5. CHRONOLOGICAL INTRODUCTION OF THE MAJOR SOCIAL EVENTS AND ISSUES

2001 NATIONAL EVENTS

GUJARAT EARTHQUAKE

The 2001 Gujarat earthquake occurred on January 26, 2001, at 08:46 AM, and coincided with the 51st celebration of India's Republic Day. The location of the epicenter was Bhuj (23.6° N 69.8° E) Gujarat, India. With a moment magnitude (Mw) of between 7.6 and 8.1, the quake killed more than 20,000 people and injured another 167,000 and destroyed nearly 400,000 homes throughout Gujarat and parts of eastern Pakistan. It registered as 7.9 on the Richter scale.¹

Figure 1: Destruction in Bhuj

(Source: www.historycommons.org)

Because of its size and location, the quake was very destructive in terms of lives lost and damage to property. As many as 26,000 people were reported dead, and 166,000 injured. All the deaths occurred in India's western state of Gujarat, near the Pakistan border. The final death toll of Kutch was 12,220. Bhuj, situated only 20 kilometers (14 miles) from the epicenter, was the most devastated town. Overall, over a million structures were damaged or destroyed, including many historic buildings and tourist attractions. The quake destroyed around 90% of the homes in Bhuj, eight schools, and flattened two hospitals. It partly destroyed the historic Swaminarayan temple in the city. In Ahmedabad, Gujarat's commercial capital and a city of 4.6 million populations, as many as 50 multi-storied buildings collapsed and several hundred people were killed. Total property damage was estimated at $5.5 billion.
and rising. The quake destroyed 75% of Kutch District, and over 80% of usable food and water supplies. This left Bhuj devastated.²

![Figure 2: Epicenter of Earthquake](https://lighthousepatriotjournal.files.wordpress.com)

**MANIPUR PROBLEM**

Thousands of demonstrators clash with police and set fire to the Manipur State Legislature, Imphal. One killed, 130 students injured in Manipur protests. A 32-year-old man was killed on Friday and over 130 students injured, including seven in firing by paramilitary forces, when demonstrators protesting extension of the Naga ceasefire to Manipur clashed with security personnel in a bid to enter the Raj Bhavan in Imphal defying prohibitory orders.³

![Figure 3: Imphal Problem](https://www.dancewithshadows.com)

**ASSASSINATION OF PHOOLAN DEVI**

On July 25, 2001, Phoolan Devi was fatally shot as she got out of her car at the gate of her New Delhi residence. The assailants also wounded her bodyguard and escaped in an
auto rickshaw. Sher Singh Rana, Dheeraj Rana, and Rajbir were accused of the crime. Sher Singh Rana allegedly surrendered in Dehradun. He confessed to the murder, saying he was avenging the deaths of 22 Kshatriyas at Behmai. He escaped from Tihar Jail in 2004, but was captured in April 2006 from Kolkata and sent to Rohini Jail, Delhi. The same year, the KSASC decided to honor Rana for "upholding the dignity of the Kshatriya community" and "drying the tears of the widows of Behmai".

**INDIAN PARLIAMENT ATTACK**

The 2001 Indian Parliament attack was a high-profile attack by Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists against the building housing the Parliament of India in New Delhi. The attack led to the death of a dozen people (5 terrorists, 6 police and 1 civilian) and to increased tensions between India and Pakistan and the 2001-2002 India-Pakistan standoffs.

![Figure 4: Indian Parliament Attack](s1.hubimg.com)

On 13 December 2001, five gunmen infiltrated the Parliament House in a car with Home Ministry and Parliament labels. While both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha had been adjourned forty minutes prior to the incident, many Members of Parliament (MPs) and government officials such as Home Minister L. K. Advani and Minister of State (Defence) Harin Pathak were believed to have still been in the building at the time of the attack. (Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Opposition Leader Sonia Gandhi had already left). The gunmen slammed their vehicle into the car of the Indian Vice President Krishan Kant (who was in the building at the time), got out, and began firing their weapons. The Vice President's guards and security personnel shot back at the terrorists and then started closing the gates of the compound. The lady constable Kamlesh Kumari was first to spot the terrorist squad. One gunman, wearing a suicide vest, was shot dead, the vest exploding. The other four gunmen
were also killed. Five policemen, a Parliament security guard, and a gardener were killed, and 18 others were injured. No members of the government were hurt.6

