

**Davos meeting 2024****Why in news?**

- This year's edition of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting was held from January 15 to January 19.
- The overarching theme for WEF 2024 was 'Rebuilding Trust'.

**World Economic Forum**

- It is the international non-governmental organization for Public-Private Cooperation.
  - It was founded in January 1971 by German engineer and economist Klaus Schwab.
- The Forum engages the foremost political, business, cultural and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.
  - It has no independent decision-making power.
- HQ: Cologny-Geneva, Switzerland.

**Davos meet**

- Annually, the WEF organizes a meeting at the end of January in Davos, a mountain resort in Graubünden, in the eastern Alps region of Switzerland.
- The Annual Meeting, also known as the Davos Agenda, has the objective of orienting global leaders on the imperatives of the year ahead.

**Different reports published by WEF**

- WEF also produces a series of annual reports such as –
  - Global Competitiveness Report,
  - Global Information Technology Report,
  - Global Gender Gap Report,
  - Global Risks Report,
  - Global Travel and Tourism Report,
  - Global Enabling Trade Report.

**Key takeaways from Davos meeting 2024**

- Artificial Intelligence
  - The one issue that took centre stage at this year's WEF meet was Artificial Intelligence (AI).
  - Its many transformational abilities for human welfare were discussed.
  - It also highlighted the potential threats such as:
    - the need for regulation,
    - fear of job losses,
    - the risks of impersonation and misinformation, and
    - the inequalities it can potentially worsen.
  - Overall, the participants agreed that the positives outweigh the negatives, and human intelligence did not face a major threat from AI.
- War and uncertainty
  - The summit highlighted the risk posed by a fragile geopolitical situation, wars in the Middle East and Europe, the threats to global supply chains, and the uncertainty around food security.
  - The head of the Palestine Investment Fund estimated at least \$15 billion would be needed to rebuild houses in Gaza alone.
  - However, Arab states said they would not fund reconstruction unless there was lasting peace.
- Climate
  - The need for businesses to adapt to climate change and for countries to unite for action against it despite differences was another topic of discussion.
  - In the financing of climate action in developing countries, assistance has to be provided by developed countries; otherwise, this inequality will only grow, resulting in winners and losers.
- China's economy
  - Facing a slowing economy, China tried to attract more investment from the West, which has witnessed some cooling.
  - At 5.2%, China's GDP growth in 2023 is still below pre-pandemic levels.
  - It is battling American attempts to isolate it, as evidenced in the semiconductor trade standoff.
- India specific observation
  - An assessment of Davos 2024 by consulting firm McKinsey and Company said:
    - India is transforming rapidly as one of the fastest growing large economies in the world.
    - When it comes to technology, talent, healthcare, and other areas, its future in 2024—and beyond—is worth paying attention to.
  - The summit announced the launch of a Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality with the support and endorsement by WEF and Government of India.
    - The idea of this alliance emerged from the G20 Leaders' Declaration.
    - The objective of this Alliance is to bring together global best practices, knowledge sharing and investments in the identified areas of women's health, education, and enterprise
    - Supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the alliance will be housed and anchored by the CII Centre for Women Leadership.
    - The World Economic Forum has come on board as a 'Network Partner' and Invest India as an 'Institutional Partner'.

**Three-year deadline to free Chhattisgarh from Maoist menace****Why in news?**

- At a review meeting of Chhattisgarh's Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) situation held in Raipur, Union Home Minister emphasised the need to free the affected pockets of the State within the next three years.
- The minister highlighted that the problem was confined only to certain pockets of Chhattisgarh.
  - In the past couple of months, the number of anti-Naxal operations have been on the rise in Bastar and other LWE-affected areas of the State.

**Left Wing Extremism (LWE)**

- Left-wing extremism is the single internal security threat that affects the largest number of States in India.
- LWE aims to overthrow the existing democratic state structure with violence as their primary weapon, and mass mobilization and strategic united fronts as complementary components.
  - They plan to usher in So-called 'New Democratic Revolution' in India.
- Left-wing extremists are popularly known as Maoists worldwide and as Naxalites in India.

