



23 July 2024

National and International News

<p>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. <p>About International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adoption and Enforcement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1966. ○ Came into force in 1976. ● Significance: 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. ● Obligations for Ratifying Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protect and preserve basic human rights including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Right to life and human dignity. ■ Equality before the law. ■ Freedom of speech, assembly, and association. ■ Religious freedom and privacy. ■ Freedom from torture, ill-treatment, and arbitrary detention. ■ Gender equality. ○ Implement administrative, judicial, and legislative measures to safeguard these rights. ○ Provide effective remedies for violations. ● Global Participation: As of 2024, 174 countries are parties to the Covenant. ● India's Participation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India became a party in 1979. ○ Underwent three reviews, with the last one in 1997.
<p>India Maritime Centre (IMC)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The India Maritime Centre (IMC) is advancing towards realization under the Maritime India Vision 2030. <p>About India Maritime Centre (IMC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Initiative of: Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) ● Part of: Maritime India Vision 2030 ● Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide a unified platform for the Indian maritime industry. ○ Act as a think tank for policy formulation and industry recommendations. ○ Advance India's maritime interests domestically and



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	<p>internationally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strengthen India's participation in the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and global maritime forums. ○ Create a robust domestic maritime sector through a unified and synchronized approach. ○ Conduct flagship events to build a strong global brand for the Indian maritime cluster. ○ Provide expert analysis and recommendations for sustainable growth. ○ Establish platforms for industry stakeholders to collaborate and network. ○ Create a pool of funds to support the industry, including startups. ● Location: Mumbai ● Facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IMC Secretariat to be built as a world-class facility. ○ Equipped with conference areas and meeting rooms.
<p>Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Madhya Pradesh State Wildlife Board has approved the declaration of Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, located on the outskirts of Bhopal, as the eighth tiger reserve in the state. <p>About Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bhimbetka: Group of rock shelters and rock paintings, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. ● Landscape: Rugged terrain with hills, valleys, plateaus, and plains ● Flora: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forest Types: Dry deciduous and moist deciduous ○ Teak Coverage: About 55% of the area ○ Other Species: Various dry deciduous species ● Fauna: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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
<p>Adam's Bridge or Ram Setu</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ISRO scientists have successfully mapped the submerged structure of Adam's Bridge, also known as Ram Setu. <p>About Adam's Bridge:</p>



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- **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) army to rescue Goddess Sita from the demon king Ravana.
 - **Described as Sethubanthan in Valmiki's Ramayana**.
- **Cultural and Religious Importance:**
 - According to Islamic legend, Adam used this bridge to reach Adam's Peak in Sri Lanka.
 - **Rameshwaram temple** records indicate that **Adam's Bridge was above sea level until 1480**, after which it was **submerged due to natural calamities**.

Brown dwarfs

Why in the news?

- Researchers used observations from the **James Webb Space Telescope** to conduct detailed **examinations of the atmospheric conditions on pairs of brown dwarfs**.

About Brown dwarfs:

- **Celestial Bodies:** Bigger than a planet, smaller than a star.
- **Size Range:** Between giant planets like Jupiter and small stars.
- **Formation:** Accumulate material like a star, not like a planet.
- **Atmospheric Clouds:** Can have clouds made of precipitates, likely hot silicate particles, unlike Earth's water clouds.
- **Element Retention:** Hold onto lighter elements (**hydrogen and helium**) more effectively than planets, with low metal content.
- **Nuclear Fuel:** Do not have enough mass for their cores to burn nuclear fuel and radiate starlight.
- **Nickname:** Sometimes referred to as "**failed stars**" due to the inability to sustain nuclear fusion.

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