

NATIONAL**Govt appoints Ajay Bhushan Pandey UIDAI CEO**

Government promoted DG and Mission Director of Unique Identification Authority of India Ajay Bhushan Pandey its chief executive officer.

He has been involved with UIDAI established under the Aadhaar Act and implementation of Aadhaar since September 2010. It was during his tenure as the UIDAI head when Aadhaar allocation crossed 100 crore and a new Aadhaar Bill was passed.

As per the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, the UID Authority shall consist of a chairperson, appointed part-time or full-time, two part-time members, and the chief executive officer who shall be member-secretary of the Authority, to be appointed by the central government.

Legendary Mahasweta Devi passes away

Eminent litterateur and social activist Mahasweta Devi passed away in Kolkata.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted: "India has lost a great writer. Bengal has lost a glorious mother. I have lost a personal guide. Mahasweta Di rest in peace."

Wife of one of Bengal's most prolific playwrights and litterateurs, Bijon Bhattacharya, the activist-writer grew up in the family of Bengal's leading writers, poets and filmmakers. Filmmaker Ritwick Ghatak was her uncle. Influenced by the Communist movement of the 1940s, she chose to work among the poorest of the poor in the tribal areas of southern West Bengal and in other parts of the country.

Growth registered in both Domestic and Foreign Tourist visits

Both domestic and foreign tourist visits have registered positive growth in 2015 over 2014. Domestic tourist visits registered a growth of 11.63% and foreign tourist visits increased only by 4.4%.

Market Research Division of Ministry of Tourism compiles data on domestic and foreign tourist visits to States/Union Territories (UTs) received

from departments of tourism of various State governments and UT administrations.

The top States in terms of number of domestic tourist visits (in millions), during 2015, were Tamil Nadu (333.5), Uttar Pradesh (204.9), Andhra Pradesh (121.6), Karnataka (119.9).

The top States in terms of number of Foreign Tourist Visits (in millions) during 2015 were Tamil Nadu (4.68), Maharashtra (4.41), Uttar Pradesh (3.1).

'Clean Ganga' project launched at 100 places

The Central government launched 231 projects under the 'Namami Gange' project, which would take it closer to achieving its Clean Ganga objective.

At the function in Haridwar, Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti said the projects, which would cost Rs. 1,500 crore, were simultaneously being launched at 100 places.

She said the Ganga Act would be formulated by the Centre to ensure proper and speedy implementation of the 'Namami Gange' project. States would be consulted before the draft of the Ganga Act was finalised.

Lesbians, gays and bisexuals are not third gender, says SC

The Supreme Court said that lesbians, gays and bisexuals are not third gender and refused to modify its May 15, 2014, order recognising transgender as the third gender.

Taking exception to the Centre approaching the apex court for modification of its May 15, 2014, order, the bench of Justice A.K. Sikri and Justice N.V. Ramana said that it was abundantly clear from its 2014 verdict that lesbians, gays and bisexuals were not transgender. Appearing for the transgender activists, senior counsel Anand Grover said that for two years the government has not implemented the order of the top court, saying that it (Centre) needed clarification whether lesbian, gays and bisexual were clubbed with transgender.

The apex court had by its May 15, 2014, verdict recognised transgender as the third gender, extending them reservation under backward classes in jobs, education and health care.

The court had held that transgender enjoyed all the rights under the Constitution which are enjoyed by the citizens' identifiable gender.

Rani Nair set to be new CBDT Chairperson

Senior IRS officer Rani Singh Nair is set to be appointed as the new CBDT Chairperson. Officials said the government has issued orders for her to take over as the "acting" chief of CBDT from Jindal. Fresh orders by the Prime Minister headed Appointments Committee of Cabinet are expected soon to be out soon for her to take charge in a full capacity.

Tabla maestro Pandit Lacchu Maharaj dies

Tabla maestro Pandit Lacchu Maharaj passed away in Varanasi. He was 72. Other than his professional performances all over the world, he played the tabla in many Bollywood films.

Magsaysay award for Wilson, T.M. Krishna

Mr. Krishna will receive the award for "social inclusiveness in culture," while Wilson was named as an awardee for "asserting the inalienable right to a life of human dignity."

Bezwada Wilson, a renowned campaigner against manual scavenging, and Carnatic singer T.M. Krishna from Chennai were named for the prestigious Magsaysay Award.

Born into a Dalit family in Karnataka, Mr. Wilson, 50, is the national convener of the Safai Karmachari Andolan.

The award committee was impressed with his work which focussed on "asserting the inalienable right to a life of human dignity." "Manual scavenging is blight on humanity in India. Consigned by structural inequality to the Dalits, India's 'untouchables', manual scavenging is the work of removing by hand human excrement from dry latrines and carrying on the head the baskets of excrement to designated disposal sites," states Mr. Wilson's citation.

"A hereditary occupation, manual scavenging involves 180,000 Dalit households cleaning the 790,000 public and private dry latrines across India; 98 per cent of scavengers are meagrely paid women and girls. While the Constitution and other laws prohibit dry latrines and the employment of manual scavengers, these have not been strictly enforced since the government itself is the biggest violator," the citation said.

Under the category 'Emergent Leadership,' Mr. Krishna was chosen for the award for bringing "social inclusiveness in culture."

The award committee hailed him for "showing that music can indeed be a deeply transformative force in personal lives and society itself."

Krishna was born into a Brahmin family in Chennai and was trained right from the tender age of six in the refined Carnatic music.

Cabinet nod to change names of High Courts

The Cabinet approved a change in the names of the Madras, Bombay and Calcutta High Courts to reflect the changes in the official nomenclature of these cities to Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata, respectively.

