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WikiLeaks in 2010

In March 2010, WikiLeaks released a secret 32-page U.S. Department of Defense Counterintelligence Analysis Report written in March 2008 discussing the leaking of material by WikiLeaks and how it could be deterred. In April, a classified video of the 12 July 2007 Baghdad airstrike was released, showing two Reuters employees being fired at, after the pilots mistakenly thought the men were carrying weapons, which were in fact cameras. In the week following the release, 'Wikileaks' was the search term with the most significant growth worldwide in the last seven days as measured by Google Insights. In June 2010, A 22-year-old US Army intelligence analyst, PFC (formerly SPC) Bradley Manning, was arrested after alleged chat logs were turned in to the authorities by former hacker Adrian Lamo, in whom he had confided. Manning reportedly told Lamo he had leaked the "Collateral Murder" video, in addition to a video of the Granai airstrike and around 260,000 diplomatic cables, to WikiLeaks. In July,

WikiLeaks released 92,000 documents related to the war in Afghanistan between 2004 and the end of 2009 to The Guardian, The New York Times and Der Spiegel. The documents detail individual incidents including friendly fire and civilian casualties. At the end of July, a 1.4 GB "insurance file" was added to the Afghan War Diary page, whose decryption details would be released if WikiLeaks or Assange were harmed. About 15,000 of the 92,000 documents have not yet been released on WikiLeaks, as the group is currently reviewing the documents to remove some of the sources of the information. WikiLeaks asked the Pentagon and human-rights groups to help remove names from the documents to reduce the potential harm caused by their release, but did not receive assistance. Following the Love Parade stampede in Duisburg, Germany on 24 July 2010, a local published internal documents of the city administration regarding the planning of Love Parade. The city government reacted by acquiring a court order on 16 August forcing the blog to

remove the documents from its blog. On 20 August WikiLeaks released a publication titled Loveparade 2010 Duisburg planning documents, 2007–2010, which comprised 43 internal documents regarding the Love Parade 2010. Following on from the leak of information from the Afghan War, in October 2010, around 400,000 documents relating to the Iraq War were released in October. The BBC quoted The Pentagon referring to the Iraq War Logs as "the largest leak of classified documents in its history." Media coverage of the leaked documents focused on claims that the U.S. government had ignored reports of torture by the Iraqi authorities during the period after the 2003 war.

Diplomatic cables release

On 28 November 2010, WikiLeaks and five major newspapers from Spain (El País), France (Le Monde), Germany (Der Spiegel), the United Kingdom (The Guardian), and the United States (The New York Times) started to simultaneously publish the first 220 of 251,287 leaked confiden-

tial—but not top secret—diplomatic cables from 274 US embassies around the world, dated from 28 December 1966 to 28 February 2010. WikiLeaks plans to release the entirety of the cables in phases over several months.

The contents of the diplomatic cables include numerous unguarded comments and revelations regarding: critiques and praises about the host countries of various US embassies; discussion and resolutions towards ending ongoing tension in the Middle East; efforts and resistance towards nuclear disarmament; actions in the War on Terror; assessments of other threats around the world; dealings between various countries; US intelligence and counterintelligence efforts; and other diplomatic actions. Reactions to the United States diplomatic cables leak include stark criticism, anticipation, commendation, and quiescence.

Upcoming leaks

In May 2010, WikiLeaks said they had video footage of a massacre of civilians in Afghanistan by the US military which they were

preparing to release.

In an interview with Chris Anderson on 19 July 2010, Assange showed a document WikiLeaks had on an Albanian oil well blowout, and said they also had material from inside BP, and that they were "getting enormous quantity of whistle-blower disclosures of a very high calibre" but added that they have not been able to verify and release the material because they do not have enough volunteer journalists.

In October 2010, Assange told a leading Moscow newspaper that "The Kremlin had better brace itself for a coming wave of WikiLeaks disclosures about Russia." Assange later clarified: "we have material on many businesses and governments, including in Russia. It's not right to say there's going to be a particular focus on Russia".

In a 2009 Computer World interview, Assange claimed to be in possession of "5GB from Bank of America", and in 2010 told Forbes magazine that WikiLeaks was planning another 'megaleak' for early in 2011, which this time

would be from inside the private sector and involve "a big U.S. bank". Bank of America's stock price fell by 3% as a result of this announcement. Assange commented on the possible impact of the release that "it could take down a bank or two."

In December 2010, Assange's lawyer, Mark Stephens, told The Andrew Marr Show on the BBC, that WikiLeaks had information it considers to be a "thermonuclear device" which it would release if the organisation needs to defend itself.

Institutional backlash and pressure

According to The Times, WikiLeaks and its members have complained about continuing harassment and surveillance by law enforcement and intelligence organisations, including extended detention, seizure of computers, veiled threats, "covert following and hidden photography." Two lawyers for Julian Assange in the United Kingdom told The Guardian that they believed they were being watched by the security services after the US cables leak.

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START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty)

START (for **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty**) was a bilateral treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. The treaty was signed on 31 July 1991 and entered into force on 5 December 1994. The treaty was signed by the United States and the USSR, that barred its signatories from deploying more than 6,000 nuclear warheads atop a total of 1,600 ICBMs, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and bombers. START negotiated the largest and most complex arms control treaty in history, and its final implementation in late 2001 resulted in the re-

moval of about 80 percent of all strategic nuclear weapons then in existence. Proposed by United States President Ronald Reagan, it was renamed **START I** after negotiations began on the second START treaty, which became START II.

The START I treaty expired 5 December 2009. On 8 April 2010, the new START treaty was signed in Prague by U.S. President Obama and Russian President Medvedev. It will enter into force after its ratification through the Russian Parliament and the United States Congress.

Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty

START I, signed on July 31, 1991

- START II, signed January 3, 1993

- START III, never signed

- New START, signed on April 8, 2010

The New START Treaty (for **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty**) (Russian: **Н**А^Т**О**-**И**И) is a bilateral nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation that was signed in Prague on April 8, 2010. It is a follow-up to the 1991 START I treaty, which expired in December 2009, and to START II and the 2002 Treaty of Moscow (SORT), which was due to expire in December 2012. Prolonged talks were conducted by U.S. and Russian delegations in Geneva, led

on the American side by U.S. State Department Assistant Secretary Rose Gottemoeller. The Russian delegation was headed by Anatoly Antonov, director of security and disarmament at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev then announced on 26 March 2010 that they had reached an agreement. The new treaty was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague by Obama and Medvedev.

Russia's Duma and American Senet ratify START

The Russian lower house of Parliament, the State Duma, is due to hold the first of three votes needed to ratify the START nuclear arms reduc-

tion treaty with the United States. The head of Duma's international affairs committee said, no special sessions would be called to rush through the treaty and that further work on

ratifying the treaty will continue when the Duma reconvenes in January next year.

The United States ratified the new START treaty on Dec 23, 2010. ●●●

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India and Russia inked 30 pacts

Fact sheet on Indo-Russian documents concluded during the Annual Summit 2010

India and Russia inked 30 pacts in defense, nuclear and space, and signed two framework agreements on setting up of two more nuclear reactors in this country on December 21, 2010. The agreements were signed in the presence of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and visiting Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who arrived here Tuesday on a two-day trip. "India and Russia discussed setting up additional nuclear reactors in Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu," the Indian Prime Minister A. K. Antony said, after the signing of the pacts.

The Indian prime minister said that both countries have also agreed to intensify cooperation in Afghanistan. "Ours is a very special and strategic partnership, it will continue to develop irrespective of relations with other countries," he said.

Backing India's candidature for the United Nations Security Council permanent membership, Medvedev said that "Russia considers India to be strong and deserving candidate in UNSC Permanent Seat if decision to expand this organ is taken".

Russia also supported India's entry into Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime and non-proliferation bodies like Wassenaar Arrangement, which has been established to exercise export controls for conventional arms and dual use goods and technologies, said official sources.

