



ICC Issues Arrest Warrant for Vladimir Putin

For Prelims: ICC, ICJ, United Nation Security Council.

For Mains: Important International institutions.

Why in News?

The [International Criminal Court \(ICC\)](#) issued an arrest warrant for war crimes for **President Vladimir Putin** and a second Russian official.

- This is the first time that the ICC has issued an arrest warrant against one of the **five permanent members of the [United Nation Security Council](#)**.

Why did the ICC Issue an Arrest Warrant against Putin?

- ICC issued an arrest warrant against Russian President Vladimir Putin for the alleged **war crime of unlawfully deporting and transferring children** from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

What is ICC?

- On 17 July, **1998 Rome Statute was adopted by 120 States** in direction of creating a more just world.
- On 1 July, **2002 Rome Statute took effect upon ratification by 60 states, officially establishing the ICC**. Since it has no retroactive jurisdiction, the ICC deals with crimes committed on or after this date.
- The Rome Statute, grants the **ICC jurisdiction over four main crimes**:
 - **The crime of Genocide**
 - **Crimes against Humanity**
 - **War crimes**
 - **Crime of Aggression**
- The Court is participating in a **global fight to end lawlessness**, and through **international criminal justice**, the Court aims to hold those responsible accountable for their crimes and to help prevent these crimes from happening again.
- The ICC is the **world's first permanent international criminal court**.
- Currently, **123 countries** are party to the Rome Statute, **India is not a party to Rome Statute along with US and China**.
- The ICC was established to prosecute the most heinous offenses only when a country's own legal machinery fails to act. Unlike the [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\)](#), which deals with **countries and inter-state disputes**, the ICC prosecutes individuals.

How is ICC Different from ICJ?

- Unlike the International Court of Justice, the **ICC is not part of the [United Nations](#) system**, with

the UN-ICC relationship being governed by a separate agreement.

- The ICJ, which is among the **UN's 6 principal organs**, mainly hears disputes between nations. It was established in 1945 and is seated at The Hague (Netherlands).

Does the ICC have the Power to Prosecute Russia?

- As of March 2023, **Russia is not a party to the Rome Statute**, and therefore, the **ICC has no jurisdiction over crimes committed on its territory**. However, the ICC can investigate and prosecute crimes committed by individuals from other countries who committed the alleged crimes on the territory of a **state party to the Rome Statute**.
- Ukraine is also not a State Party to the Rome Statute”, but **it has twice exercised its options to accept ICC's jurisdiction** over alleged crimes under the Rome Statute, occurring on its territory, **under Article 12(3) of the Statute**.
 - **Article 12(3) states** that if the acceptance of a state that is not a party to the statute, the **state may accept the jurisdiction of the court** for a crime concerned, by **making a declaration to the Registrar and cooperating without any delay or exception**.

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