

5 December, 2021 Current Affairs

1. Indian Navy Day:



- The Indian Navy Day is celebrated on December 4 annually.
- This year the Indian Navy Day has been got celebrated under the following theme:
- **The theme is** “Indian Navy – Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive.”
- The theme is just for sending a message that India is harshly watching the moves of the Chinese in the Indian Ocean Region and the Indian Navy is combat ready to encounter the Chinese forces anytime. The message is also for Pakistani forces as well.
- Every year the Indian Navy Day is celebrated to memorialize Operation Trident. The operation was launched by the Indian Navy during the India-Pakistan war of 1971 to attack Karachi Harbour.

What is Operation Trident?

The Operation Trident was launched in the night of December 4.

During that attack Indian Navy ravaged the fuel Storage tankers at Pakistan Naval headquarters which is located in Karachi. The Indian Navy also sank 4 of the Pakistani boats and killed 500 Pakistani Naval personal. This included minesweepers and destroyer as well.

For the first time India deployed an anti-ship missile during the India Pakistan war of 1971. The operation Trident was followed by operation Python.

What is Operation python?

After the first attack during operation Trident, the Pakistan force attempted to outsmart the Indian Navy by mingling with merchant ships. The operation Python was launched to counter this move of the Pakistan Navy.

Why was Operation Trident launched?

In the evening of December 3, 1971, Pakistan attacked Indian Air bases. In response to the attack the Indian Defence Force launched Operation Trident. Three high speed missile boats namely Nirghat, Nipat, Veer were dispatched towards the Karachi port.

History of Indian Navy day:

Earlier during the British rule, Indian Navy Day was celebrated in the month of October coinciding with the Royal Navy's Trafalgar Day. The Trafalgar Day falls on October 21.

Indian Navy

The President of India is the supreme commander of Indian Navy. A four-star admiral is appointed as the Chief of Indian Navy and he commands the navy. The Indian Navy was as founded in 1612 in order to protect the British merchant ships.

The current Chief of Naval **Staff (CNS) is Admiral R. Hari Kumar. The** 25th Navy Chief took over from **Karambir Singh**, who retired on 30 November 2021 after four decades of service from the navy.

2. From 2022 airports will get facial recognition:



Now the air passengers can use a face scan as their boarding pass from 2022.

The **first airports** to roll out the facility are **Vijayawada, Kolkata, Pune and Varanasi.**

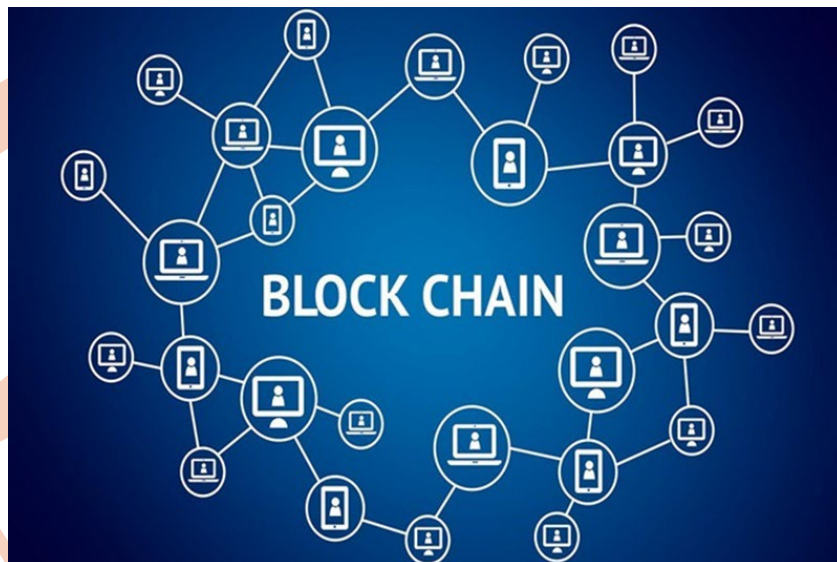
What are the key points of the plan?

- The **NEC Corporation Private Limited** has been chosen by the Airport Authority of India to implement this project.
- The details of face recognition data will be stored in **Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem.**
- Through a mobile application, the passenger **has to send PNR, pax details and facial biometrics** to the Biometric Boarding System of the departing airport to avail this service. The passenger can also choose not to opt for the service. Its mean it is optional.
- The Facial recognition will be done using **software designed by National Institute of Standards and Technology.**

It is a part of Digi Yatra Policy:

- The project is to be implemented as part of Digi Yatra Policy. This policy is being implemented by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- Under this, the ministry's objective is to provide biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports. This will help the passengers to walk through the security scanners swiftly.
- It will remove redundancies and enhance resource utilization.

