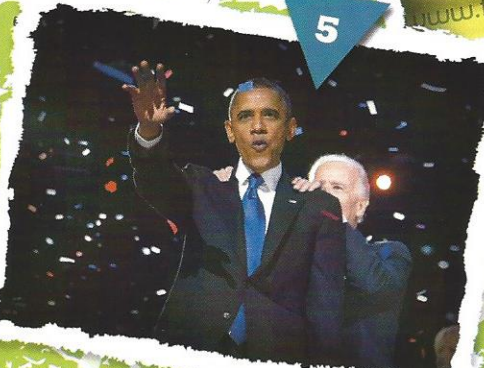


IN THE News



TIMETREK[®] 2012



1 14 year-old, **Snigdha Nandipati**, was named the 2012 National Scripps Spelling Bee Winner. Snigdha beat eight other contestants after spelling the word “gu-etapens”, which means to ambush, snare or trap.

2 **Queen Elizabeth** celebrates her Diamond Jubilee. 2012 marks the 60th Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II accession to the throne. A year-long celebration showcased a 4-day Diamond Jubilee celebration June 2-5. Queen Elizabeth II is the second in British Monarch history to celebrate a Diamond Jubilee. Queen Elizabeth ascended to the throne on February 6, 1952, after the death of her father King George VI.

3 **Hurricane Isaac** hit landfall on the 7th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Declared as a Category 1 Hurricane, Isaac was a large, slow-moving storm that sent approximately 4,000 to shelters. New Orleans, which was hit hard by Hurricane Katrina, was spared thanks to the new flood protection system put in place after Katrina.

4 The **US unemployment** rate dropped from 7.9% in October to 7.7% in November, its lowest in almost 4 years.

5 President **Barack Obama** was reelected to his second term as United States President over Republican nominee Mitt Romney and running mate Paul Ryan. Obama's tweet “Four more years” made Guinness World Records for most widespread social networking message after it was retweeted that night more than 687,429 times.

6 One of the most costly natural disasters in US history, **Hurricane Sandy** caused an estimated \$63 billion in damage. Hurricane Sandy is the largest Atlantic Hurricane on record, hitting Atlantic City, NJ on October 29th. Also known as Superstorm Sandy, the storm affected 24 states in the Northeastern US but caused the most damage to New York and New Jersey.

7 **Pinterest** emerged as the most popular social media network in 2012. Hitting 10 million monthly unique US visitors faster than any independent site in history, the site's daily users has increased by more than 145% since the start of 2012.

8 **Facebook** bought out the popular photo sharing app Instagram for approximately \$1 billion. Facebook says they plan to keep Instagram independently managed.