

5. Fourth Industrial Revolution- Economy

WEF to launch five new Centres for Fourth Industrial Revolution, one in India The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced the establishment of five new Centres for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This expansion includes a significant development for India, with a new centre being set up in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Network

Global Platform- The 4IR Network serves as a global platform aimed at fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration. It brings together governments, leading industries, academic institutions, and civil society organizations.

Origin and Purpose

Launched- By the World Economic Forum in 2017.

Objective- To ensure that emerging and exponential technologies are adopted in a way that maximizes societal benefits while minimizing associated risks.

Key Focus Areas- The centres within this network prioritize critical domains such as-

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) innovation.
2. Energy transition.
3. Cyber resilience.
4. Frontier technologies.

Global Footprint- The network already has existing centres spanning Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas. These centres operate within a global governance framework but are tailored to address region-specific priorities.

Newly Announced Centres

The five new centres are located in strategic global hubs, each with a distinct focus area tailored to local strengths and global needs.

Location	Centre Name	Key Focus & Objectives
Andhra Pradesh (India)	Centre for Energy and Cyber Resilience	Energy Transition- Promoting innovation to move towards sustainable energy sources. Cyber Resilience- Strengthening defense mechanisms against digital threats across various industries.
Paris (France)	European Centre for AI Excellence	Global Competitiveness- Enhancing Europe's standing in the global AI landscape. Trustworthy AI- Focusing on the development of sovereign and ethically sound AI systems.
London (United Kingdom)	Centre for AI-Driven Innovation	Tech Convergence- Exploring how AI intersects with frontier technologies. Key Fields- Specific focus on Quantum computing and Biotechnology.
Abu Dhabi (UAE)	Centre for Frontier Technologies	Public-Private Collaboration- Strong emphasis on joint ventures. Focus Areas- Quantum technologies, Robotics, and Space exploration.
Abu Dhabi (UAE)	Centre for Intelligent Future	Research Linkage- Connecting frontier AI research with real-world economic and societal challenges.

Global Significance of the Expansion

The establishment of these new centres carries significant weight in the international geopolitical and technological arena

International Cooperation- It strengthens the global mechanism for cooperation regarding the **responsible adoption** of emerging technologies.

Knowledge Sharing- It facilitates the exchange of regional insights, allowing countries to learn from one another to address global technology challenges.

Regulatory Support- The network supports governments in crafting adaptive and future-ready regulatory frameworks that can keep pace with rapid technological change.

Inclusive Growth- It reinforces the narrative of technology acting as a primary driver for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Understanding the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)

Definition- The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) represents a new phase of technological transformation characterized by the increasing convergence of the physical, digital, and biological worlds.

Distinction from Previous Revolutions

Earlier Revolutions- Typically driven by a single breakthrough (e.g., steam power, electricity, or computing).

4IR- Powered by the simultaneous and rapid advancement of multiple technologies and their fusion (e.g., AI combined with genetics, or IoT combined with manufacturing).

Source- <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/wef-to-launch-five-new-centres-for-fourth-industrial-revolution-one-in-india/article70542082.ece>

