

## National:

### **Odisha to start cash transfer scheme for pregnant women**

Odisha would launch a maternal benefit scheme from in which over 7 lakh rural women would get financial assistance before and after childbirth. The programme called "Mamta" would provide Rs.5,000 to each rural women to enable the pregnant and lactating women to have nutritious food as well as compensate the wage loss owing to their inability to work during the period of pregnancy. The Orissa scheme is fairly liberal and open to women irrespective of their APL and BPL status. However, women government employees have been excluded from the scheme. The money will be given in four instalments and will have to be used strictly for the mother's antenatal care and the baby's immunisation with focus on Measles vaccination of the child. The first installment of Rs 1500 will be given after six months of pregnancy with registration and vaccination in an Anganwadi centre. The second installment of Rs 1500 will be paid when the new born is 3 months old with registration and appropriate vaccination of the child. The 3rd and 4th installment of Rs 1000 each will be availed when the baby is six and nine months old with appropriate vaccination and new born care. This scheme will be applicable for the first two pregnancies

### **Aadhaar-based direct cash transfer from January 1**

The government has set a Jan 1, 2013 deadline for kick starting its ambitious scheme of directly transferring cash to beneficiaries of welfare schemes and subsidiaries, a project announced by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh over a month ago, in 51 districts across the country. Under the plan approved for roll out, the scheme will cover the 18 states and union territories in the country by April 2013 and it will be extended to another 16 states and union territories by April 2014. Aadhaar will set up a dedicated cell of technical experts in authority to facilitate the direct cash transfers and help individual ministries. It will also roll out its identity cards speedily in line with the roadmap.

### **IISR launches e-procurement**

The Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) has introduced an e-procurement mechanism that can automate the entire procurement process from sourcing to purchase order, invoicing, and electronic payment for the institute. Besides helping to minimise corruption, the software-based system can bring increased transparency to the procurement of both goods and services for the institute. Santhosh J. Eapen, senior scientist and chairman of the Information Technology and Communication Committee that was entrusted with supervising the implementation of the project, told that among the 100-plus institutes working under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the IISR, Kozhikode, was the first to introduce the e-procurement system.

## International:

### **United Nations declares November 10 as 'Malala Day'**

The United Nations has declared November 10 as 'Malala Day' in honour of Pakistani teenage rights activist Malala Yousafzai, who was shot in the head by the Taliban last month for campaigning for girls' education. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Special Envoy for Global Education, former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, has said November 10 has been declared Malala Day. The UN chief said citizens from across the globe are speaking out for Yousafzai and on behalf of the 61 million children who do not go to school.

### **Russia-built multirole stealth frigate INS Tarkash commissioned into Navy**

India took delivery of the fifth Russia-built multirole stealth frigate. INS Tarkash was commissioned by Vice-Admiral Shekhar Kumar Sinha at a ceremony at the Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia. Tarkash belongs to the second batch of three modified Krivak-III (Talwar) class frigates India ordered from Russia in 2006 under a \$1.6-billion contract. The first frigate of the batch, INS Teg, was delivered in April and the third one, INS Trikand, is undergoing dock trials and is expected to be handed over next summer after completing sea trials in the Baltic Sea. Each of the new frigates is armed with eight BrahMos supersonic anti-ship missiles instead of the less potent Club-N missiles installed on the first three frigates, which were delivered to the Indian Navy in 2003-2004.

### **Datawind's Suneet Tuli named among classroom revolutionaries**

Indian-origin CEO of Datawind, the maker of India's low-cost tablet Aakash, Suneet Singh Tuli and Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Anant Agarwal have been named by Forbes magazine among the 15 "classroom revolutionaries" who are using innovative technologies to reinvent education for students and teachers globally. The Forbes list names 15 education innovators who are "harnessing a slew of disruptive technologies to change everything from the way we teach grade school math to how we train the next generation of teachers." The publication said Tuli (44) is the "mastermind" behind the world's cheapest tablet computer Aakash, "which has the potential to revolutionise educational access in the developing world." Datawind has a backlog of "millions" of orders for the 35 dollar Aakash tablet.

### **Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury**

Justin Welby (56), the Bishop of Durham and an anti-capitalist former oil executive, was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury to lead the 77 million Anglicans at a time when the Anglican Church is deeply divided over women clergy and gay marriage. The Eton and Cambridge-educated bishop will be the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury and succeed Rowan Williams who steps down in December 2012. He will take up his post in March 2013.

## **Business & Economy:**

### **ECB norms eased for funding 2G spectrum auction**

The Finance Ministry has relaxed the policy norms for external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to facilitate easy availability of cheap funds for the upcoming 2G spectrum auction, keeping in view the large capital outlay required to be paid directly to the government within a limited period of time.

### **SEBI to settle charges against 4 entities**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has agreed to settle charges against four entities for alleged irregularities in the IPO scam of 2003-05, after a total payment of about Rs.3.30 crore towards settlement charges and disgorgement ill-gotten gains made by them. As per the settlement reached through the regulator's consent mechanism, which allows for settling of charges after payment of certain fees and disgorgement of any illegal gains, the four entities Bahubali Shantilal Shah, Lok Prakashan Ltd., Shreyans S. Shah and Smruti S Shah — have collectively made the payment without admission or denial of charges. The matter relates to SEBI's investigation into irregularities in initial public offers of various companies, including IDFC and IL&FS during 2003-05. SEBI said the probe had found that the four entities provided funds to key operators for cornering shares reserved for retail individual investors in IDFC and IL&FS IPOs.

### **China, India set to dwarf G7 by 2030: OECD**

China's economy is likely to overtake the Eurozone's, India is leapfrogging Japan and by 2030 the Asian pair will be bigger than the US, euro area and Japan combined, the OECD said. In a crystal-ball exercise to tease out long-term trends in the global economy, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said the combined gross domestic product of China and India was likely to exceed that of all the current Group of Seven rich economies by around 2025. Their output in 2010 was less than half the G7's GDP. The projections of the Paris-based OECD, are based on 2005 purchasing power parities (PPP). At market exchange rates, it will take emerging markets a bit longer to seize the crown - for example, Goldman Sachs reckons the BRICs quartet of Brazil, Russia, India and China will overtake the G7 by 2037.

## **Sport:**

### **Dipika to lead India in world meet**

A record number of 26 nations, including India, will be taking part in the 2012 edition of the women's world team squash championship to be hosted by France in Nimes, from November 12 to 17. The Indian team is led by 21-year-old World No. 14 Dipika Pallikal and her teammates include the experienced Joshna Chinappa (No. 32), Asian junior champion Anaka Alankamony (No. 73) and junior No. 2 Aparajitha Balamurukan (No.142). Cyrus Poncha and Maj. (retd.) S. Maniam will accompany the side as coaches. Seeded 10th, India needs to beat Ireland and Argentina in its pool (G) to top its pool before playing the round of 16 against the corresponding country from the pool (H). Argentina, Korea and Namibia are competing for the first time.