

# Daily Current Affairs

## 17 January 2024

### World Economic Forum

- The **54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum** began in **Davos** amid growing concerns over global conflicts, climate change, and deepfake.
- The **theme of the conference** is Rebuilding Trust, emphasizing the focus on exploring the opportunities enabled by the new technologies and their implications on decision-making and global partnership.



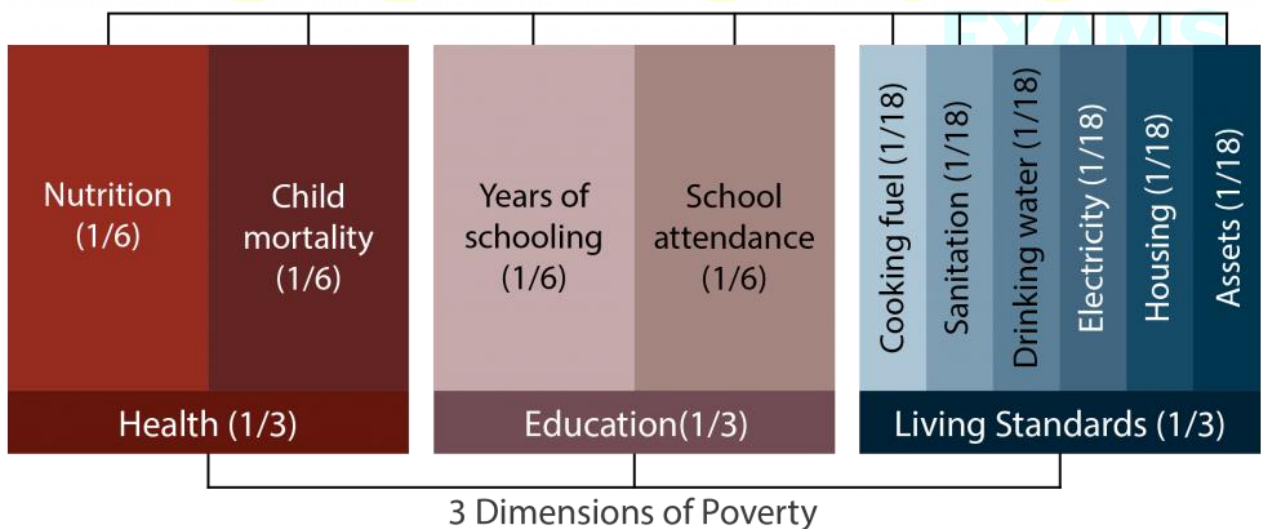
- The opening concert was dedicated to the **Sahara desert and Amazon rainforest** amid growing concerns among world leaders over climate change, conflicts, and misinformation.
- **Annual Crystal Awards** were presented to three artists, architect Diebedo Francis Kere, actor Michelle Yeoh, and guitarist Nile Rodgers.
- The **WEF called them the bridge-builders** and said that they connect us, help us reflect on the human condition, and provide visions of the world that can cut through the limitations of short-term or linear thinking..

### NITI Aayog Report

- Almost **25 Crore people** in India have **escaped poverty** in the last nine years, according to the NITI Aayog.
- The planning agency released its discussion paper on **Multidimensional Poverty in India** since 2005 to 2006, which attempts to study the decline in poverty rates across multiple dimensions.



- **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** is a measure that assesses **acute poverty** in over 100 developing countries. It goes beyond just looking at **monetary poverty** and considers the simultaneous deprivations in health, education, and living standards that people face.
- India's definition of **multidimensional poverty** is measured using **twelve indicators** including nutrition, child & adolescent mortality, maternal health, years of schooling, school attendance, drinking water, electricity, housing, and assets. MPI seeks to measure poverty in a more holistic manner as opposed to solely relying on income levels to assess deprivation.