**Reasons for the spread of LWE**

- Land Related Factors:
  - Encroachment and occupation of Government and Community lands (even the water-bodies) by powerful sections of society.
  - Lack of title to public land cultivated by the landless poor.
  - Poor implementation of laws prohibiting the transfer of tribal land to non-tribals in the Fifth Schedule areas.
  - Non-regularisation of traditional land rights.
- Displacement and Forced Evictions:
  - Eviction from lands traditionally used by tribals.
  - Displacements caused by irrigation and power projects without adequate arrangements for rehabilitation.
  - Large scale land acquisition for 'public purposes' without appropriate compensation or rehabilitation.
- Livelihood Related Causes:
  - Lack of food security – corruption in the Public Distribution System
  - Disruption of traditional occupations and lack of alternative work opportunities.
  - Deprivation of traditional rights in common property resources.
- Social Exclusion:
  - Denial of dignity.
  - Continued practice, in some areas, of untouchability in various forms.
  - Poor implementation of special laws on prevention of atrocities, protection of civil rights and the abolition of bonded labour etc.
- Governance Related Factors:
  - Corruption and inadequate provision/non-provision of essential public services including primary health care and education.
  - Misuse of powers by the police and violations of the norms of law.
  - Perversion of electoral politics and unsatisfactory working of local government institutions.

**Current LWE situation in India**

- Maoist violence came down
  - According to the Ministry of Home Affairs:
    - Maoist violence in the country has gone down by 77% since 2010;
    - The number of resultant deaths (security forces + civilians) has come down by 90 % from the all-time high of 1,005 in 2010 to 98 in 2022.
- Number of districts declared to be Naxal-affected
  - The government has cut the number of districts declared to be Naxal-affected from over 200 in the early 2000s to just 90 now.
  - It claims that the geographical spread of violence is actually restricted to just 45 districts.
    - According to the MHA, the arc of violence has been considerably restricted with just 25 districts accounting for 90% of the LWE violence.
  - The presence of Naxals is said to be minimal to zero in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Bihar, which were at one time their strongholds.

**Why does Chhattisgarh continue to remain troubled?**

- Late involvement of State Police in counter-Maoist operations
  - It is a widely accepted principle in counter-Maoist strategy that the war against Left Wing Extremism can only be won by the state police and not central forces.
    - This is because the state police have local knowledge and have local networks that are essential for the generation of intelligence.
  - It was through the active involvement of local police in the leading role that states such as Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand were able to end their Maoist problem.
  - This process, security establishment sources say, started late in Chhattisgarh.
  - By this time, police of neighbouring states had pushed Maoists from their states to Chhattisgarh, making it a concentrated zone of Maoist influence.
- Absence of roads in the interiors of Bastar
  - The absence of roads in the interiors of Bastar has stymied the operations of security forces.

- Minimal presence of the administration in the interiors of South Bastar has ensured that Maoists continue to have influence in the region.

**Response by Centre**

- Different schemes to support LWE states
  - Security Related Expenditure (SRE) - focuses on equipping security forces to fight Maoists;
  - The Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS) - aims to strengthen local police and intelligence set ups;
  - Special Central Assistance for building infrastructure such as roads in LWE districts.
- Massive presence of the CRPF
  - The Centre has maintained a massive presence of the CRPF in the affected states for almost two decades.
- Erection of mobile towers
  - Centre is pushing for the erection of mobile towers in the interiors, which would help the local people connect with the mainstream, and also generate technical intelligence.
  - Maoists sympathisers on the radar of Centre
  - The Centre has also unleashed the counter-terrorism National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Enforcement Directorate on CPI (Maoist) cadres and leaders.

**PRELIM FACTS**
**1. Ingenuity Mars Helicopter**

- NASA has re-established contact with its Ingenuity helicopter on Mars, the US space agency said recently.

**About Ingenuity Mars Helicopter:**

- It is a small, autonomous aircraft that flew to Mars aboard NASA's Perseverance rover.
- It was sent to Mars to perform experimental flight tests to determine if powered, controlled flight at the Red Planet was possible.
- Ingenuity's mission is experimental in nature and completely independent of the rover's science mission.
- Ingenuity was deployed to the surface on April 4, 2021.
- On April 19, it became the first aircraft in history to make a powered, controlled flight on another planet.
  - It rose to a height of 10 feet, hovered for 30 seconds, and then descended back to the ground.
  - The flight lasted 39.1 seconds.
  - It managed to fly in Mars' thin atmosphere, which isn't conducive for flying.
- It's piloted by on-board guidance, navigation, and control systems running algorithms.
- Perseverance acts as a relay between the chopper and the earth.

