

## INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

**Context:** US President Donald Trump imposed sanctions on the International Criminal Court for probes targeting America and its ally, Israel.

ISRAEL'S WAR ON GAZA

### Differences between the ICJ and the ICC

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) are two courts with different functions within the international legal system.

	 ICJ International Court of Justice	 ICC International Criminal Court
<b>Established</b>	1945	2002
<b>UN-relationship</b>	Highest court of the UN	Not part of the UN
<b>Location</b>	The Hague, the Netherlands	The Hague, the Netherlands
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	UN member-states	Individuals
<b>Types of cases</b>	Legal disputes between states and requests for advisory opinions on legal questions	Prosecutes individuals for the most serious crimes as per the Rome Statute
<b>Appeals</b>	No	Yes
<b>Enforcement power</b>	None - relies on the UN Security Council to uphold judgements, with permanent members having veto power	None - relies on cooperation from member states to enforce its decisions

Source: International Court of Justice, International Criminal Court | January 10, 2024

@A3Labs

### About ICC:

- It is a **permanent judicial body** established by the **Rome Statute (1998)** to investigate, prosecute, and try individuals accused of
  - Genocide,
  - War crimes,
  - Crimes against humanity, and
  - The crime of aggression,
 and to impose prison sentences upon individuals who are found guilty of such crimes.
- Background:** The court's founding treaty, the Rome Statute, was adopted in July 1998, and the court began work in 2003.
- HQ:** Hague, Netherlands.

- Members:** 124 nations are States Parties to the Rome Statute and recognize the ICC's authority. The notable exceptions being the **US, China, Russia, Israel and India**.
- Funding:** The Court is funded by contributions from the States Parties and by voluntary contributions from governments, international organizations, individuals, corporations and other entities.

### Composition:

- Judges:** The Court has **eighteen judges**, each from a different member country, elected to **nonrenewable nine-year terms**.
- The Presidency:** Consists of three judges (the President and two Vice-Presidents) elected from among the judges.
- It represents the Court to the outside world and helps with the organization of the work of the judges.
- Judicial Divisions:** 18 judges in 3 divisions, the **Pre-Trial Division, the Trial Division, and the Appeals Division**.
- Office of the Prosecutor (OTP):** OTP is responsible for receiving referrals and any substantiated information on crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court.
- OTP examines these referrals and information, conducts investigations, and conducts prosecutions before the Court.
- Registry:** The core function of the Registry is to provide administrative and operational support to the Chambers and the OTP.

### Jurisdiction of ICC:

- Unlike the International Court of Justice, which hears disputes between states, the ICC handles **prosecutions of individuals**.
- The ICC is only competent to hear a case if:
  - The country where the offence was committed is a party to the Rome Statute; or
  - The perpetrator's country of origin is a party to the Rome Statute.
  - The ICC may only exercise its jurisdiction if the national court is unable or unwilling to do so.
  - The ICC only has jurisdiction over offences committed after the Statute's entry into force on 1 July 2002.

**Relation with United Nations (UN):**

- While not a United Nations (UN) organization, the Court has a cooperation agreement with the UN.
- When a situation is not within the Court's jurisdiction, the UN Security Council can refer the situation to the ICC, granting it jurisdiction.

Source: *Trump sanctions ICC for 'illegitimate probes' targeted against Israel, US (The Hindu)*

**BIOE3 POLICY**

**Context:** Following the approval of the BioE3 policy by the Cabinet, the department of biotechnology has organized a consultation with states for setting up of biomanufacturing facilities.

**About BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy:**

- It is a policy for fostering high performance bio-manufacturing steered by the Department of Biotechnology.



**High performance biomanufacturing** is the ability to produce products from medicine to materials, address farming and food challenges, and promote manufacturing of bio-based products through the integration of advanced biotechnological processes.

- The policy seeks to include **innovation-driven support for research and development** and entrepreneurship across thematic sectors.
- This will **accelerate technology development and commercialization** by establishing biomanufacturing and bio-AI hubs and bio foundry.
- Along with prioritizing regenerative bioeconomy models of green growth, this policy will facilitate the expansion of India's skilled workforce and provide a surge in job creation.
- To address the national priorities, the BioE3 Policy would broadly focus on the following **strategic/thematic sectors:**
  - high-value bio-based chemicals;
  - biopolymers and enzymes;
  - smart proteins and functional foods;
  - precision biotherapeutics;
  - climate resilient agriculture;
  - carbon capture and its utilisation;
  - marine and space research.

Source: *Centre holds consultation with States on setting up biomanufacturing facilities (The Hindu)*

## PM-NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROMOTION SCHEME (PM-NAPS)

**Context:** The Cabinet is considering the creation of a combined scheme for skilling initiatives.



### About PM-NAPS:

- The **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)** was launched in August 2016 under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.
- It aims to promote apprenticeship training in the country by providing **stipend support** to the apprentices, undertake **capacity building** of the apprenticeship ecosystem and provide **advocacy assistance** to support rapid growth.
- Further, the objectives of the NAPS include:
  - To develop skilled manpower for the industry by promotion of **on-the-job experiential training**.
  - To encourage establishments to enrol apprentices by sharing partial stipend support to the apprentices.

- To provide **up-skilling opportunities** for candidates who have undergone short-term skill training.
- To encourage enrolment of apprentices in small establishments (MSMEs), and those located in underserved areas like in aspirational districts and in North-East region.

- **Stipends** under the scheme are remitted directly to the bank accounts of apprentices under **Direct Benefit Transfer**.
- The government shares **25% of the prescribed stipend**, up to a maximum of INR 1,500 per month per apprentice.

