

## **Weekly Current Affairs PDF January 21 to January 27, 2024**

### **Current Affairs PDF- January 27, 2024**

#### **INTERNATIONAL**

##### **Maersk unveils the largest ship globally powered by methanol**

- Maersk, a leader in the maritime industry, takes a significant step towards sustainability with the introduction of the Ane Maersk. This groundbreaking container vessel is powered by green methanol sourced from green hydrogen, marking a monumental stride towards environmental stewardship.

##### **Alabama carries out the inaugural nitrogen gas execution in the United States**

- In a groundbreaking turn of events, Kenneth Smith, a convicted murderer, has become the first person in the United States to be executed by nitrogen gas.
- The execution, which took place in Alabama, introduces a new method intended to be the most painless and humane alternative to the previously predominant lethal injection.

#### **NATIONAL**

##### **The 63rd session of the Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) convened in Bhopal**

- The 63rd assembly of the Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) convened in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, under the leadership of Shri V.L. Kantha Rao, Secretary of the Ministry of Mines.

##### **Nirmala Sitharaman is set to become the second Finance Minister to present six consecutive Union Budgets**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is poised to make history as she prepares to deliver her sixth consecutive Budget, comprising five annual Budgets and one interim Budget.

#### **SPORTS**

##### **Virat Kohli secures the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year Award for 2023**

- Indian cricket icon Virat Kohli was honored as the ICC men's ODI Cricketer of the Year for 2023, recognizing his stellar performance in the format, notably his remarkable display during the World Cup held in his home country.
- This is the fourth such award for Kohli, who was the second most prolific run-scorer in ODIs last year behind compatriot Shubman Gill.

#### **Important Days**

##### **International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust**

- January 27th marks a solemn occasion recognised globally as the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.
- This day serves as a poignant reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust and the enduring need to fight against hatred, bigotry, and racism in all its forms.

### **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

#### **Bank of Baroda's subsidiary has been rebranded as 'BOBCARD Limited'**

- Bank of Baroda's card subsidiary, 'BOB Financial Solutions Limited', has undergone a rebranding to 'BOBCARD Limited', accompanied by the tagline "Credit Reimagined".
- The NBFC has also unveiled a new logo called 'Baroda Sun', which comprises dual 'B' letterforms that hold the rays of the rising sun.

## **Current Affairs PDF- January 26, 2024**

### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **Saudi Arabia is set to inaugurate its inaugural alcohol store, exclusively catering to diplomats**

- Saudi Arabia will open its first alcohol store in the capital Riyadh which will serve exclusively non-Muslim diplomats.
- Customers will have to register via a mobile app, get a clearance code from the foreign ministry, and respect monthly quotas with their purchases.

##### **About Saudi Arabia:**

- Capital- Riyadh
- Currency- Saudi riyal
- Prime minister- Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud

### **NATIONAL**

#### **Odisha is preparing to establish the globe's premier 'Black Tiger Safari'**

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has unveiled plans for the establishment of the world's first 'black tiger safari' near the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj.

##### **About Odisha:**

**Capital: – Bhubaneswar**

**Chief Minister: – Naveen Patnaik**

**Governor: – Raghubar Das**

#### **India and Oman's IT Cooperation MoU got the cabinet nod**

- The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the MoU between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India and the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology of Oman.
- The MoU, inked on December 15 last year, aims to foster collaboration and cooperation in the field of Information Technology (IT).

### **SPORTS**

#### **Nikita Kumari from Rajasthan clinches gold in discus throw at the Khelo India Youth Games**

- In the Khelo India youth games, Nikita Kumari of Rajasthan won the gold in the discus throw event.
- She was followed by Riddhi from Haryana winning the silver while Bhakti Gawade from Maharashtra won the bronze.

### Important Days

#### 26th January 2024 marked the celebration of Republic Day in India

- Republic Day 2024 is observed on the 26th January 2024.
- The day honours the promulgation of the Indian Constitution on January 26, 1950.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### SBI Life Insurance launched two new products

- SBI Life Insurance, one of the most trusted private life insurers in the country, launched two products– ‘SBI Life - Saral Swadhan Supreme’ and ‘SBI Life - Smart Swadhan Supreme’,.
- These products aim not only to provide life cover but also to offer the return of premiums at maturity.

