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PRESS RELEASE

Veeyapuram Chundan wins second consecutive race in CBL at Kayamkulam

Alappuzha, November 14: Veeyapuram Chundan, rowed by UBC Kainakary FC, secured its second consecutive victory in the tenth race of the sixth season of the Champions Boat League (CBL), organised by the Kerala Tourism Department, at Kayamkulam on Saturday.

In a closely contested final, Veeyapuram Chundan clocked 4:57.887 to finish first, narrowly beating Melpadom Chundan, rowed by the Pallathuruthy Boat Club, which finished second in 4:58.398. Niranam Chundan, rowed by the Niranam Boat Club, came third in 4:59.613.

The race was part of the annual Jawahar Trophy Boat Race held at Kayamkulam in memory of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first Prime Minister. Shri. K.C. Venugopal, MP, inaugurated the races.

Kerala's Excise Minister Shri M . Liju presided over the function, while Shri P.C. Vishnunath, Minister for Tourism and Culture, delivered the keynote address. Actor Tini Tom was the chief guest. Members of the CBL governing body, senior officials of the Tourism Department and representatives of local self-government institutions attended the event.

Aroma Chundan, which topped the points table before the race, failed to qualify for the final after recording a relatively slow time in the heats.

The final saw all three leading boats maintain an almost even pace in the opening stretch. Melpadom briefly took the lead near the halfway mark, before Niranam moved ahead. The three boats were once again neck and neck as they approached the final stretch. Veeyapuram surged ahead in the last 200 metres to cross the finish line first, overcoming a strong challenge from its rivals. The victory at Kayamkulam marked UBC Kainakary FC's second consecutive win following its triumph on its home course at Kainakary.

With ten races completed, Melpadom reclaimed the top position in the points table with 91 points. Aroma Chundan moved to second place with 89 points, while Veeyapuram stood third with 83 points.

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

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seventh; Arpookara Chundan (Immanuel Boat Club, Kumarakom), eighth; and Thalavadi Chundan (Village Boat Club), ninth.

The sixth season of the CBL features 11 races, including the final, and 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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