

DEVELOP INDIA

YEAR 4, VOL. 1, ISSUE 179, 8-15 JANUARY, 2012

ALLAHABAD

PAGE-8

English Weekly Newspaper

KAMLA PERSAD BISSESSAR CHIEF GUEST IN PBD-2012

The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Kamla Persad Bissessar was the Chief Guest in the 10th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD). The convention is scheduled to be held at Jaipur from 7th to 9th January, 2012. Shri Vayalar Ravi, the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs said that over 1300 delegates from 54 countries had registered for the event so far. Around 8 Ministers of Indian origin, 10 Central Ministers and around 10 or more Chief Ministers and other Ministers from State Governments are attended the occasion.

The Minister said the theme of PBD-2012 is "Global Indian-Inclusive Growth". Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will inaugurate this annual flagship event of the Ministry on January 8, and the President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil will deliver the valedictory address on January 9 and confer the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awards. He further said that three pre-conference Seminars are being organized, on 'Solar Energy- Investment and R&D', 'Social Entrepreneurship-Water' and 'Health'. The PBD Oration this year will be given by eminent economist and management expert Prof. Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. He also announced that the event would be webcast online and a summary of its proceedings will be released every day. The interactive website would provide an opportunity for the Diaspora to participate in the conference from any part of the world. The Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre will organize a market place for business delegates. The PBD-2012 is being held in partnership with the Government of Rajasthan and The Confederation of Indian Industry is the institutional partner. India's rich culture will be depicted in the evening programmes being presented for the delegates. The first of these cultural programmes on 7th January, 2012 will be hosted by the External Affairs Minister, the second on the 8th January by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan and the grand finale on 9th January by the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs.

Highlight of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas-2012

- The 10th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) held from 7-9 January, 2012 at Birla Auditorium, Jaipur.
- The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh inaugurated the event and the President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil delivered the valedictory address and conferred the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awards to 15 eminent NRIs.
- The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Kamla Persad Bissessar was the Chief Guest of the event.
- Over 1900 delegates from about 60 countries were participated this year's PBD.
- "The Global Indian: Inclusive Growth" was the theme of the event and the focus was on India's Social Development and the Overseas Indian community.
- Prime Minister announced a new Pension and Life Insurance Fund for overseas Indian workers. The scheme will encourage, enable and assist overseas workers to voluntarily save for their return and resettlement and old age. It will also provide a low-cost life insurance cover against natural death.
- Prime Minister also announced that pursuant to the law that was enacted to enable non-resident Indians to vote in national elections, the Government has issued notifications for registration of overseas Indians under the Representation of People Act, 1950. This constitutes the first major step to enable Indians resident abroad to participate in election processes.
- Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs announced that next Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2012 will be held in Dubai for the Gulf region.
- A Protector of Emigrants (POE) office was inaugurated in Jaipur during the event to facilitate overseas Indians and emigrating workers of this region.
- The Chief Minister of Rajasthan announced a new scheme, "Know Rajasthan" for NRIs. Under this scheme 50 NRIs from 18-28 years of age annually would come on tour to the state. 90% expenditure of their Air Fare will be borne by the state Government. The expenditure on internal transport and residence will also be borne by the State Government.



Riot police and protestors clash in Romania

There have been clashes between demonstrators and riot police in Romania, after thousands took to the streets for a third day. The protests in the capital Bucharest are against government cuts and falling living standards. The gathered crowds are calling for early elections and the resignation of President Traian Basescu, who came to power in 2004.



GOLAN HEIGHTS

The Golan Heights referred to as the Syrian Golan by the United Nations[3], and as the Golan by other sources, forms a rocky plateau in the Anti-Lebanon mountains that overlooks southern Syria. The plateau has an average altitude of 1,000 metres (3,300 ft), an area totaling 1,800 square kilometres (690 sq mi), and straddles the boundary between Syria and Israeli-held territory. Elevations range from 2,814 metres (9,232 ft) in the north at Mount Hermon, to below sea level along the Sea of Galilee and the Yarmuk River in the south. Internationally recognized as Syrian territory, it has been occupied and administered by Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War. The region attracts three million tourists a year and supplies Israel with one-third of its water. The earliest evidence of human habitation dates to the Upper Paleolithic period. According to the Bible, an Amorite Kingdom in Bashan was conquered by Israelites during the reign of King Og. Throughout the Old Testament period, the Golan was "the focus of a power struggle between the Kings of Israel and the Aramaeans who were based near modern-day Damascus." The Itureans, an Arab or Aramaic people, settled there in the 2nd century BCE and remained until the end of the Byzantine period. Organized Jewish settlement in the region came to an end in 636 CE when it was conquered by Arabs under Umar ibn al-Khattab. In the 16th century, the Golan was conquered by the Ottoman Empire and was part of the Vilayet of Damascus until it was transferred to French control in 1918. When the mandate terminated in 1944, it became part of the newly independent Syrian Arab Republic.

STANDARD & POOR'S TAKES VARIOUS RATING ACTIONS ON 16 EUROZONE SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENTS

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services announced its rating actions on 16 members of the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU or eurozone) following completion of its review on Jan 13, 2011.

We have lowered the long-term ratings on Cyprus, Italy, Portugal, and Spain by two notches; lowered the long-term ratings on Austria, France, Malta, Slovakia, and Slovenia, by one notch; and affirmed the long-term ratings on Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. All ratings have been removed from CreditWatch, where they were placed with negative implications on Dec. 5, 2011 (except for Cyprus, which was first placed on CreditWatch on Aug. 12, 2011).

The outlooks on the long-term ratings on Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain are negative, indicating that we believe that there is at least a one-in-three chance that the rating will be lowered in 2012 or 2013.

The outlook horizon for issuers with investment-grade ratings is up to two years, and for issuers with speculative-grade ratings up to one year. The outlooks on the long-term ratings on Germany and Slovakia are stable. We assigned recovery ratings of '4' to both Cyprus and Portugal, in accordance with our practice to assign recovery ratings to issuers rated in the speculative-grade category, indicating an expected recovery of 30%-50% should a default occur in the future.

Today's rating actions are primarily driven by our assessment that the policy initiatives that have been taken by European policymakers in recent weeks may be insufficient to fully address ongoing systemic stresses in the eurozone. In our view, these stresses include: (1) tightening credit conditions, (2) an increase in risk premiums for a widening group of eurozone issuers, (3) a simultaneous attempt to delever by governments and households, (4) weakening economic growth prospects, and (5) an open and prolonged dispute among European policymakers over the proper approach to address challenges.

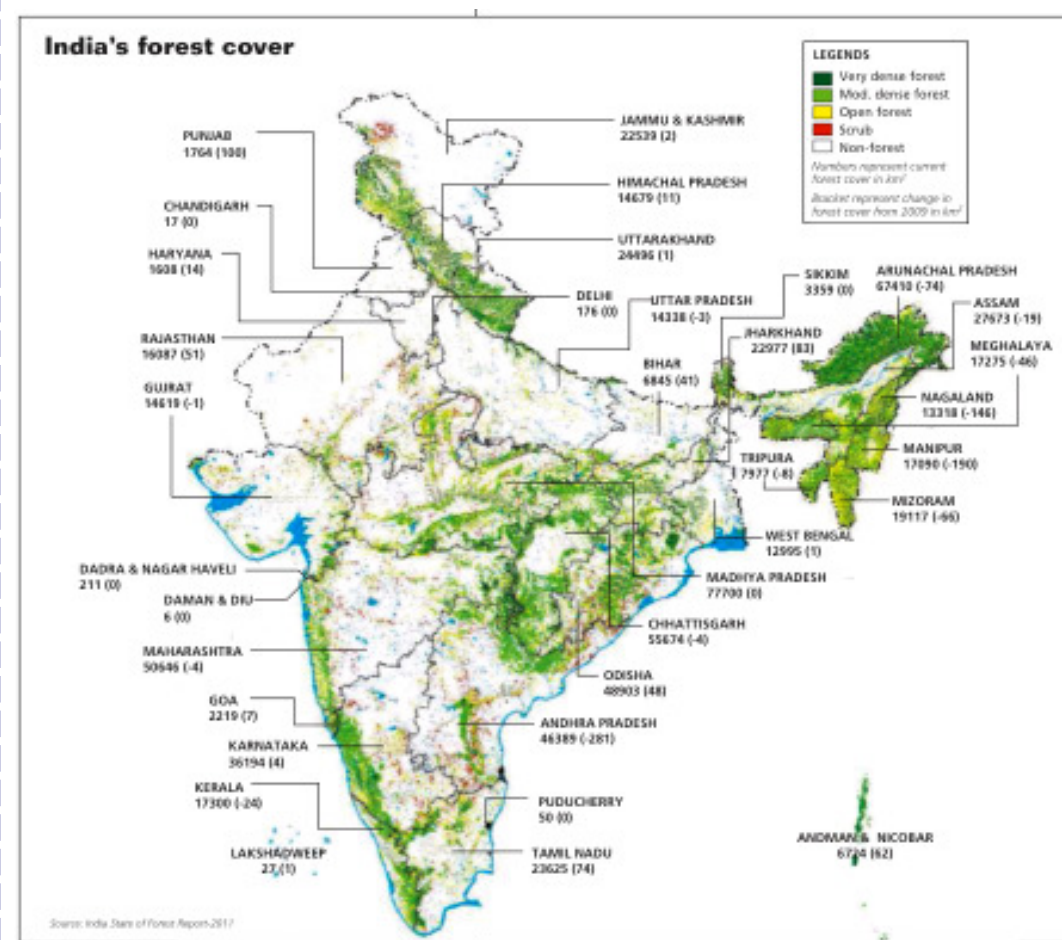
The outcomes from the EU summit on Dec. 9, 2011, and subsequent statements from policymakers, lead us to believe that the agreement reached has not produced a breakthrough of sufficient size and scope to fully address the eurozone's financial problems. In our opinion, the political agreement does not supply sufficient additional resources or operational flexibility to bolster European rescue operations, or extend enough support for those eurozone sovereigns subjected to heightened market pressures.

We also believe that the agreement is predicated on only a partial recognition of the source of the crisis: that the current financial turmoil stems primarily from fiscal profligacy at the periphery of the eurozone.

INDIA STATE OF FOREST REPORT 2011 RELEASED

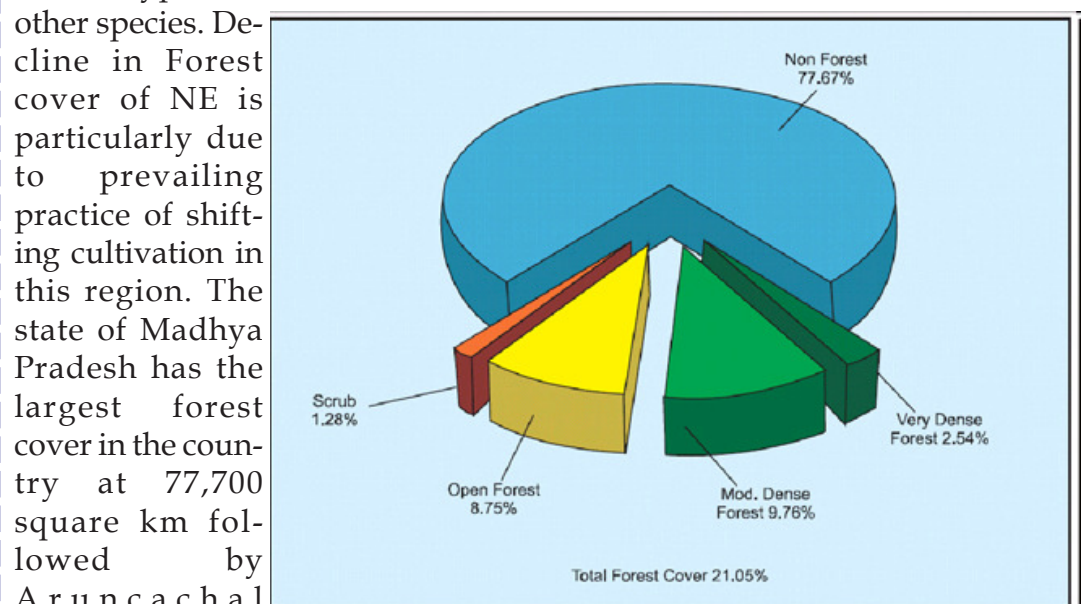
The Forest Survey of India (FSI) has been publishing a series of biennial assessment report the forest cover in the country since 1987. The India State of Forest Report is recognized as the authoritative assessment of the country's forest resources.

The India State of Forest Report 2011 is the twelfth report in the series. It is based on interpretation of satellite data recorded during October 2008-March 2009 from the indigenous IRS-P6-LISS III sensor on a resolution of 23.5m with a minimum mappable area of one hectare. The assessment made on the basis of satellite imageries is backed by rigorous ground truthing carried out



by the staff of FSI. The change matrices recorded in the present report refer to changes with respect to the satellite data recorded for the previous India State of Forest Report two years earlier. Special coverage is provided to forest cover in hill districts, tribal districts and the north-east keeping in mind the special symbiotic relationship of communities with forests in these regions.

The Secretary in Ministry of Environment & Forests Shri T. Chatterjee released India State of Forest Report 2011 in National Capital today. As per the present assessment, the Forest and Tree cover of the country is 78.29 million ha, which is 23.81% of the geographical area of the country. In comparison to the 2009 assessment, after taking into account the interpretational changes, there is a decrease of 367 square km in country's forest cover. 15 states have registered aggregate increase of 5000sqkm in their forest cover with Punjab leading with increase of 100sqkm. 12 states/UTs (mainly the NE states) have shown decrease to the extent of 867sqkm. Decline of 281 sqkm in Forest cover of Andhra Pradesh is mainly attributed to harvesting of mature plantation of Eucalyptus & other species. Decline in Forest cover of NE is particularly due to prevailing practice of shifting cultivation in this region. The state of Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country at 77,700 square km followed by Arunachal Pradesh at 67,410 square km. In terms of percentage of forest cover in relation to total geographical area, Mizoram tops with 90.68% followed by Lakshadweep with 84.56%. The total growing stock of India's forests and trees outside forests is estimated as 6047.15 million cu m i.e. 4498.73 million cu m inside the recorded forest area and 1548.42 million cu m outside the recorded forests.



The India State of Forest Report 2011 contains the regular features like forest cover, tree cover, mangroves and growing stock both in forests and areas outside forests. However, it adds three new chapters that are of crucial importance in the present national and global worldview about forests. These are: a detailed assessment of bamboo resources, a production-consumption assessment of wood based on data stock in India's forests reported under the NATCOM project. Due to its significant impact on rural/tribal economy and their livelihood the Production and consumption Study is expected to fill the information gap in this arena. The study highlights the importance of trees outside forests in meeting the requirements of industrial wood, small timber and firewood. As for the assessment of carbon stock in India's forests, in lies at the center of international dialogue on climate change. The inclusion of these three new chapters makes the India State of Forests Report 2011 a path breaking advance over its previous editions.

Weekly Current Affairs

Top 10 Richest People in the World

Christy Walton – 10th place



Christy Ruth Walton (born 1955) is the widow of John T. Walton, who was a son of Sam Walton, the founder of Wal-Mart. After John’s death in June 2005, she inherited his fortune of \$15.7 billion.