2001 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

NEPALESE ROYAL MASSACRE

The Nepalese royal massacre occurred on Friday, June 1, 2001, at the Narayanhity Royal Palace, then the residence of the Nepalese monarchy, when Crown Prince Dipendra allegedly shot and killed several members of his family. As a result of the shooting, ten people died and five were wounded. The dead included King Birendra of Nepal and Queen Aiswarya, Dipendra's father and mother. Prince Dipendra became de jure King of Nepal upon his father's death and died whilst in a coma three days later.7

![Figure 5: Nepalese Royal Family](Source: www.martinfrost.ws)

According to reports, Dipendra had been drinking heavily and had "misbehaved" with a guest, which resulted in his father, King Birendra, telling his son to leave the party. The drunken Dipendra was taken to his room by his brother Prince Nirajan and cousin Prince Paras. One hour later, Dipendra allegedly returned to the party armed with an MP5K and an M16 and fired a single shot into the ceiling before turning the gun on his father, King Birendra. Seconds later, Dipendra allegedly shot one of his aunts. He then allegedly shot his uncle Dhirendra in the chest at point-blank range when he tried to stop Dipendra. During the shooting, Prince Paras suffered slight injuries and managed to save at least three royals, including two children, by pulling a sofa over them. During the attack, Dipendra darted in and out of the room firing shots each time. His mother, Queen Aiswarya, who came into the room when the first shots were fired, left quickly; looking proceeded to a small bridge over a
stream running through the palace, where for help. Dipendra's mother Aishwarya and his brother Nirajan confronted him in the garden of the palace, where they were both shot dead. Dipendra then he shot himself. Dipendra was proclaimed King while in a coma, but he died on June 4, 2001, after a three-day reign. Gyanendra was then appointed regent. 8

**SEPTMBER 11 ATTACKS**

The September 11 attacks (often referred to as **September 11th** or **9/11**) were a series of coordinated suicide attacks by al-Qaeda upon the United States on September 11, 2001. On that morning, 19 al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial passenger jet airliners. The hijackers intentionally crashed two of the airliners into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, killing everyone on board and many others working in the buildings. Both buildings collapsed within two hours, destroying nearby buildings and damaging others. The hijackers crashed a third airliner into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. The fourth plane crashed into a field near Shanksville in rural Pennsylvania, after some of its passengers and flight crew attempted to retake control of the plane, which the hijackers had redirected toward Washington, D.C. There were no survivors from any of the flights. 2,976 victims and the 19 hijackers died as a result of the attacks. The overwhelming majority of casualties were civilians, including nationals of over 90 countries. In addition, the death of at least one person from lung disease was ruled by a medical examiner to be a result of exposure to dust from the World Trade Center's collapse. 9

![Figure 6: Attack at Twin Tower, WTC (1)](source: www.terrorismnpeace.com)

The United States responded to the attacks by launching a War on Terrorism, invading Afghanistan to depose the Taliban, who had harbored al-Qaeda terrorists, and enacting the USA PATRIOT Act. Many other countries also strengthened their anti-terrorism legislation and expanded law enforcement powers. Some American stock exchanges stayed
closed for the rest of the week following the attack, and posted enormous losses upon reopening, especially in the airline and insurance industries. The destruction of billions of dollars worth of office space caused serious damage to the economy of Lower Manhattan.\textsuperscript{10}

Figure 7: Attack at Twin Tower, WTC (2)

(Source: naumanrk.files.wordpress.com)

