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## Israel urges Russia's Vladimir Putin to get tough on Iran

Israel has urged visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin to take a stronger line on curbing Iran's nuclear ambitions. Mr Putin is on his first Middle East tour in seven years, aiming to bolster



Russia's diplomatic presence. He said he had discussed Iran and Syria in great detail and negotiations on both were the only solution. Mr Putin unveiled a World War II monument in Netanyahu and on Tuesday will travel to the West Bank. Israel and Russia have strong cultural ties, with Israel home to more than a million immigrants from the former Soviet Union. But politically relations have often been strained, correspondents say. After his meeting with Mr Putin on Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "We agree that nuclear weapons in the hands of Iran pose a grave danger, first for Israel but also for the region and the whole world." Iran says its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful, but Western countries suspect it trying to develop nuclear weapons. Mr Netanyahu (R) urged Mr Putin to take a stronger role on Iran and Syria Mr Netanyahu also said "the killing and horrible suffering of the Syrian people" must stop. Mr Putin had begun his visit by inaugurating a Soviet Red Army memorial in Netanyahu to pay tribute to fallen soldiers of World War II. Later Israeli President Shimon Peres stepped up the pressure on Mr Putin, making a "personal request that you make your voice heard against a nuclear Iran" and warning of a "real danger that Syrian chemical weapons will reach the hands of Hezbollah and al-Qaeda".

## Ulster Bank fiasco to continue until at least end of week

By Vincent Ryan, Fiachra Ó Cionnaith, and Shaun Connolly  
Monday, June 25, 2012  
The fiasco at Ulster Bank will continue



until at least the end of this week, with the beleaguered institution admitting it is having difficulties clearing the "unprecedented" backlog. Despite taking the drastic step of opening 20 branches across the country yesterday and staff working around the clock, Ulster Bank will miss its self-imposed deadline of today for the restoration of services. The bank claimed over the weekend that it had fixed the original technical issue, but admitted it is having difficulties clearing the backlog in unprocessed transactions. However, in a statement last night, a spokeswoman admitted the problems are likely to continue until towards the end of this week.

"The scale of the backlog is unprecedented and across the [Royal Bank of Scotland] group we are working around the clock to get this resolved. However, in Ulster Bank's case, we have encountered a significant number of minor issues which require manual intervention," she said. "This has delayed us being able to move forward as quickly as we would have liked to automatically process payments from subsequent days. The result is that it will be towards the end of this week before we will be operating back at real-time for all our customers."

Ulster Bank's systems are currently only capable of processing a very small level of payments and the bank is relying on AIB to clear the backlog. AIB began processing payments on Friday after the Irish Payment Services Organisation held crisis meetings and teleconferences to solve the technical issues dogging Ulster Bank. The embarrassing and damaging problems at Ulster Bank and parent group the RBS have left 100,000 customers in Ireland without access to their money. The Central Bank has been working with Ulster Bank to ensure customers will not suffer any long-term damage. Meanwhile, Transport Minister Leo Varadkar has called for zero-interest emergency funding to be offered to ensure businesses can meet payroll demands.

## Paraguay's Lugo forms 'parallel cabinet'

Fernando Lugo, the deposed Paraguayan president, says he is aiming to return to power, rallying allies at home and abroad to force congress to reverse a vote to remove him that he called a break with democracy. Lugo, 61, has created a parallel cabinet, attacking the legitimacy of the government that replaced him, and says he will plead his case on the international stage at this week's summit of the Mercosur, South America's biggest trading bloc, in Mendoza, Argentina. After politicians overwhelmingly voted to impeach his boss, has sworn in a new cabinet, most of whose members were drawn from Paraguay's traditional Liberal and Colorado parties.

## RATAN TATA GETS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Tata Sons Chairman, Ratan Tata, has been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the prestigious Rockefeller Foundation in New York for his innovation in philanthropy. The Foundation, celebrating 100 years of global innovation, honoured individuals and institutions with its second annual Innovation Awards on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, Tata said that businesses should be sensitive to the fact that they are making a difference in places where they operate and they have to do things to help the community prosper. "This is all the more evident in the developing world where disparities are so huge. If the industry is not sensitive to it, they would encourage a backlash to take place and many companies that go overseas are getting to understand the need to do this and those that do not are really hurting the reputation of other industries," Tata said. "When you see in places like Africa and parts of Asia abject poverty, hungry children and malnutrition around you, and you look at yourself as being people who have well being and comforts, I think it takes a very insensitive, tough person not to feel they need to do something," not just by providing material support but by playing a role in helping give prosperity to the community in which they belong, Tata added. He said employees in his organisation have gained a certain spirit of being part of a community in which they operate. "It has become the DNA of the organisation to play a role in the community," he added. Tata gave the example of a voluntary group in his organisation in which employees get leave from their jobs to help victims of natural disasters like tsunamis and earthquakes in India. He said Tata employees help in rebuilding and adopting villages and then return to their jobs. Tata was honoured by the Foundation for incorporating public good into the business model of the Tata Group. Last year's recipient of the Rockefeller Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award was former US President Bill Clinton.

## India and Russia set US\$ 20 BN bilateral trade target by 2015

India plans to invest US\$1 trillion in infrastructure in next five years: Anand Sharma India keen to participate in Pharma 2020 program. The Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma today addressed a group of political and business leaders from Russia and India at the third "India-Russia Business Dialogue" which was held under the umbrella of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum 2012. Speaking on the historical bonds between the two nations, Shri Sharma said that India and Russia share a "special and privileged strategic partnership" which permeates the entire spectrum of economic activity. Highlighting the fact that the GDP of both the countries is over US\$ 3 trillion, Shri Sharma further added that the bilateral trade between India and Russia in 2011 was in the range of US\$ 9 billion. "We have set for ourselves an ambitious target of reaching US\$ 20 billion by 2015. However, there is a need to diversify the trade basket between our countries as the current profile of trade is dominated by commodities with large imports of iron, steel, fertilizer and oil from Russia. We need to expand the trade basket to have more value added products," he underlined during the event.

India is also planning to invest US\$ 1 trillion in the infrastructure sector alone in the next five years. For this, Shri Sharma welcomed Russian participation to build a strong infrastructure base in India. "We are also building gas and oil pipelines and Russian companies have considerable expertise in pipeline construction technologies which will greatly be valued. In the telecom sector, of course, we have seen the emergence of flourishing partnerships between India and Russia which will see investments of over US\$ 1.5 billion in the coming years" said Shri Sharma.

During his address, Shri Anand Sharma informed that India aims to double its food processing capabilities in the next five years with the establishment of 64 fully equipped Agro Processing Zones and Food Parks. He said that Russia "can be an invaluable partner to develop cross sectoral linkages in the entire value addition chain from agriculture to retail, packaging and logistics." "I am confident that the coming weeks will see the emergence of political consensus on liberalizing FDI in Multi-brand retail which will open immense opportunities," Shri Sharma added.

With the rolling out of the National Manufacturing Policy last year, Shri Sharma showed his interest to invite Russian companies both in the development of industrial townships as well as in investments which will flow into these zones. We are keen to participate in the Pharma 2020 program of Russia where Russian Government has ambitious plans in developing pharmaceutical industry with an objective to reducing healthcare cost," said Shri Sharma. The event was co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Russian Federation, Mr. D. Rogozin. Mr. Chereminn, Chairman, Business Council for Cooperation with India; Mr. Adi Godrej, President, CII; Mr. Ajai Malhotra, Ambassador of India to Russian Federation and business leaders from Russia and India attended the event.

## First Rimes Ministerial Conference Inaugurated

The First Ministerial Conference on the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for Africa and Asia was inaugurated here today. The meeting is being attended by Ministers/Ambassadors/ Representatives of RIMES Member States. RIMES owes its existence to a proposal by the Royal Thai Government to the Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on 6th January 2005 and subsequently to the Phuket Ministerial Meeting on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangement in January 2005, to establish a tsunami early warning system in a multi-hazard framework for Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean. For the last 3-years, RIMES has been built as an international and intergovernmental institution owned by the member countries, to operate and manage regional early warning arrangements through suitable financial mechanisms for sustaining its activities. Inaugurating the conference, the Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Shri Vilas Rao Deshmukh said that India is leading the establishment of this very important regional technical cooperation platform called RIMES focusing on building state of the art monitoring, detection, early warning of other multi-hazards.

## IIT exam row resolved; new format from next year

After months of wrangling, government and IITs have resolved their differences on the entrance exam row by agreeing on a compromise agreement over holding the common exams from next year. As per the agreement, admission to the IITs from 2013 would be based only on rank achieved in the advance test subject to the condition that selected candidates are in the top 20 percentile of successful candidates of their Boards. This formula replaces the proposed format of giving weightage to the class XII board results, which was vehemently opposed by the IITs. The compromise was reached at a meeting of IIT Council in New Delhi on Wednesday, the highest decision-making body having representatives from government and Directors of all the 16 of these institutes. HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, who is the head of the Council, skipped the crucial meeting which was then chaired by M N Sharma, Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT, Madras. "There was complete unanimity among the council members about the new format," Sharma told reporters in New Delhi on Wednesday. He said NIT council and the IIT council will meet early next month to evaluate the system in view of the tweaking of the proposed format. The government had earlier proposed a common entrance which was rejected by IIT-Delhi and IIT-Kanpur and some others were also likely to follow suit. Sibal later said a huge objective had been achieved with the proposed common test despite the changes pressed by the IITs. He felt that the government's aim of reducing pressure from students has been achieved along with a partial check on capitation fees. The percentile ranking system of selection is expected to make admissions to the IITs tougher and more competitive, an official said. According to a study by CBSE, the percentage of the last student on the merit list according to the percentile ranking in its board stood at 78 percent, while the percentage of the last student under this formula in Uttar Pradesh board stands at about 65 percent. In Tamil Nadu Board, it stands at 78 percent. Sharma hoped the faculty federation will come onboard with Wednesday's decision which has been vetted by the Joint Admission Board (JAB) of the IITs in its meeting last Saturday. The Council's decision will be deliberated by the respective IIT Senates even as IITs, the NITs and the IIITs have agreed to joint counselling for admitting students to their institutes. Sharma said that as part of the new formula, the advance test will be held after the main exam. There will be adequate time between the two tests. Only the top 1.50 lakh candidates in the main will be qualified to appear in the advance examination. "Admissions to the IITs will be based only on all India rank in advance test, subject to condition that such candidates are in the top 20 percentile of successful candidates of their boards," he said. Sibal, who skipped the meeting apparently to show that there is no interference from the government, apologised for his absence. "I would like to apologise for my absence from this crucial meeting of the IIT Council today. I have always taken my duties as a Union minister seriously and tried to do my best for the nation and most importantly its children who are its future require of me," he said in his message read out at the meeting. The government had on 28th May announced the new test from 2013, under which aspiring candidates for IITs and other central institutes such as NITs and IIITs will have to take tests under a new format of common entrance test, which will also take the plus two board results into consideration. Noting that IIT Council has among its members wisest persons from the academia and research community, Sibal said the issues such as the burden on the students from appearing in multiple exams should be addressed. IIT faculty federation, meanwhile, has welcomed the development on Wednesday saying most of the concerns of the federation have been addressed. "This is in positive direction and most of the concerns of the IIT Senate has been addressed," federation secretary A K Mittal said. IIT alumni, however, expressed its reservation about the decisions arrived on Wednesday and said it will decide its future course of action. In a statement, it said that the top 20 percentile criteria is pro-rich and will be detrimental to the interests of students from rural India.

## Bhutan grieves for destroyed historic site

Bhutan is mourning the loss of Wangdue Phodrang Dzong, a four-century-old architectural wonder that had dramatically stood on a ridge at the confluence of two rivers before it burned to the ground over the weekend.

A gateway to eastern Bhutan, the dzong was built in 1638 by the nation's founder, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, and was among several fortress-monasteries constructed to help gain control of -- and unify -- the country.

"The entire society has solidarity for the loss of one of the most important and oldest fortresses in our country," said Home Minister Minjur Dorji, who has been on the site for the last three days, in a telephone call. King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and the queen have been there since the fire "trying to morally support the people," he added. "It's not just a Bhutanese architectural loss but for the whole Himalayan region," Dasho Karma Ura, president of the Thimphu-based Center for Bhutan Studies, said by telephone on Tuesday before visiting the site. "Something could not have been built like that anywhere else," he said. The fire started Sunday afternoon and burned through the night, consuming the dzong, which not only housed temples but served as the seat of administration for the district.

Bhutan's Moving Gold: How water is powering the country As news of the fire broke out, the king and queen rushed to the scene to oversee the firefighting effort. Most of the dzong's sacred relics -- hundreds of them -- were saved, many of them dating back to the 6th and 7th centuries, thanks to the Bhutan armed forces, said the home minister. Some of the relics were carried out, while others were thrown in iron boxes from three- to four-story heights into the cactus below, he said, adding that some of the relics received minor but not severe damage. Although an investigation is still under way, a short circuit in the wiring is believed to have caused the fire, according to the minister, adding that the dzong was 95% built of timber. Dzongs have had a history of fires, he explained, noting that butter lamps had been the culprit in the past. "Today, it's modern facilities. We have electrified nearly all the dzongs, and short-circuits could come from poor quality of wiring. That's where we have our problems."



COURTESY KUNWEL



# Yearly Current Events Part II

**Cruise Ship Capsizes off Italian Coast (Jan. 13):** The Costa Concordia, a cruise ship, slams into a rock and capsizes near the island of Giglio, which is off the coast of Italy. The accident causes the cruise industry's safety issues to fall under global scrutiny. At least 11 people are killed and 22 remain missing. Francesco Schettino, the ship's captain, is accused of moving the ship off its fixed course and may face criminal charges of manslaughter, failure to offer assistance, and abandonment of the ship.

• **Thousands Flee Nevada Wildfire (Jan. 20):** More than 10,000 people are forced to evacuate when a fast-moving brush fire breaks out near Reno, Nevada. One person is dead and at least 26 homes have been destroyed.

• **Riot at Soccer Match Causes Many Deaths in Egypt (Feb. 1):** At least 73 people are killed in a fight between fans of rival teams at a soccer match in Port Said, Egypt. Security at the gates is questioned as fans used knives, clubs, and other weapons in the brawl.

