

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—NOVEMBER 9, 2020

NATIONAL

- On November 8, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced that the shipping ministry will be renamed as the Ministry of ports, shipping and waterways.
- ✓ The PM made this announcement while inaugurating the Ro-Pax terminal at Hazira and flagging off the Ro-Pax ferry service between Ghogha and Hazira in Gujarat through video conferencing.



- ✓ The renaming has been done because the shipping ministry has been carrying out the tasks of ports and waterways in the country
- ✓ The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) will remain as the statutory authority for the notified national waterways, which include rivers, canals and creeks
- ✓ The Ro-Pax ferry vessel called the “Voyage Symphony” is a three-deck vessel with wide range of facilities
- ✓ It has a load capacity to carry thirty trucks, 100 passenger cars and 500 passengers.

- ✓ The ferry will work as a Gateway to Saurashtra and South Gujarat.
 - ✓ It will reduce the distance between Hazira and Ghogha from 370 km to 90 km and simultaneously reduce the cargo travel time from 10 to 12 hours to 4 hours.
 - ✓ The ferry service will bridge Gulf of Khambhat or Gulf of Cambay
 - ✓ Ghogha is a fishing hamlet while Hazira is a greenfield port in the state of Gujarat
- **The Centre - had recently announced that it is planning to expand the PLI (Production Linked Incentive) scheme to more than ten sectors.**
- ✓ This includes food processing, leather, textiles, battery manufacturing, as suggested by NITI Aayog.
 - ✓ Currently, the pharmaceuticals (and medical devices) and electronics are under the scheme as they are labour intensive.
 - ✓ The remaining four sectors are to be decided soon.
 - ✓ In March 2020, the Centre introduced the PLI scheme to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce imports.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, the central government will provide incentives to the companies on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.
 - ✓ Currently, under the PLI scheme, 4% to 6% incentive has been planned for electronic companies that manufacture mobile phones and other electronic components such as diodes, transistors, thyristors, capacitors, resistors.
 - ✓ The PLI scheme on pharma products focus on active pharmaceutical ingredients (API), which includes drugs such as Vitamin B1, penicillin, meropenem, aspirin and atorvastatin.
 - ✓ The other two schemes launched to develop Electronics industry in India are the Scheme for Production of Manufacturing of Electronic components and Semiconductors and Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters Scheme.
 - ✓ Under the PLI scheme, the union government recently approved Rs 10.5 crores to establish electronics manufacturing units.
- **On November 7, the Atal Innovation Mission-Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0 - was launched for India and Russia school children.**
- ✓ The programme aims to develop technological solutions for both the countries



- ✓ It will be held between November 7, 2020 and November 21, 2020.
- ✓ Around 48 students and 16 educators are to participate in the programme.

- ✓ Under the programme students are encouraged to develop innovative solutions in the field of block chain, artificial intelligence and machine learning.
 - ✓ SIRIUS refers to Scientific International Research in Unique Terrestrial Station.
 - ✓ It is a series of experiments that investigates flight to the moon
 - ✓ The joint-programme between AIM and SIRIUS is based on a MoU signed during PM Narendra Modi's visit to Russia in 2018.
 - ✓ The Atal Innovation Mission was launched to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in the country.
 - ✓ Under the mission, Atal tinkering labs are established in schools to promote creativity in children.
 - ✓ The schemes under Atal Innovation Mission are administered by NITI Aayog.
 - ✓ The Atal Innovation Mission recently launched Artificial Intelligence Modules in schools in association with National Association of Software and Services (NASSCOM).
- **On November 7, the government - announced that over 11 lakh MSMEs have registered on the new online system of Udyam Registration, which was launched in July 2020.**



- ✓ According to the data released by the government, over 3.72 lakh have been registered under manufacturing category and 6.31 lakh have registered under service sector.
- ✓ Of these registered enterprises, 93.17% were micro enterprises, 5.62% were small enterprises and 1.21 were medium enterprises.
- ✓ Around 7.98 lakh enterprises were owned by male, 1.73 lakh enterprises were owned by female entrepreneurs.
- ✓ Around 11,188 enterprises were owned by the third gender entrepreneurs.
- ✓ The top five industries of registrations include textile, food products, apparel, machinery and equipment and fabricated metal products.

- ✓ The leading states in the registration are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ According to the Annual Report of Ministry of MSME, there are 6.34 crores of MSMEs in the country with around half of them situated in rural India.
- ✓ Any person planning to establish as micro, medium or small enterprise shall file registration at the Udyam registration portal with a self declaration.
- ✓ Upon registration, the enterprise is provided with a unique number called the “Udyam Registration Number”
- ✓ Udyam Sakhi portal was launched for women entrepreneurs separately.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On November 8, the US President Joe Biden - announced a 12-member Task Force to deal with Covid-19 in the United States of America**

