

2019



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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

9<sup>th</sup> December- 14<sup>th</sup> December



*The Indian* **EXPRESS**

live  
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## **1. International Court of Justice**

### **Why in News?**

Aung San Suu Kyi will defend Myanmar at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against accusations of genocide. She is a Myanmar's State Counsellor and Nobel Peace laureate (awarded in 1990).

### **About International Court of Justice (ICJ)**

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the **principal judicial organ** of the United Nations (UN).
- It was established in **June 1945** by the Charter of the United Nations.
- It is governed by an international treaty - '**The Rome Statute**' of 1918.
- The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in **The Hague (Netherlands)**.
- It is the only organ of the UN that is not located in New York (USA). **Six principal organs of the UN:**
  - General Assembly
  - Security Council
  - Economic and Social Council
  - Trusteeship Council
  - International Court of Justice
  - Secretariat
- **Role of ICJ:**
  - To settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States.
  - To give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- **Composition:**
  - The Court is **composed of 15 judges**, who are elected for terms of office of **nine years** by the **United Nations General Assembly** and the **Security Council**.
  - In order to ensure a measure of continuity, one third of the Court is elected every three years and **Judges are eligible for re-election**.
  - It is assisted by a **Registry**, its administrative organ.
  - Its official languages are **English and French**.

## **2. Paris Summit**

### **Why in News?**

Russian President Vladimir Putin met Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky for the first time ever at a Paris Summit.

- The meeting is aimed at agreeing measures to help end five years of conflict in the east of Ukraine.

### **Key Highlights**

- The countries agreed to the release and exchange of all "conflict-related detainees" by the end of the year.
- The two sides also pledged to disengage military forces in three additional regions of Ukraine by the end of March 2020, without specifying which regions would be affected.
- Additional talks will be held in four months to take stock of the ceasefire's progress.

### **Contentious Issue**

- Pro-Russian separatists seized control of large swathes of Donetsk and Luhansk regions in April 2014, just after Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula.
- It was an insurgency against the new pro-Western authorities in the capital Kyiv, who had ousted the pro-Russian President, in street protests dubbed the "Maidan Revolution".
- The separatists later declared independence from Ukraine - but no country has recognised their "republics".

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