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PRESS RELEASE

Aroma Chundan wins eighth CBL race at Pulinkunnu

Alappuzha, October 31: Aroma Chundan, rowed by the Aroma Boat Club of Paravur, Kollam, won the eighth race of the sixth season of the Champions Boat League (CBL), organised by the Kerala Tourism Department, at Pulinkunnu in Alappuzha on Saturday.

Aroma Chundan clocked 3:06.139 to finish first. Veeyapuram Chundan, rowed by UBC Kainakary FC, came second in 3:06.669, while Melpadom Chundan, rowed by the Pallathuruthy Boat Club, finished third in 3:06.797.

Aroma staged a remarkable comeback in the final 100 metres after remaining in third position for most of the race. Veeyapuram and Melpadom were engaged in a close contest through much of the course, but Aroma produced a strong finish to overtake both boats and clinch victory. The difference between the first and third-placed finishers was just 0.530 seconds.

The race on the Manimala river at Pulinkunnu witnessed a close contest, with Veeyapuram and Melpadom leading for most of the course. Aroma's late surge, however, changed the result in the final stretch. The finish also marked a setback for the Pallathuruthy Boat Club, which had won four consecutive races before finishing second at Thazhathangadi in Kottayam.

With the victory, Aroma moved to the top of the points table with 74 points. Melpadom stood second with 72 points, followed by Veeyapuram with 63 points.

Pulinkunnu grama panchayat president Shri.Ouseppachan Vempadanthara presided over the function, which was inaugurated by Kuttanad MLA Shri. Reji Cherian. Former MLA and CBL Technical Committee member Shri. C.K. Sadasivan flagged off the races. Members of the CBL governing body, senior officials of the Tourism Department and representatives of local self-government institutions attended the function.

Local competitions for Veppu boats were also held as part of the Pulinkunnu Rajiv Gandhi Boat Race.

The finishing order was: Aroma Chundan (Aroma Boat Club, Paravur, Kollam), first; Veeyapuram Chundan (UBC Kainakary FC), second; Melpadom Chundan (Pallathuruthy Boat Club), third; Niranam Chundan (Niranam Boat Club, Niranam), fourth; Cheruthana Chundan (NBC Nattakom Boat Club), fifth; Nadubhagam Chundan (PBC Punnamada NCFC Boat Club), sixth; Arppookara Chundan (Immanuel Boat Club, Kumarakom),

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seventh; Punyalan Niranam (Kumarakom Town Boat Club, Kumarakom), eighth; and Thalavadi Chundan (Village Boat Club), ninth.

The remaining league races of the season will be held at Kainakary on November 7 and Kayamkulam on November 14. The sixth season of the CBL will conclude with the President's Trophy Boat Race in Kollam on November 21.

The first-place finishers at each race venue will receive ₹5 lakh, while the second- and third-placed teams will receive ₹3 lakh and ₹1 lakh, respectively. Each team will also receive ₹4 lakh as bonus. The club finishing first in the championship will receive ₹25 lakh, while the second- and third-placed clubs will receive ₹15 lakh and ₹10 lakh, respectively.

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