

**04 – 03 – 2022**

**News: Montreux Convention**

- Turkey is set to activate the Montreux Convention in response to Russia's War over Ukraine.

## **Montreux Convention**

- Montreux Convention was signed by **Australia, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Japan, Romania, Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and Turkey** and has been in effect since **November 1936**.
- The Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits **gives Turkey control over the water route between the Black Sea**.
- Russia has a major navy base at Sevastopol, on the Crimean Peninsula.
- However, **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**.
- It **sets limits on the passage of civilian vessels and military warships through the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus straits**.

The key elements in the Montreux Convention are:

- In the event of a war, the pact gives Turkey the right to regulate the transit of naval warships and to block the straits to warships belonging to the countries involved in the conflict.
- Any country with coastline on the Black Sea – Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Russia or Ukraine – must notify Turkey eight days in advance of its intention to send vessels of war through the straits.
- Other countries, the ones that don't border the Black Sea, must give Turkey 15 days' advance notice.
- Turkey has used the convention's powers before. During World War II, Turkey prevented the Axis powers from sending their warships to attack the Soviet Union – and blocked the Soviet navy from participating in combat in the Mediterranean.

## **Mediterranean Sea**

- Mediterranean Sea is a sea connected to Atlantic Ocean, almost completely enclosed by land.
- Strait of Gibraltar connects Mediterranean Sea with Atlantic Ocean.

- Strait of Gibraltar is a narrow stretch of only 14 kilometer wide that separates Spain from Morocco.
- **Suez Canal connects Mediterranean Sea with Red Sea.**
- Countries that have coast with **Mediterranean Sea** are **Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.**



## Bosphorus Strait

- Bosphorus Strait, also known as **Strait of Istanbul**, is a **natural strait connecting the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara** and by extension via the Dardanelles Strait, the Aegean and Mediterranean Sea.
- It has huge strategic significance.
- It is the **narrowest strait in the world used for international navigation.**

- Its length is 32 kilometers in the north to south direction.
- Bosphorus strait separates the European part from the Asian part of Istanbul.

## Sea of Marmara

- The Sea of Marmara, also known the Marmara Sea, is an inland sea located entirely within the borders of Turkey.
- It is connected with the Black Sea through Bosphorus Strait and to the Aegean Sea, with Dardanelles Strait.
- Sea of Marmara divides the turkey into Asian portion and European portion.
- Recently, Sea of Marmara, has witnessed the largest outbreak of 'sea snot'. A 'sea snot' outbreak was first recorded in the country in 2007.
- Sea Snot is marine mucilage that is formed when algae are overloaded with nutrients as a result of water pollution combined with the effects of climate change.
- The nutrient overload occurs when algae feast on warm weather caused by global warming.
- It looks like a viscous, brown and foamy substance.

## Dardanelles Strait

- The Dardanelles, also known as **Strait of Gallipoli**, is a narrow, natural strait and internationally significant waterway in northwestern Turkey that forms part of the continental boundary between Europe and Asia, and separates Asian Turkey from European Turkey.
- One of the world's narrowest straits used for international navigation, **the Dardanelles connects the Sea of Marmara with the Aegean Sea.**

### News: Dugong Conservation Reserve

- Recently, the Tamil Nadu government has decided to go ahead with the establishment of India's first conservation reserve for the Dugong in Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay.

## Dugong

- Dugong is also called **Sea Cow**.
- It can weigh upto 300 kilograms, and live for about 65 to 70 years.
- It is the **only existing herbivorous mammal that lives exclusively in the sea.**
- There are about only 250 dugongs left in **Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar & Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat.**
- IUCN Status: Vulnerable.

- Wildlife Protection Act: Schedule I.
- Once the female is pregnant, she will carry the unborn baby, called a foetus, for **12-14 months before giving birth.**
- Female dugongs **give birth underwater to a single calf at three to seven-year intervals.**
- The Dugongs graze on seagrass, especially young shoots and roots in shallow coastal waters. They can **consume up to 40 kilograms of seagrass in a day.**
- Threats faced include loss of food (seagrass beds), **Trapping in trawlers** and Destruction of habitat.
- **Dugong meat is consumed under the wrong impression that it cools down human body temperature.**
- In the recent **13<sup>th</sup> CoP to Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention)**, **MoEFCC constituted a Task Force for Conservation of Dugongs.**
- World Dugong day is celebrated **28<sup>th</sup> May**, every year.