## Current Affairs PDF- January 25, 2024

### INTERNATIONAL

#### The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved an IT cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Oman

- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given the green light for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Oman in the field of Information Technology (IT).
- The MoU, inked on December 15, 2023, between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India and Oman's Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, aims to foster comprehensive collaboration through mutual support, technology sharing, information exchange, and investments in IT.

### NATIONAL

#### President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates Kaushal Bhawan, marking a significant step towards empowering skills

- In a historic moment, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Kaushal Bhawan, emphasizing India's steadfast commitment to empowering its youth through skill development.
- Under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the Bhawan is set to catalyze the realization of aspirations and nurture the nation's young talent, steering India toward a more skilled future.
- Kaushal Bhawan, equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, provides an ideal environment for ideation, collaboration, and execution of groundbreaking skill development initiatives.
- Andhra Pradesh embarks on a comprehensive caste census, following Bihar as the second state to undertake such an initiative
- The government of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in Andhra Pradesh has launched a comprehensive caste census, making it the second state in the country, after Bihar, to undertake such an extensive enumeration of castes.
- Launched with the aid of a specially designed phone app, this ambitious census aims to enumerate all castes in the state and is expected to be completed within the next 20 days to one month.

- The cornerstone of this census initiative is a dedicated phone app developed by the government, enabling a more efficient and streamlined data collection process. The app offers more than 700 caste options for the public to choose from, with a notable inclusion being the 'No caste' option.

### SPORTS

#### The International Cricket Council (ICC) announces the winners for the 2023 ICC Awards, recognizing outstanding performances in international cricket

- The ICC Awards 2023, organized by the International Cricket Council, represents the pinnacle of recognition for international cricket players.
- Bas de Leede was named as the ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year 2023 for his remarkable all-round run in the year. He was the standout player for the Netherlands at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 Qualifier and the World Cup in India.
- Queentor Abel made Kenya proud by winning the ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year for 2023. She picked 30 T20I wickets at an unreal average of 7.36, and scored 476 T20I runs at 34.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Justice Prasanna B Varale, currently serving as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, has been appointed as a Supreme Court Judge

- Justice Prasanna B Varale, currently serving as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, will now become the third sitting judge from the Dalit community in the Supreme Court.
- One of the notable aspects of Justice Varale's appointment is that he is the senior-most High Court Judge belonging to a Scheduled Caste.
- Furthermore, he holds the distinction of being the only Chief Justice belonging to a Scheduled Caste among the Chief Justices of High Courts across the country.

### Important Days

#### 14th National Voters Day 2024

- National Voters' Day is celebrated annually on January 25 to commemorate the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in 1950. It's a day dedicated to strengthening the democratic process by encouraging voter participation and emphasizing the importance of every vote in shaping the nation's future.
- National Voters Day 2024 Theme: Making Every Vote Count: No Voter to be Left Behind. This theme emphasizes the importance of inclusive and accessible elections, ensuring that every eligible voter has the opportunity to exercise their franchise. It underscores the ECI's commitment to reaching out to every corner of the country, bridging the gap between eligible voters and the electoral process.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### The Direct Tax-to-GDP ratio reached a 23-year high in FY23, as reported by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) released data, revealing that the direct tax-to-GDP ratio for the fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23) reached a remarkable 23-year high, standing at 6.11%.



- Direct tax collections witnessed a robust year-on-year growth of 17.8%, totaling Rs.16.6 trillion in FY23. Notably, corporate tax collections reached Rs.8.26 trillion, marking a 16% increase, while income tax collections stood at Rs.8.33 trillion, reflecting a significant 19.6% YoY growth.
- The total number of income tax returns filed in FY23 rose to 77.82 million, compared to 73.05 million in FY22, indicating an upward trend in tax compliance.