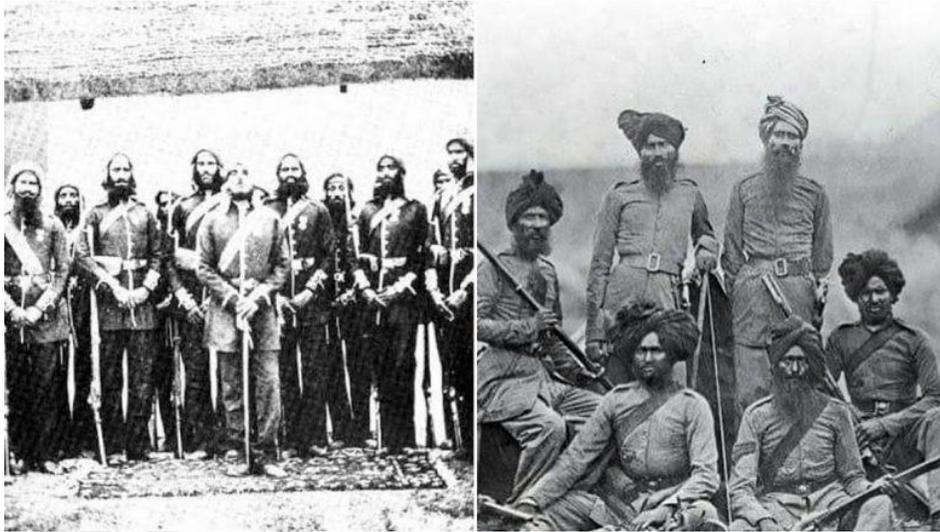


- ✓ The task force is to be headed by a former General Surgeon Vivek Murthy and other officials from Food and Drug Administration and universities.
- ✓ Vivek Murthy was born in England to immigrants from Karnataka and then the family moved to Florida
- ✓ Vivek served as the nineteenth Surgeon General of the United States and he was the youngest to get qualified to the post.
- ✓ He co-founded VISIONS, an organisation that focuses on HIV/AIDS education.
- ✓ He also co-founded the Swasthya community health partnership to train women as community health workers in rural India.
- ✓ In 2011, he was appointed as the Presidential Advisory Council on Prevention, Health Promotion and Integrative and Public Health by President Obama.
- ✓ The council advises on measures to advance nation’s health through prevention.
- ✓ The Surgeon General of United States is appointed by the President and is confirmed by the Senate.
- ✓ He is the head of the Commissioned Corps, that has 6,500 member cadre of uniformed health professionals.
- ✓ The Surgeon General serves for a period of four years and issues health warnings in the United States

- ✓ Since 1966, a surgeon health warning is present in all cigarette packets sold in America.
- ✓ US has become the first country in the world to cross 10 million Covid-19 cases.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **The memorial to the battle of Saragarhi with the statues of 21 soldiers from the 36th (Sikh) Regiment of Bengal Infantry – is to be unveiled in Wednesfield, Wolverhampton in September 2021**
- ✓ A nine-foot-tall bronze statue of Havildar Ishar Singh is set to become the first monument in Britain specifically honouring the fallen heroes



- ✓ Havildar Ishar led 21 Sikh soldiers valiantly fighting to their last breath while defending their signal post during the battle against more than 10,000 Afghan tribesmen in September 1897
- ✓ The 21 soldiers fought for more than six hours and martyred leaving around 180 to 200 Pathan tribesmen dead.
- ✓ The gurdwara congregation has so far raised £50,000 (₹48 lakh) of the £100,000 (₹97 lakh) total costs.
- ✓ Councillors at Wolverhampton City Council are expected to approve proposals at a meeting on November 11 to lease land next to the Guru Nanak Gurdwara for installing the statue.
- ✓ Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal, whose family hails from Jalandhar, is spearheading the project.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The 4th India- Philippines Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation was held virtually on November 6.**



- ✓ The meeting was co- chaired by India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Teodoro Locsin Jr, Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Philippines.
- ✓ India has offered to give coastal surveillance radar systems to Philippines to improve maritime domain awareness (MDA) in South China sea.
- ✓ Both the sides agreed to further strengthen defence engagement and maritime cooperation between the two countries, especially in military training and education, capacity building, regular goodwill visits, and procurement of defence equipment.
- ✓ They agreed to enhance cooperation in the area of counterterrorism with information exchange between concerned agencies and support in terms of specialised training needs.
- ✓ Further, India invited Filipino students, scholars and academicians to avail the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and e-ITEC initiatives, and make use of integrated PhD fellowships offered to Asean students at IITs.
- ✓ Both the countries agreed to work on making the visa process between India and Philippines more simplified in order to expand student exchange, tourism, trade and investment
- ✓ Both the co-chairs agreed on expanding the trade and investment links and strengthen cooperation in the areas of tourism, agriculture, energy, health and pharmaceuticals, science & technology, space, cyber-security, traditional medicine and ICT.
- ✓ India also invited Philippines to join the International Solar Alliance and the multilateral grouping, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- ✓ The meeting aims to revive a joint commission that last met over five years ago in 2015
- ✓ The first-ever Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation of India- Philippines was held on March 15, 2011.
- ✓ Since then, the foreign ministers of both the countries meet after every 2 years to discuss the matters of mutual cooperation till 2015.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- The first successful passenger ride of the Virgin Hyperloop XP-2 - was conducted recently in Las Vegas



- ✓ The Virgin Hyperloop will be installed in India to connect Mumbai and Pune in 25 minutes
- ✓ The Hyperloop is a new mode of transport that can travel up to 1000 kilometres per hour.
- ✓ The idea was conceived by Tesla and SpaceX in 2012.
- ✓ Out of several companies that are working on the technology, Virgin Hyperloop is the only one that will develop the transport in India.
- ✓ The Hyperloop technology allows movement of capsules or pods at high speeds
- ✓ They are driverless vehicles, which are electronically accelerated
- ✓ The Hyperloop technology is highly expensive.
- ✓ But, the operational and capital costs of Hyperloop are two-thirds of high-speed rail.
- ✓ The technology is completely autonomous, noiseless and sealed.
- ✓ The IIT Madras recently conducted Hyperloop contest to encourage budding engineers of the country in developing the technology.

