

# C K Janu eyes Mananthavady seat for Kerala assembly polls

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kozhikode/c-k-janu-eyes-mananthavady-seat-for-kerala-assembly-polls/articleshow/12651140.cms>

Jan 16, 2026, 12:15 AM IST



Kozhikode: Tribal leader C K Janu, whose Janadhipathiya Rashtreeya Party (JRP) was recently inducted to the UDF as an associate member, has expressed interest to contest from the Mananthavady ST reserved constituency in Wayanad for the upcoming assembly election.

Janu had exited the NDA in Aug last year, alleging that the party was denied due consideration within the alliance. JRP then later joined the UDF in Dec.

She had earlier said that while parties such as BDJS were given space and recognition in the NDA, the JRP was sidelined.

"The party is keen to contest this time. JRP and Adivasi Gotra Maha Sabha have significant influence in the constituency. We should therefore be considered for the seat," Janu said.

Janu has earlier contested twice from the Sulthan Bathery constituency, finishing third on both occasions. In Mananthavady, Congress candidate and former minister P K Jayalakshmi had lost to CPM's O R Kelu in the last two assembly elections.

However, UDF's strong performance in the recent local body polls — retaining the Mananthavady municipality and wresting Thondernad, Vellamunda and Panamaram panchayats from the LDF — has boosted the front's confidence of mounting a strong challenge this time.

However, several tribal organisations have demanded that political parties field a candidate from the Paniya community, the largest tribal group in the district. Leaders representing the Paniya, Adiya, Kattunayikka, Oorali and Vettukumura communities said at a news conference that despite the Paniya population in the district being around one lakh, the major political fronts have so far failed to provide them representation.

The news conference was attended by Adivasi Vanitha Prasthanam president Amini K Wayanad and other leaders including Devaki Mananthavady, Kamala C M and Saji Begur.