

Operation Samudra Setu- 2

May 6, 2021

In news: The Indian Navy has initiated Operation Samudra Setu-II to aid in the faster transportation of medical oxygen and other supplies from abroad due to the surge in Covid-19 cases.

About the Operation-

- Nine warships from all **three Naval Commands** (Mumbai, Visakhapatnam and Kochi) have been deployed to bring relief material from **friendly foreign countries in Persian Gulf and South-east Asia**.
- These warships will undertake shipment of **liquid oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment**.
- **INS Kolkata and INS Talwar** were the first batch of ships that were immediately diverted for the task and entered the port of Manama in Bahrain on April 30.
- On the Eastern seaboard, **INS Airavat** is scheduled to enter Singapore for embarking Liquid oxygen tanks and **INS Jalashwa** is standing by in the region to embark medical stores at short notice.
- The second batch of ships comprising **Kochi, Trikand and Tabar missions** deployed in Arabian sea has also been diverted to join the national effort.
- From the **Southern Naval Command**, the landing ship tank **INS Shardul** is being readied to join the Operation.
- All these have been designed and developed in-house by the Indian Navy and **are all made in India**.

Operation Samudra Setu- 1

- Indian Navy launched Operation "Samudra Setu" – meaning "Sea Bridge", as a part of national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in 2020.
- The operation progressed in close **coordination with**

Ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Health and various other agencies of the Government of India and State governments.

- It is **part of Vande Bharat mission**.
- As part of **Phase 1**, Indian Naval **Ships Jalashwa and Magar** conducted evacuation operations from the port of Malè, Republic of Maldives.
- **INS Shardul** took part in evacuation from Iran and on it, all the innovative products made by the Indian Navy to stop the spreading of the global pandemic were available.
- Special provisions were made for the evacuation operation onboard all these ships and were fully equipped with medical supplies, doctors, hygienists and nutritionists.