



Current Affairs

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Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Honored With Maharaja Hari Singh Award



1. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Honored With Maharaja Hari Singh Award

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has been honored with the prestigious Maharaja Hari Singh Award for his exceptional contributions to the development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir. The award was presented in recognition of his relentless efforts in promoting peace, governance, and infrastructure development in the region. Under his leadership, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed significant reforms in various sectors, including education, healthcare, and tourism. The award highlights his dedication to the welfare of the people and his role in fostering a harmonious and inclusive environment.



Foot notes:

- The award acknowledges LG Sinha's efforts in driving reforms and planning in the region, which has had a significant impact on the lives of the people.
- The Maharaja Hari Singh Peace and Harmony Award is a testament to LG Sinha's commitment to promoting peace and harmony in Jammu and Kashmir, and his work has been widely appreciated.
- The award was presented at a grand ceremony held at Satyam Resort in Jammu, which was organized by the Gulistan News Network as part of the 'Maharaja Hari Singh Peace and Harmony Award 2024-25' celebrations.
- During the ceremony, LG Sinha also paid tributes to notable figures like Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, Pandit Girdhari Lal Dogra, and Shri Devender Singh Rana, who were honored posthumously for their leadership qualities and contributions.

- This award is a recognition of LG Sinha's dedication to the development of Jammu and Kashmir, and it's a proud moment for the region.

2. Scott Bessent appointed as U.S. Treasury Secretary

Scott Bessent has been appointed as the U.S. Treasury Secretary, a key position in overseeing the nation's economic policies and financial systems. Bessent brings with him extensive experience in finance, having held senior roles in both the public and private sectors. His appointment is seen as a move to strengthen economic stability and manage financial matters efficiently in the face of ongoing global challenges. As Treasury Secretary, Bessent will play a crucial role in managing fiscal policies, handling national debt, and guiding the U.S. economy through potential future crises. His leadership is expected to focus on ensuring long-term economic growth and addressing key financial issues in the U.S.



Foot notes:

- He's been confirmed by the Senate with a 68 to 29 vote, making him the first openly gay Cabinet member of a Republican administration.
- As Treasury Secretary, Bessent will play a crucial role in balancing tax cuts and curbing deficits, and he's already pushing for a new universal tariff plan on U.S. imports, starting at 2.5% and increasing gradually.
- Bessent has a strong background in finance, having founded the Connecticut-based hedge fund Key Square Group, and he's been a vocal supporter of President Trump's policies, including tariffs and spending cuts.
- He's committed to eliminating taxes, replacing them with a fair consumption tax, and adopting a gold-backed currency, which he believes will unlock a new era of prosperity for Americans.
- Bessent's appointment is seen as a significant move by the Trump administration to shape the country's economic policy, and his experience in the private sector is expected to bring a fresh perspective to the role.

3. Australia Clinches ICC Women's Championship Trophy

Australia has clinched the ICC Women's Championship Trophy, solidifying their dominance in international women's cricket. The team's exceptional performance throughout the competition earned them the prestigious title, further enhancing their reputation as a powerhouse in the sport. Key players showcased remarkable skills, with both batting and bowling departments contributing significantly to the team's success. This victory also



highlights the continued growth and prominence of women's cricket, as Australia continues to set high standards in the game. The win was celebrated by players and fans alike, marking another milestone in Australia's rich cricketing history.

Foot notes:

- Australia was presented with the trophy in Melbourne, with Captain Alyssa Healy receiving it on behalf of the team from Cricket Australia Chair and ICC Director Mike Baird.
- The team has been consistent throughout the championship, playing some really exciting cricket and staying at the top of the ladder to ensure their qualification for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025.
- The championship saw all teams play against eight other teams in three-match series on a home or away basis, with Australia assuring itself the top position in the points table with 39 points from 24 matches.
- The top five teams, including Australia, India, England, South Africa, and Sri Lanka, have qualified directly for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, while the bottom four teams will play in a Qualifier.
- Australia's win is a testament to their hard work and dedication, and they're already looking forward to the next cycle and the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, which will be hosted by India later this year.

4. Amelia Kerr of New Zealand named ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2024

Amelia Kerr of New Zealand has been named the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2024, a well-deserved recognition for her outstanding performances across all formats. Kerr, known for her exceptional all-round abilities, has consistently delivered match-winning performances with both the bat and the ball. Her remarkable skills were highlighted in key series and tournaments, where she played pivotal roles in New Zealand's success. This accolade solidifies her place as one of the premier cricketers in the world and further underscores her importance to New Zealand women's cricket. Kerr's achievement is a testament to her hard work, talent, and commitment to the game.



