

MAJOR APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Current Affairs Session | Kerala High Court Office Attendant Exam

Covers major changes from May to early October 2026 | Kerala, India, Business and World

1. Know the Office-Holders (Kerala quick check)

Most likely to be asked directly as 'Who is the ...?' Learn these first.

Post	Present holder	Note
Governor of Kerala	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	23rd Governor; took oath 2 Jan 2025 (succeeded Arif Mohammed Khan, moved to Bihar)
Chief Minister	V. D. Satheesan (INC, UDF)	24th CM; sworn in 18 May 2026; UDF back after 10 years
Leader of Opposition	Pinarayi Vijayan (CPI(M))	Resigned as CM on 5 May 2026 after the UDF win
Speaker	Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan	Elected 22 May 2026 (16th Kerala Assembly)
Deputy Speaker	Shanimol Osman	June 2026
Chief Secretary	Bishwanath Sinha	Took over 30 June 2026 from Dr A. Jayathilak
Chief Justice, Kerala High Court	Justice Soumen Sen	40th CJ; sworn in 10 Jan 2026; term till 27 July 2027
Chief Justice of India	Surya Kant	His Collegium recommended Kerala HC's new CJ and judges
Chief of the Army Staff	Gen. Dhiraj Seth	From 30 June 2026
CEO, NITI Aayog	Anurag Jain	Notified 22 July 2026; two-year tenure

2. Kerala: Government and Legislature

New UDF government, new Assembly office-bearers and top bureaucracy.

Date	Name	Post	Key facts
18 May 2026	V. D. Satheesan	Chief Minister (24th)	Sworn in by Governor Arlekar at Central Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram, with 20 ministers. Holds Finance and Law. First minister to take oath after the CM: P. K. Kunhalikutty (IUML).
18 May 2026	Satheesan ministry	Ministers	Includes Ramesh Chennithala, K. Muraleedharan, Sunny Joseph (KPCC chief), A. P. Anil Kumar, Mons Joseph, Shibu Baby John (RSP). T. Siddique: Agriculture; P. C. Vishnunadh: Tourism and Culture; V. E. Abdul Gafoor: Fisheries and Social Justice. Congress 11 and IUML 5 ministers; 2 women, 2 SC members.
18 May 2026	Apu John Joseph	Government Chief Whip	Thodupuzha MLA (Kerala Congress - Joseph).
21-22 May 2026	Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan	Speaker, 16th Kerala Assembly	Won with 101 votes against LDF's A. C. Moideen (35) and NDA's B. B. Gopakumar (3). First time the BJP fielded a Speaker candidate. Succeeds A. N. Shamseer. Pro-tem Speaker: G. Sudhakaran.
June 2026	Shanimol Osman	Deputy Speaker	Congress (INC).
24 Jun 2026 (from 30 Jun)	Bishwanath Sinha	Chief Secretary	1992-batch IAS; was Additional Chief Secretary (Home and Vigilance). Succeeds Dr A. Jayathilak (50th Chief Secretary, retired 30 June 2026).
24 Jun 2026	N. Seshadrinathan	State Election Commissioner	Retired District Judge; Cabinet recommended his name to the Governor.

3. Kerala High Court and Judiciary

Highest-value block for this exam. Learn the Chief Justice details by heart.

Date	Name	Post	Key facts
10 Jan 2026	Justice Soumen Sen	Chief Justice, Kerala HC (40th)	Oath by Governor Arlekar at Lok Bhavan. Transferred from Meghalaya HC (CJ since 8 Oct 2025). Succeeds Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar (retired 9 Jan 2026). Native of Kolkata; Calcutta HC judge since 13 Apr 2011.
Jan 2026	Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque	Chief Justice, Sikkim HC	Kerala HC judge from Thana, Kannur; notified 5 Jan 2026.
Mar 2026	7 Additional Judges	Made Permanent Judges, Kerala HC	Abdul Hakhim M. A., Syam Kumar V. M., Harisankar V. Menon, Manu Sreedharan Nair, Easwaran Subramani, Manoj Pulamby Madhavan, M. B. Snehalatha. Collegium (led by CJI Surya Kant) recommended on 12 Feb 2026.
19 Dec 2025	Justice J. Nisha Banu	Judge, Kerala HC	Transferred from Madras HC; oath by CJ Nitin Jamdar.
24 Jun 2026	Government Pleaders	Kerala HC legal posts	Cabinet cleared 4 Special Government Pleaders, 12 Senior Government Pleaders and 24 Government Pleaders.

Remember: Kerala HC sits at Kochi. Sanctioned strength is 47 judges (35 permanent including the Chief Justice, plus 12 additional judges). The Governor administers the oath to the Chief Justice; the Chief Justice administers it to the Governor.