- It said that **poverty has declined from over 29 percent to around 11 percent** in the last nine years. It added that Uttar Pradesh has registered the largest decline in poverty among Indian states with close to 6 crore people escaping poverty during the past nine years. It is followed by Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

- NITI Aayog said that **India will soon reach single digit poverty** this year which is a remarkable achievement as more than 50 percent people were in poverty around 2005.
- It added that India will also soon achieve its Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of halving multidimensional poverty much before its 2030 target.
- NITI Aayog CEO, B.V.R. Subrahmanyam said that **reducing absolute poverty** by half in around 8 to 9 years is a remarkable achievement and it will reflect in India's SDG goals to the world.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded NITI Aayog's report stating that around 25 crore people have escaped multidimensional poverty in the last 9 years.
- The Prime Minister said that the planning agency's Multidimensional Poverty report showcasing a fall in poverty is very encouraging. He added that, it is reflective of the government's commitment towards furthering inclusive growth and focusing on transformative changes to the economy. The Prime Minister said that the government will continue to work towards all-round development for a prosperous future.

## Deepa Bhandare

- **Deepa Bhandare**, associated with Shri Datta Cooperative Sugar Factory (SSK) in Shirol taluka of Kolhapur, emerged as a trailblazer as she clinched the prestigious Best Environment Officer Award at the ceremony.



- The award, conferred by VSI Chairman Sharad Pawar, marks a historic moment as Bhandare becomes the only woman in the long and illustrious history of Maharashtra's sugar industry to receive this accolade.

- Each year, the **Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI)** honors exceptional performance by sugar factories, employees, and farmers in Maharashtra with Awards of Excellence.
- Following her husband's untimely demise three years ago, she embraced the opportunity presented to her when offered a position at the sugar mill.
- Having previously worked as an environmental consultant, Bhandare had experience in technical aspects of the sugar industry, but taking on a role within the industry itself was a new endeavor for her.
- Bhandare's achievement serves as an inspiration, highlighting the need for more women to consider careers in this traditionally male-dominated sector.
- Upon joining the sugar industry, one of Bhandare's initial actions was a testament to her **commitment to inclusivity**.
- Bhandare emphasizes the importance of accommodating more women in the industry and believes that the sector is open to embracing diversity.

## Samavesha

- The **Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering** facilities Map, known as I-STEM, is set to embark on a groundbreaking **initiative named 'Samavesha.'**
- This ambitious project, spearheaded by the **Office of Principal Scientific Advisor**, Government of India, aims to transform research collaboration in the country by facilitating easier access to scientific facilities and laboratories.
- The inauguration ceremony of 'Samavesha' is scheduled to take place at the prestigious Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru.



- The project's core objective is to **optimize the utilization of research resources on a nationwide scale**. In 2024, I-STEM plans to conduct approximately 50 'Samavesha' events across India.
- One of the pivotal aspects of the project is **the establishment of an online portal** that will **connect researchers** and industries with scientific institutes. Through the I-STEM Portal, individuals seeking advanced scientific equipment can seamlessly connect with institutions possessing the desired equipment, enabling them to rent it for their experiments.
- The overarching vision of I-STEM is to foster a future where a million New-Age researchers with innovative ideas are seamlessly linked to a network of 10,000 cutting-edge labs across India.



## *Linking Researchers and Resources*

- By 2024, I-STEM aims **not only to connect individuals** with equipment but also to cultivate a collaborative ecosystem where startups, industries, and academia collectively contribute to the next wave of innovation.
- This collaborative approach **eliminates the prohibitive capital expenditure** associated with purchasing advanced equipment. On a national level, **it prevents the duplication of resources** within research institutions, leading to more efficient resource utilization.
- **“Samavesha unlocks the missing ingredient** – seamless connections, shared resources, and a nationwide research surge. From hidden labs to groundbreaking landmarks, Samavesha empowers minds, unites forces, and builds a future of collaborative breakthroughs.”
- I-STEM envisions a future where researchers have unparalleled access to cutting-edge facilities, leading to a surge in research and indigenous product innovation.

## Sumit Nagal

- India's top ranking tennis sensation **Sumit Nagal creates history** to become **first Indian man in 35 years** to beat a seeded player at Grand Slam.
- He secured his spot in the second round of the Australian Open after defeating world number **27 Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan** in a commanding straight-set victory.



- The 26-year-old Nagal, who fought his way into the main draw through the qualifiers, displayed exceptional skill and determination to beat Alexander Bublik with a scoreline of 6-4, 6-2, 7-6(7-5) in a grueling match that lasted two hours and 38 minutes.
- This victory marks Nagal's debut progression to the second round and a significant milestone in his tennis career.