Foot notes:

- Amelia Kerr is the first New Zealander to win the prestigious Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year, a testament to her outstanding performance in 2024.

- She had a phenomenal year, amassing 387 runs and taking 29 wickets at an average of 15.55 in T20Is, and was named the Player of the Match and Player of the Tournament in the Women's T20 World Cup.
- Kerr's impressive stats also include 264 runs at an average of 33.00 and 14 wickets in ODIs, showcasing her all-round brilliance and consistency.
- She overcame strong competition from South African skipper Laura Wolvaardt, Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu, and Australia all-rounder Annabel Sutherland to win the award.
- Kerr's achievement is a huge honor for her and New Zealand cricket, and she's thrilled to have received the award, acknowledging the support of her teammates and the people who have helped her achieve this milestone.

5. Christine Carla Kangaloo received Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for excellence

Christine Carla Kangaloo has been honored with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for excellence, recognizing her significant contributions to the Indian diaspora. The award acknowledges her dedication to fostering stronger ties between India and her home country, as well as her outstanding work in promoting Indian culture and values abroad. Kangaloo has been a prominent figure in supporting community development and advocating for the welfare of Indian-origin people. This prestigious recognition highlights her impactful efforts in bridging cultural gaps and enhancing mutual understanding between nations.



Foot notes:

- She was honored with the award for her excellence in public affairs, recognizing her dedication and commitment to serving her country.
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award is the highest honor conferred on overseas Indians, and it's a testament to Kangaloo's hard work and achievements.
- Kangaloo was unable to attend the award ceremony in person, but she delivered pre-recorded remarks as the chief guest at the inaugural session of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention.
- The award was presented to her by the High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Pradeep Rajpurohit, at a reception held at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation.
- This recognition is a significant milestone in Kangaloo's career, and it highlights her importance as a leader in the global Indian diaspora community.

6. Ladakh Tops Khelo India Winter Games 2025

Ladakh emerged as the overall champion at the Khelo India Winter Games 2025, showcasing exceptional performances across multiple sports. The region's athletes dominated various winter sports, including ice hockey, skiing, and snowboarding, securing the highest number of medals. Their success highlights the growing prominence of winter sports in Ladakh and the dedication of its athletes. The event, held in a competitive and vibrant atmosphere, saw participation from teams across India, promoting sports culture in the region. Ladakh's triumph at the Winter Games 2025 is a testament to its rising sporting talent and the government's efforts to develop winter sports infrastructure.



Foot notes:

- Ladakh's women's ice hockey team delivered a stunning 4-0 victory against ITBP, showcasing their skills and teamwork.
- The Indian Army retained their ice hockey title, defeating ITBP 2-1 in a nail-biting final, with Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre's young fans cheering them on.
- Tamil Nadu made a significant mark in the skating events, highlighting the growing diversity of winter sports talent in India, and won 3 gold medals.
- Ladakh's mixed relay quartet, comprising Stanzin Jampal, Skarma Tsultim, Mohammed Saquaf Raza, and Padma Angmo, clocked 3:02.19 secs to strike gold in the mixed relay event.
- The Khelo India Winter Games 2025 has been a huge success, with the first phase held in Ladakh from January 23 to 27, and the second phase scheduled to take place in Jammu and Kashmir from February 22 to 25.

7. Channel Factory appoints Amit Rathi as Managing Director

Channel Factory has appointed Amit Rathi as its new Managing Director, marking a significant leadership change for the company. Rathi brings with him a wealth of experience in the media and technology sectors, having held senior roles in various organizations. In his new role, he will be responsible for driving the company's growth strategy and overseeing operations across markets. Channel Factory, known for its innovative solutions in video content management and analytics, aims to further strengthen its position under Rathi's leadership. His appointment is expected to enhance the company's capabilities in delivering cutting-edge solutions to clients and expanding its global footprint.



Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Rathi will spearhead Channel Factory's Indian operations, focusing on scaling business opportunities, fostering client relationships, and AI-powered solutions for advertisers worldwide.
- **Development Center in Pune:** The company is also setting up a new development center in Pune, which will leverage cutting-edge AI technologies to enhance product development, data science, and engineering.
- **AI-Driven Contextual Advertising:** Channel Factory is committed to creating a safe, AI-driven, brand-suitable video ecosystem, and Rathi's leadership will be instrumental in driving this vision forward.
- **Industry Expertise:** Rathi brings a wealth of experience in digital advertising and technology, with a proven track record of driving growth in competitive markets.
- **Growth Strategy:** The appointment of Rathi and the establishment of the Pune development center underscore Channel Factory's commitment to India's burgeoning digital advertising sector and its bullish growth strategy for the region.

