests is a reliable method of estimating the breeding population of water birds. The fish-eating birds play a crucial role as predators in aquatic ecosystems, and monitoring their population can serve as an indicator of the overall health of freshwater and brackish water environments.

Roshnath Ramesh, wildlife biologist and MARC secretary, said, "The research of heronry birds is done annually. This year's report has shown an increase in all four of their species in the district, when compared to last survey's findings. These birds are considered aquatic ecosystem indicators, and their nesting will show the present condition. We count the nests to identify their population. To know the trend regard-



Pond heron

ing their population, we will have to collect long-term data."

The count was less last year due to NH works and cutting of trees, as many species built their nests on the roadside.

Heronry birds, including Little Cormorant, Indian Cormorant, Indian Pond Heron and Black-crowned Night Herons colonies, were counted for the survey. The report revealed a substantial in-

crease in the population of Indian Pond Herons (200%) and other bird species compared to previous year's survey.

Ramesh said: "In last year's survey, we lost 11 birds' site and expected the same result this year. However, there is a great increase in the number of nests. Also, people have become aware regarding the significant of not destroying the nests."

Rajasthan Council of School Education. NOTICE INVITING e-Bid (NIB-2024-25)/07. Details of the bid and contact information.

Canara Bank. TENDER FOR PREMISES. Offers are invited under TWO-BID SYSTEM from the owners of commercial space.

STATE BANK OF INDIA. TENDER ID- BHU/P&E/08/2024-25/16. Details of the tender for renovation and construction work.

OSBI STATE BANK OF INDIA. TENDER ID- BHU/P&E/05/2024-25/01. Details of the tender for renovation and construction work.

KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING. LIMITED TENDER NOTICE. Details of the tender for printing and bundling of documents.

കേരള ടൂറിസം. നിയമനൽ ജോയിന്റ് ഡയറക്ടറുടെ കാര്യാലയം. Details of the joint director's office.

നിലാസൗകര്യം. വിനോദസഞ്ചാര വകുപ്പ്. Details of the tourism department.

UCO BANK. POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1)]. Details of the possession notice for immovable property.

CCRC. NOTIFICATION. A walk-in interview will be conducted for filling up the post of Radiation Safety Officer.

UNIVERSITY OF KERALA. NOTIFICATION. It is hereby notified under Section 43 of the Kerala University Act, 1974 and Statute 34 of the Kerala University (Conduct of elections to various Authorities or Bodies) First Statute 1974.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY. E-TENDER NOTICE: J-E-17-2024-25-W. DATED: 13.08.2024. Details of the tender for electrical arrangements.

SOUTH INDIAN Bank. REGIONAL OFFICE KANNUR. E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES. Details of the auction sale notice.