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HEADLINES

- ❖ **Passport Verification Records Now Available on DigiLocker for Citizen Convenience**
- ❖ **RBI Boosts India's Growth Outlook: 2025-26 GDP Forecast Raised to 7.3%**
- ❖ **Victoria University Lays Foundation for Its First India Campus in Gurugram**
- ❖ **SEBI Launches SWAGAT-FI: Single Window Access for Low-Risk Foreign Investors**
- ❖ **India and Russia Sign 16 Key Agreements at the 23rd Annual Summit**
- ❖ **India Observes 70th Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**

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- ❖ **Amit Shah Inaugurates EARTH Summit 2025 in Gandhinagar, Launches New Sahakar Sarathi Services**
- ❖ **Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurates Key Northeast Projects Worth Rs. 645 Crore**
- ❖ **SEBI has given in-principle approval of registration to Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT).**
- ❖ **The International Tracked Packet Service agreement signed between India Post and Russia Post.**
- ❖ **RBI Approves Vikram Sahu as CEO of Bank of America India**
- ❖ **Suparna Mitra Appointed MD & CEO of TeamLease Services**
- ❖ **Retail Sale Price Now Mandatory on All Pan Masala Packs from February 2026**

Passport Verification Records Now Available on DigiLocker for Citizen Convenience

- ✓ Passport verification records made available on DigiLocker for citizen convenience.
- ✓ Passport Verification Records (PVR) were enabled on DigiLocker by the National e-Governance Division in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ✓ DigiLocker, a cloud-based platform under Digital India, allows citizens to store, access, share, and digitally verify documents.
- ✓ This integration was introduced to reduce reliance on physical records and promote paperless governance.
- ✓ Verified PVRs can now be accessed in the “Issued Documents” section of a citizen’s DigiLocker account.
- ✓ Citizens will be able to digitally share their PVR with authorised requesters, ensuring consent-based verification.
- ✓ The initiative is expected to simplify processes in travel, employment, and compliance, while saving time and reducing paperwork.
- ✓ PVRs issued digitally are tamper-proof, authentic, and secure in line with DigiLocker architecture.



- ✓ Both web portal and mobile application access will enable anytime convenience for citizens.
- ✓ The initiative supports environmentally responsible governance by promoting paperless workflows.
- ✓ MEA and NeGD collaboration reinforces a citizen-first approach, strengthening trust and transparency in government services

RBI Boosts India's Growth Outlook: 2025-26 GDP Forecast Raised to 7.3%

- ✓ India's GDP growth forecast raised to 7.3% by RBI.
- ✓ The GDP growth forecast for India was raised to 7.3% for 2025-26 by the Reserve Bank of India, up from the earlier 6.8%.
- ✓ The revision was attributed to strong agricultural prospects, GST rate cuts, low inflation, and healthy corporate and banking balance sheets.
- ✓ RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said that the economy experienced a rare "Goldilocks period" due to Q2 growth of 8.2% and inflation at 1.7%.
- ✓ Domestic factors such as benign inflation, continued GST rationalisation, and conducive monetary conditions are expected to support sustained growth.
- ✓ Services exports are likely to remain robust, while merchandise exports face certain headwinds.
- ✓ Real GDP growth projections for Q3 and Q4 of 2025-26 were set at 7.0% and 6.5%, respectively, while Q1 and Q2 of 2026-27 are projected at 6.7% and 6.8%.



- ✓ The first half of 2025-26 benefited from income tax and GST rationalisation, softer crude oil prices, government capital expenditure, and healthy domestic demand.
- ✓ High-frequency indicators suggest that domestic economic activity is holding up in Q3, supported by festival spending, GST benefits, and steady rural and recovering urban demand.

