

### **Tusha Mittal gets Chameli Devi Jain award**

Tusha Mittal of Tehelka 's Kolkata News Bureau has been chosen for the Chameli Devi Jain Award, 2012. Ms. Mittal has been chosen as the Outstanding Woman Mediaperson for her "sterling reportage of life in the raw at the margins in deep interior Bengal, Orissa and Chhattisgarh, in areas affected by bloody civil strife, Naxal and vigilante violence and dangerous living along the Bangladesh border, where cattle smuggling is rife."The award, instituted by the Media Foundation, will be presented on March 13 in New Delhi.

### **Italian gets award**

Sarvodaya Ilakkiya Pannai presented the Peace Pilgrim Award to Alberto L'Abate and Anna Luisa in appreciation of their efforts for global peace. Prof. L'Abate, an Italian, had worked to prevent international conflicts. He was involved in peace efforts during the First Gulf War, fought in 1991 between a U.S.-led coalition and Iraq and was also a peace ambassador in Kosovo during the civil strife.He was also involved with the anti-nuclear movement and had taken part in agitations against establishing a nuclear plant in Tuscany. The couple had also established links with various Gandhian institutions in India with a view to applying Gandhian ideology to solve problems in Italy.

### **No approval for new engineering colleges from 2014-15**

Approval will not be given for starting new engineering colleges in India from the year 2014-15", The decision in this connection was taken by AICTE based on representations from various State governments that claimed that many seats in the existing engineering colleges remain vacant every year.

### **Award for Fazal Gafoor**

P.A. Fazal Gafoor, president, Muslim Educational Society (MES), has been chosen for the year 2012, Sir Syed Award of the New Delhi-based Sir Syed Foundation. The award, instituted by the Aligarh Muslim University Alumni Foundation, is in recognition of Dr. Gafoor's outstanding contribution to the field of education.

### **New head appointed for ISI**

The Pakistan government will appointment of Karachi Corps Commander Zaheer-ul Islam as the ISI Director-General. He will replace Ahmad Shuja Pasha.

### **Indian NGO selected for U.S. award**

Chintan, an Indian NGO, has been selected for the U.S.' first Innovation Award for the Empowerment of Women and Girls for training and organising waste-pickers and eliminating child labour from recycling. The Secretary's Innovation Award has been given to Chintan in support of its work to reduce ecological footprints and increase environmental justice among the informal sector through green jobs, advocacy and organising. The award, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation through the Secretary's International Fund for Women and Girls. Chintan's founder Bharati Chaturvedi "has been part of several national and global projects, such as the UNHABITAT's 2010 report on Solid Waste in the Worlds Cities and the European Union's ISSOWAMA project.

### **RBI cuts CRR by 75 basis points**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 75 basis points from 5.5 per cent to 4.75 per cent with effect from March 10. This reduction will inject around Rs.48,000 crore of primary liquidity into the banking system. CRR is the percentage of deposits that commercial banks must keep with the central bank. Earlier, in its third quarter review in January last, the RBI reduced the CRR by 50 basis points from 6 per cent injecting a liquidity of Rs.31,500 crore into the banking system to mitigate the tight liquidity conditions, which was the first move in the CRR since it was increased to 6 per cent in April 2010.

### **VIT-Mythri-12' inaugurated**

The two-day national-level techno-management meet 'VIT-Mythri-12' was inaugurated by Joint Director of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) M.P. Dubey at Vizag Institute of Technology (VIT). The meet contains events such as group discussion, paper presentation, movie making, and technical and management quiz.



### **Venkataramanan to take over as MD & CEO of L&T on April 1**

K. Venkataramanan will take over as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of engineering conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) from April 1, 2012. He will succeed A. M. Naik who will step down as Managing Director, but continue as Executive Chairman of the group.

### **Silver for India in relay**

India will get the silver medal in the women's 4x400m relay of the last Asian athletics championships following doping disqualifications of athletes from Kazakhstan and Iraq. India will take the silver behind Japan with no other team to claim the bronze. Kazakhstan had finished second and Iraq third in the original placings. India had to field a makeshift combination in the relay following the 'positive' tests returned by six leading 400m runners last June-July as they were getting ready for the Kobe meet. Following the disqualifications, China's Chen Jingwen, Sri Lanka's Chandrika Subashini and Japan's Chisato Tanaka will take the top three positions in the individual 400 metres in the Asian meet.