`

Department of Tourism
Park View Thiruvananthapuram 695 033
Kerala India Fax: +91-471-2322279
Tel: +91-471-2326579 2321132
Email: info@keralatourism.org
marketing@keralatourism.org
www.keralatourism.org

PRESS RELEASE

Melpadom Chundan wins sixth-season title of the Champions Boat League

Kollam, Nov. 21: Pallathuruthy Boat Club's Melpadom Chundan won the sixth season title of the Champions Boat League (CBL), organised by the Kerala Tourism Department, by clinching the President's Trophy Boat Race at Ashtamudi Lake in Kollam on Saturday.

Melpadom finished at the top of the championship standings with 100 points from 11 races of the season, securing the title for Pallathuruthy Boat Club. This marks the club's fifth CBL championship victory.

After winning the first four consecutive seasons, Pallathuruthy reclaimed the title in the sixth season. Although Aroma Chundan, rowed by Aroma Boat Club of Kollam, had won the Nehru Trophy in August last, it fell short of the CBL championship. For the first time in the league's history, the winner of the Nehru Trophy failed to finish as the CBL champion.

The season saw Aroma Chundan, which had performed strongly in the initial races, lose momentum, while Veeyapuram Chundan of UBC Kainakary FC made a spirited comeback in the final three races. Victories at individual venues brought significant changes to the positions in the points table.

Tourism Minister Shri P. C. Vishnunadh, Forest Minister Shri Shibu Baby John, and Shri N. K. Premachandran, MP, distributed the prizes.

One of the notable performances of the season was Punyalan Niranam, rowed by Kumarakom Town Boat Club, qualifying for the final on the basis of its timing in the heats. Aroma's failure to qualify for the final ended its chances of winning the championship.

Melpadom took the lead in the opening leg of the final and held on to it throughout the race. Punyalan Niranam, which produced one of the strongest performances of the season, posed a stiff challenge to both Pallathuruthy and UBC Kainakary FC. Punyalan appeared to edge ahead midway through the race, but Veeyapuram and Punyalan came alongside each other in the final lap. Melpadom, however, maintained its early advantage to cross the finish line in 3.42.426 securing both the President's Trophy and the CBL title.

Aroma finished second in the overall championship standings with 96 points, while Veeyapuram took third place with 91 points.

In the President's Trophy final, Punyalan Niranam finished second in 3.42.748 followed by Veeyapuram in third place in 3.45.618 seconds.

`

Department of Tourism
Park View Thiruvananthapuram 695 033
Kerala India Fax: +91-471-2322279
Tel: +91-471-2326579 2321132
Email: info@keralatourism.org
marketing@keralatourism.org
www.keralatourism.org

The final finishing positions in the President's Trophy were: Melpadom Chundan (first), Punyalan Niranam (second), Veeyapuram Chundan (third), Aroma Chundan (fourth), Niranam Chundan (fifth), Nadubhagam Chundan (sixth), Cheruthana Chundan (seventh), Arppookara (eighth) and Thalavadi Chundan (ninth).

The final CBL points standings after 11 races were: Melpadom (100 points), Aroma (96), Veeyapuram (91), Niranam (80), Punyalan Niranam (58), Cheruthana Chundan (52), Nadubhagam (50), Arppookara Chundan (45) and Thalavadi Chundan (22).

The sixth season witnessed closely contested races from the opening event to the final venue at Kollam, with several finishes decided by fractions of a second. The President's Trophy brought the curtain down on Kerala's traditional boat-racing season, which begins with the Nehru Trophy Boat Race in August.

Pallathuruthy Boat Club will receive a prize of Rs 25 lakh for winning the championship. Aroma Boat Club, which finished second, will receive Rs 15 lakh, while UBC Kainakary FC, which secured third place, will receive Rs 10 lakh.

In addition, the Tourism Department awards Rs 5 lakh, Rs 3 lakh and Rs 1 lakh to the first, second and third-placed teams, respectively, at each race venue. All participating teams also receive a bonus of Rs 4 lakh each. Competitions for traditional smaller boats were also held as part of the CBL final.

Ends