



MoU inked for used oil recycling

BENGALURU: PETRONAS Lubricants India, part of the PETRONAS group and a known supplier of advanced automotive and industrial lubricant technology, and Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle maker, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the responsible collection and recycling of used automotive lubricants.

The firms will run a structured, scalable pilot at the same time in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The pairing joins complementary strengths to tackle a core sustainability problem, support compliance with India's changing Extended Producer Responsibility framework and further national circular-economy goals. Launching the pilot, Binu Chandy, India MD, PETRONAS Lubricants India, said true circularity in used oil begins when re-refined base oil is put back into finished lubricants. The tie-up with Tata Motors, he said, is a step toward a scalable used-oil circularity model and shows the reach of the firm's channel network as it works to cut its carbon footprint across operations. Vikram Agrawal, Head – Spares and Non-Vehicle Business, Tata Motors Ltd., said practices and partnerships that advance sustainability sit at the heart of circular-economy work and environmental effect across the automotive value chain.

My Spinny story launched

BENGALURU: Spinny has launched its My Spinny Story film featuring Indian footballer Ryan Williams, tracing his journey from Australia to India, family roots, Bengaluru life, football career and association with Spinny.

Kaftan company expansion

BENGALURU: The Kaftan Company marked its 10th anniversary with Middle East expansion and the launch of Homebody, a nightwear collection targeting women aged 21-34, as the brand expands its 1,000-plus SKU portfolio globally.

Awareness walkathon held

BENGALURU: Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital and Hillside Group of Institutions held an awareness walkathon in Bengaluru to mark Eye Donation Fortnight 2026, with over 150 students, doctors and staff highlighting eye donation, dispelling myths and promoting corneal transplant awareness.

Mrs Grand Universe presides over Guruvandan 2026

PATHANAMTHITTA: The Kerala chapter of the SFEIA International Foundation organised National Teachers' Day celebrations and Guruvandan 2026 at the Pathanamthitta Press Club Hall, honouring teachers for their meritorious service and contributions to education. Dr Sasilekha Nair, founder and director of the SFEIA Foundation and winner of the Mrs Grand Universe title, presided over the programme. Dr Jitheshji, who has received the History Man of India honour and holds a world record in speed drawing, inaugurated the event. Senior teachers were felicitated during the programme in recognition of their dedicated service and contributions to the education sector. Anil Adoor, Senior Vice-President of Asianet News, presented the honours.

Pathanamthitta Press Club president Biju Kurian delivered the congratulatory address. The event brought together educationists, teachers and members of the media to recognise the important role played by teachers in shaping society and nurturing future generations.

NO NOTICE ISSUED TO BHARAT RATNA C N R RAO

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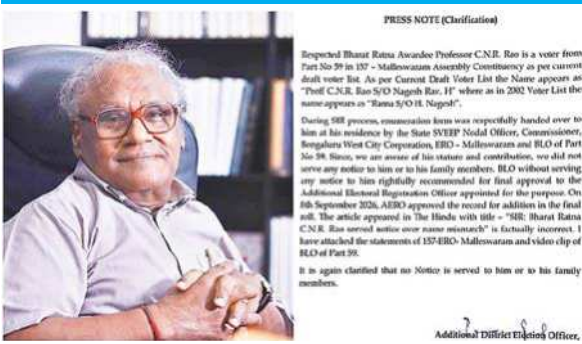
BENGALURU district election officials have dismissed reports claiming that Bharat Ratna awardee and renowned scientist Prof. C N R Rao was issued a notice over a discrepancy in his name in the electoral roll.

Officials termed the report "completely false" and clarified that no notice of any kind had been served

on Prof. Rao or his family in connection with the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. As part of the revision exercise, election officials personally visited Prof.

Rao's residence and handed over the enumeration form to his family. The form was filled in during the visit in the presence of the state SVEEP nodal officer and the Bengaluru West municipal commis-

District election officials clarify



sioner, officials said.

The clarification followed questions over differences in Prof. Rao's name in electoral records. Officials said his name had appeared as "Rama" in the 2002 electoral roll, while the current electoral records carry his name as "Professor C.N.R. Rao M". The discrepancy prompted Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to verify the details as part of the routine electoral roll revision

process.

Officials said the verification was not accompanied by any notice or summons. Instead, the BLO recommended that Prof. Rao's name be retained in the electoral roll without issuing a notice. His name has already been included in the draft electoral roll, and the necessary process has been completed to ensure that it remains in the final electoral roll, the authori-

ties said.

The Bengaluru election officials reiterated that the visit to Prof. Rao's residence was only to facilitate the enumeration process and verify electoral details in view of the discrepancy in historical records.They said the claim that a notice had been issued to the eminent scientist was contrary to the facts and sought to put the record straight regarding the SIR exercise.