3. The proposal of the National Blockchain Strategy:



- Recently, the National Blockchain Strategy was proposed by the Ministry of Electronics and IT.
- The strategy has adopted multi – institutional approach. It involves NIC (National Informatics Centre), C – DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing) and NICS (National Informatics Centre services Inc) for offering blockchain as service.

What is the National Blockchain Strategy?

- The aim of the strategy is to provide trusted digital platform for providing e – governance services using blockchain technology.
- This strategy involves human resource development, collaboration, regulatory framework, technology stack, standards development.

- It seeks the union government to develop state – specific block chain applications.

Salient Features:

- The strategy will explore the possibility of use of technology for medical supplies and vaccines.
- It will improve the transparency and efficiency in governance.
- NITI Aayog has recognised Blockchain technology as a promising technology. According to NITI Aayog, the technology has unique features such as accountability and decentralisation.

National Blockchain Strategy on Crypto currency

- The National Blockchain Strategy has kept crypto currency out of the extent of its framework.
- However, the Government of India had listed a bill called “The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021”.
- This bill provides a framework for the creation of official digital currency. Also, the RBI is to create digital money.

4. UAE has signed a deal of purchasing record 80 Rafale jets:



- Recently, The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has signed 14 billion Euros of agreement for 80 Rafale warplanes with France.
- This is the largest international order ever made for the Rafale jets by any country.

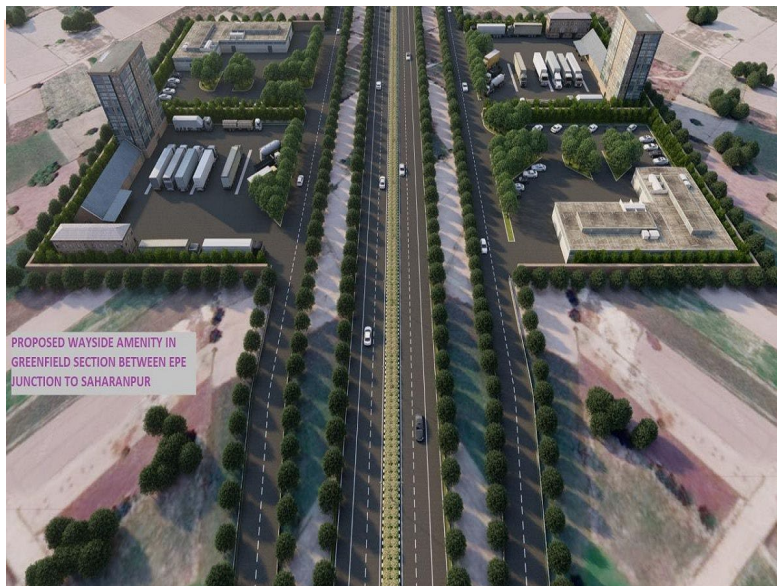
Facts about the Deal:

- UAE and France recently signed a deal of 17 billion Euros deal. Under the deal, UAE will buy 80 Rafale jets and 12 Caracal military transport helicopters.
- Due to this deal 7,000 jobs will be created in France. Also, it will guarantee the supply chain of Dassault Aviation – made aircraft till 2031.
- For observation: The UAE rival Qatar had recently bought 36 Rafale jets from France.
- The Rafale jets will replace the Mirage 2000 fleet of UAE. However, the US F-35 jets are to remain deployed. The UAE's two major defence suppliers are France and USA.

Point of Criticisms:

- UAE is one of the biggest customers of French defence industry. And between 2011 and 2020, UAE has purchased 4.7 billion Euros worth military goods from France. And consequently, UAE the fifth largest arms customer of France.
- France was criticised when some of these weapons were used against Yemen. In Yemen, a Saudi – led coalition is fighting against the Iran backed rebels. And UAE is a part of the Saudi – led coalition.

5. PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor:



- Recently, the [PM Narendra Modi](#) has inaugurated the Delhi – Dehradun corridor (Eastern Peripheral Expressway Junction to Dehradun) along with Child Friendly City Project Dehradun, state-of-the-art [Perfume and Fragrance Laboratory](#) (Centre for Aromatic Plants) at Doon.
- This corridor will reduce the distance between the two cities from 248 – km to 180 – km. The total length of the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway will be [almost 175 km](#).

What are the other important projects?

- 120 MW Vyasi [hydroelectricity project](#).
- 38 – Km long all weather [Chardham road project](#) between Shrikot and Devprayag.
- 33 – Km stretch between [Kaudilya and Brahmapuri](#).