• **Fire Kills Hundreds at Prison in Honduras (Feb. 14):** Over 300 people are killed at a prison in Honduras when an inmate sets fire to his mattress. The fire quickly spreads. Most of the victims die in their cells, awaiting rescue. Some inmates, now fugitives, escape through the roof. Relatives, attempting to rescue loved ones, clash with police at the prison gate.

• **Tornadoes Rip through the South and the Midwest (Mar. 2):** Several tornadoes and severe thunderstorms hit 17 states, causing at least 27 deaths and injuring hundreds. Southern Indiana, northern Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, and southern Ohio are among the hardest areas hit. The tornadoes and storms are caused by a warm, unseasonable air mass mixing with colder air.

• **Mysterious Noises Shake up Wisconsin Town (Mar. 21):** Around 400 people attend a meeting in Clintonville, Wisconsin, to express their concerns over mysterious night noises that appear to be coming from underground. Police receive hundreds of calls about the noises, which started on Sunday, March 18. Citizens describe the noises as loud booms, as if someone is beating on a pipe underground. According to some, the booms are so loud that at times the ground shakes and windows rattle. Authorities have no source or explanation for the noises. **(Mar. 22):** Authorities are now saying the cause of the ongoing noise is coming from minor earthquakes. Seismic monitors are picking them up, including one which had a magnitude of 1.5 in the Clintonville area on Tuesday night. Authorities say the minor earthquakes are amplified by the underground bedrock in the area of Wisconsin. Addressing Clintonville residents, city administrator Lisa Kuss explains, "In other places in the United States, a 1.5 earthquake would not be felt. But the type of rock that Wisconsin has transmits seismic energy very well."

• **6.0 Magnitude Earthquake Strikes Northern Italy (May 20):** A 6.0 magnitude earthquake hits the northern region of Emilia Romagna, killing at least five people. Dozens more are injured and many historic buildings are damaged. At least 3,000 people are left homeless. A 5.1 magnitude aftershock causes further damage to the region.

• **New Data Finds Prostate Cancer Screenings Harmful (May 21):** A government task force concludes that the prostate specific antigen blood test, also called the P.S.A. test, is more harmful than beneficial. The task force reports that one man in every 1,000 who takes the P.S.A. test may avoid death due to the screening, but one man for every 3,000 will die prematurely due to complications from prostate cancer treatment. The findings are met with resistance, especially from various medical groups, especially prostate cancer advocacy groups.

• **Wildfires Spread in New Mexico and Colorado (June 1):** A massive wildfire continues to spread in New Mexico. The fire is burning through 190,000 acres of the Gila National Forest. More than 1,200 firefighters are on hand, trying to battle the wildfire,

already the largest in the state's history. **(June 11):** A wildfire burns across 60 square miles in the Colorado mountains, 15 miles west of Fort Collins. The fire destroys more than 100 buildings and houses. The body of a 62-year-old woman is found among the damage caused by the fire. In New Mexico, hundreds of people flee a wildfire burning near Ruidoso. The fire burns 54 square miles wide. Meanwhile, the largest fire New Mexico's history continues to burn through the Gila National Forest. According to officials that fire is raging across 434 square miles and is only 37 percent contained. **(June 27):** At least 32,000 people are evacuated in Colorado as a wildfire burns close to Colorado Springs. The fire is one of nearly a dozen burning in Colorado. Military aircraft tankers are called in to help battle the fires. Surveying the fire near Colorado Springs from the air, Gov. John Hickenlooper says, "This is the worse fire season in the history of Colorado."

• **Plane Crash in Nigeria Kills More Than 150 People (June 3):** A plane goes down in a crowded neighborhood in Lagos, Nigeria. The pilot reports engine trouble right before the plane crashes. All of the 153 passengers are killed as well as an unknown number of people on the ground.

• **Parliamentary Elections Spark Massive Protests in Russia (Dec. 4):** Parliamentary elections spark protests, mainly from middle-class Russians. International and local monitors condemn the election as fraudulent. United Russia, the party led by Vladimir Putin, comes out on top in the elections, receiving nearly 50 percent of the vote, but they lost 77 seats. Monitors say that United Russia would have lost more seats were it not for ballot-box stuffing and voting irregularities. For example, videos, some taken with cellphones, surfaced on the internet showing local authorities threatening subordinates at polling stations. **(Dec. 10):** Over 40,000 Russians rally near the Kremlin. It is the largest anti-Kremlin protest since the early 1990s and is approved by city authorities, although riot police are on hand. The activists call for Putin's resignation and denounce the election results. Putin accuses the United States, singling out Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, for instigating the demonstrations when she criticized conduct during the parliamentary elections. **(Dec. 12):** Billionaire industrialist Mikhail D. Porkhorov announces that he plans to run for president against Putin in 2012. Porkhorov owns many businesses in Russia as well as the New Jersey Nets, the NBA franchise, in the United States. In his announcement, Porkhorov says, "I made a decision, probably the most serious decision in my life: I am going to the presidential election." Many observers question if Porkhorov is truly challenging Putin or if he has Putin's approval to run to create an air of legitimacy to the race.

• **European Leaders Call for Changes to Treaty (Dec. 5):** Together German Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France make a joint call for Europe's governing treaties to be amended in order to provide better governance on the economic policies of the 17 countries within the euro zone. The proposed amendments include monthly meetings of all European leaders, automatic penalties for nations that exceed deficit limits, and a creation of a European monetary fund.

• **Crackdown Continues in Syria (Aug. 1):** For the second day in a row, the uprising against President Assad's government is met with bombing attacks by Syrian forces in the west-central city, Hama. **(Aug. 3):** Despite global condemnation, the Syrian government orders its military to march into Hama after three days of bombing. Tanks and soldiers seize the central square. Even Russia, a Syrian ally, gives its support to possible Security Council Action against Syria. **(Aug. 4):** Syrian military kill more than 100 people in 24 hours in Hama, bringing the civilian casualties to more than 200 since the bombing began. **(Aug. 7):** Still ignoring international condemnation, the military in Syria initiate another attack, this time in the eastern

city of Deir al-Zour. Thousands of people flee and dozens are killed as tanks roar into the city. Hama and Deir al-Zour have been the setting for mass protests in recent weeks and have been the most defiant in the uprising. **(Aug. 15):** The Syrian government sends navy vessels along with tanks and soldiers to the port city of Latakia. At least 25 people are killed, including three children. The attack sparks renewed outrage, partly because they occur during Ramadan, the Muslim holy month. **(Aug. 18):** Britain, France, and Germany release a joint statement stating that President Assad has lost legitimacy as a leader and that he must step down. For the first time, President Obama calls for Assad to leave office. Obama also announces new sanctions against Syria including freezing all Syrian assets. **(Aug. 22):** President Assad says American and European calls for him to step down are "meaningless" and suggests that the military in Syria will continue its crackdown. **(Aug. 26):** Inspired by the fall of Col. Muammar Qaddafi in Libya, thousands of protesters take to the streets in Syria, demanding that President Assad leave. Security forces continue to fight the protesters, including severely beating Ali Farzat, Syria's best-known political cartoonist. The attack on him comes just days after Farzat published a cartoon showing President Assad hitching a ride out of town with Qaddafi.

• **Mubarak Trial Begins (Aug. 3):** Tens of millions watch live on television as an ailing Hosni Mubarak is rolled into the courtroom on a hospital bed for the beginning of his trial. Mubarak, the former Egyptian president, faces charges of corruption and complicity in the killing of protesters. Mubarak was ousted earlier this year after an 18-day revolution in Egypt.

• **Violent Riots Spread Throughout Britain (Aug. 6):** A protest over the police shooting of Mark Duggan, a 29-year-old local man, turns violent. Rioters with makeshift weapons fight police in Tottenham and set fire to two police cars and several buildings. **(Aug. 8):** Over two days, riots breakout in Enfield, Lambeth, Camden, Walthamstow, Oxford Circus and Islington. Rioters smash storefronts and burn cars. Two officers are hit by a car in Walthamstow. **(Aug. 9):** Several hundred rioters burn cars and fight with police in several London neighborhoods. A man in south London is shot and killed, becoming the first fatality in the riots. **(Aug. 10):** Ten thousand police officers patrol London. Residents are strongly advised to stay home and businesses close early. Prime Minister David Cameron pledges in a speech to "fight back" against the rioters, describing them as "groups of thugs."

• **American Forces Experience Deadliest Day in Afghan War (Aug. 6):** Thirty U.S. armed servicemen, including 22 members of the Navy SEALs, are killed in Afghanistan when insurgents shoot down their Chinook helicopter. The casualties make the day the deadliest for U.S. forces in the decade-long war. Most of the 22 Navy SEALs killed are members of SEAL Team Six, the unit responsible for finding and killing Osama bin Laden on May 2, 2011. **(Aug. 11):** The Pentagon releases the names of the servicemen that died on August 6 and reports that none of the men killed were involved in the Osama bin Laden mission back in May.

• **Yemen President Leaves Hospital (Aug. 7):** President Saleh, having recovered from injuries sustained in June when the presidential compound was attacked, is discharged from a hospital in Saudi Arabia, but chooses to remain in the country. An official in Yemen says that Saleh is not well enough to function as president. **(Aug. 11):** President Saleh appears on state television looking healthy and walking. **(Aug. 17):** Yemen opposition leaders form a national council. The government instantly condemns the act. **(Aug. 23):** Prime Minister Ali Mujawar returns to Yemen from Saudi Arabia where he was treated for injuries sustained in the June attack, while President Saleh remains in Saudi Arabia despite vows to return to Yemen.

• **Rebel Forces Advance in Libya (Aug. 18):** Rebels opposing Col. Muammar Qaddafi seize Zawiyah and gain control of the city's oil refinery. Zawiyah, a port city just 31 miles west of Tripoli, is a key victory. **(Aug. 21):** Rebel forces advance into Tripoli as foreigners try to flee the city. With the rebels meeting little resistance from loyalists, residents in Tripoli take to the streets to celebrate the end of Qaddafi's 42 years in power. **(Aug. 23):** Rebels seize Qaddafi's compound. Qaddafi and his family flee and remain at large. In a radio broadcast from an undisclosed location, Qaddafi vows to continue the fight. Rebels respond by placing a \$2 million bounty on his head. **(Aug. 24):** More than 30 foreign journalists who had been held hostage in Tripoli's Rixos hotel by loyalists since the rebels invaded the city are freed, yet another sign that Qaddafi's rule is coming to an end. **(Aug. 26):** Rebels begin transferring their administration from Benghazi to Tripoli, Libya's capital. **(Aug. 27):** Five mass executions carried out by Qaddafi loyalists during his final hours in power are uncovered. **(Aug. 29):** Qaddafi's whereabouts remain unknown, but three of his children and his second wife flee to Algeria.

• **Attacks in Israel Cause More Tension with Gaza and Egypt (Aug. 18):** Multiple attacks are made near Eilat, a popular resort in Israel, killing eight Israelis and wounding more than 30. Authorities blame the Popular Resistance Committees, a group that has worked with Hamas, for the attacks. Authorities believe the attackers crossed into Israel from Egypt. Israel responds with several airstrikes on Gaza, killing the Popular Resistance Committees' commander, among others. Egyptian officials deny that the attackers crossed through Egypt to get to Eilat. Hamas also denies Israel's accusations. **(Aug. 19):** Tension between Israel and Egypt increases when three Egyptian security officers near the border are inadvertently killed during Israeli airstrikes. The cross-border terrorist attacks along with the Israeli airstrike retaliation threatens the decades of peace between Israel and Egypt. Meanwhile, Palestinian militants fire more than 10 rockets into Israel. **(Aug. 20):** Palestinian militants continue to fire rockets into Israeli territory from Gaza, killing one civilian and wounding six. Hamas, which controls Gaza, takes credit for four of the rockets fired into Israel. **(Aug. 29):** A Palestinian man from the West Bank hijacks a taxi in Tel Aviv. He drives the cab to a popular nightclub where he runs over police officers and stabs several bystanders. Four police officers and the taxi driver are wounded.

• **Japanese Parliament Selects New Prime Minister (Aug. 30):** Japan's finance minister Yoshihiko Noda is elected prime minister by parliament. Noda becomes the nation's sixth prime minister in five years. He faces a country still recovering from an earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster earlier this year as well as a weakened economy and ongoing concern over Japan's debt.

• **Leukemia Treatment Makes Progress (Aug. 10):** Scientists report early success in a new treatment for leukemia. Three patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia have responded well to the new treatment which makes the patients' own blood cells seek and destroy their cancer cells. Of the three patients, two are cancer-free a year after the treatment. The third patient still has some cancer, but has improved.

• **East Africa Hit with Worst Drought in 60 Years (Aug. 11):** Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, and parts of South Sudan have been rocked by the worst drought there in 60 years, creating a hunger crisis. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton pledges an additional \$17 million in U.S. aid to the region, calling the famine "the most the most severe humanitarian emergency in the world today and the worst that East Africa has seen in several decades." The hunger crisis has also been brought on by weak agricultural systems as well as a lack of infrastructure, government, and education. The additional pledge brings the total of U.S. assistance in

## 11th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to be held in Cochin

In the 38 years since UNESCO launched its World Heritage programme to help preserve cultural and natural treasures, over 900 sites have earned the distinction. But some conservation experts say that the uncontrolled tourism development that follows World Heritage designation may do more harm than good for the very sites the programme was meant to protect.

In developing countries like Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, sites are left largely to their own devices when it comes to managing the burgeoning number of visitors. Emphasis is placed on increasing tourism to alleviate local poverty.

The protected status of the once royal capital of Laos, Luang Prabang, the ancient temples of Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Vietnam's stunning Halong Bay attracts millions of tourists from across the globe, bringing jobs and cash to the poor countries.

But with uncontrolled development and growing pollution, is heritage status also overwhelming the very sites it is designed to protect?

In Cambodia's Angkor Archaeological Park, for instance, the rapid rise of popularity has led to a host of problems. The sprawl of hotels is sapping the region's local aquifer, causing Angkor's monuments to sink into the ground. Similarly, in Vietnam's Halong Bay, which two million tourists visit each year, complaints abound of floating garbage being tossed from the tourist boats that ply the waters. And traditions in the heritage city of Luang Prabang in Laos face being ruined by crowds.

Issues such as unchecked development and pollution have earned 31 sites a place on UNESCO's World Heritage in Danger list and many sites lack an adequate tourism management plan - even though having one is a condition of inscription.