As of 2011, she is the 4th richest person in the United States according to Forbes Magazine and the 10th richest person in the world, as well as the richest woman in the world. As of March 2011, she had an estimated net worth of US\$26.5 billion, the bulk of which comes from her shares in Wal-Mart, but also from First Solar, in which her late husband invested. She currently resides in Jackson, Wyoming and has one son, Lukas. Facesofphilanthropy.com references Conde Nast Portfolio magazine as ranking her the highest female philanthropist, according to the amount she gives as a percentage of her wealth. Between 2002 and 2006, she contributed billions from her then \$16.3 billion net worth towards philanthropic efforts. Additionally, she supports her family’s own charitable foundation, the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation, which prioritizes education and benefits colleges such as the University of Arkansas, the College of Business Administration of the University of Arkansas, and several other colleges, community trusts, universities and foundations. In 2007, her family’s foundation donated as much as \$1.6 billion.

Mukesh Ambani – 9th place



Mukesh Ambani (born on 19 April 1957) is an Indian business magnate. He is the chairman and managing director of Indian conglomerate Reliance Industries, the largest private sector enterprise in India listed in Fortune 500 magazine. His personal stake in Reliance Industries is 48%. On the 29th of August 2011, Reliance Industries regained its status as the most valued firm in India, after a heady contest with ONGC and Coal India Ltd., both public sector units as well as energy giants.

In 2010, he was named among the most powerful people in the world by Forbes in its list of “68 people who matter most” As of 2011, he is the second richest man in Asia and the ninth richest man in the world with a personal wealth of US\$27 billion. In 2007, a strong rally in the Indian stock market and the appreciation of the Indian rupee boosted the market capitalisation of Reliance group companies, briefly making him the world’s richest man.

He is a member of the board of directors of Bank of America Corporation and a present member of the international advisory board of the Council on Foreign Relations.

He joined Reliance Industries in 1981. He initiated Reliance’s backward integration journey from textiles into polyester fibres and further into petrochemicals, petroleum refining and

going up-stream into oil and gas exploration and production.

Mukesh Ambani set up one of the largest and most complex information and communications technology initiatives in the world in the form of Reliance Infocomm Limited (now Reliance Communications Limited). Mukesh Ambani directed and led the creation of the worlds largest grassroots petroleum refinery at Jamnagar, India, with a current capacity of 660,000 barrels per day (33 million tonnes per year) integrated with petrochemicals, power generation, port and related infrastructure.

Eike Batista – 8th place



Eike Batista (born November 3, 1956), is a Brazilian entrepreneur and president of the EBX Group , which includes five companies that trade on the BOVESPA’s Novo Mercado, a special segment of the Sao Paulo stock market where enterprises with the highest standards of corporate governance are listed. The EBX companies listed on the BOVESPA are: OGX (oil and gas), MPX (energy), LLX (logistics), MMX (mining) and OSX (offshore services and equipment).

In 2011, Eike Batista was listed by Forbes magazine as the 8th richest person in the world and the richest in South America. His wealth is estimated at US\$ 30 billion. Eike Batista was also featured in Bloomberg Markets magazine as the only Brazilian on the list of the 50 most influential people in global finance, published for the first time in September of 2011. The magazine focused on people “whose comments move markets; whose deals set the value of companies or securities; whose ideas and policies shape corporations, governments and economies” .

At the end of 2010, the magazine ranked Batista as the 58th most powerful person in the world, placing him as Brazil’s most powerful person after the current president of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff. The newspaper Folha de S. Paulo describes Batista as an example of a “self-made man”, an entrepreneur with a fortune acquired through his own efforts (and not through inheritance).

The top-ranked Brazilian in March of 2008, on the Forbes magazine list, was Antonio Ermirio de Moraes, in 77th place with a family estate of US\$ 10 billion. Another 17 Brazilians were on the list, including Batista (who in 2008 said his goal was to become the richest man in the world in five years). In 2008 Batista’s fortune was estimated at US\$ 6.6 billion and he was ranked at the 142nd place on the list of the richest men in the world. In 2009, he moved up to the 61st position and was considered the richest man in Brazil.

According to the Brazilian weekly magazine Epoca, Eike Batista is one of the 100 most influential men in Brazil of 2010. IstoE magazine has also listed Batista as one of the 100 most influential people in 2010. In 2011, Eike Batista was included in the 1,000 CEOs ranking by Dinheiro magazine.

Eike Batista has benefited from three decades of experience in international business and has an ability to “generate wealth from scratch”. Since the 1980s, Batista created and put into operation eight gold mines in Brazil and Canada (Amapari, Casa Berardi, Crixs, Musselwhite, New Britania, Novo Astro, Novo Planeta and Paracatu), a silver mine in Chile (La Coipa), and three iron ore mines in Brazil (Mina 63, Tico-Tico and Ipe). From 2004 to 2010 Eike Batista created and put into operation five companies: MMX (mining), MPX (en-

ergy), OGX (petroleum), LLX (logistics) and OSX (offshore industry).

Amancio Ortega – 7th place



Amancio Ortega (born March 28, 1936) is a Spanish fashion entrepreneur. He is the founder, along with his then-wife Rosalia Mera, and chairman of the Inditex Group. He is ranked by Forbes as Spain’s richest man; Europe’s second richest man; and the seventh richest man in the world in 2011 . He currently lives with his second wife in a discreet apartment building in the centre of A Coruna.

Amancio Ortega arrived at La Coruna, Spain, at the age of 14, due to the job of his father, a railway worker. Starting as a gofer in various shirt stores in La Coruna, Galicia, in 1972 he founded Confecciones Goa (his initials in reverse), which made bathrobes. In 1975 he opened the first store in what would grow into the enormously popular chain of fashion stores called Zara. He owns 59.29% of the Inditex group (Industrias de Diseno Textil Sociedad Anonima) which includes the brands Zara, Massimo Dutti, Oysho, Zara Home, Kiddy’s Class, Tempe, Stradivarius, Pull and Bear/Often and Bershka and has more than 92,000 employees.

Amancio Ortega keeps a very low profile and there are practically no photographs of him (except from one photo published at the Inditex website). He refuses to wear a tie, and likes to dress in blue jeans and T-shirts. He is said to take a very active part in the production and design process in the company.

When he made a public appearance in 2000 – as part of the warm-up prior to floating his company on the stock market in 2001 – it made headlines in the Spanish financial press. However, he has never given an interview, and his secrecy has led to the publication of books such as Amancio Ortega: DE CERO A ZARA (From Zero to Zara). Amancio Ortega, announced his imminent retirement from the fast-fashion giant Inditex, parent company of the Zara chain, stating that he will ask Inditex vice-president and CEO Pablo Isla to take his place at the helm of the textile empire.

Lakshmi Mittal – 6th place



Lakshmi Mittal (born 15 June 1950) is an Indian steel magnate. He is the chairman and chief executive officer of ArcelorMittal, the worlds largest steelmaking company.

Lakshmi Mittal is the richest man in India, Asia and the United Kingdom, and second in Europe and is presently the sixth richest individual in the world with a personal wealth of US\$31.1 billion. He is the 44th “most powerful person” of the 68 individuals named in Forbes’s Most Powerful People list. His daughter Vanisha Mittal’s wedding was the most expensive in the recorded history of the world.

Lakshmi Mittal is an independent director of Goldman Sachs, member of Board of Directors to Goldman Sachs Media/Film IP Group, member of the Board of Directors of European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company, World Steel Association, Foreign Investment Council in Kazakhstan, the International Invest-

ment Council in South Africa, the Investors’ Council to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the World Economic Forums International Business Council, the World Steel Association’s Executive Committee, the Presidential International Advisory Board of Mozambique and the International Iron and Steel Institutes Executive Committee.

In 2006, Financial Times named him “Person of the Year”. In 2007, Time magazine included him in their “100 most influential persons in the world” .

Larry Ellison – 5th place



Lawrence Joseph “Larry” Ellison (born August 17, 1944) is the co-founder and chief executive officer of Oracle Corporation, one of the world’s leading enterprise software companies. As of 2011, he is the third wealthiest American citizen, with an estimated worth of \$33 billion.

In 2005, Oracle paid Larry Ellison a \$975,000 salary, a \$6,500,000 bonus, and other compensation of \$955,100. In 2007, Larry Ellison earned a total compensation of \$61,180,524, which included a base salary of \$1,000,000, a cash bonus of \$8,369,000, and options granted of \$50,087,100. In 2008, he earned a total compensation of \$84,598,700, which included a base salary of \$1,000,000, a cash bonus of \$10,779,000, no stocks granted, and options granted of \$71,372,700. In the year ending May 31, 2009 he made \$56.8 million.

For a short period in 2000, Larry Ellison was the richest man in the world.

In 2006, Forbes ranked him as the richest Californian.

On July 2, 2009, for the fourth year in a row, Oracle’s Board awarded Larry Ellison another 7 million stock options.

On August 22, 2009, it was reported that Larry Ellison would be paid only \$1 for his base salary for the fiscal year of 2010, down from the \$1,000,000 he was paid in fiscal 2009.

As of March 10, 2010, Larry Ellison was listed on the Forbes list of billionaires as the sixth richest person in the world. Larry Ellison is the third richest American, with an estimated net worth of US \$28 billion.

On July 27, 2010, The Wall Street Journal reported that Larry Ellison was the best-paid executive in the last decade, collecting a total compensation of US \$1.84 billion.

Bernard Arnault – 4th place



Bernard Arnault (born 5 March 1949) is a French business magnate who is best known as the chairman and CEO of the French conglomerate LVMH. According to Forbes Magazine, Arnault is the world’s 4th and Europe’s richest person, with a 2011 net worth of US\$41 billion.

In 1987, shortly after the creation of LVMH, Mr Arnault exploited a growing conflict between Alain Chevalier, Moet Hennessy’s CEO, and Henri Racamier, president of Louis Vuitton. The new group held property rights to Dior perfumes, which Arnault craved to incorporate into Dior Couture. He created a holding company

of which he owned 60% and Guinness, who had a distribution agreement with Moet-Hennessy, owned 40%. Following the October 1987 stock market crash, he capitalized on the lower quoted price and soon owned 43% of LVMH. He then consolidated his position by purging executives from both companies including appointing his father Jean Leon Arnault Chairman of the Supervisory board before officially taking over as Chairman & CEO in 1989. In 2007, he acquired 10.69% of France’s largest supermarket retailer and the world’s second largest food distributor, Carrefour through his Blue Capital, which is jointly owned by California property firm Colony Capital.

He has since then led the company through an ambitious development plan, turning it into one of the largest luxury groups in the world, alongside Swiss luxury giant Richemont and French based PPR Group.

Among other companies, Arnault also owned the art auction house Phillips de Pury & Company from 1999 to 2003.

Warren Buffett – 3rd place



Warren Edward Buffett (born August 30, 1930) is an American business magnate, investor, and philanthropist. He is widely regarded as one of the most successful investors in the world. Often introduced as “legendary investor, Warren Buffett”, he is the primary shareholder, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway. He is consistently ranked among the world’s wealthiest people. He was ranked as the world’s wealthiest person in 2008 and is the third wealthiest person in the world as of 2011.

Buffett is called the “Wizard of Omaha”, “Oracle of Omaha” or the “Sage of Omaha” and is noted for his adherence to the value investing philosophy and for his personal frugality despite his immense wealth. Buffett is also a notable philanthropist, having pledged to give away 99 percent of his fortune to philanthropic causes, primarily via the Bill Gates Foundation. He also serves as a member of the board of trustees at Grinnell College.

In 2008, Buffett became the richest man in the world dethroning Bill Gates, worth \$62 billion according to Forbes, and \$58 billion according to Yahoo. Bill Gates had been number one on the Forbes list for 13 consecutive years. In 2009, Bill Gates regained number one of the list according to Forbes magazine, with Buffett second. Their values have dropped to \$40 billion and \$37 billion respectively, Buffett having (according to Forbes) lost \$25 billion in 12 months during 2008/2009.

In 2008 he was ranked by Forbes as the richest person in the world with an estimated net worth of approximately US\$62 billion. In 2009, after donating billions of dollars to charity, Buffett was ranked as the second richest man in the United States with a net worth of US\$37 billion with only Bill Gates ranked higher than Buffett. His net worth is up to \$47 billion in the past 12 months.

Numerous books have been written about Warren Buffett and his investment strategies. In October 2008, USA Today reported that there were at least 47 books in print with Buffett’s name in the title. The article quoted the CEO of Borders Books, George Jones, as saying that the only other living persons named in as many book titles were U.S. presidents, major world political figures, and the Dalai Lama. Buffett said that his own personal favorite is a collection of his

essays called The Essays of Warren Buffett, which he described as “a coherent rearrangement of ideas from my annual report letters” as edited by Larry Cunningham.

Bill Gates – 2nd place



William Henry “Bill” Gates III (born October 28, 1955) is an American business magnate, investor, philanthropist, and author. Gates is the former CEO and current chairman of Microsoft, the software company he founded with Paul Allen. He is consistently ranked among the world’s wealthiest people and was the wealthiest overall from 1995 to 2009, excluding 2008, when he was ranked third. During his career at Microsoft, Gates held the positions of CEO and chief software architect, and remains the largest individual shareholder, with 6.4 percent of the common stock. He has also authored or co-authored several books.

Bill Gates is one of the best-known entrepreneurs of the personal computer revolution. Bill Gates has been criticized for his business tactics, which have been considered anti-competitive, an opinion which has in some cases been upheld by the courts.

In the later stages of his career, Gates has pursued a number of philanthropic endeavors, donating large amounts of money to various charitable organizations and scientific research programs through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, established in 2000.

Bill Gates stepped down as chief executive officer of Microsoft in January 2000. He remained as chairman and created the position of chief software architect. In June 2006, Bill Gates announced that he would be transitioning from full-time work at Microsoft to part-time work, and full-time work at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He gradually transferred his duties to Ray Ozzie, chief software architect, and Craig Mundie, chief research and strategy officer. Gates’ last full-time day at Microsoft was June 27, 2008. He remains at Microsoft as non-executive chairman.

Bill Gates was number one on the Forbes 400 list from 1993 through to 2007 and number one on Forbes list of The World’s Richest People from 1995 to 2007 and 2009. In 1999, Gates’s wealth briefly surpassed \$101 billion, causing the media to call him a “centibillionaire”. Since 2000, the nominal value of his Microsoft holdings has declined due to a fall in Microsoft’s stock price after the dot-com bubble burst and the multi-billion dollar donations he has made to his charitable foundations. In a May 2006 interview, Gates commented that he wished that he were not the richest man in the world because he disliked the attention it brought. Gates has several investments outside Microsoft, which in 2006 paid him a salary of \$616,667 and \$350,000 bonus totalling \$966,667. He founded Corbis, a digital imaging company, in 1989. In 2004 he became a director of Berkshire Hathaway, the investment company headed by long-time friend Warren Buffett. In March 2010 Bill Gates was bumped down to the second wealthiest man behind Carlos Slim Helu.



Carlos Slim Helu (born January 28, 1940) is a Mexican business magnate and philanthropist who as of 2011 is the richest man in the world, for the second year in a row. He is the chairman and chief executive of telecommunications companies Telmex and America Movil and has extensive holdings in other Mexican companies through his conglomerate, Grupo Carso SAB, as well as business interests elsewhere in the world. America Movil, which in 2010 was Latin America’s largest mobile-phone carrier, accounted for around US\$49 billion of Slim’s wealth by the end of 2010. His corporate holdings as of March 2011 have been estimated at US\$74 billion.

On March 29, 2007, Slim surpassed Warren Buffett as the world’s second richest person with an estimated net worth of \$53.1 billion compared to Buffet’s \$52.4 billion.

