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Important Facts for Prelims (28 August 2018)

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International Court of Justice

- Iran demanded the UN's top court, The International Court of Justice (ICJ) to suspend U.S nuclear linked sanctions against Tehran, accusing US of plotting its “economic strangulation”.
- ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.
- It was established in 1945 by the UN Charter.
- It is seated in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.
- Only UN member states are eligible to appear before the Court in contentious cases.
- The Court has no jurisdiction to deal with applications from individuals, NGOs, corporations or any other private entity.
- It settles legal disputes between member states and gives advisory opinions to authorized UN organs and specialized agencies.
- It comprises a panel of 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and Security Council for nine-year terms.
- The judgments are final and without appeal. If a state fails to agree then the other party can take the case to the Security Council.
- The ICJ is not a criminal court and hence it has no jurisdiction to try individuals accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity.
- ICJ asked Pakistan not to execute Kulbhusan Jadhav till the final verdict in the case is not pronounced by it.
- Justice Dalveer Bhandari is an Indian member of the International Court of Justice.

International Criminal Court

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands.
- The ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
- The ICC began functioning on 1 July 2002, the date that the Rome Statute entered into force.

- The Rome Statute is a multilateral treaty which serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document.
- States which become party to the Rome Statute, for example by ratifying it, become member states of the ICC.
- India is not a party to ICC.

Permanent Court of Arbitration

- The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) is an intergovernmental organization located at The Hague in the Netherlands.
- The PCA is not a court "in the traditional sense" but provides services of arbitral tribunal to resolve disputes that arise out of international agreements between member states, international organizations or private parties.
- The cases span a range of legal issues involving territorial and maritime boundaries, sovereignty, human rights, international investment, and international and regional trade.
- The organization is not a United Nations agency, but is an official United Nations Observer.

Indian Ocean Conference

- India's External Affairs Minister attended the third edition of Indian Ocean Conference on August 27 at Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam.
- The theme of this year's conference is 'Building Regional Architectures' and it saw participation from 43 countries.
- Earlier, the conference was held in Singapore and Sri Lanka in 2016 and 2017 respectively.
- Indian Ocean Conference is organized by India Foundation along with the partners from Singapore, Bangladesh and
- Sri Lanka this is an initiative to bring the state leaders, diplomats and bureaucrats from across the region under one roof to strengthen the understanding among each other.

India Foundation

India Foundation is an independent think tank based in Delhi, focused on the issues, challenges and opportunities of the Indian polity and foreign affairs.