

United Royal
Riders - Horse
riding Coim-
batoreNarendra Modi to
address a rally in
MangaloreKarl Slyn 'com-
mitted suicide'
after argument
with wifeBarcelona had
the chance to
sign Cristiano
Ronaldo, says
Laporta

Outrage in West Bengal

Coimbatore: The headman of a tribal community in Birkhumb district was among 13 men arrested in connection with the gang rape of a 20-year-old woman after a kangaroo court be convened ordered the assault as punishment for her relationship with a man of another community.

The incident, which took place on Monday in the district's Subalpur village, has sparked fresh outrage across the State over sexual crimes against women. Last December, there were protests against the government after a gang-rape in North 24 Parganas district.

Mamatha Banerjee talking to the media.
PHOTO: Sandeep Sanyal

Hours after the arrested men were remanded to judicial custody for 14 days, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on a tour of north Bengal, expressed displeasure with the police for not seeking custody of the accused and ordered the transfer of district superintendent C. Sudhakar.

Inspector General of Police (WR) Siddhant Gupta, who visited the area later, said the police would make a fresh appeal for seeking custody of the accused.

Acc. to the victim's brother and the local public prosecutor, both of whom The Hindu spoke to, the sexual assault was committed on Monday.

Public prosecutor Feroze Kumar Pal said that as per the victim's statement to the local Labhupur police, it was on the headman's instructions that she was sexually assaulted. She told the police that the assault started at 5 p.m. "All the 13 arrested have been charged with rape on the basis of the complaint", Mr. Pal said.

The kangaroo court announced its punishment after the victim was unable to pay the Rs.25,000 that had been imposed on her as a "fine" for her romance. The village remained tense through the day.

President gives 7 days to AP assembly to discuss Telangana Bill

NEW DELHI: President Pranab Mukherjee has allowed the Andhra Pradesh legislature a seven-day extension until January 30 to render its opinion on the Telangana Bill. The extension falls way short of the four weeks sought by the state government, and is meant to keep alive the possibility of Parliament considering the legislation when it meets on February 5.

The Centre had earlier recommended



President Pranab Mukherjee. PHOTO: Reuters

an extension of no more than 10 days to state government to send back the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill. The reasoning was to allow the Union home ministry and law ministry the estimated 10-days to prepare the final draft Bill to be introduced in Parliament.

The demand for a four-week extension did not find favour with home ministry, as by the time this period would end on February 20, the forthcoming two-week session of Parliament would be over. Accepting the home ministry's advice to only grant a reasonable extension, possibly by a week to 10 days, the President on Thursday cleared the file, fixing January 30 as the new deadline.

2 ARRESTED IN CHEATING CASE

Kerala: Two more persons involved in the alleged cheating activities by the unauthorised finance company Sree Sadhagamaya Chits (India) Private Limited were arrested on Wednesday by the special investigating team of the police probing the case.

The two were identified as L. Chandrababu and S. Shajan.

They were allegedly involved in threatening clients who defaulted repayment of loans taken from the company. Through threats the two managed the clients to sign documents showing the transfer of their properties in the name of the owners of the company.

Kottarakara Dy.SP B. Radhakrishna Pillai, who heads the special police team, said the police had also seized hundreds of such documents and cheques kept at a house secretly owned by the owners of the company.

The premises of the company were raided by the police on December 13 following the seizure 4 kg of unaccounted gold ornaments and Rs.1.5 lakh.

S SUDAN, REBELS INK PEACE

Sudan: South Sudan's government and rebels are expected to ink a peace deal later Thursday, mediators said, in the first sign of a possible breakthrough in efforts to end the month-old conflict.

The world's newest nation has been at war since December 15, with thousands killed and close to half a million forced to flee their homes in atrocities allegedly committed by both sides.

We can go back: Chidambaram

Delhi: Asserting that reforms and fast-tracking of decision making have yielded results, Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Thursday said India would certainly return to the eight per cent growth rate if past mistakes were not repeated.

He said curbs on gold imports could be rolled back only after India had a firm grip on the Current Account Deficit (CAD).

He also said: "If we avoid some of the mistakes that we have made and if we are decisive, I have no doubt that in three years we will be back to eight per cent growth."

"In the last year-and-a-half, we decided that we need to do more and be more decisive... the results are there to see. Our economy has stabilised," he said.

RBI Governor allays currency note fears

Delhi: Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan on Thursday sought to quell fears over the decision to withdraw all pre-2005 currency notes from April 1, 2014, saying the RBI notification was not aimed at demonetisation.

Raghuram Rajan
PHOTO: Reuters

Assuring the people that such currency notes would continue to be legal tender, Dr. Rajan said there was

no cause for panic. The public would be required to approach banks for exchanging their pre-2005 notes.

The RBI on Wednesday said that after March 31 it would withdraw from circulation all currency notes issued prior to 2005.

ART SHOW

Mylapore: The sixth annual painting exhibition 'Sprouts 2014,' is on at Vinayasa Premier Art Gallery, CIT Colony, Mylapore. Students of artist PD Paul have displayed their works.

Mr. Paul has 30 years experience as an art teacher and offers home tuitions. He also runs a painting school under the name Corner Stone. Besides school and college students, he teaches working professionals also.