## Current Affairs PDF- January 24, 2024

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Sweden set to become NATO member as Turkey approves its membership bid

- The Turkish parliament voted Tuesday to approve Sweden's NATO membership bid, bringing the Nordic country one step closer to joining the military alliance after months of delays.
- Of the 346 members of parliament who voted, 287 were in favor of Sweden's accession and 55 voted to reject it. Four others abstained from voting.
- The vote was the second step of Turkey's ratification process after the parliament's Foreign Affairs Commission approved the bid last month. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan can now sign the protocol into law.
- The outcome on Tuesday cleared a significant hurdle for the Nordic country's accession into the military alliance, with Hungary now set to be the only member state that has not yet ratified Sweden's accession.

### NATIONAL

#### Haryana secures the top position in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team category, while Maharashtra excels in Rhythmic Gymnastics at the Khelo India Games

- In Khelo India games today, Haryana won the gold medal and Rajasthan silver in the 10m air pistol mixed team event. Tamil Nadu clinched bronze.
- In the rhythmic gymnastics Hoop event, Maharashtra's Kimaya Karle and Sanyukta Kale took first and second places, while Muskan Rana from J&K took the third place. In the rhythmic gymnastics Ball event, Sanyukta Kale took the first place, Muskan Rana took the second place and Life Adlakha from Haryana took third place. In the Club event of the same sport, Muskan Rana ended up at the top of the podium. Parina Madanpotra from Maharashtra stood second and Life Adlakha from Haryana came third.

#### CCI grants approval for JSW to acquire a stake of up to 38% in MG Motor India

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its approval for Sajjan Jindal-promoted JSW Group's proposed acquisition of up to 38 per cent stake in MG Motor India.
- "The Acquirer is a newly incorporated entity and is not engaged in any activities as on date. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of JSW International Tradecorp Pte. Limited and belongs to JSW Group," the CCI stated.
- "The Target is a company incorporated in India, engaged in the automobile original equipment manufacturing business and after sale services. The Target is primarily engaged in the manufacture and sale of passenger cars (including electronic vehicles) under the Target's brand 'MG'," it further said.

### SPORTS

**In the Khelo India Youth Games hosted in Chennai, gymnast Aaryan Davande from Maharashtra clinched the gold medal in the boys' artistic all-round category**

- In the Khelo India Youth Games 2023, defending champions Maharashtra opened their gold medal account when gymnast Aaryan Davande clinched the Boys Artistic All-Round crown at the SDAT Aquatics complex in Chennai.
- Davande accumulated a total of 73 points to beat Uttar Pradesh's Pranav Mishra. Harshit of UP clinched the bronze in the event.
- Girls team from Tamilnadu won the gold medal, Rajasthan bagged silver and Maharashtra got Bronze in Cycling team sprint event.
- In the 500-metre trial girls category, J. Srimathi won gold, Vimla from Rajasthan bagged silver and R. Tamilarasi from Tamilnadu got the bronze medal.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

**Sankey Prasad has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director for India and Colliers Project Leaders Middle East at Colliers**

- Global diversified professional services and investment management company has appointed Sankey Prasad as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) for India and Middle East Engineering and project management business, which is under the name of Colliers Project Leaders Middle East.
- Colliers on Wednesday announced that Sankey Prasad will expand his leadership role to include Project Leaders in the Middle East. Effective immediately, Sankey Prasad becomes Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) for India & CMD for the Middle East Engineering business which is under the name of Colliers Project Leaders Middle East. He will also take a significant stake in Colliers' rapidly growing Project Management business in the Middle East, supporting the region's flourishing real estate market in collaboration with Colliers' existing real estate services business in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

### Important Days

**International Day of Education: 24th January**

- International Day of Education 2024 is observed on the 24th January 2024
- The International Day of Education was declared by the UN General Assembly in December 2018 as a way to honor education and to think about how crucial learning is to progress and peace.
- Each of us has a responsibility to advance high-quality education.
- Institutions are not the only ones that can impart knowledge.
- Access to education, which most of us probably take for granted, can help many people escape poverty and open the door to a bright future.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

**Indian Bank is in the process of setting up an operations support subsidiary, emphasizing cost optimization as a key focus area**

- Chennai-based Indian Bank is in the process of establishing an operations support subsidiary to offer value-added services while optimizing costs, particularly for operations in non-metropolitan areas.