Still, World Heritage status affords a certain degree of protection without which many sites would be in much worse shape. How can these ancient places balance economic needs with conservation to save them from being overrun?



the region to \$508 million. The United Nations has reported that the region needs \$2.5 billion to overcome the crisis. Only 48% of that amount has been received so far. In Somalia alone more than three million people are in need of aid.

• **Hurricane Irene Hits the East Coast (Aug. 27):** Beginning as a Category 3 with 115-mile-per hour winds, Hurricane Irene moves up the eastern seaboard. Irene moves at about 14 miles an hour, which is half the speed of a typical hurricane. At least 44 people are killed in 13 states. New York, Philadelphia, Washington, and Boston shut down mass transit systems. Airlines cancel flights and Amtrak cancels train service. Evacuations are ordered for about 2.3 million people. Damage is estimated at \$7 billion.

• **Greek Leader Calls off Referendum, Agrees to Resign (Nov. 3):** Prime Minister George Papandreou calls off a referendum on Greece's new debt deal with the euro zone just days after calling for one. Papandreou calls off the vote after winning support from his opposition. **(Nov. 4):** Papandreou wins a confidence vote in Parliament after he pledges to form a unity government. The vote is a sign of approval for the deal reached by European leaders in late October to help Greece avoid default and stabilize the euro. **(Nov. 6):** Papandreou agrees to create a transitional administration which will manage the country's debt-relief deal and to resign after the country holds early elections.

• **Italy Passes More Austerity Measures, Berlusconi Steps Down (Nov. 11):** Italy's Senate passes another round of austerity measures. Italy has no other option with its economy too big for a bail out and no end in sight for its debt crisis. **(Nov. 12):** Berlusconi, who has somehow managed to weather political and personal scandals that would have ended most political careers, steps down. Mario Monti, an economist and former anti-trust commissioner for the European Commission, takes over, leading a cabinet of technocrats to implement the austerity plan.

• **Protesters Return to Tahrir Square (Nov. 18):** Protesters-representing both Islamists and the liberal opposition-return to Tahrir Square in Egypt to demand the ruling military council step aside in favor of a civilian-led government. The demonstrations turn violent with police firing on crowds with tear gas and rubber bullets. **(Nov. 21):** As protests grow in size and police are widely criticized for their crack down, the cabinet resigns. In an agreement reached with the Muslim Brotherhood, the military council vows to install a civilian prime minister and to accelerate the transition to a civilian government, with presidential elections being

held by June 2012.

• **Iran Downgrades Relations with Britain (Nov. 28):** Iran criticizes the increase in sanctions by Western nations and is particularly outraged with England. Parliament votes to downgrade the diplomatic ties with Britain. Several dozen Iranian protesters rush into the British embassy compound in Tehran, yelling, "Death to England!" They break embassy windows, burn the British flag, and vandalize offices. British Prime Minister David Cameron withdraws several diplomats from Iran following the incursion.

• **NASA Launches Rocket to Explore Life on Mars (Nov. 25):** NASA launches an Atlas V rocket with a Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity rover on board. The rover will explore Mars, searching for signs of life, including methane. The mission will help determine if the methane is from a biological or geological source.

• **Alleged Assassination Plot Is Exposed (Oct. 11):** U.S. Attorney general Eric H. Holder announces from Washington that the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps paid assassins from a Mexican drug cartel \$1.5 million to kill Adel al-Jubeir, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States. The main suspects are Mansour J. Arbabsiar, an American citizen of Iranian descent who is in custody, and Gholam Shakuri, a member of the Quds Force, who is at large and is believed to be in Iran. American investigators believe that high-ranking Iranian government officials are responsible for the plot.

• **Prisoner Swap Between Israel and Hamas Begins (Oct. 18):** Gilad Shalit, a twenty-five year old Israeli soldier, is released after being held for more than five years by Hamas, a militant Palestinian group. He is exchanged for one thousand Palestinians who have spent years in Israeli jails. Shalit has been held in Gaza since Palestinian militants kidnapped him in 2006. In a televised address following Shalit's release, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says, "Today we are all united in joy and in pain."

• **Two-day Strike in Greece Pushes Riots to New Level (Oct. 19):** Tens of thousands begin the first day of a two-day general strike in Greece bringing the country's ongoing rioting to a whole new level. Protestors range from retired army officers, teachers, judges, and trash collectors. The strike is in reaction to the Parliament's pending vote to approve new austerity measures. On the evening of the 19th, the Greek Parliament approves the new austerity measures and receives rescue financing. The new measures cut pensions and wages as well as approve thousands of public sector layoffs. The bill also revises collective bargaining rules, making it easier to



fire workers. (Oct. 31): In an effort to placate protestors and save his political standing, Prime Minister George Papandreou announces that there will be a public vote on the austerity measures.

- **European Leaders Agree on How to Resolve Euro Crisis (Oct. 26):** Led by Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, leaders of the euro zone agree on a package to bring the debt crisis in Europe under control. The terms include forcing banks to take a 50% cut in the value of Greek debt and to raise new capital to protect them from future defaults, increasing the euro-zone's bail-out fund to \$1.4 trillion, more austerity measures in Greece, and a reduction of Greece's debt to 120% of its GDP by 2020. Many Greek citizens and politicians condemn the deal out of frustration over Germany and France's continued influence over Greece's affairs.
- **Qaddafi Is Captured and Killed (Oct. 20):** Libya's interim government announces that Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi has been killed by rebel troops in Surt, his hometown. Initial reports are unclear on the cause of death. (Oct. 23): Libya officially declares its liberation for Qaddafi and begins the process of electing a government and creating a constitution.
- **Tunisia Votes in First Ever Free Election (Oct. 24):** Millions of Tunisians vote in their first ever free election. The vote is for an assembly to write a constitution and shape a new government. Ennahda, a moderate Islamist party, is the winner with 41 percent of the vote. Ennahda will therefore name the prime minister, lead the coalition government and have the most say in Tunisia's new constitution.
- **Kamalesh Sharma Re-appointed Commonwealth Secretary General :** Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma was re-appointed to the coveted post on 30 October 2011. The Commonwealth Leaders agreed to re-appoint him at the 21st Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth in Australia. Sharma who served as a veteran Indian diplomat was re-appointed for a four-year term beginning in April 2012.
- **Palestine Becomes Member of**

- **UNESCO (Oct. 31):** UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) approves the Palestinian bid for full membership to the UN with a 107 to 14 vote. The favorable vote defies a mandated cutoff of American funding. The U.S. contributes \$70 million to UNESCO per year, about 22 percent of its yearly budget. The vote makes Palestine the 195th member of UNESCO.
- **Iran's President Calls for Syrian Leader to Back Down (Sept. 8):** President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran joins other world leaders in calling for President Bashar al-Assad to end his crackdown on the uprising that is challenging his rule in Syria. Ahmadinejad's shift is unexpected because the two leaders have been allies for decades and Iran has recently been accused of funding Assad's crackdown.
- **Protesters Attack Israeli Embassy in Cairo (Sept. 9):** Thousands of protestors attack the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, demolishing a protective wall while Egyptian security forces watched. Two dozen protestors break into the offices and throw documents into the street. The Israeli flag is ripped down. When riot police attempt to stop the attack, protestors fight back with Molotov cocktails and stones. At least two protestors die in the attack and at least 1,200 are injured. The attack in Egypt comes just one week after Turkey expels Israel's ambassador.
- **Aung Suu Kyi Accepted the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize after a Decade of its Declaration :** On 16 November 2011 Aung Suu Kyi was finally handed over the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize. Suu Kyi was chosen for the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence in 2002. The Myanmar government did not allow her to accept the award which carries a prize of \$ 1,00,000. At the same ceremony Suu Kyi was proposed to become the Chief Patron of the Madanjeet Singh institute of excellence that would be devoted to Theravada studies, modelled on a similar institute set up in Kashmir for studies of Sufi-Bhakti-Rishi culture.
- **Helle Thorning-Schmidt was**

- **elected Denmark's First Woman Premier :** Danish opposition leader Helle Thorning-Schmidt emerged victorious in the elections held on 15 September 2011 and will take over as the country's first female Prime Minister. She belongs to the Social Democrats party. The result ended the center-right government's 10 years in office. Thorning-Schmidt succeeded Lars Lokke Rasmussen who submitted his resignation to Queen Margrethe on 16 September 2011
- **American Hikers Released From Prison in Iran (Sept. 21):** Shane Bauer and Joshua Fattal, the two American hikers who were imprisoned on espionage charges in Iran for over two years, are released. They are taken by plane from Evin Prison to Oman where they are reunited with family members. Their release comes after a power struggle between Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who promised their release and Iran's judiciary which denied that the hikers would be freed. Bauer and Fattal have been in prison since they wandered over the border from Iraq by mistake with a friend over two years ago.
- **Palestinians Officially Request United Nations Membership (Sept. 23):** Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas officially requests a bid for statehood at the UN Security Council. The request comes after months of failed European and U.S. efforts to bring Israel and Palestine back to the negotiating table. The Palestinian Authority is pursuing a Security Council vote to gain statehood as a full member of the UN rather than going to the General Assembly. One of the reasons for this is that the General Assembly can only give the Palestinian Authority non-member observer status at the UN, a lesser degree of statehood. In addition, the European states in the General Assembly have made it clear that they will support the proposal only if the Palestinians drop their demand that Israel halt settlement construction. The Palestinians have long insisted that Israel cease the settlement construction and deem the condition unacceptable. Therefore, the Palestinian Authority prefers to take its case to the Security Council even though the U.S. has vowed to veto the request.
- **Yemen President Returns From Saudi Arabia (Sept. 23):** President Ali Abdullah Saleh returns to Yemen after spending almost four months in Saudi Arabia where he sought medical treatment after a bomb attack on his presidential palace back in June. Saleh calls for a return to negotiations and a ceasefire, but his return does not immediately stop the fighting between government forces and soldiers who are now siding with anti-government protestors. The fighting has killed more than 70 people since Sept. 18.
- **Saudi Arabia Grants Women the Right to Vote (Sept. 25):** King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia grants women the right to vote and run for office in future elections. The new ruling will not go into effect until the next election cycle in 2015. Still, this is a big victory for women in a country where they are not allowed to drive and must have a male chaperone with them in public at all times.
- **American Born Al-Qaeda Leader Is Killed in Yemen (Sept. 30):** A missile from an American drone aircraft in Yemen kills Anwar al-Awlaki, a radical, U.S.-born Islamic cleric and an influential figure in al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. He is believed to have inspired Nidal Malik Hasan, the U.S. Army psychiatrist who is accused of killing 12 fellow soldiers and a civilian in a shooting spree at Fort Hood, Texas, in 2009. As head of external operations of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Awlaki is believed to have been involved in planning attacks against U.S. targets.
- **Hina Rabbani Khar became Pakistan's First Woman Foreign Minister :** Hina Rabbani Khar from Pakistan People's Party (PP) on 19 July 2011 became Pakistan's first woman foreign minister. The 34-year-old minister of state for foreign affairs was elevated to the post of full minister at a time when both President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani were out of the country. She was sworn in by Acting President Farooq H. Naek at a ceremony at the presidency. As Pakistan's 26th and youngest foreign minister after Zulfikar aki Bhutto, Khar took up the post five months after her predecessor Shah

- Mahmood Qureshi lost the job amid a diplomatic row with the United States. Khar will lead Pakistani delegation at the Association for South East Asian Nations (Asean) forum on 22-23 July 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. She will also hold talks with her US and Chinese counterparts.
- **Yingluck Shinawatra poised to become Thailand's First Female Prime Minister :** Thailand's Prime Minister-elect, Yingluck Shinawatra, on 4 July 2011 formed a coalition consisting of five parties under the wings of her own Pheu Thai Party following her landslide victory in parliamentary elections in Thailand. The grouping of five constituent parties would have 299 seats in the 500 member new house. Her Pheu Thai Party bagged 265 seats in the final tally and stood in no compulsion to form a coalition. With her landslide victory she is poised to become Thailand's first female prime minister.
- **Fourth BRICS (BRAZIL, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Summit was held in New Delhi :** Fourth BRICS summit was held here. New Delhi is the Capital of India. The Fourth BRICS Summit was held in New Delhi on 29 March 2012. The theme of the Summit was BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Security and Prosperity. At the Summit, the Leaders of the BRICS countries discussed political, economic and social issues of mutual and international interest. The Summit took forward the continuing efforts towards strengthening cooperation, consultation and coordination among the BRICS countries for the benefit of their peoples and of the international community.
- **Second Nuclear Security Summit was held in Seoul, Capital of South Korea :** Second Nuclear Security Summit was held here on 26-27 March 2012. The second nuclear security summit was held in Seoul, capital of South Korea on 26-27 March 2012. 53 heads of state and government, as well as representatives of the United Nations (UN), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), European Union (EU) and INTERPOL, attended the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. Compared to the 2010 Washington Summit, there were seven new participants: Azerbaijan, Denmark, Gabon, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania and INTERPOL.
- **India and USA held 12th Defence Policy Group meeting in New Delhi :** 12th Defence Policy Group Meeting was held in New Delhi. Strengthening their military ties further, India and the USA discussed ways of expanding their growing strategic partnership and cooperation at the 12th Defence Policy Group meeting held in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Shashi Kant Sharma and US Acting Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Jim Miller. The next meeting of the Defence Policy Group will be held in 2012 in the USA.
- **The 12th India-EU Summit was held in New Delhi :** The 12th India-EU summit was held in New Delhi. New Delhi is the Capital Of India. The 12th India-EU Summit was held in New Delhi on 10 February 2012. The Republic of India was represented by the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh. EU was represented by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and Mr. José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission. The leaders expressed satisfaction at the deepening comprehensive bilateral relations. India and EU, as long-standing strategic partners, are committed to working together with a balanced and result-oriented approach, bearing in mind each sides' respective development priorities, based on common shared values, relating to democracy, rule of law, civil liberties, fundamental freedoms and respect for human rights.
- **46-nation Asia-Europe (ASEM) Meeting Held in Godollo, Hungary :** A two-day meeting of foreign ministers of the 46-nation Asia-Europe (ASEM) was held on 4-5 July 2011 in Godollo, Hungary. This was the 10th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting.
- **APEC Leaders held Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii :** APEC summit 2011 was held in Honolulu, Hawaii from 8 November to 13 November 2011. Under the chairmanship of US President Barak Obama, leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum agreed a comprehensive set of measures to increase economic growth and job creation by

## Second World Media Summit ends in Moscow, next possibly in Bahrain

The Second World Media Summit (WMS), a grand gathering of global media organizations, concluded here on Friday, with organizers announcing the establishment of a working group to prepare for the next summit — possibly to be hosted by Bahrain. At the closing ceremony of the Moscow summit, Bahrain's Information Minister Samira Rajab proposed that her country play host to the next summit in 2014. "I hope that Bahrain will become the next country to host the World Media Summit. It's vitally important that it (the summit) will take place in an Arab country. The Arab world needs media attention because it has become a scene for events that are crucial for the whole world," Rajab was quoted as saying by ITAR- TASS.