Cabinet has approved the introduction of the 'The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016' in Parliament - Telecom and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told.

The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 will facilitate the changing of the names of 'Bombay High Court as Mumbai High Court' and 'Madras High Court as Chennai High Court' respectively, said an official statement from the government, which was silent on changing the name of the Calcutta High Court.

World's largest charkha to be unveiled at Terminal-3

Sculptures like Surya Namaskar, Hasta Mudras, Sun God, etc., at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport's Terminal-3 will soon boast another larger-than-life installation — the world's largest charkha.

The charkha has been installed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

Cabinet Reshuffle of Modi Government: Javdekar gets HRD, Irani shifted to Textiles

Prime Minister Narendra Modi after expanding the Council of Ministers with 19 new members, also reshuffled some portfolios in his Cabinet. Prakash Javadekar, who was earlier promoted to Cabinet rank, was given the HRD Ministry. He had been the Minister of State (Independent charge) for Environment and Forests.

Smriti Irani has been shifted from HRD Ministry to Textiles Ministry.

Other than that, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has shed Information and Broadcasting (I&B) portfolio and Venkaiah Naidu has been given additional charge of I&B.

Besides Mr. Javadekar, 19 new Ministers (17 new faces and two old hands) took oath as Ministers of State. The Council of Ministers now has 77 members. The previous strength of the government was 63 (after

Gopinath Munde died and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and BJP Maharashtra chief Rao Saheb Danve quit). Five Ministers of State tendered their resignation, leaving 58 Ministers in the earlier batch.

The total strength of the Union Council of Ministers has been capped at 82. List of key important ministries are:-

Shri Rao Inderjit Singh Planning (Independent Charge) Urban Development Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya Labour & Employment (Independent Charge)

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge)

Shri Vijay Goel Youth Affairs and Sports (Independent Charge) Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

Shri Shripad Yesso Naik AAYUSH (Independent Charge)

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Petroleum and Natural Gas (Independent Charge)

Shri Piyush Goyal Power (Independent Charge) Coal (Independent Charge) New and Renewable Energy (Independent Charge) Mines (Independent Charge)

Dr. Jitendra Singh Development of North Eastern Region (Independent Charge) Prime Minister's Office Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Commerce and Industry (Independent Charge)

Dr. Mahesh Sharma Culture (Independent Charge) Tourism (Independent Charge)

Shri Manoj Sinha Communications (Independent Charge) Railways

Shri Anil Madhav Dave Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Independent Charge)

General V. K. Singh - External Affairs (Minister of State)

Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Minority Affairs Parliamentary Affairs

Flipkart's Myntra pips rivals, buys Jabong for \$70 million

Myntra, a Flipkart Group company, acquired Jabong from Global Fashion Group (GFG) for \$70 million in cash, creating one of the biggest online fashion destinations in the country as well as the largest e-commerce marketplace in India. The acquisition will arm Flipkart with much-needed muscle to take on global rival Amazon, which continues to make inroads into consumers' wallet and mindscape.

Myntra and parent Flipkart together held 60 per cent share of the online fashion and lifestyle market in the country. With the acquisition of Jabong, the trio will together command a whopping 75 per cent. The deal is crucial for Flipkart because the fashion and lifestyle category is set to overtake electronics by 2020, according to a Google and AT Kearney forecast. GFG had over the past 12-18 months reviewed multiple bidders including Snapdeal, Amazon, Future Group and Aditya Birla group. The transaction is expected to close during the third quarter.

He said the deal would allow the trio to lead the online fashion and lifestyle segment, which is set to contribute \$40 billion of the \$110 billion e-commerce industry by 2020. Jabong will continue to function independently and its CEO will report to Narayanan. This is a typical example of a company acquiring another for synergies in areas like access to a large customer base, increased territorial reach, new set of products/brands, new logistics networks and a great team.

India's first 'Green corridor' inaugurated

The 114-km-long Manamadurai– Rameswaram stretch of Southern Railway became India's first 'Green corridor' after Railway Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu dedicated the section through videoconferencing from Chennai Central Station.

About 150 coaches in 13 pairs of express and passenger trains, running in the section, would have bio-toilets and there would be zero discharge of human waste on tracks in the section. Rameswaram railway station, which handled the trains, had already been developed as a 'Green Station' to handle the bio-toilets in the coaches.

To ensure proper working of the bio-toilets, Southern Railway had established a bio-lab at the coaching depot, which handled the coaches, in September last year for testing the discharge. Indian Railway had developed the environment friendly 'IR-DRDO Bio-toilets', in association with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

SH Raza, India's poster boy of modern art dies at 94

Legendary artist Sayed Haider Raza, who had famously said that he lived to paint and painted to live, died in a New Delhi hospital at around 11 am. He was 94.

Primarily known for his abstracts in acrylic, Raza was born on February 22, 1922 and grew up in a small village in Madhya Pradesh. He went on to study at the Sir JJ School of Art and founded the Bombay

Progressive Artists' Group (1947), which challenged the existing art establishment.

His body of work is instantly recognisable thanks to the geometric motifs that feature in it. He has explored themes of prakriti (nature), kundalini (primal energy), tribhuj (triangle) and bindu (circle/dot).

His paintings have sold for record prices — Saurashtra, which sold for Rs 15.9 crore, and La Terre, which sold for Rs 18.8 crore — count among the most expensive paintings sold at an auction. But the artist remains unfazed by the attention. "What matters is value, not price," he had said.