- Two large public sector banks -State Bank of India (SBI) and Bank of Baroda (BoB) have already formed such units for servicing customers in rural and semi-urban areas.

**About Indian Bank:**

**Established:** 15 August 1907

**Headquarters:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu

**MD & CEO:** Shanti Lal Jain

**Tagline :** Your Own Bank

## Current Affairs PDF- January 23, 2024

### INTERNATIONAL

**Cabo Verde has been granted certification by the World Health Organization (WHO) for achieving a malaria-free status**

- In a recent announcement, the World Health Organization (WHO) has officially certified Cabo Verde as a malaria-free country.
- This accomplishment positions Cabo Verde alongside Mauritius and Algeria as the third nation in the WHO African region to achieve malaria-free status.
- Cabo Verde's certification adds to the list of 43 countries and 1 territory globally that have been recognized as 'malaria-free' by the WHO. Notable instances in the South East Asian region include the Maldives (2015) and Sri Lanka (2016), while India awaits such certification.

### NATIONAL

**The 'Anuvadini' app, introduced by the central government, facilitates multilingual education**

- The central government has taken a noteworthy step to encourage multilingualism in education by launching the 'Anuvadini' app, a platform driven by Artificial Intelligence.
- The initiative aims to make study materials for all school and higher education courses available in digital form, specifically in Indian languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- This step aligns with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, emphasizing the importance of studying in one's mother tongue. The University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), and the Department of School Education have been instructed to ensure the availability of study materials in regional languages.

### SPORTS

**For 2023, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the Men's and Women's T20 International Teams of the Year**

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the T20I Teams of the Year for both Men and Women in 2023, acknowledging outstanding performances in the shortest format of the game. The selection showcases individuals who have demonstrated excellence either as batsmen, bowlers, or all-rounders over the course of the calendar year.
- The Men's T20I Team of the Year 2023 is a blend of emerging stars and established talents from across the globe. It features players from India, England, the West Indies, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Ireland.

- The Women's T20I Team of the Year 2023 also features a mix of established and emerging players from various cricketing nations. The team is characterized by its blend of youthful exuberance and experienced campaigners. The presence of players from non-traditional cricketing nations like Uganda is a testament to the growing global reach of T20 cricket.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

### In the BCCI Awards 2023, Shubman Gill and Ravi Shastri are set to be recognized and honored

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is gearing up to recognize outstanding contributions to Indian cricket at the upcoming NAMAN Awards ceremony in Hyderabad.
- This prestigious event, held for the first time since 2019, celebrates the achievements of Indian cricketers in the preceding year.
- Shubman Gill is slated to receive the Cricketer of the Year award, acknowledging his extraordinary performance in 2023. Gill played 48 matches during the year, amassing an impressive 2,154 runs.
- Ravi Shastri, a former all-rounder and head coach of the Indian cricket team, will be honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Shastri's illustrious career includes representing India in 80 Tests and 150 One Day Internationals (ODIs), scoring over 3,000 runs in both formats and taking 280 wickets.

## Important Days

### Parakram Diwas 2024

- On January 23rd, 2024, Parakram Diwas commemorates the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a key figure in India's quest for independence.
- This day is celebrated to honour his indomitable spirit and invaluable contribution to India's independence. This year nation observe the 127th edition of Parakram Diwas 2024.
- Parakram Diwas 2024 is a national event celebrated annually in India since 2021. It commemorates Netaji's birth anniversary and is a tribute to his brave legacy. The day serves as a reminder of the courage and determination of one of India's most revered freedom fighters.

## BANKING AND ECONOMY

### YES BANK has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first Indian bank to join RXIL's ITFS (Invoice Trading and Financing System) platform

- In a historic development, YES BANK has achieved the distinction of being the first Indian bank to conduct an export finance transaction on RXIL Global IFSC Limited's International Trade Financing Services Platform (ITFS). This partnership signifies a major advancement in digitalization and cross-border business initiatives for YES BANK.
- The platform, registered under the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), offers a digital avenue for arranging credit through Factoring, Forfaiting, and other trade financing services at competitive rates with swift processing. This historic transaction is the first of its kind on the ITFS platform in conjunction with any bank in India.



