



Consul General Beth Payne participates in a rally in Bhubaneswar to commemorate World AIDS Day.



# JANUARY 2010



## Events at a Glance

### January 8:

**Program:** Launch of website *baularchive.com* (Kolkata)

### January 11 - 15:

**Film:** Woody Allen film festival (Kolkata)

### January 18 - 22:

**Music:** Jazz by Freddie Bryant and Gilad Dobrecky (Kolkata and Kharagpur)

### January 27 - February 7:

**Book Fair:** Kolkata Book Fair 2010 (Kolkata)

## Holidays:

### January 1

New Year's Day

### January 18

Martin Luther King's Birthday

### January 20

Shree Panchami

### January 26

Republic Day

## THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

January marks a historic event in human civilization: the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, as the nation approached its third year of bloody civil war. The proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."



Although the Emancipation Proclamation did not end slavery in the nation, it captured the hearts and imagination of millions of Americans and fundamentally transformed the character of the war. The Proclamation announced the acceptance of black men into the Union Army and Navy, enabling the liberated to become liberators. By the end of the war, almost 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for the Union and freedom.

From the first days of the Civil War, slaves had acted to secure their own liberty. The Emancipation Proclamation confirmed their insistence that the war for the Union must become a war for freedom. It added moral force to the Union cause and strengthened the Union both militarily and politically. As a milestone along the road to slavery's final destruction, the Emancipation Proclamation has assumed a place among the great documents of human freedom.

The original of the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, is in the National Archives in Washington, DC. With the text covering five pages the document was originally tied with narrow red and blue ribbons, which were attached to the signature page by a wafered impression of the seal of the United States. Most of the ribbon remains; parts of the seal are still decipherable, but other parts have worn off.

*The American Center wishes everyone a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!*



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Offices are open from 8 am - 5 pm; Monday - Friday

The American Library is open from 10 am - 6 pm, Monday - Saturday

**YOUR TURN**

*The Bulletin wants to hear from you ... your thoughts, your opinions, your feedback. Write in with*

- a report of an American Center event you attended*
- your experiences in cross-cultural encounters*
- a photo that brings out the joys and sorrows of human life*
- a human interest anecdote.*

*Only email submissions will be considered for publication. The Bulletin reserves the right of submission selection, editing and publication.*

*Send your submissions by email to [kolkatapas@state.gov](mailto:kolkatapas@state.gov)*

**MUSIC OF THE BAULS**

January 8: Kolkata



On January 8, the website *baularchive.com* will be launched at the American Center. A panel discussion on "From Obscurity to the Limelight: Bauls and Fakirs in the 21st century" will focus on this new development in the evolving tradition of Baul music, followed by a performance by Bauls. Select American scholars will attend the launch.

**Contact: 3984-6324 or [basusx@state.gov](mailto:basusx@state.gov)**

**JAZZ**

January 18 - 22: Kolkata and Kharagpur

Jazz guitarist Freddie Bryant and percussionist Gilad Dobrecky will perform in Kolkata and at IIT Kharagpur on January 18, 19, 21, and 22. Freddie and Gilad are two of the world's top jazz musicians who enliven the New York music scene.



**Contact: 3984-6324 or [basusx@state.gov](mailto:basusx@state.gov)**

**WOODY ALLEN FILM FESTIVAL**

January 11 - 15: Kolkata



The American Center, in collaboration with the Tagore Centre of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Cine Central, presents a "Woody Allen Perspective" comprising *Annie Hall*, *Purple Rose of Cairo*, *Match Point*, and *Deconstructing Harry*. A limited number of passes will be distributed from the American Center, Kolkata, on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning December 21.

**Contact: 3984-6328 or [hajranx@state.gov](mailto:hajranx@state.gov)**

**All programs are subject to change. Please confirm closer to the date of the event.**

## New services recently introduced at the American Library, Kolkata



◆ Personal reading materials allowed. You can now bring your personal books and papers along with your laptop for use in the library reading room.



◆ Readers' Club: This reading group for library patrons features regular book discussions. Club members meet to discuss and analyze specific works of American writers.



◆ Wi-fi and broadband internet access: Patrons can now use our wireless network (Wi-Fi) facilities with their personal laptops in the reading room. They can also use their personal virus-free CD-ROMs and pen drives in public PCs.



