

IN BRIEF



Uranium plant polluting water, say A.P. leaders

**KADAPA**  
Leaders of the Opposition parties in Andhra Pradesh who visited the Uranium Corporation of India's plant in Pulivendula (represented by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in the Assembly ) in Kadapa district on Sunday, called the plant a "major pollutant." The team led by Kalava Srinivasulu and Bhuma Akhila Priya of the TDP and CPI leader K. Ramakrishna said the plant had polluted groundwater.

Chiranjeevi unveils statue of actor SVR

**TADEPALLIGUDEM**  
Actor K. Chiranjeevi unveiled a bronze statue of veteran actor Samarla Venkata Ranga Rao (popularly known as S.V. Ranga Rao or SVR), here in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. The nine-foot statue was installed at the Housing Board Colony. Apart from thousands of fans, Narsapuram MP Raghuram Krishnam Raju and other leaders were present. Mr. Chiranjeevi said Ranga Rao was known for his great performance and dialogue delivery.

Kerala govt. to go after Maradu architects

**KOCHI**  
The Kerala government has drawn up complaints against four architects who designed the four illegal apartments at Maradu here, which the Supreme Court has ordered to be pulled down for violating the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) guidelines. Complaints will be preferred against the architects with the the Council of Architecture, a statutory body formed under the Architects Act 1972. The State would seek suspension of their licences and membership from the council.

# Two trainee pilots killed as aircraft crashes in Telangana

Flight caught in heavy rain crashed into cotton fields near Sultanpur village

**RAVI REDDY  
HYDERABAD**

Two trainee pilots were killed when their trainer aircraft crashed into a cotton field on the outskirts of Sultanpur village in Telangana's Vikarabad district, 100 km from the State capital, on Sunday afternoon. The victims were identified as Prakash Vishal from Bihar and Amanpreet Kaur from Punjab, both aged 21. The four-seater trainer aircraft belonging to Wings Aviation Private Limited, operating out of the Old Airport at Begumpet in Hyderabad, crashed due to bad weather. "It was raining heavily in the area and the aircraft apparently nosedived into the farm belonging to Bantu Balakrishna," Bantawaram SI Venkateswarulu said. "The aircraft first hit the ground and then dragged for some time. Wreckage of the aircraft was found spread over



The aircraft that crashed on the outskirts of a village in Telangana's Vikarabad district on Sunday. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

er a radius of 100 yards. Its two occupants died on the spot. Their bodies were lying close to the scene of the crash," Vikarabad District

Collector Ayesha Masrat Khanam told *The Hindu*. The locals of Sultanpur were the first to reach the spot in pouring rain. They

scouted the cotton fields and found the bodies and the wreckage of the aircraft. On receiving information, the police arrived and cordoned off the area. The aviation academy in Hyderabad was informed; its founder Y. Prabhakar Reddy rushed to the crash site.

**Knee-deep slush**  
Vikarabad Superintendent of Police M. Narayana and Ms. Khanam oversaw the retrieval of the bodies. It was still raining heavily. Police personnel and the medical team from the Marpally Primary Health Centre found it difficult to wade through knee-deep slush to the accident spot, the police said. The post-mortem was conducted at the crash site itself. Later, the bodies were handed over to Mr. Reddy. Mr. Reddy said the ill-fated Cessna 172 was fit for flying with no technical issues.

# KCR sacks 50,000 striking bus staff

Telangana CM says there will be no further talks; calls for speedy recruitment

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD**

Toughening his stand against the striking employees of the State-owned Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC), Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday said the government will not compromise under any circumstances and there would be no further talks with the striking unions. The employees began their indefinite strike on Saturday, demanding, among other things, merger of the

TSRTC with the government. The government said a firm no to taking back the employees who did not join duty before the deadline it set. "There are just 1,200 employees left in the TSRTC as of now," Mr. Rao said, even as about 50,000 employees continued their strike for the second consecutive day, disrupting bus services across the State. The Chief Minister directed the officials to hire 2,500 buses as an immediate measure while another 4,114 private buses could be de-

ployed as stage carriers. Officials were already holding discussions with the private managements in this regard. Mr. Rao, who held a review meeting, termed the employees' decision a "serious mistake" and said there was no question of merger of the TSRTC with the government. "The government is firm against yielding to blackmail tactics and is not willing to tolerate indiscipline." The Chief Minister wanted the officials to speed up recruitment of drivers and said

only such employees who gave an undertaking that they would not join union activities should be given appointments. **Stir will continue: JAC**  
The TSRTC Joint Action Committee announced that it would continue the strike come what may. Speaking to *The Hindu*, JAC leader K. Raji Reddy from TSRTC Employees' Union said: "Nowhere in the world have 50,000 employees been removed. But we are not afraid. We will take legal recourse."

# Activists send another letter to PM in protest

'Is it anti-national to seek steps to check mob lynching?'