## Current Affairs PDF- January 22, 2024

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Canada's Oakville, Brampton declare Jan 22 as 'Ayodhya Ram Mandir Day'

- The towns of Oakville and Brampton in Canada's Ontario declared January 22, 2024 as 'Ayodhya Ram Mandir Day' to celebrate the grand opening of the temple in Ayodhya.
- The mayors of Brampton, Patrick Brown and Oakville, Rob Burton, said the inauguration of the temple in Ayodhya "holds immense cultural, religious, and historical significance for Hindus worldwide, signifying the culmination of a centuries-old dream".

### NATIONAL

#### The solar-powered "Surya Tilak" for Ram Lalla has been introduced at the Ayodhya Ram Temple

- The Ayodhya Ram Temple, a site of immense religious significance in India, is set to introduce a groundbreaking feature – a solar-powered "Surya Tilak" for the deity Ram Lalla.
- The "Surya Tilak" is an ingenious system designed to adorn the forehead of Lord Ram's idol with sunlight in the form of a 'Tilak' (a traditional Hindu mark worn on the forehead). This unique feature is planned exclusively for the annual Ram Navami celebration, marking Lord Ram's birth.
- Developed by a team from the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), led by Odia scientist Saroj Kumar Panigrahi, the project involves no electricity, battery, iron, or steel. It is a manually operated system made of brass, ensuring the traditional ethos of the temple is maintained.

#### G. Kishan Reddy, the Union Minister, has inaugurated five new galleries at the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad

- In a momentous event, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, G. Kishan Reddy, inaugurated five new galleries at the renowned Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad.
- 1) Indian Sculpture Gallery: Featuring nearly 40 artifacts, some dating back to the 2nd Century B.C., including a fragment from Bharhut with a lotus medallion and the Kakatiya period's 'Anantsayana Vishnu.'
- 2) Bidriware Gallery: Showcasing 300 unique objects, including exquisite 'huqqa' bases and ewers.
- 3) Lamp and Chandelier Gallery: Displaying 180 antique objects from around the globe.
- 4) European Bronze Gallery: Housing over 100 bronze statues.
- 5) European Marble Gallery: Featuring 50 outstanding marble sculptures.

### SPORTS

#### The complete medal tally for the 2024 Khelo India Youth Games

- The Khelo India Youth Games 2024 has kicked off in Tamil Nadu, showcasing the nation's young sporting talent in a celebration of skill, determination, and sportsmanship.
- With over 5,600 athletes nationwide, this sixth edition of KIYG promises to be a spectacular event, running from January 19 to 31. Hosted in four vibrant cities – Chennai, Madurai, Trichy, and Coimbatore – the games are a testament to India's commitment to nurturing sports at the grassroots level.
- This year's KIYG witnesses the participation of athletes from all 36 States and Union Territories of India, reflecting the diverse and widespread engagement in sports across the nation. Tamil Nadu,

as the host, boasts the largest contingent with 559 athletes, setting the stage for an exciting competition.

#### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

**Inaugural BRICS-CCI Annual Recognition Awards 2024 celebrate excellence, innovation, collaboration**

- The first edition of the BRICS-CCI Annual Recognition Awards 2024 (BARA) was held here on Friday, celebrating the unleashing of the power of the BRICS bloc and honouring achievements in various fields.
- Hosted by the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry, India Chapter, at Le Meridian hotel here, the inaugural ceremony had former President Ram Nath Kovind, as chief guest, sharing insightful perspectives that resonated with the collective vision for expanding the BRICS bloc.
- “The awards being presented today recognise not only excellence but also responsible business practice. This approach is in line with our commitment to sustainable development and the well-being of future generations,” he said.

#### BANKING AND ECONOMY

**Praveen Achuthan Kutty has been granted approval by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to serve as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of DCB Bank**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval for the appointment of Praveen Achuthan Kutty as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DCB Bank.
- The official confirmation came on January 16, signaling a tenure of three years starting from April 29, 2024, as outlined in the regulatory filing.
- Praveen Achuthan Kutty brings a wealth of experience, boasting over 32 years in Retail and SME banking. Having been an integral part of DCB Bank’s leadership for the past 16 years, Kutty currently oversees Retail, SME, and Agri Banking.

