1. The 16th Finance Commission recommended ₹4.35 lakh crore in grants for rural local bodies for 2026–31.

2. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

- Theme: "Bharat 2047"
- FICCI: founded 1927; headquarters New Delhi; 2026-27 is its centenary year, completing 100 years on April 7, 2027.

3. 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026 is being held at Bharat Mandapam (Pragati Maidan), New Delhi

- Theme: "Vikas aur Virasat" (Development and Heritage); organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ITPO Chairman: Jawed Ashraf.

4. RELIEF Scheme for Exporters Extended to March 31, 2027

- RELIEF (Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) was launched on March 19, 2026 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Minister Piyush Goyal) with an outlay of ₹497 crore, under the Export Promotion Mission.

5. The 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting was held in Shenzhen, Guangdong (China) on November 18–19, 2026, chaired by Xi Jinping.

- Theme: "Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together"; priorities: openness, innovation and cooperation.
- APEC: established 1989; Secretariat in Singapore; 21 member economies; India is not a member or an observer

6. The next G20 Leaders' Summit will be held on December 14–15, 2026 at Trump National Doral, Miami (Florida, USA).

7. Karthik Muralidharan Appointed ADB Chief Economist

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) appointed Indian economist Karthik Muralidharan (Tata Chancellor's Professor of Economics, University of California, San Diego) as Chief Economist and Director General, Economic Research and Development Impact Department

8. Indian scientist Dr. Shekhar C. Mande (former Director General, CSIR) was appointed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres to the 10-Member Group of high-level representatives on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the SDGs for 2026–2028

9. 6th Anti-Terror Conference, organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), in New Delhi

- Theme: "Cross-Border Terrorism".

10. China's LineShine Remains World's Fastest Supercomputer

- China's LineShine (National Supercomputer Center, Shenzhen) stayed No. 1 at 2.198 exaflops (HPL)
- Top 5 (TOP500):
  - 1. LineShine (China) – 2.198 EF.
  - 2. El Capitan (USA) – 1.809 EF.
  - 3. Frontier (USA) – 1.353 EF.
  - 4. Aurora (USA) – 1.012 EF.
  - 5. JUPITER Booster (Germany) – 1.000 EF.

11. India's first indigenous supercomputer, PARAM 8000, was built by C-DAC, Pune (1991).

12. Unit 1 of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (Ishwardi, Pabna district, Bangladesh) fed electricity into the national grid for the first time on November 17, 2026, on a trial basis.

- Bangladesh becomes the 33rd country to generate nuclear power
- Bangladesh's Prime Minister is Tarique Rahman

13. The Earthshot Prize 2026 awards ceremony was held at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai on November 17, 2026 – the first time in India – attended by Prince William and Catherine, Princess of Wales.

Prepared by G V Satish, Director, NBCC

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14. Deepak Rajawat Named CEO of Air India Express

15. Words of the Year 2026: Cambridge 'Human', Collins 'Mogging'

- Cambridge Dictionary named "human" its Word of the Year 2026 reflecting debate on what it means to be human as AI blurs lines between people and machines
- Collins Dictionary named "mogging" – slang for outshining someone – its Word of the Year 2026.

16. "Varuvaaiy", composed by Devan Ekambaram with vocals by Subhiksha Rangarajan (Susha), was nominated for Best Global Music Performance at the 69th Grammy Awards

- It is the first Tamil song to receive a Grammy nomination and India's only nomination this year

17. The Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2026 began on November 19, 2026 at the International Sports Complex, Nathu Barkheda, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)

- Six teams: India, China, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and Thailand.

18. World Toilet Day (November 19) (2026 theme: "Safe toilets. Equal futures.)

19. International Men's Day (November 19) (2026 global theme: "The Future Is Everyone".)

20. World Philosophy Day: third Thursday of November (UNESCO) – November 19, 2026.

21. Birth Anniversaries of Indira Gandhi and Rani Lakshmibai (November 19)

- PM Narendra Modi paid tributes to Indira Gandhi, India's first woman Prime Minister, born on November 19, 1917 in Allahabad (Prayagraj); her birth anniversary is observed as National Integration Day (Quami Ekta Diwas).
- Tributes were paid to Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi, born on November 19, 1828 in Varanasi, a leader of the 1857 First War of Independence

Important Questions and Answers:

1. **How much did the 16th Finance Commission recommend in grants for rural local bodies for 2026–31?**
   ₹4.35 lakh crore
2. **When was FICCI founded?**
   1927
3. **What was the theme of FICCI's Annual General Meeting?**
   Bharat 2047
4. **Which organisation organises the India International Trade Fair (IITF)?**
   India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)
5. **Who is the Chairman of ITPO?**
   Jawed Ashraf
6. **Until when has the RELIEF scheme for exporters been extended?**
   31 March 2027
7. **What is the outlay of the RELIEF scheme?**
   ₹497 crore
8. **Where was the 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held?**
   Shenzhen, China
9. **Where is the APEC Secretariat?**
   Singapore
10. **How many member economies does APEC have?**
    21
11. **Who was appointed Chief Economist of ADB?**
    Karthik Muralidharan
12. **Which Indian scientist was appointed to the UN's 10-member STI group for the SDGs?**
    Dr. Shekhar C. Mande

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13. **Which agency organised the 6th Anti-Terror Conference?**
    National Investigation Agency (NIA)
14. **Which is the world's fastest supercomputer?**
    LineShine (China)
15. **Which was India's first indigenous supercomputer?**
    PARAM 8000 (C-DAC, 1991)
16. **Bangladesh became which country to generate nuclear power?**
    33rd
17. **Where is the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant?**
    Ishwardi, Pabna district (Bangladesh)
18. **Where was the Earthshot Prize 2026 ceremony held?**
    Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai
19. **Who was named CEO of Air India Express?**
    Deepak Rajawat
20. **What is the Cambridge Dictionary Word of the Year 2026?**
    Human
21. **Which was the first Tamil song to be nominated for a Grammy?**
    Varuvaaiy
22. **Where is the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2026 being held?**
    Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
23. **What is the theme of World Toilet Day 2026?**
    Safe toilets. Equal futures.
24. **Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary is observed as which day?**
    National Integration Day (Quami Ekta Diwas)
25. **Where was Rani Lakshmibai born?**
    Varanasi (19 November 1828)

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