Key Facts of Delhi – Dehradun corridor:

- The PM Modi laid the foundation stone for Delhi – Dehradun corridor.
- The highway will engage a cost [of Rs. 8,300 crores](#).
- The project is to be executed in Engineering, Procurement and Construction mode.
- In EPC mode, the government pays the private developer for constructing roads. And the toll revenue accrue to the government.
- The highway is to be divided [into 4 sections](#).
- Section 1 is to be developed [as 6 lanes](#).
- Also, it is divided into two packages. The package 1 falls in Delhi portion and Package 2 falls in Uttar Pradesh portion.
- The highway is intended to [encourage economic activities and encourage investment](#).
- The travel time between Delhi-Dehradun by road will be reduced from eight hours to about two-and-a-half hours.
- It will be [Asia's largest 12 km](#) wildlife elevated corridor for uninterrupted movement of wildlife.
- This expressway will have more [than 750 rain water harvesting](#) and water recharge points at an interval of [500 meters](#). It will have six interchanges, four flyovers, six major bridges, [10 minor and two ROies and 10 VUPs](#).

6. World Soil Day:



World
Soil Day

- The World Soil Day is celebrated on December 5 annually.
- This day is observed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) operating under the United Nations and also by several other international organizations.

This year, the theme for the World Soil Day is:

“ Halt soil salinization, enhance soil production”

This remarks the fact that the food security depends on the health of the soil.

Importance of the Soil:

- Soils host more than 25 percent of the biodiversity of the earth. It is important to control soil pollution as bad soil management will affect the microorganisms below the ground.
- These microorganisms are helping continuously to preserve the eco system. They help in fixing nitrogen that is essential for plant growth.
- They add nutrients also to the soil by the process of decomposition.

History of the day celebration:

- The International Union of Soil Sciences had recommended to celebrate World Soil Day on December 5. Under [the leadership of Thailand](#), the FAO supported the formal establishment of World Soil Day.
- The decision to celebrate the day was made under the [Global Soil Partnership](#). In 2014 this World Soil Day was celebrated for the first time.

What was the real reason for December 5 being chosen?

The day corresponds to the birthday of the [late King Bhumibol Adulyadej](#) of Thailand. He was the main proponent of the initiative.

Soil Conservation in India:

- India focuses on [regional soil conservation](#) programmes. For instance, the Cherrapunjee Ecological Project was launched to enhance soil moisture in [Sohra Plateau](#).
- However, the [Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Yojana](#) that focuses on development of ranfed farming systems in the country, focuses on soil quality all over India. Also, the [Soil Health Card Scheme](#) was launched.

Extensive Soil Conservation Practices:

- The extensive soil conservation [programmes are reduced](#) tillage, crop rotation, cross-slope farming, cover cropping and mulching.
- The Indian Government [implements mixed cropping](#), mixed farming, controlled grazing, construction of check dams, etc. Also, the GoI has imposed ban on shifting cultivation.

7. Demand for a separate state, Greater Tipraland:

Why it is in headlines:

Recently, many tribal outfits in Tripura have joined hands to push their demand for a separate state, **Greater Tipraland** for indigenous communities in the region.



Key facts of the issue:

- TIPRA Motha (Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance) and IPFT (Indigenous People's Front of Tripura) parties of Tripura are demanding a separate state of 'Greater Tipraland' for the indigenous communities of the north-eastern state.
- They want the Centre to carve out the separate state under Article 2 and 3 of the Indian Constitution.
- Among the 19 notified Scheduled Tribes in Tripura, Tripuris (aka Tipra and Tiprasas) are the largest.
- According to the 2011 census, there are at least 5.92 lakh Tripuris in the state, followed by Bru or Reang (1.88 lakh) and Jamatias (83,000).
- These above three tribal groups are the major tribals in the state. Some of the minor tribal groups have joined hands and formed TIPRA Motha (Tipraha Indigenous Regional Alliance) and IPFT (Indigenous People's Front of Tripura) political parties.

Constitutional viability in the issue:

- According to article 2 of the constitution "The Parliament has the right to permit the establishment of new states and union territories and also permit the entry of new states and UTs into the Indian Union".
- Whereas the article 3 says that "Parliament has the right to increase or diminish the area of a state".

Why did the issue come into the news?

- Tripura was an empire ruled by the Manikya dynasty from the late 13th century until the signing of the Instrument of Accession with the Indian government in 1949.
- The real cause of the demand is anxiety of the indigenous communities in connection with the change in the demographics of the state, which has reduced them to a minority.
- It happened due to the displacement of Bengalis from the erstwhile East Pakistan between 1947 and 1971.
- In 1881, the population of the tribals was 63.77% in Tripura which declined to 31.80% by 2011.
- In the intervening decades, ethnic conflict and insurgency gripped the state, which shares a nearly 860-km long boundary with Bangladesh.
- The joint forum has also pointed out that the indigenous people have not only been reduced to a minority, but have also been dislodged from land reserved for them by the penultimate king of the Manikya dynasty Bir Bikram Kishore Debbarman.