The noted artist has been the recipient of Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan and the Legion of Honour (the highest honour awarded to civilians by the French government).

3 Indian sites feature in UNESCO World Heritage site honours

Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP) in Sikkim has been named a world heritage site by the World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO.

The listing was announced at the 40th session of the WHC, currently under way at Istanbul in Turkey. The KNP is the first 'mixed' heritage site from India to make it to the list. A 'mixed site' exhibits qualities of both natural and cultural significance.

Earlier, the archaeological site of Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University) in Bihar was also marked as a heritage site. The Capitol Complex in Chandigarh also made it to the list, thus bringing all three nominations this session into the heritage roll of honour.

This is the first time that any country got three sites inscribed in the World Heritage List at a single session of the committee meeting, a Culture Ministry official said.

India now has 35 sites, including 27 cultural properties, seven natural sites and one mixed site, notified as World Heritage Sites.

Minister V.K. Singh in South Sudan to evacuate Indians: Operation Sankat Mochan

Minister of State for External Affairs V.K. Singh reached South Sudan leading the government's 'Operation Sankat Mochan' to evacuate Indians from the African country which has been hit by violence that has claimed hundreds of lives.

Stating that the government has sent two aircraft for the evacuation, she appealed to all Indian nationals to move out of the troubled African nation.

South Sudan President Salva Kiir ordered a ceasefire after days of heavy fighting between government

troops and forces loyal to Vice President Riek Machar in Juba.

The latest bout of violence started on July 7 after a localised gunfight outside Kiir's residence in Juba when he was holding a meeting with Machar.

Book by ex-RBI Governor – released

In the biography titled "Who moved my interest rate?" Mr. Subbarao writes about his five years at the country's central bank, between 2008 and 2013. His account may cause some embarrassment to a few prominent leaders in the previous UPA government. The former Governor indicates that the then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee seemed reluctant to grant him an extension in 2011. However, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was keen that he serve a five-year term.

Ban cash transactions of above Rs 3 lakh to curb blackmoney: SIT

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on blackmoney has recommended ban on cash transactions of above Rs 3 lakh and restricting cash holding with individuals to not more than Rs 15 lakh to curb illegal wealth in the economy.

The SIT headed by Justice (Retd) M B Shah, submitted its fifth report to the Supreme Court on methods to curb black money in the economy.

The panel felt that large amount of unaccounted wealth is stored and used in form of cash.

SC quashes Arunachal Governor's order, restores Tuki govt. to power (Important)

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court unanimously quashed Arunachal Pradesh Governor J.P. Rajkhowa's decision to advance the Assembly session from January 14, 2016 to December 16, 2015, a move which triggered political unrest in the sensitive border State and culminated in the declaration of President's rule on January 26.

A five-judge Bench, led by Justice J.S. Khehar, directed the immediate imposition of status quo ante as on December 15, 2015. This means that the Supreme Court has in unequivocal terms shown the door to the BJP-propped rebel Congress government of Khaliko Pul the door.

The Bench, in three separate judgments by Justices Khehar, Dipak Misra and Madan B. Lokur, paved the way for the return of Congress-led **Nabam Tuki government** to power.

The Bench, which was looking into the constitutionality of the Governor's decision to override the

authority of Assembly Speaker Nabam Rebia and advance the Assembly session, was told by the Tuki government lawyers that the Arunachal Pradesh “experiment” by the NDA government at the Centre to topple State governments may prove “deadly” to the rule of law in the country and federal structure of the Constitution.

The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, which unanimously quashed Arunachal Pradesh Governor J.P. Rajkhowa’s order to advance the Assembly session, described in its 331-page judgment the happenings in Arunachal Pradesh leading to State emergency as a “thrashing given to the Constitution and a spanking to governance.”

The court pooh-poohed the Governor’s defence that his summoning the Assembly without the Cabinet’s nod could never be considered “anti-democratic.” In fact, he was only trying to bring the “democratic and legislative process” of the State into active animation, the Governor, a party in the petition, explained.

The Bench, through the majority judgment of Justices J.S. Khehar, P.C. Ghose and N.V. Ramana, reacted sharply, saying the Governor is not an “all-pervading super constitutional authority.”

The court said that a Governor is not an elected representative, but only an executive nominee whose powers flow from the aid and advice of the Cabinet. His tenure depends on the pleasure of the President. Using discretionary powers to summon or dissolve Assembly sessions without the aid and advice of the Chief Minister and his Cabinet is plainly unconstitutional.

All Governor Rajkhowa did here, the court said, was to use his constitutional authority to ostensibly favour an “invalid breakaway group” of MLAs disqualified under the Tenth Schedule.

Congress Leader Margaret Alva’s book released

Veteran Congress leader Margaret Alva said she was “pained” to see attempts to create “controversies” over her book ‘Courage and Commitment’, asserting she has not attacked party chief Sonia Gandhi in it. Alva said she has not “attacked” the Congress president in the book “for whom I have the greatest respect and affection, or the Congress Party for which I have worked for over 45 years. In the book, she threw light on a range of interesting issues, incidents and topics including Gandhi’s uneasy relationship with P V Narasimha Rao.

Book on Climate Change by Amitav Ghosh

Noted Bengali Writer – Amitav Ghosh released his

book ‘The Great Derangement Climate Change And The Unthinkable’. The acclaimed Indian novelist Amitav Ghosh argues that future generations may well think so. How else to explain our imaginative failure in the face of global warming? In his first major book of nonfiction since *In an Antique Land*, Ghosh examines our inability—at the level of literature, history, and politics—to grasp the scale and violence of climate change.