**WAR IN AFGHANISTAN**

The War in Afghanistan is an ongoing armed conflict which began on October 7, 2001, as the US military’s Operation Enduring Freedom that was launched, along with the British military, in response to the September 11 attacks. The UK has, since 2002, led its own military operation, Operation Herrick, as part of the same war in Afghanistan. The stated aim of the invasion was to find Osama bin Laden and other high-ranking Al-Qaeda members and put them on trial, to destroy the whole organization of Al-Qaeda, and to remove the Taliban regime which supported and gave safe harbor to Al-Qaeda. The Bush administration stated that, as policy, it would not distinguish between terrorist organizations and nations or governments that harbor them. The operation is the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), which was established by the UN Security Council at the end of December 2001 to secure Kabul and the surrounding areas. NATO assumed control of ISAF in 2003. By July 23, 2009, ISAF had around 64,500 troops from 42 countries, with NATO members providing the core of the force. The United States has approximately 29,950 troops in ISAF. The US and UK led the aerial bombing, in support of ground forces supplied primarily by the Afghan Northern Alliance. In 2002, American, British and Canadian infantry were committed, along with Special Forces from several allied nations, including Australia. Later, NATO troops were added.\textsuperscript{11}
The initial attack removed the Taliban from power, but Taliban forces have since regained some strength. Since 2006, Afghanistan has seen threats to its stability from increased Taliban-led insurgent activity, record-high levels of illegal drug production, and a fragile government with limited control outside of Kabul. According to senior U.S. military intelligence officials, there are fewer than 100 members of Al-Qaeda remaining in Afghanistan.\textsuperscript{12}

\textbf{2002 NATIONAL EVENTS}

\textbf{ATTACK ON AMERICAN CENTER, KOLKATA}

Four security personnel were killed and 17 others injured, including a number of bystanders, in a suspected terrorist attack on the United States Information Service at Jawaharlal Nehru Road in the heart of Kolkata on 22\textsuperscript{nd} January, 2002, Tuesday morning. Six policemen were among the critically wounded. Four unidentified gunmen came in two motorbikes and fired indiscriminately on the police picket outside the USIS known as American Center at around 6:35 am. The gunmen fled from the spot after the attack.\textsuperscript{13}
GODHRA TRAIN BURNING

On February 27, 2002, 58 Hindus, including 25 women and 15 children, were burnt alive in a railway coach by a mob in the town of Godhra following an altercation between local Muslims and activists of the Vishva Hindu Parishad (Kar Sevaks) returning by the Sabarmathi express train from Ayodhya. Initial media reports blamed the local Muslims for setting the coach on fire, in what Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi and the VHP leader Giriraj Kishore alleged was a "pre-planned" attack. The New Nanavati Report states that the Attack on the "Kar Sevaks" on the train from Ayodhya was pre-planned, and exonerates Chief Minister Narendra Modi. A previous report on the Godhra train burning, filed by Justice Banerjee, a more recent report filed by Justice Nanavati states that it was "pre-planned" by the mob. The Gujarat High Court ruling, as of 2006, has declared as illegal and unconstitutional, setting up of the Umesh Chandra Banerjee committee, which had concluded the fire started by accident. Gujarat High Court quashed the conclusions of the Banerjee Committee and declared its formation as a “colorful exercise,” “illegal, unconstitutional, null and void,” and its argument of accidental fire “opposed to the prima facie accepted facts on record.”

Figure 11: Godhra Train Burning

(Source: www.jaihoon.com)
GUJARAT VIOLENCE

The 2002 Gujarat violence describes the Godhra train burning and resulting communal riots between Hindus and Muslims. On 27 February 2002 at Godhra City in the state of Gujarat, the Sabarmati Express train was forcibly stopped and attacked by about 500+ strong Muslim mobs. As a result, 59 Hindu passengers — mostly women, children and seniors returning from the holy city of Ayodhya — were burned alive. The resulting riots and massacres killed 790 Muslims and an additional 254 Hindus. 223 people were reported missing and 2,548 sustained injuries. 523 places of worship were damaged: 298 dargahs, 205 mosques, 17 temples, and 3 churches. Muslim-owned businesses suffered the bulk of the damage. 61,000 Muslims and 10,000 Hindus fled their homes. Preventive arrests of 17,947 Hindus and 3,616 Muslims were made. In total 27,901 Hindus and 7,651 Muslims were arrested. Nearly 10,000 rounds of bullets were fired by the police, killing 93 Muslims and 77 Hindus.¹⁵

Figure 12: Picture of Gujarat Violence
(Source: shop.rexfeatures.com)

Some individuals involved have admitted to massacres. Organizations such as Human Rights Watch criticized the Indian government for failure to address the resulting humanitarian condition of people, the "overwhelming majority of them Muslim," who fled their homes for relief camps in the aftermath of the events; as well as the Gujarat state administration for engaging in a cover-up of the state's role in the massacres. Many of the investigations and prosecution of those accused of violence during the riots have been opened for reinvestigation and prosecution. The large-scale civil unrest has been generally been described as riots or inter-communal clashes.¹⁶
2002 INTERNATIONAL EVENT

