

DEVELOP INDIA

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English Weekly

Year 3, Vol. 1, Issue 125, 26, December, 2010 - 2 January, 2011

Allahabad

Sunday

Pages 8

Rs.- 10/-

World in 2010

JANUARY

- January 1 – Spain takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from Sweden.
- January 1 – A suicide bombing occurs at a volleyball game in northwestern Pakistan, killing at least 95, and injuring over 100.
- January 4 – The tallest man-made structure to date, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is officially opened.
- January 8 – The Togo national football team is involved in an attack in Angola, and as a result withdraws from the Africa Cup of Nations.
- January 12 – A 7.0-magnitude earthquake occurs in Haiti, devastating the nation's capital, Port-au-Prince. With a confirmed death toll over 230,000, it is one of the deadliest on record.
- January 15 – The longest annular solar eclipse of the 3rd millennium occurs.
- January 25 – Ethiopian Airlines Flight 409 crashes into the Mediterranean Sea shortly after take-off from Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport, killing all 90 people on-board.

FEBRUARY

- February 3 – The sculpture L'Homme qui marche I by Alberto Giacometti sells in London for £65 million (US\$103.7 million), setting a new world record for a work of art sold at auction.
- February 12–28 – The 2010 Winter Olympics are held in Vancouver and Whistler, Canada.
- February 18 – The President of Niger, Tandja Mamadou, is overthrown after a group of soldiers storms the presidential palace and form a ruling junta, the Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy headed by chef d'escadron Salou Djibo.
- February 27 – An 8.8-magnitude earthquake occurs in Chile, triggering a tsunami over the Pacific and killing 497. The earthquake is one of the largest in recorded history.

MARCH

- March 16 – The Kasubi Tombs, Uganda's only cultural World Heritage Site, are destroyed by fire.
- March 23 – The ROKS Cheonan, a South Korean Navy ship carrying 104 personnel, sinks off the country's west coast, killing 46. In May, an independent investigation blames North Korea, which denies the allegations.

APRIL

- April 7 – Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev flees Bishkek amid fierce rioting, sparking a sociopolitical crisis. Former foreign minister Roza Otunbayeva is placed at the head of an interim government as the opposition seizes control.
- April 10 – The President of Poland, Lech Kaczyński, is among 96 killed when their airplane crashes in western Russia.
- April 13 – A 6.9-magnitude earthquake occurs in Qinghai, China, killing at least 2,000 and injuring more than 10,000.
- April 14 – Volcanic ash from one of several eruptions beneath Eyjafjallajökull, an ice cap in Iceland, begins to disrupt air traffic across northern and western Europe.
- April 20 – The Deepwater Horizon oil platform explodes in the Gulf of Mexico, killing eleven workers. The resulting oil spill, one of the largest in history, spreads for several months, damaging the waters and the United States coastline,

and prompting international debate and doubt about the practice and procedures of offshore drilling.

- April 27 – Standard & Poor's downgrades Greece's sovereign credit rating to junk four days after the activation of a €45-billion EU-IMF bailout, triggering the decline of stock markets worldwide and of the Euro's value, and furthering a European sovereign debt crisis.

MAY

- May 2 – The Eurozone and the International Monetary Fund agree to a €110 billion bailout package for Greece. The package involves sharp Greek austerity measures.
- May 4 – Nude, Green Leaves and Bust by Pablo Picasso sells in New York for US\$106.5 million, setting another new world record for a work of art sold at auction.
- May 7 – Scientists conducting the Neanderthal genome project announce that they have sequenced enough of the Neanderthal genome to suggest that Neanderthals and humans may have interbred.
- May 12 – Afriqiyah Airways Flight 771 crashes at runway at Tripoli International Airport in Libya, killing 103 of the 104 people on board.
- May 19 – Protests in Bangkok, Thailand ends with a bloody military crackdown, killing 91 and more than 2,100 injured.
- May 20 – Scientists announce that they have created a functional synthetic genome.
- May 20 – Five paintings worth €100 million are stolen from the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris.
- May 22 – Air India Express Flight 812 overshoots the runway at Mangalore International Airport in India, killing 158 and leaving 8 survivors.
- May 31 – Nine activists are killed in a clash with soldiers when Israeli Navy forces raid and capture a flotilla of ships attempting to break the Gaza blockade.

JUNE

- June 9 – Ethnic riots in Kyrgyzstan between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks results in the deaths of hundreds.
- June 11 – July 11 – The 2010 FIFA World Cup is held in South Africa, and is won by Spain.

JULY

- July 1 – Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from Spain.
- July 8 – The first 24-hour flight by a solar powered plane is completed by the Solar Impulse.
- July 25 – Wikileaks, an online publisher of anonymous, covert, and classified material, leaks to the public over 90,000 internal reports about the United States-led involvement in the War in Afghanistan from 2004 to 2010.
- July 29 – Heavy monsoon rains begin to cause widespread flooding (pictured) in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. Over 1,600 are killed, and more than one million are displaced by the floods.

AUGUST

- August 10 – The World Health Organization declares the H1N1 influenza pandemic over, saying worldwide flu activity has returned to typical seasonal patterns.

SEPTEMBER

- September 28 – Seven people are reported to have been killed and around 100 are missing after a landslide in Oaxaca, Mexico.

OCTOBER

- October 10 – The Netherlands Antilles are dissolved, with the islands being split up and given a new constitutional status.
- October 13 – Thirty-three miners near Copiapó, Chile, trapped 700 metres underground in a mining accident in San José Mine, are brought back to the surface after surviving for a record 69 days.
- October 22 – The International Space Station surpasses the record for the longest continuous human occupation of space, having been continuously inhabited since November 2, 2000 (3641 days).
- October 23 – In preparation for the Seoul summit, finance ministers of the G-20 agree to reform the International Monetary Fund and shift 6% of the voting shares to developing nations and countries with emerging markets.
- October 25 – An earthquake and consequent tsunami off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, kills over 400 people and leave hundreds missing.
- October 26 – ongoing – Repeated eruptions of Mount Merapi in Central Java, Indonesia, have killed at least 240 people and forced hundreds of thousands of residents to evacuate.

NOVEMBER

- November 4 – Aero Caribbean Flight 883 crashes in central Cuba, killing all 68 people on board.
- November 11–12 – The G-20 summit is held in Seoul, South Korea. Korea becomes the first non-G8 nation to host a G-20 leaders summit.
- November 13 – Burmese opposition politician Aung San Suu Kyi is released from her house arrest.
- November 17 – Researchers at CERN trap 38 antihydrogen atoms for a sixth of a second, marking the first time in history that humans have trapped antimatter.
- November 20 – Participants of the 2010 NATO Lisbon summit issued the Lisbon Summit Declaration.
- November 21 – Eurozone countries agree to a rescue package for the Republic of Ireland from the European Financial Stability Facility in response to the country's financial crisis.
- November 22 – A stampede during Bon Om Thook (Khmer Water Festival) celebrations in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, kills 347.
- November 23 – North Korea shells Yeonpyeong Island, prompting a military response by South Korea. The incident caused an escalation of tension on the Korean Peninsula and prompted widespread international condemnation. The United Nations declared it to be one of the most serious incidents since the end of the Korean War.

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● November 28 – WikiLeaks releases a collection of more than 250,000 American diplomatic cables, including 100,000 marked 'secret' or 'confidential'.

● November 29 – The European Union agree to an €85 billion rescue deal for Ireland from the European Financial Stability Facility, the International Monetary Fund and bilateral loans from the United Kingdom, Denmark and Sweden.

● November 29 – December 10 – The 2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference was held in Cancún, Mexico. Also referred to as the 16th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 16), it served too as the 6th meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 6).

DECEMBER

● December 2 – NASA announces the discovery of a new arsenic-based life form in California.

● December 21 – The first total lunar eclipse to occur on the day of the northern winter solstice/southern summer solstice since 1638, takes place.

Deaths

JANUARY



Jean Simmons



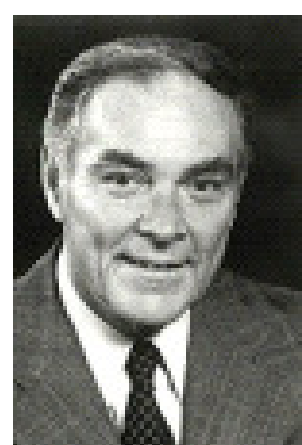
J. D. Salinger

- January 4 – Johan Ferrier, 1st President of Suriname (born 1910)
- January 4 – Tsutomu Yamaguchi, Japanese dual atomic bomb survivor (born 1916)
- January 9 – Armand Razafindratandra, Malagasy cardinal (born 1925)
- January 11 – Miep Gies, Dutch humanitarian (born 1909)
- January 11 – Éric Rohmer, French film director (born 1920)

- January 12 – Zilda Arns, Brazilian pediatrician and aid worker (born 1934)
- January 13 – Teddy Pendergrass, American R&B and soul singer (born 1950)
- January 15 – Marshall Warren Nirenberg, American biologist and Nobel Prize laureate (born 1927)
- January 17 – Jyoti Basu, Indian politician (born 1914)
- January 17 – Erich Segal, American author, screenwriter, and educator (born 1937)

- January 18 – Kate McGarrigle, Canadian folk singer (born 1946)
- January 19 – Panajot Pano, Albanian footballer (born 1939)
- January 22 – Iskandar of Johor, 8th King of Malaysia (born 1932)
- January 22 – Jean Simmons, British actress (born 1929)
- January 25 – Ali Hassan al-Majid, Iraqi politician and military commander (born 1941)
- January 27 – Zelda Rubinstein, American actress and human rights activist (born 1933)
- January 27 – J. D. Salinger, American author (born 1919)
- January 27 – Howard Zinn, American historian (born 1922)

FEBRUARY



Alexander Haig

- February 1 – Steingrímur Hermannsson, 19th Prime Minister of Iceland (born 1928)
- February 6 – John Dankworth, British jazz musician and composer (born 1927)
- February 7 – André Kolingba, 4th President of the Central African Republic (born 1936)
- February 10 – Charlie Wilson, American politician (born 1933)
- February 11 – Alexander McQueen, British fashion designer (born 1969)
- February 14 – Dick

- Francis, British author and jockey (born 1920)
- February 17 – Kathryn Grayson, American singer (born 1922)
- February 18 – Ariel Ramírez, Argentine composer (born 1921)
- February 20 – Alexander Haig, 59th United States Secretary of State (born 1924)