On terrorism, the Russian president said Mumbai attacks perpetrators should be brought to justice. Ahead of his visit, Medvedev said India and Russia had a strong bond. "We can rightfully call it a privileged partnership," the Russian leader said in an interview with local daily Times of India.

List of Documents signed on 21 December 2010 in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Russian President Mr. Dmitry Medvedev

Agreement/ MOU

1. Memorandum on Mutual Understanding and Cooperation in the Field of Elections between the Election Commission of India and the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

2. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on cooperation in the field of emergency management

3. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Mutual Simplification of Travel Documents for Certain Categories of Nationals of the Republic of India and the Russian Federation

4. Inter-Governmental Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation for Enhancement of Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector

5. Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation in Science, Technology & Innovation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation

6. Joint Work Document for

- Establishing of the Indian - Russian Scientific and Technological Centre
- Between Department of Science & Technology, Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation

7. Memorandum of Mutual Understanding on Combating Irregular Migration between the Government of India and the Government of the Russian Federation

8. Memorandum of Understanding between the State

Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" and the Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India Concerning Broader Scientific and Technical Cooperation

9. MOU between Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (Department of Information Technology) of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Information Technology

10. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the Pharmaceutical Sector between the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers of the Government of India and the Ministry of Trade & Industry of the Government of Russian Federation

11. Framework Agreement on Cooperation in Hydrocarbon Sector between ONGC Videsh Ltd. and JSFC Sistema

List of G2G/B2B documents, being concluded on the margins of the Annual Summit

Political

1. Joint Statement: Celebrating a Decade of the India- Russian Federation Strategic Partnership and Looking Ahead

Defence

2. Preliminary Design

Contract (PDC) for Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA)

Trade/Banking

3. MOU between Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) and Federal Customs Service on Exchange of Information on Foreign Trade

4. MOU between SBI and Vnesheconombank on banking sector cooperation

5. MOU between EXIM Bank and Vnesheconombank to operationalise the USD 100 million LOC signed during December 2009 Summit.

6. Opening of Official Representative Office of OJSC "Gazprombank" in India

Power

7. MOU between NMDC Ltd. and OJSC Severstal for setting up a 50:50 joint venture for an integrated steel plant in Karnataka

Pharmaceuticals and Biopharmaceuticals

8. Agreement between JSC "R-Pharm" and "Dr.Reddy's Laboratories Ltd."

9. Memorandum of Understanding between JSC "Pharmasyntez" and "Naprod Life Science Private Ltd."

10. Agreement on scientific and technical co-operation between JSC "Arkihin" and "Biopharm"

Communications and IT

11. Agreement on scientific co-operation between "Pereslavl'skij Technopark" and Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology

12. Memorandum of Understanding between JSC "Sitronics" and Shyam Telecom on joint promotion of telecom products in various markets

13. Agreement between Federal network operator JSC "Navigation - Information Systems" and GLONIS SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LTD

14. MoU between JSC Navigation-Information Systems and Kerla State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd.

15. Agreement on GLONASS High Precision signal access to India

16. MOU between TATA SONS and Skolkovo Foundation

Chemicals and Petrochemicals

17. JV Agreement between Reliance and Sibur (a subsidiary of Gazprom) for setting up a butyl rubber manufacturing facility in India

18. Memorandum of Understanding between "Pereslavl'skij Technopark" and Swastik Polymers"

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Low Altitude Digital Lakshya-2 Successfully Flight Tested

The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) yesterday successfully conducted the flight test of Lakshya-2, the Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA), at very low altitudes. The users have indicated their requirement of flying the PTA at 15 to 25 metres above sea level to simulate trajectory of low-level cruise missiles. Accordingly Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bangalore prepared Lakshya-2 with necessary hardware and software for meeting the user requirements. The flight test was of 32 minutes duration controlled by Ground Control Station and the low altitude flight was proved over 10km range. The flight was stable and well controlled. Mobile launcher to launch the PTA from anywhere and GPS to locate for recovery were used successfully.

The pilotless aircraft also demonstrated its manoeuvring capability simultaneously simulating manoeuvring attacking aircrafts. The system has been designed so that two Lakshya targets can be flown and controlled by the Common Ground Control Station.

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FORTUNE'S VISIONARY LIST

Better known for his sprawling steel empire and mounds of wealth, Lakshmi Mittal has now been named as a visionary by Fortune magazine for extending support to help Indian athletes win Olympic medals. The league of eight individuals also features two other Indians—Rikin Gandhi, the chief of New Delhi-based NGO Digital Green, and Indrani Medhi, an executive at Microsoft India. Elaborating on the 'The Fortune Global Forum Visionaries' list, the magazine said it set out to find "eight trailblazers whose innovative contributions to emerging markets and developing nations are as significant as they are universal." The NRI billionaire has found a place in the list as the founder of Mittal Champions Trust that supports Indian athletes in as many as six sports. The publication said the England-based chief of the world's largest steel company ArcelorMittal plays a pivotal role in India's ongoing quest for the Olympic metals. "According to Mittal, the goal of the Mittal Champions Trust is to identify, support and enhance the performance of talented up-and-coming Indian athletes in six sports: track and field, shooting, wrestling, archery, boxing, and squash," the magazine noted.

The trust, started in 2005 with an initial funding of USD 9 million, supports over 60 Indian athletes, including the Olympic gold medalist and shooter Abhinav Bindra. "The next goal?

Bring home at least five medals from the 2012 Olympics in London," the report said. The Rikin Gandhi-headed Digital Green teaches farmers in small villages the latest agricultural techniques with the help of multimedia presentations and personal demonstrations.

Quoting Gandhi, the magazine said, his effort is "ten times more effective per dollar spent in converting farmers to better farming practices than more traditional approaches".

Writing about Indrani Medhi, the publication said her research work is to "make assistance-free and useful interaction possible for any first-time, non-literate user of a PC or mobile phone". Medhi is an associate researcher (Technology for Emerging Markets Group) at Microsoft India.

The Nobel Prize winner and founder of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank Muhammad Yunus, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative's epidemiologist Seth Berkley and the Hong Kong-based sourcing firm Li & Fung Group's Victor and William Fung also feature in the list.

The Fortune has also named French business school HEC Paris' associate dean Valerie Gauthier and China South Locomotive and Rolling Stock Corporation chief Zhao Xiaogang among the eight visionaries.

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Sterilization

Fort the very first time in UK, women seemingly are being proffered a quick and confidential fertility service that will aid in sterilization at lunch duration. The Cadogan Clinic proves to be one of a kind in offering the service to women the 10-minute ‘walk in, walk out’ healing method that works by obstructing the fallopian tubes without a visible scarring.

India’s positions in Sterilization

Every year in India, shanty towns mushroom in the cities, cities sprawl into farmland and the country increases by the population of Australia.

Every day, every minute, on trains and buses, on sidewalks and streets, the country squeezes and shrinks and sucks in its breath to push too many people into too little space.

India has fallen behind in the race to meet the Millennium Development Goals for reducing its birth rate by 2015. Only about half of India’s 26 states have reached the targeted level of two children per mother.

In large, economically depressed states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, an average woman still bears four children over her lifetime. This means India will surpass China to become the world’s most populous country by 2030. The continuing swell threatens the environment and places a tremendous burden on government services.

But obsession with the Millennium Development targets is pushing India back to incentive-based family planning, something the country first visited in the 1970s — where dangerous sterilization operations for women are too often presented as the first, and sometimes only, option for birth control.

Critics of India’s repackaged population control program say the cure may be worse than the disease.

“There’s a great hurry to again set targets from above to be followed by everyone. And that’s again creating problems,” said A.R. Nanda, executive director of NGO Population Foundation of India and the former health secretary who wrote India’s population policy in 2000.

The main worry? India’s National Population Stabilization Fund has brought back controversial, incentive-based sterilization, among other initiatives aimed at reducing the birth rate.

While sterilization in and of itself isn’t new to India, for the first time the country is outsourcing the work to private clinics — a move that has raised concerns about poor and illiterate women of rural India being pressured or fooled into going under the knife without fully understanding the risks, consequences and alternatives.