MURDER OF DANIEL PEARL

On January 23, 2002, on his way to what he thought was an interview with Sheikh Mubarak Ali Gilani at the Village Restaurant in Karachi, Pearl was kidnapped by a militant group calling itself The National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty. This group claimed Pearl was a CIA agent and using a Hotmail e-mail address, sent the United States a range of demands, including the freeing of all Pakistani terror detainees, and the release of a halted U.S. shipment of F-16 fighter jets to the Pakistani government.¹⁷

![Daniel Pearl]

Figure 13: Daniel Pearl

(Source: www.newsimg.bbc.co.uk)

The message read: "We give you one more day if America will not meet our demands we will kill Daniel. Then this cycle will continue and no American journalist could enter Pakistan."

Photos of Pearl handcuffed with a gun at his head and holding up a newspaper were attached. There was no response to pleas from Pearl's editor, or from his wife Mariane. Nine days later, was Pearl beheaded. His body was found cut into ten pieces and buried in a shallow grave in the outskirts of Karachi on May 16. When the police found his remains, Abdul Sattar Edhi arrived promptly on the scene, personally collected all 10 body parts, and took them to the morgue. Pearl's body was returned to the United States and was interred in the Mount Sinai Memorial Park Cemetery in Los Angeles, California. No autopsy was performed.¹⁸
2003 NATIONAL EVENT

THE MUMBAI BLASTS

The 25 August 2003 Mumbai bombings were twin car bombings in the Indian city of Mumbai that killed 54, and injured 244 people. One of the bomb explosions took place at the Gateway of India, which is a major tourist attraction. The other bomb went off in a jewelers market near the Mumba Devi temple in central Mumbai. Both the bombs were planted in parked taxis and exploded during the lunch hour. No group initially claimed responsibility for the attack, but Kashmir rebel group and Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba was blamed for it. On 31 August 2003, three suspects—Ashrat Ansari, Haneef Sayyed and his wife Fahmeeda were arrested. All three were convicted and sentenced to death in 2009 by a special POTA court in Mumbai.19

Figure 14: Mumbai Blast
(Source: static.indianexpress.com)

2003 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

U.S. SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA DISASTER

The Space Shuttle Columbia disaster occurred on February 1, 2003, when the Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas during re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere, with the loss of all seven crew members, shortly before it was scheduled to conclude its 28th mission, STS-107. The loss of Columbia was a result of damage sustained during launch when a piece of foam insulation the size of a small briefcase broke off the Space Shuttle external tank (the main propellant tank) under the aerodynamic forces of launch. The debris struck the leading edge of the left wing, damaging the Shuttle's thermal protection system.
(TPS), which protects it from heat generated with the atmosphere during re-entry. While *Columbia* was still in orbit, some engineers suspected damage, but NASA managers limited the investigation, on the grounds that little could be done even if problems were found.

![Columbia Disaster (1)](Source: nasadaacs.eos.gov)

NASA's Shuttle safety regulations stated that external tank foam shedding and subsequent debris strikes upon the Shuttle itself were safety issues that needed to be resolved before a launch was cleared, but launches were often given the go-ahead as engineers studied the foam shedding problem without a successful resolution. The majority of Shuttle launches recorded such foam strikes and thermal tile scarring in violation of safety regulations. During re-entry of STS-107, the damaged area allowed the hot gases to penetrate and destroy the internal wing structure rapidly causing the in-flight breakup of the vehicle. A massive ground search in parts of Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas recovered crew remains and many vehicle fragments.

![Columbia Disaster (2)](Source: nasadaacs.eos.gov)

**INVASION OF IRAQ BY U.S.**

The 2003 invasion of Iraq, (from March 20 to May 1, 2003) was led by the United States, backed by British forces and smaller contingents from Australia, Denmark, Poland
and Spain. Four countries participated with troops during the initial invasion phase, which lasted from March 20 to May 1. These were the United States (248,000), United Kingdom (45,000), Australia (2,000), and Poland (194). 36 other countries were involved in its aftermath. The invasion marked the beginning of the current Iraq War. In preparation for the invasion, 100,000 US troops were assembled in Kuwait by February 18. The United States supplied the vast majority of the invading forces, but also received support from Kurdish irregulars in Iraqi Kurdistan.22

