

### **Tragedy at Haridwar**

At least 16 persons were killed and 46 injured in a stampede during a 'Gayatri Mahayagya' attended by tens of thousands of devotees near the famous 'Hari-Ki-Pauri' ghat on the banks of the Ganga. The Parivar was celebrating the birth centenary of its founder, Sriram Sharma Acharya, as Gayatri Mahakumbh. Nearly 2 lakh people from India and abroad had gathered for the ceremony, which is considered to be the biggest after the Kumbh Mela. "The celebrations have been called off and 'Shanti Yagya' is being performed for the departed souls," said head of the institution Pranav Pandya.

### **Wonder oil' to hit the market**

The Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) is all set to release tobacco edible oils in the market by 2012. The institute is opening gates to sign an MoU with entrepreneurs, industrialists for transferring 'Solanesol' drug technology which was patented by it. It has anti-cancer, anti-diabetic, anti-ageing properties and is in great demand in Western countries. Solanesol is a phytochemical, starting material for synthesis of co-enzyme Q10 -- physiologically active substance with high pharmaceutical activity. According to CTRI Director V. Krishna Murthy and senior principal scientist C.V. Narasimha Rao, they have completed edible oil trials.

### **Lokur, new Chief Justice of AP High Court**

President Pratibha Patil has transferred Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court Madan Bhimarao Lokur as the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court with effect from the date he assumes office. He was appointed as the Additional Solicitor-General of India in July 1998 and continued as such till he was appointed as an Additional Judge of Delhi High Court in February 1999. He was made a Permanent Judge of that High Court on July 5, 1999. He was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court on June 24, 2010.

### **Indian Ocean Rim nations to discuss maritime security**

A conference of Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) will start on November 9. India will take over, from Yemen, the chair of the IOR-ARC for a period of two years at the Council of Ministers (CoM) meeting. This would be the 11th CoM meeting of the IOR-ARC since its establishment in Mauritius in 1997. It has 18 nations as members — Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, the UAE and Yemen. India is its founder-member.

### **Army team wins laurels in U.K**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of 9<sup>th</sup> Gorkha Rifles (CHINDITS) of Sudarshan Chakra Corps has won a gold medal in the Cambrian Patrol Competition at Wales in the United Kingdom. A total of 100 teams, including 14 from foreign countries, had participated in the Cambrian competition known as the "Olympics of Patrolling" last October. The British Army has been conducting the Cambrian Patrol Competition for the past 40 years. This is the first ever gold medal by an Indian contingent at the event. The performance of the team hinges around leadership, team work, physical fitness, mental robustness and above all, tactical skills involving reconnaissance techniques, navigation, first aid and casualty evacuation.

### **Theatre award**

To celebrate the birth anniversary of eminent theatre personality Shyamanand Jalan, Padatik cultural organisation of Kolkata has announced a "Shyamanand Jalan National Youth Theatre Award" to be presented every year on January 13. "SJNYTA-2012" award of Rs.25,000 is for an original script from an Indian playwright of 18 to 35 years. Applications can be submitted till November 25. A panel of three judges -- Shanta Gokhale (Mumbai), Anand Lal and Yama Shroff (Kolkata) -- will select the winning entry. Shyamanand Jalan was in the forefront of the country's theatre movement for decades.

### **Making it 'sambhav' for them**

Mentally and physically challenged artistes from 19 countries will take part in a two-day international event of exhibition, seminar and performing arts in New Delhi on Nov 12. Hosted by non-government organization Association for Learning Performing Arts and Normative Action (ALPANA), "Sambhav" will see the participation of artistes from the US, Russia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Colombia, Nigeria, Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar and Nepal. Australia, Germany, Iran and Mauritius are participating in it for the first time.