◆ New SMS service: You can now receive the latest information about library programs and promotions on your mobile phone. Please let us know if you want to receive our SMS alerts. Call us at: 033-3984-6394/6397/6398/6399. Or contact us by email to subscribe: [KolkataAmLibrary@state.gov](mailto:KolkataAmLibrary@state.gov)

### Do You Know?

- You can renew your loaned items by telephone. ☎3984-6394/6397
- You can avail yourself of interlibrary loan facility of books from the other American Libraries in India. ☎3984-6394/6397
- You can organize collaborative programs with the American Library. ☎3984-6336/6337
  - You can surf the internet and access our online databases.
  - You can become a member of the American Library even if you reside outside of Kolkata. ☎3984-6336/ 6337

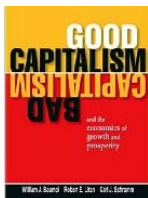
## KOLKATA BOOK FAIR 2010

January 27 - February 5

The 34th International Kolkata Book Fair, one of the city's most popular winter events, will be held January 27 through February 5. The U.S. Consulate will showcase its services from its pavilion at the Fair. In addition, the American Library will offer a 50% discount on library membership during the Fair. The reduced rate for new annual memberships is only Rs. 200, plus special gifts. Don't miss this opportunity to renew your membership, and tell your friends and acquaintances about it also!

**Contact: 3984-6394-97 and 3984-6398-99 or [ghoshdx@state.gov](mailto:ghoshdx@state.gov)**

### A COMPELLING ADDITION TO THE AMERICAN LIBRARY'S BOOK COLLECTION



*Good Capitalism, Bad Capitalism and the Economics of Growth and Prosperity* by William J. Baumol, Robert E. Litan and Carl J. Schramm. Yale University Press, 2007. 321 pp. The book tells us that capitalism comes in different flavors, and some of those flavors taste much better than others. One of these forms of capitalism--entrepreneurial capitalism--is a special treat. It leads to growth and prosperity. The other forms are to be avoided; they lead to stagnation. This new view of the wealth of nations offers a guide to economic policy in all countries, from the richest to the poorest.



### PROGRAMS ORGANIZED BY THE UNITED STATES-INDIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (USIEF)

**January 20-21 (Guwahati):** Workshop on "New trends in English Language Teaching."

**Contact: 3984-6310 or [sohini@usief.org.in](mailto:sohini@usief.org.in)**

## SPELLING BEE: AN AMERICAN TRADITION

The earliest evidence of the phrase "spelling bee" in print dates back to 1825. A key impetus for the contests was Noah Webster's spelling books. First published in 1786 and known colloquially as "The Blue-backed Speller," Webster's spelling books were an essential part of the curriculum of all elementary school children in the United States for five generations.



The United States National Spelling Bee was started in 1925 by *The Courier-Journal*, the newspaper of Louisville, Kentucky. In 1941, the Scripps Howard News Service acquired sponsorship of the program, and the name changed to the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee (later simply "Scripps National Spelling Bee"). As well as covering the 50 U.S. states, several competitors also came from Canada, the Bahamas, New Zealand and Europe.

In the United States, Spelling Bees are held annually from local levels up to the level of the Scripps National Spelling Bee which awards a cash prize to the winner. The National Spelling Bee is sponsored by English-language newspapers and educational foundations; it is also broadcast on ESPN. Since 2006, the National Spelling Bee's championship rounds have been broadcast on ABC live. The final authority for words is the Merriam-Webster unabridged dictionary, the Webster's Third New International Dictionary. The annual study list is available from Scripps, either online or in print.

In 2009, the winner of the U.S. National Spelling Bee was a 13-year-old Indian American, Kavya Shivshankar, who won the Bee after she correctly spelled "laodicean." Eight Indian-Americans have won the title, including 6 in the past 10 years.

The American Center Kolkata started an annual Spelling Bee in 2006. This year the Center has partnered with Merriam-Webster, publisher of America's best-selling English dictionary. More than 60 schools are expected to participate in this year's Bee, which kicked off at Mitra Sammilani Hall Siliguri on December 11, 2009. The second round was held at St Xavier's School in Patna on December 15, 2009. The best spellers from all the rounds will meet for the final Spelling Bee of eastern India at the American Center in Kolkata on January 21, 2010. The winner from eastern India will compete with the winners from northern India in the grand finale on January 27, 2010.

This year's round of Spelling Bees is one of the many opportunities to highlight people-to-people ties and shared commitment for education that distinguishes the U.S.-India relationship.

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## DECEMBER IN PICTURES



*Psychologist Karen Singleton interacts with NGO representatives at a presentation on "Counseling for Adolescents" at the American Center.*



*Assistant Public Affairs Officer Moulik Berkana addresses English teachers at the Adibashi Gramin Janakalyan Samity, Murshidabad.*



*Consul General Beth Payne inaugurates the release of a book of poems written by children at Akshar School, Kolkata.*