Figure 17: Iraq Attack (1)

(Source: www.onejerusalem.com)

According to then President of the United States, George W. Bush and then Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Tony Blair, and the reasons for the invasion were "to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), to end Saddam Hussein's support for terrorism, and to free the Iraqi people." According to Blair, the trigger was Iraq's failure to take a "final opportunity" to disarm itself of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons that U.S. and British officials called an immediate and intolerable threat to world peace. In 2005, the Central Intelligence Agency released a report saying that no weapons of mass destruction had been found in Iraq.23

The invasion was preceded by an air strike on the Iraqi Presidential Palace on 19 March 2003. The following day coalition forces launched an incursion into Basra Province from their massing point near the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. While commandos launched an amphibious assault from the Persian Gulf to secure Basra and the surrounding petroleum fields, the main invasion army moved into southern Iraq, occupying the region and engaging in the Battle of Nasiriyah on 23 March. Massive air strikes across the country and against Iraqi command and control threw the defending army into chaos and prevented an effective resistance. On 26 March the 173rd Airborne Brigade was airdropped near the northern city of Kirkuk where they joined forces with Kurdish rebels and fought several actions against the Iraqi army to secure the northern part of the country.24
The main body of coalition forces continued their drive into the heart of Iraq and encountered little resistance. Most of the Iraqi military was quickly defeated and Baghdad was occupied on 9 April. Other operations occurred against pockets of the Iraqi army including the capture and occupation of Kirkuk on April 10, and the attack and capture of Tikrit on 15 April. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the central leadership went into hiding as the coalition forces completed the occupation of the country. On 1 May an end of major combat operations was declared, ending the invasion period and beginning the military occupation period.²⁵

2004 NATIONAL EVENTS

NOBEL STEALING OF TAGORE

In a daring burglary at the Uttarayan complex of Visva Bharati University in Shantiniketan, the Nobel Prize medal, a watch, a bangle and important citations belonging to Rabindranath Tagore were stolen from the museum on 25th March, 2004. West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharjee ordered a CID inquiry into the theft. The theft was detected in the morning when the University re-opened after a day's break. The burglars sneaked into the museum breaking open the window railings. A CID team rushed to Shantiniketan to investigate. Tagore had received the Nobel Prize in 1913 in literature.²⁶
HANGING OF DHANANJOY CHATTERJEE

Dhananjoy Chatterjee (August 14, 1965 in Kuludhi, West Bengal, India - August 14, 2004 at Alipore Central Jail in Calcutta, India) was a security guard who was executed by hanging for the rape and murder of 14-year-old Hetal Parekh on March 5, 1990 at her apartment residence in Bhowanipur. Chatterjee, whose mercy plea was rejected on August 4, was kept at Alipore for nearly 14 years. The execution was scheduled on June 25, but it was stayed after his family petitioned the Supreme Court of India, and filed a mercy plea with the then President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. The family refused to either attend the execution or claim his body; it was later cremated. The date of Chatterjee's execution was fixed at a high-level meeting at the office of Jail Minister Biswanath Choudhury. This was the first hanging at Alipore since 1993, when murder convicts, Kartik Sil and Sukumar Burman, were hanged. It was the first execution in India since 1995 (Auto Shankar was hanged on 27th Apr 1995).
KILLING OF VEERAPPAN

On October 18, 2004, following a tip-off, Veerappan and his two associates were allegedly killed after being arrested by the Tamil Nadu State Special Task Force, near the village of Papparapatti in Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu. Veerappan's wife claimed that he had been arrested a few days earlier, interrogated and killed by the police (Veerappan had repeatedly threatened, if ever brought to trial, to point a finger at every policeman and politician he had bribed to ensure his three-decade long run from justice).28

Figure 21: Picture of Dead Veerappan

(Source: www.tehelka.com)

According to media reports, post-mortem photos of Veerappan with a bullet hole above his left eye seemed to contradict the official story that the STF, lying in ambush, stopped the ambulance Veerappan and his gang was traveling in, offered them surrender and gunned them down when someone from inside the van opened fire. Veerappan was buried in the village of Moolakadu, Tamil Nadu. The police said they did not let the burial take place in his home village in Karnataka, fearing the large crowds that had gathered there. Thousands of people turned out for the funeral while others were kept away from the burial ground by heavy security.29