MARCH



Robert Culp

- March 3 – Michael Foot, British politician (born 1913)
- March 4 – Vladislav Ardzinba, Soviet-born politician (born 1945)
- March 10 – Corey Haim, Canadian actor (born 1971)
- March 10 – Muhammad Sayyid Tantawy, Egyptian Muslim cleric (born 1928)
- March 12 – Miguel Delibes, Spanish author and journalist (born 1920)
- March 14 – Peter Graves, American actor (born 1926)
- March 20 – Girija Prasad Koirala, Nepalese politician (born 1925)
- March 21 – Wolfgang Wagner, German festival director (born 1919)
- March 22 – James Black, British pharmacologist and Nobel Prize laureate (born 1924)
- March 22 – Valentina Tolkunova, Soviet and Russian singer (born 1946)
- March 24 – Robert Culp, American actor, screenwriter and director (born 1930)
- March 27 – Vasily Smyslov, Soviet-Russian chess grandmaster (born 1921)
- March 28 – Herb Ellis, American jazz guitarist (born 1921)
- March 28 – June Havoc, Canadian-born American actress (born 1912)
- March 30 – Martin Sandberger, German army officer (born 1911)

APRIL



Lech Kaczyński



Juan Antonio Samaranch

- April 1 – John Forsythe, American actor (born 1918)
- April 3 – Eugene

- Terre'Blanche, South African politician and white supremacist (born 1941)
- April 5 – Vitali Sevastyanov, Soviet cosmonaut (born 1935)
- April 6 – Corin Redgrave, British actor and political activist (born 1939)
- April 8 – Malcolm McLaren, British musician and manager (born 1946)
- April 8 – Abel Muzorewa, Zimbabwean politician (born 1925)
- April 10 – Ryszard Kaczorowski, Polish statesman (born 1919)
- April 10 – Lech Kaczyński, President of Poland (born 1949)
- April 14 – Peter Steele, American musician (born 1962)
- April 16 – Tomáš Špidlík, Czech cardinal (born 1919)
- April 19 – Guru, American rapper (born 1966)
- April 21 – Juan Antonio Samaranch, Spanish sports official (born 1920)
- April 25 – Alan Sillitoe, British writer (born 1928)
- April 30 – Paul Mayer, German cardinal (born 1911)

MAY



Lena Horne



Dennis Hopper

- May 2 – Lynn Redgrave, British actress (born 1943)
- May 4 – Luigi Poggi, Italian cardinal (born 1917)
- May 5 – Giulietta Simionato, Italian opera singer (born 1910)
- May 5 – Umaru Yar'Adua, President of Nigeria (born 1951)
- May 8 – Andor Lilienthal, Hungarian chess grandmaster (born 1911)
- May 9 – Lena Horne, American singer and actress (born 1917)
- May 10 – Frank Frazetta, American artist (born 1928)
- May 16 – Ronnie James Dio, American musician (born 1942)
- May 16 – Oswaldo López Arellano, Honduran two-time former president (born 1921)
- May 16 – Hank Jones, American pianist (born 1918)
- May 17 – Bobbejaan Schoepen, Belgian singer (born 1925)
- May 17 – Khattiya Sawasdiapol, Thai army general (born 1951)
- May 17 – Yvonne Loriod, French pianist (born 1924)
- May 18 – Edoardo Sanguineti, Italian writer (born 1930)
- May 22 – Martin Gardner,

- American science author (born 1914)
- May 24 – Paul Gray, American musician (born 1972)
- May 28 – Gary Coleman, American actor (born 1968)
- May 29 – Dennis Hopper, American actor and film director (born 1936)
- May 31 – Louise Bourgeois, French-born American sculptor (born 1911)

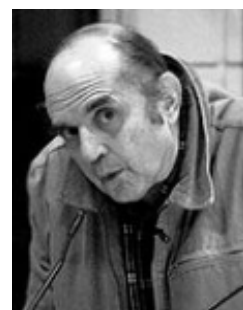
JUNE



Andrey Voznesensky

- June 1 – Andrey Voznesensky, Soviet-Russian poet (born 1933)
- June 2 – Giuseppe Taddei, Italian baritone (born 1916)
- June 3 – Vladimir Arnold, Soviet-Russian mathematician (born 1937)
- June 3 – Rue McClanahan, American actress (born 1934)
- June 9 – Marina Semyonova, Russian ballerina (born 1908)
- June 10 – Sigmar Polke, German painter and photographer (born 1941)
- June 14 – Leonid Kizim, Soviet-Ukrainian cosmonaut (born 1941)
- June 16 – Ronald Neame, British cinematographer, producer and director (born 1911)
- June 18 – Marcel Bigeard, French military officer (born 1916)
- June 18 – José Saramago, Portuguese writer and Nobel Prize laureate (born 1922)
- June 19 – Manute Bol, Sudanese basketball player (born 1962)
- June 23 – Mohammed Mzali, former Prime Minister of Tunisia (born 1925)
- June 26 – Algirdas Brazauskas, 9th President of Lithuania (born 1932)
- June 28 – Robert Byrd, American politician (born 1917)

JULY



Harvey Pekar

- July 2 – Beryl Bainbridge, British novelist (born 1934)
- July 3 – Abu Daoud, Palestinian militia commander (born 1937)
- July 4 – Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, Lebanese spiritual leader (born 1935)
- July 5 – Cesare Siepi, Italian opera singer (born 1923)
- July 5 – Nasr Abu Zayd, Egyptian Qur'anic theologian

(born 1943)

- July 12 – Harvey Pekar, American comic book writer (born 1939)
- July 14 – Charles Mackerras, Australian conductor (born 1925)
- July 17 – Bernard Giraudeau, French actor and film director (born 1947)
- July 21 – Luis Corvalán, Chilean politician (born 1916)
- July 24 – Alex Higgins, Northern Irish snooker player (born 1949)

AUGUST



Patricia Neal



Francisco Varallo

- August 5 – Godfrey Binaisa, 5th President of Uganda (born 1920)
- August 6 – Tony Judt, British historian (born 1948)
- August 7 – Bruno Cremer, French actor (born 1929)
- August 8 – Patricia Neal, American actress (born 1926)
- August 9 – Ted Stevens, American politician (born 1923)
- August 10 – Antonio Pettigrew, American athlete (born 1967)
- August 12 – Guido de Marco, 6th President of Malta (born 1931)
- August 16 – Nicola Cabibbo, French physicist (born 1935)
- August 17 – Francesco Cossiga, 63rd Prime Minister and 8th President of Italy (born 1928)
- August 18 – Carlos Hugo of Bourbon-Parma, Spanish aristocrat (born 1930)
- August 22 – Stjepan Bobek, Yugoslav footballer (born 1923)
- August 23 – Satoshi Kon, Japanese anime film director (born 1963)
- August 26 – Raimon Panikkar, Spanish theologian (born 1918)
- August 27 – Anton Geesink, Dutch judoka (born 1934)
- August 28 – Sinan Hasani, 10th President of Yugoslavia (born 1922)
- August 30 – Alain Corneau, French filmmaker (born 1943)
- August 30 – Francisco Varallo, Argentine footballer (born 1910)
- August 31 – Laurent Fignon, French road bicycle racer (born 1960)

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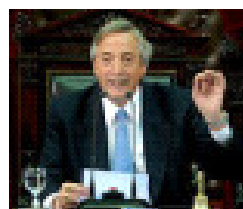
SEPTEMBER

- September 9 – Bent Larsen, Danish chess grandmaster (born 1935)
- September 11 – Kevin McCarthy, American actor (born 1914)
- September 12 – Claude Chabrol, French film director (born 1930)
- September 22 – Eddie Fisher, American entertainer and singer (born 1928)
- September 24 – Gennady Yanayev, Soviet politician (born 1937)
- September 26 – Gloria Stuart, American actress (born 1910)
- September 28 – Arthur Penn, American film director (born 1922)
- September 29 – Georges Charpak, French physicist (born 1924)
- September 29 – Tony Curtis, American actor (born 1925)
- September 30 – Stephen J. Cannell, American writer and television producer (born 1941)

OCTOBER



Benoît Mandelbrot



Nestor Kirchner

- October 4 – Norman Wisdom, British actor and comedian (born 1915)
- October 7 – Milka Planinc, former Prime Minister of Yugoslavia (born 1924)
- October 10 – Solomon Burke, American soul musician (born 1940)
- October 10 – Hwang Jang-yop, North Korean politician and defector (born 1923)
- October 11 – Joan Sutherland, Australian opera singer (born 1926)
- October 14 – Benoît Mandelbrot, French-American mathematician (born 1924)
- October 19 – Tom Bosley, American actor (born 1927)
- October 20 – Farooq Leghari, 9th President of Pakistan (born 1940)
- October 23 – David Thompson, 6th Prime Minister of Barbados (born 1961)
- October 25 – Gregory Issacs, Jamaican musician (born 1951)
- October 27 – Néstor Kirchner, 54th President of Argentina (born 1950)
- October 28 – Jonathan Motzfeldt, 1st Prime Minister of Greenland (born 1938)
- October 30 – Harry Mulisch, Dutch writer (born 1927)

NOVEMBER



Leslie Nielsen

- November 2 – Rudolf Barshai, Soviet-Russian conductor and violist (born 1924)
- November 3 – Viktor Chernomyrdin, 31st Prime Minister of Russia (born 1938)
- November 5 – Jill Clayburgh, American actress (born 1944)
- November 5 – Hajo Herrmann, German fighter pilot and lawyer (born 1913)
- November 11 – Dino De Laurentiis, Italian film producer (born 1919)
- November 12 – Henryk Górecki, Polish composer (born 1933)
- November 13 – Luis García Berlanga, Spanish film director (born 1921)
- November 28 – Leslie Nielsen, Canadian-American actor (born 1926)
- November 29 – Bella Akhmadulina, Soviet-Russian poet (born 1937)

DECEMBER

- December 12 – Tom Walkinshaw, British racing car driver and team owner (born 1946)
- December 13 – Richard Holbrooke, American diplomat (born 1941)
- December 15 – Blake Edwards, American film director (born 1922)
- December 17 – Captain Beefheart, American musician (born 1941)
- December 21 – Enzo Bearzot, Italian footballer and coach (born 1927)
- December 25 – Carlos Andrés Pérez, Two times President of Venezuela (born 1922)

Awards

Nobel Prizes, 2010



- Chemistry – Richard F. Heck, Ei-ichi Negishi and Akira Suzuki
- Economics – Peter A. Diamond, Dale T. Mortensen and Christopher A. Pissarides
- Literature – Mario Vargas Llosa
- Peace – Liu Xiaobo
- Physics – Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov
- Physiology or Medicine – Robert G. Edwards ●●●

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INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS, 2010

Facing Threats, U.S., U.K. Embassies Close in Yemen (Jan. 3): The United States and the United Kingdom have closed their embassies in the country of Yemen due to ongoing security threats from the terrorist group alQaeda. Military and intelligence organizations in Yemen had information about plans to attack Western groups in the capital; military action prevented the threatened attack, however. The suicide bomber on the Christmas Day flight to Detroit has been tied to the terrorist organization in Yemen.

