

is are disappointed as a becomes an obstacle in rices. Page 5

**Tension**

There was tension in Harihar after activists threw stones at shops protesting against graffiti on a temple wall praising Pakistan. Page 6

# A generous gesture in turbulent times

Staff Reporter

**BANGALORE:** Amid talks of a tumbling economy in the United States comes the story of a non-resident Indian (NRI) and her generous contribution to her local community.

Sheela Murthy, who has been a resident of Maryland, Baltimore, since 1989, is the first woman to join United Way's Million Dollar Roundtable — a group of United Way of Central Maryland. Her donation, \$1 million, to support community impact and to establish a Global Empowerment and Change Fundwill, will be spread over five years.

Ms. Murthy, who has a family in Bangalore, is the founder and president of



*Sheela Murthy*

Murthy Law Firm. She is also a member of United Way's Women Leadership Council. She left India in 1986 to study at Harvard Law School. Her law firm specialises in immigration law to help companies, hospitals and universities bring in talent from around the world.

Ms. Murthy announced her donation at the annual Tocqueville Society award celebration in Baltimore. "This has been a tragic week for the economy and it makes me even more certain that my commitment to United Way will create more opportunities and deliver the much-needed change for people," Ms. Murthy said.

The contribution will support local and international programmes through United Way of Central Maryland, a community-level service organisation. The organisation works on programmes dedicated to community education, health and safety. It brings together people who work at the community level to make a difference.