INTERNATIONAL

Malcolm Turnbull sworn in as Australia’s PM for another term

Malcolm Turnbull was sworn in for another term as Australia’s prime minister after a narrow election victory with budget repair and a public vote on same sex marriage among his top priorities.

The multi-millionaire former banker’s Liberal/National coalition clung to power in closely-fought July 2 polls, with the party holding 76 seats, and potentially one more with counting still underway, in the 150-seat House of Representatives.

Pakistan’s Mother Teresa Abdul Sattar Edhi dies at 88

Legendary Pakistani philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi, who had dedicated his life to humanity and serving the poor, has died here from renal failure.

92-year-old Edhi died late last night after facing respiratory problem during dialysis due to his frail health.

He was accorded a state funeral with tens of thousands of people including President Mamnoon Hussain and army chief General Raheel Sharif attending his funeral.

Edhi, who had dedicated his life to humanity and serving the poor, was widely respected in Pakistan due to his humanitarian and social welfare works. Edhi foundation had taken care of Indian girl Geeta during her over a decade—long stay in Pakistan. Geeta, with speech and hearing impairments, was about 11 years old when she is believed to have accidentally crossed over to Pakistan and returned in India in October last year.

NASA’s Juno successfully begins orbiting Jupiter

NASA celebrated a key triumph as its \$1.1 billion Juno spacecraft successfully slipped into orbit around Jupiter on a mission to probe the origin of the solar system.

NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena,

California, erupted in cheers as the solar observatory successfully entered its aimed-for orbit around the biggest planet in our cosmic neighborhood at 11:53 pm.

Juno launched five years ago from Cape Canaveral, Florida and has travelled 2.7 billion kilometres since then.

The spacecraft was traveling at a speed of more than 209,200 kilometres per hour when it fired its engines to slow down enough to be captured into Jupiter's orbit.

Nepal Prime Minister Oli resigns ahead of no-trust vote

Nepal's embattled Prime Minister K.P. Oli resigned ahead of a no-confidence vote, plunging the country into a fresh political turmoil after last year's crippling Madhesi protests against the new Constitution.

Mr. Oli, who became Prime Minister in October 2015 heading Nepal's eighth government in the past 10 years, has been facing a no-trust motion after the Maoists withdrew support from the coalition government.

Mr. Oli tendered his resignation after two key ruling alliance partners — the Madhesi People's Rights Forum-Democratic and the Rastriya Prajatantra Party — decided to support the no-confidence motion tabled against him by the Nepali Congress (NC) and the CPN-Maoist Centre led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. Addressing the Parliament on the no-confidence motion, Mr. Oli said that he came to power nine months ago when the country was in a grave crisis and was "sad" that the government was changing at a time when it is overcoming the hindrances following last year's deadly earthquakes that killed nearly 9,000 people.

Mr. Oli said Nepal-India relations was at an all-time low during the time he assumed power last year. However, with his efforts the relations were normalised. However, we cannot accept interference in our internal affairs, though we want good relations with or neighbours, he added.

Nepal has been facing political crisis since adopting a new Constitution in September 2015. The Madhesis, mostly of Indian-origin, have been opposing the new statute as they fear it would marginalise them by dividing the country into seven Provinces.

Nearly five-month-long Madhesi protests led to the closure of key trading points with India that led to the shortage of essential supplies in the land-locked country.

The blockade of trade points with India ended in

February after more than 50 people were killed in clashes.

The Maoists decided to oust Mr. Oli two months ago after he said he would address Madhesi concerns and rebuild homes destroyed in earthquakes in 2015. Prachanda, who is the favourite to replace Mr. Oli, accused the Prime Minister of being ego-centric and self-centred and said, "This made us unable to continue to work with him."

Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate, has died

Elie Wiesel, who survived the Holocaust and went on to become an influential author and Nobel Peace Prize winner, has died.

Activist and writer Elie Wiesel, the World War Two death camp survivor who won a Nobel Peace Prize for becoming the life-long voice of millions of Holocaust victims.

Wiesel, a philosopher, speaker, playwright and professor who also campaigned for the tyrannized and forgotten around the world, was 87.

The Romanian-born Wiesel lived by the credo expressed in "Night," his landmark story of the Holocaust - "to forget the dead would be akin to killing them a second time."

In awarding the Peace Prize in 1986, the Nobel Committee praised Wiesel as a "messenger to mankind" and "one of the most important spiritual leaders and guides in an age when violence, repression and racism continue to characterize the world."

Wiesel did not waver in his campaign never to let the world forget the Holocaust horror. While at the White House in 1985 to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, he even rebuked U.S. President Ronald Reagan for planning to lay a wreath at a German cemetery where some of Hitler's notorious Waffen SS troops were buried.

China to join U.S.-led naval drill – RIMPAC 2016 – one of the biggest maritime drill

China will take part in a regular U.S.-led naval exercise starting next month, a top U.S. commander said, despite tensions over Beijing's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

The U.S. will host multi-national naval drills called the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) off Hawaii. It will comprise of twenty-six nations, 45 ships, five submarines, more than 200 aircraft, and 25000 personnel will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise that is scheduled from 30 June to 4 August 2016.

SRK, Akshay join Taylor Swift in Forbes highest paid celebrity list

At 26, Taylor Swift is the world's highest-paid celebrity, pulling in a whopping \$170 million over the past year, Forbes magazine said.

The pop diva's take from June 2015 to June 2016 is the highest total of her young career, the magazine said, more than doubling her previous record of \$80 million last year. She out-earned other famous musicians including Adele (\$80.5 million), Madonna (\$76.5 million), Rihanna (\$75 million) and Bruce Springsteen (\$60.5 million).