Vitaly Ignatenko, director general of ITAR-TASS and co-chairman of the summit, welcomed the proposal. A meeting will be held in November to discuss the technical issues related to the hosting of the next summit, and a final decision made before the end of the year, said Ignatenko. During two days of discussions at the Moscow summit, hundreds of media representatives exchanged views on media development around the theme of "Global media: meeting challenges of the 21st century." Many media leaders acknowledged that the industry has undergone some profound reshuffle and transformation, and that traditional media are facing mounting pressure from new media and the Internet. World media organizations should readjust themselves in face of severe challenges in the industry and the fast-changing world, especially by adapting themselves to the development of information technology and remodeling their businesses, noted Li Congjun, president of Xinhua News Agency, during the discussions. The media summit mechanism serves as a good example of efficient media cooperation, said Li, citing a convention on the protection of intellectual property rights adopted by the WMS secretariat in June and a number of training workshops for young journalists from across the world. The first WMS was held in Beijing in October 2009 as a joint initiative by nine leading media organizations in the world.

- expanding trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. Leaders agreed to adopt market-driven innovation policies, reduce tariffs and eliminate other barriers to trade in environmental goods and services, and improve regulatory environments to reduce unnecessary burdens on businesses.
- **Second Africa-India Forum Summit held at Addis Ababa :** Addis Ababa (Capital of Ethiopia): Second Africa-India forum summit held at Addis Ababa. Second Africa-India forum summit was held at Addis Ababa from 24 to 25 May 2011 under the theme: Enhancing Partnership: Shared Vision. Addis Ababa is the capital of Ethiopia. First Africa-India Summit was held in April 2008 in New Delhi.
- **Union Home Ministry launched RICs (Resident Identity Cards) at Porthapur Village :** The first batch of RICs was launched at Porthapur Village. The home ministry of India

- launched the first batch of RICs (Resident Identity Cards) at Porthapur village in Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 21 January 2012. The RIC cards were distributed to all persons above the age of 18 residing in the nine maritime states and four union territories under the National Population Register (NPR) scheme. The NPR scheme is aimed to provide valid identity to all people in these areas to strengthen the security along the country's coastline.
- **The World's First Test Tube Eld's Deer born at Khao Kheow Zoo in Thailand :** The first Eld's deer was born via in vitro fertilization in Thailand. The researchers at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) collected eggs, inseminated in vitro with thawed semen to produce embryos and transferred the embryos to a surrogate mother. As a result, a fawn was born on 17 October 2011 at the

## Tallest building in Europe

The Shard (also referred to as Shard London Bridge, the London Bridge Tower or the Shard of Glass) is a skyscraper in London, United Kingdom. Standing 309.6 metres (1,016 ft) high, it topped out on 30 March 2012. The Shard is the tallest building in Europe, and is also the second-tallest free-standing structure in the United Kingdom, after the 330-metre (1,083 ft) concrete tower at the Emley Moor transmitting station. The Shard replaced Southwark Towers, a 24-story office block built on the site in Southwark in 1975. Renzo Piano, the Shard's architect, worked with the architectural firm Broadway Malyan during the planning stage. The tower has 72 habitable floors, with a viewing gallery and open-air observation deck – the UK's highest – on the 72nd floor, at a height of 245 metres (804 ft). The Shard was designed with an irregular pyramidal shape from the base to the top, and is clad entirely in glass. Its structure was completed in April 2012. The tower was inaugurated on 5 July 2012, and is scheduled to open to the public in February 2013.



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Khao Kheow Open Zoo in Thailand. The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute plays a key role in the Smithsonian's global efforts to conserve species and train future generations of conservationists. Eld's Deer is also known as the Thamin or Brown-antlered Deer. It is an endangered species of deer indigenous to south-eastern Asia.

• **IBSA (India Brazil South Africa) Summit Concluded in Pretoria, South Africa :** The fifth summit of IBSA was held here. Pretoria is a city located in the northern part of Gauteng Province, South Africa. It is one of the country's three capital cities, serving as the administrative capital; the others are Cape Town, the legislative capital, and Bloemfontein, the judicial capital. The fifth IBSA (India Brazil South Africa) summit concluded on 18 October 2011 in Pretoria. India, Brazil and South Africa, issued a joint declaration at the end of the summit, which condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. IBSA leaders described terrorism as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. At their summit meeting, the IBSA leaders said the United Nations should play a central role in coordinating international action against terrorism within the framework of the UN Charter and in accordance with the international law.

• **Arab League Summit was held in Baghdad, Capital of Iraq :** Three-day summit was held here from 27 March 2012 to 29 March 2012. The Arab league summit was held in Baghdad from 27 March 2012 to 29 March 2012. The three-day summit was hosted by Iraq for the first time since 1990 when its late dictator Saddam Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait. The leaders of the 22 Arab league states attended the summit. The Baghdad summit discussed the uprising in Syria and the Iraqi debts to its neighbours. The previous Arab league summit was held in Sirte. Syria didn't participate in the Summit. It was suspended in the midst of the uprising against the Assad regime.

• **The Fifth Edition of the World Future Energy Summit held in UAE Capital Abu Dhabi :** The capital of UAE (United Arab Emirates). The fifth edition of the world future energy summit was held in Abu Dhabi. The fifth edition of the World Future Energy Summit was held in Abu Dhabi, capital of UAE from 16 to 19 January 2012. The theme of this year's World Future Energy Summit was - Sustainable Energy for All. The summit discussed the need to harness the alternative sources like solar, wind, small hydro energy, tidal energy etc.

• **NASA launched a Rover to explore the Red Planet (Mars) :** NASA on 26 November 2011, launched Rover, nicknamed Curiosity to explore the planet Mars. The rover was launched from Florida on an Atlas 5 rocket. The Rover will take eight and a half months to reach the Red Planet (Mars). The cost of the NASA space mission is 2.5 billion US dollars. The Rover will then scour Martian soils and rocks for any signs that could have supported microbial life on the planet. The Atlas flight lasted almost three-quarters of an hour. The rover is also known as the Mars Science laboratory (MSL). It is due to arrive at the Red Planet on 6 August 2012. The Rover will land at a deep equatorial depression called Gale Crater, which contains a central mountain that rises some 5kilometre above the plain below. MSL is equipped with 10 sophisticated instruments to study the rocks, soils and atmosphere in Gale Crater.

• **Neptune Completed its First Orbit around the Sun since Discovery :** Neptune the eighth planet of the solar system completed its first orbit around the sun on 12 July 2011, 165 years after its discovery. Neptune is also the farthest planet from Sun. It was discovered by German astronomer Johann Galle on 23 September 1846. Neptune is blue-green in colour and it was named after Roman God of Sea. Neptune completes one revolution every 165 years.

• **India Took Over as the Chairman of UN South Asian Regional Commission for Tourism :** India took over as the Chairman of United Nations South Asian Regional Commission for tourism. This was announced on 10 October 2011 at the ongoing United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) conference at Gyeongju in

South Korea. The chairmanship of the Commission was with Iran for the last four years. It signifies the confidence of various countries in India and the efforts of the Indian government in the promotion of tourism in the country as well as across the globe in a responsible and sustainable manner to achieve inclusive growth.

• **Astronomers in Europe discovered an Ancient Planetary System :** Astronomers discovered an ancient planetary system, which belonged to one of the earliest cosmic eras, 13 billion years ago. The planetary system consists of the star HIP 11952 and two planets namely HIP 11952b and HIP 11952c. The 2.2 m telescope at La Silla made the discovery. The newly discovered planetary system will shed light on planet formation in the early universe. During that period, the planet formation was quite different from later planetary information. HIP 11952c is the size of Jupiter while the other, HIP 11952b is three times the size of Jupiter. The planets orbit their sun in 290 days and 7 days respectively.

• **NASA discovered Water on the Planet called GJ1214b :** Researchers at the Harvard Smithsonian centre for Astrophysics discovered that the planet GJ1214b was largely covered in water. They used Hubble Space Telescope to discover the water on planet. GJ1214b was discovered in 2009 by the ground-based MEarth Project. GJ1214b was described as a super-Earth. It is approximately 2.7 times Earth's diameter and weighs almost 7 times as much. This presence of water on the planet was confirmed when it crossed in front of its host star. The light of the star, filtered through the planet's atmosphere, provided clues to the mix of gasses, supporting the water vapor theory.

• **Vanya Mishra crowned Pantaloons Femina Miss India World 2012 at the 49th Edition of the Pageant :** Chandigarh girl Vanya Mishra crowned as the Pantaloons Femina Miss India World 2012 in the grand finale of the 49th edition of the beauty pageant on 30 March 2012 in Mumbai. The Miss India Earth title went to 24-year-old Prachi Mishra of Pune won the Miss India Earth title while Chennai girl Rochelle Maria Rao was crowned as the Miss India International. The 2012 winners selected among 20 finalists were crowned by last year's winners Kanistha Dhankhar, Hasleen Kaur and Ankita Shorey. 19-year-old Vanya will represent India at the Miss World 2012 Pageant. Prachi and Rochelle is to represent the country at Miss Earth 2012 Pageant and Miss International 2012 Pageant, respectively. Femina will not send the beauties to the Miss Universe pageant as it had decided in 2010 to abstain from the event.

• **Addu Declaration adopted in the 17th SAARC Summit :** The 17th SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Summit (the heads of states) held in Hithadhoo, Addu, Maldives on 10 November and 11 November 2011. A 20-point Addu Declaration was adopted on 11 November 2011 to forge effective cooperation among the member states in a host of areas including economy, connectivity, climate change and food security. The theme of the 17th SAARC Summit was 'Building Bridges'. The Summit recognized the importance of bridging differences, creating better understanding and promoting amity and mutually beneficial and comprehensive cooperation in order to promote effective linkages and connectivity for greater movement of people, enhanced investment and trade in the SAARC members region.

Time Magazine named The Protester as Person of the Year for 2011 : The Protester was named Time magazine's 2011 Person of the Year on 14 December 2011. Time defines the Person of the Year as someone who, for better or for worse, influenthat individual action can bring collective, colossal change. 2011 witnessed unprecedented rise in both peaceful and sometimes violent unrest and dissent from the Arab Spring to the Occupy Wall Street movement. People across the globe in Tunisia, in Egypt, in Libya dissented and demanded even when they were answered with tear gas or a hail of bullets. The Mideast was the centerpiece of the year's protests. In 2010, Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg got wa named the Person of the Year.

## NASA includes two Indian innovators on waste management

NASA, the US space agency has included two Indian innovators for its conference on waste management. Nitin Gupta from Attero Recycling and Anshu Goonj from Goonj are among nine innovators from across the globe that made it to the NASA conference on waste management, which started on Friday. Supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the State Department and Nike; the fourth installment of the event being held at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, is called LAUNCH: Beyond Waste. It aims to identify and accelerate solutions in waste management, an immediate issue for astronauts aboard the International Space Station, as well as people around the world. The forum runs through July 22. Gupta from Attero Recycling is India's leading provider of end-to-end electronic and electrical goods e-Waste management services; while Goonj is a grassroots NGO focused on transforming and revaluing clothing and textiles waste by working on these issues directly at the community level. NASA said these innovators were chosen for this forum because of their groundbreaking technologies and programmes that address a broad range of waste issues, including waste-to-energy; eWaste, which includes discarded electrical or electronic devices; upcycling, the process of using waste to create new materials; recycling; agricultural waste and conservation; medical waste; sustainable chemicals and materials; and improved sanitation. During the three-day forum, LAUNCH innovators will discuss their most pressing business and programme issues with LAUNCH Council members, who represent the business, waste management, investment, international development, policy, engineering, science, communications and sustainability sectors

## Indian Navy gets another anti-submarine War ship

Indian Navy got another anti-submarine War ship INS 'sahyadri' as Defence Minister A K Antony commissioning the warship INS 'sahyadri' in Mumbai on Saturday. This is a stealth warship armed with an array of missiles, would strengthen Indian Navy's anti-submarine capabilities. The 4,900-tonne ship is equipped with some of the most advanced anti-ship and ship-to-air missiles and can carry two helicopters - a mix of Dhruv, Sea King or Kamov - onboard for various missions. The first two ships in the class — INS Shivalik and INS Satpura — were commissioned into service in April 2010 and August 2011 respectively.

## Govt clears disinvestment of 10.82 pc stake in SAIL

The government approved the sale of 10.82 per cent of its stake in Steel Authority of India (SAIL), which may fetch the exchequer over Rs 4,000 crore. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, on Thursday evening has cleared SAIL public offer, official sources said. The share sale process, proposed to be conducted through auction route or offer for sale, is expected to fetch over Rs 4,000 crore to the government, they added. The proposal, mooted by the Department of Disinvestment, was deferred in the last week's meeting of CCEA as Steel Minister Beni Prasad Verma and Steel Secretary D R S Chaudhary were not in town. The Disinvestment Department will

decide on the timing of the issue depending upon market conditions. The government currently holds 85.82 per cent stake in SAIL. Shares of SAIL closed at Rs 93.10, down 0.16 per cent over previous close. Due to the poor market conditions, the government has not been able to launch the disinvestment programme for the current fiscal so far, although it aims to raise Rs 30,000 crore by selling stakes in the public sector firms. Few days back, it had put on hold the initial public offer (IPO) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL) due to volatility in the markets and lukewarm response of prospective investors in the roadshows held last week. The RINL IPO, in which the government has proposed to divest its 10 per cent stake, was supposed to kick start this year's share sale programme of the government. Hindustan Aeronautics, BHEL, National Aluminium Company (Nalco), Hindustan Copper and Oil India are some of the other PSUs which are on government's disinvestment radar this year, besides SAIL and RINL.