7.0-Magnitude Earthquake Devastates Port-au-Prince, Haiti (Jan. 12): The beleaguered country of Haiti is dealt a catastrophic blow when a magnitude 7.0 earthquake strikes 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, the country's capital. It is the region's worst earthquake in 200 years. The quake levels many sections of the city, destroying government buildings, foreign aid offices, and countless slums. **(Jan. 13):** Assessing the scope of the devastation, Prime Minister Préval says, "Parliament has collapsed. The tax office has collapsed. Schools have collapsed. Hospitals have collapsed." He calls the death toll "unimaginable," and expects fatalities to near 100,000. The United Nations mission in Haiti is destroyed, 16 members of the UN peacekeeping force in Haiti are killed, and hundreds of UN employees are missing. **(Jan. 14):** International aid begins pouring in, and the scope of the damage caused by the quake highlights the urgent need to improve Haiti's crumbling infrastructure and lift it out of endemic poverty—the country is the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. **(Jan. 19):** Though the dead are going uncounted and unidentified in Haiti while authorities attempt to bury those killed during the earthquake and its aftermath, experts estimate a staggering death toll of 200,000 people.

Aide to Saddam Hussein "Chemical Ali" Executed in Iraq (Jan. 25): Ali Hassan al-Majid, cousin of and former aid to Saddam Hussein, is executed in Iraq for his role in the poison-gas attack of the village of Halabja, where 5,000 Kurds were killed. Nicknamed "Chemical Ali", al-Majid is part of the group of leaders responsible for the deaths of approximately 180,000 Kurds in the Iraq-Iran War.

7.0-Magnitude Earthquake Devastates Port-au-Prince, Haiti (Jan. 12): The beleaguered country of Haiti is dealt a catastrophic blow when a magnitude 7.0 earthquake strikes 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, the country's capital. It is the region's worst earthquake in 200 years. The quake levels many sections of the city, destroying government buildings, foreign aid offices, and countless slums. **(Jan. 13):** Assessing the scope of the devastation, Prime Minister Préval says, "Parliament has collapsed. The tax office has collapsed. Schools have collapsed. Hospitals have collapsed." He calls the death toll "unimaginable," and expects fatalities to near 100,000. The United Nations mission in Haiti is destroyed, 16 members of the UN peacekeeping force in Haiti are killed, and hundreds of UN employees are missing. **(Jan. 14):** International aid begins pouring in, and the scope of the damage caused by the quake highlights the urgent need to improve Haiti's crumbling infrastructure and lift it out of endemic poverty—the country is the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. **(Jan. 19):** Though the dead are going uncounted and unidentified in Haiti while authorities attempt to bury those killed during the earthquake and its aftermath, experts estimate a staggering death toll of 200,000 people.

Three American Soldiers Killed in Pakistan (Feb. 3): Three American soldiers, along with four Pakistanis, are killed in a suicide bombing attack in Pakistan. Members of the Taliban are responsible for the blast. While Pakistan is officially an ally to the United States, Pakistan does not allow American combat forces in the country. However, a Special Operations team of 60–100 American soldiers is currently in Pakistan to train the paramilitary Frontier Corps in counterinsurgency techniques. **(Feb. 4):** Pakistan officials arrest 35 people who they suspect were involved in the suicide bombing that killed 3 American soldiers.

Olympic Luger from Republic of Georgia Dies in Training Crash (Feb. 12): A luger from the Republic of Georgia, Nodar Kumaritashvili, dies tragically in a crash during training for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada. Just hours before the Opening Ceremony, Kumaritashvili lost control of his sled while traveling at 90 miles per hour on the Whistler Sliding Centre track. The safety of the track, built in 2007, has been called into question recently because of the sheer speed at which the athletes are able to travel.

Multi-Country Offensive Launched in Afghanistan (Feb. 12): Thousands of American, Afghan, and British troops storm the city of Marja, Afghanistan in an attempt to destroy the Taliban's latest haven. The attack by the 6,000 troops is the biggest offensive in the country since the United States invaded Afghanistan in 2001. **(Feb. 14):** A U.S. rocket strike that went awry kills at least 10 civilians in the Helmand prov-

ince. Five children were among those killed.

Taliban's Top Commander Captured (Feb. 15): The Taliban's top military commander, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, is captured in Karachi, Pakistan in a secret joint operation by the American and Pakistani intelligence forces. American officials claim that Barader is the most significant human capture since the in Afghanistan began in 2001. **(Feb. 18):** Two senior Taliban leaders are arrested in Pakistan. Afghan officials are calling the two men "shadow governors" in two provinces of the country. Their arrest, along with the capture of Barader, severely hamper the Taliban leadership and their presence in Pakistan.

NATO Airstrike in Afghanistan Kills 27 Civilians (Feb. 22): An airstrike launched by the United States Special Forces in Kabul, Afghanistan, targeted at insurgents, accidentally kills 27 Afghan civilians. President Hamid Karzai condemns the killings.

Violence Mars Election in Iraq (Mar. 7): Explosions marked general election day in Iraq, where two bombs killed at least 38 people. Iraq's election commission reports that 62% of Iraqis voted in the election, though that number drops to just 53% in Baghdad, where the violence occurred. Final results are not expected for several weeks, but preliminary figures put the State of Law alliance, led by Prime Minister Maliki, and the Iraqi National Movement, headed by former prime minister Ayad Allawi, in a close race ahead of the other candidates. Election officials said none of the alliances will emerge with a clear majority, forcing the winner to assemble a broad coalition to form a government. The glacial pace of the vote count was attributed to a painstaking process intended to reduce the risk of election fraud. **(Mar. 29):** Final results of the election give the Iraqi National Movement, led by former prime minister Ayad Allawi, 91 seats in Parliament out of 325. The State of Law alliance, headed by Prime Minister Maliki comes in a close second with 89 seats. A Shia religious movement, including followers of radical cleric Moktada al-Sadr, wins 70. The two main Kurdish parties together receive 43 seats. Maliki refuses to accept the results and says he will challenge them in court.

U.S. Defense Department Contracted Killers in Middle East (Mar. 14): A Defense Department official set up a network of contractors to track and kill militants in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The official, Michael Furlong, hired contractors from private companies that employ former CIA operatives and had them track suspected militants in the Middle East. They were then told whether or not those militants should be killed.

U.S., Russia Have Breakthrough in Arms Negotiations (Mar. 24): The United States and Russia report a breakthrough in arms control negotiations. Both countries agree to lower the limit on deployed strategic warheads and launchers by 25% and 50%, respectively, and will also implement a new inspection regime. President Obama and President Medvedev will sign in a treaty that outlines this agreement. A signing ceremony is planned for April 8 in Prague.

Female Suicide Bombers Kill 39 in Russian Subway Stations (Mar. 29): Two female suicide bombers, acting just minutes apart, detonate bombs in two Moscow subway stations, killing at least 39 people. This is the first terrorist attack in the capital city since 2004, when Moscow experienced a string of deadly violence. Authorities attribute the attacks to the mostly Muslim north Caucasus region. Doku Umarov, a former Chechen separatist and the self-proclaimed emir of the north Caucasus, claims responsibility for masterminding the attack. **(Mar. 31):** Two explosions kill 12 people in the north Caucasus region of Dagestan. The attacks prompt concern that Prime Minister Putin will crack down on civil liberties and democracy as he did in 2004, following the siege of a school in Beslan.

34 Rescued from Chinese Mine (Apr. 4): Rescue crew free 34 people trapped in a flooded coal mine in China, where they have been trapped since March 28. After the flood, 108 miners were immediately rescued, but the remainder of the workers, 153 total, remained trapped underground. All those freed remain in stable condition.

Militants in Pakistan Attack U.S. Consulate (Apr. 5): Militants launch an assault on the United States Consulate in Pakistan. Six Pakistanis are killed and 20 are wounded; no Americans are harmed. At least five suicide bombers mounted the attack, though they were unable to reach the inner area of the compound. Azam Tariq, a spokesperson for the Pakistani Taliban, claims responsibility for the attack, saying they were acting in retaliation to American missile strikes and Pakistani military operations in the area.

Kyrgyzstan President Forced to Flea Amid Protests (Apr. 7) President Bakiyev fleas Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan amid deadly protests and demonstrations, and former foreign minis-

Year 3, Vol. 1, Issue 125, 26, December, 2010 - 2 January, 2011

ter Roza Otunbayeva, acting as the leader of the opposition, assumes power as acting president. Government troops and demonstrators are battling in the streets, and nearly 70 people are killed and more than 400 wounded. Demonstrations over sharp increases in utility prices broke out in the city of Talas and promptly spread to the capital of Bishkek, where protesters are also rallying against government corruption. Bakiyev refuses to resign despite Otunbayeva's support. Obama administration officials express concern that the upheaval may affect the deal United States and Kyrgyzstan made in 2009 over use of the Manas air base. Otunbayeva, however, says the supply route would remain in operation for the time being.

Russia, U.S. Sign Nuclear Arms Pact (Apr. 8): The United States and Russia usher in a supposedly new era in nuclear arms control after President Obama and President Medvedev sign an arms reduction treaty and agree to act in a united fashion against the threat of Iran's nuclear program. The pact, called the New Start, has each country promise to scale back on their nuclear arsenals.

Thailand Prime Minister Abhisit Offers to Hold Early Elections (May 3): Prime Minister of Thailand, Vejjajiva Abhisit, offers to hold early elections—one of the key demands of protesters loyal to former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, called red shirts, who have been rioting since April—if the protesters called off their demonstrations, but they reject the gesture. Abhisit withdraws his offer and orders troops to blockade the protest area. **(May 13):** What started as a peaceful protest disintegrates into violence; the military fires upon the protesters and hits Khattiya Sawatdiphol, a general who sided with the red shirts. He later dies of his injuries. His death sparks further violence, and the protesters retaliated with grenade attacks. **(May 17):** The red shirts then offer to negotiate with the government, but are rebuffed. They then engage in large-scale rioting, looting, and the firebombing of several buildings, including Thailand's stock exchange and largest department store. The government cracks down on the movement **(May 19):** Rioters disperse, and protest leaders surrender. They will face terrorism charges. In the 68 days of the protests, 68 people died. The red shirts bore the brunt of most of the casualties.