What is Sterilization

Sterilization is a surgical technique leaving a male or female unable to reproduce. It is a method of birth control. For non-surgical causes of sterility, see infertility. Common sterilization methods include:

Vasectomy in males. The vasa deferentia, the tubes which connect the testicles to the prostate, are cut and closed. This prevents sperm produced in the testicles from entering the ejaculated semen (which is mostly produced in the seminal vesicles and prostate). Although the term vasectomy is established in the general community, the correct medical terminology is **deferentectomy**, since the structure known as the vas deferens has been renamed the ductus deferens.

Tubal ligation in females, known popularly as

Year-End-Review of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2010

The year 2010 has seen a robust growth in terms of aircraft movement and passengers handled. Vis-a-vis 2009 the growth rate has been 3.4% in respect of aircraft movement and 16.2% in respect of passengers handled and 26.9% with respect to cargo. Passengers carried by domestic airlines from January-November, 2010 were 468.09 lakh as against 393.53 lakh in the corresponding period of the year 2009 thereby registering growth of +18.9%. There are, at present, 16 Scheduled (11 scheduled passenger airlines, 02 scheduled regional airlines and 03 scheduled cargo airlines) and 121 Non-scheduled Operators. At present there are 419 aircraft with the scheduled operators. The total aircraft in the Non Scheduled category are 360.

This year saw the Ministry of Civil aviation take several initiatives to facilitate the passengers to undertake hassle free and convenient air travel by the issue of CARs through the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). A state of the art new integrated Terminal-3 has been operationalized at the Delhi Airport in July this year creating a new beginning in world class infrastructure, with public-private participation in the aviation sector. The much awaited environmental clearance has also come through for construction of a New Green Field airport at Navi Mumbai.

Following are some of the important issues taken up by the Ministry of Civil Aviation during the year 2010:

Initiatives of the Ministry in the field of Economic Regulation

To elicit the views of stakeholders, to gain expertise from the concerned

“having one’s tubes tied”. The Fallopian tubes, which allow the sperm to fertilize the ovum and would carry the fertilized ovum to the uterus, are closed. This generally involves a general anesthetic and a laparotomy or laparoscopic approach to cut, clip or cauterize the fallopian tubes. Less commonly used is the **Essure** office procedure of inducing scarring and occlusion of the tubes by the effects of micro-inserts placed by a catheter passed through the cervix and uterus.

Other procedures that result in sterility:

Hysterectomy in females. The uterus is surgically removed, permanently preventing pregnancy and some diseases, such as uterine cancer.

Castration in males. The testicles are surgically removed. This is frequently used for the sterilization of animals, with added effects such as docility, greatly reduced sexual behaviour, and faster weight gain (which is desirable in some cases, for example to accelerate meat production). It was also formerly used on some human male children for other reasons; see castrato and eunuch.

CBI raids on Kalmadi houses in Delhi, Mumbai & Pune

The CBI is scrutinising the incriminating documents recovered during the raids carried out at the offices and residential premises of Commonwealth Games Organising Committee Chief Suresh Kalmadi and his aide in Delhi and Pune today. The raids were conducted in connection with its probe into alleged irregularities in the awarding the contract in the Queens Baton's relay events .

CBI spokesperson Vinita Thakur gave these details to media persons after the raids were over.

Reacting to the CBI raids, Suresh Kalmadi defended himself saying he is innocent till proven guilty.

AIR correspondent reports that the raids began this morning simultaneously at Delhi, Mumbai and Pune.

The raids come days after it was reported that some of the crucial documents which could throw light on the Games' deals have gone missing. The agency has so far filed three FIRs in connection with the alleged irregularities in CWG and searched the residences of Organising Committee's Director General V.K. Verma and Secretary General Lalit Bhanot on November 30.

The CBI had recently written to the Cabinet Secretary apprising him about the need to move out Kalmadi and his deputy Lalit Bhanot from their posts as they were proving to be a roadblock in their investigations.

Reacting on the development, BJP president Nitin Gadkari said all involved in the CWG scam should be punished.

On the other hand, Congress spokesperson Jayanti Natarajan said CBI is pursuing the case and BJP has no moral rights to speak on corruption as they have not acted on the Karnataka chief minister against whom there are similar charges.

'Eternal' solar plane's records are confirmed

The world governing body for air sports records, the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI),

experts and to augment capacity to address issues that are predominantly economic in content, the Civil Aviation Economic Advisory Council was established on 9 December, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Secretary Civil Aviation and with members drawn from different fields of expertise that are directly and indirectly connected to Civil aviation sector. The first meeting of the Council took place on 13 December 2010.

Consumer protection measures

(i) On 6 of August, 2010 a Civil Aviation Rule (CAR) has been issued which provides for compensation and facilities to the passengers in case of denied boarding, cancellations and delays. The violation of this CAR is punishable under the provisions of scheduled VI to the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

This will be a category III offence attracting a maximum penalty of 6 months in prison or Rs. 2 lac fine or both

(ii) On 31 July, 2010 CAR has been issued in order to promote fair competition in the airline sector and to ensure that consumers do not receive inaccurate or misleading information on airline services, by strengthening the computer reservation system/global distribution system

(iii) On 3 September, 2010 the relevant Rule has been amended and circular issued to provide that the Pilot-In-Command may permit the use of cellular/mobile phones after the aircraft has landed and cleared active runway.

However, this facility will not be available during low visibility conditions.

Connectivity in North Eastern Region

At present, there are 11 operational airports served by the Scheduled airlines in the North-East region viz. Dibrugarh, Guwahati, North Lakhimpur, Imphal, Dimapur, Agartala, Shillong, Jorhat, Silchar, Tezpur & Lengpui. 348 flights per

WikiLeaks in 2010

..... continue from front page

Governments Views

Germany

The home of Theodor Reppe, registrant of the German WikiLeaks domain name, wikileaks.de, was raided on 24 March 2009 after WikiLeaks released the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) censorship blacklist. The site was not affected.

People's Republic of China

Wikileaks's website claims that the government of the People's Republic of China has attempted to block all traffic to web sites with "wikileaks" in the URL since 2007, but that this can be bypassed through encrypted connections or by using one of Wikileaks's many covert URLs.

Australia

On 16 March 2009, the Australian Communications and Media Authority added WikiLeaks to their proposed blacklist of sites that will be blocked for all Australians if the mandatory internet filtering censorship scheme is implemented as planned.^{[185][186]} The blacklisting was removed 30 November 2010.

Thailand

The Centre for the Resolution of the Emergency Situation (CRES) is currently censoring the website WikiLeaks in Thailand and more than 40,000 other webpages because of the emergency decree in Thailand imposed as a result of political instabilities (Emergency decree declared beginning of April 2010).

United States

Access to WikiLeaks is currently blocked in the United States Library of Congress. On 3 December 2010 the White House Office of Management and Budget sent a memo forbidding all unauthorised federal government employees and contractors from accessing classified documents publicly available on WikiLeaks and other websites. The U.S. Army, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Justice Department are considering criminally prosecuting WikiLeaks and Assange "on grounds they encouraged the theft of government property", although former prosecutors say doing so would be difficult. According to a report on the Daily Beast website, the Obama administration asked Britain, Germany and Australia among others to also consider bringing criminal charges against Assange for the Afghan war leaks and to help limit Assange's travels across international borders. Columbia University students have been warned by their Office of Career Services that the U.S. State Department had contacted the office in an email saying that the diplomatic cables which were released by WikiLeaks were "still considered classified." and that "online discourse about the documents 'would call into question your ability to deal with confidential information.'"

All U.S. Federal Government staff have been blocked from viewing Wikileaks. Some Department of Homeland Security staff say the ban on accessing Wikileaks on government computers and other government devices is hampering their work; "More damage will be done by keeping the federal workforce largely in the dark about what other interested parties worldwide are going to be reading and analysing." One official says that the ban apparently covers personal computers also.

