

Chennithala treads cautiously as race for Cong leadership heats up

Having been sidelined from state politics, every political devpt has come as a blessing for him

K S SREEJITH @T'Puram

DESPITE his efforts to emerge as a consensus champion of various communities, Ramesh Chennithala is treading a cautious path.

But, Chennithala's tight-rope walk seems to have suffered a setback with the SNDP annoyed at the way the Congress Working Committee (CWC) member presented himself on Thursday at the NSS headquarters for the Mannam jayanthi celebrations.



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Sukuman Nair described Ramesh as the son of the NSS, SNDP Yogam general secretary Natesan told TNIE.

"So the question now arises: to whom will 'this son' show his loyalty? Will it be towards the NSS and Sukuman Nair and not towards the people? The same Chennithala, who once proclaimed his secular credentials, bowed before Sukuman Nair," he said.

Given that Haripad constituency has a large number of Ezhava community voters, the deep-rooted animosity between the SNDP and NSS chiefs could pose a challenge to Chennithala retaining the seat in next year's assembly election. There is growing criticism in

the Ezhava community of Chennithala's silence after Sukuman Nair defamed the head of Sivagiri Mutt on Thursday, political analyst Ajith Greenivasan told TNIE.

"Chennithala was present when Sukuman Nair spoke, but he did not show the courage to voice opposition to the remarks. If Ezhava votes consolidate against the UDF in south Kerala, it would be a major jolt for the Congress. The front lost a good chunk of the community's vote in the 2021 assembly election," he said.

Having been sidelined from state politics for a long time, every political development has come as a blessing for Chennithala. The larger political picture, which works in favour of Chennithala, is that the state Congress is now devoid of a legacy leader of the likes of K Karunakaran, A K Antony and Oommen Chandy.

With senior leaders like

Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan and K Muralaiedharan continuing to remain neglected, Chennithala is the only party leader worth his salt who can make legacy claims.

In the face of intense competition, a key factor determining the leadership race could be the allies one cultivates. "In a situation where BJP is going all out to improve its performance in the assembly election, Chennithala would become more acceptable. However, the way the Ezhava community thinks could prove to be detrimental," a senior Congress leader said.

"The perceived arrogance of Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan has also come as a blessing for Chennithala. He can easily fit into the position. The assembly election is next year and anything can happen before that. It is up to Chennithala to decide whether he wants to rush forward. There are more troublemakers than good samaritans in the state Congress," he said.

Dubai-bound flight makes emergency landing at Karipur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kozhikode

A Dubai-bound Air India Express flight (IX345) had to make an emergency landing at the Calicut airport (Karipur) shortly after takeoff on Friday due to a technical snag.

Issues with the landing gear. The crew promptly alerted the airport authorities, which swung into action. Fire and rescue services teams were deployed at the runway.

Despite the snag, the aircraft landed safely with all passengers and crew members unharmed. The flight later resumed its journey and landed in Dubai.

32L visitors in 41 days: Sabarimala temple's revenue soars to ₹297 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Pathanamthitta

DURING the 41 days of Mandala Mahotsavam, the first phase of the annual pilgrimage season in Sabarimala, over 32 lakh devotees had darshan at the hill shrine in Pathanamthitta.

The uptick in footfall, mainly with the influx of devotees from southern states, reflected in the temple recording an excess revenue of ₹82.24 crore than the previous year.

According to Travancore Devaswom Board president (TDB) P S Praveenth, a total of 32,49,756 devotees visited the shrine during the Mandalam period this year, generating a revenue of ₹297.07 crore compared to ₹214.83 crore during the same period last year.



Uptick in footfall

A total of 4,07,309 more devotees visited the temple this year as against 28,42,447 visitors during the last Mandalam season

Revenue of ₹297.07 crore was generated this year compared to ₹214.83 crore during the same period last year

Devaswom Board received an income of ₹124.02 crore from the sale of aravana compared to ₹101.95 crore last year

temple - this year, compared to ₹101.95 crore last year. An additional ₹22.07 crore was received from the sale of aravana (kanikka) pilgrims' offering (kanikka) hit ₹80.26 crore this year, with an excess of ₹13.28 crore than the last season.