## Russian Soyuz rocket starts mission to space station with 3-person international crew onboard

(Dmitry Lovetsky/ Associated Press ) - The Soyuz-FG rocket booster with Soyuz TMA-05M space ship carrying a new crew to the International Space Station, ISS, flies in the sky at the Russian leased Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, Sunday, July 15, 2012. The Russian rocket carries Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, U.S. astronaut Sunita Williams and Japanese astronaut Akihiko Hoshide. A Russian Soyuz craft launched into the morning skies over Kazakhstan on Sunday, carrying three astronauts on their way to the International Space Station, where they will quickly start preparing for a frenzy of incoming traffic.

NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko and Japan's Akihiko Hoshide are set to travel two days before reaching their three colleagues already at the permanent space outpost. Families and colleagues watched the launch from an observation platform in the Russian-leased cosmodrome in the dry southern steppes of this sprawling Central Asian nation. Liftoff took place at the exact scheduled time of 08:40 a.m. local time (0240 GMT), sending a deafening roar as the craft gained height. Despite withstanding intense G-force pressure, the three astronauts looked relaxed in televised footage as they performed a series of routine operations.

The Soyuz jettisoned three rocket booster stages as it was propelled into orbit, which takes just over nine minutes. At that stage, a doll given to Malenchenko as a mascot by his daughter and suspended over the three astronauts floated out of view on television footage, indicating the craft had escaped the earth's gravitational pull.

The shell that surrounds the capsule during the launch phase also peeled away, soaking the astronauts in bright yellow sunshine pouring through the viewing hatches. The solar arrays that deployed on the Soyuz after orbital entry will provide the craft with the power it needs during its two-day trip.

Williams, tightly squeezed into the cramped craft, gave a thumbs-up sign and waved to onboard cameras as Russian space agency chief Vladimir Popovkin congratulated the crew over radio control. Malenchenko, who is piloting the Soyuz, is one of Russia's most experienced astronauts and is making his fifth voyage into space. Williams, who was born in Euclid, Ohio, and raised in Massachusetts, is on her second mission and will further extend the record for the longest sojourn in space for a female astronaut. The 46-year old astronaut, who is of Indian-American heritage, spent 195 days at the space station in 2006-2007. Sunday's launch took place on the 37th anniversary of the landmark

## Hashim Amla became the first South African to score a triple century

The 29-year-old made an unbeaten 311 as he and Jacques Kallis, with 182 not out, helped the tourists pile up 637-2 declared - a lead of 252. England lost their top four cheaply in reaching the 102-4 by the close, needing a further 150 to avoid an innings defeat. Ian Bell and Ravi Bopara remain at the crease, knowing they need to bat deep into the final day if England are to have any hope of avoiding falling 1-0 down in a three-Test series which will determine the best team in the world. It was a chastening day for England, whose number one ranking appears under serious threat from a superb South Africa side. After watching Amla and Kallis remorselessly pile on the runs, South Africa captain Graeme Smith declared at tea before his bowling attack brought a seemingly docile pitch to life.



Vernon Philander, Dale Steyn, Morne Morkel and Imran Tahir hunted as a pack - all were rewarded with a wicket before the close - but England's batsmen contributed to their own downfall. Alastair Cook's dismissal started the rot as he followed a first-innings century by edging Philander behind for a six-ball duck. When Steyn drew Jonathan Trott into playing at one that left him, the hosts were without their two most resistant batsmen for a rescue mission that was already demanding enough. Kevin Pietersen, playing in his usual frenetic manner, survived when he steered a Morkel bounce to a diving Kallis at second slip, but he had his off stump uprooted moments later as he played down the wrong line. Andrew Strauss too will be angry with his dismissal, the captain top-edging a sweep at Tahir to Philander at square-leg. England's struggles contrasted sharply with two sessions of complete South Africa dominance.

It was another batting masterclass from Amla and Kallis, who dominated a weary England attack. They were watchful for the first hour of the penultimate day, their resistance breaking any initial England spirit before they scored with apparent ease. Amla, who began the day on 183, brought up the second double century of his career with a trademark shot through the covers, before ticking off the landmarks. He passed 250, went beyond his previous Test best of 253, and registered the highest score by a South African in Test cricket when he advanced to 281 not out with a boundary off Tim Bresnan. Kallis - 82 not out overnight - was similarly obstructive. He brought up his 43rd Test century from 227 balls, significantly boosting his average of 29 in England. He timed the ball superbly and went through the gears later in his innings to help build South Africa's substantial lead. He and Amla shared their third 300-plus stand in Tests, with AB de Villiers, Jacques Rudolph and JP Duminy taking it in turns to pad up, to avoid spending so long waiting to bat. Amla - perhaps nervous, more likely weary - drove narrowly over Bell at extra cover to bring up his 300, and offered Bopara a one-handed caught-and-bowled chance shortly before the declaration. By the time Smith did call them in, the third-wicket partnership was worth 377 and spanned 102 overs.

Apollo-Soyuz mission during which crafts from the United States and the Soviet Union docked in space, setting a precedent for scientific cooperation between the Cold War foes. Williams said in a press conference ahead of the launch that the test mission laid the ground for a long-standing friendship and collaboration in the space program. The Soyuz is schedule to dock Tuesday with the space station at 08:52 a.m. Moscow time (0452 GMT). Russians Gennady Padalka and Sergei Revn and U.S. astronaut Joseph Acaba, who make up the crew of Expedition 32, have been working at the space station since mid-May. The space station, which orbits up to 410 kilometers (255 miles) above the earth, is braced to handle an unprecedented level of traffic. Japan's HTV3 cargo ship will dock with the space station next week and will be the first of nine craft making contact with the orbiting satellite over a 17-day span. Expeditions 32 and the incoming Expedition 33 have 33 experiments planned for their stay at the orbiting laboratory.

## Sunita Williams takes off for 2nd space mission

Indian-American Sunita Williams, a record-setting astronaut who lived and worked aboard the International Space Station for six months in 2006, on Sunday took off on her second space mission in a Russian spacecraft from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. 46-year-old Williams along with two

flight engineers -- Japan's Akihiko Hoshide and Yuri Malenchenko of Russia -- departed on a two-day voyage to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft at around 08:10 IST, Russian news agency Ria Novosti reported. Williams, a flight engineer on the station's Expedition 32 crew, will take over as commander of Expedition 33 on reaching the space station. The Soyuz TMA is due to dock with the ISS's Zvezda service module at 10:22 IST on July 17, 2012. The Soyuz space capsule carrying the three new crewmembers - NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko and Japanese spaceflyer Aki Hoshide - docked with the station. The crew will join the current ISS occupants - Russian cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Sergei Revn and NASA astronaut Joe Acaba, who have been in orbit since mid-May. The new crew members are expected to conduct over 30 scientific missions during their stay on board the ISS. Williams and Hoshide visited the ISS once each, traveling on board a US space shuttle. It is their first flight experience with the Soyuz spacecraft. Williams, whose father hailed from Gujarat, was selected as an astronaut by NASA in 1998. She was assigned to the ISS as a member of Expedition 14 and then joined Expedition 15. She holds the record of the longest spaceflight (195 days) for female space travellers. She received a Master's degree from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1995. In the space, Williams and her team of astronauts plan an orbital sporting event to mark the Summer Olympics in London.



OPINION - EDITORIALS

BARCLAYS BOSS BOB DIAMOND  
RESIGNS AMID LIBOR SCANDAL

C.S. Rajput

Barclays chief executive Bob Diamond has resigned a week after the bank was fined a record amount for trying to manipulate inter-bank lending rates. Mr Diamond said he was stepping down because the external pressure on the bank risked “damaging the franchise”. Chief operating officer Jerry del Missier has also resigned, the third top executive in two days to do so. Barclays chairman Marcus Agius, who had announced his own resignation on Monday, will now take over the running of Barclays until a new chief executive is appointed.

**‘Cynical greed’**  
BBC business editor Robert Peston said the heads of the City’s two main regulators had been unable to force Mr Diamond out “because the recent FSA investigation into how Barclays attempted to rig the important Libor interest rates did not find him personally culpable”.

“However, as a regulated institution, it was impossible for Barclays’ board to ignore the revealed wishes of the two most powerful regulators in the City.” Earlier, Lord Turner, the chairman of the Financial Services Authority, described the outrage that has built up over the bank’s actions. “The cynical greed of traders asking their colleagues to falsify their Libor submissions so that they could make bigger profits - has justifiably shocked and angered people, in particular when we are facing hard economic times provoked by the financial crisis,” he told the Financial Services Authority’s annual meeting.

**Committee appearance**  
How Libor scandal developed  
•**27 June:** Barclays fined £290m by US and UK regulators for attempting to manipulate Libor rates  
•**28 June:** Barclays shares plunge 15%  
•**29 June:** Bank of England governor calls for change in banking culture

•**1 July:** It emerges that RBS has sacked four traders over Libor and there are calls for changes in the law to cover Libor-rigging  
•**2 July:** Barclays chairman Marcus Agius resigns and the government launches two inquiries into Libor and banking standards  
•**3 July:** Barclays chief executive Bob Diamond resigns  
Mr Diamond will still appear before MPs on the Treasury Committee on Wednesday to answer questions about the Libor affair.  
“I look forward to fulfilling my obligation to contribute to the Treasury Committee’s enquiries related to the settlements that Barclays announced last week without my leadership in question,” Mr Diamond said in a statement. He is expected to be questioned about a conversation he had with the deputy governor of the Bank of England, Paul Tucker, about Barclays’ Libor submissions at the height of the credit crunch in 2008. Barclays’ managers came to believe, after the conversation between Mr Diamond and Mr Tucker, that the Bank of England had sanctioned them to lie about what they were paying to borrow when providing data to the committees that set the Libor rate.  
**Inquiry row**  
Chancellor George Osborne welcomed Mr Diamond’s departure and said he hoped it was the “first step towards a new culture of responsibility” in banking.  
“It is the right decision for the country,” Mr Osborne said, saying the UK needed a strong Barclays concentrating on lending and contributing to economic recovery.  
Labour leader Ed Miliband said it was “necessary and right” that Bob Diamond stepped down.  
“But this is about much more than one individual, it’s about the culture and practices of the banking industry,” he



said.  
“That’s why we need a full, judge-led, independent inquiry, to get to the bottom of those practices and make recommendations for change in the future. We’ve had missed opportunities before, we’ve got to seize this moment.”  
Labour is critical of the government’s decision to call a parliamentary inquiry, chaired by the head of the Treasury Committee, Andrew Tyrie MP, rather than a full Leveson-style inquiry, independent of politicians.  
**Big pay-off?**  
Last week, regulators in the US and UK fined Barclays £290m (\$450m) for attempting to rig Libor and Euribor, the interest rates at which banks lend to each other, which underpin trillions of pounds worth of financial transactions. Staff did this over a number of years, trying to raise them for profit and then, during the financial crisis, lowering them to hide the level to which Barclays was under financial stress. Mr Diamond is one of the UK’s highest paid chief executives, earning £20m last year, and was described as “the

unacceptable face” of banking by the then business secretary Lord Mandelson in 2010.  
The details of any severance package are not yet known, but former City minister Lord Myners suggests it could add up to £20m-£30m.  
“I think his resignation letter is drafted with an eye to that [pay-off], because he admits no guilt on his part at all,” the Labour peer told BBC News.  
“The shareholders of Barclays will be expecting the board to ensure that not a penny more is paid to Bob Diamond than that to which he is legally entitled,” he said.  
US-born Mr Diamond was head of Barclays Capital, its investment bank division, when its staff were trying to manipulate the key inter-bank rates. “He maintains that he didn’t know what was going on,” says Robert Peston. Investigations are continuing in the UK and the US into other banks over Libor fixing, including criminal investigations by the Department of Justice. The Serious Fraud Office in the UK is looking into possible criminal prosecutions.

U.S. jobs report spells no relief for flagging economy

The U.S. unemployment rate remained steady at 8.2 percent in June and the nonfarm employers added a meager number of 80,000 jobs, triggering starkly opposing views on the U.S. economic recovery from Democrats and Republicans.  
In June, U.S. private employers added 84,000 jobs while governments at all levels cut 4,000 jobs, the latest job report from the U.S. Labor Department revealed Friday.  
The job growth fell short of investors’ forecasts. U.S. stocks opened lower Friday on the weak job report.  
Professional and business services added 47,000 jobs in June, with temporary help services accounting for 25,200 of the increase.  
The manufacturing sector added 11,000 jobs, while employment in the health care sector rose by 13,000. Retail trade lost 5,400 jobs and the transportation and warehousing industry shed 2,200 jobs.  
The new job creation pace was downwardly revised for April from 77,000 to 68,000, and was upwardly revised for May from 69,000 to 77,000.  
In the second quarter, employment growth averaged 75,000 per month, compared with an average monthly gain of 226,000 for the first quarter of the year, the department said. Slower job growth in the second quarter occurred in most major industries, fresh evidence that the U.S. economic growth has lost some steam.  
The U.S. Commerce Department left U.S. annual economic growth unchanged at 1.9 percent for the first quarter of 2012 in its final estimate released last month, a deceleration from the 3- percent growth in the final quarter of last year.  
The number of unemployed people stayed unchanged at 12.7 million in June, while the number of long-term unemployed, those who have been jobless for at least 27 weeks, stood at 5.4 million.  
While the economy was continuing to heal from the worst economic down-

turn since the Great Depression, much more remained to be done to repair the damage from the financial crisis and deep recession that followed, Alan Krueger, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said Friday in a statement.  
“It is critical that we continue the policies that build an economy that works for the middle class and makes us stronger and more secure as we dig our way out of the deep hole that was caused by the severe recession,” stressed Krueger, adding there were no quick fixes to the nation’s structural economic problems.  
There were some good signs in the widely scrutinized report and the unemployment aid application figures released Thursday. The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged up by 0.1 hour to 34.5 hours in June, and average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 6 cents to 23.5 U.S. dollars.  
The number of U.S. people initially applying for unemployment aid last week dropped to the lowest level since mid-May, the Labor Department reported Thursday.  
The 80,000 net job gain in June was disappointing, but other details suggested better times were ahead. Temporary help hiring accelerated, and the workweek lengthened, Moody’s Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi said in an article released after the report.  
The tepid job report came as U.S. President Barack Obama was on his two-day bus tour of swing states Ohio and Pennsylvania starting Thursday, where he was defending his economic policies.  
Speaking at an elementary school in Poland, Ohio, Obama said the newly created 80,000 jobs in June were “a step in the right direction”, but the economy had to grow faster to get back to full recovery.  
Presumed Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney who was during

his family vacation in New Hampshire attacked Obama’s economic records Friday, saying that the 8.2 percent unemployment rate was “unacceptably high” and the government needed to reduce regulations and lower tax rates to stimulate the economy.  
The U.S. job market Friday fell dramatically short of creating enough jobs to jolt the economy back to life amid a moribund recovery from the worst recession in decades.  
The economy added 80,000 jobs in June and the jobless rate remained flat at 8.2 percent. The number of jobless Americans remained unchanged at 12.7 million, with the long-term unemployed — or those without a job for 27 weeks or longer — standing at 5.4 million, according to U.S. Labor Department figures released Friday.  
While the figures do not point to another recession like the 2007 downturn that sent the world economy reeling, the labor market is not seeing the kind of growth that will push down the jobless rate, said Heidi Shierholz, an economist and labor expert at the Economic Policy Institute (EPI).  
“With the unemployment rate above 8 percent for 41 months straight, this is an ongoing, severe crisis for the American workforce,” she said.  
While private sector employment grew for the 28th consecutive month in June, the pace of growth was about half the average rate seen in the preceding 27 months, said Brookings Institution Senior Fellow in Economic Studies Gary Burtless.  
Declines in government employment offset some of June’s growth in private payrolls, so total employment rose by only 80,000. Since April, net job gains have averaged 75,000 a month, but growth between 90,000 and 100,000 jobs per month is needed to hold the unemployment rate steady, he said.  
Current job market weakness is mainly explained by feeble employer demand for additional workers. But luckily, there is no evidence of a collapse in domestic or foreign demand that is forcing

