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Decline in GST collection in Maharashtra

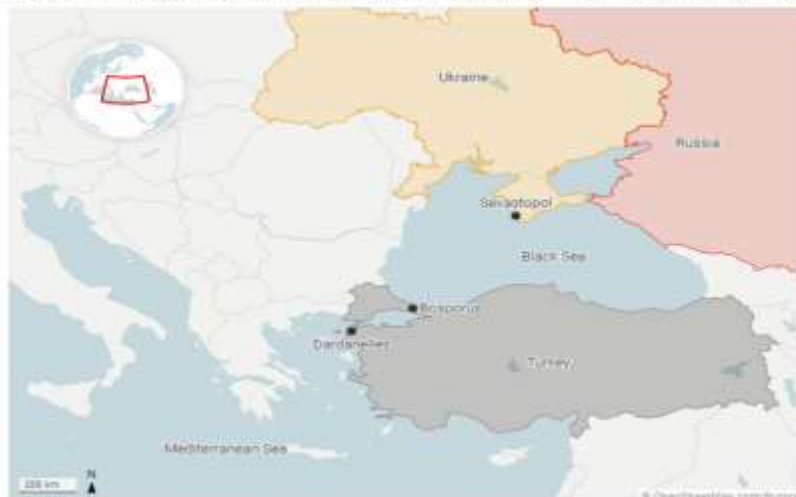


- The collection of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the state has declined by about Rs 1,300 crore in February as compared to January.
- In February, the state collected a goods and services tax of Rs 19,423 crore. In January, the state had collected Rs 20,704 crore. Compared to January, the collection in February fell by Rs 1,282 crore. At the national level, it declined by 5.6 per cent in February compared to January. This trend continued in Maharashtra as well.
- Comparing the two months of December and January, the collection in February has decreased.
- In the current financial year (2021-22), the state has collected 1 lakh 97 thousand, 687 crores of goods and services tax. Maharashtra is a leading state in collecting goods and services tax in the country.
- One lakh 42 thousand crores were collected in the year 2020-21. The collection increased by 33%.
- Maharashtra has always been a leading state in GST collection in the country. Karnataka collected Rs 9,176 crore, Gujarat Rs 8,873 crore and Tamil Nadu Rs 7,393 crore in February.
- **Source: Loksatta**

Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits

A 1936 agreement controls access to the Black Sea

Russia has a major navy base at Sevastopol, on the Crimean Peninsula. But for ships to move to and from the Mediterranean – and beyond – they have to pass through two straits controlled by Turkey under the Montreux Convention.



Why in news

- Turkey has recently announced its decision to implement **the Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits**.

Significance

- The provision of the Montreux Convention helps to ban Russian war vessels from entering **the Black Sea through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits**.

About the Montreux Convention 1936

- The Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits, often known simply as the Montreux Convention.
- It is an international agreement governing the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits in Turkey.
- It has signed on 20 July 1936 at the Montreux Palace in Switzerland and went into effect on 9 November 1936.

Source- Indian Express

PM Gati-Shakti National Master Plan

A Giant Stride in India's \$5 Trillion Economy Goal

Gati Shakti National Master Plan

Multimodal Connectivity Infrastructure to various Economic Zones

Targets upto 2024-25 for Ministry of Shipping

- Increase in Cargo capacity at the Ports to 1,759 MMTPA from 1,282 MMTPA in 2020
- Cargo movement on all National Waterways will be 95 million MT from 74 million MT in 2020
- Cargo movement on Ganga to be increased from 9 to 29 million MT

Why in news

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India urged State governments as well as the private sector to adopt the Gati Shakti portal to plan infrastructure projects and develop special economic zones.

About Gati Shakti Master Plan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced it on India's 75th Independence Day.

- It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc.
- Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, Agri zones will be covered to improve connectivity & make Indian businesses more competitive.
- It will also leverage technology extensively including spatial planning tools with ISRO imagery developed by BiSAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).
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Source- The Hindu

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Why in news

- Recently, Ukraine filed an application instituting proceedings against the Russian Federation before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

About International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
- It is also known as the World Court.
- It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.
- The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
- Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (United States of America).
- **Its official working languages are English and French.**

Composition:

- It consists of a panel of 15 judges elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council for nine-year terms.
- The Court may not include more than one national of the same State.
- Moreover, the Court as a whole must represent the main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world.
- These organs vote simultaneously but separately.
- To ensure a measure of continuity, one-third of the Court is elected every three years.
- **Judges are eligible for re-election.**

Role and Responsibilities:

- The Court settles legal disputes submitted to it by States, following international law.
- It also gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred by authorised UN organs and specialized agencies. Judgments in disputes between States are binding.
- The Court decides disputes between countries, based on the voluntary participation of the States concerned.
- If a State agrees to participate in a proceeding, it is obligated to comply with the Court's decision.