On August 4, 2007, The Wall Street Journal ran a cover story profiling Slim. The article said, “While the market value of his stake in publicly traded companies could decline at any time, at the moment he is probably wealthier than Bill Gates”. According to The Wall Street Journal, Slim credits part of his ability to “discover investment opportunities” early to the writings of his friend, futurist author Alvin Toffler.

On August 8, 2007, Fortune reported that Slim had overtaken Gates as the world’s richest man. Slim’s estimated fortune soared to \$59 billion, based on the value of his public holdings at the end of July. Bill Gates net worth was estimated to be at least \$58 billion.

On March 5, 2008, Forbes ranked Slim as the world’s second-richest person, behind Warren Buffett and ahead of Bill Gates.

On March 11, 2009, Forbes ranked Slim as the world’s third-richest person, behind Gates and Buffett and ahead of Larry Ellison.

On March 10, 2010, Forbes once again reported that Slim had overtaken Gates as the world’s richest man, with a net worth of \$53.5 billion. Bill Gates and Warren Buffett now have a net worth of \$53 billion and \$47 billion respectively. He was the first Mexican to top the list. It was the first time in 16 years that the person on top of the list was not from the United States. It was also the first time the person at the top of the list was from an “emerging economy.”

In March 2011, Forbes stated that Slim had maintained his position as the wealthiest person in the world, with his fortune estimated at \$74 billion.

Alka Sirohi Assumes Office as Member, UPSC

Smt. Alka Sirohi today assumed office as Member, UPSC. An IAS officer of 1974 batch of Madhya Pradesh Cadre, she served as Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training, M/o Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Secretary, Department



of Food & Public Distribution in Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution in Government of India. Earlier, she was Special Secretary and Additional Secretary in the same Ministry and also held the post of Principal Advisor in the Planning Commission.

In her state cadre, Smt. Alka Sirohi held important assignments in the departments of Agriculture Cooperation, Women & Child Development and Health & Family Welfare. A post graduate in Western History, Smt. Sirohi is trained in management and issues related to sustainable development.

World Sanskrit Conference 2012

The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, addressed the World Sanskrit Conference in New Delhi today. Fol-



lowing is the text of the Prime Minister’s address on the occasion: “Sanskrit Bharat ki aatma hai. Iss liye mujhe aaj iss sammelan mein shaamil hote huey bahut khushi prapt ho rahi hai.

I compliment my colleague Shri Kapil Sibal, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the International Association of Sanskrit Studies (IASS) for organizing this truly unique event. I also extend my very warm greetings to all the scholars who are participating in this Conference and have come to Delhi from far corners of the world.

The IASS owes its origin to an International Sanskrit Conference that was held in Delhi way back in 1972 and was sponsored by the Government of India in collaboration with UNESCO. Since its inception, the IASS has been organizing the World Sanskrit Conference every three years, with three previous Conferences having been held in India. I learn that the IASS is not concerned with Sanskrit in the narrow sense but more broadly with research work based on solid knowledge of one or more Indian languages and on fundamental textual sources from South and South-East Asia. This is indeed a most worthy cause.

Sanskrit, which is recognized as one of the oldest living languages of the world, is often misunderstood as only a language of religious hymns and rituals. Such an understanding does injustice to the great genius of this language and betrays ignorance of the work of great writers, thinkers, sages and scientists like Kautilya, Charaka, Sushruta, Aryabhata, Varahamihira, Brahmagupta, Bhaskaracharya and many others. Indeed, Sanskrit, is much more than a language. It is a complete knowledge system that embodies the great learning traditions of ancient India. Jawaharlal Nehru, once described Sanskrit language and literature as the “the greatest treasure that India possesses”. He went on to say “this is a magnificent inheritance; so long as this endures and influences the life of our people, so long will the basic genius of India continue to flourish.”

Sanskrit has not only some of the greatest classics of world literature, but also a treasure of knowledge in Mathematics, Medicine, Botany, Chemistry, Arts and Humanities. If we provide the missing links and establish the required inter-disciplinary approaches, the wisdom of Sanskrit has the potential of enriching the present day knowledge systems and Indian languages immensely.

The Sanskrit language has also been the source of values and ideals that have sustained India through the ages. Like the great civilization of India, Sanskrit does not belong to any particular race, sect or religion. It rep-

resents a culture that is not narrow and sectarian but open, tolerant and all-embracing. The open-minded seers and thinkers who spelt out their vision and philosophy in the sacred Vedas and the Upanishads were able to balance the opposites in their life and in philosophy. It is this spirit of liberalism and tolerance imbedded in Sanskrit that we must inculcate in our present-day life. The message of the ancient sages of India, who gave us the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the world as one family, continues to be of great significance to the world even.

The Government of India is committed to the promotion and development of Sanskrit. Three institutions established by the government - Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth - are actively engaged in this task. These institutions offer flexible and non-formal Sanskrit courses in order to popularize the language. They also facilitate the conduct of vocational courses for the students of traditional Sanskrit pathshalas, so that their employability is increased. The Maharishi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishthan is engaged in the task of preserving, developing and propagating the oral tradition of Vedic studies.

There are a number of other measures that are being taken to encourage the study of Sanskrit. These include financial assistance to modern schools offering Sanskrit as a subject and traditional Sanskrit schools offering modern subjects, and to voluntary organizations that are maintaining traditional Sanskrit institutions. In addition, Sanskrit departments of the universities are funded by the University Grants Commission under its various schemes. Financial assistance is also provided for the production of Sanskrit literature including newspapers and journals, and reprinting of rare books. Scholars who have excelled in the study of Sanskrit are honoured every year.

In the course of time, we will further strengthen our efforts for the promotion, development and enrichment of Sanskrit.

I understand that over the next six days the scholars participating in this Conference will deliberate on a diverse range of topics. They include poetry, drama and aesthetics; scientific literature; Buddhist studies, Jain studies, Sanskrit and regional languages and literatures, and Vedas. I am sure that the deliberations of this Conference will not only lead to a better understanding of the various areas of Sanskrit Studies, but will also result in a better appreciation of India’s culture, our values, our ideals and our world-view.

Many of the modern Indian languages depend upon Sanskrit for their vocabulary. The Commission for Technical and Scientific Terms established by the Government of India has also depended on Sanskrit sources for developing the technical terms in science and technology for Indian languages. I expect that this Conference will also contribute to better learning tools for Indian languages, and better translation software and other computer programs in Indian languages.

Let me end by wishing all of you very productive deliberations over the next few days. It is my sincere hope that each one of you will return from the Conference with a much deeper understanding of your particular area of interest. I also hope that this Conference will enrich Sanskrit Studies even more than what the preceding ones have done. May God bless your path.”

Maldives, the people, history and fall of its President Mohammed Nasheed

Maldives, also called Maldiv Islands, independent island country consisting of a chain of about 1,200 small coral islands and sandbanks (some 200 of which are inhabited), grouped in clusters, or atolls, in the north-central Indian Ocean. The islands extend more than 510 miles (820

km) from north to south and 80 miles (130 km) from east to west. The northernmost atoll is about 370 miles (600 km) south-southwest of the Indian mainland, and the central area, including the capital island of Male (Male’), is about 400 miles (645 km) southwest of Sri Lanka. *Official name* Dhivehi Raajjeyge Jumhooriyyaa (Republic of Maldives) *Form of government* multiparty republic with one legislative house (People’s Majlis) *Head of state and government* President *Capital* : Male *Official language* : Dhivehi (Maldivian) *Official religion* : Islam *Monetary unit*rufiyaa (Rf) *Population* : (2011 est.) 325,000 *Total area (sq mi)* 115 *Total area (sq km)* 298

Land The Maldiv Islands are a series of coral atolls built up from the crowns of a submerged ancient volcanic mountain range. All the islands are low-lying, none rising to more than 6 feet (1.8 metres) above sea level. Barrier reefs protect the islands from the destructive effects of monsoons. The rainy season, from May to August, is brought by the southwest monsoon; from December to March the northeast monsoon brings dry and mild winds. The average annual temperature varies from 76 to 86 °F (24 to 30 °C). Rainfall averages about 84 inches (2,130 mm) per year. The atolls have sandy beaches, lagoons, and a luxuriant growth of coconut palms, together with breadfruit trees and tropical bushes. Fish abound in the reefs, lagoons, and seas adjoining the islands; sea turtles are caught for food and for their oil, a traditional medicine.

People The Maldivians are a mixed people, speaking an Indo-European language called Dhivehi (or Maldivian; the official language); Arabic, Hindi, and English are also spoken. Islam is the state religion. The first settlers, it is generally believed, were Tamil and Sinhalese peoples from southern India and Sri Lanka. Traders from Arab countries, Malaya, Madagascar, Indonesia, and China visited the islands through the centuries. With the exception of those living in Male, the only relatively large settlement in the country, the inhabitants of the Maldives live in villages on small islands in scattered atolls. Only about 20 of the islands have more than 1,000 inhabitants, and the southern islands are more densely populated than the northern ones. The birth rate for the Maldives is somewhat higher than the world average, but the death rate is lower. About one-third of the total population is under 15 years of age.

Economy One of the poorest countries in the world, Maldives has a developing economy based on fishing, tourism, boatbuilding, and boat repairing. The gross national product (GNP) per capita is among the lowest in the world. Most of the population subsists outside a money economy on fishing, coconut collecting, and the growing of vegetables and melons, roots and tubers (cassava, sweet potatoes, and yams), and tropical fruits. Cropland, scattered over many small islands, is minimal, and nearly all of the staple foods must be imported. Fishing, the traditional base of the economy, continues to be the most important sector, providing employment for approximately one-fourth of the labour force as well as accounting for a major portion of the export earnings. Tuna is the predominant fish caught, mostly by the pole-and-line method, although a good deal of the fishing fleet has been mechanized. Most of the fish catch is sold to foreign companies for processing and export.

The Maldives national shipping line forms the basis of one of the country’s commercial industries. Tourism is a fast-growing sector of the economy. Resort islands and modern hotels in Male have attracted increasing numbers of tourists during the winter months. Industries are largely of the handicraft or cottage type, including the making of coir (coconut-husk fi-

bre) and coir products, boatbuilding, and construction. Imports include consumer goods such as food (principally rice), textiles, medicines, and petroleum products. Fish—mostly dried, frozen, or canned skipjack tuna—accounts for the bulk of exports. The United States, Sri Lanka, and Singapore are among the main trading partners. Boats provide the principal means of transport between the atolls, and scheduled shipping services link the country with Sri Lanka, Singapore, and India. There is a national airline, and the airport at Male handles international traffic.

Government and Society The constitution of the Maldives was adopted in 2008. The head of state and government is the president, assisted by a vice president and a cabinet. The president and vice president are directly elected by universal suffrage to a maximum of two five-year terms. The cabinet consists of the vice president, government ministers, and the attorney general. With the exception of the vice president, members of the cabinet are appointed by the president.

The unicameral legislature, called the People’s Majlis, meets at least three times per year. Its members are elected to five-year terms from Male island and from each of the 20 atoll groups into which the country is divided for administrative purposes. The number of representatives from each administrative division is determined on the basis of population, with a minimum of two per division. The 2008 constitution established Islam as the official state religion. Non-Muslims cannot become citizens, and the People’s Majlis is prohibited from making any law that contravenes the tenets of Islam. Other governmental bodies include civil service and human rights commissions.

The highest legal authority is the Supreme Court. Its judges are appointed by the president in consultation with the Judicial Service Commission, a body of 10 members appointed or elected from various branches of the government and the general public. The Judicial Service Commission independently appoints all other judges. There are no judicial term limits; the mandatory retirement age is 70. All judges must be Sunni Muslims. The Supreme Court bases decisions upon the constitution and Maldives law; in cases in which applicable law does not exist, Shariah, (Islamic law) is considered. Other courts are the High Court and trial courts.

Most Maldivians rely on traditional medical practices when ill; Male has a small hospital. Major illnesses include gastroenteritis, typhoid, cholera, and malaria. Life expectancy is about 68 years for men and 67 for women.

Three types of formal education are available in the Maldives, including traditional schools (*makthabs*) designed to teach the reading and reciting of the Qur’ān, Dhivehi-language schools, and English-language primary and secondary schools. The English-language schools are the only ones that teach a standard curriculum and offer secondary-level education. Students must go abroad for higher education. Only about two-thirds of the school-age population is enrolled in schools.

History The archipelago was inhabited as early as the 5th century bce by Buddhist peoples, probably from Sri Lanka and southern India. According to tradition, Islam was adopted in 1153 ce. Ibn Battutah, a notable North African traveler, resided there during the mid-1340s and described conditions at that time, remarking disapprovingly on the freedom of the women—a feature that has been noticeable throughout Maldivian history.

The Portuguese forcibly established themselves in Male from 1558 until their expulsion in 1573. In the 17th century the islands were a sultanate under the protection of the Dutch rulers of Ceylon (Sri Lanka), and, after the British took possession of Ceylon in 1796, the islands became a British

protectorate, a status formalized in 1887. In 1932, before which time most of the administrative powers rested with sultans or sultanas, the first democratic constitution was proclaimed, the country remaining a sultanate. A republic was proclaimed in 1953, but later that year the country reverted to a sultanate.

In 1965 the Maldiv Islands attained full political independence from the British, and in 1968 a new republic was inaugurated and the sultanate abolished. The last British troops left on March 29, 1976, the date thereafter celebrated in the Maldives as Independence Day. Ibrahim Nasr, the country’s first president, was succeeded in 1978 by Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who was reelected to his sixth consecutive term in 2003. The Maldives became a member of the Commonwealth in 1982.

In December 2004 the Maldives was damaged by a large tsunami caused by a massive earthquake in the Indian Ocean off Indonesia. Scores of people were killed, and much property was damaged.

In the first years of the 21st century, Gayoom’s government embarked on a long-term plan to modernize and democratize the Maldives, particularly its economy and political system. The plan also identified the country’s legal system as inadequate. Beginning in 2003, wide-ranging reforms were instituted to improve human rights and the system of governance. A multiparty political system was created. In 2008 a new constitution was adopted that established greater governmental checks and balances, strengthened the powers of the legislature and judiciary, and allowed women to run for president. The country’s first multicandidate presidential election was held in October of that year, and former political prisoner Mohamed Nasheed was elected president, thus ending Gayoom’s 30 years in office. One of Nasheed’s plans was to obtain a new homeland in the region to which the Maldiv islanders could eventually be resettled, as the low-lying islands were believed to be under serious threat from rising sea levels.

Police revolt forces Maldives President from office

In a day of dramatic developments on 07.02.2012 that captured both the fragility of democracy in the Maldives and also the maturity of its political institutions, President Mohammed Nasheed resigned in the face of a mutiny by policemen that he said he did not want to put down by force, handing over the reins of power to his Vice-President, Dr. Waheed.

If the morning started with the “coup” word being bandied about by observers, by evening the entire transition appeared orderly with Parliament endorsing the changeover and the streets of the capital city, Male, appearing calm even if vigorously policed.

According to Maldivian law, Dr. Waheed will hold office till the next elections in late 2013.

Earlier in the day, about 50 police personnel took control of the state broadcaster in the capital. They earlier refused to break up a demonstration of Opposition supporters. The Army stepped in and reportedly used teargas to break up the demonstration by supporters of the former President, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

Tensions have been on the rise since last November’s SAARC summit at which monuments of all participating nations were put up. The Opposition said this was an attempt to bring in other religions. The Pakistani monument, which had Buddhist drawings on its pedestal, and many others were vandalised.