'Uppayi Mapla' creator George Kumbanad dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Pathanamthitta

RENOWNED cartoonist M V George, who was best known for his character 'Uppayi Mapla', passed away at a private hospital in Kumbanad. He was 94. Popularly known as George Kumbanad, he was under treatment for age-related ailments at Kumbanad Marthoma Fellowship Hospital, Tiruvalla, and passed away around 9.30am on Friday.

A distinguished member of the Kerala

Cartoon Academy (KCA), George survived by daughters Uma Chandy, Suja Raju, Shirin Roy and Smitha Shirin, and sons-in-law K Chandy, Achankunju, Raju P Jacob, Roy Abraham, and Sunil M Mathew.

His wife Joyamma has predeceased him.

The funeral will be held at 2.30pm on Monday at Emmanuel Marthoma Church, Eraviperor. His creation 'Uppayi Mapla' gained fame after prominent cartoonists borrowed it in their works.



While Toms Boban drew 'Uppayi Mapla' in his famous work 'Bobban and Molly', P K Manthri used it in 'Pachuk and Kovalan', and K S Rajan in 'Lalu Leela'.

Expressing condolences on George's demise, KCA chairman Sudheerath said no such incidents of creators borrowing another colleague's works are celebrated in the cartoon world like this.

George was a friend of Velloor Krishnankutty, a satirist who used to go for long walks in Kottayam town in search of subjects for cartoons in a Malayalam daily.

Uma Thomas accident: HC seeks govt's view on accused's bail pleas

Kochi: The Kerala High Court has sought a response from the state government on the anticipatory bail pleas of three accused persons in a case registered in connection with the inadequate safety measures taken during the mega dance event held at the JLN Stadium, Kallur, which led to the accident of MLA Uma Thomas. The court took the decision when bail pleas of Nigosh Kumar M of Wayanad, proprietor of 'Mridanga Vision' - the primary organiser of the event - his wife C Mini, and Shameer Abdul Rahim, Mridanga Vision CEO, came up for hearing. The trio faces charges of cheating and criminal breach of trust.

30kg gold looted from office of Manappuram in Sambalpur

Sambalpur: In a daring daylight heist that caught Sambalpur police napping, a group of armed robbers barged into the office of Manappuram Finance Ltd along Budharaja Main Road here and decamped with over 30kg gold worth around ₹20 crore and ₹4 lakh cash on Friday. The incident took place at around 11.30 am. A Manappuram staffer said around an hour after the branch opened, a group of masked miscreants entered the office with sharp weapons and firearms. The robbers looted gold jewellery and cash from the vault and fled the spot.

ED raids Duraimurugan's home, college in Vellore

Vellore: Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials conducted searches at four locations in Vellore on Friday, including the residence of Water Resources Minister and DMK general secretary Duraimurugan. According to sources, the searches were carried out in relation to an Income Tax case regarding seizure of money in alleged bribing of voters in 2019. Kingston Engineering College, owned by his son and Vellore MP Kathir Anand, was also searched.

South Indian Bank advertisement including E-Auction Sale Notice and Earnest Money Deposit details.

City Union Bank Limited advertisement including RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002 and Earnest Money Deposit details.

KEIL KERALA ENVIRO INFRASTRUCTURE LTD (KEIL) advertisement including NOTICE INVITING TENDERS.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA advertisement including RULE 8 (1) POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property).

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA advertisement including RULE - 8 (1) POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property).

TECHNOPARK advertisement including TENDER NOTICE.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED advertisement including TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED advertisement including Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED advertisement including AUCTION DETAILS.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED advertisement including Terms and Conditions of Tender-Cum-Auction Sale.

QuoteExpress advertisement with text 'IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE'.

City Union Bank Limited advertisement including Regd. Office details.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA advertisement including Regd. Office details.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED advertisement including Regd. Office details.