



INDIA 4 IAS TM

For success in a changing world

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 14-11-2024

GS-1

- 1. Jawaharlal Nehru**

GS-2

- 2. National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)**

GS-3

- 3. Digital Euro**
- 4. Millimeter Wave Transceiver**
- 5. Ranthambore National Park**

Jawaharlal Nehru

Syllabus: GS-1; Modern Indian History- Important Personalities

Context

- Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister and the architect of modern India, is remembered every year on his birth anniversary, celebrated as **Children's Day**.



Early Life and Education

- Birth: Born on November 14, 1889, in Allahabad (now Prayagraj), Uttar Pradesh.
- Education: Educated at Harrow and later at Trinity College, Cambridge. Trained in law at Inner Temple, London, returning to India in 1912.
- Influence of Gandhi: Deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru joined the Indian National Congress and played a significant role in the struggle for independence.

Role in Freedom Movement

- **Involvement:** Joined the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920) and later participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement.
- **Leadership:** Elected as Congress President multiple times, advocating for Purna Swaraj (complete independence) as early as 1929 at the Lahore session.

- **Socialist Vision:** Known for his socialist ideals, Nehru believed in creating a secular, progressive, and equitable society.

Contributions as Prime Minister (1947-1964)

- **Democratic Foundation:** Focused on establishing a democratic framework with strong institutions and the principle of secularism.
- **Economic Policies:** Advocated for a mixed economy, establishing public sector enterprises while encouraging private sector growth, with an emphasis on planned economic development through Five-Year Plans.
- **Non-Alignment:** A pioneer of the Non-Aligned Movement, Nehru maintained India's stance of neutrality during the Cold War, building friendly relations with both the US and USSR.
- **Science and Technology:** Emphasized scientific progress, setting up institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to promote research and technological development.
- **Education and Social Reform:** Advocated for universal education, especially primary education, leading to the establishment of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and initiatives to increase literacy and reduce inequality.

Foreign Policy

- **Panchsheel Principles:** Established the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence" with China in 1954, aiming for peaceful foreign relations.
- **Relations with Neighbors:** His tenure witnessed conflicts like the 1962 Sino-Indian War, exposing India's defense vulnerabilities.

Legacy and Ideology

- **Vision of India:** Nehru envisioned a secular, socialist, and industrialized India. His ideals, encapsulated in his writings like *Discovery of India* and *Glimpses of World History*, continue to influence Indian politics and society.
- **Children's Day:** Nehru's birthday, November 14, is celebrated as Children's Day in India to honor his love and dedication toward children.

Criticisms and Controversies

- **Economic Model:** Criticized for focusing on heavy industry and public sector dominance, which some argue limited private sector growth and led to economic inefficiencies.
- **Foreign Policy Setbacks:** His pacifist approach faced criticism after the 1962 war with China, where India's lack of military readiness was exposed.

Important Works by Nehru

- **The Discovery of India:** A reflection on India's rich cultural heritage and philosophy.
- **Glimpses of World History:** A collection of letters written by Nehru to his daughter, Indira Gandhi, providing insights into world history.
- **An Autobiography:** Covers his journey in the freedom movement and his political philosophy.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

Syllabus: GS-2; Constitutional Bodies

Context

- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has taken cognisance of representations sent to it against a June advisory of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), asking state forest departments to submit action plans on the relocation of villages from tiger reserves.

About

- The **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** was established to safeguard and promote the interests of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India.

Constitutional and Legislative Background

- **Established Under:** Article 338A of the Indian Constitution, inserted by the **89th Amendment Act, 2003**.
- **Objective:** To oversee the protection, welfare, development, and advancement of Scheduled Tribes.
- **Replacement:** NCST was carved out from the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Composition

- **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and 3 other members**, all appointed by the President of India.
- **Tenure:** Members hold office for a term specified by the President and are eligible for reappointment.

Functions and Powers

- **Investigative Role:** Inquires into complaints regarding the deprivation of rights and safeguards of STs.
- **Advisory Role:** Advises on socio-economic development programs for STs and evaluates the progress of ST welfare schemes.
- **Monitoring:** Monitors the implementation of laws, regulations, and schemes designed for ST welfare.
- **Reporting:** Submits an annual report to the President, who presents it in both Houses of Parliament.
- **Research:** Studies problems related to land alienation, displacement, and other issues affecting STs.

Special Powers

- **Civil Court Powers:** The NCST can summon individuals, demand documents, and take evidence under oath.
- **Legal Interventions:** Has the authority to intervene in legal proceedings concerning the protection and welfare of STs.

Challenges and Limitations

- **Budget Constraints:** Limited financial resources restrict the commission's ability to implement welfare programs effectively.
- **Enforcement Power:** The NCST lacks punitive authority, making it dependent on recommendations rather than enforcement.
- **Complex ST Issues:** Issues like displacement, forest rights, and socio-economic marginalization require multi-departmental collaboration.

Digital Euro

Syllabus: GS-3; Economy- Digital Currency

Context

- The **European Central Bank (ECB)** has been working on a digital currency for some time now; its "preparation phase" commenced in November 2023.

- This currency is meant to be the government's alternative to existing cashless options such as credit cards, apps, cryptocurrencies, and bank transfers.