The *Shake It Off* singer also outpaced pop singer Katy Perry who was last year's top-earning musician at \$135 million, according to Forbes magazine's annual list of 100 highest-paid celebrities.

From India, Hindi cinema actors Shahrukh Khan and Akshay Kumar made it to the list. While, the 'King Khan' is ranked 86 with \$33 million earnings, the action hero Kumar ranked 94 (\$31.5 million).

On the Hollywood front, Jennifer Lawrence was the industry's highest-paid actor for the second consecutive year, earning \$46 million, a slight drop from the \$52 million *The Hunger Games* star banked the year before.

Many athletes also made the list, including Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo (\$88 million), tennis man Roger Federer (\$68 million), and German race car driver Sebastian Vettel (\$41 million).

"The world's 100 highest-paid celebrities pulled in \$5.1 billion pretax over the past 12 months, more than the GDP of Belize, Gambia and Bhutan combined," Forbes said.

Permanent Court of Arbitration Tribunal rejects Beijing's claims on South China Sea

A tribunal ruled that China has no legal basis for its vast claims in the South China Sea and had aggravated the seething regional dispute with its extensive construction of artificial islands that destroyed coral reefs and infringed on the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

China immediately rejected the arbitration findings. While the ruling cannot reverse China's actions, it still constitutes a rebuke, carrying with it the force of the international community's opinion. China and the Philippines are among the six governments that have overlapping territorial claims in the South China Sea, waters through which an estimated \$5 trillion in global trade passes through each year.

The Philippines, under a U.N. treaty governing the seas, asked in 2013 for arbitration. The five-member

panel from the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands, unanimously concluded that China had violated its obligations to refrain from aggravating the dispute while the settlement process was under way.

Sushila Karki confirmed as Nepal's first woman chief justice

The appointment of Sushila Karki as Nepal's first woman chief justice was unanimously endorsed by a parliamentary panel, setting the stage for her to take charge at the Supreme Court to lead the judiciary. The confirmation of Karki's appointment means Nepal now will have woman as its President, Speaker of Parliament and the chief justice of the Supreme Court. 64-year-old Karki, who has done her Masters in Political Science from Banaras Hindu University, is known for her 'zero-tolerance' for corruption.

NATO boosts support for countries battling Islamic extremism

NATO Summit 2016 is happening at Warsaw, Poland. NATO allies agreed to provide increased military support to countries in the Middle East and North Africa that are targets of Islamic extremism, including using NATO surveillance planes in the fight against the Islamic State group.

NATO secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg said alliance leaders also agreed to launch a new naval mission in the Mediterranean, and made commitments to maintain a stable military presence in Afghanistan and to fund Afghan security forces through 2020.

Stoltenberg said US President Barack Obama and leaders of the other 27 NATO countries also agreed in principle for alliance surveillance aircraft to provide direct support to the US-led coalition fighting IS in Syria and Iraq, a decision the NATO chief called "a clear signal of our resolve to help tackle terrorism."

Skydiver to jump out of plane without parachute

A daredevil skydiver became the first to jump from a height of 25,000 feet (7,620 meters) without a parachute, landing in a net in southern California, a spokesman said.

Luke Aikins, 42, who has 18,000 jumps under his belt, completed the jump in Simi Valley just west of Los Angeles, landing in a net measuring 100 feet by 100 feet (30 meters by 30 meters) in a feat broadcast on Fox.

Aikins' leap represents the culmination of a 26-year career that will set a personal and world record for the highest jump without a parachute or wing suit.

The Fox broadcast showed Aikins, who was wearing an oxygen mask because of the altitude, jump out of a propeller plane in a bright green outfit along with three parachutists.

Exercise Maitree 2016: Joint Indo - Thailand Military Exercise Culminates

The Indo - Thailand Military Exercise MAITREE concluded at Krabi, Thailand. The exercise had commenced on 15 July 2016 under the aegis of the Royal Thailand Army. 90 soldiers of Indian Army and Royal Thailand Army had participated in the two week long Exercise.

World Bank confirms NYU's Romer as next chief economist; replaces India's Kaushik Basu

The World Bank confirmed New York University economics professor Paul Romer as its next chief economist, bringing in a prominent voice advocating for investment in human capital and innovation.

Romer, 60, will replace Kaushik Basu, the former economics adviser to the Indian government, who is retiring. Romer will take up the position in September and is tasked with keeping the World Bank Group at the forefront of international development knowledge.

Romer is a proponent of "endogenous growth theory," which holds that investments in human capital, innovation and knowledge are significant contributors to economic growth.

The theory, which Romer helped develop in the 1980s and 1990s, also holds that the spillover effects of a knowledge-based economy will lead to economic development and that the long-run growth rate of an economy can be increased with measures such as subsidies for research and development, and education.

Theresa May takes over as British PM

Theresa May took over as Britain's new Prime Minister, promising a "bold, new, positive role" for the country less than three weeks after its seismic vote to leave the European Union (EU).

Ms. May, the former Interior Minister who succeeds David Cameron after seeing off several rivals for leader of the Conservative Party, becomes Britain's second female leader after Margaret Thatcher.

After formally being invited to form a government in a meeting with Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, Ms. May arrived at her new Downing Street residence with a promise to lead a government that would tackle "burning injustice."

As Scotland mulls moves that could eventually see it break away, following the referendum in which most Scots voted to stay in the EU but England and Wales voted to leave, Ms. May said keeping the "precious" kingdom together was a priority.