U.S. employers to dismiss their current workers, he added.  
Shierholz and EPI’s Research and Policy Director Josh Bivens said in a report that, while jobs fell much faster during the 2007 downturn than in the previous two U.S. recessions, current job growth was similar to that of the previous two recoveries. It is slightly lagging the rate of growth seen after the 1990-1991 recession and outpacing job growth following the 2001 recession.  
Still, three years since the last downturn, unemployment was not stuck at levels anywhere near as high as today’s 8.2 percent, they noted, adding that the length and severity of the 2007 recession explains the weak recovery.  
Some surmise that Friday’s weak jobs report might spur the U.S. Federal Reserve to launch a third round of quantitative easing.  
“Chilled by global economic and domestic fiscal concerns, American businesses are no longer creating jobs fast enough to reduce the unemployment rate, suggesting the Fed — like the Bank of England yesterday — could launch QE3 in coming months,” said Sal Gautieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.  
Friday’s bad news offered no relief from the previous month’s bleak report, when the jobless rate rose to 8.2 percent from April’s 8.1 percent, triggering much chatter on the direction of the economy. Some economists forecast a downward trend while others said it was premature to make such a judgment.  
Meanwhile, the clock is ticking as U.S. President Barack Obama tries to turn the economy around by the end of summer, analysts said.  
Obama has until September to show voters that the economy has turned a corner amid the lead-up to November’s elections. Otherwise, many will view the president as unable to boost employment, which could cost him dearly in an election in which jobs will overwhelmingly top voters’ list of priorities.

EDITORIAL  
DEVELOP INDIA

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FUKUSHIMA WAS ‘MAN-MADE’  
DISASTER: JAPANESE PROBE

Last year’s Fukushima nuclear accident was a man-made disaster caused by Japan’s culture of “reflexive obedience” and not just the tsunami that hit the plant, a damning parliamentary report said today.Ingrained collusion between plant operator Tokyo Electric Power, the government and regulators, combined with a lack of any effective oversight led directly to the worst nuclear accident in a generation, the report said.“They effectively betrayed the nation’s right to be safe from nuclear accidents. Therefore, we conclude that the accident was clearly ‘man-made’,” said the Fukushima Nuclear Accident Independent Investigation Commission.“We believe that the root causes were the organisational and regulatory systems that supported faulty rationales for decisions and actions,” it said.The probe is the third of its kind in Japan since the huge tsunami of March 2011 crashed into the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station. Reactors went into meltdown, sending clouds of radiation over a wide area, forcing tens of thousands of people from their homes, some possibly forever.An earlier report by plant operator Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO) had all but cleared the huge utility, saying the size of the earthquake and tsunami was beyond all expectations and could not reasonably have been foreseen.But an independent group of scholars and journalists, who reported their findings in February, said TEPCO could and should have done more.It also said that had the company had its way, its staff would have been evacuated from the crippled plant and the catastrophe could have spiralled even further out of control.In his straight-talking preface to the more than 600-page report, panel chairman Kiyoshi Kurokawa said difficult lessons that go to the heart of the national character had to be learned from the catastrophe.“What must be admitted -very painfully is that this was a disaster ‘Made in Japan’,” he wrote.

New Delhi to Host the Second  
Intergovernmental Committee  
Meeting for Nagoya Protocol

The Second Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ICNP-2) is being held in New Delhi from 2-6 July, 2012.  
The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) is a new international treaty adopted under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan on 29th October, 2010, after six years of intense negotiations.  
The CBD, one of the two agreements adopted during the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, is the first comprehensive global agreement which addresses all aspects relating to biodiversity. The Convention, while reaffirming sovereign rights of nations over their biological resources, establishes three main goals: (i) conservation of biological diversity, (ii) sustainable use of its components and (iii) fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources. A framework for implementing the third objective of the CBD, which is generally known as access and benefit sharing (ABS) is provided for in the Convention.  
All living organisms: plants, animals and microbes, carry genetic material that has potential uses for developing a wide range of products and services for human benefits, such as in development of medicines, drugs, cosmetics, enzymes, agricultural and horticultural products, environmental techniques etc.  
ABS refers to the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and the way in which benefits that result from their use are shared between the people or countries using the resources (users) and the people or countries that provide them (providers). Prior to the CBD, biological resources were considered as common heritage of mankind. The CBD, while reaffirming sovereign rights of States over their natural resources, stipulates that the authority to determine access to genetic resources rests with the national Governments and is subject to national legislation. Further, access where granted, has to be on mutually agreed terms (MAT) and subject to prior informed consent (PIC) of the Party providing such resources. Each Party is also required to take measures to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits on MAT arising from the commercial and other utilisation of genetic resources with the Party providing such resources. The CBD also recognises the importance of traditional knowledge associated with biological diversity, and stipulates that Parties subject to their national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain this traditional knowledge, and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of holders of their knowledge and encourage equitable sharing of benefit arising from use of such knowledge.  
As a megadiverse country rich in biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge, and with a rapidly advancing biotechnology industry, India has contributed effectively in ABS negotiations.  
The objective of the Nagoya Protocol, namely, the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, is also one of the three objectives of the CBD. The Nagoya Protocol on ABS establishes a clear framework on how researchers and companies can obtain access to genetic resources and to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and how benefits arising from the use of such material or knowledge will be shared. The Protocol also sets out clear obligation for Parties to provide that users of genetic resources within their jurisdiction respect the domestic regulatory framework of Parties from where the resource has been accessed.  
An Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP) has been established by Parties to the Convention as an interim governing body to undertake the preparations necessary for the first Meeting of the Parties, at which time it will cease to exist. The first meeting of ICNP was held in June, 2011, in which India has been elected as one of the two Bureau members to represent Asia Pacific region. This is helping India to steer the discussions under ICNP. The second meeting of ICNP is being hosted by India in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi from 2-6 July, 2012.  
The Nagoya Protocol has been signed by 92 countries, and as on date ratified by five countries. India signed the Protocol on 11th May, 2011, and is in the process of completing interministerial consultations necessary for ratifying the Protocol. The Protocol will enter into force 90 days after its 50th ratification. The first meeting of the governing body of the Protocol (CoP-MoP) will be held concurrently with the next meeting of governing body of the CBD (CoP).  
The ICNP-2 will discuss issues such as: capacity building of developing countries for implementation of the Protocol, awareness raising, modalities of ABS clearing house, procedures and mechanism to promote compliance with the Protocol, agenda for the first CoP-MoP, rules of procedure for CoP-MoP, and global multilateral benefit sharing mechanism.  
The ICNP-2 meeting will be inaugurated by Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of Environment & Forests, on 2nd July, in Vigyan Bhawan. The meeting will be attended by nearly 600 delegates from all countries of the world representing Governments, academia, UN bodies, civil society organizations, and indigenous and local communities.  
The recommendations of the ICNP meetings will be considered by the CoP-11 to the CBD being hosted by India in Hyderabad in October 2012.



# 36TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The World Heritage Committee will meet for its 36th session in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation.

The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States Parties. It has the final say on whether a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Committee can also defer its decision and request further information on properties from the States Parties. It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties and asks States Parties to take action when properties are not being properly managed. It also decides on the inscription or deletion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## New Inscribed Properties - 2012

The following cultural properties have been inscribed on the World Heritage List.

### Committee Members

Algeria, Cambodia, Colombia, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Qatar, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates

### Bureau Members

Chairperson: H.E. Mrs Mitrofanova Eleonora (Russian Federation)

Rapporteur: Mrs Beatriz Hernández Narváez (Mexico)

Vice-Chairpersons: France , Malaysia , Mexico , South Africa , United Arab Emirates

**A total of five natural World Heritage Sites** were inscribed during the present session of the World Heritage Committee:

Lakes of Ounianga (Chad);

Sangha Trinational (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo,);

Chengjiang Fossil Site (China);

**Western Ghats (India);**

Lena Pillars Nature Park (Russian Federation).

Rock Islands Southern Lagoon (Palau) was inscribed as a mixed natural and cultural site.

**A total of 20 cultural sites** were inscribed during the session:

Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy (Bahrain); Major Mining Sites of Wallonia (Belgium);

Rio de Janeiro, Carioca Landscapes between the Mountain and the Sea (Brazil);

The Landscape of Grand-Pré (Canada);

Site of Xanadu (China);

Historic Town Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire);

Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin (France);

Margravial Opera House Bayreuth (Germany);

Cultural Landscape of Bali Province; the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy (Indonesia);

Masjed-e Jamé of Isfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran),

Gonbad-e Qabus (Islamic Republic of Iran);

Sites of Human Evolution at Mount Carmel : The Nahal Me'arot/Wadi el-Mughara Caves (Israel);

Archaeological Heritage of the Lenggong Valley (Malaysia);

Rabat, Modern Capital and Historic City: a Shared Heritage (Morocco);

Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine);

Garrison Border Town of Elvas and its Fortifications (Portugal);

Bassari Country: Bassari, Fula and Bedik Cultural Landscapes (Senegal);

Heritage of Mercury Almadén and Idrija (Slovenia/Spain);

Decorated Farmhouses of Hälsingland (Sweden);

Neolithic Site of Çatalhöyük (Turkey).

Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine) was inscribed on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger, as it was added to the List of World Heritage. Two of Mali's World Heritage sites,

Timbuktu and the Tomb of Askia, were also added to the List of World Heritage in Danger, as were Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City (UK) and the Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama).

Two conservation success stories were recognized by the World Heritage Committee allowing for them to be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger: Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) and the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines).

## The following cultural properties have been inscribed on the World Heritage List

Archaeological Heritage of the Lenggong Valley

**Malaysia**

**Criteria: (iii)(iv)**



Situated in the lush Lenggong Valley, the property includes four archaeological sites in two clusters which span close to two million years, one of the longest records of early man in a single locality, and the oldest outside the African continent. It features open-air and cave sites with Palaeolithic tool workshops, evidence of early technology. The number of sites found in the relatively contained area, suggests the presence of a relatively large, semi-sedentary population with cultural remains from the Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Metal ages.

Bassari Country: Bassari, Fula and Bedik Cultural Landscapes

**Senegal**

**Criteria: (iii)(v)(vi)**



Bassari Country: Bassari, and Bedik Cultural Landscapes is situated in the south east of Senegal. It includes three geographic areas: the Bassari – Salémata area, the Bedik – Bandafassi area and the Fula – Dindéfello area, each with its

specific morphological traits. The Bassaris, Fulas and Bediks peoples settled from the 11th to the 19th centuries and developed specific cultures and habitats symbiotic with their surrounding natural environment. The Bassari landscape is marked by terraces and rice paddies, interspersed with villages, hamlets and archaeological sites. The villages of the Bediks are formed by dense groups of huts with steeped thatched roofs. Their inhabitants' cultural expressions are characterized by original traits of agro-pastoral, social, ritual and spiritual practices, which represent an original response to environmental constraints and human pressures. The site is a well preserved multicultural landscape housing original and still vibrant local cultures.

Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem

**Palestine**

**Criteria: (iv)(vi)**



The inscribed property is situated 10km south of Jerusalem on the site identified by Christian tradition as the birthplace of Jesus since the 2nd century. A church was first completed there in 339 A.D. and the edifice that replaced it after a fire in the 6th century retains elaborate floor mosaics from the original edifice. The site also includes Latin, Greek Orthodox, Franciscan and Armenian convents and churches, as well as bell towers, terraced gardens and a pilgrimage route.

Garrison Border Town of Elvas and its Fortifications

**Portugal**

**Criteria: (iv)**



The site, extensively fortified from the 17th to 19th centuries, represents the largest bulwarked dry ditch system in the world. Within its walls, the town contains barracks and other military buildings as well as churches and monasteries. While Elvas contains remains dating back to the 10th century A.D., its fortification began when Portugal regained independence in 1640. The fortifications designed by Dutch Jesuit Padre João Piscácio Cosmader represent the best surviving example of the Dutch school of fortifications anywhere. The site also contains the Amoreira Aqueduct, built to enable the stronghold to withstand lengthy sieges.

**Gonbad-e Qabus**

**Iran (Islamic Republic of)**

**Criteria: (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)**



The 53-metre high tomb built in 1006 A.D. for Qabus Ibn Voshmgir near the ruins of the ancient city of Jorjan on the Gorgan River in northeast Iran, bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran. The tower is the only remaining evidence of Jorjan, a former centre of arts and science that was destroyed during the Mongols' invasion in the 14th and 15th centuries. It is an outstanding and technologically innovative example of Islamic architecture that influenced sacred building in Iran, Anatolia and Central Asia. Built of unglazed fired bricks, the monument's intricate geometric forms constitute a tapering cylinder with a diameter of 17 to 15.5 metres,

topped by a conical brick roof. It illustrates the development of mathematics and science in the Muslim world at the turn of the first millennium A.D.