TSUNAMI DEVASTATION

The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake was an undersea mega thrust earthquake that occurred at 00:58:53 UTC on December 26, 2004, with an off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. The quake itself is known by the scientific community as the Sumatra-Andaman earthquake. The resulting tsunami itself is given various names, including the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Asian Tsunami, Indonesian Tsunami, and Boxing Day Tsunami.30
The earthquake was caused by subduction and triggered a series of devastating tsunami along the coasts of most landmasses bordering the Indian Ocean, killing nearly 230,000 people in eleven countries, and inundating coastal communities with waves up to 30 meters (100 feet) high. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history. Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand were the hardest hit. With a magnitude of between 9.1 and 9.3, it is the second largest earthquake ever recorded on a seismograph. This earthquake had the longest duration of faulting ever observed, between 8.3 and 10 minutes. It caused the entire planet to vibrate as much as 1 cm (0.4 inches) and triggered other earthquakes as far away as Alaska. The mega thrust earthquake was unusually large in geographical and geological extent. An estimated 1,600 km (994 mi) of fault surface slipped (or ruptured) about 15 m (50 ft) along the subduction zone where the India plate slides (or subducts) under the overriding Burma Plate. The plight of the many affected people and countries prompted a widespread humanitarian response. In all, the worldwide community donated more than $7 billion (2004 U.S. dollars) in humanitarian aid. \(^{31}\)
2004 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

HANNAH FOSTER MURDER CASE

The murder of Hannah Foster is a British murder case where a 17-year-old student was raped, strangled and murdered after a night out in Southampton in March 2003. Foster was murdered by an Indian Sikh immigrant Maninder Pal Singh Kohli. Her body was found in nearby West End, two days after she disappeared in Southampton. Foster, a promising A-Level student who had been preparing to study medicine at university was abducted half a mile from her home in Hampshire on 14 March 2003. Having been abducted by Kohli, Foster secretly made a call to emergency services in the hope they would realize she was in trouble. On the 999 tape, Foster can be heard speaking to a man with an Asian accent. The tape was played during the later trial at Winchester Crown Court on Wednesday 15 October 2008. Foster's body was found in a country lane just outside Southampton two days later. A post-mortem examination revealed she had been raped and strangled.

![Figure 24: Picture of Hannah Foster](https://www.hoax-slayer.com)

Kohli fled to India shortly after Foster's body was found, and was later identified by investigators as a prime suspect in the case. After Indian police failed to apprehend Kohli, Foster's parents personally went to India and made a public appeal for information of his whereabouts. During their 10-day visit, Foster's parents held a series of press conferences as well as opening a telephone "hotline". Their visit soon became a subject of interest in the Indian press, and Kohli was arrested five days after their arrival. Hampshire police announced a reward of INR 5,000,000 to anyone whose clues led to the arrest of Kohli.

ABU GHRAIB PRISONER ABUSE

In April, 2004, accounts of physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, including torture, rape, sodomy, and homicide of prisoners held in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq (also
known as Baghdad Correctional Facility) came to public attention. These acts were committed by personnel of the 372nd Military Police Company of the United States Army together with additional US governmental agencies.\textsuperscript{34}

![Figure 25: Abu Ghraib Abuse (1)](source: www.topnews.in)

As revealed by the 2004 Taguba Report, a criminal investigation by the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command had already been underway since 2003 where many soldiers of the 320th Military Police Battalion had been charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice with prisoner abuse. In 2004 articles describing the abuse, including pictures showing military personnel abusing prisoners, came to public attention, when a \textit{60 Minutes II} news report (April 28) and an article by Seymour M. Hersh in \textit{The New Yorker} magazine (posted online on April 30 and published days later in the May 10 issue) reported the story. Janis Karpinski, the commander of Abu Ghraiab, demoted for her lack of oversight regarding the abuse, estimated later that 90\% of detainees in the prison were innocent.\textsuperscript{35}

![Figure 26: Abu Ghraib Abuse (2)](source: news.bbc.co.uk)

