

Kerc Bridge



- The Kerch Bridge, which links the Russian mainland to the Crimean Peninsula in the Black Sea, came under attack last week.
- One section of the bridge was damaged in what the Russians called an attack by two Ukrainian sea drones.
- Russia also announced, hours after the attack, that it was withdrawing from a Brokered deal that allowed Ukraine to export its grain via the Black Sea, where Russia has enforced a naval blockade

Why is this bridge so important?

- The bridge is important for Russia for symbolic, administrative, and operational reasons.
- When Russia swiftly moved to annex Crimea in 2014, after a pro-Russian elected government in Kyiv fell amid West-backed ant-regime protests, there was no direct connectivity between the Russian mainland and Crimea.

- Mr. Putin immediately ordered the construction of the bridge.
- But the bridge remained a weak link as Ukraine grew in military strength, backed by the West, in the subsequent years.
- When Mr. Putin ordered a full-scale war on February 24, 2022 (what the Russians still call a ‘special military operation’), one of the military objectives, according to experts, was to secure a “land bridge” from mainland Russia to Crimea.
- Russia now has a land bridge extending from northeastern Ukraine through the Donbas and Kherson to Crimea, but it is not far from the frontline and well within the range of Ukrainian fire.
- So, the Kerch Bridge remains a critical logistical supply link for the Russian troops in the south

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XAI

- The head of Tesla has founded another AI startup that aims to loosen OpenAI’s grip over AI, and the multi-billionaire wants the AI firms, xAI, to do nothing less than “understanding the nature of the universe
- To a question on how xAI will be different from other AI startups, he said: “From an AI standpoint, a

maximally curious AI, one that is trying to understand the universe, is I think going to be pro-humanity.”

- There would be none of the bias and political correctness that OpenAI’s ChatGPT has so often been accused of. xAI, Mr. Musk said would build an AI that was “truth-seeking
- Problems in the AI industry prominent players like OpenAI and Google have come under fire recently over privacy issues around the training data as well as A-generated content.
- The Federal Trade Commission has launched an investigation into OpenAI for potential breaches of consumer protection laws, even as the EU’s AI Act is in the final stages of talks.
- Last week, Google was hit with a lawsuit alleging it stole data from millions without their permission via scraping to train their AI models.

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Ports in Ukraine



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ICC

What is the International Criminal Court?

- The International Criminal Court (“the ICC” or “the Court”) is a permanent international court established to investigate, prosecute and try individuals accused of committing the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, namely the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression

What is the Rome Statute?

- On 17 July 1998, a conference of 160 States established the first treaty-based permanent international criminal court.
- The treaty adopted during that conference is known as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- Among other things, it sets out the crimes falling within the jurisdiction

of the ICC, the rules of procedure, and the mechanisms for States to cooperate with the ICC.

- The countries which have accepted these rules are known as States Parties and are represented in the Assembly of States Parties.

Where is the seat of the Court?

- The seat of the Court is in The Hague in the Netherlands.
- The Rome Statute provides that the Court may sit elsewhere whenever the judges consider it desirable.
- The Court has also set up offices in the areas where it is conducting investigations.

How is the Court funded?

- The Court is funded by contributions from the States Parties and by voluntary contributions from governments, international organizations, individuals, corporations, and other entities.

Under what conditions does the ICC exercise its jurisdiction?

- When a State becomes a party to the Rome Statute, it agrees to submit itself to the jurisdiction of the ICC with respect to the crimes enumerated in the Statute.
- The Court may exercise its jurisdiction in situations where the alleged perpetrator is a national of a State Party or where the crime was

committed in the territory of a State Party.

- Also, a State not party to the Statute may decide to accept the jurisdiction of the ICC

Is the ICC's jurisdiction time-bound?

- The ICC has jurisdiction only with respect to events that occurred after the entry into force of its Statute on 1 July 2002.
- If a State becomes a party to the Statute after its entry into force, the Court may exercise its jurisdiction only with respect to crimes committed after the entry into force of the Statute for that State, unless that State has made a declaration accepting the jurisdiction of the ICC retroactively.
- However, the Court cannot exercise jurisdiction with respect to events that occurred before 1 July 2002.

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