4. Kerala: Commissions, Academies and Boards (Sept 2026)

Recent political appointments announced by the UDF government.

Date	Name	Post	Note
30 Sep 2026	M. K. Muneer (IUML)	Chairman, Kerala Administrative Reforms Commission	Cabinet rank. The first chairman was V. S. Achuthanandan (2016 LDF government); the post was vacant 2021-26.
30 Sep 2026	G. Devarajan	Kerala's Special Representative in Delhi	Forward Bloc national general secretary.
26 Sep 2026	Kalpetta Narayanan	Chairman, Kerala Sahitya Akademi	Poet and orator. Secretary: M. P. Surendran.
26 Sep 2026	G. Venugopal	Chairman, Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi	Singer. Vice-chairman: Hemanth Kumar.
26 Sep 2026	Prem Kumar	Chairman, KSFDC	Kerala State Film Development Corporation. Vice-chairman: Alleppey Ashraf.
Sep 2026	Raveendran	Chairman, Kerala State Chalachitra Akademi	Actor and film festival curator.
26 Sep 2026	M. Ranjith	Chairman, Cultural Workers Welfare Fund Board	Film producer.
26 Sep 2026	Prof. Prakash Moorthy	Chairman, Kerala Lalithakala Akademi	Animator and production designer.
26 Sep 2026	Suresh Babu Elayavoor	Chairman, Kerala Folklore Akademi	Vice-chairman: Sreeraman Koyyon.
23 Mar 2026	Jose Joseph Kattoor	Chairman, South Indian Bank	Independent director on the bank's board since 18 July 2024.

5. India: Key National Appointments

Date	Name	Post	Key facts
13 Jun 2026 (from 30 Jun)	Gen. Dhiraj Seth	Chief of the Army Staff	Was Vice Chief of the Army; succeeds Gen. Upendra Dwivedi.
22 Jul 2026	Anurag Jain	CEO, NITI Aayog	1989-batch IAS (Madhya Pradesh cadre), earlier MP Chief Secretary. Two-year tenure.
2 Jun 2026	Lokhande Prashant Sitaram	Chairperson, CBSE	2001-batch IAS (AGMUT). Replaced Rahul Singh amid the On-Screen Marking (OSM) controversy. Varun Bhardwaj (IIS) is the new CBSE Secretary.
5 Jun 2026	Neelkanth Mishra	India's Executive Director, World Bank	Three-year term; succeeds Parameswaran Iyer. Axis Bank chief economist; also part-time chairperson of UIDAI.
20 Jun 2026	Bimal Patel	Judge, ITLOS	Indian jurist elected to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.
18 Jun 2026	Hitesh Joshi	Chairman, GIC Re	Named by the Government of India.
11 Aug 2026	Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala	Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences	Assumed charge.

6. Business and Corporate Leadership

Date	Name	Post	Key facts
17 Sep 2026	N. Chandrasekaran	Executive Chairman, Tata Sons	Told the board on 12 Aug 2026 he would not seek another term, then agreed on 17 Sep to continue. Reappointed for five more years (till Feb 2032) by majority vote; Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata voted against. Current term ends 20 Feb 2027.
5 Aug 2026	Tewolde Gebremariam	CEO and MD, Air India	Former CEO of Ethiopian Airlines (2011-22). Succeeds Campbell Wilson, who stepped down on 30 Sep 2026.
1 Sep 2026	John Ternus	CEO, Apple	Replaces Tim Cook, who became Executive Chairman (announced 20 Apr 2026).
3 Sep 2026 (from 1 Dec)	Anil Chakravarthy	CEO, Adobe	IIT Varanasi alumnus. Succeeds Shantanu Narayen (CEO since Dec 2007), who becomes Executive Chair.

7. World

Date	Name	Post	Key facts
20 Jul 2026	Andy Burnham	Prime Minister, United Kingdom	Labour Party elected him leader on 17 July; King Charles III appointed him after Keir Starmer resigned.
30 Sep 2026	Keith Sonderling	US Secretary of Labor	Confirmed by the US Senate (47-41); took office 2 Oct 2026.

8. Resignations and Step-downs at a Glance

Usually asked as 'Who resigned as ...?' or 'Who succeeded ...?'

Name	Post	When	What happened
Pinarayi Vijayan	Chief Minister of Kerala	5 May 2026	Governor accepted resignation after UDF win; asked to continue until the new government. Successor: V. D. Satheesan.
Keir Starmer	Prime Minister, UK	22 Jun (announced); 20 Jul 2026 (formal)	Quit as Labour leader first; formally resigned to King Charles III. Successor: Andy Burnham.
N. Chandrasekaran	Chairman, Tata Sons	12 Aug 2026 (later reversed)	Said he would not seek another term; reappointed on 17 Sep 2026.
Campbell Wilson	CEO and MD, Air India	30 Sep 2026	Led the airline since Tata Group took it over in 2022. Successor: Tewolde Gebremariam.
Tim Cook	CEO, Apple	1 Sep 2026	Moved to Executive Chairman. Successor: John Ternus.

