

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### Subject – UPSC GS-III

### Topic – Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) is an intergovernmental organization located at The Hague in the Netherlands. It is one of the important international organisations, which should be well-read for [IAS Exam](#) from the perspective of GS-II (International Organisation.)

Read the relevant facts about Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and download the notes PDF at the end.

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#### Important Facts of Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) for UPSC

The table below mentions the relevant facts about PCA for [UPSC 2020](#):

Permanent Court of Arbitration	
<b>Origin of PCA</b>	The Permanent Court of Arbitration was established by the First International Peace Conference held at The Hague, the Netherlands, in 1899.
<b>Objective of PCA</b>	The objective is “to facilitate the arbitration of International disputes”.
<b>Structure of PCA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It consists of an Administrative Council and an International Bureau.</li> <li>• The Court is not ‘permanent’ in nature; rather it is a Court selected from among a permanent panel of arbitrators.</li> <li>• Each member is eligible to nominate four persons who have competency in International law and who are of highest moral reputation and have the ability to accept the duties of an arbitrator.</li> <li>• There are 225 arbitrators, appointed for a six-year term.</li> <li>• The Administrative Council is composed of diplomatic representatives of the contracting parties accredited to The Hague.</li> <li>• The President of the Council is the foreign minister of the Netherlands.</li> <li>• The administrative organ of the Court is the International Bureau which channels communication regarding meetings of the Court.</li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It serves as a registry and maintains archives.</li></ul> |
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### **What are the activities of Permanent Court of Arbitration?**

Arbitration has remained a rather infrequent means of resolving international disputes, though the UN Charter allows the states to settle their differences in tribunals other than the ICJ. The Court had a very limited role for several decades.

It adopted a new set of optimal rules in 1992 for giving greater flexibility and greater use of its resources for arbitrating disputes between the states. In 1993, it adopted certain new rules for arbitrating disputes between a state and a non-party state.

The PCA held its first Conference of Members in 1993 to discuss the future of the Court and established a Steering Committee. Under the new rule, the Court can arbitrate disputes both within and between inter-governmental organisations or between private corporations. The Court established a Financial Assistance Fund to help developing nations in meeting the costs incurred in bringing cases before it.