About

- The Digital Euro is a proposed central bank digital currency (CBDC) by the European Central Bank (ECB) aimed at providing a secure, **electronic form of the euro**.
- Unlike cryptocurrencies, it is a digital extension of the traditional currency issued by a central authority.

Key Objectives

- **Financial Inclusion:** Ensures that all citizens have access to digital payments.
- **Monetary Sovereignty:** Provides the EU with control over its digital payments, reducing dependence on foreign payment systems.
- **Improved Payment Efficiency:** Facilitates faster, more secure, and cost-effective transactions.
- **Combating the Shadow Economy:** Helps reduce tax evasion and improve transparency by tracking digital transactions.
- **Supporting Innovation:** Creates a foundation for digital financial products and services, supporting innovation in the EU's digital economy.

Benefits

- **Enhanced Payment Security:** Centralized regulation helps in maintaining trust.
- **Offline Payment Capabilities:** Proposed features for payments without internet access.
- **Privacy Protections:** Though traceable, the ECB aims to ensure privacy and prevent misuse.

Challenges

- **Privacy Concerns:** Balancing transparency with user privacy is complex.
- **Cybersecurity Risks:** Increased risk of cyberattacks.
- **Banking System Impact:** May reduce bank deposits if people prefer holding digital euros.
- **Regulatory Complexities:** Coordinating with existing banking and payment systems is a challenge.

Current Status and Future Plans

- The ECB has been conducting experiments and gathering feedback, with a pilot phase expected soon.

- Full-scale deployment is projected for the coming years, subject to regulatory approvals and technical feasibility.

Global Relevance

- The Digital Euro is part of a global trend, with many central banks (e.g., China's Digital Yuan, India's Digital Rupee) exploring CBDCs.
- Its adoption could influence global finance, challenging the dollar's dominance in digital transactions.

Implications for India

- India can draw insights on CBDC implementation, balancing privacy, and boosting financial inclusion.
- The Digital Euro's approach to offline transactions and privacy management could be valuable for India's own digital currency efforts.
- This development in digital finance aligns with the global shift towards digital currencies and may influence international economic and regulatory standards in the near future.

Millimeter Wave Transceiver

Syllabus: GS-3; Science & Tech

Context

- The **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee (IIT-Roorkee) to advance 5G connectivity solutions in rural areas. This collaboration focuses on developing a "millimeter wave transceiver," which will **enhance rural connectivity through innovative technology**.

Project Focus: Millimeter Wave Backhaul Technology

- The project emphasizes the development of millimeter wave backhaul technology, which connects **small cell-based stations (SBSs)** to gateways through a blend of fiber and millimeter wave technology.
- This mixed optical and millimeter wave approach is expected to reduce equipment size and overall project costs.

Boosting Domestic Manufacturing and Job Creation

- The project aims to support the growth of small and medium-scale industries by encouraging local manufacturing.
- By integrating polymer-based structures with metals, this initiative will **reduce India's dependency on foreign semiconductor fabrication, creating new job opportunities for engineering graduates.**

Generating Intellectual Property and Skilled Workforce

- In addition to cost and size efficiencies, the project will foster intellectual property (IP) creation and develop a skilled workforce in millimeter wave and Sub-THz technologies.
- This expertise will be critical for the future rollout of 5G and 6G technologies.

Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) Support

- This collaboration is funded under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) scheme by the DoT, a program designed to support Indian startups, academia, and R&D institutions.
- The TTDF is instrumental in enabling the design, development, and commercialization of indigenous telecommunications products and solutions.

Ranthambore National Park

Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity

Context

- Ranthambore National Park, located in Rajasthan, India is home to many Bengal tigers and is also one of the popular tourist places. However, recent reports have raised alarms about the park's tiger population. According to PTI report, in a year's time 25 out of the total 75 tigers have gone missing from the forest.

About

- **Location:** Situated in the Sawai Madhopur district of southeastern Rajasthan, India.
- **Established:** Declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and gained national park status in 1980.
- **Area:** Covers approximately 392 square kilometers.

- **Geography:** Lies between the Aravalli and Vindhya hill ranges, featuring dense deciduous forests, open grasslands, and rocky outcrops.



Biodiversity

- **Flora:** Predominantly dry deciduous forests with dhok trees (*Anogeissus pendula*) being the most common. Other vegetation includes banyan, mango, tamarind, and pipal trees.
- **Fauna:**
 - **Tigers:** Ranthambore is renowned for its population of Bengal tigers, making it one of the best places to observe tigers in the wild.
 - **Other Mammals:** Leopards, sambar deer, spotted deer (chital), nilgai, sloth bears, striped hyenas, and Indian wild boars.
 - **Birds:** Around 320 bird species, including crested serpent eagles, parakeets, and kingfishers.
 - **Reptiles:** Includes Indian rock pythons, crocodiles, and turtles.

Conservation Status

- **Project Tiger:** Included under Project Tiger in 1973, which aims to protect tigers and their habitats.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, poaching, human-wildlife conflict, and tourism pressure.

Cultural Significance

- **Ranthambore Fort:** A UNESCO World Heritage Site located within the park, dating back to the 10th century. It reflects the rich historical and architectural heritage of the region.
- **Banyan Tree:** Houses one of India's largest banyan trees, a significant natural attraction within the park.