The scene shifted to Male, with the Opposition accusing Mr. Nasheed of being a moderate Islamist who wanted to allow entry of other religions. It did not help that the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillai, in her speech at The Majlis, termed flogging barbaric and espoused the cause of women’s rights. Again, the Opposition flocked to Male.

Male held on because Mr. Nasheed’s support base was mainly in the two cities — the capital and Addu. Also,

Mr. Nasheed and his team have been at pains to explain that the Opposition’s charges were baseless. Apart from speaking to people, the team went on a slander campaign against the opposition. The better equipped Opposition was up to the challenge. It responded with a series of charges and behind-the-scenes moves, including re-activating its people within the government machinery.

With Judge Abdullah’s arrest last month, the Nasheed regime alienated the entire judiciary, and lawyers. They too joined in the protests.

Mr. Nasheed has had a hard time since he came to power in 2008. He headed the first democratically elected government, but did not have adequate support in The Majlis, leading to an impasse on most issues of governance. Mr. Nasheed had had the staunch support of both Colombo and New Delhi so far. But he squandered this goodwill too.

Mohamed Nasheed: the Profile

Mohamed Nasheed, (born May 17, 1967, Male, Maldives), journalist, activist, and politician who was elected president of the Maldives in 2008. Nasheed attended grammar school in Male before attending schools in Colombo, Sri Lanka (1981–82), and in West Lavington, Wiltshire, England (1982–84). He received a bachelor’s degree in maritime studies from Liverpool John Moores University in 1989.

Nasheed returned to the Maldives and in 1990 became assistant editor of the new magazine *Sangu*, which criticized the government of Pres. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. *Sangu* was banned, and Nasheed was sentenced to house arrest. He was jailed later that year and was held in solitary confinement for 18 months. He was sentenced to three years in prison in 1992 but was released in 1993. Nasheed applied for government permission to form an independent political party in 1994, but his request was rejected. Beginning in April 1996 he served six months in prison for an article he wrote in a Philippine magazine about the 1993 and 1994 elections in the Maldives.

In 1999 Nasheed was elected to the Maldivian parliament, the People’s Majlis. He was arrested again in October 2001 and the following month was sentenced to two and a half years’ exile to a remote island. In March 2002, while in exile, he was expelled from the Majlis because he had not attended the parliament for six months; he was released in August. After riots in the capital, Male, in September 2003, Nasheed left the Maldives for Sri Lanka, and while in exile there he helped found the opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) in November 2004.

Nasheed returned to the Maldives in April 2005. That June the Maldivian government passed legislation allowing political parties to participate in elections, and as head of the MDP, Nasheed began a campaign of non violent civil disobedience designed to bring greater democracy to the Maldives. Detained again, he spent more than a year under house arrest (2005–06). In the first free presidential election in the Maldives, in October 2008, Nasheed defeated Gayoom with 54 percent of the vote.

As president, Nasheed became known internationally for his outspoken efforts toward halting climate change. All the Maldive Islands are low-lying, none rising to more than 6 feet (1.8 metres) above sea level. In 2009 Nasheed wrote, “Sea level rise of even half a metre would make much of [the Maldives] uninhabitable....But the Maldives is no special case; simply the canary in the world’s coal mine.” The Maldives announced plans to become the world’s first carbon-neutral nation by 2020. Nasheed even held a cabinet meeting underwater to draw attention to the danger the Maldives would face from rising sea levels.

In June 2010 relations between Nasheed and the People’s Majlis reached a new low when Nasheed’s entire cabinet resigned to protest the parliament’s blocking of the Nasheed

mini

YEAR BOOK

2012

SUBSCRIPTION

Yearly : 200/-

for more details visit :

developindiamediagroup@gmail.com

government’s initiatives. Nasheed reappointed his cabinet. However, the political situation was deadlocked: the opposition Maldivi People’s Party did not have enough seats in the Majlis to impeach Nasheed, and Nasheed could not dismiss the Majlis until it had completed its five-year term.

Maldives since independence

Below are key dates in the history of the Maldives, a holiday paradise in the Indian Ocean which has been wracked by violence since Mohamed Nasheed, the archipelago’s first democratically elected president, resigned on 07.02.2012.

July 26, 1965: Full independence as a sultanate outside the British Commonwealth. Membership of the United Nations.

1968: Sultan removed after referendum. Republic installed with Ibrahim Nasir as president.

1978: Nasir retires, replaced by Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who wins uncontested elections for the next 30 years.

1988: Coup attempt involving Sri Lankan mercenaries foiled with intervention of the Indian military.

1998: Gayoom wins a fifth term in a presidential referendum.

2003: Gayoom is sworn in for a sixth five-year term, after an election marred by street riots following the killing of two prisoners in a police shooting.

2004: State of emergency imposed after pro-democracy demonstrations. Dozens of government opponents are arrested.

The Indian Ocean tsunami, following an earthquake off Indonesia on December 26, leaves dozens dead and widespread destruction.

2005: Parliament votes in June for the installation of a multi-party system. Two months later the authorities have dozens of opponents arrested. The head of the main pro-democratic party, Mohamed Nasheed, is charged with terrorism.

2007: Twelve foreign tourists are injured in a bomb attack in Male.

2008: Gayoom escapes an assassination attempt in January.

In October, opposition leader Nasheed defeats Gayoom in the second round of the country’s first multi-party presidential election.

2009: The government holds an underwater cabinet meeting in a bid to focus international attention on rising sea levels that threatens to submerge the low-lying atoll nation.

May 1, 2011: Anti-government protesters, angered by soaring consumer prices, take to the streets of the Maldives for four nights to demand the resignation of Nasheed. The opposition says dozens are injured and arrested.

January 19, 2012: Hundreds of protesters take to the streets in Male, saying Nasheed acted unconstitutionally by ordering the army to arrest a senior judge.

February 7: Nasheed announces his resignation after a mutiny by the police and weeks of demonstrations. Vice President Mohamed Waheed is sworn in as the new head of state.

February 8: Nasheed says his resignation was forced by armed police and army officers in a coup plot hatched with the knowledge of his successor.

Clashes take place in Male and a number of outlying atolls.

February 9: Judge issues warrant for Nasheed’s arrest, but foreign diplomatic pressure delays its implementation.

The Andhra Pradesh Emmar Scam

Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd also known as APIIC is an Andhra Pradesh Government initiative for providing infrastructure through development of industrial areas.

APIIC was established in the year 1973 for identifying and developing potential growth centres in the State fully equipped with developed plots/sheds, roads, drainage, water, power and other infrastructural facilities; providing social infrastructure, like housing for workers near industrial zones; co-ordinating with the agencies concerned for providing communication, transport and other facilities. The Corporation also has active projects in the Public-Private Partnership Mode.

APIIC Tower going to be the signature building of Hyderabad a 100-storied trade tower that will house corporates, star hotels and even entertainment theatres.

The Government has earmarked a 97-acre (390,000 m2) site to the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) for the proposed trade tower to be constructed at Manchirevula near Narsingi, in the Business District. According to APIIC Chairman S.Siva Rama Subramanyam, who recently led a three-member corporation team to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to study the famed 'Petronas Towers' there, the modalities of the project were being worked out. After the initial expression of interest, global tenders were expected to be called in in a couple of months.

He said the Government was keen to have the APIIC Tower completed in a couple of years by the time the Hyderabad International Airport at Shamshabad and the elevated expressway corridor would be ready. The APIIC tower could either be a joint venture or with the APIIC as an equity partner, the modalities of which were yet to be worked out with consultants. He said a consultant, Fortune Capitals had been mandated to work out the plan. The APIIC was keen to start the work at the earliest in the next fiscal.

APIIC has been embroiled in a controversy over land acquisition for the Boulder Hills project in Hyderabad, a joint venture with EMAAR-MGF (also see EMAAR). News reports suggest that the APIIC agreed to dilute the public stake by undervaluing the land that it contributed. About 500 acres (2.0 km2) of land was acquired by APIIC in 2002-2003 for setting up a golf course and residential properties. Of the 535 acres (2.17 km2) of land in Manikonda near the Indian School of Business, APIIC sold 285 acres (1.15 km2) at 27 lakhs per acre as against the prevailing price of 1 crore per acre in 2003. The remaining 235 acres (and an additional 15 acres (61,000 m2) of unusable land) were allotted as a 66 year lease with a 2% share of the Golf course revenues. EMAAR sold this project to EMAAR-MGF and diluted the value of APIIC's stake from 26% to 4%, by not considering the prevailing market rate for the land in 2009.

Multiple claimants to the land have emerged, including the WAKF board and the previous farmer owners of this land. The customers who have paid for properties in the developed project are in jeopardy due to the unclear land title. On the back of the controversial Boulder Hills deal with EMAAR-MGF, several other APIIC projects, including the Raheja Mindspace IT park, that were approved in the period between 2003 and 2009 are being questioned. There are allegations of irregularities in land deals during the Chief Ministership of Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy.

There are also allegations that government officials were allocated parcels of the property at deeply discounted prices compared to the prevailing market price. Officials who previously ran APIIC and seem to have conflicts of interest with the developers, have refuted many of these allegations and defended earlier land allotment decisions.

There have been several calls for a thorough investigation into APIIC deals either by the CBI or by the state investigative agency CID. Though

there were initial reports of an external audit, the calls for a CBI enquiry were downplayed by the Andhra Pradesh Government, which has initiated an internal APIIC probe. Government activity after the scam Andhra Pradesh government on 4th February suspended senior IAS officer and Principal Secretary (Home) B P Acharya who was arrested by CBI in connection with a scam relating to an township project here.

The state government said the 1983-batch IAS officer was placed under suspension following his detention for over 48 hours in the APIIC- Emaar scam. According to the government order, "Acharya is under suspension with effect from January 30 2011, the date on which he was detained. He shall continue to be under suspension until further orders." Acharya, former Chairman and Managing Director of Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC), is accused by CBI of having entered into a criminal conspiracy with officials of Emaar Group and unnamed public servants to cheat APIIC and secure wrongful gains to Dubai-based infrastructure firm Emaar.

During the period of suspension, Acharya's headquarters will be Hyderabad, which he cannot leave without the government permission, the order said. As per All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, a member of the Service, who is detained in official custody, on a criminal charge or otherwise, for over 48 hours, he or she would be deemed to have been suspended

What the Emaar scam is all about On the orders of the AP High Court following a petition filed by Congress MLA P Shankar Rao, the CBI filed an FIR on August 17, 2011, against BP Acharya, directors of Emaar Properties, Dubai, Emaar Hills Township Pvt Ltd, Emaar-MGF Land Pvt Ltd, directors of Stylish Homes real Estate Pvt Ltd, unknown public servants of AP government, and others and charged them with criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust, showing forged documents as genuine under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The allegation is that BP Acharya and others named in the FIR entered into a criminal conspiracy to cheat APIIC during 2005-2010, and towards that end, Emaar Properties, Dubai, and Emaar Hills Township Pvt Ltd entered into an agreement with Stylish Homes to sell villa plots at pre-determined prices which was less than the market value and without the knowledge or consent of the APIIC board. Further, the CBI alleged that Emaar Hills Township assigned the rights of development to Emaar-MGF without in-principle approval of APIIC.

The joint venture between APIIC and Emaar Properties, Dubai, was to develop an integrated project consisting of golf course, club house, boutique, hotel, township, on 535 acres of land at Manikonda on the outskirts of Hyderabad in Ranga Reddy district besides a business hotel and convention centre on adjoining leased land. While APIIC's stake in the Manikonda project was 26%, the same in the convention centre was 49%.

According to the CBI, while the GOs mandated that only Emaar Properties, Dubai, should execute the project, the MoUs signed between APIIC and Emaar later inserted a clause regarding assignment of rights towards development, management and operation of the project by the developer to a third party. Subsequently, in April 2005, Emaar Properties, Dubai, assigned the project to three other firms, Emaar Hills Township Pvt Ltd, Boulder Hills Leisure Pvt Ltd and Cyberabad Convention Centre Pvt Ltd. Emaar Properties also entered into an agreement with Stylish Homes represented by its director T Ranga Rao, who, on behalf of Emaar Hills Township, was to sell plots and residential units in the project at Rs 5,000 per sq yard for which the latter was entitled to 4% commission on the sale value. According to the CBI, Stylish Homes collected excess amounts in cash ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000 per

sq yd from villa plot buyers. In all, Stylish Homes sold 105 villa plots and pocketed at least Rs 95 crore over and above the documented rate of Rs 5,000 per sq.yd and deprived APIIC of its due share in the revenue generated by the sale of villa plots. In the meantime, the stake of APIIC was reduced both in the Emaar Hills Township and the convention centre projects, the CBI has charged.

Incidentally, CBI's efforts in the case was facilitated by an inquiry in the matter earlier by the vigilance and enforcement department of the AP government then headed by Dinesh Reddy who is now the director general of police. The V&E report had unraveled the scandal and exposed the nexus.

CBI's Action

CBI filed its chargesheet against seven persons including Andhra Pradesh home secretary and senior IAS officer B P Acharya and five companies in the case relating to alleged irregularities in land transfer and sale of villas and apartments in an upscale township in Hyderabad.

The chargesheet was filed before the special CBI court in Hyderabad under IPC sections relating to criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust among others and relevant sections of Prevention of Corruption Act.

Besides Acharya, CBI has named executive officer, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) L V Subrahmanyam, who was the then vice-chairman and MD, APIIC, the then Secretary (Industries) K V Rao (now retired), private persons Koneru Rajendra Prasad, Srikant Joshi, Madhu Koneru and T Ranga Rao.

The companies booked by CBI included Dubai-based Emaar Properties PJSC, Hyderabad-based Emmar Hills Township Pvt Ltd, Emaar MGF Land Ltd, Stylish Homes Real Estates Pvt Ltd and Boulder Hills Leisure Pvt Ltd, CBI sources said.

"The public servants had abused their respective official positions and facilitated the private Real Estate Companies to sell the Villas, Plots at exorbitant rates to the buyers, remitting only the documented sale consideration to a Hyderabad-based Real Estate Company, and allegedly swindling away with the unaccounted extra sale consideration received in cash," CBI spokesperson Dharini Mishra said in New Delhi. Replying to a query, joint director CBI V. V. Lakshmi Narayana said in Hyderabad they had already sought permission for sanction of prosecution against the two IAS officers - Acharya and Subrahmanyam and another retired IAS official K. V. Rao named in the chargesheet.

Oil tanker explosion kills 5 off coast of South Korea

Damage is seen on the Doola 3, an oil tanker carrying petroleum, after it exploded in waters off South Korea's western port city of Incheon Jan. 15. Doola Shipping, which operates the



ship, said the explosion seems to have taken place while gas was being drained from the oil tank. "The vessel usually transports diesel, but this time it carried gasoline. We are now examining whether it had any relation to the explosion," a company official said.

The explosion was not caused by any external shock, Coast Guard officials said, adding it suddenly occurred when some crew members were cleaning the oil tank on the deck. They will request a forensic test for the case, the officials said. Boats of the South Korean Coast Guard patrol near the damaged Doola 3, center, an oil tanker carrying petroleum, after it exploded in waters off

South Korea's western port city of Incheon Jan. 15. Five crew members were killed and six others are missing after the explosion of the 4,191-tonne freight ship, which had been carrying 16 crewmen -- 11 Koreans and 5 Myanmarese -- on board, in waters north of Jawol Island near Incheon, according to the coast guard.

