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## Lok Ayukta finds Kerala Minister guilty of favouritism

Congress, BJP  
demand Jaleel's  
resignation

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The Kerala Lok Ayukta has found Minister for Higher Education and Minority Welfare K.T. Jaleel guilty of "abuse of power, favouritism, nepotism and violation of oath of office." It ruled Mr. Jaleel had lost the moral right to continue in the Council of Ministers.

The Lok Ayukta has conveyed its finding to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, the competent authority, for appropriate action. The judicial watchdog's damning finding has prompted the



K.T. Jaleel

Congress and the BJP to demand Mr. Jaleel's resignation. The Minister has said the High Court had dismissed the charge earlier.

Lok Ayukta Cyriac Joseph and Upa Lok Ayukta Harun-Ul-Rashid found that the Minister had attempted to appoint his second cousin to

the post of General Manager, Kerala State Commission for Minority Welfare (KSCMW).

The Minister had specified that a person with "B.Tech and PGDBA" need to apply for the post. The panel found Mr. Jaleel had stacked the decks in favour of his second cousin.

The government did not publish the vacancy or invite applications for the post. The Lok Ayukta found that the KSCMW had not proposed creating a general manager's position in the first place. The forum said the Minister's action amounted to abuse of official position to favour relative. "It is immaterial that the relative did not turn for the interview," it said.