

### **1. India hopes to meet UNSC expectations: UN envoy**

As India assumes the month-long presidency of the UN Security Council, the international community has "very high expectations" from it, New Delhi's envoy to the United Nations, Hardeep Singh Puri said. Puri said India will conduct itself with "political maturity, dignity" and in a manner which enhances the prestige of the Security Council and which serves the overall interest of the UN.

### **2. MP to reserve 90 pc seats in sports academies for locals**

Criticised for promoting talent from other states at the cost of local players, Madhya Pradesh has announced that 90 per cent seats in sports academies will be filled by players from the state. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan made this announcement after reviewing the activities of the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare. In the last few years, the sports budget in the state has shot up from a meagre Rs 4 crore to about Rs 80 crore, a quantum jump that led to improved infrastructure and more medals. However, players belonging to other states dominated the winners' list. The ratio of local players to outsiders was roughly 50:50 till a few years ago but new and better academies attracted players from other states disturbing the equation.

### **3. Born in Hyderabad, 9/11 lawyer is made jurist in NJ**

After the 9/11 attacks, more than 1,100 Arabs and Muslims, most of them from New York and New Jersey, were rounded up as the FBI searched for terrorists. In few places was the spotlight as white-hot as in Paterson, New Jersey, where as many as six of the September 11 hijackers spent time before the attacks. As agents went knocking on doors, many Muslims were cowering terrified of being thrown in jail for crimes they knew nothing about. A young, soft-spoken Muslim immigration attorney named Sohail Mohammed represented many people rounded up in New Jersey in post-9/11 dragnet. He won over one official whose favour would prove crucial: the US attorney for New Jersey, Chris Christie. Christie, now the state's governor, nominated Mohammed to a Superior Court judgeship. Mohammed was sworn into office last week, becoming New Jersey's second Muslim judge. Mohammed, born in Hyderabad, India, is also the state's first Indian-American judge.

### **4. U.S. House approves debt ceiling bill**

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bipartisan bill to avert a massive debt default and reduce trillions in government spending, paving way for the austerity measure to face a Senate vote. The Budget Control Act of 2011 was passed by the House of Representatives by 269-161, a day after leaders of both the Republican and Democratic parties and the White House reached an agreement. The voting in the House was marked by the dramatic appearance of Congresswoman, Gabrielle Giffords, who survived an assassination attempt in January.

### **5. Murdoch's News Corp. names new head of Sky Italia**

Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation has appointed a new chief executive for Italian pay TV broadcaster Sky Italia, the latest move in a management shake up triggered by the phone-hacking scandal in Britain. Andrea Zappia, a former vice president of the Italian broadcaster, replaces Tom Mockridge. Last month Mr. Mockridge took over Murdoch's British newspaper arm, News International, following the resignation of Rebekah Brooks. She stepped down as a scandal about illegal phone-hacking by the *News of the World* tabloid rocked the company.

### **6. N. Korea begins showcase Arirang festival**

North Korea has launched its annual Arirang festival featuring mass games and artistic performances praising the communist regime and the ruling Kim dynasty, state media said.

The extravaganza, which began in 2002, usually involves tens of thousands including children performing synchronised acrobatics, dances and flip-card displays of politicised messages. This year's event opened in the May Day Stadium in the capital Pyongyang with the stadium turning into "a huge sea of cheering performers and dancers", the official news agency said. The event featured "fascinating art in three-dimensional space, a perfect combination of modern sound and lighting effect, electronic displays... and dynamic gymnastics (with an) ever-changing background," it said. The flip-card slogans lauded late founding president Kim Il-Sung and his son and current leader Kim Jong-Il, it said.

### **7. SC settles Pashupatinath temple row in Trust's favour**

The governing body of Nepal's world famous Pashupatinath temple has won a legal battle against Communist-led ruling coalition after the Supreme Court reversed the Government's decision to dissolve the

Trust of the 5th century Hindu shrine. Culture Minister Khagendra Prasain, also the chairman of the Pashupati Area Development Trust (PADT) that runs the affairs of the shrine, through a letter to member secretary of the Trust had notified that the temple's executive committee has been dissolved on charges of misuse of the fund. Judge Prakash Osti declared void Prasain's decision to sack all seven officials of the Trust. The office bearers of the PADT came back to the office after the apex court reversed the decision made by Minister for Culture to sack them, said Sushil K Nahata, member secretary of PADT.

#### **8. Bristol Myers Squibb India has appointed Pheroze Khan as its managing director**

Bristol Myers Squibb India has appointed Pheroze Khan as its managing director. Khan was previously the MD of BMS Greece and returns to India after 22 years of experience as business head in diverse markets, BMS said in a statement. Alok Sonig, the outgoing MD has been elevated to VP, Business Model Innovation at the company's headquarter in Princeton, US. Khan would focus on developing the business in India and bringing vital medicines to patients who require them. India is among the fastest growing pharma market in the world growing at over 15% annually.

#### **9. PM's economic council sends out SOS: Govt has lost momentum, must act fast**

The Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) blamed the government for having "lost time" in getting its act together despite the combined momentum of stability after the May 2009 general election and the successful navigation through the global crisis. Presenting the Economic Outlook for 2011-12, the C Rangarajan-chaired council said overconfidence in both the government and business, disinclination to roll back fiscal and monetary stimulus quickly, corruption-related controversies in the last one year and loss of focus on policy initiatives marred the country's return to the path of high rate of asset creation and economic growth.

#### **10. 98% of villages have public phones: TRAI**

New data released by telecom regulator Trai shows that 98.5 per cent of the inhabited villages in the country had village public telephone (VPT) connections as of the end of the quarter ended March 31, 2011. There are 5,93,731 inhabited villages in India as per the Census 2001. At the end of March, 2011, 98.5 per cent of the total inhabited villages in India were connected to phone networks through VPTs, as per the Trai report. The number of VPTs increased from 5.81 lakh in December, 2010, to 5.85 lakh as of the quarter ended March, 2011. Himachal Pradesh has the highest rural teledensity of 70.23 (connections per 100 people), followed by Punjab (56.92), Kerala (53.25), Haryana (51.23) and Tamil Nadu (48.92, including Chennai). Bihar continues to have the lowest rural teledensity of 21.86, followed by Madhya Pradesh (22.92).

#### **11. 'Speak Asia fraud of Rs 2,000 crore, money funnelled abroad'**

Home Minister R R Patil said the Speak Asia fraud could be as big as Rs 2,000 crore and the money sent out of the country. The minister cautioned people against investing money in companies which make unbelievable promises and said economic offences to the tune of Rs 699.70 crore were reported in the state in 2010 alone. Patil said cases had been reported against the Singapore-based company in other parts of the world and added that about 20 lakh people could have been duped in all.

#### **12. Airwide launches 500 radio taxis**

Airwide Company has launched 500 high-tech radio taxis called 'Air Cab' for the people of Delhi. The company has chosen Chevrolet Aveo as its fleet keeping in mind comfort and luxury of the commuters. "We have launched 500 high-tech radio taxis for the people of Delhi. From today people will Air Cab on their call. After this successful launch we will focus on other cities," Airwide Director Hashmukh Prajapati said. Air Cab has selected the best fleet of first class luxury AC metered taxis in the Delhi, providing total transport solutions for point-to-point travel within the cities and NCR area. Air Cab is the newest company to introduce latest computerized communication and dispatch systems with GPS (Global Positioning System) based online tracking for licensed Radio Taxis in Delhi and NCR.

#### **13. Neo Sports bags 2012 Euro rights for sub continent**

Neo Sports channel has acquired the exclusive broadcast rights of UEFA Euro 2012 in the sub continent covering India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives. "Europe's continent's quadrennial football extravaganza would feature 16 teams and is to be held in June 2012 in Poland and Ukraine," a release said. "This is a significant partnership between UEFA and Neo Sports and covers UEFA Euro 2012, 2013 UEFA European Under 21 Championship and the UEFA Women's Euro 2013," the release said.

#### **14. Sania-Yaroslava win Citi Open in USA**

Sania Mirza won her third WTA doubles title of the season and 12th overall as she and Yaroslava Shvedova pipped Olga Govortsova of Belarus and Alla Kudryavtseva of Russia in the final of the Citi Open. Defending their top billing, the Indo-Kazakh pair overcame their second seed opponents 6-3 6-3 after one hour and five minutes struggle. Sania paired with Yaroslava for this tournament since her regular Tour partner Elena Vesnina decided to skip the event.

#### **15. Ronjan chases London goal**

Ronjan Sodhi became the world's No. 1 double trap shooter as per the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) rankings released. Sodhi, who is now training at Italy's Marcello Dradi range under Serafino Carlini, is the only Indian to be placed among top five shooters in any event in the latest rankings. Three others — Gagan Narang (10m air rifle), Sanjeev Rathore (50m 3 position) and Vijay Kumar (20m rapid fire pistol) — are all ranked ninth in their respective disciplines. Sodhi, who did not get a place in the Indian team in the Beijing Olympics despite being in blazing form those days, said he was now preparing to win a medal in the London Olympics next year.

#### **16. Bell Recall: Dhoni went for spirit, killed law**

Indian captain MS Dhoni's decision to recall "run-out" English batsman Ian Bell on the third day of the second cricket Test in Nottingham clearly contravenes the laws of cricket, a fact overlooked in the urgency to see it as honouring the spirit of the game. The International Cricket Council (ICC) governs cricket globally, but it is left to the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) to write and interpret the laws of the game. The latest edition of the laws came into force on October 1, 2010, known as the 2000 Code 4th edition – 2010. Law number 27 of this edition relates to appeals to the umpires for declaring a batsman out. Section 8 of this law, called Law 27.8, relates to "Withdrawal of an Appeal" which states: "The captain of the fielding side may withdraw an appeal only if he obtains the consent of the umpire within whose jurisdiction the appeal falls. He must do so before the outgoing batsman has left the field of play. If such consent is given, the umpire concerned shall, if applicable, revoke his decision and recall the batsman."