Phobos-Grunt: Failed probe 'falls over Pacific'

Orbital tracking reports suggest Russia's failed Mars probe, Phobos-Grunt, fell back to Earth on Sunday,



to be destroyed over the Pacific. Russian, US and European sources announced the demise of the craft within minutes of each other. It brings to an end the sorry story of this mission, which promised to return rocky samples from Mars' biggest moon. Instead, after its launch in November, Phobos-Grunt could not get more than 345km from Earth before stalling.

Once it became clear that controllers could not establish contact with the probe and diagnose its faults, a fiery dive back to Earth was inevitable. The spacecraft's last orbit took it over Japan, and the Solomon Islands, and to the east of Australia and New Zealand. Conflicting reports then had the final re-entry point across a great swathe of the Southern Ocean. Certainly, it seems Phobos-Grunt was down and destroyed before it could have passed over South America.

The Russian space agency (Roscosmos) had estimated that no more than 200kg of the original 13-tonne launch mass of Phobos-Grunt would survive to the Earth's surface. "According to information from mission control of the space forces, the fragments of Phobos-Grunt should have fallen into the Pacific Ocean at 1745 GMT," space forces spokesman Alexei Zolotukhin told the Interfax news agency.

The timing would have put the debris fall more than 1,000km west of Chile.

- 8 Nov (GMT): The probe launched successfully on its Zenit rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome
- It was dropped off 11 minutes later in an elliptical orbit some 345km (apogee) above the Earth
- Two firings from the probe's hydrazine-fuelled cruise stage were planned over South America
- The first, lasting 11.5 minutes, should have raised the orbit of Phobos-Grunt to 4,000km
- A second burn, four hours into the mission, was to have sent the probe on a path to Mars
- But Russian engineers later confirmed that neither burn took place
- Controllers made only limited radio contact with the probe; mission recovery was not possible
- Re-entry was predicted for mid-January; 20-30 fragments were expected to survive the descent

MINERVA

Hindi & English

Monthly Magazines

SUBSCRIPTION

Yearly : 600/-

Bi Yearly : 1000/-

for more details visit :

developindiamediagroup@gmail.com

OPINION - EDITORIAL

INDIA - AFRICAN UNION RELATIONS

Chitra Singh Rajput

The African Union is an international organisation consisting of 54 African member states (excluding Morocco but including Saharwi ADR). It was founded in Durban on July 10, 2002, replacing the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

In 1999, the Heads of State / Government of the OAU issued the Sirte Declaration calling for establishing an African Union to accelerate the process of integration in the African Continent. The Lome Summit of 2000 adopted the Constitutive Act and the Lusaka Summit of 2001 drew the roadmap for implementation of the African Union. Its headquarters is located in Addis Ababa. The birth of the AU is a legacy of the Pan-African movement towards creating institutions to achieve the objectives of peace, political stability, democracy, economic integration and good governance. The Regional Economic Communities like Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Arab Maghreb Union (AMU/UMA), The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) are contributing to the progress of integration. India is a member of the AU Partners Group (AUPG), which meets periodically in Addis Ababa. Since the inception of the African Union, India has been regularly participating in its various Summits. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MoS for External Affairs, participated in the 14th Ordinary Summit of The African Union from 25th January to 2nd February, 2010, whose theme was "Information and Communication Technologies in Africa: Prospects and Challenges for Development". He attended the opening ceremony of the Executive Council, called on the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Foreign Ministers of a number of African states and Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of AUC and discussed a number of matters of mutual interest. During the visit, he also inaugurated the Tele-medicine facility at the African Union Clinic which received wide publicity. Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary(West) participated in the Ministerial segment of the 15th Ordinary Summit of the African Union Commission which took place in Kampala from July 21-24, 2010. Smt. Preneet Kaur, MOS (PK), visited Addis Ababa and participated in the Ministerial segment of the 16th Ordinary Summit of the African Union which was held in Addis Ababa between January 26-28, 2011. During her 2 stay, she addressed the 18th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union, on January 27, 2011. MOS(PK) met Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Jean Ping and also held bilateral meetings with many Ministers from African countries such as South Africa, Swaziland, Mauritania, Mauritius, and Executive Secretary of IGAD. She also called on the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia. Shri M. Ganapathi, Secretary (West) attended the 19th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in January 2012.

India-Africa Forum Summit

The first ever India-Africa Forum Summit, attended by the countries representing AU and the Regional Economic Communities of Africa, was held in New Delhi on 8-9 April, 2008. Leaders of 14 African countries and the African Union Commission participated. It represented a turning point in the India- AU relations. The Summit adopted the Delhi Declaration and the Africa-India Framework for Cooperation, which constituted the blueprint for cooperation between India and Africa in the 21st century. India announced unilateral duty free and preferential market access for exports from all Least Developed Countries, 34 of which are in Africa. The scheme covers 94% of India's total tariff lines with preferential market access on tariff lines that comprise 92.55 of global exports of all Least Developed Countries. Products of immediate interest to Africa include

cotton, cocoa, aluminium ores, copper ores, cashew nuts, cane sugar, ready-made garments, fish fillets and non-industrial diamonds. India was to double its quantum of credit to USD 5.4 billion from the present USD 2.15 billion over next five years. In order to enhance opportunities for African Students to pursue higher studies in India, the Government of India doubled long-term scholarships for undergraduates, postgraduates and higher courses and increased the number of training slots under our technical assistance programmes from 1100 to 1600 every year. Prime Minister also proposed to enhance Indian aid to Africa by expanded concessional lines of credit and undertaking projects against grants in excess of USD 500 million over the next five to six years, focusing on human resource development and capacity building. India will strengthen local capabilities by creating regional and pan -African institutions of higher education, especially in pure sciences, information technology and vocational education. India also committed to make investments in research and development in renewable forms of energy and agricultural development, through these institutions. Several outreach events took place before or concurrent with the Summit. These were(i) the first ever India-Africa Editors Conference;(ii) joint performances by Indian and African cultural troupes; (iii) a seminar of intellectuals from Africa and India on India-Africa Partnership on the 21st century(vi) a programme for youth and women from Africa; and (v) a business conclave.

Follow-up of India-Africa Forum Summit

Following visit of a high level delegation from AUC to New Delhi, a Joint Action Plan, with a view to implementing the decisions of the IAFS 2008, was launched on 10th March 2010 between the Government of India and the African Union. More than 40 scholars have already joined Indian universities subsequent to the award 300 Ph.D and masters scholarships in the field of Agriculture over a period of four years. Under the CV Raman International Fellowship for African Researchers, 85 African researchers have already been availed of the scholarship last year and for the second edition applications have already reached FICCI. These are short-term, fully-funded scholarships. FICCI has been designated as the co-ordinating partner for this fellowship programme. Under capacity building initiatives various short-term courses were organised for some 432 African experts on subjects such as economic offences and cyber crimes, food quality and safety, disaster risk management, infrastructure development, entrepreneur development, combating desertification and the like. (62 of the 432 have been from Ethiopia). After the decisions taken during the AIFS-II, new courses have already begun. Second Africa-India Forum Summit

The Second Africa-India Forum Summit took place in Addis Ababa from May 20-25, 2011. The AIFS-II, saw the first ever State visit of the Prime Minister of India to Ethiopia. The PM inaugurated the IAFS-II in Addis Ababa on 24-25 May 2011, which was attended, in addition to India and the African Union Commission, by HOSs/HOGs of 15 African Countries or their representatives. The Prime Minister announced a new credit line of US \$ 300 million for Djibouti-Ethiopia Railway line as regional integration component of the decisions taken under the Summits. Two documents, namely 1. the Framework for enhanced cooperation and 2. The Addis Ababa Declaration were adopted during the summit. The PM hosted a lunch over the Retreat at the Sheraton Hotel. On 25th May 2011, the Summit concluded with the release of a book namely "A Billion Dreams", a commemorative stamp and a special edition of the Africa Quarterly. On the 24th May 2011 the PM held a series of bilateral meetings with various African leaders and the AU Chairperson, Dr. Jean Ping. The Ethiopian PM and Chairperson of the AUC, Dr. Jean Ping called on PM on May 23, 2011 at the Sheraton hotel. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Anand Sharma inaugurated India Africa Trade Ministers meet on May 21, 2011. Trade Ministers from

17 African Countries participated. A Joint statement was issued at the end of the Trade Ministers' meet. The Trade Ministers also met a group of Indian and African CEOs and the Minister of Commerce and industry held a press conference after the meet. This event has been announced to be a regular one in the future It has also been decided to establish an India Africa Business Council for which preparations have already begun with the Indian side having decided on the co-chair and membership. The African side has 4 also submitted names of 27 members. The name of the co-chair from the African side is expected soon. Apart from these major high level visits, there were a series of side events organized alongside the AIFS-II. The first ever Academic symposium captioned "Africa & India : Partnership for Enhancing Development & Growth" was organized from 11-12 May 2011, which saw a participation of academicians from different parts of Africa and adoption of a document which was presented at the ministerial level meeting at the AUC on 24th May 2011. The cultural show named "Rhythm of Life" was inaugurated by the First Lady H.E. Mrs. Azeb Mesfin and the Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma from 20-22 May 2011. The cultural show saw the fusion of some of the African dance and music with the Indian dance and music and was well appreciated. A multi-media exhibition held from May 20-22, 2011 and named "From Tradition to Innovation" was also inaugurated by Shri Anand Sharma and the First Lady H.E. Mrs. Azeb Mesfin on May 20, 2011. The Trade Exhibition called "India Show" was inaugurated by Shri Anand Sharma and his Ethiopian counterpart Mr. Abdurhman Sheikh Mohammed, Minister for Trade and Mr. Mekonnen Manyazewal Minister for Industry and the Mr. Tadesse Haile State Minister for Industry, and the African Union Commission Deputy Chairperson, Mr. Erastus Mwencha from 20-22 May 2011. A "Handcrafting Hope" exhibition, also held between 20-22 May 2011 saw the participation of some of the African craftswomen and their Indian counterparts who displayed some of the common features amongst them. A Film Festival captioned "Come, Fall in Love with the Magic of Bollywood" show was inaugurated during the same time by the Culture Minister of Ethiopia and Secretary (West) and AU Commissioner for Social affairs, and saw a huge turnout of people for viewing the films from 20 - 27 May, 2011. The India Africa Media Partnership Symposium called "Building Bridges" was held on 21 May 2011. From the African Union, AU commissioner for Rural economy and Agriculture Ms. Tumusime Rhoda Peace attended the inauguration. The Foreign Ministers of the 15 African States and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission met and were addressed by EAM, Mr. S.M.Krishna on May 22, 2011. During the meet, 4 MOUs to establish 14 capacity building institutions were signed by the EAM and the AUC Chairperson, Dr. Jean Ping. EAM also placed before the meeting two reports which emerged out of the India-Africa Academic Symposium and the India- Africa Partnership Summit. India and African Union Commission are in the process of discussing a Joint Plan of Action subsequent to the AIFS-II. In this regard, the first meeting took place in Addis Ababa in October 2011, when Shri Gurjit Singh, AS (E&SA) visited and led the Indian delegation. The process of discussions is currently on. During the just concluded AU Summit in January 2012, further discussions took place between the Indian delegation led by AS(E&SA) and the AU wherein AU was requested to submit their response by end-February so that the Plan of Action could be signed as soon as possible. AU was also 5 requested to convey the names of 6 institutions to be set up at continental level.

Pan-African e-Network Project

The proposal for establishing the Pan-African e-Network Project was made by the then President of India at the Pan-African Parliament in 2004 and

is being implemented in conjunction with the African Union. The Project was inaugurated by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the then Minister of External Affairs on February 26, 2009 from the TCIL Centre in New Delhi. The process to implement the project was undertaken by establishing a Steering Committee, which is co-chaired by the Commissioner for Infrastructure and the India's Permanent Representative to the African Union (the Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia). An agreement between GOI and the African Union was signed in New Delhi in October 2005 and seven meetings of the Steering Committee have so far been held. The meetings are cochaired by the Ambassador of India, who is also the Permanent Representative of India to AU, with the Commissioner for Infrastructure Development of AU. JS (WA) and representatives from IGNOU, TCIL, and Amity University also participate in the deliberations. The 7th Meeting of the Steering Committee took place in May 2010. Ethiopia was the first beneficiary of the project under a pilot project, which was completed in 2009 at a cost of US\$2.13 million. India has also committed to provide tele-medicine, tele-education and VIP connectivity facility at AU Commission in Addis Ababa. A tele-medicine Centre was inaugurated by the then MOS (ST), Dr Shashi Tharoor on February 28, 2010 during his visit to Addis Ababa in connection with the 14th Summit of AU. AU thus became the 48th member of the Network. Pan-African E-network project was inaugurated in February 2009 by the then External Affairs Minister of India. Another inauguration took place on August 16, 2010 when Shri S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister of India interacted live with 12 Ministers of African countries. 23 countries have been covered by this network where the project has been fully implemented.

Visit of Chairperson of AU Commission

H.E. Dr. Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of AU Commission paid an official visit to India from 19-21 December 2006. He called on the President, had meetings with the EAM, MOS (AS), and delivered a lecture at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). He also visited TCIL and IGNOU and observed the working of the Pan African tele-education project.

ITEC

India had allocated 13 slots each in the years 2008-2010 under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme to the AU Commission personnel and all the slots were been fully utilized. After the AIFS-II, the slots have been increased to 30.

Defence

Among the various aspects of engagement with the African Union Commission, their requirement for training and capacity building of their nascent standby brigade, which were to be the building blocks of their peacekeeping activities, are being discussed. At the request of the AU commission, initial discussions on their structures to be developed and capabilities to be enhanced were undertaken between an Indian military delegation and the peace and security division of the AU Commission in August 2006. The aim was to see how the Indian experience can be shared with the AU's efforts to enhance its own capacities for peacekeeping operations in Africa. Commissioner level visits Commissioner for Political Affairs and Commissioner for Infrastructure & Energy participated in the Federalism Conference and India- Africa Hydrocarbon Conference respectively in Nov. 2007. Commissioner for Rural Economy & Agriculture participated in Avian Influenza Conference in Dec. 2007. Commissioner for Economic Affairs of AU participated in the Partnership Summit 2008 in March 2008 and spoke on "Ensuring Growth, Making it Inclusive: The West Asian and African Views." Deputy Chairperson of AUC, Commissioner for Trade and Industry and Commissioner for Infrastructure & Energy participated in the India Africa Forum Summit in April 2008. Commissioner for Infrastructure attended Exim Bank Conclave in Delhi in March, 2009.

EDITORIAL

DEVELOP INDIA

English Weekly Newspaper

Year 4, Vol. 1, Issue 179, 8-15 January, 2012

OCEANS' ACIDIC SHIFT MAY BE FASTEST IN 300 MILLION YEARS

The world's oceans are turning acidic at what could be the fastest pace of any time in the past 300 million years, even more rapidly than during a monster emission of planet-warming carbon 56 million years ago, scientists said.

Looking back at that bygone warm period in Earth's history could offer help in forecasting the impact of human-spurred climate change, researchers said of a review of hundreds of studies of ancient climate records published in the journal Science.

Quickly acidifying seawater eats away at coral reefs, which provide habitat for other animals and plants, and makes it harder for mussels and oysters to form protective shells. It can also interfere with small organisms that feed commercial fish like salmon.

The phenomenon has been a top concern of Jane Lubchenco, the head of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who has conducted demonstrations about acidification during hearings in the U.S. Congress.

Oceans get more acidic when more carbon gets into the atmosphere. In pre-industrial times, that occurred periodically in natural pulses of carbon that also pushed up global temperatures, the scientists wrote.