Name	Post	When	What happened
Shantanu Narayen	CEO, Adobe	Handover on 1 Dec 2026	Moves to Executive Chair. Successor: Anil Chakravarthy.
Rahul Singh	Chairman, CBSE	2 Jun 2026 (replaced)	Moved to Agriculture Ministry as Additional Secretary. Successor: Lokhande Prashant Sitaram.

Retirements and handovers (not resignations, but often paired in questions)

Name	Post	When	Successor
Dr A. Jayathilak	Chief Secretary, Kerala	Retired 30 Jun 2026	Successor: Bishwanath Sinha
Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar	Chief Justice, Kerala HC	Retired 9 Jan 2026	Successor: Justice Soumen Sen
Gen. Upendra Dwivedi	Chief of the Army Staff	Handed over 30 Jun 2026	Successor: Gen. Dhiraj Seth
A. N. Shamseer	Speaker, Kerala Assembly	Term ended May 2026	Successor: Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan

9. Practice Questions

Attempt first, then check the answer key at the end.

Q1. Who was sworn in as the 24th Chief Minister of Kerala on 18 May 2026?

- (a) Pinarayi Vijayan
- (b) V. D. Satheesan
- (c) Ramesh Chennithala
- (d) P. K. Kunhalikutty

Q2. The Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court who took oath on 10 January 2026 is:

- (a) Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar
- (b) Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque
- (c) Justice Soumen Sen
- (d) Justice S. Manikumar

Q3. Who became Kerala's Chief Secretary on 30 June 2026?

- (a) A. Jayathilak
- (b) K. R. Jyothislal
- (c) Sarada Muraleedharan
- (d) Bishwanath Sinha

Q4. The Speaker of the 16th Kerala Legislative Assembly is:

- (a) A. N. Shamseer
- (b) G. Sudhakaran
- (c) Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan
- (d) Shanamol Osman

Q5. Who will head the Kerala Administrative Reforms Commission with Cabinet rank (decision of 30 Sept 2026)?

- (a) V. S. Achuthanandan
- (b) G. Devarajan
- (c) Sunny Joseph
- (d) M. K. Muneer

Q6. The new chairman of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi (Sept 2026) is:

- (a) Kalpetta Narayanan
- (b) M. P. Surendran
- (c) G. Venugopal
- (d) Prem Kumar

Q7. Who replaced Tim Cook as Apple CEO on 1 September 2026?

- (a) Sabih Khan
- (b) Jeff Williams
- (c) John Ternus
- (d) Anil Chakravarthy

Q8. Air India's new CEO and MD, a former head of Ethiopian Airlines, is:

- (a) Campbell Wilson
- (b) N. Chandrasekaran
- (c) Anil Chakravarthy
- (d) Tewolde Gebremariam

Q9. Who became Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on 20 July 2026?

- (a) Andy Burnham
- (b) Keir Starmer
- (c) Rishi Sunak
- (d) Boris Johnson

Q10. The Chief of the Army Staff from 30 June 2026 is:

- (a) Gen. Upendra Dwivedi
- (b) Gen. Manoj Pande
- (c) Gen. Dhiraj Seth
- (d) Gen. Anil Chauhan

Q11. Who was notified as CEO of NITI Aayog on 22 July 2026?

- (a) Anurag Jain
- (b) Neelkanth Mishra
- (c) Parameswaran Iyer
- (d) Lokhande Prashant Sitaram

Q12. Who was reappointed Executive Chairman of Tata Sons on 17 September 2026 for five more years?

- (a) Noel Tata
- (b) Campbell Wilson
- (c) N. Chandrasekaran
- (d) Tewolde Gebremariam

Answer key

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12
B	C	D	C	D	A	C	D	A	C	A	C

10. How to Revise This Topic

- **Pair the names.** Learn each change as 'new holder, old holder' (for example Sinha replaced Jayathilak; Soumen Sen replaced Jmdar).
- **Start with Kerala.** For a Kerala High Court exam, the Governor, Chief Minister, Speaker, Chief Secretary and Chief Justice are the safest scoring areas.
- **Watch the dates.** Sworn in, announced and effective dates differ (Army Chief announced 13 June, effective 30 June; Adobe announced 3 Sept, effective 1 Dec).

Compiled from PTI, UNI, IANS, All India Radio, Kerala Kaumudi, Onmanorama, Tata Sons statements, Reuters and other news reports available on 7 October 2026. Verify against official notifications and gazettes before using in a published exam notification or mock test.