Unkindest cut of all

Britain's coalition government has embarked on an ambitious programme of social engineering. The purpose of its historic package of public spending cuts and "reforms" is said to be the reduction of the fiscal deficit, which rose sharply in 2008 and 2009 as a result of the recession. But, as we shall see, the deficit is a pretext.

FARGO ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Fargo: City engineers are laying out preliminary plans for what will be one of the largest road reconstruction projects in Fargo next season.

Major improvements are set for 19th avenue

north between 10th street and 18th street.

It includes new concrete pavement, curb and gutter, storm sewer and water-main replacement, sidewalks, new storm closure gates.

LIQUOR LICENCE APPROVAL

Ben Eoin — The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board has approved, with conditions, a club liquor licence application for the Ben Eoin Marina.

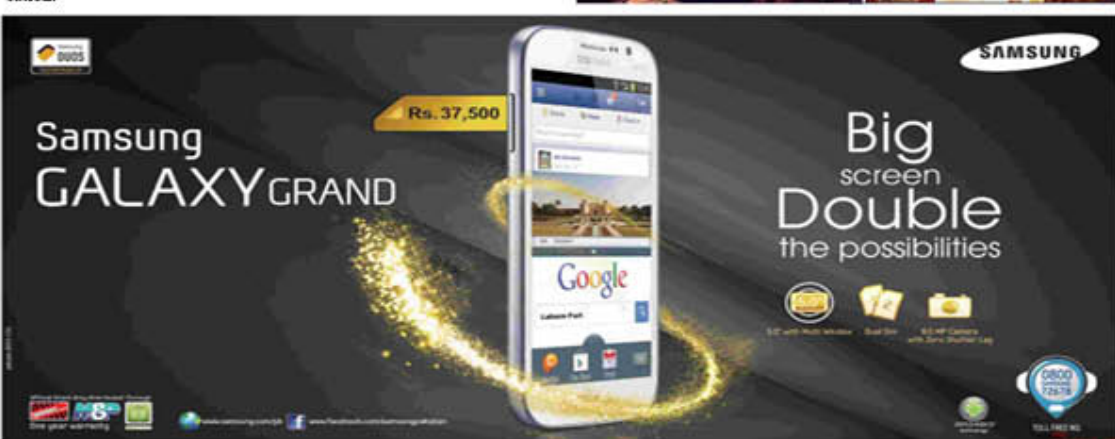


The approval came despite the decision by the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to not issue a letter indicating that the marina meets its zoning requirements and that it doesn't contravene its land use bylaws.

A hearing into the application was held in October. The regulatory body's approval came down Friday.

In referring the application to the board, the executive director

of the Alcohol and Gaming Division noted a jurisdictional issue was raised during the process. Regulations require confirmation that the premises meet all municipal zoning requirements. In the case of Ben Eoin Marina, the CBRM wouldn't provide a letter confirming that.

Happy Valley
Graduation


Samsung GALAXY GRAND

Rs. 37,500

Big screen Double the possibilities

5.5" with Super AMOLED

8GB ROM

8.4MP Camera with Super AMOLED display

Google

SAMSUNG

100% FREE



Kejriwal holds dharna outside Rail Bhawan

Coimbatore: In an unprecedented action, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his ministers on Monday began a dharna outside Rail Bhawan demanding action against police officials who refused to carry out a raid on an alleged drug and prostitution racket in

South Delhi last week.

Defying prohibitory orders in force in the high-security area near the seat of power, Mr. Kejriwal accompanied by six of his ministers attempted to go to North Block housing the Home Ministry to lodge their protest.



However, they were stopped near the Rail Bhawan as the nearby Vijay Chowk and the entire Rajpath

were sealed for the Republic Day rehearsal that was going on.

Making an im-

promptu address to his MLAs and supporters, Mr. Kejriwal put the blame squarely on the Prime Minister, Home Minister and the Centre for the situation that has led to his dharna and said he has come prepared for 10 days and would continue the agitation fur-

ther if need be.

The Minister had created a controversy last week when he went to a locality in his constituency of Malviya Nagar, claiming a drug and prostitution ring was being run from a residence and demanded police raid the place.

Freeing temples from state control

Coimbatore: The Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgment on January 6, 2013, allowing my Special Leave Petition that sought the quashing of the Tamil Nadu Government's G.O. of 2006 which had mandated the government takeover of the hal- lowed Sri Sabhanayagar Temple (popularly known as the Nataraja temple).

The Madras High Court Single Judge and Division Bench had in 2009 upheld the constitutionality of the G.O. by a tortuous and convoluted logic that new laws can overturn past court judgments that had attained finality earlier. The Supreme Court in 1953 had dismissed the then Madras

Government's SLP seeking the quashing of a Madras High Court Division Bench judgment of 1952 that had upheld the right of Podu Dikshitars to administer the affairs of the Nataraja temple.

Genes and environment in brain development



The age distribution of India's population shows a young country, our so-called 'de-

mographic-dividend'. Yet, poor maternal and foetal nutrition, poor sanitation, open defecation, infections and

diseases — such as diabetes in mothers — severely affect the development of India's children.