EU leaders are pressing for a swift divorce following the vote to leave the bloc on June 23. European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker was among the first to offer his congratulations to Ms. May, and said he hoped they would meet "in the near future." Ms. May campaigned for Britain to remain in the EU but has stressed that she will honour the popular vote, saying repeatedly that "Brexit means Brexit." Mr. Cameron had called the referendum and campaigned to stay in the EU in a bid to try to heal divisions in his Conservative party. He gambled, and he lost. In his final question and answer session in the House of Commons, he echoed a line he had once used to taunt former Labour premier Tony Blair.

Ms. May campaigned for the leadership as a safe pair of hands, who has spent six years as Home Secretary, one of the toughest jobs in British politics. The daughter of a Church of England pastor, she is cricket fan with a sober demeanour who lists her hobbies as cooking and walking.

She has been MP for Maidenhead, the well-to-do commuter town west of London, since 1997 and was previously chairman of the Conservative party.

SoftBank buys chip designer ARM for \$32 bn

SoftBank Group Corp has agreed to buy U.K. chip designer ARM Holdings PLC in a 24.3 billion pound (\$32.2 billion) deal, the two companies said, in an ambitious bet on mobile Internet that will transform the Japanese tech group.

ARM, the most valuable tech company listed in London by market value, is a major presence in mobile processing, with its processor and graphics technology used by Samsung, Huawei and Apple in their in-house designed microchips.

The Cambridge-based group also stands to be central to the tech industry's shift to the 'internet of things' — a network of devices, vehicles and building sensors that collect and exchange data — a focus for SoftBank founder Masayoshi Son.

The deal, Softbank's largest to date, marks a departure for the Japanese group, whose tech and telecom portfolio ranges from the U.S. carrier Sprint to a stake in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba — but does not yet include a major presence in the semiconductor industry.

Under the all-cash, agreed offer, Softbank will pay 17 pounds for every ARM share — a premium of more than 40 per cent to last day's close.

Facebook Internet drone 'Aquila' passes first full-scale test

Facebook had completed its first successful test of its solar-powered Aquila drone, being developed to deliver internet service to remote areas of the world.

The test flight represents a "major milestone" for Facebook's efforts to bring the internet to underserved locations of the planet.

Facebook had conducted previous test flights using a one-fifth scale version of Aquila for several months, but this was the first time using the full-scale aircraft, which has a wingspan greater than that of a 737 passenger jet.

Mr. Zuckerberg has stated that one of his goals is helping to connect everyone in the world online, and the Aquila program developed by Facebook's Connectivity Lab is a key part of that effort.

Turkey declares three-month state of emergency after failed coup against President Erdogan

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared a three-month state of emergency following a botched coup attempt, asserting he would rid the military of the "virus" of subversion and give the government sweeping powers to expand a crackdown that has already included mass arrests and closure of hundreds of schools.

Mr. Erdogan said the measure would counter threats to Turkish democracy. Possibly anticipating investor jitters, Mr. Erdogan criticised Standard & Poor's for downgrading its credit rating for Turkey deeper into "junk" status. The country would remain financially disciplined, he said.

The President did not announce details, but the security measure could facilitate longer detentions for many of the nearly 10,000 people who have been rounded up since loyalist security forces and protesters quashed the rebellion that started Friday night and was over by Saturday.

The state of Emergency announcement needs to be published in a state gazette and lawmakers have to approve it for it to take effect.

Turkey imposed emergency rule in the southeast in 1987, allowing officials to set curfews, issue search and arrest warrants and restrict gatherings as the security forces fought Kurdish rebels. It was gradually lifted by 2002.

The President suggested military purges would continue.

The pro-government death toll in the botched coup bid was 246. At least 24 coup plotters were also killed. Turkey said it would close more than 600 private schools and dormitories following the attempted coup, spurring fears that the state's move against perceived enemies is undermining key institutions in the country.

The government said it had fired nearly 22,000 education ministry workers, mostly teachers, taken steps to revoke the licences of 21,000 other teachers at private schools and removed or detained half a dozen university presidents in a campaign to root out alleged supporters of a U.S.-based Muslim cleric blamed for the failed insurrection.

The targeting of education ties in with Mr. Erdogan's belief that the cleric, Fethullah Gulen, whose followers run a network of schools worldwide, seeks to infiltrate the Turkish education system and other institutions in order to bend the country to his will. The cleric's movement, which espouses moderation and multi-faith harmony, says it is a scapegoat.

The education ministry said it decided to close 626 private schools and other establishments under investigation for "crimes against the constitutional order and the running of that order," the state-run Anadolu news agency reported.

The agency said the schools were linked to Mr. Gulen, a former ally of Mr. Erdogan living in Pennsylvania. He has denied accusations that he engineered the coup attempt.

Turkey has demanded Mr. Gulen's extradition from the United States. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry says Turkey must provide hard evidence that Mr. Gulen was behind the foiled coup, and that mere allegations of wrongdoing wouldn't suffice.

The two allies cooperate in the U.S.-led war against the Islamic State group, with American military planes flying missions from Turkey's Incirlik air base into neighboring Iraq and Syria.

In other moves, Turkey demanded the resignations of 1,577 university deans and halted foreign assignments for state-employed academics. A total of 50,000 civil service employees have been fired in the purges, which have reached Turkey's national intelligence service and the prime minister's office.

The government has also revoked the press credentials of 34 journalists because of alleged ties to Gulen's movement, Turkish media reported.