Victoria University Lays Foundation for Its First India Campus in Gurugram

- ✓ The foundation stone of Australia's Victoria University India Campus laid in Gurugram.
- ✓ On 5 December, Victoria University (VU) laid the foundation for its first India campus in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ✓ Once operational, it will be India's first international campus to offer education through VU's Block Model.
- ✓ VU was among the first Australian universities to receive approval under India's National Education Policy (NEP), and the campus is expected to open by mid-2026.
- ✓ Undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in business, IT, and research will be offered at the new campus.
- ✓ The campus is designed to provide affordable Australian education to Indian students, reducing the need for overseas travel.
- ✓ Federal Assistant Minister Julian Hill highlighted that the campus will connect Indian students with VU's innovative teaching and learning approaches.



- ✓ VU Chancellor Steve Bracks stated that the campus will open doors to opportunity and provide global education access at lower costs.
- ✓ The initiative aims to deliver inclusive, industry-connected, and future-oriented education pathways.

SEBI Launches SWAGAT-FI: Single Window Access for Low-Risk Foreign Investors

- ✓ Single Window Access introduced by SEBI for low risk foreign investors.
- ✓ Markets regulator SEBI introduced a single window framework, Single Window Automatic & Generalised Access for Trusted Foreign Investors (SWAGAT-FI), for low-risk foreign investors in the Indian securities market.
- ✓ The system will simplify registration, compliance, and documentation for identified low-risk investors.
- ✓ SWAGAT-FI applies to government funds, central banks, sovereign wealth funds, multilateral entities, regulated insurance companies, and pension funds.
- ✓ The framework was notified on December 1 for FPIs and Foreign Venture Capital Investors (FVCIs) and will come into force from June 1, 2026.
- ✓ SWAGAT-FIs applying for registration can also register under FVCI without additional documentation.



भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड
Securities and Exchange Board of India

- ✓ Registration under both FPI and FVCI regulations will enable investments in listed equities, debt securities, and unlisted companies in specified sectors.
- ✓ The periodicity for continuance of registration, including KYC and fees, was increased from 3–5 years to 10 years.
- ✓ Retail schemes in IFSCs with Indian sponsors will now be allowed to register as FPIs to ease operations.
- ✓ Sponsor contribution limits were amended to 10% of fund corpus to align with IFSCA regulations and avoid non-compliance risks.
- ✓ As of June 30, 2025, India had 11,913 registered FPIs with Rs 80.83 lakh crore assets, and SWAGAT-FIs are estimated to hold over 70% of these assets.

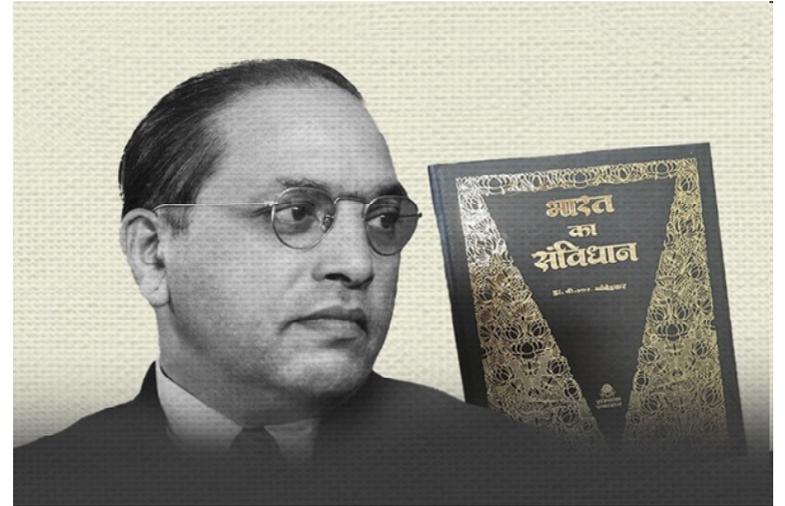
India and Russia Sign 16 Key Agreements at the 23rd Annual Summit

- ✓ Sixteen agreements have been exchanged between India and Russia across defence, trade, economy, healthcare, academics, culture and media.
- ✓ PM Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin met at the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit in New Delhi.
- ✓ Modi emphasised that global unity is the strongest response to extremist violence.
- ✓ Both countries are working to quickly finalize the Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union.
- ✓ India will soon launch a free 30-day e-tourist visa and a 30-day Group Tourist Visa for Russian citizens.
- ✓ Russia agreed to adopt the Framework Agreement to join the International Big Cat Alliance.
- ✓ Both sides agreed to accelerate FTA negotiations.
- ✓ PM Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin also co-chaired the India-Russia Business Forum.