8. Route Mobile appoints Rajeshwar Singh Gill as Group CFO

Route Mobile has appointed Rajeshwar Singh Gill as its new Group Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Gill brings extensive financial expertise and experience in managing large-scale financial operations, having held key leadership roles in the past. As the Group CFO, he will play a crucial role in shaping the company's financial strategy, ensuring robust growth, and managing financial risks. His appointment comes at a time when Route Mobile is focusing on expanding its global presence and enhancing its product offerings. Gill's leadership is expected to bring greater financial efficiency and strategic direction to the company's growth plans.



Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Gill will lead the finance function, supporting Route Mobile's growth by driving financial strategy and ensuring value coordination between the company and its parent entity, Proximus Global.
- **Industry Expertise:** He brings extensive experience in transformation and business partnering across sales, marketing, and operations, having held various finance executive positions in the telecommunications industry, including a stint at Virgin Media O2 in the UK.
- **Financial Strategy:** Gill's wealth of experience in financial strategy will be instrumental in driving Route Mobile's ambitious growth agenda, and his leadership will ensure a strong financial foundation for the company.

- **Background:** Gill holds an Honors Degree in Economics from Brunel London University and is a Chartered Accountant, certified by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).
- **Company Performance:** Route Mobile's revenue has risen, with a 15.56% increase in revenue from operations, totaling Rs 1,183.7 crore, despite a decline in profits, with a 21.9% decline in net profit for Q3 FY24.

9. Intuitive appoints Rohitt Mahajan as Vice President and General Manager in India

Intuitive has appointed Rohitt Mahajan as the Vice President and General Manager for its operations in India. In this role, Mahajan will be responsible for leading the company's strategic initiatives and expanding its presence in the Indian market. With a strong background in the healthcare and technology sectors, Mahajan brings valuable experience in driving growth and operational excellence. His leadership is expected to accelerate Intuitive's growth trajectory, particularly in the field of robotic-assisted surgery, where the company is a key player.



Foot notes:

- **Leadership Role:** Mahajan will lead Intuitive's India operations, driving growth, strategy, and customer engagement, and will be responsible for expanding the company's presence in the country.
- **Industry Expertise:** He brings over 20 years of experience in the medical device industry, with a strong background in sales, marketing, and business development, having worked with companies like Medtronic and Johnson & Johnson.
- **Robotic-Assisted Surgery:** Intuitive is a pioneer in robotic-assisted surgery, and Mahajan's appointment will help drive the company's mission to make minimally invasive care more accessible to patients in India.
- **India Market:** The Indian market is a key focus area for Intuitive, and Mahajan's leadership will be instrumental in driving the company's growth strategy in the region, with a focus on increasing adoption of robotic-assisted surgery.
- **Global Experience:** Mahajan has a global perspective, having worked in multiple countries, including the US, Europe, and Asia, which will be valuable in driving Intuitive's growth in India and expanding the company's presence in the region.

10. Indian Newspaper Day observed on 29 January

Indian Newspaper Day is observed on 29th January every year to commemorate the role of the press in the country's development and to honor the contribution of newspapers in shaping public



opinion and disseminating information. The day marks the anniversary of the first newspaper published in India, the **Hicky's Bengal Gazette**, which was launched on January 29, 1780. It highlights the importance of the media in promoting democracy, informing citizens, and upholding freedom of speech. On this day, the media industry reflects on its responsibility to society, ensuring accuracy, fairness, and integrity in reporting. The observance encourages people to appreciate the value of newspapers in the digital age, despite the rise of online media platforms.

Foot notes:

- The first Indian newspaper, Hicky's Bengal Gazette, was published on January 29, 1780, in Kolkata, marking the beginning of the print media revolution in India.
- Indian Newspaper Day highlights the importance of newspapers in shaping public opinion, spreading awareness, and fueling the democratic process, as well as honoring the role of journalists and writers in society.
- Although there is no specific theme for Indian Newspaper Day, it is celebrated to recognize the contributions of newspapers and journalists to Indian society and democracy.
- Indian Newspaper Day is an opportunity to appreciate the power of print media and its impact on Indian society, with people celebrating the day by reading newspapers, sharing articles, and acknowledging the hard work of journalists and writers.

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