**Key Facts about Perseverance Rover:**

- It is a robotic explorer to land on Mars as part of NASA's ongoing Mars 2020 Mission.
- Main Job: Seek signs of ancient life and collect samples of rock and regolith (broken rock and soil) for possible return to Earth.
- The rover will collect samples of rock and soil, encase them in tubes, and leave them on the planet's surface to be returned to Earth at a future date.
- Launch: It was launched on July 30, 2020, from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- Landing: Successfully landed on the surface of Mars's Jezero Crater on February 18, 2021.
- Features:
  - It is about 3 metres long, 2.7 metres wide, and 2.2 metres tall.
  - It is about the size of a car but weighs only about 1,025 kilograms with all instruments on board.
  - Power source: Multi-Mission Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (MMRTG).
- Converts heat from the radioactive decay of plutonium into electricity.

**2. Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Programme**

- Rs 17,490 crore has been set aside for the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme, to bolster domestic electrolyser manufacturing, green hydrogen production.

**About Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Programme:**

- It is a subcomponent of National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Aim: To bolster domestic electrolyser manufacturing and green hydrogen production.
- In the initial stage, two distinct financial incentive mechanisms were proposed with an outlay of ₹ 17,490 crore up to 2029-30:
  - Incentive for manufacturing of electrolysers
  - Incentive for production of green hydrogen.
- Depending on the markets and technology development, specific incentive schemes and programmes will continue to evolve as the Mission progresses.
- Implementing agency: The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) would be the implementing agency responsible for the scheme's execution.

**What is National Green Hydrogen Mission?**

- It is implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy with an outlay of ₹ 19,744 crore from FY 2023-24 to FY 2029-30.
- The overarching objective of the Mission is to make India a global hub for the production, usage, and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- The expected outcomes of the mission by 2030, are as follows:
  - India's Green Hydrogen production capacity is likely to reach 5 MMT per annum, contributing to reduction in dependence on the import of fossil fuels. Achievement of Mission targets is expected to reduce a cumulative ₹ 1 lakh crore worth of fossil fuel imports by 2030.

- This is likely to leverage over ₹8 lakh crore in total investments and create over 6 lakh jobs.
- Nearly 50 MMT per annum of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are expected to be averted through the production and use of the targeted quantum of Green Hydrogen.
- It has a provision for supporting pilot projects for low-carbon steel, mobility, shipping, and ports.
- The Mission provides allocations for various sub-components of the Mission such as SIGHT, Pilot projects, R&D etc. to fund specific selected projects.
- There is no State-wise allocation made under the Mission.

Key Facts about Green Hydrogen:

- Green Hydrogen is produced by the process of electrolysis, where water is split into hydrogen and oxygen using electricity generated from renewable sources like solar, wind, or hydropower.
- This process results in a clean and emission-free fuel that has immense potential to replace fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions.

### 3. Havisure Vaccine

- Recently, the Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL) a wholly owned subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) launched India's first indigenously developed Hepatitis A vaccine 'Havisure' in Hyderabad.

About Havisure vaccine:

- It is a two-dose vaccine — first dose administered at above 12 months of age and the second at least six months after the first dose.
- The vaccine is recommended for children as part of the routine immunization as well as for individuals at risk of exposure or travel to the regions with high hepatitis A prevalence.
- In addition to this people with occupational risk of infection and suffering from chronic liver diseases also require Hepatitis A vaccination.

Key facts about Hepatitis A:

- It is an inflammation of the liver caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV).
- The virus is primarily spread when an uninfected (and unvaccinated) person ingests food or water that is contaminated with the faeces of an infected person.
- Hepatitis can be an acute (short-term) infection or a chronic (long-term) infection.
- There are different types of hepatitis, with different causes:
  - Viral hepatitis is the most common type. It is caused by one of several viruses -- hepatitis viruses A, B, C, D, and E.
  - Alcoholic hepatitis is caused by heavy alcohol use.
  - Toxic hepatitis can be caused by certain poisons, chemicals, medicines, or supplements.
  - Autoimmune hepatitis is a chronic type in which your body's immune system attacks your liver. The cause is not known, but genetics and your environment may play a role.
- Hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and hepatitis D spread through contact with the blood of someone who has the disease.
- Hepatitis B and D may also spread through contact with other body fluids. This can happen in many ways, such as sharing drug needles or having unprotected sex.
- Symptoms: Some people with hepatitis do not have symptoms and do not know they are infected.
- Common symptoms include: fever, malaise, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, nausea, abdominal discomfort, dark-coloured urine and jaundice.
- Treatment: There is no specific treatment for hepatitis A. Recovery from symptoms following infection may be slow and can take several weeks or months.

