

Operation Ganga

March 1, 2022

In news- The Government of India has launched Operation Ganga to bring back Indians stranded in the war hit Ukraine recently.

About the Operation-

- India operated **its first evacuation flight under Operation Ganga and brought back 219 Indians from Romania's capital Bucharest** to Mumbai.
- The second evacuation flight carrying 250 nationals landed in Delhi.
- The third flight evacuated 240 Indians from Hungarian capital Budapest, whereas the fourth and fifth flight flew 198 and 249 more passengers from Bucharest to Delhi.
- **Even as Air India flights were being used to carry out the rescue initiative, Spicejet, Indigo and Air India Express have now joined the mission.**
- Under this, India has already successfully brought back more than a 1,000 of its nationals from the country.
- It has also set up **24x7 control centres to assist in the evacuation of Indians** through the border crossing points with Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovak Republic.
- **A Twitter handle, 'OpGanga Helpline'**, has also been dedicated to the mission, where all information regarding evacuation process and advisories of embassies are shared to keep everyone up-to-date.

India's major evacuation operations-

- **Operation Devi Shakti:** An evacuation operation by the Indian Armed Forces (IAF) was kicked off in August **2021 to safely bring back Indian nationals from Afghanistan**

after the collapse of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the fall of Kabul, the capital city of the Taliban.

- **Vande Bharat Mission:** Special flights were operated across the globe in this mission to bring back the nationals who were left stranded in foreign countries due to the **coronavirus pandemic**.
- **Wuhan Airlift:** In one of the most difficult evacuation flights, India airlifted its citizens safe from China's **coronavirus-hit city Wuhan in January 2020**.
- **Operation Samudra Setu:** It was a naval operation launched on May 5, 2020 as part of the national effort to bring home Indian citizens from overseas during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Operation Maitri:** The government of India carried out this mission to safely **bring the nationals from Nepal after the deadly earthquake in 2015**.
- **Operation Raahat:** Hundreds of Indians and other nationals were **rescued under this operation during the unrest at Yemen's capital Sana'a after the complete takeover by Houthi rebel fighters in January 2015**.
- **Operation Safe Homecoming:** The Indian government launched this operation **to rescue over 15,000 Indian national stranded in Libya, which was in the midst of a civil war**.
- **Operation Sukoon:** As **Israel and Lebanon broke into military conflict in July 2006**, the Government of India rescued its stranded citizens by launching 'Operation Sukoon', which is now famously known as the 'Beirut Sealift'.
- **Operation Amnesty Airlift:** The mission was carried out **in September 1996 to bring back the Indian nationals who did not have valid permits from the United Arab Emirates**.
- **Kuwait Airlift:** In one of the most massive operations in Indian history, **the Indian Air Force joined hands with Air India in airlifting stranded Indian nationals in**

Kuwait in August 1990. Nearly 170, 000 citizens were safely airlifted in this operation which was carried out just before the Persian Gulf war in 1990.