The United States Department of Defense removed seventeen soldiers and officers from duty, and eleven soldiers were charged with dereliction of duty, maltreatment, aggravated assault and battery. Between May 2004 and March 2006, eleven soldiers were
convicted in courts martial, sentenced to military prison, and dishonorably discharged from service. Two soldiers, Specialist Charles Graner, and his former fiancée, Specialist Lynndie England, were sentenced to ten years and three years in prison, respectively, in trials ending on January 14, 2005 and September 26, 2005. The commanding officer at the prison, Brigadier General Janis Karpinski, was demoted to the rank of Colonel on May 5, 2005. Col. Karpinski has denied knowledge of the abuses, claiming that the interrogations were authorized by her superiors and performed by subcontractors, and that she was not even allowed entry into the interrogation rooms.36

2005 NATIONAL EVENT

KASHMIR EARTHQUAKE

The 2005 Kashmir Earthquake (also known as the South Asian earthquake or the Great Pakistan earthquake) was a major earthquake centered in Pakistan-administered Kashmir and in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) near the city of Muzaffarabad, Pakistan. It occurred at 08:52:37 Pakistan Standard Time (03:52:37 UTC) on 8 October 2005. It registered a debatable moment magnitude of 7.6 making it similar in size to the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the 1935 Quetta earthquake, the 2001 Gujarat earthquake, and the 2009 Sumatra earthquakes. As of 8 November, the government of Pakistan's official death toll was 79,000 while officials say nearly 1,400 people also died in Indian Kashmir and four people in Afghanistan. The severity of the damage caused by the earthquake is attributed to severe up thrust, coupled with poor construction.37

Figure 27: Kashmir Earthquake

(Source: dp2.blogger.com)
2006 NATIONAL EVENTS

KILLING OF PRAMOD MAHAJAN

On the morning of 22 April 2006, Mahajan's estranged younger brother, Pravin shot him with his licensed .32 Browning pistol inside the former's apartment in Mumbai following a dispute. Four bullets were fired. The first missed Mahajan, but the other three were lodged in his liver and pancreas, damaging several internal organs. Mahajan was taken to the Hinduja Hospital where he was operated upon. One of the world's foremost liver specialists, Dr. Mohamed Rela flew in from London to treat him. After struggling for his life for 13 days, Mahajan suffered from a cardiac arrest and died on 3 May 2006 at 4:10 pm IST. He was given a state funeral at the Shivaji Park crematorium in Dadar, Mumbai on May 4, 2006.38

Figure 28: Picture of Pramod Mahajan

(Source: www.hinduonnet.com)

Pravin surrendered at the Worli Police Station in Mumbai after the shooting. The police claimed that it was a premeditated attack born out of resentment built up over a long time. Pravin accused his brother of "ignoring and humiliating him, and not giving him his due". He also felt neglected and suffered from an inferiority complex because he was the poorer younger brother of a much famous elder brother. Pravin was charged with murder under Sec. 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). However, Pravin told the court that he had not shot bullets at his brother. On 18 December 2007, Pravin was sentenced to life imprisonment.39

2006 MUMBAI BLASTS

The 11 July 2006 Mumbai train bombings were a series of seven bomb blasts that took place over a period of 11 minutes on the Suburban Railway in Mumbai (formerly Bombay), capital city of the Indian state of Maharashtra and the nation's financial capital. The bombs were set off in pressure cookers on trains plying on the western line of the Suburban Railway network. 209 people lost their lives and over 700 were injured. According to
Mumbai Police, the bombings were carried out by Lashkar-e-Toiba and Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).\textsuperscript{40}

Figure 29: 2006 Mumbai Blast (1)

(Source: www.bizki.com)

Pressure cookers with a 2.5 kg mixture of RDX and ammonium nitrate in each were placed on trains plying on the western line of the suburban ("local") train network, which forms the backbone of the city's transport network. Pressure cookers have been used in this bombing and other recent explosion to increase the after burn in a thermo baric reaction, more powerful than conventional high explosives. The first blast reportedly took place at 18:24 IST (12:54 UTC), and the explosions continued for approximately eleven minutes, until 18:35, during the after-work rush hour. All the bombs had been placed in the first-class "general" compartments (some compartments are reserved for women, called "ladies" compartments) of several trains running from Church gate, the city-centre end of the western railway line, to the western suburbs of the city. They exploded at or in the near vicinity of the suburban railway stations of Matunga Road, Mahim, Bandra, Khar Road, Jogeshwari, Bhayandar and Borivali. Home Minister Shivraj Patil told reporters that authorities had "some" information an attack was coming, "but place and time was not known".\textsuperscript{41}