India Observes 70th Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

- ✓ India observed the 70th Mahaparinirvan Diwas or death anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on 6 December 2025.
- ✓ Dr. Ambedkar Foundation under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment every year observes the Mahaparinirvan Diwas.
- ✓ This day marks seventy years since his passing.
- ✓ Dr. Ambedkar is remembered as the chief architect of the Constitution.
- ✓ The tribute recognizes Ambedkar as a reformer, jurist and political leader.
- ✓ National leaders offered floral tributes at Prerna Sthal in the Parliament complex.
- ✓ Ambedkar's ideas on justice, equality and democracy continue to guide the nation.
- ✓ The government's motto of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" echoes his philosophy.
- ✓ Dr B R Ambedkar served as chairman of drafting committee of the Indian Constitution.
- ✓ He also served as Minister of Law and Justice from 1947-1951. He was posthumously awarded Bharat Ratna in 1990.
- ✓ Chaitya Bhoomi is the cremation place of Dr B R Ambedkar. He died on 6 December 1956.



Amit Shah Inaugurates EARTH Summit 2025 in Gandhinagar, Launches New Sahakar Sarathi Services

- ✓ EARTH Summit 2025 in Gandhinagar inaugurated by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah.
- ✓ He also launched over thirteen new services under the Sahakar Sarathi initiative.
- ✓ The new launches include Digi KCC and Campaign Sarathi.
- ✓ They also include Website Sarathi and the Cooperative Governance Index, ePACS, the World's Largest Grain Storage Application, Shiksha Sarathi and Sarathi Technology Forum.
- ✓ This second edition is part of a series of three EARTH Summits.
- ✓ EARTH Summits aim at strengthening the rural economy and finding result-oriented solutions for rural development.
- ✓ He stated that issues related to four key rural ministries will be addressed through deliberations held across the summits.



- ✓ A final policy framework will be drafted at the third summit in Delhi in 2026.
- ✓ A plan has been formed to set up a cooperative institution in every Panchayat.
- ✓ The government intends to raise cooperative membership to over fifty crore people.
- ✓ He announced the launch of the Sahakar Taxi service. Over fifty-one thousand drivers enrolled during its trial phase.

Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurates Key Northeast Projects Worth Rs. 645 Crore

- ✓ Union Minister of Communications & Development of North East Region Jyotiraditya M Scindia virtually inaugurated several projects in the Northeast.
- ✓ He virtually inaugurated five completed projects in the Northeast. He also laid the foundation stone of 11 projects.
- ✓ The total value of these projects is over Rs. 645 crore. These initiatives come under the Ministry of DoNER.
- ✓ Two of the five completed projects is Chendang Saddle-Kohima Road (Phase-II, 12.57 km) and AT Road Upgrade, Tsurang to Impur (26.335 km, 3 bridges).
- ✓ Ten new projects include Multispeciality Hospital (Chümoukedima), 50-Bed Hospital (Peren HQ), Nagaland Innovation Hub and Khonomo-NH-29 Road via Dzudza River.
- ✓ Scindia said the Centre is working with Chief Ministers of the Northeastern states to advance the “Ashtalaxmi” vision.



- ✓ He noted that eight high-level task forces have been created for this purpose.
- ✓ Each task force is chaired by a Chief Minister. Each task force has a specific developmental responsibility.
- ✓ Scindia said the government will execute all recommendations made by these task forces.

SEBI has given in-principle approval of registration to Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT)

- ✓ On 5 December, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) received SEBI's approval.
- ✓ SEBI has given approval to RIIT as an Infrastructure Investment Trust under the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014.
- ✓ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said the approval will help unlock the revenue potential of national highway assets.
- ✓ The approval will also create a high-quality, long-term investment instrument mainly targeting retail and domestic investors.
- ✓ Under the process to secure final registration, the trust must meet specific conditions within next six months.
- ✓ These conditions include appointing its directors, submitting the required financial statements and complying with other regulatory requirements.
- ✓ The Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust is a public infrastructure investment Trust.



