



# Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

23 July 2024

## National and International News

<p><b>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● India recently concluded its fourth periodic review by the UN Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Geneva.</li> </ul> <p><b>About International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Adoption and Enforcement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1966.</li> <li>○ Came into force in 1976.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Significance:</b> Part of the International Bill of Human Rights along with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.</li> <li>● <b>Obligations for Ratifying Countries:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Protect and preserve basic human rights including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Right to life and human dignity.</li> <li>■ Equality before the law.</li> <li>■ Freedom of speech, assembly, and association.</li> <li>■ Religious freedom and privacy.</li> <li>■ Freedom from torture, ill-treatment, and arbitrary detention.</li> <li>■ Gender equality.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Implement administrative, judicial, and legislative measures to safeguard these rights.</li> <li>○ Provide effective remedies for violations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Global Participation:</b> As of 2024, 174 countries are parties to the Covenant.</li> <li>● <b>India's Participation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ India became a party in 1979.</li> <li>○ Underwent three reviews, with the last one in 1997.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>India Maritime Centre (IMC)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The India Maritime Centre (IMC) is advancing towards</li> </ul>



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	<p>realization under the <b>Maritime India Vision 2030</b>.</p> <p><b>About India Maritime Centre (IMC):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Initiative of:</b> Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW)</li> <li>● <b>Part of:</b> Maritime India Vision 2030</li> <li>● <b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide a <b>unified platform for the Indian maritime industry</b>.</li> <li>○ Act as a <b>think tank for policy formulation and industry recommendations</b>.</li> <li>○ <b>Advance India's maritime interests</b> domestically and internationally.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Primary Goals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Strengthen India's participation in the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and global maritime forums</b>.</li> <li>○ <b>Create a robust domestic maritime sector</b> through a unified and synchronized approach.</li> <li>○ <b>Conduct flagship events</b> to build a strong global brand for the Indian maritime cluster.</li> <li>○ Provide expert analysis and recommendations for sustainable growth.</li> <li>○ <b>Establish platforms for industry stakeholders to collaborate and network</b>.</li> <li>○ <b>Create a pool of funds</b> to support the industry, including startups.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Location:</b> Mumbai</li> <li>● <b>Facilities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>IMC Secretariat</b> to be built as a <b>world-class facility</b>.</li> <li>○ Equipped with conference areas and meeting rooms.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Ratapani Sanctuary</b></p> <p><b>Wildlife</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>Madhya Pradesh State Wildlife Board</b> has approved the <b>declaration of Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary</b>, located on the outskirts of Bhopal, as the <b>eighth tiger reserve in the state</b>.</li> </ul>

**About Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary:**

- **Location:** Raisen and Sehore districts, Madhya Pradesh
- **Area:** 823 sq. km
- **Geography:** Rocky forest with aquatic environment on Vindhya Hills
- **Boundaries:** Runs parallel to the northern side of the **Narmada River**; **Kolar River** forms the western boundary
- **Significant Features:**
  - **Bhimbetka:** Group of rock shelters and rock paintings, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- **Landscape:** Rugged terrain with hills, valleys, plateaus, and plains
- **Flora:**
  - **Forest Types:** **Dry deciduous and moist deciduous**
  - **Teak Coverage:** About 55% of the area
  - **Other Species:** Various dry deciduous species
- **Fauna:**
  - **Apex Predator:** **Tiger**, with an estimated population of 40
  - **Endangered Species:** Chinkara
  - **Other Wildlife:** Panther, Hyena, Jackal, Indian Fox, Wild Dog, Jungle Cat, Small Indian Civet, Blue Bull, Black Buck, Chausingha, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, and more

**Adam's Bridge or Ram Setu****Why in the news?**

- **ISRO** scientists have successfully mapped the submerged structure of **Adam's Bridge**, also known as **Ram Setu**.

**About Adam's Bridge:**

- **Connects Rameswaram Island** (southeast coast of India) to **Mannar Island** (northwest coast of **Sri Lanka**).
- **Separates the Gulf of Mannar** from the **Palk Strait**.
- **Geological and Historical Significance:**
  - Represents a **former land connection between India and Sri Lanka**.
  - **Mentioned in the epic Ramayana** as the bridge constructed by Lord Rama and his vanara (monkey)



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	<p>army to rescue Goddess Sita from the demon king Ravana.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Described as Sethubanthan in Valmiki's Ramayana.</b></li><li>● <b>Cultural and Religious Importance:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ According to Islamic legend, Adam used this bridge to reach Adam's Peak in Sri Lanka.</li><li>○ <b>Rameshwaram temple</b> records indicate that <b>Adam's Bridge was above sea level until 1480</b>, after which it was submerged due to natural calamities</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Brown dwarfs</b>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Researchers used observations from the <b>James Webb Space Telescope</b> to conduct detailed <b>examinations of the atmospheric conditions on pairs of brown dwarfs.</b></li></ul> <p><b>About Brown dwarfs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Celestial Bodies:</b> Bigger than a planet, smaller than a star.</li><li>● <b>Size Range:</b> Between giant planets like Jupiter and small stars.</li><li>● <b>Formation:</b> Accumulate material like a star, not like a planet.</li><li>● <b>Atmospheric Clouds:</b> Can have clouds made of precipitates, likely hot silicate particles, unlike Earth's water clouds.</li><li>● <b>Element Retention:</b> Hold onto lighter elements (hydrogen and helium) more effectively than planets, with low metal content.</li><li>● <b>Nuclear Fuel:</b> Do not have enough mass for their cores to burn nuclear fuel and radiate starlight.</li><li>● <b>Nickname:</b> Sometimes referred to as "<b>failed stars</b>" due to the inability to sustain nuclear fusion.</li></ul>



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