

## Manchester United tops Forbes' list as most valuable soccer club



It's been a stellar season for Real Madrid after winning La Liga and the Champions League, but the Spanish club suffered a rare defeat Tuesday off the pitch.

- Manchester United is now officially the world's most valuable football club, usurping Real at the top of the Forbes annual rich list for the first time in five years.
- Jose Mourinho's men might have recorded a lowly sixth place finish in the Premier League, but the club is valued at \$3.69 billion, up 11% on last year.
- United generated record revenues of \$765 million -- over \$75 million more than Spanish giants Barcelona and Real Madrid -- aided by an unprecedented domestic television deal, global commercial reach and an Adidas uniform sponsorship arrangement with a reported \$90 million per year.
- The club, owned by the American Glazer family, is also substantially the most profitable, posting operating income of \$288 million -- more than fellow English clubs Arsenal (\$122 million), Chelsea (\$52 million, Liverpool (\$29 million) and Tottenham Hotspur (\$68 million) combined.

## Indian-American among 12 new astronauts chosen by NASA



NASA on 7 June 2017 announced names of 12 new astronauts, including an Indian-American Lt Col Raja Grinder Chari.

- They, the new astronauts, were chosen from a record number of over 18000 applicants.
- The new candidates include six military officers, three scientists, two medical doctors, a lead engineer at SpaceX and a NASA research pilot.
- The seven men and five women comprise the 22nd class of American spaceflight trainees since 1959.
- Indian American Lt Col., US Air Force Raja Grinder Chari (39) is a commander of the 461st Flight Test Squadron and the Director of the F-35 Integrated Test Force at Edwards Air Force Base in California.
- He hails from Waterloo, Iowa who graduated from the US Air Force Academy with bachelor's degrees aeronautics and astronautics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School.
- The other 11 selected astronaut candidates include Zena Cardman, Jasmin Moghbeli, Jonny Kim, Frank Rubio, Matthew Dominick, Warren Hoburg, Robb Kulin, Kayla Barron, Bob Hines, Loral O' Hara and Jessica Watkins.

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## Sam Pitroda resigns as Technical Advisor to Odisha Government



Prominent telecom engineer and policymaker Sam Pitroda on 7 June 2017 resigned as the Technical Advisor to the Odisha Government.

- Pitroda's resignation was accepted by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.
- His position as technical advisor to the state government was that of the status of a cabinet rank minister.
- However, he did not avail any facilities and took a token salary of Re 1 a month.
- Pitroda's resignation was demanded by opposition party BJP after he was named as the Chairman of Congress Overseas Cell.
- Pitroda was expected to play a crucial role in developing the IT sector of Odisha and launching of a roadmap for telecom, IT and ITes (IT enabled services) in the state at a time when the government is preparing a Vision Document 2036 to mark 100 years of formation of the linguistic state.

## Nepal's first woman Chief Justice Sushila Karki retires



First woman Chief Justice of Nepal Sushila Karki retired on 8 June 2017 after attaining the age 65 years.

- She was appointed as the Chief Justice of Nepal Supreme Court on 10 July 2016.
- She was 25th Chief Justice of Nepal Supreme Court.
- Justice Karki was succeeded by Justice Gopal Parajuli, who is now the senior most judge of the Supreme Court of Nepal.
- Initially working as an assistant teacher in Mahendra Multiple Campus of Nepal, Sushila Karki jumped into legal profession in 1979.
- She was appointed as the Ad-Hoc Justice of Nepal Supreme Court in January 2009 and was promoted as the Permanent Justice in November 2010.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**GLOBAL NEWS**

## French Open: Bopanna-Dabrowski win mixed doubles title



Bopanna-Dabrowski wins mixed doubles title of French Open India's Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian teammate Gabriela Dabrowski on 8 June 2017 won the mixed doubles title at the 2017 French Open of Tennis.

- In the finals played at Philippe-Chatrier Court of Paris, France, the Indo-Canadian pair defeated the pair of Germany's Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Colombia's Robert Farah by 2-6, 6-2, 12-10.
- This was their maiden French Open mixed doubles title for this Indo-Canadian pair of Bopanna and Dabrowski.
- Sai Praneeth clinches 2017 Thailand Open Grand Prix Gold
- To enter the finals, the seventh-seeded Bopanna and his Canadian partner shocked third seeds Andrea Hlavackova and Edouard Roger-Vasselin 7-5, 6-3 in the semi-finals.

## 'History made' as Britain elects first female Sikh MP



Both Labour, Preet Kaur Gill, 44, will represent Birmingham Edgbaston and Tan Dhesi will represent Slough.

- The results have been celebrated as 'historic' in an election where Labour did much better than many had expected.
- It was heralded as 'victory for Sikh representation in the UK parliament'.
- Ms Gill won over 6,000 more votes than the Tories, while Mr Dhesi won a huge majority of 16,998.
- 'More good news from the Sikh community in the UK,' American professor Simran Jeet Singh tweeted. 'Inclusion and representation matter.'
- He described it as 'a long overdue achievement for the Sikh community in England and an incredible step up for Sikh women everywhere!'

## India announces mounting of a National Mission on advanced ultra supercritical technologies for cleaner coal utilization



India announces mounting a National Mission on advanced ultra supercritical technologies for cleaner coal utilisation at a total cost of US \$ 238 million and setting up of two Centres of Excellence on Clean Coal Technologies at US \$5 million each.

- In its quest for cleaner fuels, a National Mission on methanol and di-methyl ether is being mounted.

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- A new centre on solar photovoltaic, thermal storage and solar fuels research has been approved ~ US \$ 5 million.
- Funding opportunities have been announced in the area of energy storage, clean coal, waste water treatment amounting to US \$ 10 million.
- This announcement was made at the 2nd Mission Innovation Ministerial and 8th Clean Energy Ministerial at Beijing, China.
- India also announced two MI-centric Funding Opportunities in Smart Grid and Offgrid Access at US \$ 5 million each.
- Joint virtual Clean Energy Centre with UK and Indian Government funding of UK £ 5 million each has been initiated.
- Under the Indo US Joint Clean Energy Research (PACE-R) the new collaborative public private programme on Smart Grids & Energy Storage has been approved.
- India has also embarked upon a joint programme on renewable energy with Norway.

### **World's top 200 universities: 3 Indian institutes led by IIT-Delhi in the list**



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- One of the top technology institutes in India IIT-Bombay has found a place in the list of world's top 200 educational universities.
- The latest edition of the UK-based ranking agency, 'Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings' has ranked India's IIT-Bombay at 179th position among world's top 200 educational universities.
- There is an improvement of 40 positions in IIT-Bombay's rank as it was at the 219th position last year.
- Apart from IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi and Indian Institute of Science are there in the list with IIT-Delhi being the top Indian institute at the 172nd position.
- Last year, the IIT Delhi was at the 185th position.