Human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels, have increased the level of atmospheric carbon to 392 parts per million from about 280 parts per million at the start of the industrial revolution. Carbon dioxide is one of several heat-trapping gases that contribute to global warming.

To figure out what ocean acidification might have done in the prehistoric past, 21 researchers from the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain reviewed studies of the geological record going back 300 million years, looking for signs of climate disruption.

Those indications of climate change included mass extinction events, where substantial percentages of living things on Earth died off, such as the giant asteroid strike thought to have killed the dinosaurs some 65 million years ago.

The events that seemed similar to what is happening now included mass extinctions about 252 million and 201 million years ago, as well as the warming period 56 million years in the past.

The researchers reckoned the 5,000-year hot spell 56 million years ago, likely due to factors like massive volcanism, was the closest parallel to current conditions at any time in the 300 million years.

To detect that, they looked at a layer of brown mud buried under the Southern Ocean off Antarctica. Sandwiched between layers of white plankton fossils, the brown mud indicated an ocean so acidic that the plankton fossils from that particular 5,000-year period dissolved into muck.

During that span, the amount of carbon in the atmosphere doubled and average temperatures rose by 10.8 degrees F, the researchers said. The oceans became more acidic by about 0.4 unit on the 14-point pH scale over that 5,000-year period, the researchers said.

That is a fast warm-up and a quick acidification, but it is small compared with what has happened on Earth since the start of the industrial revolution some 150 years ago, study author Baerbel Hoenisch of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory said by telephone.

During the warming period 56 million years ago, known as the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum, or PETM, and occurring about 9 million years after the extinction of the dinosaurs, acidification for each century was about .008 unit on the pH scale, Hoenisch said.

Back then, many corals went extinct, as did many types of single-celled organisms that lived on the sea floor, which suggests other plants and animals higher on the food chain died out too, researchers said.

By contrast, in the 20th century, oceans acidified by .1 unit of pH, and are projected to get more acidic at the rate of .2 or .3 pH by the year 2100, according to the study.

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects world temperatures could rise by 3.2 to 7 degrees F this century.

"Given that the rate of change was an order of magnitude smaller (in the PETM) compared to what we're doing today, and still there were these big ecosystem changes, that gives us concern for what is going to happen in the future," Hoenisch said.

Those skeptical of human-caused climate change often point to past warming periods caused by natural events as evidence that the current warming trend is not a result of human activities. Hoenisch noted that natural causes such as massive volcanism were probably responsible for the PETM.

She said, however, that the rate of warming and acidification was much more gradual then, over the course of five millennia compared with one century.

Richard Feely, an oceanographer at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who was not involved in the study, said looking at that distant past was a good way to foresee the future.

"These studies give you a sense of the timing involved in past ocean acidification events - they did not happen quickly," Feely said in a statement. "The decisions we make over the next few decades could have significant implications on a geologic timescale."

TEST SERIES;

Study Materials

IAS Prelims and main examinations

Fee : 1000/-

for more details

visit : developindiamediagroup@gmail.com

PLAN OF UPSC EXAMINATION

1. The competitive examination comprises two successive stages:

(i) **Civil Services (Preliminary) Examinations** (Objective Type) for the selection of candidates for Main Examination; and

(ii) **Civil Services (Main) Examination** (Written and Interview) for the selection of candidates for the various services and posts.

2. **The Preliminary Examination will consist of two papers of Objective type** (*multiple choice questions*) and carry a **maximum of 400 marks** in the subjects set out in subsection (A) of Section-II. This examination is meant to serve as a screening test only; the marks obtained in the Preliminary Examination by the candidates who are declared qualified for admission to the Main Examination will not be counted for determining their final order of merit. The number of candidates to be admitted to the Main Examination will be about twelve to thirteen times the total approximate number of vacancies to be filled in the year in the various Services and Posts. Only those candidates who are declared by the Commission to have qualified in the Preliminary Examination in the year will be eligible for admission to the Main Examination of that year provided they are otherwise eligible for admission to the Main Examination.

3. **The Main Examination will consist of a written examination and an Interview Test.**

The **written examination will consist of 9 papers** of conventional essay type in the subjects set out in sub-section (B) of Section-II. Also see Note (ii) under para I of Section-II (B).

4. Candidates who obtain such minimum qualifying marks in the written part of the Main Examination as may be fixed by the Commission at their discretion, shall be summoned by them for an interview/for a Personality Test vide sub-section 'C' of Section-II. However, the papers on Indian

Languages and English will be of qualifying nature. Also see Note (ii) under para 1 of Section-II (B). The marks obtained in these papers will not be counted for ranking.

The number of candidates to be summoned for interview will be about twice the number of vacancies to be filled. The interview will carry 300 marks (with no minimum qualifying marks).

Marks thus obtained by the candidates in the Main Examination (written part as well as interview) would determine their final ranking. Candidates will be allotted to the various Services keeping in view their ranks in the examination and the preferences expressed by them for the various Services and Posts.

Section-II

Scheme and subjects for the Preliminary and Main Examinations.

A. Preliminary Examination

The Examination shall comprise two compulsory papers of 200 marks each.

NOTE (i) Both the question papers will be of the objective type (multiple choice questions).

(ii) The question papers will be set both in Hindi and English. However, questions relating to English Language Comprehension skills of Class X level will be tested through passages from English Language only without providing Hindi translation

thereof in the question paper.

(iii) Details of the syllabi are indicated in Part A of Section III.

(iv) Each paper will be of two hours duration. Blind candidates will however, be allowed an extra time of twenty minutes at each paper.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

The Examination shall comprise two compulsory papers of 200 marks each.

Paper I

(200 marks) Duration : Two hours

1. **Current events** of national and international importance
2. **History of India and Indian National Movement**
3. **Indian and World Geography** - Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World
4. **Indian Polity and Governance** - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc
5. **Economic and Social Development** - Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc
6. **General issues on Environmental Ecology**, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialisation
7. **General Science**

Paper II

(200 marks) Duration: Two hours

1. **Comprehension in Hindi**
2. **Interpersonal Skills** including **Communication Skills**;
3. **Logical Reasoning and Analytical Ability**
4. **Decision-making and problem solving**
5. **General Mental Ability**
6. **Basic Numeracy** (numbers and their relations, orders of magnitude, etc.) (Class X level), **Data Interpretation** (charts, graphs, tables, **Data Sufficiency** etc. - Class X level)
7. **English Language Comprehension Skills** (Class X level).

B. Main Examination

The written examination will consist of the following papers :

Paper I One of the Indian 300 marks languages to be selected by the candidate from the Languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

Paper II English 300 marks

Paper III Essay 200 marks

Papers IV General Studies 300 marks **and V** for each paper

Papers VI Any two 300 marks

VII, VIII subjects to for each **and IX** be selected from paper the list of the optional subjects set out in para 2 below.

Each subject will have two papers.

MAIN EXAMINATION

The main Examination is intended to assess the overall intellectual traits and depth of understanding of candidates rather than merely the range of their information and memory.

The scope of the syllabus for the optional subject papers for the examination is broadly of the honours degree level i.e. a level higher than the bachelors degree and lower than the masters degree. In the case of Engineering and law, the level corresponds to the bachelor's degree

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

ENGLISH AND INDIAN LANGUAGES

The aim of the paper is to test the candidate's ability to read and understand serious discursive prose, and to

express his ideas clearly and correctly in English/Indian language concerned.

The pattern of questions would be broadly as follows :-

- (i) Comprehension of given passages.
 - (ii) Precis Writing
 - (iii) Usage and Vocabulary
 - (iv) Short Essay
- ## INDIAN LANGUAGES
- (i) Comprehension of given passages.
 - (ii) Precis Writing
 - (iii) Usage and Vocabulary.
 - (iv) Short Essay
 - (v) Translation from English to the Indian language and vice-versa.

Note 1 : The Papers on Indian Languages and English will be of Matriculation or equivalent standard and will be of qualifying nature only. The marks obtained in these papers will not be counted for ranking.

Note 2 : The candidates will have to answer the English and Indian Languages papers in English and the respective Indian language (except where translation is involved).

ESSAY

Candidates will be required to write an essay on a specific topic. The choice of subjects will be given. They will be expected to keep closely to the subject of the essay to arrange their ideas in orderly fashion, and to write concisely. Credit will be given for effective and exact expression.

GENERAL STUDIES

General Guidelines:

The nature and standard of questions in the General Studies papers will be such that a well-educated person will be able to answer them without any specialized study. The questions will be such as to test a candidate's general awareness of a variety of subjects, which will have relevance for a career in Civil Services. The questions are likely to test the candidate's basic understanding of all relevant issues, and ability to analyze, and take a view on conflicting socio-economic goals, objectives and demands. The candidates must give relevant, meaningful and succinct answers.

PAPER - I

1. History of Modern India and Indian Culture:

The History of Modern India will cover history of the Country from about the middle of nineteenth century and would also include questions on important personalities who shaped the freedom movement and social reforms. The part relating to Indian culture will cover all aspects of Indian culture from the ancient to modern times as well as principal features of literature, arts and architecture.

2. Geography of India:

In this part, questions will be on the physical, economic and social geography of India.

3. Constitution of India and Indian Polity:

This part will include questions on the Constitution of India as well as all constitutional, legal, administrative and other issues emerging from the politico-administrative system prevalent in the country.

4. Current National Issues and Topics of Social Relevance:

This part is intended to test the candidate's awareness of current national issues and topics of social relevance in present-day India, such as the following:

- The Indian economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of

resources, growth, development and employment.

- Issues arising from the social and economic exclusion of large sections from the benefits of development.

- Other issues relating to the development and management of human resource.

- Health issues including the management of Public Health, Health education and ethical concerns regarding health-care, medical research and pharmaceuticals.

- Law enforcement, internal security and related issues such as the preservation of communal harmony.

- Issues relating to good governance and accountability to the citizens including the maintenance of human rights, and of probity in public life.

- Environmental issues, ecological preservation, conservation of natural resources and national heritage.

PAPER - II

1. India and the World

This part will include questions to test candidate's awareness of India's relationship with the world in various spheres such as the following:-

- Foreign Affairs with special emphasis on India's relations with neighbouring countries and in the region.
- Security and defence related matters.
- Nuclear policy, issues, and conflicts.
- The Indian Diaspora and its contribution to India and the world.

2. India's Economic Interaction with the World:

In this part, questions will be on economic and trade issues such as foreign trade, foreign investment; economic and diplomacy issues relating to oil, gas and energy flows; the role and functions of I.M.F., World Bank, W.T.O., WIPO etc. which influence India's economic interaction with other countries and international institutions.

3. Developments in the Field of Science & Technology, IT and space:

In this part, questions will test the candidate's awareness of the developments in the field of science and technology, information technology, space and basic ideas about computers, robotics, nanotechnology, biotechnology and related issues regarding intellectual property rights.

4. International Affairs and Institutions:

This part will include questions on important events in world affairs and on international institutions.

5. Statistical analysis, graphs and diagrams:

This part will test the candidate's ability to draw conclusions from information presented in statistical, graphical or diagrammatical form and to interpret them.

Interview Test will carry 300 marks.

NOTE (i) The papers on Indian Languages and English will be of Matriculation or equivalent standard and will be of qualifying nature; the marks obtained in these papers will not be counted for ranking.

NOTE (ii) Evaluation of the papers, namely, 'Essay', 'General Studies' and Optional Subjects of all candidates would be done simultaneously along with evaluation of their qualifying papers on 'Indian languages' and 'English' but the papers on 'Essay', 'General Studies' and 'Optional Subjects' of only such candidates will be taken cognizance of as attain such

minimum standard as may be fixed by the Commission at their discretion for the qualifying papers on 'Indian language' and 'English' and, therefore, the marks in 'Essay' 'General studies and Optional subjects' will not be disclosed to those candidates who fail to obtain such minimum qualifying standard in 'Indian language and 'English'.

NOTE (iii) The paper-I on Indian Languages will not, however, be compulsory for candidates hailing from the North-Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland and also for candidates hailing from the State of Sikkim.

NOTE (iv) For the **Language papers**, the script to be used by the candidates will be as under:

1. Language Script
2. Assamese Assamese
3. Bengali Bengali
4. Bodo Devanagari
5. Dogri Devanagari
6. Gujarati Gujarati
7. Hindi Devanagari
8. Kannada Kannada
9. Kashmiri Persian
10. Konkani Devanagari
11. Maithili Devanagari
12. Malayalam Malayalam
13. Manipuri Bengali
14. Marathi Devanagari
15. Nepali Devanagari
16. Oriya Oriya
17. Punjabi Gurumukhi
18. Sanskrit Devanagari
19. Santali Devanagari or Olchiki
20. Sindhi Devanagari or Arabic
21. Tamil Tamil
22. Telugu Telugu
23. Urdu Persian

NOTE : For Santali language, question paper will be printed in Devanagari script; but candidates will be free to answer either in Devanagari script or in Olchiki.

2. List of optional subjects for Main Examination

1. Agriculture
2. Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science
3. Anthropology
4. Botany
5. Chemistry
6. Civil Engineering
7. Commerce and Accountancy
8. Economics
9. Electrical Engineering
10. Geography
11. Geology
12. History
13. Law
14. Management
15. Mathematics
16. Mechanical Engineering
17. Medical Science
18. Philosophy
19. Physics
20. Political Science and International Relations
21. Psychology
22. Public Administration
23. Sociology
24. Statistics
25. Zoology

Literature of one of the following languages:

Arabic, Assamese, Bodo, Bengali, Chinese, Dogri, English, French, German, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Pali, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu.

NOTE

(i) Candidates will not be allowed to



offer the following combinations of subjects:-

- Political Science & International Relations and Public Administration;
- Commerce & Accountancy and Management;
- Anthropology and Sociology;
- Mathematics and Statistics;
- Agriculture and Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science.
- Management and Public Administration; Of the Engineering subjects, viz., Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering-not more than one subject.
- Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science and Medical Science.

(ii) The question papers for the examination will be of conventional (essay) type.

(iii) Each paper will be of three hours duration.

Blind candidates will; however, be allowed an extra time of thirty minutes at each paper.

(iv) Candidates will have the option to answer all the question papers, except the language papers viz. Papers I and II above in any one of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution or in English.

(v) Candidates exercising the option to answer papers III to IX in any one of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution may, if they so desire, give English version within brackets of only the description of the technical terms, if any, in addition to the version in the language opted by them.

Candidates should, however, note that if they misuse the above rule, a deduction will be made on this account from the total marks otherwise accruing to them and in extreme cases; their script(s) will not be valued for being in an unauthorized medium.

(vi) The question papers other than language papers will be set both in Hindi and English.

(vii) The details of the syllabi are set out in Part B of Section-III.

“General Instructions (Preliminary as well as Main Examination)” :

(i) Candidates must write the papers in their own hand. In no circumstances, will they be allowed the help of a scribe to write the answers for them. However, blind candidates will be allowed to write the examination with the help of a scribe.

(ii) An extra time of twenty minutes per hour shall be permitted for the candidates with locomotor disability and cerebral palsy where dominant (writing) extremity is affected to the extent of slowing the performance of function (minimum of 40% impairment) in the Civil Services (Main) Examination only. However, no scribe shall be permitted to such candidates.

NOTE 1 : The eligibility conditions of a scribe, his/her conduct inside the examination hall and the manner in which and extent to which he/she can help the blind candidate in writing the Civil Services Examination shall be governed by the instructions issued by the UPSC in this regard.

