1. Vijay Sankar Named FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) President-Elect for 2026-27

2. Christine Lagarde (France) to Step Down Early as ECB (European Central Bank) President on 7 February 2027

3. Heads of major global financial institutions:

- International Monetary Fund (IMF): Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria); HQ: Washington, D.C.
- World Bank: 14th President Ajay Banga (Indian-American; since 2 June 2023); HQ: Washington, D.C.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB): President Masato Kanda (Japan; since 24 February 2025); HQ: Manila, Philippines.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB): President Zou Jiayi (China; since 16 January 2026, succeeding Jin Liqun); HQ: Beijing, China.
- New Development Bank (NDB / BRICS Bank): President Dilma Rousseff (Brazil); HQ: Shanghai, China.

4. Union Minister of Jal Shakti: C.R. Patil (Chandrakant Raghunath Patil).

5. Khet Bachao Abhiyaan was conducted nationwide from 1 to 30 June 2026 under the slogan "Save the Soil, Save Farming, Save Farmers".

- Launched by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 1 June 2026 at Ramasiya village, Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh.

6. Ayushman Vay Vandana Scheme Completes Two Years

- Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 29 October 2024 as an expansion of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- Covers all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of income, through Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards.
- Cover: ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation; seniors in families already under PM-JAY get an additional ₹5 lakh top-up per year for themselves (not shared with members below 70).

7. PM-JAY was launched on 23 September 2018 from Ranchi, Jharkhand.

8. The Ministry of Labour & Employment extended the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) New Amnesty Scheme 2025 by 3 months, up to 31 December 2026

9. The Union Cabinet raised the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) statutory wage ceiling for mandatory coverage from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month (reported 16 September 2026), effective 17 September 2026.

10. Finance Ministry Projects Q2 FY27 GDP Growth at 7.35%

11. FY 2026–27 GDP growth forecasts:

- BMI (Fitch Solutions): 7.5% (raised from 6.8% on 13 October 2026).
- Fitch Ratings: 6.9% (raised from 6.4% on 23 September 2026).
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI): 7.1% for FY27 (raised from 6.7%) and 7.2% for Q2 (MPC policy, 7 October 2026, Governor Sanjay Malhotra).
- World Bank: 7.1% (raised from 6.6%; South Asia Development Update, October 2026).
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): 7.1% (raised from 6.3%; Interim Economic Outlook, September 2026).
- International Monetary Fund (IMF): 7.0% (raised from 6.4%; World Economic Outlook, October 2026).

12. In the 7 October 2026 policy, the RBI raised the repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50% and changed its stance to "calibrated tightening".

13. World Bank Poverty and Equity Brief: India's Extreme Poverty Falls to 2.6%

14. SEBI Grants Online Bond Platform Provider (OBPP) Licence to PB Money

- PB Money is run by PB Marketing and Consulting Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of PB Fintech Ltd (parent of Policybazaar and Paisabazaar); PB Fintech: founded in 2008, HQ Gurugram, Chairman & CEO: Yashish Dahiya.

15. Cabinet Approves ₹10,000 Crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)

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- Outlay: ₹10,000 crore over 13 years (FY 2027–28 to FY 2039–40) — 3 years for setting up facilities + 10 years of production support.

16. India Post and UTI Mutual Fund Extend Partnership for Doorstep KYC

17. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) HQ: Geneva, Switzerland ; Secretary-General: Prof. Celeste Saulo (Argentina)

18. Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) Roadmap Unveiled

- Target: fully operational by 2035 in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at about 450 km altitude (51.5° inclination).
- Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) Project Director: K. Kalpana

19. Bihar Museum Ranked 9th in World's 100 Best Museums 2026

- Bihar Museum, Patna, ranked 9th in the world and 1st in Asia in the World's 100 Best Museums 2026 ; it is the only Indian museum in the top 100.
- Top 5: 1. Museo Nacional de Antropología (Mexico City); 2. Museo del Prado (Madrid); 3. Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (Denmark); 4. State Hermitage Museum (St. Petersburg); 5. Kunsthistorisches Museum (Vienna).
- International Museum Day: 18 May

20. WJP (World Justice Project) Rule of Law Index 2026: India Ranked 88th

- India: 88th of 143, score 0.48 — down 2 places from 86th (2025); 3rd in South Asia (after Nepal and Sri Lanka).
- Top 5: 1. Denmark (0.90); 2. Norway; 3. Finland; 4. Sweden; 5. Luxembourg.
- Bottom: 143. Venezuela; 142. Afghanistan; 141. Haiti; 140. Cambodia; 139. Nicaragua.