Picasso Painting Sells for Record-Setting \$106.5 Million (May 5): A Picasso painting sells for a record-breaking \$106.5 million at a Christie's auction. The painting, "Nude, Green Leaves and Bust," depicts Picasso's mistress and was painted in just one day in 1932. It was being sold by the estate of philanthropist Frances Lasker Brody.

Prime Minister Brown Announces Imminent Resignation (May 10): British Prime Minister Gordon Brown announces he will resign as the head of his Labour Party by September. The country's general election produced a hung Parliament—none of the competing parties won enough votes—last week, and Brown announces his commitment to negotiate a new government before he leaves office. **(May 11):** Brown formally resigns as prime minister after acknowledging that his Labour Party will be unable to form a majority in Parliament. He recommends Conservative Party leader David Cameron as his successor; consequently, Cameron creates a coalition government with the ideologically opposed Liberal Democrats and becomes the prime minister of the United Kingdom. The leader of the Liberal Democrats, Nick Clegg, will become deputy prime minister. This is the first coalition government in the U.K. since World War II.

U.S. Forms Agreement with Russia, China, and Others on Sanctions for Iran (May 19): The United States and major world powers Russia, China, and others agree to impose a fourth set of sanctions on Iran's nuclear program, in an attempt to stop the country from enriching uranium. The agreement is revealed shortly after Iran announces its own deal with Turkey and Brazil to relinquish half of the country's stockpile of nuclear fuel for a year. None of the three previous sets of sanctions had any effect on Iran's program to enrich uranium nor its willingness to fully disclose actions to international inspectors.

Israeli Attack on Pro-Palestinian Aid Flotilla (May 31): Nine people are dead after an Israeli navy commando attacks a flotilla of cargo ships and passenger boats on their way to Gaza to provide aid and supplies for the area. Israel claims that the passengers on the flotilla, who were pro-Palestinians and mostly Turks, presented themselves as humanitarians but were clearly hostile.

Al Qaeda Leader in Afghanistan Killed in American Strike (May 31): The top financial chief and co-founder of Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, is killed in an American drone attack in Pakistan. American intelligence officials say he was the third highest leader in the organization, behind Osama Bin Laden and his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri.

Prime Minister of Japan Announces Resignation (June 1): Just nine months into his term as Prime Minister of Japan, Yukio Hatoyama announces his resignation from office. His countrymen reportedly find him an indecisive and ineffective ruler and have been clamoring for him to quit. He will be the fourth prime minister to leave in just four years.

U.N. Security Council Passes Sanctions Against Iran

(June 9): The United Nations Security Council passes another set of sanctions against Iran's nuclear program, in hopes that they can stop Iran's production of nuclear fuel. President Obama strongly supported the sanctions, though only 12 of the 15 members of the council voted in favor of passing it.

U.S. Finds \$1 Trillion in Untapped Mineral Deposits in Afghanistan (June 13): The United States finds more than \$1 trillion in mineral resources in the mountains of Afghanistan, far more than expected or previously estimated. The findings, which include previously unknown deposits of iron, copper, gold, and lithium, could drastically improve the country's economy and fundamentally change the outcome of the war there.

Ethnic Fighting in Kyrgyzstan Reaches Horrific Level (June 17): Street fighting between ethnic Kyrgyz and minority Uzbeks escalated in the city of Osh, Kyrgyzstan, leaving at least 200 people dead. Thousands of people are displaced after Uzbek neighborhoods are torched, and approximately 100,000 people have crossed the border into Uzbekistan, forcing that country's government to close its borders. **(June 24):** The death toll in the ethnic fighting in Kyrgyzstan rises to 2,000, yet the cause of the original skirmish remains unknown. Many of those who fled the country have begun to return.

Graeme McDowell Wins Golf's U.S. Open (June 20): In a surprise victory, Graeme McDowell wins golf's U.S. Open at Pebble Beach Golf Links in California, beating second place Frenchman Gregory Havret by just one stroke. McDowell, from Northern Ireland, is the first European to win the tournament since 1970.

Serena Williams Wins Women's Wimbledon Title (July 3): American tennis champ Serena Williams dominates the women's Wimbledon final with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Vera Zvonareva of Russia. This win gives Williams her 13th Grand Slam title. **(July 4):** Spain's Rafael Nadal wins the men's Wimbledon title in a 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 set against Czech opponent Tomas Berdych. The win marks Nadal's eighth major title win.

U.S., Russia Swap Imprisoned Spies in Trade Agreement (July 9): After discovering and imprisoning 10 Russian spies masquerading as civilians in the United States, the U.S. and Russia agree to and implement a swap of the captured spies. The Russian government traded four Russians who were purportedly spying for the U.S. or another Western country.

Spain Beats Netherlands 1-0 to Win World Cup (July 11): After four weeks and 64 games, the 32 countries who entered the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa were whittled down to just two; the final game, between Spain and the Netherlands, went into overtime after a scoreless game. Spain finally scored in the 129th minute, winning the game and the World Cup title.

Coordinated Bombings Kill 70 in Uganda (July 11): The Shabab, an Islamic insurgent group from Somalia, claim responsibility for the coordinated bombings that kill at least 70 people in a crowd of soccer fans in Uganda.

Stampede During German Parade Kills 21, Wounds 500 (July 24): Twenty-one people are killed and 500 more wounded during a stampede at a German music festival, dubbed the Love Parade. While attempting to enter the festival, the large crowd crushed into an underpass, suffocating and trampling the victims of the tragedy. Prosecutors are investigating whether the event managers' negligence caused the stampede and subsequent deaths.

Alberto Contador Wins the Tour de France (July 25): Alberto Contador wins the Tour de France, his third title in the world's most prestigious cycling race, and his second in a row.

Russia Bans Grain Export in Response to Drought, Wildfires (Aug. 5): Russian president Valdimir Putin bans the export of grains from his country, citing the widespread drought and wildfires that are crippling Russia. They are suffering from the country's worst heat wave in 130 years. Putin claims that the damage to their crops has increased food prices in Russia dramatically. **(Aug. 6):** At least 52 people have been killed in the more than 800 wildfires that have swept across Russia.

Suicide Bomber Kills At Least 48 in Attack on Iraqi Army (Aug. 17): A suicide bomber blows himself up at an Iraqi Army recruiting office, killing at least 48 army recruits and soldiers, and wounding 120 others.

State Department Increasing Civilian Presence in Iraq (Aug. 18): The U.S. State Department announces that it will increase the presence of civilian contractors in 2011 as the military prepares to leave the country. Contractors will be responsible for training Iraqi police and preventing confrontations between the Iraqi Army and civilian groups.

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U.S. Grenade May Have Killed British Aid Worker (Oct. 11): British aid worker Linda Norgrove, who was kidnapped by the Taliban while she was working in Afghanistan for an American aid organization, may have been killed during an American rescue raid, and not by a suicide bomb detonated by her captors, as was previously believed. British Prime Minister David Cameron announces the possibility that her death was an accident caused by a U.S. grenade, after learning of an investigation into the matter lead by General David Petraeus, top NATO commander in Afghanistan.

Talks to End Afghan War Between Karzai, Taliban Leaders (Oct. 19): Leading members of the Taliban in Afghanistan – members of the Quetta shura – and President Karzai and his advisors, meet to discuss the end of the nine-year war in Afghanistan. The Taliban leaders, whose identities are kept secret in order to prevent rival Taliban leaders from harming or killing them, were lead to the meetings from their safe havens in Pakistan by NATO troops.

Mass Protests in France Over Retirement Reform (Oct. 19): A one-day strike over the French government's pension reform plan turned into widespread protests, gas shortages, blockaded roads, closed schools, and violence in France. President Sarkozy and his government are proposing raising the legal minimum requirement age from 60 to 62, which resulted in the demonstrations of millions of French citizens.

Suspicious Packages on Airplane Bound for U.S. Contain Explosives (Oct. 29): President Obama confirms that the suspicious packages found on an airplane originating in Yemen and bound for the United States contained explosive materials. Saudi intelligence officials tipped the U.S. government about the packages, resulting in a brief terrorism scare across the country. No additional explosive were found.

Church Attack in Baghdad Kills 58 (Oct. 31): An Al Qaeda-affiliated massacre at a church in Baghdad leaves 58 dead and scores more wounded. This is the largest attack on Iraqi Christians since the war in Iraq began in 2003. Gunmen took over 100 hostages in the church before killing most with two suicide bombs.

Obama Backs India for Permanent U.N. Security Council Seat (Nov. 8) President Obama, breaking with tradition, announces support of India for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. A closer relationship between the United States and India should reduce some of the power of rapidly growing China. The governments of China and Pakistan, both countries with strained relationships with India and close ties with the United States, respond with concern over the growing relationship.

Irish Prime Minister Dissolving Government After 2011 Budget Approval (Nov. 22): Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen announces he will dissolve his government and hold a new election after the 2011 budget passes. This announcement comes just one day after the Irish government requested a \$100 billion bailout package from the European Union and IMF to help save its flailing economy.

North Korean Military Attacks South Korean Island, Killing 4 (Nov. 23): The military of North Korea unexpected attacks the island of Yeonpyeong in South Korea, killing two civilians and two marines. Eighteen others are wounded. This is the first time North Korea has fired on a civilian target since the suspension of the Korean War in 1953.

Russia, Qatar Win World Cup Bids for 2018, 2022 (Dec. 2): Russia wins its bid as host for the 2018 World Cup, while Qatar secures the host duties for the international soccer tournament in 2022. The United States, in particular, was disappointed by the announcement; the country was hoping to host the World Cup in 2022. Qatar will be the first Middle Eastern country to the tournament; Russia has never had the privilege either.

WikiLeaks Founder Arrested in Sweden for Alleged Sex Offenses (Dec. 7): Julian Assange, the Australian-born co-founder of WikiLeaks, is arrested in England on a Swedish warrant in connection to accusations made in August: two women in Sweden accused him of sexual assault. He is denied bail by a London court. **(Dec. 8):** Hundreds of Internet activists attack several businesses seen as "enemies" of WikiLeaks, in response to Assange's imprisonment. Amazon.com, Paypal.com, and the MasterCard website are among those attacked with an onslaught of web traffic. **(Dec. 14):** Assange is released on \$310,000 bail, but remains in British custody temporarily. He faces possible extradition to Sweden for his alleged sexual assaults on two women.