## Current Affairs PDF- January 21, 2024

#### INTERNATIONAL

**UNDP and the EU have earmarked over \$420,000 for initiatives addressing deforestation, enhancing food security, and combating climate change in Papua New Guinea.**

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union (EU) have allocated grants totaling over US\$420,000 (approximately 1.6 million PGK) to support initiatives aimed at combating deforestation, improving food and nutrition security, and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
- The official handover of these grants took place during a workshop held at the Takeanda Museum in Wabag, Enga Province, on 17 January 2024. These grants are set to benefit communities across six districts in Enga Province, Papua New Guinea.

**Solar power stations have been officially inaugurated at Egyptian World Heritage sites**

- In a ceremony at the Manial Palace, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, represented by the Supreme Council for Antiquities (SCA), in collaboration with the Industrial Modernization Center and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Egypt, officially inaugurated solar power stations at five renowned Egyptian world heritage sites and museums.

- This initiative is part of the Egypt PV project, a groundbreaking effort aimed at fostering the market for rooftop small-scale photovoltaic (PV) systems in Egypt. Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the European Union, the project operates under the auspices of the UNDP in partnership with Egypt's COP27 Presidency.

#### NATIONAL

##### **The Prime Minister has kickstarted eight AMRUT projects valued at Rs. 2,000 crores in the city of Solapur, Maharashtra.**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, marked a historic day in Solapur, Maharashtra, by laying the foundation stone for 8 AMRUT projects and dedicating over 90,000 completed houses under PMAY-Urban.
- The event also witnessed the distribution of PM-SVANIDHI benefits to 10,000 beneficiaries, showcasing the government's commitment to inclusive development.
- The inauguration of 15,000 houses in the Raynagar Housing Society, Solapur, is particularly noteworthy, benefitting handloom workers, vendors, power loom workers, rag pickers, Bidi workers, drivers, and others.

##### **Himachal Pradesh introduces 'My School-My Pride,' an initiative aimed at transforming education in the state**

- In a progressive move aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, the state of Himachal Pradesh has unveiled the ambitious 'My School-My Pride' campaign under the 'Apna Vidyalay' programme.
- This initiative is set to revolutionize the quality of education in government schools, providing a holistic approach to student growth and development. Under the 'Apna Vidyalay' programme, stakeholders are not only encouraged to contribute their time and expertise but also make monetary contributions for infrastructure development, sponsor events, provide scholarships, and support the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) programme.

#### SPORTS

##### **Asian championship: India wins bronze in mixed skeet**

- Young Raiza Dhillon, who secured a Paris Olympics quota for India, teamed up with Gurjoat Khangura to secure a bronze in the skeet mixed team event, marking her third medal at the Asia Olympic Qualification Shotgun competition held on Sunday. In the second bronze medal match, the Indian duo outshot the local favorites Abdullah Alrashidi and Eman Al Shama, finishing with a score of 41-39.

#### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

##### **Saudi Arabia's Joy Awards: Nelly Karim, Karim Abdel-Aziz, Eva Longoria, Anthony Hopkins among winners**

- The grand ceremony for the 2024 Joy Awards took place on Saturday in Riyadh, featuring the most renowned names from the Arab world and the international scene.
- Organized by Saudi Arabia's General Entertainment Authority in cooperation with MBC Group, the Joy Awards is one of the largest award ceremonies in the Middle East.

- The awards were handed to nominated female and male celebrities across various genres and categories, covering the film, television, sports, fashion, and social media segments.

#### **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

##### **LIC has unveiled the Jeevan Dhara II Deferred Annuity Plan**

- Unveiled by LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty, the new Jeevan Dhara II plan offers a non-participating, individual savings, deferred annuity option.
- Jeevan Dhara II offers life cover during the deferment period, enhancing the financial security of policyholders. The plan provides higher annuity rates as policyholders age, ensuring a secure and stable income stream in later years.