CABINET MEET AT MANGALURU ON SEPT 18

Permanent coastal schemes, Tulu status to be taken up

Sunil Kumar seeks special funds ahead of 2027 Gommateshwara consecration

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BENGALURU

V Sunil Kumar, the BJP MLA for Karkala and a former minister, called on Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday for an extended conversation about the full development of his constituency and about readiness for the historic Mahamastakabhisheka of Sri Gommateshwara Swamy.

That twelve-yearly ceremony will occupy ten days beginning 18 February 2027, when pilgrims and visitors from India and other countries are expected in large numbers; a special grant for the infrastructure those crowds will need was therefore requested.

Progress on existing works inside the Karkala Assembly segment, release of money still outstanding, and administrative approval for newly proposed schemes were examined in detail. With the state cabinet fixed for



Mangaluru on 18 September 2026, the MLA asked that the meeting be used to design permanent programmes that serve the comprehensive and lasting development of the coastal districts.

Lengthy discussion also covered proclamation of Tulu as the state's second official language and the placement before the cabinet of projects covering tourism, Kambala, basic infrastructure, jobs and irrigation in the coastal belt, including Karkala, along with the

funds and sanctions those projects require.

A release from Vikas Janaseva Office, Karkala, quoted Sunil Kumar as saying he trusts the state government to answer adequately the plans needed for Karkala's overall growth.

Among the concrete demands set before the Chief Minister were extra money for roads inside the municipality and in rural pockets, higher grants for coastal Kambala meets, development of Karkala

Parashurama Theme Park and related tourism, work on historic Ramasamudra lake and park, and improvement of Varanga Chaturmukha lake Basadi.

The list continued with Koodlu Falls at Nadpalu in Hebri taluk, the road from Hiriyaadka through Karkala, Joduraste, Miyaru and Bajagoli up to Guruvaayanakere, and a sculpture-and-furniture hub meant to open self-employment for local youth.

Hebri Community Health Centre was proposed for elevation to a 100-bed taluk hospital, a new building was sought for Karkala Nursing College, the Karkala Textile Park project was pressed for further development, and a lift-irrigation project near Ikkoddu in Belanje village of Hebri taluk was added. A special grant tied specifically to infrastructure for the Mahamastakabhisheka completed the set of major requests.



Cauvery order

Ashoka accuses govt of surrendering state's interests

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BENGALURU

LEADER of Opposition R. Ashoka on Wednesday accused the Karnataka government of failing to protect the state's interests after the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) directed Karnataka to release 6,000 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu for 15 days.

Ashoka described the order as a serious setback for Karnataka and alleged that the state government's "soft approach" and failure to mount an effective legal challenge had weakened its case before the authority. He said the government should

have firmly opposed Tamil Nadu's demand for 20,000 cusecs a day and questioned why it had failed to prevent the release of additional water when Karnataka's reservoirs were already under pressure.

"When our reservoirs are facing a shortage even for drinking water and farmers are struggling due to inadequate rainfall, agreeing to release around 7.77 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu over 15 days is a betrayal of Kannadigas," Ashoka said.

He urged the government to stop delaying a decision on challenging the CWMA order and immediately approach the Supreme Court

with a strong appeal seeking a stay on the water release. Former chief minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai also criticised the government, alleging that it had failed to take the Cauvery issue seriously. He demanded that Karnataka immediately approach the Supreme Court and appoint a senior special counsel to handle the case.

Bomma said releasing 6,000 cusecs daily for 15 days would mean the state losing nearly 7.5 TMC of water. He pointed out that storage in the Kabinri reservoir had already declined significantly, while the KRS reservoir was releasing around 5,000 to 6,000 cusecs daily.

Minister under fire for 'objectionable language' against BJP MLA

BENGALURU

HORTICULTURE Minister S S Mallikarjun has come under criticism over a purported video in which he allegedly uses objectionable language against BJP MLA B P Harish at a public gathering in Davanagere district. The incident reportedly took place recently during the inauguration of a veterinary centre in Harihar town, where farmers approached the minister seeking water supply to the constituency.

In the video, the farmers can be seen approaching Mallikarjun and telling him that they had raised the issue with local MLA Harish, whom they referred to as "Harish anna" (elder brother), but were allegedly asked to approach their "Sahukaar"—the minister.

Mallikarjun immediately questioned why Harish was being referred to as "anna" and allegedly made remarks against the BJP legislator that



were considered objectionable and unparliamentary. The purported video has since gone viral on social media, drawing criticism from BJP leaders and triggering a political controversy. Reacting to the controversy, Mallikarjun said on Wednesday that he had only told the farmers who met him that Harish was not a suitable person to be addressed as "anna".