President Ma Ying-jeou won a second term

President Ma Ying-jeou won a second term, as was expected. He beat his rival Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic



Progressive Party in the presidential election by a margin of 6 percent yesterday, winning more than 688 million, or close to 52 percent, of the votes cast by the electorate. It wasn't by the margin with which he won the 2008 election, but was still an impressive showing given the not very impressive straw poll results that predicted a neck-and-neck race with James Soong, chairman of the People First Party running as an independent, posing as a spoiler. The outcome of the election, however, proved Soong wasn't the spoiler, garnering only less than 3 percent of the votes.

Ma was re-elected because the voters want the country steady as it goes. He was elected four years ago, thanks to President Chen Shui-bian, who is now doing time for corruption and graft. The voters were so fed up with Chen's corruption that they were ready to elect anybody but his anointed standard bearer, Frank Hsieh. An honest Ma has proved incorruptible and the voters turned out in droves to keep the man of probity at the helm of the state.

The Taiwan economy was in the doldrums while President Chen continued his brinkmanship hate-China policy in a vain attempt to create a Republic of Taiwan. At the beginning of his first term, Ma freed Taiwan from the self-exclusion Chen had imposed, and had an economic cooperation framework agreement, or ECFA, signed with the People's Republic of China to hedge against economic marginalization. Relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait have markedly improved to help the country survive the financial tsunami of 2008 almost unscathed.

On the other hand, Ma's pragmatic diplomacy has made it possible for Taiwan to keep all its diplomatic allies and enabled its people to visit most of the countries in the world without visas. To win the privilege of such travel isn't an insignificant achievement. The countries granting the privilege consider Taiwan a free, sovereign state, albeit by far the majority of them keep no diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Tsai couldn't convince the voters that she could continue a detente between Taiwan and China without accepting what is commonly known as the "1992 Consensus," a tacit modus vivendi reached in that year under which both Taipei and Beijing are agreed that there is but "one China," the connotations of which can be orally and separately enunciated. With the modus vivendi, the two parties to the dispute can shelve that dispute to reach a compromise to solve outstanding problems involving both of them. The ECFA was concluded in line with the "1992 Consensus" to work wonders for Taiwan's economy. In lieu of the "1992 Consensus," Tsai proposed a "Taiwan Consensus," which Douglas Paal, a former director in Taipei of the American Institute in Taiwan, described as too hollow and showed that she had no real desire to start dialogue with Beijing to keep relations across the Strait as they currently stand. That is the perception the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China have of her "Taiwan Consensus," which she promised to bring about if she were elected. More than half of the people of Taiwan agreed with them, and came out to give Ma another four years to lead Taiwan as he has since 2008. The Democratic Progressive Party lost, but it finally left the shadow of

President Chen. He got a leave from prison to attend funeral rites for his mother-in-law, where he stumped for his son running for the Legislative Yuan. Chen orated like he did in the past, but the son was defeated by a Democratic Progressive Party candidate. The disgraced former president has no more influence over the opposition party.

Tong wins third term as Kiribati president

Kiribati President Anote Tong has been returned to power for a third term. Mr Tong received just over 42 per cent of the vote in Friday's presidential poll, more than seven per cent ahead of his nearest rival Dr Tetaua Taitai. Rimeta Beniamina won just under 23 per cent of the vote.



Mr Tong's winning margin has been reduced - he won the 2007 election by 64 per cent. But voter turnout was up - more than 68 per cent of eligible voters took part in the election, up from just over 50 per cent in 2007.

Burma frees high-profile dissidents in amnesty

Burma's most important dissidents have been released, in the latest of a series of prisoner amnesties.



Those freed include veterans of the 1988 student protest movement, monks involved in the 2007 demonstrations and ethnic-minority activists.

The highest profile is Min Ko Naing, a leader of the failed 1988 uprising. State TV had announced that 651 prisoners would be freed under a new presidential pardon, but did not say how many would be political prisoners.

In a statement broadcast on the TV, President Thein Sein said those released were people who could "play a constructive role in the political process".

Ahmadinejad visits Venezuela on first stop of Latin America tour

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez pledged closer cooperation on Monday, vowing to fight poverty and imperialism.



The two leaders signed a series of accords in the areas of industry, science, technology and politics, the state-run AVN news agency reported. Sitting side by side in front of a room full of reporters, they presented a united front in their opposition to the United States.

"It's clear they are afraid of our development," said Ahmadinejad. Earlier, at a welcoming ceremony outside the Venezuelan presidential palace, the Iranian president called Chavez his "dear brother," and said his nation has peaceful intentions. "Our weapon is logic. Our weapon is culture. Our weapons are human values," he said. Chavez pledged to work with his Iranian counterpart to stop the "imperial insanity" of the United States,

which he described as a "threat for the world." The Venezuelan president mocked concerns from Washington about his country's relationship with Iran, joking that U.S. media reports made it sound as though he and Ahmadinejad would be launching missiles and bombs at the U.S. capital.

"We are not warmongers," Chavez said, as the Iranian president nodded in agreement. "Iran has not invaded anybody." It's no coincidence that Venezuela is Ahmadinejad's first stop on a four-nation Latin America tour this week. Despite their cultural differences, Venezuela and Iran have found significant common ground: Both are among the world's top crude oil exporters, and their leaders are strong allies united by a fierce opposition to what they describe as U.S. imperialism.

The Iranian leader arrived in Caracas on Sunday and is traveling with his ministers for foreign affairs, energy and economy, according to IRNA, Iran's official news agency. Over the years, the two nations have signed more than 270 accords, including trade deals and agreements on construction projects, car and tractor factories, energy initiatives and banking programs.

Chavez has also helped the Islamic republic forge relationships with other members of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas, an eight-nation regional bloc Chavez founded. Even before he arrived, Ahmadinejad's plans for a Latin American tour grabbed global attention, as tensions grow between many Western powers and Iran over Tehran's nuclear program.

Officials in the United States and other Western nations have ratcheted up sanctions against Iran several times since a November report by the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said the Iranian government was developing the technology needed to build a nuclear weapon. Last month, U.S. President Barack Obama announced sanctions against Iran's central bank. The United Nations' nuclear watchdog agency confirmed that uranium enrichment has begun at a nuclear facility in northern Iran.

Iran says there's a medical purpose behind the nuclear program. But in Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Victoria Nuland said the confirmation that Iran was enriching uranium to "a level that's inappropriate" is "obviously a problem."

Not everyone in Venezuela is happy with Ahmadinejad's visit. Diego Arria, an opposition politician, described the trip as a "provocation" to the United States and an embarrassment for Venezuela.

"It comes at the worst moment -- at a time when Ahmadinejad is being looked at by the international community with great fear. ... It's bringing the threat to the United States closer to home," he said.

The Iranian president is scheduled to visit Nicaragua, Cuba and Ecuador later this week as part of his five-day tour.

Guinea-Bissau leader Malam Bacai Sanha dies in Paris

Guinea-Bissau's President Malam Bacai Sanha has died in hospital in Paris, according to a statement from his office read over national radio. The 64-year-old had travelled to France for medical treatment in late November after being taken seriously ill.

Mr Sanha was elected president in 2009 after years of unrest and coups. Last month the United States warned its citizens in Guinea-Bissau that there was increased potential for political instability and civil unrest there.



The nature of the president's illness has not been made public but he was thought to suffer from diabetes. Mr Sanha had previously been in intensive care in neighbouring Senegal. The statement from Mr Sanha's office announced "with pain and sadness" that he died at the Val-de-Grace military hospital in Paris where he had been receiving treatment.

He had frequently been hospitalised abroad since being elected Guinea-Bissau's leader. A French official told news agencies that the president had been in a coma prior to his death. Drugs corruption The West African country has endured repeated coups and unrest since independence from Portugal in 1974, and has become a hub for drug trafficking between Latin America and Europe.

Correspondents say large parts of the political and military establishments have been corrupted by drugs money. In late December the head of the navy, Jose Americo Bubo Na Tchuto, who has been accused by the United States of being involved with cocaine smuggling, tried to take over a military barracks in what appeared to be a failed coup attempt.

Mr Sanha's predecessor as president, Joao Bernardo Vieira, was assassinated by mutinous soldiers.

A reconciliation conference had been scheduled for this week between various political and military groups, but was postponed because of the president's absence. The recently appointed British mediator to Guinea-Bissau, Ian Paisley Junior MP, says Mr Sanha's death makes the convening of the conference all the more urgent. Under Guinea-Bissau's constitution, the speaker of parliament, Raimundo Pereira, should now be sworn in as interim president.

Independence veteran

Mr Sanha was a veteran of Guinea-Bissau's independence war and had long-standing ties to the ruling party, the left-wing African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC).

He had previously served as interim president and had made two unsuccessful bids for the presidency, in 2000 and in 2005, before winning elections in July 2009.

Hot Air Balloon Crash Kills 11 in New Zealand

A hot air balloon carrying 11 people turned into a tower of "sheer flame" Saturday after hitting power lines in a rural area of New Zealand, killing everyone aboard and horrifying residents.

"It's a tragedy as bad as tragedies get," local police commander Brent Register said.

It was New Zealand's deadliest air accident in nearly 50 years. Two of those killed jumped out of the basket in desperation before the fiery balloon hit the ground with a loud bang. It crashed into farmland near the township of Carterton, a region well known for its hot air ballooning.

The pilot and five couples were killed. Some of the bodies were badly burned, said Superintendent Mike Rusbatch, a police district commander in Wellington, the capital. The early morning weather was clear and bright with minimal wind.

Rusbatch said it appeared the balloon's basket struck power lines that ignited a fire on board. Witnesses told local media they saw 32-foot high flames rising from the basket. The burning balloon was just above the trees when David McKinlay saw it as he watered his garden. "It looked like he (the pilot) tried to raise it a bit higher ... all of a sudden there was just 10 meters of flames," he said.

The balloon rose to 500 feet before dropping quickly and turned into "just a sheer flame as it hit the ground" with a big bang, McKinlay said. Rusbatch, the police commander, said two people jumped from the basket before it hit the ground, but did not survive.

The only victim publicly identified so far is the pilot and balloon owner, Lance Hopping. He was safety officer for the Balloons over Wairarapa annual event, and was considered an experienced and safety-conscious pilot. New Zealand's Transport Accident Investigation Commission opened an immediate inquiry.

Jamaica to become a republic, prime minister pledges

Jamaica is set to loosen colonial ties with Britain by moving to replace the Queen as head of state with a president, the country's new prime minister has indicated. Nearly fifty years after independence, Portia Simpson Miller, a charismatic populist who won a landslide election vic-



tory last week, said Jamaica would move to cut links with the monarchy and become a republic. "I love the Queen. She's a beautiful lady," Simpson Miller told 10,000 guests on Thursday at the residence of Jamaica's governor-general, the Queen's representative on the island. Switching to patois, she added: "But I think time come."

The move reflects an accelerating drift towards republicanism among Commonwealth Caribbean countries. Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago have both dropped the Queen as head of state, while opting to remain in the Commonwealth.

Capital punishment is another bone of contention for Jamaica, which has one of the world's highest murder rates, with violent crime a daily occurrence. The judicial committee of the privy council (JCPC) - the London-based highest court of appeal under the current constitution - has repeatedly blocked attempts to enforce the death penalty, a move seen as colonial-style foreign meddling.

This week Simpson Miller vowed to introduce reforms to make the Caribbean court of justice the final appeal court in all criminal matters. The move would repatriate Jamaica's sovereignty fully, she said.

On 29 December the 66-year-old led her centre-left People's National Party (PNP) to a landslide win over the centre-right Jamaica Labour Party, winning 42 of 63 seats.

The victory was a remarkable comeback for the politician of humble origins who rose to become Jamaica's first female prime minister in March 2006 and then lost power after 18 months.

This time she beat Andrew Holness, a 39-year-old technocrat, who had been PM for just two months. "After being tested and tempered I stand before you a stronger and better person prepared to be of service to my country and people," she said, pledging to heal political divisions, boost the country's economy and ease poverty.

Simpson Miller is genuinely popular and has an unrivalled ability to project empathy with the poor and downtrodden. Her PNP party - nicknamed the Portia National party by US diplomats because of her "messianic" sway over supporters - now has an unprecedented two-thirds majority in parliament.

This is enough for her to change the constitution and a win a vote to convert Jamaica into a republic. But she then has to put her plan to a popular referendum.

It is not a foregone conclusion that she will succeed, Laurence Allen, a Jamaican analyst with IHS Global Insight, said: "There is no clear view which way the Jamaican population would vote. It [a referendum] would be a bit of a gamble.

"There is broad sympathy for Jamaica being in full control of its constitutional arrangements and government. But balanced against this is wide and popular respect for the current Queen."

Additionally, Jamaica has more urgent problems to deal with: high unemployment, a massive debt to GDP ratio of 130%, and a substantial dependence on tourism from the crisis-hit US, Allen said. The island is also a victim of geography, stuck midway between drug-producing countries in the Andes and drug consumers in North America.

"There are so many challenges. It [reform] could well slip down the priority list fairly quickly," Allen predicted, adding that a referendum was unlikely before 2014/15, somewhere towards the end of the government's five-year term.

In her acceptance speech Simpson Miller said her government would "ease the burdens and pressures" of sinking living standards and rising poverty, and would pursue a tight fiscal policy while co-operating with the IMF and striving to "balance the books and people's lives". Urging reconciliation she said: "We will seek to make this country one of brothers and sisters, not of rivals and victims."

Her party's overwhelming parliamentary majority is part of a pan-Caribbean trend against incumbent governments. Over the past two years ruling parties have been thrown out of office in Trinidad, St Lucia and Haiti, and forced to share power in Guyana.

But it was also due to a scandal that enveloped Holness's predecessor, Bruce Golding, who stepped down as prime minister late last year. Golding was roundly criticised for dragging his feet over the extradition to the US of a powerful drugs baron, Christopher "Dudus" Coke.

Golding's administration opposed the US's request, before reluctantly sending police and military to arrest Coke in May 2010. Some 76 people died in ensuing violence, many apparently at the hands of government forces.

Leaked WikiLeaks cables reveal that US officials in 2007 correctly predicted Simpson Miller would bounce back from election defeat. They describe her speech to her party's conference, noting how she addressed colleagues as "comrades", a nod to the PNP's socialist roots.

"It was very clear that Portia still has a special place in the hearts and minds of the majority of the PNP faithful," one diplomat wrote, noting the "rhythmic music", "background singing" and songs praising Portia.

He added: "At times the convention swung between a Portia lovefest and a Christian revival session. Peter Tosh's reggae version of the 27th Psalm was frequently played, and also very well received by the party faithful."

Year 2011 Review

Remember first year of 21st century second decade

Miscellaneous

● February 11 - The Pergamon Museum in Berlin stages a major exhibition of reconstructed Neo-Hittite sculpture and other material from Max von Oppenheim's collection (largely destroyed in 1943).
● July - The site of Venta Icenorum in Norfolk, England, is taken into public ownership.