Landscape of Grand Pré

**Canada**

**Criteria: (v)(vi)**



Situated in the southern Minas Basin of Nova Scotia, the Grand Pré marshland and archaeological sites constitute a cultural landscape bearing testimony to the development of agricultural farmland using dykes and the aboiteau wooden sluice system, started by the Acadians in the 17th century and further developed and maintained by the Planters and present day inhabitants. The site - marked by one of the most extreme tidal ranges in the world, averaging at 11.6 metres – is also inscribed as a memorial to Acadian way of life and deportation, which started in 1755. Over 1,300 hectares, the cultural landscape encompasses a large expanse of polder farmland and archaeological elements of the towns of Grand Pré and Hortonville, which was built by the British successors of the Acadians. The landscape is an exceptional example of the adaptation of the first European settlers to the conditions of the North American Atlantic coast and an iconic place of remembrance of the Acadians' deportation, known as the Grand Dérangement.

**Margravial Opera House Bayreuth**

**Germany**

**Criteria: (i)(iv)**



A masterpiece of Baroque theatre architecture, built between 1745 and 1750, the Opera House is the only entirely preserved example of its type where an audience of 500 can experience Baroque court opera culture and acoustics authentically, as its auditorium retains its original materials, i.e. wood and canvas. Commissioned by Margravine Wilhelmine, wife of Frederick, Margrave of Brandenburg-Beyreuth, it was designed by the renowned theatre architect Giuseppe Galli Bibiena. As a court opera house in a public space, it foreshadowed the large public theatres of the 19th century. The highly decorated theatre's tiered loge structure of wood with illusionistic painted canvas represents the ephemeral ceremonial architectural tradition that was employed in pageants and celebrations for princely self-representation.

**Masjed-e Jamé of Isfahan**

**Iran (Islamic Republic of)**

**Criteria: (ii)**



Located in the historical centre of Isfahan, the "Friday mosque" can be seen as a stunning illustration of the evolution of mosque architecture over 12 centuries, starting in 841 A.D. It is the oldest preserved edifice of its type in Iran and a prototype for later mosque designs throughout Central Asia. The complex, covering more than 20,000m<sup>2</sup>, is also the first Islamic building that adapted the four-courtyard layout of Sassanid palaces to Islamic religious architecture. Its double-shelled ribbed domes represent an architectural innovation that inspired builders throughout the region. The site also features remarkable decorative details representative of stylistic developments over more than a thousand years of Islamic art.

**Neolithic Site of Çatalhöyük**

**Turkey**

**Criteria: (ii)(iv)**

Two hills form the 34-acre site on the Southern Anatolian Plateau. The taller eastern mound contains 18 levels of Neolithic occupation between 7,400 and 6,200 B.C., including wall paintings, reliefs, sculptures and other symbolic, and artistic features. Together they testify to the evolution of social organization and



cultural practices as humans adapted to a sedentary life. The western mound shows the evolution of cultural practices in the Chalcolithic period from 6,200 to 5,200 B.C. Çatalhöyük provides important evidence of the transition from settled villages to urban agglomeration which was maintained in the same location for over 2,000 years. It features a unique street-less settlement of houses clustered back to back with roof access into the buildings.

**Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin**

**France**

**Criteria: (ii)(iv)(vi)**



Remarkable as a landscape shaped over three centuries of coal extraction from the 1700s to the 1900s, the site consists of 109 separate components over 120,000-hectare. It features mining pits (the oldest of which dates from 1850) and lift infrastructure, slag heaps (some of which cover 90 hectares and exceed 140 metres in height), coal transport infrastructure, railway stations, workers estates and mining villages including social habitat, schools, religious buildings, health and community facilities, company premises, owners and managers' houses, town halls and more. The site bears testimony to the quest to create model workers' cities from the middle of the 19th century to the 1960s and further illustrates a significant period in the history of industrial Europe. It documents the living conditions of workers and the solidarity to which it gave rise.

**Rabat, Modern Capital and Historic City: a Shared Heritage**

**Morocco**

**Criteria: (ii)(iv)**



On Atlantic coast in the northwest of the country, is the product of a fertile exchange between the Arabo-Muslim past and Western modernism. The inscribed city encompasses the new town conceived and built under the French Protectorate from 1912 to the 1930s, including royal and administrative areas, residential and commercial developments and the Jardins d'Essais botanical and pleasure gardens. It also encompasses older parts of the city dating back to the 12th century. The new town is one of the largest and most ambitious modern urban projects built in Africa in the 20th century and probably the most complete. The older parts include Hassan Mosque (started in 1184) and the Almohad ramparts and gates, the only surviving parts of the project for a great capital city of the Almohad caliphate as well as remains from the Moorish, or Andalusian, principalities of the 17th century.

**Site of Xanadu**

**China**

**Criteria: (ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)**



North of the Great Wall, the Site of Xanadu encompasses the remains of Kublai Khan's legendary capital city, designed by the Mongol ruler's Chinese advisor Liu Bingzhong in 1256. Over a surface area of 25,000 hectares, the site exhibits a unique attempt to assimilate the nomadic Mongolian and Han Chinese cultures. This was the base from where Kublai Khan established the Yuan Dynasty that ruled over China over a century, extending its boundaries across Asia. The religious debate that took place here resulted in the dissemination of Tibetan Buddhism over northeast Asia, a cultural and religious tradition still practiced in many areas today. The site was planned according to the traditional Chinese feng shui in relation to the nearby mountains and river. It features the remains of the city, including temples, palaces, tombs, nomadic encampments and the Tiefan'gang Canal along with other water works.

Sites of Human Evolution at Mount Carmel: The Nahal Me'arot / Wadi el-

**Mughara Caves**

**Israel**

**Criteria: (iii)(v)**



On the western slope of the Mount Carmel range, includes the cave sites of Tabun, Jamal, el-Wad and Skhul. It covers 54 hectares and contains cultural deposits representing 500,000 years of human evolution with evidence of burials,

early stone architecture and the transition from a hunter-gathering lifestyle to agriculture and animal husbandry. The site demonstrates the unique existence of both Neanderthals and Early Anatomically Modern Humans (EAMH) within the same Middle Paleolithic cultural framework, the Mousterian. As such, it has become a key site of the chrono-stratigraphic framework for human evolution in general, and the prehistory of the Levant in particular. Ninety years of archaeological research have revealed a cultural sequence of unparalleled duration, providing an archive of early human life in south-west Asia.

The following natural properties have been inscribed on the World Heritage List

**Chengjiang Fossil Site**

**China**

**Criteria: (viii)**



A hilly 512-hectare site in Yunnan Province, Chengjiang's fossils present the most complete record of an early Cambrian marine community with exceptionally preserved biota, displaying the anatomy of hard and soft tissues in a very wide variety of organisms, invertebrate and vertebrate. They record the early establishment of a complex marine ecosystem. The site documents at least 16 phyla and a variety of enigmatic groups as well as about 196 species, presenting exceptional testimony to the rapid diversification of life on Earth 530 million years ago, when almost all of today's major animal groups emerged. It opens a palaeobiological window of great significance to scholarship.

**Lakes of Ounianga**

**Chad**

**Criteria: (vii)**



The site includes 18 interconnected lakes in the hyper arid Ennedi region of the Sahara Desert covering an area of 62,808 hectares. It constitutes an exceptional natural landscape of great beauty with striking colours and shapes. The saline, hyper saline and freshwater lakes are supplied by groundwater and are found in two groups 40 kilometres apart. Ounianga Kebir comprises four lakes the largest of which, Yoan, covers an area of 358 hectares and is 27 metres deep. Its highly saline waters only sustain algae and some microorganisms. The second group, Ounianga Serir, comprises 14 lakes separated by sand dunes. Floating reeds cover almost half the surface of these lakes reducing evaporation. At 436 hectares, Lake Teli has the largest surface area but is less than ten metres deep. With their high quality freshwater, some of these lakes are home to aquatic fauna, particularly fish.

**Lena Pillars Nature Park**

**Russian Federation**

**Criteria: (viii)**



Lena Pillars Nature Park is marked by spectacular rock pillars that reach a height of approximately 100 metres along the banks of the Lena River in the central part of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia). They were produced by the region's extreme continental climate with an annual temperature range of almost 100 degrees Centigrade (from -60°C in winter to +40°C in summer). The pillars form rocky buttresses isolated from each other by deep and steep gullies developed by frost shattering directed along intervening joints. Penetration of water from the surface has facilitated cryogenic processes (freeze-thaw action), which have widened gullies between pillars leading to their isolation. Fluvial processes are also critical to the pillars. The site also contains a wealth of Cambrian fossil remains of numerous species, some of them unique.

**The following mixed property has been inscribed**

**Rock Islands Southern Lagoon**

**Palau**

**Criteria: (iii)(v)(vii)(ix)(x)**



Rock Islands Southern Lagoon covers 100,200-hectare and numbers 445 uninhabited limestone islands of volcanic origin. Many of them display unique mushroom-

like shapes in turquoise lagoons surrounded by coral reefs. The aesthetic beauty of the site is heightened by a complex reef system featuring over 385 coral species and different types of habitat. They sustain a large diversity of plants, birds and marine life including dugong and at least 13 shark species. The site harbours the highest concentration of marine lakes anywhere, isolated bodies of seawater separated from the ocean by land barriers. They are among the islands' distinctive features and sustain high endemism of populations which continue to yield new species discoveries.

The following cultural properties have been inscribed on the World Heritage List

**Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy**

**Indonesia**

**Criteria: (ii)(iii)(v)(vi)**



Cultural Landscape of Bali: the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophyforms acultural landscape of five rice terraces and their water temples that cover 19,500 hectares. The temples are the focus of a cooperative water management system of canals and weirs, known as subak, that dates back to the 9th century. Included in the landscape is the 18th-century Royal Temple of Pura Taman Ayun, the largest and most impressive architectural edifice of its type on the island. The subak reflects the philosophical concept of Tri Hita Karana, which brings together the realms of the spirit, the human world and nature. This philosophy was born of the cultural exchange between Bali and India over the past 2000 years and has shaped the landscape of Bali. The subak system of democratic and egalitarian farming practices has enabled the Balinese to become the most prolific rice growers in the archipelago despite the challenge of supporting a dense population.

**Decorated Farmhouses of Hälsingland**

**Sweden**

**Criteria: (v)**



Seven timber houses are listed in this site located in the east of Sweden, representing the zenith of a regional timber building tradition that dates back to the Middle Ages. They reflect the prosperity of independent farmers who used their wealth in the 19th century to build substantial new homes with elaborately decorated ancillary houses or suites of rooms reserved for festivities. The paintings represent a fusion of folk art with the styles favoured by the landed gentry of the time, including Baroque and Rococo. Decorated by painters, including known and unknown itinerant artists, the listed properties represent the final flowering of a long cultural tradition.

**Heritage of Mercury. Almadén and Idrja**

**Slovenia , Spain**

**Criteria: (ii)(iv)**



The property includes the mining sites of Almadén, where mercury (quicksilver) has been extracted since Antiquity, and Idrja, where mercury was first found in 1490 A.D. The Spanish property includes buildings relating to its mining history, including Retamar Castle, religious buildings and traditional dwellings. The site in Idrja notably features mercury stores and infrastructure, as well as miners' living quarters, and a miners' theatre. The sites bear testimony to the intercontinental trade in mercury which generated important exchanges between Europe and America over the centuries. The two sites represent the two largest mercury mines in the world and were operational until recent times.

**Historic Town of Grand-Bassam**

**Côte d'Ivoire**

**Criteria: (iii)(iv)**



The first capital of Côte d'Ivoire, the Historic Town of Grand-Bassam, is an



example of a late 19th and early 20th-century colonial town planned with quarters specializing in commerce, administration, housing for Europeans and housing for Africans. The site includes the N'zima African fishing village alongside colonial architecture marked by functional houses with galleries, verandas and gardens. Grand-Bassam was the most important port, economic and judicial centre of Côte d'Ivoire. It bears witness to the complex social relations between Europeans and Africans, and to the subsequent independence movement. As a vibrant centre of the territory of French trading posts in the Gulf of Guinea, which preceded modern Côte d'Ivoire, it attracted populations from all parts of Africa, Europe and the Mediterranean Levant.

**Major Mining Sites of Wallonia**

**Belgium**

**Criteria: (ii)(iv)**



The four sites of the property form a strip that is 170km long by 3 to 15 km, crossing Belgium from east to west. It consists of the best-preserved 19th- and 20th-century coal mining sites of the country. It features early examples of the utopian architecture from the early periods of the industrial era in Europe within a highly integrated, industrial and urban ensemble, notably the Grand-Hornu colliery and workers' city designed by Bruno Renard in the first half of the 19th century. Bois-du-Luc includes numerous buildings erected from 1838 to 1909 and one of Europe's oldest collieries dating back to the end of the 17th century. While the Walloon region had hundreds of collieries, most have lost their infrastructure, while the four components of the listed site retain a high measure of integrity.

**Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy**

**Bahrain**

**Criteria: (iii)**



Pearling, testimony of an island economy, consists of 17 buildings in Murharraq city, three offshore oyster beds, part of the seashore and the Qal'at Bu Mahir fortress on the southern tip of Muharraaq Island, from where boats used to set off for the oyster beds. The buildings listed include residences of wealthy merchants, shops, storehouses and a mosque. The site is the last remaining complete example of the cultural tradition of pearling and the wealth it generated at a time when the trade dominated the Gulf economy (2nd century to the 1930s when Japan developed cultured pearls). It also constitutes an outstanding example of traditional utilization of the sea's resources and human interaction with the environment, which shaped both the economy and cultural identity of the island's society.

**Rio de Janeiro: Carioca Landscapes between the Mountain and the Sea**

**Brazil**

**Criteria: (v)(vi)**



The listed site consists of an exceptional urban setting rather than built heritage. It encompasses the key natural elements that have shaped and inspired the development of the city: from the highest points of the Tijuca National Park's mountains down to the sea. They also include the Botanical Gardens, established in 1808, Corcovado Mountain with its celebrated statue of Christ and the hills around Guanabara Bay, including the extensive designed landscapes along Copacabana Bay which have contributed to the outdoor living culture of this spectacular city. Rio de Janeiro is also recognized for the artistic inspiration it has provided to musicians, landscapers and urbanists.

