

### Urban Infrastructure Development Fund

The Union Government has set up the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) through use of priority sector lending shortfall.

#### Key Points

- ❖ The Government has set up the **Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF)** through use of a priority sector lending shortfall for creating urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- ❖ It was **established (budget speech for Financial Year 2023-24)** to utilize **priority sector lending shortfall** for financing urban infrastructure projects.
- ❖ UIDF aims to supplement the efforts of the State Governments / UTs for urban infrastructure development works implemented through Public/ State Agencies, Municipal Corporations and Urban Local Bodies, by providing a stable and predictable source of financing for providing basic services like Sewerage and Solid Waste Management, Water Supply and Sanitation, construction and improvement of drains/ storm water drains, etc.
- ❖ The **Fund is managed by the National Housing Bank** and has been operationalised with an initial corpus of Rs.10,000 crore.

### India International Science Festival (IISF)

This year in 2024, IISF is being organized at IIT Guwahati, Assam from November 30th – December 4th, 2024.

#### Key Points

- ❖ **India International Science Festival (IISF)** is being celebrated at Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati. **North East India is witnessing this festival for the first time.**

- ❖ The theme of this 10th edition of IISF is **"Transforming India into an S&T driven Global Manufacturing Hub"**.
- ❖ It reflects the government's aim to merge science and technology with industrial growth, making India a global leader in manufacturing.
- ❖ The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** is the **nodal department for this year's IISF** and a constituent laboratory of CSIR namely National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram) is coordinating the whole festival.
- ❖ It is a **unique festival of science society engagement which was initiated in the year 2015** and the **very first IISF was organised at IIT Delhi.**
- ❖ **Vijnana Bharati**, a science movement of India conceptualized this science festival.

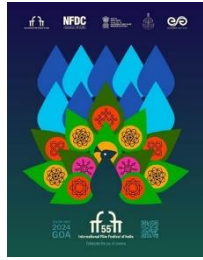
### IFFI Goa 2024

The 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) concluded with a grand closing ceremony at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Goa on November 28.

#### Key Points

- ❖ The theme of this year's festival was **'Young Filmmakers: The Future is Now.'**
- ❖ Since its **inception in 1952**, IFFI has evolved into a premier platform for promoting films that celebrate the diversity of storytelling, culture, and creativity from around the world.
- ❖ The 2024 edition promises a compelling lineup, industry workshops, and a strong emphasis on accessibility and inclusivity.

- ❖ IFFI 2024 introduces a new award category, 'Best Debut Director of Indian Feature Film,' dedicated to emerging voices in Indian cinema.
- ❖ It showcased over 200 films from 75 countries.
- ❖ "Better Man", a semi-autobiographical film about British pop singer Robbie Williams, was the opening film of the 55th International Film Festival of India.



### Awards given in IFFI:

The jury for the festival was headed by filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker.

<b>Golden Peacock Award (Best Film)</b>	Toxic (Lithuanian language)
<b>Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award</b>	Australian filmmaker Phillip Noyc
<b>Best Actor</b>	Clement Faveau (Holy Cow)
<b>Best Actress</b>	Vesta Matulyte and Iva Rupeikaite (Toxic)
<b>Best Director</b>	Bogdan Muresanu (The New Year That Never Came)
<b>Special Jury Award</b>	Louise Courvoisier (Holy Cow)
<b>Special Mention (Best Actor Male)</b>	Adam Besa (Who Do I Belong To)
<b>Best Web Series</b>	Lampan (Marathi language)
<b>Best Debut for Feature Film Director</b>	Sarah Friedland (Familiar Touch)

<b>Personality of the Year award</b>	Vikrant Massey
<b>Best Debut Director award</b>	Navjyot Bandivadekar
<b>ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal</b>	Swedish filmmaker Levan Akin's Crossing

### One Stop Centres

The proposals of the Ministry of External Affairs for 9 One Stop Centres (OSCs) for Indian women facing distress abroad have been approved by the Empowered Committee of Ministry of Women and Child Development.

#### Key Points

- ❖ **Out of 9 OSCs:** 7 OSCs with provision of shelter homes will be set up in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia (Jeddah & Riyadh) and 2 OSCs without shelter homes in Toronto and Singapore.
- ❖ **Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)** has been set up in all Indian Missions and Posts abroad to meet the contingency expenditure incurred by them for carrying out various on site welfare activities for Overseas Indian citizens on a means-tested basis.

### UN Peacebuilding Commission

India was re-elected to the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for the 2025-2026 term, continuing its active role in global peace efforts.

#### Key Points

- ❖ The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is an **intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in conflict-affected countries** and adds capacity to the international community's broader peace agenda.

- ❖ India has been a member of the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception in December 2005.
- ❖ The commission, established in 2005, was tasked with advising the UN General Assembly and the Security Council on issues of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
- ❖ The **Commission aims to promote an integrated, strategic, and coherent approach to peacebuilding**. It acts as a bridge between the principal organs and relevant UN entities by sharing advice on peacebuilding needs and priorities and convenes all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations.

### Person in News- Worldwide

#### Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

- ❖ She has been reappointed as the **director general of World Trade Organisation (WTO)** for a second four-year term.
- ❖ The new term will begin on September 1, 2025.
- ❖ She made history as the first woman and the first African to lead the WTO when she took office on March 1, 2021.



### Important Days/Dates

#### December 1

#### World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day, observed annually on **December 1** since **1988**, serves as a global platform to unite people in raising awareness about HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) /AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).



- ❖ The theme for **World AIDS Day 2024**, **“Take the right path: My health, my right!”** emphasizes the importance of healthcare access and the empowerment of individuals in managing their health.
- ❖ It was initiated by **UNAIDS and the World Health Organisation (WHO)**, World AIDS Day was first celebrated in 1988.

### Important News- Other States

#### Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ World Crafts Council (WCC), an international advocacy body, announced the **‘Seal of Authenticity of the Craft’** will certify handmade crafts produced with centuries-old processes in J&K. The **initiative aims to address the pressing need for a globally recognised certification** of crafts from J&K. It’s a significant step towards encouraging quality and ownership. This will start with the textile industry.

#### Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ Two-day **Mahabodhi Mahotsav** was held at the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Great Stupa at Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh.

### Miscellaneous

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the **three-day Asthalakshmi Mahotsav 2024 on 6th December 2024** at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The festival will showcase the cultural, natural and artisanal wealth of all the eight North-East states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, and Sikkim.

- ❖ The **Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have signed a **98 million US dollar loan agreement** to improve horticulture farmers' access to certified disease-free planting materials. This will enhance crop yield, quality, and resilience to climate impacts.
- ❖ **India's GDP growth slumped to 5.4% in Q2 FY 2024-25, the lowest in seven quarters, down from 6.7% in Q1.** GVA growth also fell to 5.8% from 6.8% in Q1. While Agriculture (3.5%) and Services grew, sectors like Manufacturing (2.2%) and Mining (-0.1%) decelerated sharply.

- ❖ **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, a Fortune Global 500 company and proud Maharatna, achieved a remarkable recognition at the prestigious **Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI) Awards 2023.**



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