"What have I said? I have said nothing. When the farmer referred to Harish as anna, I only questioned the farmer's age. That's all. I told him: You are elderly; why are you addressing him (the MLA) as 'anna'? Instead, refer to eligible people as 'anna', as he (the MLA) was not a suitable person to be addressed as 'anna',

he told reporters. Accusing Mallikarjun, who is the Davanagere district in-charge, of using "vulgar" words against him and behaving "rashly" with farmers when they sought Bhadra river water for irrigation, Harish said people would teach the minister a lesson in the future. He said he would discuss the matter with BJP leaders and decide on taking any further action. "Karnataka BJP is behind me against SS Mallikarjun," he added. BJP state President B Y Vijayendra, hitting out at Mallikarjun, demanded that the minister publicly apologise. "When a person from a prominent family background speaks so irresponsibly about an elected MLA, it is not merely an insult to Harish; it is an insult to the people of the entire constituency. Minister Mallikarjun must immediately publicly apologise to the MLA and the people of the constituency," he said on Tuesday evening.

ISRO support sought for 'student-scientist interaction' at science centres in state

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WITH the objective of taking science beyond textbooks and making learning more experiential, Minister for Minor Irrigation and Science and Technology Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh has sought the support of ISRO to organise direct interaction programmes between ISRO scientists and students at science centres across the State.

During his meeting with ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan, the Minister formally proposed the initiative and requested support to enable students to learn directly from scientists about space science, research, satellite technology and career opportunities in science and technology.

"When students get an opportunity to interact di-



rectly with scientists, science begins to appear not merely as a subject in a textbook, but as a future opportunity. The experiences and achievements of ISRO scientists can inspire curiosity, a research mindset and bigger aspirations among young students," Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh said.

The Minister said the State Government is expanding science centres, mobile planetariums and

telescope-based learning initiatives to promote practical and interactive science education among students. The Science & Technology Department's Mobile Digital Planetarium programme has already reached 3,282 schools and benefited more than 5.46 lakh students and teachers.

In addition, under the Providing Access to Telescopes (PAT) programme, telescopes have been provid-

ed to KREIS schools and colleges, along with training for science teachers. As a next step, the proposed ISRO Scientist-Student Interaction programme at science centres would help bring space science and technology closer to students in a more engaging and meaningful way, the Minister said.

"Science must be shown, experienced and questioned. Direct interaction with scientists can strengthen scientific temper among students and help nurture the next generation of scientists, researchers and technology professionals," he said. Through ISRO's partnership, the Government aims to extend these interaction programmes across science centres in the State and create opportunities for students not only in cities, but also in districts and taluks, to engage directly with scientists.

‘Govt should write to Centre for changes in drought mgt guidelines’

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BENGALURU

RURAL Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B Khandre has suggested that the Karnataka government write to the Centre seeking amendments to the guidelines under the Drought Management Manual, stating that the existing norms are inadequate to assess the ground reality of drought conditions.

The suggestion was made during a meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee chaired by Revenue Minister Dr G Parameshwara to review the State's 2026 monsoon and drought situation, along with other natural disaster conditions, and to decide on policy measures and necessary steps to manage them effectively. Khandre pointed out that



the State had already made several representations to the Centre seeking changes to the drought management

guidelines, but they had not been considered. He suggested that the State should once again write to the Centre,

highlighting the shortcomings of the guidelines point by point and seeking necessary amendments.

Under the existing Drought Management Manual, declaring a taluk as drought-affected requires

consideration of not only rainfall deficiency but also satellite-based indices. Khandre said this approach could lead to situations where a crop fails despite receiving some rainfall, but the area is not declared drought-affected because the sowing-based criteria are not met.

He said the drought situation in Karnataka is assessed scientifically based on reports from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) and the Disaster Management Cell of the Revenue Department before a formal drought declaration is made.

According to the existing norms, a taluk can be considered for drought declaration based on factors including a 60 per cent deficiency in rainfall compared to normal, more than 50 per cent

deficiency in sowing and a continuous dry spell of three weeks, during which there is no rainfall and soil moisture is depleted.

Khandre, however, said these criteria could become a major constraint when there is only light or sporadic rainfall. Even a small amount of drizzle can result in some soil moisture, making it difficult to meet the prescribed criteria despite severe crop stress and adverse conditions on the ground.

He stressed the need for the drought assessment mechanism to reflect the actual conditions faced by farmers rather than relying solely on rigid technical parameters.Ministers Lakshman Savadi, Puttaranga Shetty and others attended the Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting.