

### **1. Security on lines of CWG inauguration**

As Prime Ministers of [India](#) and [Pakistan](#) and host of other dignitaries will land in Mohali to watch the cricket World Cup semi-final clash, the stadium will completely be in the command of [Special Protection Group](#) (SPG) – the elite force that guards proximate security to PM, ex-PM and their immediate family members. Around 100 black cat commandos of NSG and 1,800 Punjab Police personnel will make two separate layers outside the venue. Though the necessary security arrangement was made much in advance keeping in view of serious terror threats on World Cup matches, the sudden turn of events, which will see visit of PM [Manmohan Singh](#), his Pakistani counterpart Gilani and another SPG protectee, UPA chairperson [Sonia Gandhi](#), to Mohali made the Centre rushed additional forces to Punjab.

### **2. Govt appoints special court to try 2G scam**

Government appointed a special court to try cases relating to 2G-spectrum scam following directions of the Supreme Court. Delhi Government issued a notification designating Om Prakash Saini as a special judge to undertake the trial of cases in relation to all matters pertaining to 2G scam exclusively. In a separate notification, Department of Revenue in the Finance Ministry designated the sessions court of Saini as special court to deal with offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002. The Law Ministry had favoured the special court to be given the powers of a sessions court as the Enforcement Directorate, looking into alleged violations of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, cannot file a chargesheet in a lower court according to the provisions of the Act.

### **3. Leela Samson to be the next censor board chief**

She's famous in the world of classical dance and choreography, but the country's next film censor chief has never been on the silver screen. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has selected noted Bharatanatyam dancer Leela Samson, currently chairperson of the Sangeet Natak Akademi and director of the Kalakshetra dance school in Chennai, as the new chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). While she is not familiar with the film industry and made it clear that she already has a number of responsibilities on her plate, her achievements in the field of culture and aesthetics could have led to her selection, she felt. She will succeed veteran actress Sharmila Tagore, who has been CBFC chairperson for the last six years, overseeing a period of great changes in the industry.

### **4. Six-year-old Delhi boy is youngest recipient of IGNOU certificate**

A six-and-a-half-year-old boy from Delhi has earned the distinction of being the youngest recipient of an Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) certificate. Divya Prakash Pandey, who has cleared an IGNOU exam for a Certificate in Craft and Design Programme (CCDP) in pottery, "is not only the youngest student of IGNOU but also the youngest student ever admitted in any university. The CCDP course is developed under the IGNOU-Khadi and Village Industries Commission project and aims at upgrading the knowledge and skills of artisans engaged or interested in pottery.

### **6. P.C. Mathew passes away**

P.C. Mathew, one of the last surviving members of the Indian Civil Service, in which he had a distinguished career, passed away at his home. He was 97. Puthenveetil Chandapilla Mathew was born in Mavelikara in what is now Kerala in 1913. He did BSc (Honours) at the Maharajah's College in Trivandrum. He was later pursuing his higher education at the University of London when he was selected to the ICS. He entered the ICS in 1936 and joined government service in the Madras Presidency. He was the India government's Agent in Kandy during 1945-46. In 1955, he became Chief Commissioner of Manipur at a time when the north-eastern region was being racked by multiple insurgencies. In 1969, he was posted to the International Labour Organisation in Bangkok.

### **7. United Arab Emirates: World's Tallest Tower is scaled**

A French skyscraper climber successfully scaled the world's tallest building, even navigating the tapered spire that extends beyond the top floors of the structure in [Dubai](#). It took more than six hours for [Alain Robert](#), 48, left, to climb the 2,717-foot-tall Burj Khalifa. Unlike in his previous climbs, Mr. Robert, who calls himself Spiderman, used a rope and harness to comply with organizers' requirements. He has climbed more than 70 skyscrapers.

#### **8. Israel deploys Iron Dome**

Israel deployed a cutting-edge rocket defence system rolling out the latest tool in its arsenal to stop a recent spike in attacks from the neighbouring Gaza Strip. The system went into operation shortly after an Israeli aircraft struck a group of militants in Gaza, killing two. The Iron Dome system has raised hopes that Israel has finally found a solution to the years of rocket fire from Gaza. The government approved Iron Dome in 2007. Its developers have compared the effort to a high-tech start-up, working around the clock in small teams to perfect its weapons, radar and software systems. Iron Dome uses sophisticated cameras and radar to track incoming rockets, determine where they will land, and intercept and destroy them far from their targets.

#### **9. India, Africa set \$70 b trade target**

India and Africa, seeking to further strengthen the economic engagement, have set a target of \$70 billion by 2015. India also reaffirmed its commitment to provide cheap medicines for the poor despite strong legal and diplomatic offensive launched by Western pharmaceutical companies. The Commerce Ministry highlighted food and energy security threat in the backdrop of fragile global recovery from the financial crisis and unrest in Africa and West Asia.

#### **10. Bhaskar Pramanik to head Microsoft India**

Software giant Microsoft had appointed Bhaskar Pramanik as Chairman for its India operations. The appointment comes less than two months after Ravi Venkatesan quit as Microsoft India's Chairman and Corporate Vice-President. Prior to the current role, Mr. Pramanik served as Managing Director for Oracle India and Sun Microsystems.

#### **11. Gupta quits Gates Foundation**

Beleaguered Indian-American corporate icon [Rajat Gupta](#) has stepped down as adviser to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It was one of the last high-profile posts the former McKinsey honcho held after he quit the boards of Procter and Gamble, [American Airlines](#), [Goldman Sachs](#) and other blue chip names following investigations into charges of insider trading.

#### **12. Dominant Lankans up against spirited Kiwis in 1st World Cup semis**

Sri Lanka's brute batting force and shrewd bowling would be up against a sprightly New Zealand, aiming for a maiden summit clash berth in the World Cup, when the two sides clash in the first semifinal of the megaevent. Despite making the semifinals in six out of 10 World Cups, New Zealand have always been dubbed the underdogs who have never made. But the Kiwis believe this could be their breakthrough tournament. New Zealand, after creating an upset in the quarterfinal by beating title-favourites South [Africa](#), will be hoping to spring a similar surprise on the 1996 champions and 2007 runners-up. Sri Lanka, on the other hand, are one of the leading contenders to win this year's World Cup.

#### **13. ICC bars news channels from World Cup coverage**

Indian news channels, getting an audience and a revenue lift from the World Cup coverage, have been barred by the ICC from access to the remaining matches for violating the media guidelines. News channels will, thus, not be able to cover the final three matches of the World Cup competition, including the epic encounter between India and Pakistan on Wednesday, unless they sign an undertaking that they will adhere to the ICC guidelines. ICC was apparently disturbed by the commercial violations of the pact, forcing the game's governing body to inform the news channels that their media accreditation was being cancelled.

#### **14. Ricky Ponting steps down as Australia captain**

Ricky Ponting, the most successful captain in 134 years of test cricket, resigned as the Australian test and one-day skipper but will continue as a batsman with the team. The 36-year-old, who has led Australia in one day internationals since 2002 and tests since 2004, has been under increasing pressure after an Ashes defeat to England and a quarter-final exit as defending champions at the World Cup. Australia went to the World Cup as double defending champions but returned home after defeat to India in the last eight, their unbeaten run of matches in the tournament having been ended at 34 by Pakistan in the group stage.