### 4. Great Indian Bustard

- The Supreme Court recently directed the Centre to come clean on its plans to save the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard.

About Great Indian Bustard:

- It is a bustard found on the Indian subcontinent.
- Scientific Name: *Ardeotis nigriceps*
- It is among the heaviest of the flying birds.
- Distribution: The species has a current viable population of 100- 150 individuals in India and mainly survives in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan that holds about 100 individuals.
- Habitat: It inhabits dry grasslands and scrublands.
- Features:
  - It is a large bird with a horizontal body and long, bare legs, giving it an ostrich-like appearance.
  - The sexes are roughly the same size, with the largest individuals weighing 15 kg (33 pounds).
  - It can easily be distinguished by its black crown on the forehead, contrasting with the pale neck and head.
  - The body is brownish, and the wings are marked with black, brown, and grey.
  - They breed mostly during the monsoon season, when females lay a single egg on open ground.
  - Lifespan: 12-15 years
  - These birds are opportunist eaters. Their diet ranges widely depending on the seasonal availability of food. They feed on grass seeds, insects like grasshoppers and beetles, and sometimes even small rodents and reptiles.
- Conservation Status:
  - IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
  - Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule 1
  - CITES: Appendix 1

**5. Willingdon Island**

- Recently, the Cochin Port Joint Trade Union Forum has urged the Prime Minister of India to take effective steps to revive the lost glory of Willingdon Island.

About Willingdon Island:

- It is among the most beautiful locations in the Kochi area.
- This is a man-made island, named after Lord Willingdon who was a British Viceroy of India.
- It is among the biggest of its kind in India.
- It is a major commercial centre and has some of the best hotels in the city.
- It is also home to the Kochi Naval Base of the Indian Navy, the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology and the Port of Kochi.
- It handles millions of tonnes of freight every year.
- The island is connected to the mainland by the Venduruthy Bridge.

Who was Lord Willingdon (1931 - 1936)?

- He was the 22nd Viceroy and Governor-General of India.
- Major events during his tenure
  - Introduction of the Government of India Act, 1935.
  - The Second Round Table Conference, held in 1931, saw the participation of Gandhi as a representative of the Congress.
  - British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald introduced the Communal Award in 1932.
  - The Poona Pact of 1932 was reached between Gandhi and Ambedkar to address provisions related to fair representation of backward classes.
  - The Third Round Table Conference, held in 1932, failed as neither Gandhi nor Congress attended.

**ANSWER WRITING**

**Q. Examine the concepts of emotional intelligence, and discuss their utilities and application in administrative practices.**

Answer: Emotional intelligence (EI) refers to the ability to recognize, understand, manage, and effectively use one's own emotions, as well as the ability to perceive, comprehend, and respond to the emotions of others. It involves a set of skills and competencies that enable individuals to navigate social interactions, make informed decisions, and manage interpersonal relationships with empathy and emotional awareness.

**Concepts of Emotional Intelligence:**

- Self-Awareness: Understanding one's emotions, recognizing their impact, and being aware of personal strengths and weaknesses in emotional responses.
- Self-Regulation: Managing and controlling one's emotions in different situations, exhibiting adaptability and a constructive approach to challenges.
- Motivation: Harnessing emotions to drive personal and professional goals, demonstrating resilience, and maintaining a positive outlook.
- Empathy: Sensing and understanding others' emotions, appreciating diverse perspectives, and cultivating strong interpersonal relationships.
- Social Skills: Effectively navigating social situations, communicating persuasively, and building and maintaining positive relationships with others.