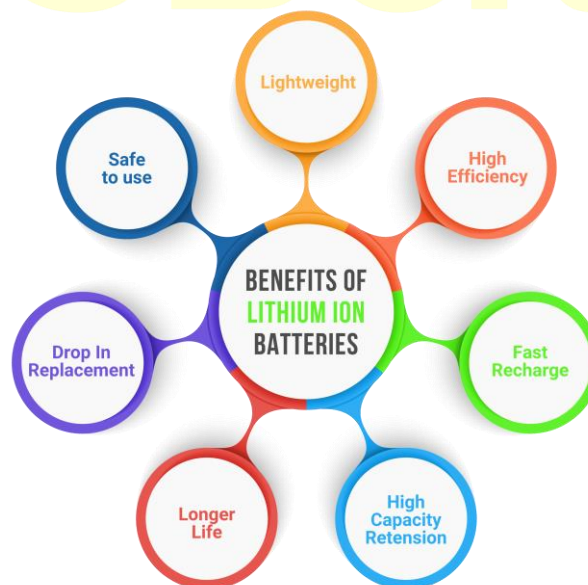
## Lithium Exploration

- **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL)**, a joint venture between NALCO Ltd., Hindustan Copper Ltd., and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd. signed an agreement with Argentina-based CAMYEN SE for the first-ever Lithium exploration and mining project.
- The agreement gives **KABIL exclusive rights** to evaluate, prospect and explore and subsequent to discovery of Lithium, exploitation rights for commercial production for **five Lithium brine blocks** in the Catamarca Province of Argentina.



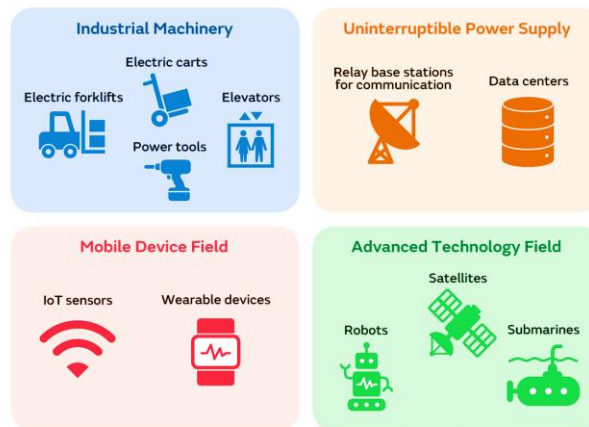
**KABIL**  
खनिज बिदेश इंडिया लिमिटेड  
KHANIJ BIDESH INDIA LTD.

- These five blocks, Cortadera-I, Cortadera-VII, Cortadera-VIII, Cateo-2022-01810132 and Cortadera-VI, will cover an area of 15,703 hectare and will cost ₹200 crore, NALCO said in an exchange filing.
- KABIL is also preparing to set up a **branch office at Catamarca, Argentina**. This is the first-ever lithium exploration and mining project undertaken by a government company in India.
- Lithium, often called '**white gold**', forms the cornerstone of the country's transition to green energy options.



- It is used across various categories, including energy storage solutions, batteries for mobile phones, and in EVs.

- Lithium is used in **rechargeable batteries** for mobile phones, laptops, digital cameras, and electric vehicles. It's also used in some non-rechargeable batteries for things like heart pacemakers, toys, and clocks.
- **Lithium-ion batteries** are popular for electric automobiles, golf carts, and trolleys because they offer an extended run time, size customization, and fast charging.



## Preesha Chakraborty

- **Preesha Chakraborty**, a nine-year-old **Indian-American schoolgirl**, has been named in the "**world's brightest**" students list by the **Johns Hopkins Centre** for Talented Youth, based on the results of above-grade-level tests of over 16,000 students across 90 countries.
- Preesha Chakraborty goes to Warm Spring Elementary school in Fremont, California, and took the US-based Johns Hopkins Centre for Talented Youth (JH-CTY) test in Summer 2023 as a Grade 3 student.





