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International criminal court

- Recently, an investigation has been launched by a prosecutor of the 'International Criminal Court' on the "situation of Ukraine" after the Russian invasion.
- The prosecutor believes that there are reasonable grounds to believe that both so-called 'war crimes' and 'crimes against humanity' have been committed in Ukraine since 2014.

Related case:

- Many questions have been received for the 'International Criminal Court' (ICC) "regarding the offense of aggression", but this court cannot exercise "its jurisdiction over this alleged crime", as both Russia and Ukraine The founder of the 'International Criminal Court' is not a signatory to the 'Rome Statute'.
- But, now the 'International Criminal Court' believes that this court has jurisdiction to exercise its powers in this case, as Ukraine has twice before – once in 2014 after Russia's annexation of Crimea and for the second time, in 2015, when Ukraine recognized the court's jurisdiction as an "indefinite period" – has accepted the court's mandate.

Has Russia committed war crimes in Ukraine?

- On the morning of February 28, Russian Grad missiles wreaked havoc in the center of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city.
- According to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, the missiles deliberately targeted civilians and the attack is a 'war crime'.

What are 'war crimes'?

- According to the United Nations, 'war crimes' are serious violations of international law committed against civilians or 'enemy combatants' during international or domestic armed conflict.
- Unlike genocide and crimes against humanity, 'war crimes' include crimes committed in the context of armed conflict.

'Geneva Convention'

- The meaning of 'War Crimes' was clarified in the four 'Geneva Conventions' signed in the year 1949.
- Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention defines war crimes as "intentional infliction of great pain or grievous hurt to body or health, unlawful deportation or transfer, confinement or unlawful confinement, It is defined as the acts of unreasonable, willful and merciless acts including willful killings, torture, other inhuman methods and under military-needs, including mass destruction and possession of assets.

International Criminal Court (ICC) Events:

- The list of offenses has been expanded by the Rome Statute of the 'International Criminal Court', which also includes crimes falling under 'war crimes'. For example, under this statute, forced conception would be treated as a war crime.
- Equality, identity and precedence:
- The three main pillars of this human law are the principles of Proportionality, Distinction, and Precaution.
- If any or all of these principles are violated, it will be considered a war crime.

'One Rank One Pension': Supreme Court

- Recently, the Supreme Court has asked the central government to analyze how many people in the armed forces have benefited from the 'One Rank One Pension' (OROP) policy.
- The Court also observed that the Centre's stand on 'One Rank One Pension' paints a much exaggerated picture as compared to the facilities actually extended to the pensioners of the Armed Forces.

'One Rank One Pension' (OROP) Policy

- 'One Rank, One Pension' (OROP) means that armed servicemen retiring in the same rank and for the same length of service other than the date of retirement will be given uniform pension.
- Prior to 'One Rank, One Pension', ex-servicemen used to get pension as per the recommendations of the Pay Commission.
- Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have the highest number of OROP beneficiaries.
- Armed Forces Personnel, who retired as on 30th June, 2014 are covered under this.
- The implementation of this scheme was based on the recommendation of Koshyari Committee, a 10-member all-party parliamentary panel headed by Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

INS Visakhapatnam

- Recently the India-made stealth guided-missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam was formally attached to the Visakhapatnam port.
- It marks the formal inclusion of the first of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers.
- A total of four warships (Visakhapatnam, Marmagao, Imphal, and Surat) were planned to be included under the P-15B (Visakhapatnam class).
- It is indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house Directorate of Naval Design and manufactured by Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai.

INS Visakhapatnam:

- INS Visakhapatnam is the lead ship of the P15B class of guided missile stealth destroyers and was handed over to the Navy on 21 November 2021.
- The ship symbolizes India's mature shipbuilding capability and the pursuit of Make in India initiative towards achieving 'Self-reliant India'.
- The crew of the ship follows its motto 'Yashho Labhva', a Sanskrit phrase meaning 'gain glory'.
- It symbolizes the indomitable spirit and ability of this mighty ship to achieve success and glory in every endeavor.
- The Visakhapatnam class ships are a follow-on to the Kolkata class destroyers (P-15A) commissioned in the last decade.
- The ship is on her maiden visit to the port to participate in the President's Fleet Review (PFR) and MILAN 2022.
- The 'Fleet Review' is a long-standing tradition followed by navies around the world and is an assembly of ships at a pre-determined location with the aim of showing loyalty and allegiance to the sovereign and the state.

Features of P15B Ships

- These ships are the world's most technologically advanced guided missile destroyers with state-of-the-art weapons/sensor packages, advanced stealth features and high levels of automation.
- These ships are equipped with BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and Long Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs).
- The ship has several indigenous weapon systems like Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (SAM), indigenous torpedo tube launcher, indigenous anti-submarine rocket launcher and 76 mm Super Rapid Gun Mount.

What is the role of P-15B in India's security?

- In the current geopolitical scenario, the Indian Navy is playing a very important role in protecting the 2.01 million square kilometer Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with a coastline of 7516 km and about 1100 offshore islands.
- Destroyers like the 'P-15B' class can play an important role in the large oceans of the Indo-Pacific, helping the Indian Navy to become an important power.
- Guided Missile Destroyers have also been deployed to protect the Navy's fleet from any threat in the air, surface or underwater.

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