**Utilities and Application in Administrative Practices:**

- Conflict Resolution: An emotionally intelligent civil servant can resolve conflicts efficiently by understanding and empathizing with people's emotions, fostering constructive communication for resolution.
  - For example, if there is a riot in a district, an emotionally intelligent civil servant can use their skills to calm the situation, identify root causes, and negotiate a peaceful solution for all parties involved.
- Leadership Effectiveness: Emotionally intelligent civil servants inspire and motivate teams by managing their own emotions and understanding/responding to team members' emotions.
  - For example, in a challenging project or task, an emotionally intelligent civil servant uses their awareness and regulation skills to foster a positive atmosphere. They communicate goals clearly, maintain confidence, and offer support to team members.
- Decision-Making: An emotionally intelligent civil servant makes decisions by considering the emotional impact on stakeholders, fostering a balanced and thoughtful approach.
  - For example, an emotionally intelligent civil servant can navigate impactful policy decisions by employing emotional facilitation, understanding, and problem-solving. They assess alternatives, anticipate stakeholder reactions, and implement decisions transparently and rationally.
- Employee Engagement: Emotionally intelligent civil servants can boost employee engagement by recognizing and addressing emotional needs, fostering a positive work environment.
  - For example, an emotionally intelligent civil servant can address high turnover or low morale by using empathy, social awareness, and relationship management skills to listen, appreciate employees, and foster a culture of trust and collaboration.
- Crisis Leadership: An emotionally intelligent civil servant can handle crises effectively by maintaining composure, making informed decisions, and providing support to teams and stakeholders facing challenging circumstances.
  - For example, during a crisis like a natural disaster or pandemic, emotionally intelligent civil servants leverage resilience, adaptability, and leadership to manage stress, coordinate resources, and communicate empathetically with affected individuals.

**Conclusion**

The concepts of emotional intelligence play a pivotal role in administrative practices, enhancing leadership effectiveness, decision-making, team collaboration, and overall organizational success. Civil servants who cultivate and apply emotional intelligence competencies contribute to positive work environments and sustainable organizational growth.

**MCQs**

1. Consider the following statements:
  1. A Dark Sky Park is a park that aims to preserve the night sky and promote astronomy education and stargazing.
  2. The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra is India's first Dark Sky Park.
  3. Tropical rainforest is the primary type of forest ecosystem found in Pench Tiger Reserve.
 How many of the statements given above are correct?
  - (a) Only one
  - (b) Only two**
  - (c) All three
  - (d) None
2. Which one of the following statements is correct with reference to the India Digital Ecosystem Architecture (InDEA)?
  - (a) It aims to promote the development of stand-alone, isolated digital systems for different government agencies.
  - (b) Its purpose is to guide the creation of interconnected and interoperable digital platforms across government departments and sectors.**
  - (c) It aims to incentivize the private sector to develop and manage digital services for citizens without government involvement.
  - (d) It seeks to establish a centralized control center for managing all digital initiatives across the country.
3. With reference to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 Report, which of the following statements are correct?
  1. The ASER 2023 report focuses on rural youth aged 14-18, specifically on their ability to apply reading and math skills to everyday situations, and their aspirations.
  2. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is the most popular among rural youth enrolled in higher education (Std XI and above).
  3. Females are better at reading in their regional language, while males excel in arithmetic and English.
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
  - (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only**
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
4. What is "Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)", sometimes seen in the news?
  - (a) An Israeli radar system
  - (b) India's indigenous anti-missile programme
  - (c) An American anti-missile system**
  - (d) A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea
5. In India, it is legally mandatory for which of the following to report on cyber security incidents?
  1. Service providers
  2. Data centers
  3. Body corporate
 Select the correct answer using the code given below:
  - (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3**
6. With reference to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), consider the following statements:
  1. CEPI is a branch of the World Health Organisation.
  2. Serum Institute of India (SII) has joined the CEPI global network.
  3. The 100 Days Mission is related to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (CEPI).
 How many of the above statements are incorrect?
  - (a) Only one**
  - (b) Only two
  - (c) All three
  - (d) None
7. Consider the following statements about Great Indian Bustard:
  1. It is among the heaviest of the flying birds.
  2. It is listed as Endangered in IUCN Red list.
  3. It is a bustard found on the Indian subcontinent.
 How many of the statements given above are correct?
  - (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only**
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
8. With reference to the Green Bonds, consider the following statements:
  1. When a Green Bond is issued in a foreign currency, it implies that the bond's proceeds will be used only in the foreign country.
  2. A country chooses to issue Green Bonds in other nations' currencies to support domestic industries.
 Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2**
9. Consider the following statements about Havisure vaccine:
  1. It is India's first indigenously developed Hepatitis A vaccine.
  2. It is developed by Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL).
  3. It is a single dose vaccine administered at below 12 months of age.
 How many of the statements given above are correct?
  - (a) 1 and 2 only**
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
10. Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched Project Prayas:
  1. The project aims to facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration for Indian workers and students.
  2. It consolidates state-level initiatives and focuses on improving coordination between state and central governments.
  3. It was launched by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
 How many of the above statements is/are correct?
  - (a) Only one
  - (b) Only two**
  - (c) All three
  - (d) None