The following natural properties have been inscribed on the World Heritage List

**Sangha Trinational**

**Cameroon , Central African Republic , Congo**

**Criteria: (ix)(x)**



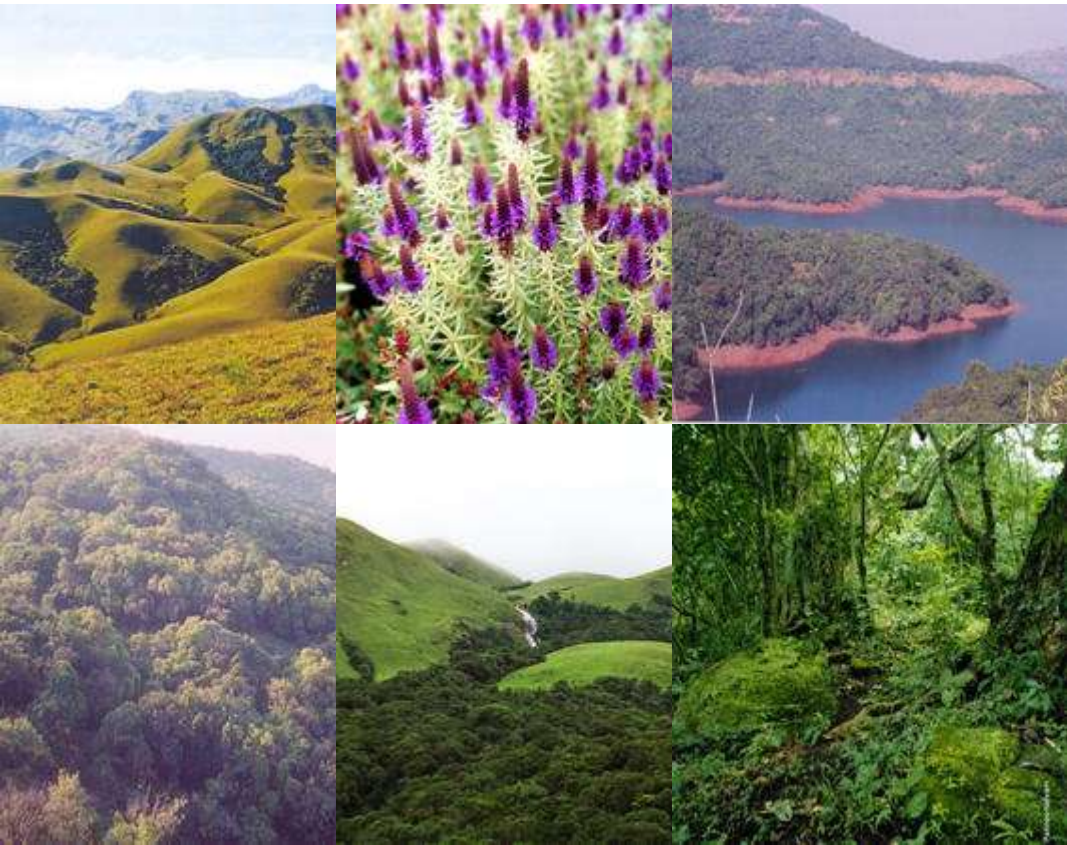
Situated in the north-western Congo Basin, where Cameroon, the Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic meet, the site encompasses three contiguous national parks totalling more than 750,000 hectares. Much of the site

is unaffected by human activity and it features a wide range of humid tropical forest ecosystems with rich flora and fauna, including Nile Crocodiles and Goliath Tigerfish, a large predator. Forest clearings support herbaceous species and Sangha is home to considerable populations of forest elephants, critically endangered Western Lowland Gorilla, and endangered chimpanzee. The site's environment has preserved the continuation of ecological and evolutionary processes on a huge scale and great biodiversity, including many endangered animal species.

**Western Ghats**

**India**

**Criteria: (ix)(x)**



Older than the Himalaya mountains, the mountain chain of the Western Ghats represents geomorphic features of immense importance with unique biophysical and ecological processes. The site's high montane forest ecosystems influence the Indian monsoon weather pattern. Moderating the tropical climate of the region, it presents one of the best examples of the monsoon system in the planet. The site also has an exceptionally high level of biological diversity and endemism. It is recognized as one of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity. The forests of the site include some of the best representatives of non-equatorial tropical evergreen forests anywhere and are home to at least 325 globally threatened flora, fauna, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish species.

**Decision - 35COM 8B.9 - Natural Properties - Western Ghats (India)**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-11/35.COM/8B and WHC-11/35.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Refers the nomination of the Western Ghats, India, back to the State Party, noting the potential of the nominated property to meet criteria (ix) and (x), to allow the State Party to address the following important issues:
  - a) Review the scope and composition of the current serial nomination to take account of any recommendations of the 'Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel' or other relevant information, in order to reflect the full spectrum of ecological and biodiversity values of the Western Ghats, and to further enhance the protection of the values of the nominated property,
  - b) Take measures to reduce the impact of existing and planned infrastructure as well as disturbed areas on the values of the property,
  - c) Review and strengthen buffer zones or other measures to provide increased protection or buffering for the values within the nominated property, and strengthen the ecological connectivity measures to ensure consistency and greater functional linkages between component sites,
  - d) Improve coordination and integration between component parts of the property, particularly through the existing mechanisms of the Western Ghats Natural Heritage Management Committee and the preparation and implementation of an overarching management framework, for the serial property as a whole,
  - e) Facilitate increased engagement with all stakeholders to build awareness and support, foster participatory governance approaches, and ensure equitable sharing of benefits,
  - f) Harmonize arrangements between the 'Western Ghats Natural Heritage Committee' and the 'Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel' and strengthen community membership and input through the establishment of the proposed 'Western Ghats Natural Heritage Conservation Authority' and other relevant advisory committees;
3. Highly commends the State Party for its on-going commitment to ensure a comprehensive approach to conserving the globally recognised high biodiversity values of the Western Ghats, noting the scale and complexity of this area.

**Introduction of Western Ghats**

The Western Ghats, Western Ghauts or the Sahyadri constitute a mountain range along the western side of India. It is an UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the eight hottest hotspots of biological diversity in the world. This range runs north to south along the western edge of the Deccan Plateau, and separates the plateau from a narrow coastal plain along the Arabian Sea.

The range starts near the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra, south of the Tapi river, and runs approximately 1,600 km (990 mi) through the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala ending at Kanyakumari, at the southern tip of India.

These hills cover 160,000 km<sup>2</sup> (62,000 sq mi) and form the catchment area for complex riverine drainage systems that drain almost 40% of India. The Western Ghats block rainfall to the Deccan Plateau The average elevation is around 1,200 m (3,900 ft).

The area is one of the world's ten "Hottest biodiversity hotspots" and has over 5000 species of flowering plants, 139 mammal species, 508 bird species and 179 amphibian species; it is likely that many undiscovered species live in the Western Ghats. At least 325 globally threatened species occur in the Western Ghats.

The Western Ghats are not true mountains, but are the faulted edge of the Deccan Plateau. They are believed to have been formed during the break-up of the super continent of Gondwana some 150 million years ago. Geophysicists Barron and Harrison from the University of Miami advocate the theory that the west coast of India came into being somewhere around 100 to 80 mya after it broke away from Madagascar. After the break-up, the western coast of India would have appeared as an abrupt cliff some 1,000 m (3,300 ft) in elevation. Basalt is the predominant rock found in the hills reaching a depth of 3 km (2 mi). Other rock types found are charnockites, granite gneiss, khondalites, leptynites, metamorphic gneisses with detached occurrences of crystalline limestone, iron ore, dolerites and anorthosites. Residual laterite and bauxite ores are also found in the southern hills.

**Mountains**

A view of Anamudi, the highest peak of western Ghats 2,695 metres (8,842 ft) from Eravikulam National Park, Kerala.

**Hill ranges**

The Western Ghats extend from the Satpura Range in the north, go south past Maharashtra, Goa, through Karnataka and into Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Major gaps in the range are the Goa Gap, between the Maharashtra and Karnataka sections, and the Palghat Gap on the Tamil Nadu and Kerala border between the Nilgiri Hills and the Anaimalai Hills.

**Sahyandhris**

The major hill range starting from the north is the Sahyadri (the benevolent mountains) range. This range is home to many hill stations like Matheran, Lonavala-Khandala, Mahabaleshwar, Panchgani, Amboli Ghat, Kudremukh and Kodagu. The range is called Sahyadri in northern Maharashtra,Karnataka and

Sahya Parvatam in Kerala.

**Nilgiris**

The Nilgiri Hills,also known as the Nilagiri malai, are in northwestern Tamil Nadu. The Nilgiri Hills are home to the hill station **Ooty**. The Bili giri rangana Betta southeast of Mysore in Karnataka, meet the Shevaroy's (Servarayan range) and Tirumala range farther east, linking the Western Ghats to the Eastern Ghats. In the South, the range is or Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu.

**Anaimalai Hills**

South of the Palghat Gap are the Anaimalai Hills, in western Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Smaller ranges are further south, including the Cardamom Hills. In the southern part of the range is Ana Mudi peak 2,695 metres (8,842 ft) in Kerala the highest peak in Western Ghats. Chembra Peak 2,100 metres (6,890 ft), Banasura Peak 2,073 metres (6,801 ft), Vellarimala 2,200 metres (7,218 ft) and Agasthya mala 1,868 metres (6,129 ft) are also in Kerala. Doddabetta in the Nilgiri Hills is 2,637 metres (8,652 ft). Mullayanagiri is the highest peak in Karnataka 1,950 metres (6,398 ft). The Western Ghats in Kerala and Tamil Nadu is home to many tea and coffee plantations.

**Shola Grasslands and forests** in the Kudremukh National Park, Western Ghats, Karnataka.

The northern portion of the narrow coastal plain between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea is known as the Konkan Coast or simply Konkan, the central portion is called Kanara and the southern portion is called Malabar region or the Malabar Coast. The foothill region east of the Ghats in Maharashtra is known as Desh, while the eastern foothills of the central Karnataka state is known as Malenadu. The largest city within the mountains is the city of Pune (Poona), in the Desh region on the eastern edge of the range. The Biligirirangan Hills lies at the confluence of the Western and Eastern Ghats.

The mountains intercept the rain-bearing westerly monsoon winds, and are consequently an area of high rainfall, particularly on their western side. The dense forests also contribute to the precipitation of the area by acting as a substrate for condensation of moist rising orographic winds from the sea, and releasing much of the moisture back into the air via transpiration, allowing it to later condense and fall again as rain.

The Western Ghats have several manmade lakes and reservoirs. The well known lakes are the Ooty (2500 m altitude, 34.0 ha) in Nilgiris, and the Kodaikanal (2285 m, 26 ha) and the Berijam in the Palani Hills. The Pookode lake of Wayanad in Kerala at Lakkadi is a beautiful scenic one with boating and garden arrangements. Most of the bigger lakes are situated in the state of Tamil Nadu. Two smaller lakes, the Devikulam (6.0 ha) and the Letchmi Elephant (2.0 ha) are in the Munnar range.

The majority of streams draining the Western Ghats and joining the Rivers Krishna and Kaveri carry water during monsoon months only and have been dammed for hydroelectric and irrigation purposes. The major reservoirs are: Lonavala and Walwahn in Maharashtra; V.V. Sagar, K.R. Sagar and Tungabhadra in the Malenadu area of Karnataka; Mettur Dam, Upper Bhavani, Mukurthi, Parson's Valley, Porthumund, Avalanche, Emerald, Pykara, Sandynulla, Karaiyar, Servalar, Kodaiyar, Manimuthar Dam and Glenmorgan in Tamil Nadu; and Kundallay and Maddupatty in the High Range of Kerala. Of these the Lonavla, Walwahn, Upper Bhavani, Mukurthi, Parson's Valley, Porthumund, Avalanche, Emerald, Pykara, Sandynulla, Glenmorgan, Kundally and Madupatty are important for their commercial and sport fisheries for trout, mahseer and common carp.

The Western Ghats are home to four tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forest ecoregions – the North Western Ghats moist deciduous forests, North Western Ghats montane rain forests, South Western Ghats moist deciduous forests, and South Western Ghats montane rain forests.

The northern portion of the range is generally drier than the southern portion, and at lower elevations makes up the North Western Ghats moist deciduous forests ecoregion, with mostly deciduous forests made up predominantly of teak. Above 1,000 meters elevation are the cooler and wetter North Western Ghats montane rain forests, whose evergreen forests are characterised by trees of family Lauraceae.

The evergreen Wayanad forests of Kerala mark the transition zone between the northern and southern ecoregions of the Western Ghats. The southern ecoregions are generally wetter and more species-rich. At lower elevations are the South Western Ghats moist deciduous forests, with Cullenia the characteristic tree genus, accompanied by teak, dipterocarps, and other trees. The moist forests transition to the drier South Deccan Plateau dry deciduous forests, which lie in its rain shadow to the east.



Above 1,000 meters are the South Western Ghats montane rain forests, also cooler and wetter than the surrounding lowland forests, and dominated by evergreen trees, although some montane grasslands and stunted forests can be found at the highest elevations. The South Western Ghats montane rain forests are the most species-rich ecoregion in peninsular India; eighty percent of the flowering plant species of the entire Western Ghats range are found in this ecoregion.

Climate in the Western Ghats varies with altitudinal gradation and distance from the equator. The climate is humid and tropical in the lower reaches tempered by the proximity to the sea. Elevations of 1,500 m (4,921 ft) and above in the north and 2,000 m (6,562 ft) and above in the south have a more temperate climate. Average annual temperature here are around 15 °C (60 °F). In some parts frost is common, and temperatures touch the freezing point during the winter months. Mean temperature range from 20 °C (68 °F) in the south to 24 °C (75 °F) in the north. It has also been observed that the coldest periods in the south western ghats coincide with the wettest.

During the monsoon season between June and September, the unbroken Western Ghats chain acts as a barrier to the moisture laden clouds. The heavy, eastward-moving rain-bearing clouds are forced to rise and in the process deposit most of their rain on the windward side. Rainfall in this region averages 3,000–4,000 mm (120–160 in) with localised extremes touching 9,000 mm (350 in). The eastern region of the Western Ghats which lie in the rain shadow, receive far less rainfall averaging about 1,000 mm (40 in) bringing the average rainfall figure to 2,500 mm (150 in). Data from rainfall figures reveal that there is no relationship between the total amount of rain received and the spread of the area.

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