Source: Cabinet nod to rejig skilling initiatives with a combined scheme (The Hindu)

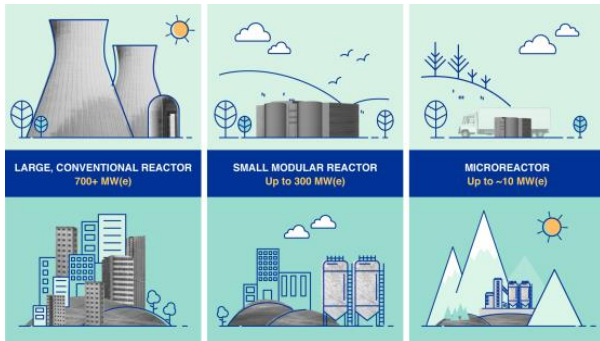
## TERMS IN NEWS

### TROPEX 2025

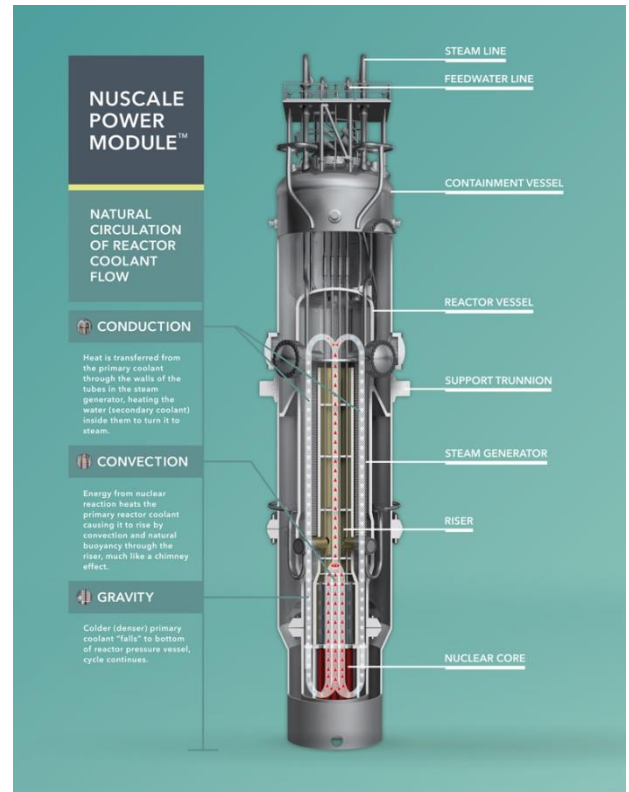
- **Full form:** Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 2023).
- This operational level exercise is conducted biennially with participation by all operational units of the Navy along with substantial participation of Army, Air Force and Coast Guard assets.
- This year's edition witnessed the participation of approximately 65 Indian Navy ships, nine submarines and over 80 aircraft.

**Small Modular Reactors (SMR)**

- SMRs are **advanced nuclear reactors** that have a **power capacity of up to 300 MW(e)** per unit, which is about one-third of the generating capacity of traditional nuclear power reactors.



- SMRs, which can produce a large amount of low-carbon electricity, are:
  - Small:** Physically a fraction of the size of a conventional nuclear power reactor.
  - Modular:** Making it possible for systems and components to be **factory-assembled** and transported as a unit to a location for installation.
  - Reactors:** Harnessing nuclear fission to generate heat to produce energy.
- Their designs incorporate enhanced safety features, reducing the risk of uncontrolled radioactive material release.
- They can be sited on locations not suitable for larger nuclear power plants.
- SMRs are designed to operate for **40-60 years** with capacity factors exceeding 90%.



**PLACES IN NEWS**

**Pong Dam Lake**

- Pong Dam Lake** (also known as **Maharana Pratap Sagar**) is a **manmade reservoir** formed due to the construction of Pong Dam on **Beas River** in the wetland zone of Shivalik hills in **Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh**.
- It is one of the largest man-made wetlands in Northern India. I
- t covers an area of almost 307 sq km.
- It was designated a **Ramsar site** in 2002.
- Flora:** Consists of submerged vegetation, grasslands, and forests, including species like **eucalyptus, acacia, and shisham**.
- Fauna:** Given the site's location on the trans-Himalayan flyway, more than 220 bird species have been identified, with 54 species of waterfowl.
  - Avifauna include Bar-headed geese, Pintails, common pochards, coots, Grebes, Cormorants,

Herons, Storks, angle fowls, peafowl, Grey partridges, etc.

- It is also home to animals like **Sambar, Barking Deer, Wild Bear, Nilgai, Clawless Otter, and Leopards.**

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**Q1. With reference to the International Criminal Court, consider the following statements:**

1. The International Criminal Court can issue arrest warrants against individuals.
2. It is known as the World Court.
3. All UN members are members of the ICC.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Q2. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the BioE3 Policy?**

1. It aims at fostering high performance biomanufacturing in India.
2. The policy is implemented by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.
3. Marine and Space research is an important thematic sector under the policy.

**Choose the correct answer:**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only

- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 2 only

**Q3. Consider the following statements with respect to the PM-National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS):**

1. It is a scheme under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
2. Under this scheme, the government bears 25% of the stipend and 50% of the cost of training an apprentice.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q4. With respect to Small Modular Reactors, consider the following statements:**

1. They are advanced nuclear reactors with generating capacity equal to almost half that of a traditional reactor.
2. They can be sited on locations not suitable for larger nuclear power plants.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q5. Maharana Pratap Sagar is an artificial lake formed along which of the following rivers?**

- (a) Chenab
- (b) Chambal

(c) Beas

(d) Ken

**Answers:**

1. A

2. B

3. C

4. B

5. C

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