

(19<sup>th</sup> January 2025)

## International

### India & USA sign MoU to enhance cooperation on cyber threat intelligence & digital forensics.

India and USA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation and information sharing on cyber threat intelligence and digital forensics in criminal investigations.

The MoU was signed by the Ambassador of India to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra and Acting U.S. Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Kristie Canegallo in Washington DC.

## Awards

### Professor Urbasi Sinha honored with the Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025.

Professor Urbasi Sinha, faculty in the Light and Matter Physics theme at the Raman Research Institute (RRI), was honored with the Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation at Cambridge, UK.

Prof. Sinha is a researcher in both quantum fundamentals and technologies, and she heads the Quantum Information and Computing (QuIC) lab at RRI an autonomous institute of Department of Science and Technology. Her lab was one of the first in India to manufacture and establish the usage of heralded and entangled photon sources towards various applications.

## National

### PM Modi distributes over 65 lakh property cards under SVAMITVA Scheme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed over 65 lakh property cards under the SVAMITVA Scheme to property owners.

The property cards have been distributed in over 50 thousand villages across ten states and two Union Territories.

SVAMITVA scheme aims to provide Record of Rights to property owners in village areas. The Svamitva scheme was launched in 2020 to enhance the economic development of rural India by providing a Record of Rights to households through advanced drone technology for surveying.

### NIXI announces Internet Governance Internship & Capacity Building Scheme

The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has announced the launch of the Internet Governance Internship and Capacity Building scheme. The Program will offer a bi-annual internship with two parallel tracks, a six-month and a three-month program.

A fixed stipend of 20 thousand rupees per month will be provided to interns along with support to conduct mandatory outreach programs. Candidates can apply for the internship through NIXI's official website.

### HM Amit Shah orders constitution of inter-ministerial team to probe mysterious deaths in Rajouri

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah has ordered the constitution of an Inter-Ministerial Team to ascertain the cause of deaths in Jammu's Rajouri district.

The team will consist of experts from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Ministry of Water Resources.

In collaboration with the local administration, the team would work on providing immediate relief as well as taking precautionary measures to prevent such incidents in future.

### Odisha and Singapore signed MoU to establish global FinTech competency centre

The Odisha government has partnered with the Global Finance and Technology Network (GFTN), Singapore, to establish a global competency centre in Bhubaneswar aimed at fostering FinTech collaborations.

This partnership aims to drive financial inclusion and support India's vision of "Insurance for All" by 2047 leveraging global expertise to enhance Odisha's role in the FinTech sector.

### Gyanendra Pratap Singh appointed as Director General of CRPF.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Gyanendra Pratap Singh, a 1991-batch IPS officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, as the Director General of the CRPF till

the date of his superannuation on November 30, 2027.

Mr. Singh, who was earlier posted in the National Investigation Agency (NIA), was sent to Assam as the additional DGP in 2019 in the wake of the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) agitation. He later assumed charge as the DGP.

## **Business and Economy**

### **World Bank projects 6.7 % growth for India, surpassing global growth of 2.7 %.**

The World Bank has projected 6.7 per cent growth for India, surpassing global growth of 2.7 per cent.

The January 2025 edition of the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report stated that India is set to dominate the global economic landscape, maintaining its status as the fastest-growing large economy for the next two fiscal years.

Complementing the World Bank report, the latest update from the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO) also reinforces India's strong economic trajectory. The IMF forecasts India's growth to remain robust at 6.5 per cent for the financial year 2025 and 2026.

### **Indian mobility market to double & surpass 600 billion US Dollars by 2030.**

The Indian mobility industry is expected to double and surpass 600 billion US Dollars by 2030, a report by Google and Boston Consulting Group said.

According to the Think Mobility Report, emerging revenue pools such as electric, shared, and connected mobility are poised to contribute 100 billion US Dollars to the total market by 2030, while a majority of the revenue will come from classic revenue pools comprising classic components, sale of new

ICE (internal combustion engine) vehicles, finance and insurance etc.

### **RBL Bank's Q3 reported 86% drop in net profit at ₹33 crore.**

RBL Bank Ltd for the third quarter reported 86% drop in net profit at ₹33 crore for the period ended December 31, 2024 as compared with ₹233 crore in the same period last year.

This was on account of making additional provision of ₹414 crore on 'prudent basis' on Gross NPAs of Joint Liability Group (JLG) portfolio taking total NPA provision on this portfolio to 85%.

Net Interest Income (NII) grew 3% YoY ₹1585 crore; NIM was at 4.90%.

## **Sports**

### **KHO-KHO WC: Indian Men's & Women's team storm into finals.**

In the Kho Kho World Cup 2025, India Men's team reached the finals of the Kho Kho World Cup 2025 after securing a win against South Africa at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.

The women's team led by Priyanka Ingle advanced to the final after defeating South Africa. In the final, the Indian women's side will face Nepal.

### **India Open badminton: Indian duo Satwiksairaj- Chirag bow out of doubles semifinal.**

In India Open Badminton, the Indian challenge has come to an end after the duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty lost to the Malaysian pair of Nur Izzuddin and Goh Sze Fei in New Delhi.

The Indian campaign in the singles events ended with the defeats of PV Sindhu and Kiran George in their respective quarter-final matches.