Source- Indian Express

भविष्यो रक्षति रक्षित : New motto of NCPCR

Why in news

- Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani has recently launched the **भविष्यो रक्षति रक्षित** a new motto of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights on its 17th foundation day.

About The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

- It is a statutory body under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India
- It was set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, an Act of Parliament (December 2005).

Mandate

- The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms align with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Note:

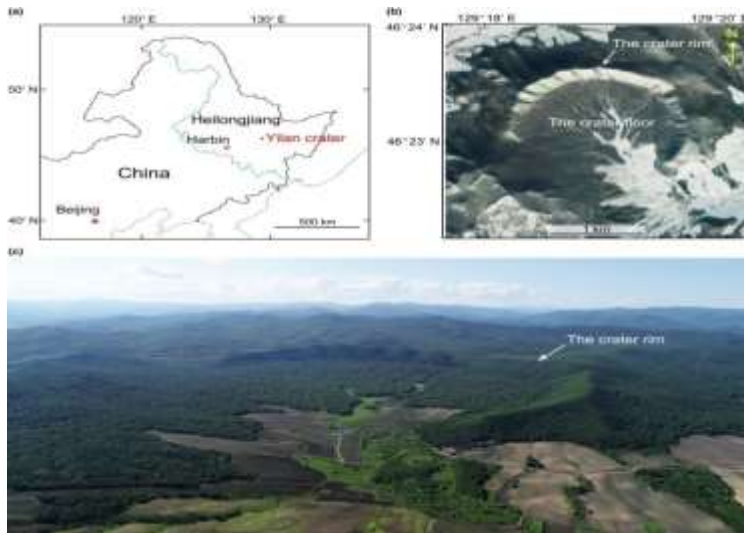
- The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Source- AIR

Yilan crater

Why in news

- Recently a team of geologists have discovered a crater named "Yilan Crater", in the northwest of Yilan in Heilongjiang Province of China.



About the Yilan crater

- It is slightly larger than Xiuyan which spans about 1.85 kilometres, making it the largest crater on Earth under 100,000 years old.
- Carbon-14 dating of charcoal and organic lake sediments suggests the crater formed between 46,000 and 53,000 years ago.

Source- Science Tech Daily

Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS),

Why in news

- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) have preparing to launch a guaranteed return scheme, Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS).

About Minimum Assured Return Scheme

- This will be the first scheme from the pension regulator that will offer a guaranteed return to investors.

What kind of returns will the scheme offer?

- The actual returns will depend on the market conditions.
- Any shortfall will be made good by the sponsor, and the surplus will be credited to the subscribers' accounts.
- The floating guarantee depends on the development of the 1-year interest rate until retirement.
- The current 1-year interest rate is assigned to each annual contribution made and is valid until retirement so that, at each point of time, there is a different minimum return.

Source : Indian Express

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurates 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme for students

Why in news

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has recently inaugurated the 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme.

About 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme

- The scheme aims to identify, train and offer career and academic guidance to talented students in government-run and State-aided educational institutions.
- It also aims to offer spoken English lessons to enable students to face interview panels successfully.
- The scheme will offer training capsules in coding and robotics to keep pace with technological advancements.

Source : The Hindu

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)



Why in news

- Recently FIFA and UEFA decided to indefinitely suspend all Russian teams, whether national representative teams or club teams, from participation in all competitions run by the two football bodies.

About FIFA

- **It is the highest global governing body of football (also known as soccer to distinguish it from American football), the world's most popular game.**
- FIFA is also the international governing body for futsal (a kind of mini football played indoors on a hard court between two teams of five players each) and beach soccer (five-a-side played on a beach).



- FIFA is responsible for organising and promoting football's major international tournaments, most importantly the football **World Cup, which began in 1930, and the Women's World Cup which began in 1991.**

FIFA presidents

- **Gianni Infantino, a Swiss-Italian football administrator,** has been president of FIFA since 2016.

Source : Indian Express

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