

Chandy to launch mass contact programme

Special Correspondent

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Chief Minister Oommen Chandy is all set to launch his district-level mass contact programmes from Saturday, hoping to leave behind the issues he had to face during a difficult Assembly session.

Kozhikode will be the first venue for his mass contact programme. He will also visit the other districts during the upcoming week. The programme was scheduled to be launched from Kollam soon after the Assembly session, but had to be deferred owing to the change in the schedule of the House sitting consequent to the death of T.M. Jacob.

The Kollam programme will be held on November 29. The Chief Minister will hear petitions from the people and as far as possible dispose them of on the spot.

The mass contact programme is a follow-up of the file disposal drive he had launched as part of the government's 100-day programme. Significantly, the mass contact programme is going to be a low-key affair unlike the one he had launched during his first term in office.

The Chief Minister will

hear petitions that have come through the registration process, but District Collectors have been given directions to open counters to accept petitions from those who have not registered for the programme as well.

Mr. Chandy will make an attempt to use the mass contact programme to overcome the problems he had to face during the Assembly session, during which he had to apologise on quite a few occasions for the conduct of Ministers.

At the end of the session, it appears that Mr. Chandy had to tackle problems created by those in the United Democratic Front that went a long way in giving the LDF enough ammunition to put the Treasury Bench on the back foot.

Sources in the UDF said Mr. Chandy hoped to bring back the development agenda in public debates and recapture the advantage he got in kick-starting the UDF rule by launching the 100-day programme.

The mass contact programmes would be held in short breaks and not in one single stretch.

In the intervening period, Mr. Chandy is expected to attend the India Economic Summit in Mumbai next week