- She was honoured for her **exceptional performance on the SAT** (Scholastic Assessment Test), ACT (American College Testing), School and College Ability Test, or similar assessments as part of the CTY Talent Search. Less than 30 per cent of students qualify each year for either High Honors or Grand Honors/SET based on their test scores.
- She aced in the test's verbal and quantitative sections - on par with the 99th percentile of advanced Grade 5 performances - and bagged the Grand Honors, according to the press release.
- The achievement qualifies Chakraborty for more than 250 Johns Hopkins CTY's Online and On-Campus Programmes for advanced students in grades 2-12 in mathematics, computer programming, chemistry, physics, reading, and writing.
- Chakraborty is a **lifetime member of the universally renowned Mensa Foundation**, the **oldest high-IQ society in the world**, where membership is open to people who score at the 98th percentile or higher on a standardised, supervised IQ or other approved intelligence test.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Of World Economic Forum Held In**
  - A. Switzerland
  - B. Finland
  - C. Greece
  - D. France

**ANSWER: A**

2. **Name Of Groundbreaking Initiative Launched By I-STEM To Transform Research Collaboration In India**
  - A. Innovation Connect
  - B. Research Revolution
  - C. Samavesha
  - D. Techno Collab India

**ANSWER: C**

**3. KABIL Got First Lithium Exploration Rights In**

- A. Chile
- B. Bolivia
- C. Argentina
- D. Peru

**ANSWER: C**

**4. Sumit Nagal Seen In News Related To**

- A. Hockey
- B. Tennis
- C. Football
- D. shooting

**ANSWER: B**

**5. Which Scheme Was Launched By Karnataka Government For Providing Financial Aid To Unemployed Graduates**

- A. Yuva Nidhi scheme
- B. State Programme for Youth Development
- C. Kaushal Vikas scheme
- D. Yuva Shakti Scheme

**ANSWER: A**

**6. Ganga Sagar Mela, India's 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Fair Is Celebrated In**

- A. Mizoram
- B. West Bengal
- C. Goa
- D. Karnataka

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Which Bank Of India Introduced The Green Rupee Term Deposit**

- A. State Bank of India
- B. HDFC Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. Indian Bank

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Which Ministry Is Responsible For The PM- eBus Sewa Scheme**

- A. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C. Ministry of Rural Development
- D. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Asanur Pipeline Terminal Commissioned By Indian Oil Corporation Located In**

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Punjab

**ANSWER: B**

**10. Who Is Named As Brightest Student By Johns Hopkins Centre**

- A. Preesha Chakraborty
- B. Sunil Sharma
- C. Riya Pulyani
- D. Ankit Thakur

**ANSWER: A**

**11. San Cristobal Field Is Located In**

- A. Brazil
- B. Argentina
- C. Venezuela
- D. Nigeria

**ANSWER: C**

**12. Primary Purpose Of 'National Single Window System' Launched By CDSCO**

- A. Digital Health Records Management
- B. Streamlining Medical Device Import
- C. Medical Research Funding
- D. Public Health Surveillance

**ANSWER: B**

**13. Which Organization Developed India's Man Portable Air Defense Missile System VSHORADS**

- A. Indian Space Research Organisation
- B. Defence Research and Development Organisation
- C. Bharat Dynamics Limited
- D. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

**ANSWER: B**

**14. Brand Name Of Environmental Label Under Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme**

- A. VRIKSHA
- B. HARIT
- C. PRAMAAN
- D. VANIKARAN

**ANSWER: C**

**15. Which Chinese City Hosts Annual Ice & Snow Festival Known For Its Large Scale Ice Sculptures**

- A. Beijing
- B. Shanghai
- C. Harbin
- D. Guangzhou

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Gharana Wetland Conservation Reserve Is Located In**

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Jammu & Kashmir
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Rajasthan

**ANSWER: B**

**17. Siamang Gibbons Recently Making News, Are Primarily Known For**

- A. Their Large Throat Sacs
- B. Their Endangered Status
- C. Their Singing Voices
- D. Their Monogamous Nature

**ANSWER: C**

**18. Which Country Recently Passed Significant Legislative Bill Banning Consumption & Sale Of Dog Meat**

- A. Japan
- B. North Korea
- C. South Korea
- D. Thailand

**ANSWER: C**

**19. Which State Has Launched 'Lakhpati Baideos' Scheme Recently**

- A. Tripura
- B. Assam
- C. West Bengal
- D. Odisha

**ANSWER: B**

**20. Which Of Following Ladies Wrote An Historical Account During The Mughal Period**

- A. Gulbadan Begum
- B. Noorjahan Begum
- C. Jahanara Begum
- D. Zebun-nissah Begum

**ANSWER: A**