Figure 30: 2006 Mumbai Blast (2)

(Source: www.bizki.com)
SERIAL MURDER CASE, NOIDA

The 2006 Noida serial murder investigation began in December 2006 when the skeletal remains of a number of missing children were discovered in the village of Nithari, India on the outskirts of Noida, a planned industrial township in Uttar Pradesh near New Delhi. On December 26, 2006, a rich and politically connected Punjabi businessman, Moninder Singh Pandher, and his servant, Surender Koli, were arrested by the Noida Police on the suspicion of murdering a call girl named "Payal". Charges under various sections of the Indian Penal Code included rape, murder, kidnapping and criminal conspiracy. Pandher and Koli were sentenced to death on February 13, 2009. On September 10, 2009, The Allahabad high court acquitted Moninder Singh Pandher and overturned his death sentence. He was not named a main suspect by investigators initially, but was summoned as co-accused during the trial. Pandher faces trial in the remaining 5 killings out of 19, and could be re-sentenced to death if found guilty in any of those killings. The same day Pandher was acquitted, the Allahabad high court upheld the death sentence for Surender Koli, former domestic servant of Pandher.42

Figure 31: Picture of Noida

2006 INTERNATIONAL EVENT

TRIAL AND DEATH OF SADDAM HUSSEIN

On 30 June 2004, Saddam Hussein, held in custody by U.S. forces at the U.S. base "Camp Cropper," along with 11 other senior Baathist leaders, were handed over legally (though not physically) to the interim Iraqi government to stand trial for crimes against humanity and other offences. A few weeks later, he was charged by the Iraqi Special Tribunal with crimes committed against residents of Dujail in 1982, following a failed assassination attempt against him. Specific charges included the murder of 148 people, torture of women
and children and the illegal arrest of 399 others. Among the many challenges of the trial were:

- Saddam and his lawyers’ contesting the court's authority and maintaining that he was still the President of Iraq.
- The assassinations and attempts on the lives of several of Saddam's lawyers.
- Midway through the trial, the chief presiding judge was replaced.\(^43\)

![Figure 32: Picture of Saddam Hussein (1)](Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Baghdad_etm_2003092_lrg.jpg)

On 5 November 2006, Saddam Hussein was found guilty of crimes against humanity and sentenced to death by hanging. Saddam's half brother, Barzan Ibrahim, and Awad Hamed al-Bandar, head of Iraq's Revolutionary Court in 1982, were convicted of similar charges. The verdict and sentencing were both appealed but subsequently affirmed by Iraq's Supreme Court of Appeals. On December 30, 2006, Saddam was hanged. Saddam was hanged on the first day of Eid ul-Adha, 30 December 2006, despite his wish to be shot (which he felt would be more dignified). The execution was carried out at Camp Justice, an Iraqi army base in Kadhimiya, a neighborhood of northeast Baghdad. The execution was videotaped on a mobile phone and he and his captors could be heard insulting each other. The video was leaked to electronic media and posted on the Internet within hours, becoming the subject of global controversy. It was later claimed by the head guard at the tomb where his body remains that Saddam's body was stabbed six times after the execution.\(^44\)
These are the 25 events which are under study. A table has been given below which shows the description of social issues, social events and the time period in a chronological order.
Table 1: Tabular Description of Social Issues and Social Events Year wise

<table>
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<th>SOCIAL ISSUES</th>
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<th>2002</th>
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<td>IRAQ WAR</td>
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<td>TRIAL AND DEATH OF SADDAM HUSSEIN</td>
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<td>PARLIAMENT ATTACK</td>
<td>SEPT. 11 ATTACK</td>
<td>USIS ATTACK</td>
<td>MUMBAI BLAST</td>
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<td>NAPAL ROYAL MASSACRE</td>
<td>DANIEL PEARL MURDER</td>
<td>NOBEL STEALING</td>
<td>HANNAH FOSTER MURDER, ABU GHRAIB ABUSE</td>
<td>MURDER OF PRAMOD MAHAJAN, NOIDA SERIAL MURDER</td>
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TOTAL | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 25 |
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2. Ibid.
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