On 22 December, 2010 the CIA has launched a task force to assess the impact of unauthorised publication of thousands of secret US diplomatic cables by the whistle—blower website WikiLeaks on the agency's foreign relationships and operations.

Iceland

After the release of the 2007 airstrikes video and as they prepared to release film of the Granai airstrike, Julian Assange has said that his group of volunteers came under intense surveillance. In an interview and Twitter posts he said that a restaurant in Reykjavík where his group of volunteers met came under surveillance in March; there was "covert following and hidden photography" by police and foreign intelligence services; that an apparent British intelligence agent made thinly veiled threats in a Luxembourg car park; and that one of the volunteers was detained by police for 21 hours. Another volunteer posted that computers were seized, saying "If anything happens to us, you know why ... and you know who is responsible." According to the Columbia Journalism Review, "the Icelandic press took a look at Assange's charges of being surveilled in Iceland [...] and, at best, have found nothing to substantiate them."

In August 2009, Kaupthing Bank succeeded in obtaining a court order gagging Iceland's national broadcaster, RÚV, from broadcasting a risk analysis report showing the bank's substantial exposure to debt default risk. This information had been leaked by a whistleblower to WikiLeaks and remained available on the WikiLeaks site; faced with an injunction minutes before broadcast the channel ran with a screen grab of the WikiLeaks site instead of the scheduled piece on the bank. Citizens of Iceland felt outraged that RÚV was prevented from broadcasting news of relevance. Therefore, WikiLeaks has been credited with inspiring the Icelandic Modern Media Initiative, a bill meant to reclaim Iceland's 2007 Reporters Without Borders (Reporters sans frontières) ranking as first in the world for free speech. It aims to enact a range of protections for sources, journalists, and publishers. Birgitta Jónsdóttir, a former volunteer for WikiLeaks and member of the Icelandic parliament, is the chief sponsor of the proposal.

Organisations and companies

Facebook

WikiLeaks claimed in April 2010 that Facebook deleted their fan page, which had 30,000 fans. However, as of 7 December 2010 the group's Facebook fan page was available and had grown by 100,000 fans daily since 1 December, to more than 1,300,000 fans. It is also the largest growth of the week. Regarding the presence of WikiLeaks on Facebook, Andrew Noyes, the company's D.C. based Manager of Public Policy Communications has stated "the Wikileaks Facebook Page does not violate our content stan-

dards nor have we encountered any material posted on the page that violates our policies."

Moneybookers

In October 2010, it was reported that Moneybookers, which collected donations for WikiLeaks, had ended its relationship with the site. Moneybookers stated that its decision had been made "to comply with money laundering or other investigations conducted by government authorities, agencies or commissions."

US diplomatic cables leak

Following the US diplomatic cables leak, which started on 28 November 2010, several companies severed ties with WikiLeaks. After providing 24-hour notification, American owned EveryDNS dropped WikiLeaks from its entries on 2 December 2010, citing DDoS attacks that "threatened the stability of its infrastructure". The site's 'info' DNS lookup remained operational at alternative addresses for direct access respectively to the WikiLeaks and Cablegate websites. On the same day, Amazon.com severed its ties with WikiLeaks, to which it was providing infrastructure services, after an intervention by an aide of U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman. Amazon denied acting under political pressure citing a violation of its terms of service. Citing indirect pressure from the U.S. Government, Tableau Software also dropped WikiLeaks' data from its site for people to use for data visualisation.

In the days following, hundreds of (and eventually more than a thousand) mirrors of the WikiLeaks site appeared and the Anonymous group of internet activists, called on supporters to attack the websites of companies which do not support WikiLeaks, under the banner of Operation Payback, previously aimed at anti-piracy organisations. AFP reported that attempts to shut down the wikileaks.org address had lead to the site surviving via the so-called Streisand effect, whereby attempts to censor information online leads to it being replicated in many places.

On 3 December, PayPal, the payment processor owned by eBay, permanently cut off the account of the Wau Holland Foundation that had been redirecting donations to WikiLeaks. PayPal alleged that the account violated its "Acceptable Use Policy", specifically that it was used for "activities that encourage, promote, facilitate or instruct others to engage in illegal activity." The Vice President of PayPal later stated that they stopped accepting payments after the "State Department told us these were illegal activities. It was straightforward." Later the same day, he said that his previous statement was incorrect, and that it was in fact based on a letter from the State Department to WikiLeaks. On 8 December 2010, the Wau Holland Foundation released a press statement, saying it has filed a legal action against PayPal for blocking its account used for WikiLeaks payments and for libel due to PayPal's allegations of "illegal activity".

On 6 December, the Swiss bank, PostFinance, announced that it had frozen the assets of Assange that it holds, totalling 31,000 euros. In a statement on their website, they stated that this was because Assange "provided false information regarding his place of residence" when opening the account. WikiLeaks released a statement saying this was due to that Assange, "as a homeless refugee attempting to gain residency in Switzerland, had used his lawyer's address in Geneva for the bank's correspondence". On the same day, MasterCard announced that it "is taking action to ensure that WikiLeaks can no longer accept MasterCard-branded products", adding "MasterCard rules prohibit customers from directly or indirectly engaging in or facilitating any action that is illegal." The next day, Visa Inc. announced it was suspending payments to WikiLeaks, pending "further investigations". In a move of support for WikiLeaks, XIPWIRE established a way to donate to WikiLeaks, and waived their fees. Datacell, the Swiss-based IT company that enabled WikiLeaks to accept credit card donations, announced that it will take legal action against Visa Europe and Mastercard, in order to resume allowing payments to the website. On December 18, Bank of America announced it would "not process transactions of any type that we have reason to believe are intended for Wikileaks" citing "Wikileaks may be engaged in activities that are... inconsistent with our internal policies for processing payments". WikiLeaks responded in a tweet by encouraging their supporters who were BoA customer to close their accounts. Bank of America has long been believed to be the target of WikiLeaks's next major release.

On 7 December 2010, The Guardian stated that people can still donate to WikiLeaks via Commerzbank Kassel in Germany or Landsbanki in Iceland or by post to a post office box at the University of Melbourne or at the wikileaks.ch domain.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay has highlighted that Visa, Mastercard and Amazon may be 'violating WikiLeaks' e pluribus unum right to freedom of expression' by withdrawing their services.

On 21 December 2010 media reported that Apple had secretly taken down an application from its App Store, which provided access to the embassy cable leaks.

Governments Praise to Wikileaks

Brazil

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva expressed his "solidarity" with Julian Assange following Assange's 2010 arrest in the United Kingdom. Lula went on to state—in reference to WikiLeaks disclosure of classified US diplomatic cables in November and December 2010—WikiLeaks had "exposed a diplomacy that had appeared unreachable." He further criticised the arrest of Julian Assange as "an attack on freedom of expression".

Ecuador

In late November 2010 a representative of the government of Ecuador made what was, apparently, an unsolicited public offer to Julian Assange to establish residency in Ecuador. Deputy Foreign Minister Kinto Lucas stated "we are going to invite him to come to Ecuador so he can freely present the information he possesses

and all the documentation, not just on the Internet, but in various public forums." Lucas went on to state his praise for WikiLeaks and Assange calling them "[people] who are constantly investigating and trying to get light out of the dark corners of [state] information." The following day, however, president Rafael Correa distanced his administration from the offer stating that Lucas had been speaking for himself and not on the government's behalf. Correa then criticised Assange for "breaking the laws of the United States and leaking this type of information."

Russia

In December 2010 the office of Russian president Dmitry Medvedev issued a statement calling on non-governmental organisations to consider "nominating [Julian] Assange as a Nobel Prize laureate." The announcement followed commentary by Russian ambassador to NATO Dmitry Rogozin who stated that Julian Assange's earlier arrest on Swedish charges demonstrated that there was "no media freedom" in the west.

Venezuela: Hugo Chávez, president of Venezuela, stated his support for WikiLeaks following the release of US diplomatic cables in November 2010 that showed the United States had tried to rally support from regional governments to isolate Venezuela. "I have to congratulate the people of WikiLeaks for their bravery and courage," Chávez commented in televised remarks.

