

1. Online programmes in Chinese language launched by IGNOU

The Indira Gandhi National Open University's (IGNOU's) School of Foreign Languages (SOFL) has launched a diploma programme to learn Chinese language in both face-to-face and online mode along with a certificate programme in Chinese language through online mode for July 2011 session.

This is for the first time in India that the teaching of Chinese language and culture will be imparted through online demonstration via IGNOU satellite. The Diploma in Chinese language and Culture (DCLC) is a one year programme which can be completed in maximum two years duration with no entrance test.

2. SC bars opening of temple vault

Ending speculation about ownership of the wealth unearthed at Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple at Thiruvananthapuram, the heirs of the royal Travancore family told the Supreme Court that the booty belonged to the deity and no person can claim any rights over it. Appearing for the heir of the royal family Marthanda Varma, senior advocate KK Venugopal said, "It is a public temple. No part of it belongs to any person except the deity Lord Padmanabhaswamy." The statement came as a relief for the court that was "deeply disturbed" over statements issued to the press over the past weeks by persons claiming ownership of the temple.

3. Power to get 35% of \$1 trillion infra investment in 12th plan

Power sector will be get major share of investment in infrastructure during the 12th five year plan period (2012-2017). Union Minister of state for planning Ashwini Kumar told that over the five years, " the Government is planning to invest \$1 trillion in physical infrastructure sector and around 35 per cent of this would be infused into power sector." The plan panel had an internal meeting to give final shape to Approach Paper to the 12th plan. Plan panel is targeting to add 100,000 Mw to India's power-generation capacity during the 12th plan. Power has been a major concern as the sector is way behind in achieving its 11th plan targets. Plan panel had targeted to add 78,577 MW capacity in the 11th plan. But due to shortage of fuel linkages (coal and gas) and environmental clearance issues, in the mid-term review the panel had reduced the target to 62,000 MW.

4. Printout is passe, get rail ticket on mobile

Train passengers now have the option to get their tickets on mobile, thereby doing away with the practice of carrying a printed ticket during their journey. The M-ticket facility comes into force as Indian Railways rolled out a new web portal — www.indianrailways.gov.in — that would act as a "comprehensive omnibus single window interface" for the passenger, freight and parcel service.

"Passengers desirous of the M-ticket facility will have to download the mobile ticketing application on the mobile phone from the Indian Railways portal, using the URL sent in SMS. On completion of booking and payment formalities, an SMS containing the ticket details will be sent to user, which is referred to as Mobile Reservation Message (MRM).

5. Fresh MoA on Gorkhaland Territory soon

If all goes well, a Memorandum of Agreement on a new Gorkhaland Territory Administration would be in place in a fortnight's time. The new scheme would replace the Gorkhaland Hill Council and have wider powers on staff recruitment, school services, pensions etc. Senior Gorkha Janmukti Morcha leader Roshan Giri met senior Bengal Government officials to discuss differences that had recently cropped up between the two sides on issues regarding the territorial boundary of the proposed Territory.

6. NASA's last space shuttle blasts into history

Atlantis and four astronauts rocketed into orbit on NASA's last space shuttle voyage, dodging bad weather and delighting hundreds of thousands of spectators on hand to witness the end of an era. It will be at least three years — possibly five or more — before astronauts launch again from US soil, and so this final journey of the shuttle era packed in crowds and roused emotions on a scale not seen since the Apollo moon shots. After days of gloomy forecasts full of rain and heavy cloud cover, the spaceship lifted off, thundering away on the 135th shuttle mission 30 years and three months after the very first flight

7. Santosh clinches gold

Asian Games silver-medallist V Santhosh Kumar rallied to beat Russia's Alexander Malinin and fetched India its lone gold after three others settled for bronze medals at the 21st President's Cup Boxing Tournament in Jakarta, Indonesia. The 20-year-old Santhosh won the light welterweight 64kg final 10-8 to clinch his maiden senior international gold medal. He last won a gold at the 2008 Youth Commonwealth Games in Pune.

Earlier, Jasveer Ahlawat (81kg) and Lakhbir Singh (69kg) lost their respective semifinal bouts to settle for bronze medals. The 18-year-old Gaurav Bidhuri was the other Indian bronze-medallist from the event after losing the light fly weight 49kg semifinals.

8. Talukdar earns Olympic berth

Jayanta Talukdar earned an Olympic quota place from the men's individual recurve event of the Archery World Championship at Turin, in Italy. Seeded fifth in the elimination round, Talukdar got a bye to reach round three where he beat 28th ranked Antti Tekoniemi (Finland) 6-4, thus booking a London 2012 berth. Talukdar was one of the eight individuals to win a quota place in the men's section, according to information received here. The Indian women's trio of Deepika Kumari, Laishram Bombayla Devi and Chekrovolu Swuro have already earned three quota places, thus a total of four berths have already been confirmed for the archers.

9. 100 shooters for 'Gun For Glory'

About 1000 shooters are expected to compete in the Gun For Glory Shooting Championship, the biggest-ever prize money (Rs 35 lakh) tournament in India, from August 3-9 in Pune. The week-long competition will be conducted by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) and the scores will count for selection into the national team. Gun For Glory is India's first international standard academy for shooting, set up by the Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation. For the first time in shooting history, 10 gold medals will be given to winners of four categories.

10. SLPL postponed to 2012

In troubled waters ever since Indian players were denied permission by the BCCI to participate in it, the inaugural edition of the Sri Lanka Premier League has been postponed to August 2012. Sri Lanka will have a domestic Twenty20 league in its place featuring five teams, but that will not involve any foreign players. The decision to postpone the league, which was scheduled to start on July 19, was taken at a meeting between the Cricket Sri Lanka's new committee and the league's organisers, Somerset Entertainment Ventures. A four-week window in August next year has been identified as the best time to host the event, reported 'ESPNcricinfo'.