

Memo of Charges**Charges against Dr. Sreekala Mullasseri, Assistant Professor, Department of Russian and Comparative Literature, University of Calicut, Thenhippalam, Malappuram.**

1. That you, Dr. Sreekala Mullasseri, Assistant Professor, Department of Russian and Comparative Literature, University of Calicut had actively involved yourself in the election campaign for Adv. M. Swaraj, the official candidate of the LDF in the Nilambur Assembly Constituency by-election, 2025, by canvassing the voters to vote in his favour.
2. That you posted a video on Instagram expressing your personal support for Adv. M. Swaraj, appealing to the public to vote for him during the period when the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the election was in force and describing such support as "*the need of the time*".
3. That you misused your position as in-charge of Radio CU, the University's official radio channel, by utilising its resources and equipment for recording the said video.
4. That you have violated the Rule 69 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1960, which stipulates that "*no Government servant shall canvass or otherwise, interfere or use his influence in connection with or take part, in any election to a Legislative Body, whether in the Kerala State or elsewhere*". A Government servant may exercise his right to vote if otherwise qualified to do so, but shall not give any indication of the manner in which he proposes to vote or has voted.

You are hereby directed to submit a written statement of defence, if any, within 15 days from the date of receipt of this Memo. If your written statement of defence is not received within the specified time, the matter will be proceeded as such. You are also required to state whether you desire to be heard in person. You may peruse the relevant records connected to the allegations and take down extracts from them, if so desired, in the presence of the Registrar on any working day prior to the due date of submission of your written Statement of Defence, which will be fixed in advance upon your request. A Statement of Allegations on which the above charges are based is attached herewith.

Dr. Denoj Sebastian
Registrar

Statement of Allegations

Statement of Allegations against Dr. Sreekala Mullasseri, Assistant Professor, Department of Russian and Comparative Literature, University of Calicut issued as per the Statute 32, Chapter-IV, Part - III, CUFS 1977.

Dr. Sreekala Mullasseri, Assistant Professor, Department of Russian and Comparative Literature, University of Calicut is alleged to have broadcast a video message explicitly urging voters to support and cast their votes in favour of Adv. M. Swaraj, the official candidate of the LDF in the Nilambur Assembly Constituency by-election, 2025.

Several complaints were received in the Office of the Hon'ble Chancellor and were forwarded to the University with a direction to furnish a consolidated report.

The complaints allege that Dr. Sreekala Mullasseri actively campaigned for Adv. M. Swaraj, the official candidate of CPI(M) during the election period. She posted a video on her Instagram account expressing personal support for the said candidate and appealed to the public canvassing vote for him, describing it as "the need of the time". It is further alleged that she used the resources and equipment of Radio CU, the University's official radio channel, while she was in charge of it. Although the video was deleted later, it had already been widely circulated on social media platforms.

A notice was served to the faculty member seeking her explanation. In her reply, Dr. Sreekala Mullasseri contended that the allegations levelled against her in the complaints were politically motivated. However, she admitted that she had expressed her liberty and freedom of expression, in a private meeting of creative writers. She further argued that the Government Servants' Conduct Rules are applicable only to Government servants, and hence have no application to employees of the University. According to her, these Rules do not prohibit sharing one's political view or expressing one's choice of whom to vote for, but only prohibit actively taking part in politics such as contesting elections, holding party membership, or assisting political movements. She claimed that the Instagram post was merely an exercise of her freedom of expression that too within a closed circle and not in public and therefore cannot be termed as a misconduct and warrant any disciplinary action.

The explanation submitted by Dr. Sreekala Mullasseri is found unsatisfactory and devoid of merit. Her contention that the Government Servants' Conduct Rules are inapplicable to University employee is contrary to the Statute 9, Chapter 3 of CUFS 1977. As per the Statute, the Kerala Government Servants Conduct Rules shall apply to teachers of the University, with necessary changes made in a way adjusted to fit the context of the University. Furthermore, her claim that the Government servants conduct rules do not prohibit the expression of one's political preference is also incorrect. Rule 69 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1960 clearly says that:

Save as provided by or under any law for the time being in force, no Government servant shall canvass or otherwise, interfere or use his influence in connection with or take part, in any election to a Legislative Body, whether in the Kerala State or elsewhere:

I) Provided that a Government servant who is qualified to vote at such election may exercise his right to vote; but if he does so shall give no indication of the manner in which he proposes to vote or has voted.

The Vice Chancellor found the explanation provided by Dr. Sreekala Mullasseri unacceptable, and ordered that a Charge Memo and a Statement of Allegation be issued to her, intimating the proposal to proceed with disciplinary action against her, as her actions constitute a clear violation of Rule 69 of the Kerala Government Servants Conduct Rules, 1960.

Enclosures:

1	Complaint dated 14.06.2025, received from A.K Shanid, State Secretary, Indian Youth Congress Kerala.	
2	Complaint dated 18.06.2025, received from General Secretary, Solidarity of University Employees.	
3	Complaint dated 21.06.2025, received from Rishad K.P, Student, Dept. of Russian and Comparative Literature.	forwarded by the Hon. Chancellor
4	Complaint dated 22.06.2025, received from Alen Jacob, Kerala Students Union.	

Dr. Denoj Sebastian
Registrar