United Nations

In December 2010 United Nations Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Opinion and Expression Frank LaRue stated he agreed with the idea that Julian Assange was a "martyr for free speech." LaRue went on to say Assange or other WikiLeaks staff should not face legal accountability for any information they disseminated, noting that, "if there is a responsibility by leaking information it is of, exclusively of the person that made the leak and not of the media that publish it. And this is the way that transparency works and that corruption has been confronted in many cases." High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay subsequently voiced concern at the revelation that private companies were being pressured by states to sever their relationships with WikiLeaks.

Criticism by governments

Most of the governments and organisations whose files have been leaked by WikiLeaks have been critical of the organisation.

Australia: On 2 December 2010 Prime Minister Julia Gillard made a statement that she 'absolutely condemns' Wikileaks' actions and that the release of information on the site was 'grossly irresponsible' and 'illegal.' Wikileaks founder Julian Assange is Australian and he responded two days later by accusing his prime minister of betraying him as an Australian citizen. However, on 8 December 2010—after WikiLeaks published U.S. diplomatic cables in which United States diplomats labelled him a "control freak", former Australian Prime Minister and current foreign minister Kevin Rudd said the leak of the US secret cables raised questions about US security. Rudd said, "The core responsibility, and therefore legal liability, goes to those individuals responsible for that initial unauthorised release." In an article in The Australian, Assange claimed, "The Australian attorney-general is doing everything he can to help a US investigation clearly directed at framing Australian citizens and shipping them to the US." However, Australian officials later said that Assange has done nothing illegal.

France: The French Industry Minister Éric Besson said in a letter to the CGIET technology agency, WikiLeaks "violates the secret of diplomatic relations and puts people protected by diplomatic secret in danger." Therefore it would be 'unacceptable' that the site was hosted on servers based in France. The minister asked for measures to bar WikiLeaks from France.

Iran: The President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, also criticised WikiLeaks following the release of United States diplomatic cables. Ahmadinejad claimed that the release of cables purporting to show concern with Iran by Arab states was a planned leak by the United States to discredit his government, though he did not indicate whether he believed WikiLeaks was in collusion with the United States or was simply an unwitting facilitator.

Philippines: President Benigno Aquino III condemned Wikileaks and leaked documents related to the country, saying that it can lead to massive cases of miscommunication.

United States: Following the November 2010 release of United States diplomatic cables, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton denounced the group saying, "this disclosure is not just an attack on America's foreign policy interests, it is an attack on the international community." Peter King, chairman of the Homeland Security Committee of the United States House of Representatives has stated his support for listing Wikileaks as a "foreign terrorist organisation" explaining that "WikiLeaks presents a clear and present danger to the national security of the United States." In a contrary statement, secretary of Defense Robert Gates has said that concerns about the disclosures were "over-wrought" in terms of their likely adverse impact on ordinary diplomatic activities. Philip J. Crowley, United States Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, stated on 2 December 2010 that the US State Department does not regard WikiLeaks as a media organisation. "WikiLeaks is not a media organization. That is our view." Crowley said and with regard to Assange;"Well, his – I mean he could be considered a political actor. I think he's an anarchist, but he's not a journalist."

US Senator Joe Lieberman, who first called on Amazon to shut down WikiLeaks and then praised the company after doing so called for other companies to follow suit. He also proposed new legislation targeting similar cases—Securing Human Intelligence and Enforcing Lawful Dissemination Act, also known as the SHIELD Act, not to be confused with a shield law. Lieberman later said that also The New York Times and other news organisations publishing the US embassy cables being released by WikiLeaks could be investigated for breaking US espionage laws.**end**

United Nations Security Council Reforms

Chitra Singh Rajput

One proposed change is to admit more members, the candidates usually mentioned are Japan, Germany, India and Brazil (the G4 nations). Britain, France and Russia support G4 membership in the UN Security Council. Italy has always opposed this kind of reform, and has submitted since 1992 another proposal, together with other countries, based on the introduction of semi-permanent membership; In addition South Korea opposed Japan; Pakistan opposes India; and Mexico and Argentina oppose Brazil, a Portuguese-speaking country in a largely Spanish-speaking Latin America. All these countries have traditionally grouped themselves in the so-called Coffee Club; officially Uniting for Consensus. India is a charter member of the United Nations and participates in all of its specialized agencies. It has contributed troops to UN peacekeeping efforts in the Korea, Egypt and Congo in earlier years and in Soma-

lia, Angola and Rwanda in recent years, and more recently Haiti. India has been a member of the UN Security Council six terms, most recently from 1991 to 1992. India has been elected six times to the UN Security Council, and is one of the countries that has served for the most number of years as an elected member. India has been seeking a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council as a member of the G4, an organization composed of Brazil, Germany, Japan, and India, all who are currently seeking permanent representation. According to their proposal the UN Security Council should be expanded beyond the current fifteen members to include twenty-five members. If this actually happens, it would be the first time permanent Security Council status is extended to a South Asian nation and supporters of the G4 plan suggest that this will lead to greater representation of developing nations rather than the current major powers.

India makes a number of claims to justify its demand. India has the world's second largest population and is the world's largest liberal democracy. It is also the world's twelfth largest economy and fourth largest in terms of purchasing power parity. Currently, India maintains the world's third largest armed force. India is the third largest contributor of troops to United Nations Peacekeeping missions after Bangladesh and Pakistan. Although in absolute numbers the troops supplied by India is only 3000 more than that from Nepal, a small country in comparison with India. India was offered a permanent seat on the council 55 years ago, in 1955. But that offer, made by the United States and the Soviet Union was declined by India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Nehru said the seat should be given to China instead. The council seat then was held by Taiwan (ROC). This decision by Nehru is seen as a blunder and the loss of an opportu-

nity to attain a stronger diplomatic stature by India. If India were to accept this offer it would have required the United Nations charter to be amended to include India in place of Republic of China (Taiwan) in the Security Council or to expand the Council. It is not known whether the Taiwanese government representing China's current seat in the Security Council would have vetoed the amendment or accepted the amendment under US pressure as Taiwan was solely dependent on the US for its protection from mainland China. Although the U.S. and other permanent Council members were not very supportive of expanding the Security Council, in his visit to India President Obama has offered his support for India to become a permanent member of the Council. However the reaction from other Council members are not very clear, particularly from China. Thus it is uncertain whether the demands by G4 nations will be implemented anytime soon.



United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the principal organs of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. Its powers, outlined in the United Nations Charter, include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action. Its powers are exercised through United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House, London. Since its first meeting, the Council, which exists in continuous session, has travelled widely, holding meetings in many cities, such as Paris and Addis Ababa, as well as at its current permanent home in the United Nations building in New York City.

There are 15 members of the Security Council, consisting of 5 veto-wielding permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and 10 elected non-permanent members with two-year terms. This basic structure is set out in Chapter V of the UN Charter. Security Council members must always be present at UN headquarters in New York so that the Security Council can meet at any time. This requirement of the United Nations Charter was adopted to address a weakness of the League of Nations since that organization was often unable to respond quickly to a crisis.

Ten other members are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms starting on 1 January, with five replaced each year. The members are chosen by regional groups and confirmed by the United Nations General Assembly. The African bloc chooses three members; the Latin America and the Caribbean, Asian, and Western European and Others blocs choose two members each; and the Eastern European bloc chooses one member. Also, one of these members is an "Arab country," alternately from the Asian or African bloc.

For the 2-year term which begins on the January 1, 2011, the elected non-permanent members for this 2-year period will be Colombia, Germany, India, Portugal, and South Africa.