Pakistan's Initiative against Terrorism

Pakistan has been the victim of international terrorism in the past few months. As a result of this, a top US official

West African country Ivory Coast prepare for genocide

Chitra Singh Rajput

Côte d'Ivoire's ambassador to the United Nations, Youssoufou Bamba, says the country is on the "brink of genocide". Political unrest following Ivory Coast's disputed presidential election has brought the West African country to the "brink of genocide", its new ambassador to the United Nations said.

World leaders have stepped up pressure on incumbent leader Laurent Gbagbo to quit in favour of Alassane Ouattara, widely recognised as having won the vote. Youssoufou Bamba, appointed as ambassador to the United Nations by Ouattara, described him as the rightful ruler of Ivory Coast.

"He has been elected in a free, fair, transparent, democratic election. The result has been proclaimed by the independent electoral commission, certified by the U.N.," Bamba told a news conference on Wednesday. "To me the debate is over, now you are talking about how and when Mr. Gbagbo will leave office," Bamba said. He said there had been a "massive violation of human rights", with more than 170 people killed during street demonstrations in Ivory Coast.

"Thus, one of the messages I try to get across during the conversations I have conducted so far, is to tell we are on the brink of genocide. Something should be done," Bamba told journalists. Bamba said he planned to meet every member of the United Nations Security Council.

"I intend to meet all the 15 members. I will meet all of them to explain to them the gravity of the situation ... We expect the United Nations to be credible and the United Nations to prevent violation and to prevent the election to be stolen from the people," Bamba said.

The November 28 election was meant to reunite Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa growing nation, after a 2002-3 civil war. But the dispute over the results has provoked lethal street clashes and threatens to restart open conflict.

The U.N. General Assembly last week recognised Ouattara as Ivory Coast's legitimate president by unanimously deciding that the list of diplomats he submitted to the world body be recognized as the sole official representatives of Ivory Coast at the United Nations.

THREAT OF FORCE
West African regional bloc ECOWAS has threatened to use force to oust Gbagbo if he does not leave quietly, and rebels still running the north after the civil war have said they would join any intervention.

"We will fight alongside the ECOWAS force to remove Laurent Gbagbo from power," said spokesman Affouy Bamba by telephone on Thursday. "We are awaiting

ECOWAS' decision."

A delegation of three West African heads of state will return to Ivory Coast next week in an effort to persuade Gbagbo, president since 2000, to cede power to Ouattara or risk facing "legitimate force".

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, chair of ECOWAS, said a decision would be made after the talks and added that he hoped for a peaceful outcome.

A military official told journalists in Nigeria's capital Abuja on Thursday that ECOWAS defence chiefs were meeting in Nigeria's defence headquarters to map out strategies in the event Gbagbo refused to cede power.

The United States and European Union have slapped sanctions on Gbagbo and his inner circle, while the World Bank and the West African regional central bank have cut his financing in an attempt to weaken his grip on power.

Some 16,000 Ivoirians have fled the country for Liberia, and the U.N. is preparing for the number to nearly double. The turmoil has pushed cocoa futures to four-month highs amid fears it could eventually disrupt exports. Ivory Coast's Eurobond hit a record low last week on concern that the country would not meet a nearly \$30 million bond payment due on December 31.

Gbagbo has shown no sign of giving in to the pressure and has accused former colonial power France of orchestrating an international plot alongside the United States to remove him from power. The French government dismissed the allegations as groundless. Business and traffic in Ivory Coast's main city Abidjan was near normal on Thursday.

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, also commonly known in English as Ivory Coast is a country in West Africa. It has an area of 322,462 km², and borders the countries of Liberia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana; its southern boundary is along the Gulf of Guinea.

Background for Genocide
In the early hours of September 19, 2002, while the President was in Italy, there was an armed uprising.

Troops who were to be demobilised mutinied, launching attacks in several cities. The battle for the main gendarmerie barracks in Abidjan lasted until mid-morning, but by lunchtime the government forces had secured the main city, Abidjan. They had lost control of the north of the country, and the rebel forces made their strong-hold in the northern city of Bouake. The rebels threatened to move on Abidjan again and France deployed troops from its base in the country to stop any rebel advance. The French said they were protecting their own citizens from danger, but their deployment also aided the government forces. It was not established

as a fact that the French were helping either side but each side accused them of being on the opposite side. It is disputed as to whether the French actions improved or worsened the situation in the long term.

What exactly happened that night is disputed. The government said that former president Robert Guéï had led a coup attempt, and state TV showed pictures of his dead body in the street; counter-claims said that he and fifteen others had been murdered at his home and his body had been moved to the streets to incriminate him. Alassane Ouattara took refuge in the French embassy; his home burned down.

President Gbagbo cut short his trip to Italy and on his return stated, in a television address, that some of the rebels were hiding in the shanty towns where foreign migrant workers lived. Gendarmes and vigilantes bulldozed and burned homes by the thousands, attacking the residents.

An early ceasefire with the rebels, who had the backing of much of the northern populace, proved short-lived, and fighting over the prime cocoa-growing areas resumed. France sent in troops to maintain the cease-fire boundaries, and militias, including warlords and fighters from Liberia and Sierra Leone, took advantage of the crisis to seize parts of the west.

2002 unity government
In January 2003, Gbagbo and rebel leaders signed accords creating a "government of national unity". Curfews were lifted and French troops patrolled the western border of the country. Since then, the unity government has proven unstable and the central problems remain with neither side achieving its goals. In March 2004, 120 people were killed in an opposition rally, and subsequent mob violence led to foreign nationals being evacuated. A later report concluded the killings were planned.

Though UN peacekeepers were deployed to maintain a Zone of Confidence, relations between Gbagbo and the opposition continued to deteriorate.

Early in November 2004, after the peace agreement had effectively collapsed following the rebels' refusal to disarm, Gbagbo ordered airstrikes against the rebels. During one of these airstrikes in Bouaké, on November 6, 2004, French soldiers were hit and nine were killed; the Ivorian government has said it was a mistake, but the French have claimed it was deliberate. They responded by destroying most Ivorian military aircraft (2 Su-25 planes and 5 helicopters), and violent retaliatory riots against the French broke out in Abidjan.

Gbagbo's original mandate as president expired on October 30, 2005, but due to the lack of disarmament it

was deemed impossible to hold an election, and therefore his term in office was extended for a maximum of one year, according to a plan worked out by the African Union; this plan was endorsed by the United Nations Security Council. With the late October deadline approaching in 2006, it was regarded as very unlikely that the election would be held by that point, and the opposition and the rebels rejected the possibility of another term extension for Gbagbo. The U. N. Security Council endorsed another one-year extension of Gbagbo's term on November 1, 2006; however, the resolution provided for the strengthening of Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny's powers. Gbagbo said the next day that elements of the resolution deemed to be constitutional violations would not be applied.

A peace accord between the government and the rebels, or New Forces, was signed on March 4, 2007, and subsequently Guillaume Soro, leader of the New Forces, became prime minister. These events have been seen by some observers as substantially strengthening Gbagbo's position.

2010 election
The presidential elections that should have been organized in 2005 were postponed until November 2010. The preliminary results announced by the Electoral Commission showed a loss for Gbagbo in favour of his rival, former prime minister Alassane Ouattara. The ruling FPI contested the results before the Constitutional Council, charging massive fraud in the northern departments controlled by the rebels of the Forces Nouvelles de Côte d'Ivoire (FNCI). These charges were contradicted by international observers. The report of the results led to severe tension and violent incidents. The Constitutional Council, which consists of Gbagbo supporters, declared the results of seven northern departments unlawful and that Gbagbo had won the elections with 51% of the vote (instead of Ouattara winning with 54%, as reported by the Electoral Commission). After the inauguration of Gbagbo, Ouattara, recognized as the winner by most countries and the United Nations, organized an alternative inauguration. These events raised fears of a resurgence of the civil war; thousands of refugees have fled the country. The African Union sent Thabo Mbeki, former President of South Africa, to mediate the conflict. The U.N. Security Council adopted a common resolution recognising Alassane Ouattara as winner of the elections, based on the position of ECOWAS (Economic Community of West Africa States). ECOWAS suspended Côte d'Ivoire from all its decision-making bodies while the African Union also suspended the country's membership.

Editorial

DEVELOP INDIA

Year 3, Vol. 1, Issue 125, 26, December, 2010 - 2 January, 2011

Estonia joins euro club

Estonia, one of the Baltic republics of the former Soviet Union adopts the euro as its official currency, becoming the 17th country to do so. Estonia joined the euro zone as its newest member on Saturday, but the currency club's deepening crisis is likely to put off bigger eastern European entrants from joining for up to a decade.

The small Baltic state of 1.3 million became the 17th euro zone country at midnight, beginning a switch from the kroon, and was the first former Soviet state to adopt the euro. Prime Minister Andrus Ansip was the first to take euros out of a specially installed cash machine outside a theater where a ball had been held to celebrate the switchover and the New Year. "It is a small step for the euro zone and a big step for Estonia," he said, holding the euro notes.

Estonia sees changing to the euro as marking the end of its struggles since a 2009 recession lopped 14 percent off its output. It hopes to entice investors by removing any fears of devaluation and make borrowing more secure for its people, many of whose mortgages are already in euros.

It also caps a drive for integration with the West, away from the influence of Russia, that began with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. With a similar history, neighbors Latvia and Lithuania hope to adopt the euro in 2014 and have also had their currencies pegged to the euro for years. However, the attitude to euro adoption is more skeptical in Poland, Hungary and other eastern European EU states. These countries have all promised to join the euro zone one day but want to see how the debt problems of Ireland, Greece, Spain and Portugal are solved.

They also fear that losing the flexibility of their exchange rates will make them less competitive and less able to withstand financial ructions. The debt crisis has also undermined the idea that being a euro zone member guarantees lower borrowing costs. Polish central bank governor Marek Belka, who has said there more risks in the euro zone than out of it, repeated his skepticism to tabloid newspaper Super Express. He said Poland would join when there was "order" in the euro zone. "In the euro zone there are dramatic things happening, so why rush?" he said. Czech Prime Minister Petr Necas has said the euro would not be to the country's advantage for a long time.

The eurozone officially the euro area, is an economic and monetary union (EMU) of 17 European Union (EU) member states which have adopted the euro currency as their sole legal tender. It currently consists of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. Seven (not including Sweden, which has a *de facto* opt out) other states are obliged to join the zone once they fulfill the strict entry criteria.