**STAFF REPORTER  
KALABURAGI**

To register their protest against sedition charges slapped against 49 eminent personalities – including historian Ramchandra Guha, actor Aparna Sen and filmmakers Mani Ratnam and Adoor Gopalakrishnan – for expressing concern in an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over growing incidents of mob lynching, civil society activists and intellectuals here in Karnataka have written a similar letter to the PM. The letter, signed by K. Neela, Mahesh Rathod, Arjun Bhadre, Maruti Gokhale, Kashinath Ambalagi, Maula Mulla and others, was symbolically released to the media here on Sunday. "Is urging the Prime Minister to take measures to



In defiance: Civil society activists releasing an open letter to PM Narendra Modi in Kalaburagi on Sunday. \*ARUN KULKARNI

prevent mob lynching and ensure rule of law an anti-national activity? The celebrated intellectuals and scholars, who have contributed a great deal in their own fields to make India proud, have demanded the very same thing that India's Constitution guarantees to every citizen. If that is an anti-national

activity, most of the people in this country, including we who have signed this letter to Prime Minister, would be anti-national," Ms. Neela said. "The Constitution has given us the right to question authority whenever we feel that it is doing wrong," Kashinath Ambalagi said.

# Mysuru gears up for grand Dasara finale

Jamboos Savari by Arjuna and 11 other elephants will bring down the curtain on 10-day Nada Habba

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MYSURU**

The stage is set for the grand finale of Mysuru Dasara with the caparisoned elephants all geared up for Jamboos Savari to mark Vijayadashmi on Tuesday. This will be followed by the torchlight parade and a display of equestrian events by the police personnel at Bannimantap Grounds, which will bring down the curtain on the 409th edition of the Mysuru Dasara. Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa will perform the puja to the Nandi Dhawja between 2.15 p.m. and 2.58 p.m., after which the procession with the elephants and the tableaux will roll out. Elephant Arjuna with the golden howdah will begin his march between 4.31 p.m. and 4.57 p.m. to bring the curtain down on the 10-day Nada Habba.



Awash with colours: The illuminated K.R. Circle in Mysuru on Sunday. \*M.A. SRIRAM

# Death of four-year-old was not due to assault, say police

Autopsy reveals that she died of pneumonia, meningitis

**STAFF REPORTER  
KOLLAM**

The police registering a case of unnatural death following the sudden demise of a four-year-old in Kerala had sent media into a frenzy on Sunday with speculation of physical assault doing rounds till late evening. The girl was first taken to the Government Medical College, Kollam, around 9 a.m. in a critical condition with symptoms of fever and had beating marks on her legs, leading to suspicion of torture. Diya, daughter of Deepu and Ramya from Chirakkal in Parippally, died on her way to the Thiruvananthapuram Medical College.

**We noticed beating marks on her leg and intimidated the police. It's a usual procedure**

**HABEEB NASEEM**  
Deputy Medical Superintendent

Diya's aunt's statements to the media about the girl vomiting blood and the presence of old injuries in her body added to the assumptions of assault. But the autopsy at Thiruvananthapuram revealed pneumonia and meningitis as the cause of death. "Contrary to media reports we have not filed any case against the parents as

per the Juvenile Justice Act," said Kollam District Police Chief P.K.Madhu. According to hospital authorities, the girl was drowsy with low blood pressure. "We noticed beating marks on her leg and intimidated the police as they do not corroborate with the symptoms of her disease. It's a usual procedure and that does not mean that the death was caused by the beating. Her mother said the child was beaten with a stick when she refused to have food. Our primary diagnosis was viral hemorrhagic fever," said Habeeb Naseem, Deputy Medical Superintendent.

# 'Centre will help Indians stuck in Saudi'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THRISSUR**

Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muralidharan has said that the Centre will intervene to help Indian workers stranded in labour camps in Saudi Arabia. The Minister promised the support at a meeting held with K.V. Abdul Khader, MLA, chairman of the Assembly Committee for Pravasi Welfare, at Guruvayur on Sunday. More than 600 Indians, including 70 from Kerala, are languishing in Saudi labour camps without food, wages or drugs, the MLA said. They worked in companies that faced action for not implementing the Nitaqat law that makes it mandatory to hire local labour.

# 15-year-old has a thriller to his name

Kerala school student publishes novel based on a U.S. military project

**HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN  
KOTTAYAM**

Edward Brooks and John Doe are on an intriguing mission for the United States in the post-Cold War era. The agent-scientist duo, associated with the Central Intelligence Agency, exhibits youth-like agility, while at times, they sound youthfully mischievous too. Probably because they are fictional characters created by a writer even younger to them. These two U.S. citizens are the central characters of the English crime fiction *Shroud of the Devil*, authored by Adith Tom Alex, a Class 10 student from Kanjirappally in Kerala's Kottayam district.



Adith Tom Alex, 15, with his thriller *Shroud of the Devil*.

The novel revolves around the Stargate Project of the U.S. and runs into 287 pages. Adith, the head boy of St. Antony's School, Anakallu, had developed a deep interest in English novels

from a young age. Innate writing skills, coupled with a fertile imagination, put the youngster firm on the writer's path. From short stories to blogs, he tried his hand at everything. **Within a year**  
The storyline of his first novel was developed over a year while he spent just over a couple of months to finish the plot. "It just evolved. I combined my research, historical understanding, and imagination to draw the readers into the setting and experience the characters," he says. The turning point came when Fr. Michael Anakallungal, former principal of the Mary Giri

Higher Secondary School in Koothattukulam, chanced upon the synopsis of his novel. Encouraged by his feedback, Adith's parents, Alex Tom and Siji Sebastian, kept him on the right track. A week ago, Adith's first novel was released. K. Jayakumar, former Chief Secretary and former Vice Chancellor of Malayalam University, released the novel at a function. Another fiction, set in rural Kerala, is already in the works. "The outline of the next novel *The Vial of Infinite Hatred* is being prepared. I hope to finish it by December," he says. The second novel will be followed up with a sequel to his first work, next year.