India at climate talks in Cancun

D.S. Rajput

As pressure builds on China and India to accept greater obligations to cut down carbon emissions, both countries have asserted that measures to combat climate change need to factor in the principle of equitable access to development opportunities. Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said developing countries have to strike a balance between growth objectives and emission mitigation as experts reminded that developed nations have over-used their fair share. "I want to reiterate that we are not talking about the right to pollute... Sustainable development is a fundamental right," said Ramesh at an event hosted by India on the sidelines of climate talks in Cancun. The larger developing countries, he said, "needed to ensure that the commitments that they take or have taken does not come in the way of these growth objectives," the Minister said. He pointed out that academic work on equitable access was not being factored into negotiations. "Somehow the negotiating committed is oblivious of this work," he added.

China, the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, has also maintained that developed countries should take major responsibility for climate change and shoulder due obligations as the unrestrained emission during their 200-year industrialisation process was largely to blame for the global warming.

Michael Khor, executive director of South Center, said that between 1850 and today about 1300 gigatonnes of CO2 have been emitted, and in the next five years the world could only afford to pump 600 gigatonnes more, if global average temperature rise had to be limited to 2 degree Celsius. "What is the historical situation and who has put it into the atmosphere... the developed countries have over-used what is their fair share (by 500 gigatonnes from 1850 to 2008)," he said, defining fair share as the share in accordance with the country's share in the world's population. "We need the environment, we need development and we need equity to clinch the two," he added.

Most developed countries, however, do not see the vast amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as their fault since for the majority phase of their development, they did not realise the long-term impact of their actions, he said. Indian scientist T Jayaraman said that even if developed countries slashed their carbon emissions by 90 per cent from 1990 levels, India would develop as much as Portugal and developing countries would still never have their fair share of atmospheric space

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gave Zephyr three records including longest time aloft.

Built by defence technology company Qinetiq, the craft completed its two-week flight in the US in July. The company sees applications in surveillance and communications.

The July feat led to Zephyr being dubbed the "eternal plane".

"This aircraft can help track pirates off the Horn of Africa, alert the authorities about where and how fast forest fires are spreading, and ensure that soldiers' communications remain unaffected when fighting in mountainous or hilly terrain," said Qinetiq's chief designer Chris Kelleher.

The FAI noted that Zephyr smashed the previous record for the absolute duration of an unmanned autonomous vehicle (UAV) flight - set by Northrop Grumman's Global Hawk in 2001 - by a factor of 11.

The organisation set the official duration at 336 hours, 22 minutes and eight seconds.

Zephyr's flight also set a new mark for flight duration for a UAV of its class - unmanned craft weighing 50-500kg - and, for that class, the altitude record of 21,562m (70,741ft).

Launched by hand, the aircraft flies during day-time on electricity generated by photovoltaic arrays - solar panels - on its wings.

Made of amorphous silicon, the arrays are about as thick as a sheet of paper. They also charge lithium-sulphur batteries that power the craft by night.

During the flight in July, engineers found that Zephyr lost some altitude during the night as power to the engines reduced - but the batteries stored enough to keep the craft aloft.

Key to its success is the ultra-light design, based on carbon fibre, which means that with a wingspan of 22.5m (74ft) it weighs little more than 50kg (110 lb). Solar-powered high-altitude long-endurance (Hale) UAVs are expected to have a wide range of applications.

The military will want to use them as reconnaissance and communications platforms. Civilian and scientific programmes will equip them with small payloads for Earth observation duties.

Their unique selling point is their persistence over a location. Low-Earth orbiting satellites come and go in a swift pass overhead, and the bigger drones now operated by the military still need to return to base at regular intervals for refuelling.

Ivory Coast: UN backs Alassane Ouattara as president

The UN General Assembly has formally recognised Alassane Ouattara as the winner of Ivory Coast's disputed presidential election.

The move came ahead of a meeting of West African heads of state to urge President Laurent Gbagbo to step aside.

Earlier, the region's central bank handed over control of Ivory Coast's accounts to Mr Ouattara.

Correspondents say the moves are increasing the isolation of Mr Gbagbo, who has insisted that he won the vote. The decision of the Central Bank of West African States could make it difficult for the incumbent president to pay the army.

Violence since disputed election in November has left 173 people dead in Ivory Coast.

A senior UN official said its investigators had

week are being operated by NACIL, Alliance Air, Jet Airways, JetLite, Kingfisher Airlines, Spicejet and IndiGo to/from these airports. The no. of flights in the NER has been increased from 286/week in Summer Schedule 2010 which is an increase of 21.67%. In addition, Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. (PHHL) is providing helicopter services under the aegis of the State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura.

Further, the DGCA has commissioned a comprehensive study to evolve a roadmap for air connectivity to the North-eastern region.

Bilateral Agreements Election in the Council of ICAO In the 37th Assembly session of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) held at ICAO Headquarters at Montreal in Canada on 28 September – 08 October, 2010, elections were held for the representation of the Member State countries in the Part I, Part II and Part III of the Council of ICAO. India has contested for continuance of its representation in the Part II. The total number of seats was 12, equaling the number of contestants. 163 countries cast their votes. India secured 148 votes out of 162 votes and was at number 2 position in the group in terms of number of votes secured.

Amendments of Air Services Agreements (ASAs) with foreign countries Keeping in view the recent developments in the civil aviation sector, and with a view to modernize and update the existing ASAs with foreign countries as per the ICAO templates, bilateral air services consultations were held in 2010 with foreign countries viz. Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Ireland, Brazil, UK and Iran and the respective ASAs have been amended and finalized. Bilateral Air Services Agreements were

also found evidence of extrajudicial executions, more than 90 cases of torture and 500 arrests, as well as abductions, kidnappings, acts of sexual violence, and destruction of property. The 28 November poll was meant to unite the country after a civil war in 2002 split the world's largest cocoa producer in two

The country's electoral commission ruled that Mr Ouattara had won, but the Constitutional Council said Mr Gbagbo had been elected, citing vote-rigging in some northern areas.

The UN, which has about 10,000 peacekeepers in the country overseeing the peace process, has backed Mr Ouattara as the winner.

He was given a further boost on Thursday when the General Assembly unanimously decided to recognise his choice of diplomats as the sole official representatives of Ivory Coast to the UN.

Power-sharing ruled out The West African heads of state are scheduled to meet later on Friday in the Nigerian capital Abuja.

The 15-nation the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) has already suspended Ivory Coast over Mr Gbagbo's refusal to hand over power.

"It's a one-item agenda, and that's Cote D'Ivoire [Ivory Coast]," Sunny Ugoh, spokesperson for the regional body, told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

"I believe that what we have done so far has put them under pressure, but I think perhaps we need to work a lot harder to increase the pressure to make sure that there's a transition to President Ouattara," he said.

The BBC's Tomi Oladipo in Nigeria says there have been suggestions that member nations send in troops, to strengthen the presence of the international peacekeeping force.

Nigeria, in particular, sent peacekeeping forces to Liberia and Sierra Leone during their civil wars in the 1990s, and is expected to do the same in Ivory Coast if the situation escalates, our reporter says.

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, who is also Ecowas chairman, has ruled out the possibility of accepting power-sharing government.

In Ivory Coast Mr Ouattara and his supporters are currently holed up in the Golf Hotel in Abidjan, protected by 800 UN peacekeepers. They are in turn being blockaded by soldiers loyal to Mr Gbagbo.

"There are three levers - diplomacy, finance and the army. Now there's only the third lever to get, and that will certainly be discussed today by Ecowas," Mr Ouattara's spokesman Patrick Achi is quoted by AFP news agency as saying. Mr Gbagbo still has control of state television and the public support of the army. Without access to Ivory Coast's state accounts, it is going to be extremely difficult to pay the salaries of soldiers and civil servants next month, even if Mr Gbagbo almost certainly has other financial reserves.

The incumbent president has demanded that UN and French troops leave the country immediately. A close ally even warned that they could be treated as rebels if they did not obey the instruction.

A US government specialist on Africa, William Fitzgerald, told the BBC that various options for defusing the crisis were being considered, but that "we're really trying to avoid violence if at all possible".

War rhetoric rises between N-S Korea North and South Korea have increased their

formally signed with Bhutan, Iceland, Nepal, Bosnia & Herzegovina, South Africa and Iran. Apart from these, new Air Services Agreements have been initialed with Senegal, Barbados and Rwanda.