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recently said that Islamabad should begin to crack down on terrorists and terrorist groups operational within the country immediately. Barrack Obama, President of the United States of America has also agreed to this statement and feels that Pakistan has been one of the major victims of international terrorism lately. President Obama also said that Pakistan needs to take strong and immediate steps against all terrorist groups operating on Pakistani soil. Furthermore, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Robert Blake said that a number of terrorist groups are operating in a syndicate and working together against American interests, not just in the US but in other nations such as Afghanistan and India as well. Mr. Blake also stated that the US has welcomed every step take by Pakistan so far and that it is in full support of Pakistan as always.

UN's terrorism sanctions list

In a recent and sudden move, a US committee took down several names of al-Qaida and Taliban terrorists off its terrorism sanction lists. The committee said that the reason for such an action was that several of the names on the sanctions list were probably dead. The committee Chairman Thomas Mayr Harting said that following this step, the committee had started investigations into how many terrorists put on the list were actually dead. This committee was set up in 1999.

New Government in Iraq

Prolonged warring and quarrels between rival political factions in Iraq had caused over an eight month deadlock over the issue of forming the next government. Recently, the Iraqi Prime Minister appealed to these political factions to work together and unite following his acceptance of the President's request to form the next government. Senior officials admitted that a Herculean task now lay before them, that of forming a government comprising of members of all possible political factions. The task has been made harder by the month long deadline to form the government which will preside over the country's affair as US troops move out and power is handed back to the Iraqi people. The new government is expected to have members from all the political factions such as the Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis. Prime Minister Designate al-Maliki called upon al Iraqi citizens and politicians to help him in this difficult task.

Friendly neighbor China

Rising concerns over China's assertive and aggressive attitude in the Asian continent has prompted China's President Hu Jintao to assure all nations that China is committed to being a friendly and helpful neighbor. China has been in the news recently over its spats with neighboring nations over international borders and territories. The reason for this has been said to be China's interests in a group of potentially resource rich islands in the Asian Pacific. Speaking to leaders at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Japan, President Hu said that China was committed to the regional policy of building good neighborliness and friendship.

Rolls Royce sued by Qantas

Australian flight safety officials have recently warned that manufacturing defects have been found in the Rolls Royce Trent 900 engines. Officials further urged airlines using these engines to carry extensive checks before using them because defects present in them could lead to catastrophic failures. In the meanwhile, Qantas began court proceedings against Rolls Royce and was granted an injunction by the federal court of Australia which ensured that the airline could pursue legal action against the engine manufacturing giants.

Myanmar polls called fake

The first democratic polls in Myanmar after several years of military rule were held among complaints of threats, intimidation and accusations of the polls being a charade. In most constituencies, the poll was a competition between the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and the National Unity Party (NUS). Several accusations were made by opposition parties against the USDP, claiming that they illegally collected advanced ballots. USA and UK officials also voiced their concerns about the transparency and fairness of these polls.

China's slowest growth

China had its slowest rate of economic growth in a year during the September quarter. In addition to this, a World Bank report hinted at a further decrease in its economic growth. One of the reasons for this has been the long term inflation that China has faced for almost two years. China's industrial growth has also fallen considerably in recent times. This slow growth in China's economy has gotten many people to believe that India might be the next economic superpower to rise because of its high levels of industrial and economic growth in recent times. Though not immediately, but experts predicted India's rate of growth to exceed that of China's by a considerable margin in the next five years.

National Current Affairs 2010

Sensex drops 458 points

The Bombay Stock Exchange recently fell by a total of 458 points. The reasons for the underperformance of the In-

dian Equity market have been said to be the series of scams that were unearthed from mid November. Just last month, CBI officials discovered a bribe for loan scandal that involved several officials from financial firms and a few state run banks. The 10.8% rise in industrial growth since last month could not help and several indices ended with huge losses. Major loses were mainly suffered by PSUs, realty, consumer durables and healthcare.

Satyam Trial Case

The examination of the first witness in the infamous multi crore Satyam Computer accounting scam would begin from the first of November Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court. CBI officials submitted a list of six witnesses to the courts who were officials of a number of different banks. All ten accused including company founder B Ramalinga Raju were present in court during the hearing of the case. The DIG of police who operates under the department of CBI said that the agency requested permission to set up LCD projectors and screens in the court so that both parties could observe and take notes on all the documents that would be brought up in court. Since cases in the Supreme Court need to be resolved at the earliest, CBI officials submitted close to a thousand documents to the court to speed up the prosecution. The bail of the owner of company and the other 5 individuals associated has been rejected.

Baba Ramdev Temple under threat

An anonymous letter was received at the Ramdev Baba temple in Jaisalmer that contained threats to blow up the temple on November 9th. District Collector G S Kushwaha received this letter by normal post. Following this letter security around the temple and the surrounding complex was tightened by posting additional number of policeman around the temple complex. Around 5 million devotees are said to visit the temple every year.

Ashok Chavan's fate

Disgraced Chief Minister of Maharashtra Ashok Chauhan's would be decided after the Diwali holiday season, i.e. after November 8th said the Congress party. Recently Chief Minister Ashok Chauhan's name had come in the Adarsh Housing Society scam. Following this allegation, Mr. Ashok Chauhan immediately offered to resign from his post. No mention of either the Adarsh Housing Society scam or the commonwealth Games fiasco was made by the Congress in its AICC session. Also present at the meeting were Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dixit, Common Wealth Games Organizing Committee Chairperson Suresh Kalmadi, Heavy Industries Minister and former Maharashtra chief minister Vilasrao Deshmukh and Maharashtra PCC President Manikrao Thakre.

Adjournment of Ajmer Dargah blast case

The hearing of the Ajmer Gargah blast case was recently adjourned to November 8 by a sessions court due to leave taken by the presiding judge. Over an 800 page charge sheet was produced before the court of the Additional Chief Judge Magistrate on the 22nd of October by the Rajasthan ATS. The five accused in the case have alleged links with the radical Hindu group Abhinav Bharat. Only one accused was brought to the court while the other two are being questioned about the Hyderabad Mecca blast case. The accused have been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code like conspiracy to murder, attempt to murder and murder. Over one hundred and thirty witnesses have been cited by the prosecution of the case.

Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee's concern

The finance minister of the country Pranab Mukherjee recently raised his fears over the rising of inflation in the country. Minister Mukherjee said that the Reserve Bank of India would take steps at its next monetary policy review to check rising prices because of increased inflation. He further added that rising food prices were solely the reason for this sudden inflation. Inflation for the month of September was estimated to be close to 8.6% much above the acceptable rate of 5%. As said by Finance Minister Mukherjee, food prices had the highest amount of inflation which in Mid October was estimated to be over 13%. Recently, Minister Pranab Mukherjee was in talks with the Reserve Bank of India Governor over the the possible rate hike action by the Central Bank. The global financial crisis, which was worsened by the total collapse of financial firm Lehman Brothers, is being said to be the reason behind the RBI's recent reversal of its soft monetary policy that it started back in September 2008. Adding to these has been the sudden drop in industrial growth from 15.2% to 5.6%. To combat the aforementioned rise in inflation, the Reserve Bank of India has hiked its key short term lending and borrowing times several times this year.

Protest during Obama visit by Bhopal Gas tragedy victims

Victims of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy are said to be planning to stage a protest at Jantar Mantar on the 8th of November, during the time of US President Barrack Obama's visit to the capital. Several tonnes of the poisonous gas methyl iso-cyanide, leaked from the Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal in 1984, killing over 3000 people the same night and causing the deaths of over 25000 people over the subsequent years. Five different voluntary organizations working for the gas tragedy victims recently held a press conference where they stated that

they would be requesting to President Obama to use his Presidential powers to bring the Union Carbide Corporation to Indian Courts and be answerable to them. The verdict of this case many years back had found seven top officials of this corporation to be guilty but as these guilty persons were bailed out within minutes of the verdict, many people till date question the justice imparted in the case. The voluntary organizations further added that hundreds of people regularly fall sick and die every month due to the long term poisonous effects of the leaked gas on the soil and water. They further plan to ask President Obama for his help as the US government has been largely unhelpful these last few years. The sit in protest organized by the voluntary organizations is said to be comprised of over 5000 gas tragedy victims.

Sports Current Affairs 2010

Chelsea lose third match out of fourth

Birmingham City defeated Chelsea by a score of 1-0 at Birmingham City making this the third defeat to be suffered by Chelsea in the four matches that it has played so far. This win helped Manchester United to move up in the English Premier League rankings. Birmingham gained three points in the rankings thanks to the one and only winning goal scored by its player Lee Bowyer. Newcastle lost 5-1 to Bolton while West Ham lost 3-0 to Liverpool alongside Blackpool and Stoke who claimed their respective victories. In their game against Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea let slip past their initial lead of 2-0, to finally lose the game at a score of 3-2. The game was at a score of 2-0 till half time with Chelsea winning but a combination of lack of concentration in players and simple bad luck cost Chelsea the match.

Cricket in 2014 Asian Games

Rumors recently originated that cricket had been removed from the list of proposed sports and events of the 2014 Asian games. The reason for these rumors has been said to be the decision of the Olympic Committee of Asia to limit the number of sporting events in the Asian games to a maximum of 35. However, these fears proved out to be false as the OCA recently confirmed the inclusion of cricket in the list of sporting events for the Asian games 2014. For the time being cricket and karate have been confirmed as two out of the seven non Olympic events in these games while the other five are still to be decided. However, South Korean organizers are said to not be in support of this decision.

Nadal and Clijsters

Rafael Nadal continues to hold the top spot in the ATP rankings with his score being close to 11900 points while Roger Federer holds the spot of number two. On the other hand Kim Clijsters fell to the third position in the WTA rankings released recently followed by Serena Williams on the fourth position.

Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

Following his win in the Korean Grand Prix, third position in Brazil and third position in the qualifiers of the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Fernando Alonso of Ferrari looked like the possible winner. However the title slipped out of his hands, much to his surprise and landed into the hands of Vettel making him the youngest Formula One champion in the history of F1 racing aged just 23 years.

Persons in News 2010

Leslie Nielson passes away

Beloved actor Leslie Nielson best remember as bumbling police detective Lt. Frank Drebin of the Naked Gun series of movies, passed away recently aged 84 from complications arising as a result of Pneumonia. He was surrounded on his death bed y his loving wife, friends and long time agent. Leslie Nielson had over a 60 year long career in motion pictures which started back in the 1950s. He was initially cast as a leading man in serious movies such as The Forbidden Planet and Poseidon Adventure. The former flopped while the latter was a big success in its time. However, Nielson soon found his forte in comedy movies when he first acted in the 1980 comedy motion picture, Airplane. The movie was a huge hit and Nielson's popularity as a comedy actor soared. He then appeared in a number of comedy movies, the most famous of them being the Naked Gun series, all of which were big hits. Some of these were repossessed, Dracula- dead and loving it and Spy hard. Leslie was married thrice in his lifetime and has two daughters with his second wife.