### **Sonia to lay foundation of new rail line in Uttarakhand**

Congress president Sonia Gandhi will lay the foundation of the Rishikesh-Karan Prayag rail line. The new line will cut the travel distance to 125 km between the two points and cover it in about four hours, reducing the time by almost half. Vehicles take not less than seven to eight hours to cover the 175-km-long road route that passes through a mountain terrain with steep gradients. To be constructed at a cost of Rs.4,295.30 crore, the line will benefit tourists and pilgrims visiting the Char Dhams and temples located along the alignment.

### **Iceman may have died of fall**

Oetzi, the 5,300-year-old iceman, who was thought to have been murdered, probably died due to a fall and scientists claim that he could be the world's first known mountaineering victim. Scientists who examined the prehistoric iceman, discovered frozen in the Alps between the Austrian and Italian border 20 years ago, believed that he might have died after being hit by an arrow during a hunting trip.

### **China opens diplomatic post in Male**

China has opened its Embassy in Male on November 8, two days ahead of the scheduled opening of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation meeting. China has observer status in SAARC. Only four SAARC nations India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh have established diplomatic presence in the Maldives. The US Embassy in Colombo looks after the Maldives. China's Embassy in Colombo was catering to the Maldives till now. The U.S. has enjoyed observer nation status at SAARC since 2007.

### **Dell India R&D centre turns 10**

Dell India celebrated the tenth anniversary of its research and development centre in Bangalore, the company's second biggest worldwide. The centre, which employs 600 persons, has generated more than 1,600 "invention disclosures" including about 50 patents, said Rudramuni. B., Executive Director, and Head, Dell India R&D Centre.

### **GSK Consumer enters breakfast foods category**

GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare (GSK Consumer Healthcare), makers of popular health drinks such as Horlicks, Boost and Maltova, has announced its entry into the breakfast foods market with the launch of Horlicks Oats. The company is launching the product in the four southern States first and will go national at a later stage. Jayant Singh, Marketing Director, GSK Consumer Healthcare, told. The product will be launched in three packs — 200 gram (Rs.32), 400 gram (Rs.58) and the 1 kg pack (Rs.125). The oats will be imported from Australia and packaging will be sub-contracted. GSK Consumer Healthcare has three manufacturing facilities in India — at Nabha in Punjab, Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh and Sonapat in Haryana.

### **Fire resistant glass from Vetrotech**

Vetrotech Saint Gobain, a division of Saint-Gobain Glass India, a leading float glass manufacturer, has launched its advanced range of fire resistant glass Vetrolam for exterior application. Vetrolam is made from an advanced technology that helps bring together fire resistance and solar control in a single product. The product is ideal for use in theatres, hospitals, libraries, shopping malls, hotels and public spaces.

### **Zara enters south**

Zara, the fashion concept owned by Inditex Group of Spain, has opened its store at Whitefield, Bangalore the first one in the South. The store has wide range of collection for men, women, children, teenagers and kids. For its expansion in India, Inditex has formed a joint venture with Trent, the retail arm of the Tata Group.

### **Dhoni was my go-to man, says Greg Chappell**

Greg Chappell has only admiration is current skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the Australian feels he broke down a “hierarchical” system in the team by becoming the voice of young players. Chappell, whose two year stint from 2005 to 2007 was marred by several controversies including the infamous public spat with the then skipper Sourav Ganguly, recalls how Dhoni rose in stature in the side. Writing in his autobiography “Fierce Focus”, Chappell said such was the hierarchy in the team that youngsters were petrified of speaking before a senior such as Sachin Tendulkar in the team meetings.

### **Rohini aiming for 2012 London Games**

Competing in the ISAF Sail Melbourne Sailing World Cup regatta with the aim of earning a berth in the London Olympic Games, Rohini Rau did well to finish third in race three and eighth in race four in the Grade I competition. The top 10 sailors in this regatta will participate in the Sail Melbourne medal race. Some of the top international sailors are using this competition as a warm-up for the 2011 Perth Worlds, which will be the first qualifiers for the 2012 Games