21. Jantar Mantar, Delhi Added as Venue for 2nd India Biennale 2026

- Jantar Mantar, Delhi was built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II of Jaipur in 1724; protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

22. Chhattisgarh Adopts Orange Oakleaf as State Butterfly

23. The 2nd edition of the India–Republic of Korea Navy (IN–ROKN) bilateral exercise is being held at Busan, South Korea.

24. The official slogan "Stars Align" for the Los Angeles 2028 (LA28) Olympic and Paralympic Games was unveiled; the campaign film uses Red Hot Chili Peppers' song "Can't Stop".

- Upcoming Games — Summer: 2028 Los Angeles (USA), 2032 Brisbane (Australia); Winter: 2026 Milano Cortina (Italy), 2030 French Alps (France), 2034 Salt Lake City–Utah (USA).

25. Aditya Wins Gold at World Boxing U19 Championships 2026

- India's Aditya won gold in the men's 55 kg

26. Hockey Midfielder Nilakanta Sharma Retires from International Hockey

27. Women's Premier League (WPL) 2027 Auction Highlights

- Most expensive player (and overseas player): Sophie Molineux (Australia) — UP Warriorz, ₹1.10 crore.
- Most expensive Indian player: Kiran Navgire — Delhi Capitals, ₹75 lakh.
- Youngest-ever WPL signing: Uma Kashvi (Kashvi Kandikuppa), aged 15, from Karnataka — Delhi Capitals, ₹10 lakh.

28. 5 non-fiction books were shortlisted for the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2026 (cash award ₹15 lakh); Jury Chair: Niraja Gopal Jayal.

- "A Man for All Seasons: The Life of K.M. Panikkar" — Narayani Basu.
- "Shattered Lands: Five Partitions and the Making of Modern Asia" — Sam Dalrymple.
- "Assembling India's Constitution" — Rohit De and Ornit Shani.
- "A Sixth of Humanity" — Devesh Kapur and Arvind Subramanian.
- "The Secret Master: Arun Kashalkar and a Journey to the Edge of Music" — Sumana Ramanan.

29. Neeraj Yadav (42), Indian para-athlete (F55 javelin and discus), died

30. World Stroke Day — 29 October ; 2026 campaign: "Every M1nute Counts" (#ActFAST)

31. International Day of Care and Support — 29 October; 2026 Theme: "Building Sustainable Care and Support Systems through Decent Work".

32. World Thrift Day — observed worldwide on 31 October and in India on 30 October (shifted after Indira Gandhi's assassination on 31 October 1984)

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33. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) — 31 October (2026: 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel); observed since 2014.

Important Questions and Answers:

1. **Who was named FICCI President-Elect for 2026-27?**
   Vijay Sankar
2. **Who will step down early as President of the European Central Bank?**
   Christine Lagarde
3. **Who is the President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?**
   Zou Jiayi
4. **Where is the headquarters of the New Development Bank (BRICS Bank)?**
   Shanghai, China
5. **Senior citizens of what age are covered under the Ayushman Vay Vandana Scheme?**
   70 years and above
6. **From where was PM-JAY launched?**
   Ranchi, Jharkhand (23 September 2018)
7. **What is the new EPF wage ceiling for mandatory coverage?**
   ₹25,000 per month
8. **What is India's extreme poverty rate, according to the World Bank?**
   2.6%
9. **Which company got SEBI's Online Bond Platform Provider (OBPP) licence?**
   PB Money
10. **Who is the Project Director of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)?**
    K. Kalpana
11. **By which year will the Bharatiya Antariksh Station be fully operational?**
    2035
12. **Which Indian museum ranked 9th in the World's 100 Best Museums 2026?**
    Bihar Museum, Patna
13. **What is the official slogan of the LA 2028 Olympics?**
    Stars Align
14. **Who was the most expensive player in the WPL 2027 auction?**
    Sophie Molineux (UP Warriorz, ₹1.10 crore)
15. **On which date is World Thrift Day observed in India?**
    30 October

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