

Church Bill: Orthodox Church seeks Governor’s intervention

Baselios Marthoma Mathews III Catholicos reiterates that the Church abides by SC verdict, says those attempting to deprive it of its freedom and identity are living in a fool’s paradise

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

Warning against any attempt to overturn the Supreme Court ruling of 2017, the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church requested the intervention of Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, on Sunday, in case the State government proceeds with the Church Bill.

“Honourable Governor, it is a well-accepted fact that the Supreme Court judgment is the law of the land. If any legislation or ordinance against this law is presented to you for approval, disregarding the 2017 judgment favouring the Malankara Orthodox Church by the ruling government of Kerala, we strongly believe that Your Excellency will use your discretion to uphold justice for the church,” said Baselios Marthoma Mathews III Catholicos, head of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (MOSC), during his presidential speech at the Marthoman Heritage Assembly in Kottayam.

Stating that the Supreme Court verdict has settled the dispute on the ruling of parishes under the Malankara church by upholding the validity of the 1934 Constitution of the Malankara Church, the Catholicos emphasised that those attempting to deprive the Orthodox church of its freedom and



Seeking a solution: Baselios Marthoma Mathews III Catholicos, head of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, interacts with Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai during the Marthoman Heritage Assembly in Kottayam on Sunday. VISHNU PRATHAP

identity through the Church Bill are living in a fool’s paradise.

‘Peaceful solution’
He also reiterated the church’s commitment to finding a peaceful solution to the issue in accordance with the Supreme Court verdict and the 1934 Constitution.

“It has been 145 years since the Orthodox church has been engaged in legal battles to uphold its identity. Those holding the mantle of power should understand that our position has not changed a wee bit from that of our predecessors,” declared the Catholicos.

In his inaugural speech, the Kerala Governor sought to assuage the concerns raised by the church and reassured them that

Governor reassures Orthodox Church that the law of the land will be upheld

the law of the land would be upheld.

“Bava Thirumeni, in his speech, mentioned the Supreme Court judgment and the sanctity of the law. You have a Constitution and you abide by that Constitution. Therefore, your concern is justified,” said the Governor.

‘Bound by oath’
“As the Governor of the State, the oath which I take is to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of India and the laws. The only thing I can say is that all

of us are bound by the oath we take,” he added, to a huge round of cheering by the crowd. Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai delivered the keynote address. Cooperation Minister V.N. Vasavan, Health Minister Veena George, Metropolitan Anthany of the Russian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Abba Melkisedek Nurbegen Geza from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church were among those who spoke.

The assembly began with a procession led by Metropolitans and members of the Malankara Orthodox Church managing committee. Thomas Chazhikadan, MP, flagged off the procession, which also featured musical ensembles and traditional art forms.

Call for ban on illegal acupuncture courses, clinics

The Hindu Bureau
THRISSUR

The Indian Naturopathy and Yoga Graduates Medical Association (INYGMA) has urged the government to ban illegal acupuncture courses and practitioners.

Citing an incident in which a woman and her unborn child died after attempting home delivery using acupuncture, INYGMA president Dinesh Kartha said that the government and society should be on alert to prevent a repeat of the incident.

Illegal acupuncture centres and courses are mushrooming in the State. Most of the people running such clinics do not have valid educational qualifications.

“Only the BNYS (Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences) degree course, which is registered by Centre, State government and Kerala Medical Council, is providing training in acupuncture. The BNYS is a five-and-half-year course for training naturopathy and yoga doctors,” said Dr. Kartha.

He said the State and Central governments have clarified that acupuncture is not an independent treatment and only BNYS graduates can provide acupuncture treatment. There was a Madras High Court verdict in this regard, he added.

Acupuncture treatment to people who don’t have proper training will lead to serious health issues. INYGMA demanded legal action against such practitioners.

Meeting point



BJP State president K. Surendran addressing a public meeting as part of the party’s Kerala Padayatra in Palakkad Kotta Maidanam on Sunday. K.K. MUSTAFAH

Spotlight
Read longform articles from our regional editions

- **Andhra Pradesh:** The territorial tussle between two States [bit.ly/Theterritorialtusslebetweentwostates](#)
- **Delhi:** U.P. constable recruitment exam | A journey of hope and hardship [bit.ly/Ajourneyofhopeandhardship](#)
- **Karnataka:** Bengaluru’s cultural landscape of limited spaces and growing pains [bit.ly/Bengalurusulturalandscape](#)
- **Tamil Nadu:** Madras Sanskrit College: Promoting learning Sanskrit for over a century [bit.ly/SanskritinMylapore](#)
- **Telangana:** A village divided by a three-foot road [bit.ly/Avillagedividedbyathreefootroad](#)

You can use your smartphone’s inbuilt features to access these articles. If it’s an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it’s an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Modi opens virtually NIV Kerala centre

The Hindu Bureau
ALAPPUZHA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the National Institute of Virology (NIV) Kerala Unit, at Kuravanthodu in Alappuzha on Sunday. The unit was functioning at the Government Medical College Hospital, Alappuzha, until late 2022.


TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT



KOCHI
Jithin : 98956 11430
THRISSUR
Jayan : 98478 62299
KOTTAYAM
Shifas : 94476 95936
KOZHIKODE
Anesh : 98472 00442
KANNUR
Jithendrakumar : 92496 01122
PALAKKAD
Athulkrishnan : 9446992927



KOCHI
10 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.
0484 - 2307555, 2307911
EDITORIAL
THRISSUR
0487 - 2320711, 2321411
KOZHIKODE
0495 - 2762201, 2762202



Timings
KOZHIKODE

MONDAY, FEB. 26		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:36
RISE	20:05	SET 07:49
TUESDAY, FEB. 27		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:36
RISE	20:49	SET 08:23
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:36
RISE	21:33	SET 08:57

Kozhikode Weather	max	min
Thirissur	37	24
Palakkad	36	26
Kannur	34	25

Kozhikode Today
36°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant. Day will be very warm with uneasy afternoon. Night will be comfortable.

Kozhikode Tomorrow
36°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be comfortable. Day will be very warm and humid. Night will be comfortable.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2024
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THE PUBLISHING PVT LTD, Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertisement or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Kalamandalam will be made centre of excellence, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
THRISSUR

Kerala Kalamandalam will be made an International centre of excellence, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said.

He was speaking after presenting the Kalamandalam fellowships and awards on Sunday. He also inaugurated the Mukunda Raja Memorial Academic Block.

“The new building is an honour to Manakkulam

Mukunda Raja, who strived hard to make Kalamandalam a cultural centre of international repute. The government is committed to the development of the cultural centre,” the Chief Minister said.

The procedures for turning the Kerala Kalamandalam into a full-fledged cultural university is in the final stage, said Culture Minister Saji Cherian. The infrastructure development activities of the

Kalamandalam are progressing, he added.

Devaswom Minister K. Radhakrishnan distributed the Kalamandalam endowments. Kalamandalam Vice-Chancellor B. Anandakrishnan presided over the function.

The 36000-sq. ft. academic block has been built at a cost of ₹11.5 crore. It has 24 classrooms, three teachers’ rooms, two seminar halls, three restrooms, an open auditorium, toilets and two dormitories.

Kozhikode may get a film city

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Mayor Been Philip has said that the city corporation will consider the demand to develop Kozhikode as a film production hub and also set up a ‘film city’ on the land belonging to the now-defunct Gwalior Rayons at Mavoor. She was delivering a speech after opening a event in memory of actor Kuthiravattom Pappu here on Sunday.

High-profile political battle on the cards for Kozhikode Lok Sabha seat

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

High-profile political battles are on the cards in Kozhikode in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls though the Left Democratic Front (LDF), United Democratic Front (UDF), and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) are yet to officially declare their candidates.

According to reports, the UDF has decided to field M.K. Raghavan and K. Muraledharan, incumbent MPs from Kozhikode and Vadakara, respectively, again.

The LDF has tentatively proposed the names of Elamaram Kareem, Rajya Sabha MP, for Kozhikode, and K.K. Shailaja, Mattanur MLA and former Health Minister, for Vadakara.

Mr. Raghavan has been representing Kozhikode

since 2009. He was first elected to the Lok Sabha by a slender margin of 838 votes against current Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas.

In 2014, he defeated senior CPI(M) leader A. Vijayaraghavan by a margin of 16,883 votes and in 2019, Mr. Raghavan trounced A. Pradeepkumar, then an MLA for Kozhikode North, by 85,225 votes. An easily accessible politician, he has endeared himself to the people of the constituency by bringing in important Centrally-funded projects here.

The CPI(M) is learnt to have decided to field Mr. Kareem, a well-known trade union leader, former MLA representing Bepore, and an Industries Minister between 2006 and 2011, to put up a tough fight against Mr. Raghavan. Mr. Kareem has made his

presence felt in the Rajya Sabha during his current tenure through significant interventions against the Union government.

The CPI(M) feels that his popularity among minorities and working class population will stand him in good stead. Both the probable candidates are actively participating in public events in the constituency. Mr. Raghavan is planning to take out a march from March 1 to meet the people.

Last-minute choice

Mr. Muraledharan was a last-minute candidate of the UDF when he was chosen to fight against LDF candidate P. Jayarajan, the then Kannur district secretary of the CPI(M), in Vadakara, in 2019. The former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president captured the seat with a major

ity of 84,663 votes.

Vadakara, a CPI(M) stronghold, had been represented by party nominees between 1996 and 2009, when the Congress’ Mullaappally Ramachandran defeated P. Sathidevi, the incumbent MP. He retained the seat till 2019. An internal revolt in the CPI (M) led by P. Chandrasekharan threatened to the formation of the Revolutionary Marxist Party of India, which later cooperated with the UDF, contributed to the Left’s debacle. By fielding Ms. Shailaja, the party thinks that it can turn the tables on its opponents.

Deliberations for candidate selection are on in the NDA with the names of senior BJP leaders Sobha Surendran, M.T. Ramesh, P.K. Krishnadas, and V.K. Sajeevan doing the rounds as possible candidates.