Book Published in 2011


Literature

T.C. Boyle – When the Killing's Done
Geraldine Brooks – Caleb's Crossing (novel)
Bonnie Jo Campbell – Once Upon a River
Patrick deWitt – The Sisters Brothers
E. L. Doctorow – All the Time in the World
Steve Earle – I'll Never Get Out of This World Alive
Jeffrey Eugenides – The Marriage Plot
Jonathan Evison – West of Here
Robb Forman Dew – Being Polite to Hitler
Charles Frazier – Nightwoods
James Frey – The Final Testament of the Holy Bible
Benjamin Hale – The Evolution of Bruno Littlemore
Ron Hansen – A Wild Surge of Guilty Passion
Chad Harbach – The Art of Field-ing
Mat Johnson – Pym
Haruki Murakami – 1Q84
Tea Obrecht – The Tiger's Wife
Michael Ondaatje – The Cat's Table
Ann Patchett – State of Wonder
Chuck Palahniuk – Damned
Tom Perrota – The Leftovers
Arthur Phillips – The Tragedy of Arthur
Karen Russell – Swamplandia!
John Sayles – A Moment in the Sun
Colm Tóibín – The Empty Family
David Foster Wallace – The Pale King
Daniel Woodrell – The Outlaw Album
Non-fiction
Peter Bergen – The Longest War: The Enduring Conflict between America and Al-Qaeda
Mark Bowden – Worm: The First Digital World War
Frank Brady – Endgame: The Spectacular Rise and Fall of Bobby Fischer
David Brooks – The Social Animal
Brian Christian – The Most Human Human
Richard Dawkins – The Magic of Reality: How We Know What's Really True
Douglas Edwards – I'm Feeling Lucky
T.J. English – The Savage City: Race, Murder and a Generation on the Edge
Tina Fey – Bossypants
Joshua Foer – Moonwalking with Einstein
James Gleick – The Information: A History, a Theory, a Flood
Geoffrey Gray – Skyjack
Brian Greene – The Hidden Reality
Louis Hyman – Debtor Nation
Steve Inskeep – Instant City
David King – Death in the City of Light: The Serial Killer of Nazi-Occupied Paris
Erik Larson – In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin
Joseph Lelyveld – Great Soul: Mahatma Gandhi and His Struggle With India
Steven Levy – In The Plex: How Google Thinks, Works, and Shapes Our Lives
Charles C. Mann – 1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created
David McCullough – The Greater Journey
Ben Mezrich – Sex on the Moon
Scott Miller – The President and the Assassin
Errol Morris – Believing is Seeing
Grant Morrison – Supergods

Joyce Carol Oates – A Widow's Story
Patton Oswalt – Zombie, Space-ship, Wasteland
Dana Priest – Top Secret America
Annie Proulx – Bird Cloud: A Memoir
Janet Reitman – Inside Scientology: The Story of America's Most Secretive Religion
Tom Scocca – Beijing Welcomes You
Tom Shales & J.A. Miller – Those Guys Have All the Fun
Sarah Vowell – Unfamiliar Fishes
Matt Welch and Nick Gillespie – The Declaration of Independents
Daniel Yergin – The Quest
Mitchell Zuckoff – Lost in Shangri-La
Poetry
Rae Armantrout, Money Shot (February)
Susan Howe, That This (February)
Alice Notley, Culture of One (March)
Billy Collins, Horoscopes for the Dead (April)
Michael Palmer, Thread (May)
Sarah Palin (edited by Michael Solomon), I Hope Like Heck (June 21)
Science Fiction and Fantasy
Joe Abercrombie – The Heroes
Daniel Abraham – The Dragon's Path
Daniel Abraham (writing as James S.A. Corey) – Leviathan Wakes (with Ty Franck)
Ann Aguirre – Aftermath
Greg Bear – Halo: Cryptum
Lauren Beukes – Zoo City
Alex Bledsoe – Dark Jenny
Alex Bledsoe – The Hum and the Shiver
M. M. Buckner – The Gravity Pilot
Robert Buettner – Undercurrents
Jack Campbell – The Lost Frontier: Beyond the Frontier: Dreadnought
Orson Scott Card – The Lost Gate
Michael Crichton & Douglas Preston – Micro
Ian Douglas – Center of Gravity
David Anthony Durham – The Sacred Band
Greg Egan – The Clockwork Rocket
Kate Elliott – Cold Fire
C.S. Friedman – Legacy of Kings
Steven Gould – The 7th Sigma
Michael Grant – Plague
Mira Grant – Deadline
Lev Grossman – The Magician King
Stephen Hunt – The Rise of the Iron Moon
N. K. Jemisin – The Kingdom of Gods
Richard Kadrey – Aloha from Hell
Stephen King – 11/22/63
Sharon Lee & Steve Miller – Ghost Ship (novel)
Pittacus Lore – The Power of Six
Richard Matheson – Other Kingdoms
George R. R. Martin – A Dance with Dragons
Jack McDevitt – Firebird
China Mieville – Embassytown
Karen Miller – A Blight of Mages
Richard K. Morgan – The Cold Commands
Joseph Nassise – Eyes to See
Terry Pratchett – Snuff
Cherie Priest – Ganymede
Hannu Rajaniemi – The Quantum Thief
Brian Ruckley – The Edinburgh Dead
Brandon Sanderson – The Alloy of Law
John Scalzi – Fuzzy Nation
Dan Simmons – Flashback
Neal Stephenson – Reamde
Charles Stross – Rule 34
Michael Swanwick – Dancing with Bears
Catherynne M. Valente – Deathless
Vernor Vinge – The Children of the Sky
Jo Walton – Among Others
David Weber – How Firm a Foundation
Robert Charles Wilson – Vortex
Daniel Wilson – Robopocalypse
Gene Wolfe – Home Fires

Young Adult
Cynthia Hand – Unearthly (January 4)
Courtney Allison Moulton – Angelfire (February 15)
Gordon Korman, Peter Lerangis, Rick Riordan, and Jude Watson – Vespers Rising (April 5)
Josephine Angelini – Starcrossed (April 5) (Spain release)
Kelley Armstrong – The Gathering (April 12)
K. A. Applegate – Re-release of Animorphs books
Rick Riordan – The Throne of Fire (May 3)
Rick Riordan – The Son of Neptune (October 4th)
Anthony Horowitz – Scorpius Rising
Christopher Paolini – Inheritance
Crime and Thriller
Jeff Abbott – Adrenaline
Ace Atkins – The Ranger
Kate Atkinson – Started Early, Took My Dog
Steve Berry – The Jefferson Key
James Lee Burke – Feast Day of Fools
Lee Child – The Affair
Edward Conlon – Red on Red
Michael Connelly – The Fifth Witness
John Connolly – The Burning Soul
Jeffrey Deaver – Carte Blanche
Ted Dekker and Tosca Lee – Forbidden
Ted Dekker – The Priest's Graveyard
Sue Grafton – V is for Vengeance
John Grisham – The Litigators
Morag Joss – Among the Missing
Stuart M. Kaminsky – A Whisper to the Living
Henning Mankell – The Troubled Man
Jo Nesbo – The Snowman
T. Jefferson Parker – The Border Lords
George Pelecanos – The Cut
Ralph Peters – The Officers' Club
James Rollins – The Devil's Colony
John Sandford – Buried Prey
Marcus Sakey – The Two Deaths of Daniel Hayes
Bernard J. Schaffer – Whitechapel
Duane Swierczynski – Fun and Games
Guillermo del Toro & Chuck Hogan – The Night Eternal
Nicolaas Vergunst – Knot of Stone
S.J. Watson – Before I Go to Sleep
News effect to the Art
April 3 – The Chinese artist and dissident Ai Wei Wei is arrested and detained and his studio sealed off, by the government of the Peoples Republic of China, during an apparent crackdown by the regime on activists and dissidents. The PRC government later states that Wei Wei is being held while investigated for economic crimes.
April 16 – Turner Contemporary art gallery, designed by David Chipperfield, opens in Margate, Kent, England.
May 1 - UK publication of @earth
May 21 – The Hepworth Wakefield art gallery, designed by David Chipperfield, opens to the public in West Yorkshire, England.
June 22 - The Chinese legal authorities release Ai Weiwei on bail after three months detention, after being charged for alleged tax evasion. His incarceration was widely viewed as an attempt to silence a prominent critic while authorities had time to decide on legal grounds for prosecuting him, and his detention prompted condemnation of the Chinese government from some corners of the globe. According to the China's Foreign Ministry, he is prohibited from leaving Beijing without permission for one year. After his release Ai declined to give interviews saying that he is not allowed to talk.
September – firstsite's new art gallery, designed by Rafael Viñoly, opens in Colchester, England.
October 28 – ArcelorMittal Orbit, designed by Anish Kapoor, erected at Olympic Park, London.

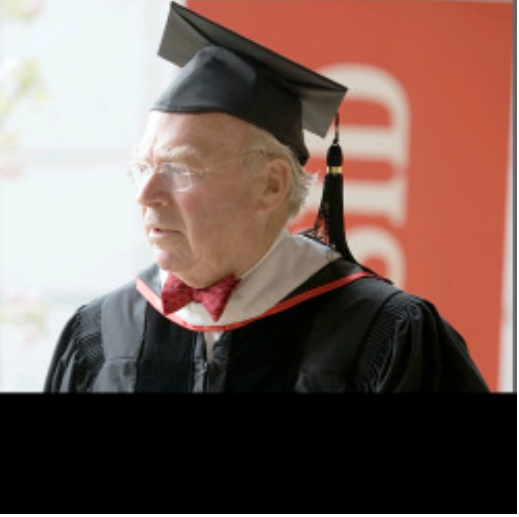
November 8- Rhein II by the German photographer Andreas Gursky sells for \$4.3m (£2.7m) at Christies, New York becoming the most expensive photograph ever sold.
November 15- Ai Weiwei pays 8.45 million Yuan in taxes after receiving a large number of donations from supporters who believe the debt was politically motivated because of his criticism of the Chinese government.
Exhibitions
Thomas Lawrence: "Regency Power and Brilliance", Yale Center for British Art, February 24 – June 5, 2011
“Picasso and Marie-Thérèse Walter: L’amour Fou”, curated by John Richardson and Dianne Widmaier Picasso, Gagosian Gallery 522 West 21st Street New York City, April 14 – July 15, 2011
Julian Schnabel: "Permanently Becoming and the Architecture of Seeing" curated by Norman Rosenthal , the Museo Correr Venice, Italy, June 4 – November 27, 2011
"Twombly-Poussin Arcadian Painters" at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, London, June 29 – September 25, 2011
Awards
The Venice Biennial :
The Lion d'or (Golden Lion) for best national pavilion-Germany exhibiting the work of Christoph Schlingensief
The Lion d'or for lifetime achievement – Franz West and Sturtevant
The Lion d'or for best artwork in the main exhibition – Christian Marclay
The Silver Lion for most promising new artist – Haroun Mizra
The Archibald Prize 2011- Ben Quilty
Deaths
January 4 – B. H. Friedman, 84, writer, author of the first biography on Jackson Pollock



January 5 – Malangatana Ngwenya, 74, Mozambican painter and poet
January 9 – Makinti Napanangka, 80s, Australian Papunya Tula artist
January 11 – Won-il Rhee, 50, South Korean digital art curator
January 13 – Ellen Stewart, 91, Founder of La MaMa E.T.C., New York, designer
January 20 – Alan Uglow, 69, British-born American painter
January 21 – Dennis Oppenheim, 72, American sculptor
February 8 – Charles O. Perry, 81, American sculptor
February 11 – Roy Gussow, 92, American sculptor
February 25 – Suze Rotolo, 67, American book artist

March 10 – Gabriel Laderman, 81, American painter



March 13 – Leo Steinberg, 90, American art historian and critic
March 27 – George Tooker, 90, American painter
March 30 – Jorge Camacho, 77, Cuban Painter
April 8 – John McCracken, 76, American sculptor and painter
April 8 – Hedda Sterne, 100, Romanian born, American painter
April 12 – Miroslav Tichý, 84, Czech photographer
May 13 – Stephen De Staebler, 79, American sculptor and printmaker
May 18 (body found on this date) - Włodzimierz Ksiązek, 60, Polish born American painter
May 25 – Leonora Carrington, 94, British born, surrealist painter, who lived in Mexico
June 4 – Claudio Bravo, 74, Chilean painter
June 9 – M. F. Husain, 95, Indian painter
June 16 – Twins Seven Seven, 67, Nigerian painter and sculptor
June 20 – Thomas N. Armstrong III, 78, American curator and museum director (Whitney Museum of American Art and the Andy Warhol Museum)

June 22 – Robert Miller, 72, American gallerist
July 5 – Cy Twombly, 83, American painter
July 17 – Alex Steinweiss, 94, American graphic designer, inventor of the album cover
July 20 – Lucian Freud, 88, British painter
July 31 - John Hoyland, 76, British painter
August 6 - Roman Opalka, 79, French-born Polish painter
August 21 - Budd Hopkins, 80, American painter
August 23 - Jeanette Ingberman, 59, American curator co-founder of Exit Art
September 5 - Vann Nath, 66, Cambodian painter
September 13 - Richard Hamilton. 89, British painter
September 16 - Stephen Mueller, 63, American painter
October 24 - Bruno Weber, 80, Swiss artist and architect
November 13 - Pat Passlof, 83, American painter
November 23 - Gerald Laing, 75, British painter and sculptor
November 26 - Manon Cleary, 69, American painter
December 8 - Jerry Robinson, 89, American comic book artist and reputed creator of The Joker

SYRIAN PRESIDENT PREDICTS 'TRIUMPH'

As violence erupted in Homs, Syria's president turned up at a boisterous pro-government rally in Damascus, whipping up his followers and again underscoring his view that the months of popular unrest in his nation are the result of a "conspiracy." "We will triumph over this conspiracy," Bashar al-Assad told a cheering, clapping and flag-waving throng.
"I will not say that the country is confronting a major conspiracy because you are here to stand up against it," he said. "These are the final phases of the conspiracy, and we will make sure that we will stand up victorious."
Homs, Syria
Homs, previously known as Emesa, is a city in western Syria and the capital of the Homs Governorate. It is 501 metres (1,644 ft) above sea level and is located 162 kilometres (101 mi) north of Damascus. Located on the Orontes River, Homs is also the central link between the interior cities and the Mediterranean coast.
Homs did not emerge into the historical record until the 1st-century BCE at the time of the Seleucids. It later became the capital of a kingdom ruled by the Emesani dynasty who gave the city its name. Originally a



center of worship for the sun god El-Gabal, it later gained importance in Christianity under the Byzantines. Homs was conquered by the Muslims in the 7th-century and made capital of a district that bore its current name. Throughout the Islamic era, Muslim dynasties contending for control of Syria sought after Homs due to the city's strategic position in the area. Homs began to decline under the Ottomans and only in the 19th century did the city regain its economic importance when its cotton industry boomed. During French Mandate rule, the city became a center of insurrection and, after independence in 1946, a center of Baathist resistance to the first Syrian governments. Homs has played a central role in the ongoing Syrian uprising against the Baathist government and since May 2011 has been under siege by the Syrian Army.
The scene in Homs
Rally in Damascus occurred during an Arab League fact-finding mission to see if the Syrian government is adhering to an agreement to end the violence.
Al-Assad made the appearance amid widespread grass-roots and international anger over his government's crackdown against peaceful protesters. The crackdown has continued despite the presence of Arab League observers and international pressure, with opposition activists estimating the number of deat at 6,000-plus.

Editorial and Corporate Office
West Vinod Nagar, New Delhi - 92

RNI
UPENG/2008/26617

Publisher, Editor and Owner
D.S. Rajput

Year 4, Vol. 1, Issue 179, 8-15 January, 2012

Place of Publication & Registered Office
331/240 A, Stainly Road, Nayapura, Allahabad (UP)

Printing Press & Address
Academy Press Daraganj, Allahabad (UP)

Website : www.developindiagroup.com

E-mails :
editor@developindia@gmail.com
subscription@developindia@gmail.com
developindiamediagroup@gmail.com
developindiamediagroupcorporate@gmail.com
developindia2011@gmail.com
civilservicesminerva@gmail.com