The authorities have rounded up about 9,000 people including 115 generals, 350 officers, 4,800 other military

personnel and 60 military high school students for alleged involvement in the coup attempt. Turkey's defence ministry has also sacked at least 262 military court judges and prosecutors, according to Turkish media reports.

AWARDS

Rohit Khandelwal is Mr World 2016, First Indian Winner of the Pageant

Model and actor Rohit Khandelwal, 26, has become the first Indian - in fact, the first Asian - to have won the Mr World beauty pageant. Rohit competed with 46 contestants and was awarded the title at the grand finale held in Southport, UK on July 19.

SPORTS

Kohli hits maiden double ton: first by an Indian captain in test outside India

India dominated play in the first test with a 535-run lead over West Indies at stumps on the second day. The tourists declared on 566-8 with captain Virat Kohli hitting his maiden test double century before getting out without adding another run. Ravichandran Ashwin, who shared a 168-run partnership for the fifth wicket with Kohli, went for 113.

Earlier, India resumed on 302-4 and Kohli became the first Indian captain to score a double century overseas. Kohli was bowled by West Indies quick Shannon Gabriel (2-65) in the second ball after lunch.

Portugal win Euro 2016: Eder's extra-time goal helps them

Substitute Eder's thunderous finish deep into extra time secured Portugal's first European Championship title after they overcame the early loss of Cristiano Ronaldo to snatch a 1-0 smash-and-grab victory over hosts France.

Eder picked the perfect moment to score his first competitive goal for his country, marauding forward before letting fly with a bullet shot from 25 metres in the 109th minute.

It was a cruel blow for France, who had dominated the match from and squandered a number of chances, in front of their devastated home support, who arrived at the Stade de France hoping to celebrate a third European crown.

The trophy was lifted by Ronaldo, who broke down in tears at the final whistle but whose game had come to a frustrating end after 24 minutes when he was

carried crying from the pitch on a stretcher with a knee injury.

So much of the build-up had focused on Ronaldo and his hopes of crowning a glittering career with the only achievement missing from his CV, a piece of international silverware.

The script had been written for him to produce a performance to match his status as one of the game's truly great talents, but he had to settle for a backstage role after Dimitri Payet's challenge left him in a heap on the floor.

Murray beats Raonic to claim second Wimbledon title

Britain's Andy Murray claimed his second Wimbledon title with a clinical 6-4 7-6(3) 7-6(2) defeat of big-serving Canadian Milos Raonic on Centre Court.

The world number two, champion in 2013, was in control throughout the two hour 48 minute contest as sixth seed Raonic's power game made little impact on the 29-year-old Scot.

Murray took the opening set after a break of serve in the seventh game but was taken to a tiebreak in the second — winning it comfortably as he raised his game.

Raonic, bidding to become Canada's first grand slam singles champion, had his first break points of the match at 2-2 in the third set but Murray snuffed out the danger, letting out a huge roar after winning game point.

After consoling his opponent Murray, who also won the 2012 U.S. Open, sank his head into his towel with tears in his eyes.

Murray's win was his third grand slam title and meant he avoided becoming the first man to lose in the final of the first three majors of the year in the professional era — having succumbed to Novak Djokovic in Australia and France.

Serena Williams wins seventh Wimbledon, record-equalling 22nd major title

Serena Williams powered to her seventh Wimbledon crown as the world number one finally claimed a record-equalling 22nd major title with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Angelique Kerber.

Williams had been stuck on 21 Grand Slams since winning last year's Wimbledon, but the American star ended that frustrating barren spell to retain the title and draw level with Steffi Graf's Open era record. Having avenged her shock loss against Kerber in the Australian Open final in January, Williams was wreathed in smiles as she paraded the Venus Rosewater Dish around Centre Court after collecting a cheque

for £2 million (\$2.5 million, 2.3 million euros). But the far more significant reward is the knowledge she has reestablished her supremacy at a time when doubters were beginning to question the 34-year-old's hunger for more silverware after consecutive Slam final defeats this year.

In a testament to her remarkable longevity as the sport's preeminent force, Serena is once again Wimbledon's queen 14 years after her first success at the All England Club.

Equalling Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 Grand Slam titles will be Serena's next goal.

The 71st singles title of Williams' astonishing career also moved her within two of Martina Navratilova's all-time record of nine Wimbledon triumphs.

Famed Indian football coach Amal Dutta dead

Country's first professional full-time football coach and former India player Amal Dutta died at a city hospital following old age complications, his family said.

The 86-year-old, who as coach had introduced new formations including the exciting diamond system to enthral the spectators in the 1990s, left behind his wife, a son and a daughter.

A midfielder during his playing days, Dutta represented India in the 1954 Asian Games at Manila. Dutta's first assignment with a big club was in 1963 with East Bengal, and from the outset he showed great tactical planning, and a daring to opt for new systems. On July 13, 1997, a record 1.31 lakh plus spectators gathered at the Salt Lake stadium here to witness a derby game between Amal Dutta coached Mohun Bagan and East Bengal.

It was the Federation Cup semi-final, and soccer aficionados expectations had sky-rocketed with Dutta introducing the Diamond system (4-1-2-1-2 formation) first time in Indian football. Though Mohun Bagan went down 1-4, the way they played throughout the tournament gave much joy to the fans.

Besides city giants East Bengal and Mohun Bagan, he also coached the Indian national team. He served as the technical director of the Indian team in the 1987 Nehru Gold Cup.

Narsingh Yadav given clean chit from doping charges; may take part in Olympics

The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has given a clean chit to wrestler Narsingh Yadav from doping charges, thereby allowing him to participate in Rio Olympics.