Technical co-operation agreements with Nepal and Afghanistan

Technical co-operation agreements were signed by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) with the Nepalese and Afghan civil aviation authorities in order to provide active technical support including training of personnel to these countries by India to promote and develop civil aviation sector.

India – EU civil aviation co-operation programme Under the Joint Action Plan, a Civil Aviation Co-operation Project - II has been agreed to. Its Terms of Reference (TOR) have been finalized. The project called “Institutional Capacity Building in the Civil Aviation sector in India (ICAA)” has been started under India – EU civil aviation co-operation.

India – US Aviation Joint Working Group on Security The India – US Aviation Joint Group Meeting on Security was held in New Delhi on 20 – 21 January, 2010. During this meeting two MoUs on deployment of Air Marshals and Co-operation in Airport Technical Visits were signed between the Government of India and the Government of United States of America. The two MoUs mark the beginning of an ongoing co-operation between the two countries in matters of security.

Equity Induction by the Government in Air India Air India is expected to incur a loss of Rs. 5,656.52 crores during the year 2009-10, mainly due to the prevalent economic recession, low yields and load factors coupled with

rhetoric against one another as the South conducted more military exercises. North Korea said on Thursday, it is ready to use its nuclear deterrent in what it called, a sacred war, if it is provoked.

Armed Forces Minister, Kim Yung-chun was quoted by the North Korean news agency as saying that South Korea was deliberately pushing the situation to the brink of war.

South Korean President visited soldiers at a base near the border yesterday saying that the South should answer any new attack from the North with a powerful counter-attack.

PM announces Rs.400 crore relief for Maharashtra

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has announced Rs 400 crore Central assistance to Maharashtra which suffered extensive damage to crops on account of unprecedented and unseasonal rains. Dr. Singh announced the relief after an all party delegation led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan called on him and sought a special relief package for farmers.

The Prime Minister assured the delegation that the interests of farmers were uppermost and that all necessary steps would be taken by the Centre to assist the state government in helping the farmers.

"Requirement of further assistance will be considered in the light of the assessment made by an inter-Ministerial Central team, after visiting the state," he told the delegation which comprised of MPs from the state, Chavan's ministerial colleagues, BJP MP Gopinath Munde, Shiv Sena MP Anant Geete.

Dr Singh also assured the delegation that Central Ministries will be asked to take necessary action expeditiously on the issues raised by the delegation.

Chavan handed over to the Prime Minister a report of the state government on assessment of agricultural damages to farmers across the state due to unseasonal rains. "We asked the Prime Minister to adopt the report of the state government and announce a special package for the state," Geete told reporters. Kharif crop over a million hectares in the state has been damaged due to unseasonal rains in November and December, state government officials said.

Prez Patil releases stamp on Yashwantrao Chavan

President Pratibha Patil on Wednesday released commemorative postage stamps on Maharashtra's first chief minister Yashwantrao Chavan and freedom fighter and social reformer Bhausaheb Hire.

Patil, while releasing the postage stamps, recalled the contributions made by the two in making Maharashtra a progressive state. 'Yashwantrao Chavan was not just a visionary leader of Maharashtra, but a towering personality at the national level too,' she said. Paying her respect to Hire, Patil appreciated his contribution towards socio-economic development.

2G scam: Raja appears before CBI

Former Telecom Minister A Raja appeared before the CBI for questioning in the Rs 22,000 crore

higher fuel costs, higher interest payment on working capital loans and aircraft loans.

The present paid up equity capital of NACIL is Rs. 145 crores which is not sufficient for an aviation company of its size.

Therefore, the Government has approved the release of funds to the extent of Rs.

800 crores in tranches of Rs. 400 crores in a month in the form of equity. Accordingly, an amount of Rs. 800 crores has been released in February and March, 2010.

A provision of Rs. 1200 crores has been made in the current financial year, the release of which is expected to happen this year. The equity induction would ease the cash flow situation of the company and preclude borrowing from the markets at high costs to this extent.

Meanwhile the company has seen an increase in load factor from 62% to 67% and also passenger yield from Rs. 2.92 to Rs. 3.30 RPKM. This has resulted in an increased Passenger and cargo revenue of Rs. 1,189 crores.

The company has undertaken several cost reduction measures with active support from the Government.

Security Measures

Keeping in view the security scenario and enhanced civil aviation activities, four regional offices of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has been created at Guwahati, Amritsar, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad airport in addition to the existing Regional offices at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

The Anti-Hijacking (Amendment) Bill, 2010

With a view to enhance the punishment, for the offences of hijack of aircrafts and also for the conspirators, to death penalty, the amendment is proposed in the Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982. The final Bill has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 19 August, 2010. The Bill has now been

2G spectrum scam, over a year after the agency registered a case in this connection.

47-year-old Raja appeared before the agency at 1030 this morning after he was summoned by the CBI under Section 160 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Raja, who had earlier expressed his inability to appear before the agency, is likely to be questioned at length on the circumstances leading to spectrum allocation which has been criticised severely by the Central Vigilance Commission and the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

Raja was forced to resign last month in the wake of a controversy over his role in the spectrum allocation. He is likely to be questioned on the issue of advancing dates for allocation of spectrum and on the role of his relatives in some of the companies which allegedly acted as a front for certain telecom firms which got spectrum between September 2007 and January 2008.

Raja got the telecom portfolio on May 18, 2007 and again got re-elected as a Member of the 15th Lok Sabha and continued as Telecom Minister from May 31, 2009 till 14th November, this year when he tendered his resignation.

The former Minister, who flew to Delhi on Wednesday night from Chennai, had told reporters that he would cooperate with the CBI in the probe.

The Supreme Court has asked the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate to submit status reports on their investigations into the 2G case to it by 10th February, when the case will come up for further hearing. The CAG in its report to Parliament had said that the allocation of 2G spectrum at undervalued prices had resulted in the loss of Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the exchequer.

The CBI in its FIR had mentioned the loss as Rs 22,000 crore based on the findings of CVC which had referred the case to it.

Niira Radia

Radia, who was questioned for four hours, came under the scanner after her taped telephonic conversations with various influential people including industrialists, politicians and journalists became public. The CBI has also questioned former Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) chief Pradip Bajjal, a 1966 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, in connection with the case.

The premises of Raja, Bajjal and Radia were searched by the CBI earlier this month.

SC bans sale of gutkha

The Supreme Court has ordered a ban on the sale of tobacco products like gutkha and pan masala in plastic pouches from March 2011, while asking the govt to conduct a survey on the ill effects of these products within eight weeks. A bench of justices G S Singhvi and A K Ganguly on Tuesday also asked the manufacturers to explore and decide by March next year on the alternative material for packaging them. The bench issued the directions while brushing aside the pleas of some of the gutkha manufacturers who feared that such a direction could lead to closure of thousands of gutkha and pan masala manufacturing units.

Cigarettes, which are generally sold in paper packs, are out of the ambit of this ban. While asking the government to conduct a survey on the ill effects of these tobacco products, the bench also asked it to examine the effects of packaging these products in

referred to the Ministry of Law.

Mangalore Crash - IX 812 of Air India Express operating from Dubai to Mangalore was involved in an unfortunate accident on 22nd May 2010. There were 160 passengers and 6 crew members on Board. There were only 8 survivors. A Court of Enquiry headed by Air Marshal (Retd.) B.N. Gokhale was set up. The Court has submitted its report which is under examination.

Airports

Phase-I of the Modernization of Delhi Airport was completed on 31 March 2010, at an estimated project cost of Rs. 12258 crores. A new integrated Terminal-3 has become operational which has 34 million passengers handling capacity per annum.

The major development works completed Modernization of Mumbai Airport during 201010 are South-West pier, integrated processor terminal, Baggage Handling System (BHS) in the new domestic terminal, six Passenger Boarding Bridges (PBBs) in the new domestic terminal.