I-phone versus Google Android

Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple Inc. recently praised the operating system on Google's smart phones. The operating system called Android was further praised by Mr. Wozniak who said that these phones had more features to offer as compared to the I-phone. He however, further added that while Google's smart phones offer people more number of choices, Apple I-phones on the other hand were much better in terms of quality.



India in 2010

January

- January 2 - First three Uttar Pradesh rail accidents: Three train accidents occur in Uttar Pradesh amid thick fog. Ten people died in the accidents and 45 others were injured.
- January 9 – 2009 attacks on Indian students in Australia: An Indian man is set on fire in Melbourne, Australia, in the latest in a series of attacks on Indian nationals in the country.
- January 16 - Forth Uttar Pradesh rail accident: two express trains collide in thick fog in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh. Three people died in the accident and around a dozen were injured.
- January 17 - Fifth Uttar Pradesh rail accidents: A car is hit by a train at an unmanned crossing in Barabanki district. Two persons whom were in the car were killed as a result and four others injured
- January 22 - Sixth Uttar Pradesh rail accidents: A goods train derailed near Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh on Friday, disrupting rail traffic in the region. No one was injured in the accident.
- January 25 – Environment ministers from the G4 bloc (IBSA Dialogue Forum & China) meet in New Delhi, India, to agree a common position ahead of future climate change talks
- January 30 – 12 people drown and least 20 others are missing after a boat accident in West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh in India.

February

- February 5 – The last native of India's Andaman Islands fluent in the Aka-Bo language dies, rendering the language extinct. (*Daily Mail*)
- February 8 – At least 17 Indian soldiers are killed in an avalanche in Kashmir.
- February 13 – 2010 Pune bombing: a bomb exploded at the German Bakery in the city of Pune in western India, killing 17 people and injuring at least 60 others. Two little known groups calling themselves the Laskhar-e-Taiba Al Alami and the Mujahideen Islami Muslim Front claimed they were behind the bomb attack. However, according to government agencies, the attack could have been part of a project by Lashkar-e-Taiba to use the Indian Mujahideen, called the 'Karachi project'. David Coleman Headley a Pakistani-American terror suspect has been accused of involvement in the project.
- February 15 – Silda camp attack: A Naxalite attack on an army camp in West Bengal kills 24 Indian soldiers, with many more reported missing.
- February 17 – 2010 Jalaun district bus crash: At least 22 people are killed in a bus crash in Northern India.

March

- March 3 – Three are killed in Indian Navy air show crash in Hyderabad, India.
- March 4 – 2010 Pratapgarh stampede: At least 63 people die after a stampede at a Hindu temple in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- March 12 – Russia signs a nuclear reactor deal with India which will see it build 16 nuclear reactors in India.
- March 23 – A fire tears through a combined residential and office building in Calcutta, India, killing 24 people, including two who leapt to their deaths.
- March 27 – India test fires two short range missiles, the Dhanush and Prithvi II.
- March 30 – Somali pirates hijack 8 Indian vessels abducting 120 sailors, biggest abduction count till date, off the coast of Kismayo.

April

- April 1 – The Indian government initiates The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act to provide free and compulsory education to all children aged between 6 and 14 years, making education a fundamental right for millions of children.
- April 1 – India launches its new 2011 biometric census, the largest census in the world.
- April 3 – At least 10 Indian security personnel are killed and

three injured when Maoist guerrillas blow up a police bus in Orissa's Koraput district.

- April 6 – 2010 Dantewada ambush: At least 70 Indian soldiers are killed in an attack by Naxalites in the Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh.
- April 13 – 2010 Eastern Indian storm: At least 140 people were killed in eastern India after a powerful storm demolished thousands of homes in West Bengal. (*BBC News*) Nearly 500,000 people were left homeless or otherwise affected by the storm.
- April 15 – The maiden flight of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk.II, India's first launch with an indigenous cryogenic upper stage, ends in failure, resulting in the loss of the GSAT-4 satellite.
- April 17 – Twin bombs injure eight people outside M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore ahead of an IPL-3 league game between the Royal Challengers Bangalore and the Mumbai Indians. A third device is located outside.
- April 27 – India arrests a woman working at its embassy in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad on charges of espionage.

May

- May 3 – Ajmal Kasab, the only surviving terrorist involved in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, is found guilty of murder, conspiracy, and waging war against India.
- May 6 – Ajmal Kasab, the only surviving member of a group responsible for the 2008 Mumbai attacks, is sentenced to death.
- May 7 – May 2010 Kashmir skirmishes: 5 insurgents and 2 soldiers die in a gunbattle between Islamic rebels and Indian security forces in Kashmir.
- May 7–9 – India International Light Fair & India International Sign Show in Mumbai.
- May 8 – Naxalite rebels blow up a bullet-proof vehicle of the Central Reserve Police Force in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh, India, killing seven officers.
- May 16 – Maoist guerillas kill six villagers in an alleged revenge attack in Chhattisgarh, India.
- May 17 – 2010 Dantewada bus bombing: Naxalite insurgents blow up a bus in India filled with police and para-militaries. Fatalities reports range from 31 to 44, including several Special Police Officers (SPOs) and civilians.
- May 19 – 2010 North Indian Ocean cyclone season: Cyclone Laila approaches landfall in southeastern India, having already caused at least ten deaths and prompting the evacuations of 10,000 people in Tamil Nadu.
- May 21 – A court restores the Indian Hockey Federation, two years after it was dissolved by the country's Olympic chiefs over bribery allegations and poor on-field results.
- May 21 – Six girls aged between eight and twelve years drown in the Rapti in Balrampur while bathing.
- May 22 – Air India Express Flight 812 overshoots the runway at Mangalore International Airport in India, killing 158 and leaving 8 survivors.
- May 23 – Clashes break out between Indian and Pakistani troops near the border in the disputed Kashmir region.
- May 28 – Gyaneshwari Express train derailment: At least 25 people are killed and 150 injured in India after a Mumbai train with 13 passenger coaches is derailed by an explosion on the tracks and collides with another train as it traveled through the Paschim Medinipur district, a rebel stronghold in eastern India.

June

- June 2 – 2010 Indian heatwave: A heatwave strikes India and South Asia, reaching 53C (127F) and killing many hundreds of people.
- June 7 – The Magistrate court in Bhopal, India convicts eight people, one posthumously, for their role in the Bhopal disaster industrial castastrophe 25 years ago in 1984.
- June 13 – A 7.5-magnitude earthquake west of India's Nicobar Islands causes tremors felt along India's eastern sea-board and triggers a tsunami watch, which is later cancelled.
- June 17 – Heavy rains claim 46 lives in Maharashtra, India.
- June 23 – 1 person is killed when a crane crashes at Chennai

International Airport, Chennai, India.

- June 25 – 17 people are killed and 25 others injured when an overcrowded bus collided head-on with a speeding truck near Chenaki More, about 30 km from Patna, India.
- June 26 – Four people are killed and five wounded in violence in Indian-administered Kashmir's Sopore area.
- June 29 – 2010 Maoist attack in Narayanpur: At least 26 policemen are killed in a Maoist attack in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh.

July

- July 5 – A nationwide strike takes place in India in protest at a recent rise in fuel prices.
- July 8 – A bomb rips through the engine and coach of a passenger train in Assam, India, killing one person.
- July 13 – One death and three injuries result from a stampede during pulling of Ratha Yatra chariots in Puri, India.
- July 13 – The Supreme Court of India tentatively approves the Tamil Nadu government's new quota law, providing 69% of employment in educational institutions to scheduled castes and tribes and other backward classes.
- July 14 – Senior Indian Army officer Major A. K. Thinge is killed in battle in Kashmir.
- July 19 – Two trains collide in the Birbhum district of West Bengal, India with at least 50 people feared dead.
- July 20 – Former Indian junior diplomat Madhuri Gupta is charged under the Official Secrets Act with spying for Pakistan.
- July 21 – Unidentified gunmen on motorcycles fatally shoot Indian civil rights campaigner and environmentalist Amit Jethwa in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- July 23 – The Indian government unveils a solar power touch-screen laptop, cheaper than America's iPad, expected to be on sale next year.

August

- August 1 – Six people die in the Indian province of Jammu and Kashmir after a third day of clashes between security forces and Kashmiri separatists.
- August 4 – About 70 Indian police personnel are reported missing in Chhattisgarh forests amid a major engagement with Maoist guerrillas; they are later found. No casualties have been reported.
- August 6 – 2010 Leh floods: Flash floods in the Ladakh region of India's Jammu and Kashmir state kill at least 113 people and leave lots of others missing.
- August 7 – Mumbai oil spill: An oil spill stretching at least two miles long occurs in the Arabian Sea offshore Mumbai, India, after a vessel from Panama collides with another vessel from St. Kitts. The Panamanian ship was carrying 2,662 tons of oil, 283 tons of diesel and 88,040 liters of lube oil when it became grounded and started to leak.
- August 12 – India issues the producer of the controversial Blackberry devices a 31 August deadline to give the Indian government access to its services or be shut down over concerns the devices could be used to commit a repeat of the 2008 Mumbai attacks.
- August 18 – A school building collapses due to heavy rain in the village of Sumgarh in the Indian state of Uttarakhand, killing at least 17 schoolchildren.
- August 27 – Police in India kill Umakanta Mahato, a top Maoist guerilla wanted in connection with the Gyaneshwari Express train derailment in May.

September

- September 10 – Thousands of people are evacuated in Delhi over flooding fears.
- September 20 – At least 21 people are killed and dozens are injured after 2 trains collide in the Shivpuri district of India's Madhya Pradesh state.
- September 23 – Speeding train kills 7 elephants in Eastern India.
- September 29 – India launches a national identity scheme aimed at reducing fraud and improving access to state benefits.

October

- 3 October - XIX Commonwealth Games, were held in Delhi, India, from 3 to 14 October 2010.
- 10 October – At least 36 people die after an overloaded boat capsizes on the Ganges River in the Buxar district of India’s Bihar state.
- 11 October – 18 people are killed when a bus falls into a river in Bulandshahr district, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- 25 October – More than 700 species of ancient insects are discovered preserved in amber in an ancient rainforest in India.
- 30 October – At least 16 people drown and 70 are missing after an overcrowded ferry sinks in a river in West Bengal, eastern India.