- ✓ It aims to make it possible for broad-based public participation in national highway monetisation to happen by the creating the necessary conditions.
- ✓ In November 2025, Raajmarg Infra Investment Managers Pvt. Ltd. (RIIMPL) was incorporated by NHAI as the Investment Manager for the Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT).
- ✓ RIIMPL is a collaborative venture with leading banks and financial institutions, including SBI, PNB, NaBFID, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv Ventures Ltd., HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IDBI Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Yes Bank.

The International Tracked Packet Service agreement signed between India Post and Russia Post

- ✓ On 5 December, a bilateral agreement on the International Tracked Packet Service (ITPS) was signed between the Department of Posts, India, and JSC Russia Post.
- ✓ The agreement was announced by the Ministry of Communications as a significant step in strengthening cross-border postal cooperation between India and Russia.
- ✓ Under this agreement, the ITPS facility will be offered by India Post to Indian exporters at competitive tariff rates.
- ✓ The service is intended to improve price competitiveness and enhance market access for Indian sellers in the Russian market.
- ✓ MSMEs, artisans, start-ups, and rural entrepreneurs are expected to be the primary beneficiaries of this initiative.
- ✓ The agreement will enable Indian sellers to access Russian e-marketplaces with affordable logistics and dependable delivery timelines.



- ✓ The move reflects a shared commitment by both nations to deepen bilateral trade and promote digital commerce.
- ✓ Strengthened collaboration in postal and logistics services has been highlighted as a key objective of the agreement.
- ✓ The ITPS framework aims to create a cost-effective, trackable, and reliable logistics channel for low-value consignments.

RBI Approves Vikram Sahu as CEO of Bank of America India

- ✓ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved **Vikram Sahu as the new CEO of Bank of America NA (BoFA) in India.**
- ✓ Sahu will take on this role in addition to his current position as India Country Executive.
- ✓ Sahu replaced Kaku Nakhate, who served as the bank CEO for about 15 years.
- ✓ The appointment was confirmed through an internal memo circulated by the US-headquartered bank to its employees.



Recent Appointments in Banking & Insurance Sector

- ✓ **Managing Director of LIC:** Ramakrishnan Chander (till 30 Sep 2027)
- ✓ **ED of Union Bank of India:** Amresh Prasad
- ✓ **ED of Central Bank of India:** Ratan Kumar
- ✓ **ED of Bank of India:** Pramod Kumar Dwibedi
- ✓ **Part-Time Chairperson of Jana Small Finance Bank:** Chitra Talwar (replace Mr R. Ramaseshan);effect from 8 Feb 2026

Suparna Mitra Appointed MD & CEO of TeamLease Services

- ✓ **Suparna Mitra** to join **TeamLease Services** as **Managing Director & CEO** effective 2 February 2026, marking a planned leadership transition.
- ✓ She will succeed Ashok Reddy, the current MD & CEO, as part of the company's long-term succession and governance strategy.
- ✓ Vice-Chairman Manish Sabharwal will step down from executive duties but continue on the board as a non-executive, non-independent director.



Retail Sale Price Now Mandatory on All Pan Masala Packs from February 2026

- ✓ **From 1st February 2026, all pan masala packages, including small packs of 10 grams or less, must display the Retail Sale Price (RSP) along with all declarations required under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.**
- ✓ The earlier proviso under Rule 26(a), which allowed small packs to avoid certain declarations, has been withdrawn, ensuring full compliance for all pack sizes.
- ✓ The amendment ensures transparent pricing, prevents misleading or deceptive labeling on smaller packs, and enables consumers to make better informed purchasing decisions.
- ✓ By mandating RSP on all packs, the amendment supports effective implementation of RSP-based GST, allowing accurate tax assessment and revenue collection across all pack sizes.

