



वास्तुकला परिषद् Council of Architecture

(वास्तुविद् अधिनियम, 1972 के अंतर्गत भारत सरकार का एक स्वायत्त सांविधिक निकाय)
(An Autonomous Statutory Body of Govt. of India, under the Architects Act, 1972)

Ref No. CA/15/2026/AE (CS)

August 24, 2026

Dr. A. Jayathilak, IAS

Chief Secretary of Kerala,

Govt. Secretariat,

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala-695001

Contact: 0471-2333147

Email: chiefsecy@kerala.gov.in

Subject: Appointment of Architects in vacant posts in Kerala Public Works Department and others Departments/bodies in the state-reg.

Dear Sir,

The Indian Parliament of India has enacted the Architects Act, 1972, to regulate the standard of the Architectural Education and Profession in the Country. The Council has also been vested with the responsibility of registering Architects on all India basis similar to Bar Council, Institution of Chartered Accountants of India and National Medical Commission.

The Council has received representation regarding the cadre structure and filling of vacant posts in the Architectural Wing of the Public Works Department (PWD), Government of Kerala. It has been brought to the Council's notice that Architectural Assistant is the entry-level officer cadre and the feeder cadre for higher posts of Deputy Architect, Senior Architect, Deputy Chief Architect and Chief Architect. However, certain Architectural Assistant posts are reportedly being filled by promotion of Diploma holders in Civil Engineering/Architecture who are not registered with the Council of Architecture.

It has come to the notice of the Council that the Architectural Wing has 19 higher architectural posts, comprising 13 Deputy Architects, 4 Senior Architects, 1 Deputy Chief Architect and 1 Chief Architect, whereas there are reportedly only 14 posts of Architectural Assistant. The inclusion of non-registered Diploma holders in this limited officer cadre may adversely affect the entry and career progression of professionally qualified and registered Architects.

In this regard, we would like to inform you that the Hon'ble Madhya Pradesh High Court in Mukesh Kumar Manhar v/s. State of Madhya Pradesh vide judgment dated 02.08.2005 held as under:

Para 19:

i) *"The State Government (first respondent) shall cease using the nomenclature "Assistant Architects" or "Architects" in regard to posts for which the qualification of "Registered Architect" is not prescribed. It shall also cease designating those who are not registered Architects under the Architects Act, 1972, as 'Architects' or 'Assistant Architects'.*

ii) *If the State Government wants to continue the nomenclature of "Assistant Architect" or "Architects", then while prescribing the qualification for appointment or promotion to such posts, the requirement that they shall be "Registered Architect" under the Architects Act, 1972, shall be added.*

Contd...p/2



-2-

iii) *The State shall give preference to Registered Architects (under the Architects Act, 1972) for appointment to any post of Architect (that is post involving architectural functions) as provided in Section 35(2) of the Architects Act, 1972".*

Further, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Civil Appeal No. 1819 of 2020 vide judgment dated 17th March, 2020 held that only an Architect can be appointed to post of Architect. Copies of the above judgments are enclosed herewith for your kind perusal.

Thus, the State Government of Kerala is requested to not to allow non-Architects to be appointed/promoted to any post which carries the title and style of an Architect and/or duties and functions of an Architect.

The Council after having consultations at all India level has prescribed its Manual on Role of Architects in Public Services which inter alia includes organization set up for Architects, working conditions and composition of Department of Architecture & Establishments. The Post of Architectural Assistant is meant only for registered Architects. A copy of Manual is enclosed herewith for your kind perusal.

Accordingly, it is humbly requested the concerned Department be advised only to recruit registered Architects for Architectural Post.

It is further requested that Council may be kept posted with the action taken in the matter.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,

R.K. Oberoi
Registrar

Encl: as above