November

- 1 November – At least 74 people drown after a ferry-boat capsizes on the Muri Ganga River in West Bengal, India.
- 2 November – 17 people are killed and three others injured when a truck carrying them overturned at Tarapur talukav near Indranaj in India. The truck was on its way from Surat to Bhavnagar.
- 15 November – 66 people die after a building collapses in eastern New Delhi, India.
- 21 November – Seven people are killed after a bomb planted by suspected Maoist rebels explodes in Aurangabad district, Bihar, northeastern India.

December

- 5 December – 20-year-old Nicole Faria from Bangalore, Miss India, wins the Miss Earth 2010 crown in Vinpearl Land, Nha Trang, Vietnam.

Deaths

- 17 January - Jyoti Basu, 95, former Chief Minister of West Bengal (b. 1914)
- 2 February - Salim Ahmed Ghoush (stage name Cochin Haneeefa), 58, South Indian film actor and director (b. 1951)
- 10 February - Gireesh Puthenchery, 48, Malayalam lyricist and screenwriter (b. 1961)
- 18 February - Nirmal Pandey, 48, film and television actor (b. 1961)
- 23 April - Sreenath, 53, Malayalam film and television actor (b. 1956)
- 10 May - Mac Mohan, 71, character actor (b. 1938)
- 15 May - Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, 86, 11th Vice President of India (b. 1923)
- 24 May - Tapen Chatterjee, 72, Bengali film actor (b. 1937)
- 14 June - Manohar Malgonkar, 96, author in English (b. 1913)
- 17 June - Anjali Mendes, 64, fashion model (b. 1946)
- 25 June - Viveka Babajee, 37, model and actress (b. 1973)
- 2 July - M.G. Radhakrishnan, 69, Malayalam film music director and Carnatic vocalist (b. 1940)
- 23 July - A. Sreedhara Menon, 84, historian. (b. 1925)
- 27 July - Ravi Baswani, 63, actor (b. 1946)
- 1 August - K. M. Mathew, 93, newspaper editor (*Malayala Manorama*). (b. 1917)
- 10 August - Leo Pinto, 96, field hockey player, Olympic gold medalist (1948). (b. 1914)
- 13 August - Janaki Venkataraman, 89, First Lady (1987–1992) (b. 1921)
- 16 August - Narayan Gangaram Surve, 83, poet. (b. 1926)
- 27 August - Ravindra Kelekar, 85, author, poet and activist. (b. 1925)
- 5 September - Homi Sethna, 86, nuclear scientist and chemical engineer. (b. 1924)
- 8 September - Murali, 46, Tamil actor. (b. 1964)
- 9 September - Venu Nagavally, 61, actor, screenwriter, director in Malayalam film (b. 1949)
- 12 September - Swarnalatha, 37, playback singer. (b. 1973)
- 7 October - A. Venkatachalam, 55, Indian politician
- 8 October - S. S. Chandran, 69, Indian comic actor and politician, member of the Rajya Sabha (2001–2007)
- 20 October - Parthasarathy Sharma, 62, Indian Test cricketer (1974–1977)
- 21 October - A. Ayyappan, 61, Indian poet.
- 2 November - Kalim Sharafi, 85, Indian Bengali language singer.
- 3 November - P. Lal, 81, Indian writer.
- 6 November - Siddhartha Shankar Ray, 90, Indian politician, Chief Minister of West Bengal (1972–1977), Governor of Punjab (1986–1989)
- 17 November - N. Viswanathan, 81, Indian actor
- 26 November - Vithal Umap, 80, Indian folk artist
- 28 November - Mahaveer Prasad, 71, Indian politician
- 23 December - K. Karunakaran, 92, politician, former Chief Minister of Kerala. (b. 1918)

Happy New Decade

World ushers in the New Year as celebrations mark beginning of a new decade Enthusiastic Australians camped out at



parks alongside the Sydney Harbour Bridge to win the best view of Friday’s spectacular New Year’s Eve fireworks kicking off celebrations around the world. As the clock ticked closer to 2011, cities across Asia readied for midnight events ranging from traditional prayers in Japan to a massive pyrotechnic display in the shape of a dragon in Taiwan. Europeans were looking forward to celebrations that could help them forget their economic worries. In New York



City, nearly a million revelers were expected to cram into the streets around Times Square to watch the traditional midnight ball drop. The 20-inch snowstorm that blanketed the city will be just a memory thanks to work crews and warmer temperatures. At least 1.5 million people are expected to line the harbor in Sydney, the first major city where the new year arrives.

Celebrations begin with aerial displays by vintage aircraft and a parade of bont years, the Western influence has started seeping into Vietnamese culture with teens, who have no memory of war or poverty and are eager to find a new reason to party in the Communist country. In expected to come out for a bell-ringing and citizens striking the large bronze bell at midnight. Some South Koreans also Saturday to watch the first sunrise of wan, fireworks will form a spiraling scraper. Some 50 dancers will beat to underscore how people should live Year’s Eve is generally spent at home to temples to pray for good luck in the



dhist temple in central Tokyo, thousands were expected to release balloons at midnight carrying notes with their hopes for 2011. In Beijing, about 500 people were expected to gather at the Ancient Bell Museum for the chance to ring in the new year on the 46-ton bell. The city is also trying to start a new tradition, with an orchestra playing a “Hymn to China” at the China Century Monument just two minutes before midnight. While many Asian countries famed for their firework displays were planning to light up the night skies, Myanmar’s military government banned all fireworks for New Year’s Eve and said severe action would be taken against anyone selling or using them. A local news journal, Modern, noted that last year 62 people were given 6 to 12 month prison terms for violating this ruling. The government gave no reason for the ban but in the past has said that it feared “unscrupulous persons” might take advantage of the fireworks to create disturbances. In Europe, many people will be partying simply to forget their economic woes after a year that saw Greece and Ireland needing financial bailouts and others, such as Spain and Portugal, battling speculation that they will need similar aid. If not at home or at private parties, Spaniards traditionally gather in their main town squares to eat 12 grapes one by one as the bell in the square marks the countdown to 2011. In the Irish capital of Dublin, people will flock to the Christchurch cathedral to listen as the bells chime in the new year. In London, thousands will witness a musical and firework display at the 135-meter high London Eye, located on the southern banks of the Thames River. The Eye, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary, lies almost opposite the Big Ben clock tower at Parliament that will chime in 2011. In Paris, tens of thousands are expected to pack the Champs Elysees and the area around the Eiffel Tower for dazzling light and firework displays. Delhi celebrates New Year amidst tight security. The heavy khaki presence at various spots in the capital today failed to deter revellers as they waited to greet the start of a new year. People thronged popular markets, malls and other hotspots to ring in the new year. “The real celebrations will kick-start only after the gong strikes 12,” quipped Ninan Varghese, a student of Delhi University, weighed down by bags filled with festive goodies. “Most of my friends will be out partying all night and with all the security about we feel safe too,” he added. Although, most shops in Connaught Place were chock-a-block with people, it was the city’s liquor shops and pubs that attracted the largest crowd. “New Year’s eve is the time when the city sees a spurt in alcohol consumption so most pubs across the city have come up with offers to add to the festive season,” said the manager of a popular pub in Connaught Place.

Even as celebrations are on in full swing, city police has made elaborate security and traffic arrangements to ensure that the celebrations go off peacefully. Vehicle checks were stepped up at locations like malls and hotels. Traffic regulations would also be in place to ensure Delhiites have a smooth run up to the celebrations. Police personnel will be posted at all hotels, restaurants, markets and religious places which are expected to draw large numbers and owners of pubs have also been asked to immediately alert officials on any probable trouble-makers. “We have been given strict instructions to keep an eye on motorists drinking under the influence of alcohol and personnel have been stationed at various locations to ensure the same,” said an official on duty. Delhi police also said that for drunken driving, apart from fines upto Rs 2000 and suspension of driving licences, defaulters may also be given a jail term. But all these measures have done little to kill the festive spirit among the people. “The security might be a hinderance to some revellers, but it will also keep them on their toes to behave responsibly, after all celebrations are all about having fun without being a nuisance to anyone,” said Sanghamitra Banerjee, a market analyst, over the din of the thumping music in the background.

New Year brings cheers all over

Revelers across the Pacific Islands, Asia, Africa, and Europe have welcomed 2011 with celebrations and fireworks displays, and crowds are already gathering across the Americas to mark the start of the New Year there. The tiny Pacific island Kiribati was the first to ring in 2011. London hosted one of Europe’s biggest celebrations, on the banks of Thames. gathered to watch fireworks as



Around a quarter of a million people the famous Big Ben at Parliament chimed in the New Year. Closer at home, Connaught Place and India Gate in New Delhi were swarmed with people dancing to popular tunes. Markets had been particularly decorated for the occasion. Kerala greeted New Year in a grand manner. Tourists from across the globe joined the local people at the world famous Kovalam beach in Thiruvananthapuram to welcome 2011 with dance and music. Tight security did not hamper the spirit of New Year celebrations in beaches, hotels and restaurants across Kerala. Mizoram ushered in 2011 in an eco-friendly manner as no fire cracker was lit during the celebrations last night. The State Government has launched a campaign against the use of fire crackers, which yielded good result. Music concerts were held in the capital Aizawl and at district headquarters. The Police said not a single arrest was made for violating ban on fire crackers. This was the most peaceful New Year celebration in Mizoram so far. Goa too ushered into the New Year with ringing of the church bells, spectacular fireworks, bursting of balloons and music and dances. Preparation for a grand celebration is underway in New York City, where organisers say a million people will crowd into Times Square for the annual drop of a huge, sparkling ball from high above. The Waterford Crystal ball weighs 5,400 kilograms. Earlier on the other side of the world, New Zealanders welcomed 2011 with a spectacular firework show in Auckland and celebrations elsewhere, while in Sydney, Australia, at least 1.5 million people gathered for the annual fireworks show on the Harbour Bridge. China’s President Hu Jintao addressed his country on New Year’s Eve, pledging peaceful international relations while pushing for a transformation of the country’s export-driven economy.

Editorial & Corporate Office
First floor, D-55, West Vinod
Nagar, Delhi-92
RNI
UPENG/2008/26617
Publisher, Editor & Owner
D.S.Rajput
Year 3, Vol. 1, Issue 125, 26,
December, 2010-2 January, 2011
Place of Publication & Registered
Office
331/240 A, Stainly road Nayapura,
Allahabad (N.P.)
Printing Press and address
Academy press, Daraganj,
Allahabad (U.P.)
website: developindiagroup.com
E-mails
developindiamediagroup@gmail.com
developindia2011@gmail.com
civilservicesminerva@gmail.com
Editorial No.
09289434990