The 74kg freestyle wrestler, who bagged a bronze medal in last year's world championship to qualify for the Olympics, tested positive for a banned steroid in an out of competition test conducted by the the NADA. The NADA had collected Narsingh's samples at the national camp in Sonapat a few weeks ago.

Narsingh has been claiming that he has been framed in the scandal by rivals, who, he alleged, spiked his food supplements and meals.

Following the doping storm, Parveen Rana was named as Narsingh's replacement in the 74kg category, a move that has been approved by United World Wrestling.

Patna Pirates keeps its crown for Kabaddi league

Patna Pirates became the first team to defend its title when it got the better of former champion Jaipur Pink Panthers 37-29 in the STAR Sports-ProKabaddi League Season 4 final at the Gachibowli Stadium at Hyderabad.

Neeraj fetches first-ever gold with World record

Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra broke the junior World record on way to the gold in the IAAF World under-20 athletics championship at Bydgoszcz, Poland.

His 86.48m effort brought India's first World record and the country's first-ever gold in any World athletics championships.

Two Indian women discus throwers, Seema Antil (bronze, 2002) and Navjeet Kaur Dhillon (bronze, 2014) had won medals in the World junior championship earlier. Long jumper Anju Bobby George is the only Indian to have won a medal in the senior World championship, with a bronze in 2003.

The 18-year-old Neeraj, who had won the South Asian Games gold in Guwahati early this year with a personal best 82.23m which made him the world's best junior thrower this season, had been struggling in recent meets and could win just a silver at last month's junior Asian championship in Vietnam.

Misbah becomes oldest Test centurion in 82 years

Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq became the oldest player to score a Test century for 82 years when he reached three figures against England at Lord's and celebrated by performing an impressive series of press-ups.

The 42-year-old's achievement was all the more impressive as this was also his first Test at the 'home of cricket.' Not since England's Patsy Hendren made a century against Australia aged 45 at Manchester's

Old Trafford ground back in 1934 had an older player scored a Test hundred.

Remarkably, this was also Misbah's first Test anywhere in England, with selection decisions having kept him out of previous tours.

He performed a series of press-ups in what appeared to be a joke aimed at critics who questioned whether he is now too old for international cricket.

The gesture also looked to be a wry reference to the pre-tour 'army-style' training camp the squad was put through at the Pakistan Military Academy in the northwestern town of Kakul.

Vijender Singh beats Kerry Hope to clinch WBO Asia Pacific title

Indian boxing star Vijender Singh scaled a new high in his ever-soaring professional career as he clinched the WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title with a dominating win over former WBC European champion Kerry Hope.

The 30-year-old Indian took all 10 rounds to systematically dismantle the 34-year-old Welsh-born Australian and record his seventh straight win in the circuit, a year after turning professional.

Tonight was also the longest that Vijender spent inside the ring to clinch a win since turning pro besides being his first points win after six knockouts. The six-footer from Haryana scored 98-92, 98-92, 100-90 to be the unanimous winner.

Vijender, who as an amateur held the distinction of being India's first Olympic and World Championships medallist, was hardly pushed despite playing all 10 rounds, and was cheered deliriously by a packed partisan crowd.

Indian hockey wizard Mohammed Shahid dies aged 56

Mohammed Shahid, one of the greatest names in Indian hockey and part of the team that won gold at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, has died owing to a severe liver condition and kidney failure. He was 56. Born on April 14, 1960 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Shahid burst onto the international hockey scene at the age of 19 in 1979 against France at the Junior World Cup. But it was during a four-nation tournament in Malaysia that he won rave reviews from his captain Vasudev Baskaran - who would lead India at the 1980 Olympics - while leaving the opposing Pakistan players stunned by his mastery.

Shahid's style of play was based on speed and an ability to dribble the ball with rare wizardry, and it

was this aspect of his game which won him fans across the country during the 1980s and revived Indian hockey when interest had started to wane against cricket's immense popularity following the 1983 World Cup win.

STATES

First e-court inaugurated in Hyderabad HC

Giving a kick-start to digital judicature, the first paperless e-court in the Hyderabad High Court got inaugurated. The court will use digitised case records thereby bringing down the human resource required to maintain these on paper.

The e-court will provide an electronic case list (e-case list) before the presiding judge for him/her to make digital notings on a computer that has electronic case records. The case records and notings would be synchronised in the database. Advocates, judges and all litigant parties can use the e-court facility to digitally file records. The Court Display Board will be automatically updated. Even SMS alerts will be automatically sent to advocates.

Justice P. Naveen Rao, one of the members of Computer Committee of the High Court, will preside over the e-court. To make the e-court functional approximately 1,000 case files had to be digitised initially, he said.

Mamata Cabinet (TMC) wants State to be renamed as Bengal

The West Bengal government passed a proposal to rename the state as just Bengal.

It was during Partition in 1947 that the British province of Bengal was split into West Bengal, which stayed with India, and East Pakistan [formerly East Bengal] which went to the newly-created Pakistan. While East Pakistan went on to become Bangladesh in 1971, its Indian counterpart continued to be called West Bengal. A section of the administration feels that renaming will help the State to move up the alphabetical order: as of now West Bengal sits at the bottom of the table, but doing away with 'West' would help it climb up to no. 4.

The move, as expected, has triggered a heated debate, with Bengalis speaking out against or in support of the rechristening. Author Sirshendu Mukherjee and veteran actor Soumitra Chatterjee said that the name 'West Bengal' was irrelevant as there is no place called 'East Bengal' now.

However, the counter argument was that the renaming would wipe out the painful history of Partition of Bengal.