Under the Policy for Greenfield Airports the Government, during the year had accorded "in-principle" approval for setting up of a Greenfield airport at Dabra (Madhya Pradesh), Palladi (Rajasthan), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), Kushi Nager (Uttar Pradesh).

Airports Authority of India (AAI) Airports Authority of India registered an all time high revenues of Rs. 4,615 Crores, which was 10% more than the previous year. Similarly, capital expenditure incurred on infrastructure works at various airports rose from Rs. 2547.52 crores to Rs. 2,742.54 crores.

New Terminal Buildings have been commissioned at Varanasi, Barapani (Shillong), Madurai, Mysore and Ahmedabad airports. Existing terminal buildings have been upgraded/ modernized at

plastics pouches over human health.

The bench recorded an undertaking from Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam that the government would get the required survey done by the National Institute of Public Health on the harmful effects of gutkha, pan masala and other tobacco products and also the adverse effects, if any, of the plastic pouches used for packaging the material.

The bench also directed the Centre to finalise and enforce within eight weeks the Plastic Management and Disposal Rules 2009. It rued that despite the rules having been framed in 2009, the authorities are yet to enforce them.

The bench passed the direction while adjudicating a petition by a civil society, which has approached the apex court challenging the alleged unbridled sale of gutkha and pan masala material in the country, seriously impinging upon public health.

India to overtake China GDP in 2013

India will overtake China's GDP growth between 2013-2015. Global investment firm Morgan Stanley has said in a report that it is likely that India and China will achieve growth rates of close to 9 per cent by 2012. India's GDP growth is inching closer to China's and it is estimated to be 8.5 per cent in 2010.

Morgan Stanley's Chief Economist for China Qing Wang said China's growth will move towards 8 per cent by 2015. The report says India's growth will accelerate to a sustainable 9-10 per cent by 2013-15, outpacing China's growth. India is expected to remain the highest growth economy among large countries over the next 20-25 years.

Centre starts centralised monitoring system for trial run of new communication traffic tracker

India has begun tests of its indigenously built centralised monitoring system (CMS), which can track all communication traffic — wireless and fixed line, satellite, internet, emails and voice over internet protocol (VoIP) calls — and gather intelligence inputs. The ministries of defence, law, finance, home, telecommunications and IT will soon seek Cabinet approval for implementing this system across the country. Planning for CMS, which was aimed at strengthening the country's internal security apparatus, began in 2007 but the project was put on a fast track after the Mumbai attacks, when the terrorists received orders via VoIP (internet telephony).

The centralised system aims to be a one-stop solution against the current practice of running several decentralised monitoring agencies under various ministries, where each one has contrasting processing systems, technology platforms and clearance levels. This CMS is modelled on similar setups in several Western countries — for instance, in the US, the National Security Agency monitors all communication traffic while in the UK, this is undertaken by the Government Communications Headquarters. The CMS is also considered as India's equivalent of UK's upcoming Interception Modernisation Programme (IMP) — a massive expansion of its current communications surveillance facilities for the internet age.

Pune, airport. Runways/ Taxiways have been extended / expanded at Varanasi, Ranchi, Guwahati, Bhopal, Gondia, Ludhiana, Cuddappah and Coimbatore airports. Upto November 2010 progress of work for modernization and development at Chennai and Kolkata Airports has been 66% and 46%. Work on the construction of new Greenfield Airports at Pakyong in Sikkim is in progress.

- o For the implementation of the GAGAN project of satellite based navigation, site acceptance test for Indian reference stations has been completed at Goa, Jaiselmer, Porbander and work is in progress at Dibrugarh, Nagpur and Bhubaneswar.
- o A dedicated Air Cargo Complex facility at Veer Savarkar Airport, Port Blair has been operationalised.
- o A new Joint Venture Company under the name "Chandigarh International Airport Limited" has been set up to undertake the construction of a new International Terminal Building at Chandigarh Airport.

Setting up of International airport at Navi Mumbai.

After getting the environmental clearance in November this year, the development of the Greenfield airport at Navi Mumbai will get underway. It is projected to have sufficient capacity to handle the additional traffic around Mumbai, which is expected to go upto about 80 mppa by 2031-32

Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. (PHHL) In 2009-10 the Company achieved record revenue hours of 29,890 as compared to 27,050 in 2008-09. During 2009-10 the net profit after tax was Rs.35.59 crores as against Rs.25.12 crores in 2008-09. An MOU has been signed with Andaman & Nicobar Administration for introduction of Sea Plane Operation in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Sea

At present, the country's monitoring system works as follows. With no centralised system in place, officers of the Vigilance Telecom Monitoring (VTM) cells of the DoT assist the different security agencies which monitor mobile, fixed, satellite and internet services offered by both private and government companies. The VTM cells also act as the technical interface between telecom service providers and security agencies.

Penalty on telecom Service Providers

Amendments were issued in December, 2009 in the Licence Agreements of all telecom service providers for security related concerns. As per these amendments, the Licensee(s) have to apply to the Licensor for security clearance, along with the details of equipment(s) as well as details of equipment(s) suppliers and manufacturers including Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM), before placement of the final purchase order for procurement/ upgradation of equipment/software for provisioning of telecommunications services under the licence and that it shall also include any such activity by the franchisee, agents or person of that licensees. In addition, Licensee is required to submit a self certification with Licensor (DoT) that the equipment/ software proposed for procurement/ upgradation is free from black boxes, malware, trapdoor and remote/ hidden attack through computerised command and control and adequate steps and mechanisms for adequate security against any subversive activity by company/ manufacturer/ vendors involved in the supply chain have been taken and are in place. If the Licensor/ Government of India at later stage, after security audit of the above said equipment/ software procured by them for use in their network for providing licensed services, finds that the self certification as above is incorrect, then they agree to accept a penalty of upto Rupees Fifty Crore as per Licence Agreement for each such procurement. In such an event, on hearing from Licensor/ GoI, they shall immediately uninstall and remove the equipments/ software from the network for providing licensed services and follow any other direction from the Licensor/ Government of India in this regard in the interest of National Security.

Recently, amendments in the Unified Access Services (UAS)/ Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS)/ Basic Services License Agreements and template of agreement between telecom service provider and vendor of equipment/ software/ services has been issued on 28-07-2010 in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs, to addresses the security concerns in procurement of equipment from foreign vendors. Accordingly, in the event, any security breach is detected at later stage after deployment/ installation of equipment as a result of security audit or in any other manner, the relevant equipment supplied by the vendor shall be taken out of service and penalty of Rs. Fifty crore for each Purchase Order shall be imposed on the Licensee. In addition, a penalty of 100% of contract value shall be levied by the Licensor on the licensee.

New Election Commissioner of India

A 1975 IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, Brahma (60), who hails from Assam, is a former Union Power Secretary. "The President is pleased to appoint Shri Harishankar Brahma as the Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India with effect from the date he assumes the Office," said a notification issued by the Law Ministry.

Plane operation for the first time in India will commence from 27 December, 2010. PHHL has completed and operationalised two projects of heliport /heli pad in October, 2010 — one at Akshardham and the other at Rohini, both in Delhi. DGCA has also allowed PHHL to utilize the facilities at Gliding Center at Hadapsar to set up a Heliport and helicopter training institute.

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA): - The Akademi this year, has inducted 14 Single engine DA 40 Aircraft and one twin engine DA 42 aircraft and installed two Flight Simulators. The Akademi has 14 flying instructors and has flown 14934 hrs during 2010. So far this year, 62 cadets have completed their flying and 114 trainees have been inducted. Campus selection team from Air India and Jet Airways visited Akademi in Aug/Sept. and December, 2010 for induction of trainee pilots.

India Aviation 2010 - a Civil Aviation air show, was held for the second time at Begampet Airport, Hyderabad in March 2010. The next edition would be held from 14-18, March 2012.

An independent audit by FAA under IASA program confirmed India to be a role model in the Asia Region in the Civil Aviation. The Ministry of Civil Aviation was awarded on 1 December, 2010 the "KPMG — Infrastructure Today Award" for being the most admired Central Entity in the transport sector.

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