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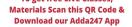


#### 23 July 2024 National and International News

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	<ul> <li>Why in the news?</li> <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>
	<ul> <li>About International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: <ul> <li>Adoption and Enforcement: <ul> <li>Adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1966.</li> <li>Came into force in 1976.</li> </ul> </li> <li>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.</li> <li>Obligations for Ratifying Countries: <ul> <li>Protect and preserve basic human rights including:</li> <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> <li>Implement administrative, judicial, and legislative measures to safeguard these rights.</li> <li>Provide effective remedies for violations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul></li></ul>
	<ul> <li>India's Participation:         <ul> <li>India became a party in 1979.</li> <li>Underwent three reviews, with the last one in 1997.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
India Maritime Centre (IMC)	Why in the news? • The India Maritime Centre (IMC) is advancing towards







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realization under the Maritime India Vision 2030.
<ul> <li>About India Maritime Centre (IMC): <ul> <li>Initiative of: Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Part of: Maritime India Vision 2030</li> <li>Objectives: <ul> <li>Provide a unified platform for the Indian maritime industry.</li> <li>Act as a think tank for policy formulation and industry recommendations.</li> <li>Advance India's maritime interests domestically and internationally.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Primary Goals: <ul> <li>Strengthen India's participation in the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and global maritime forums.</li> <li>Create a robust domestic maritime sector through a unified and synchronized approach.</li> <li>Conduct flagship events to build a strong global brand for the Indian maritime cluster.</li> <li>Provide expert analysis and recommendations for sustainable growth.</li> <li>Establish platforms for industry stakeholders to collaborate and network.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
• Create a pool of funds to support the industry,
including startups.
<ul> <li>Location: Mumbai</li> <li>Facilities:</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>IMC Secretariat to be built as a world-class facility.</li> <li>Equipped with conference areas and meeting rooms.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Why in the news?</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>





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	About Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary:
	<ul> <li>Location: Raisen and Sehore districts, Madhya Pradesh</li> <li>Area: 823 sq. km</li> <li>Geography: Rocky forest with aquatic environment on Vindhya Hills</li> <li>Boundaries: Runs parallel to the northern side of the Narmada River; Kolar River forms the western boundary</li> <li>Significant Features:         <ul> <li>Bhimbetka: Group of rock shelters and rock paintings, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Landscape: Rugged terrain with hills, valleys, plateaus, and plains</li> <li>Flora:         <ul> <li>Forest Types: Dry deciduous and moist deciduous</li> <li>Teak Coverage: About 55% of the area</li> <li>Other Species: Various dry deciduous species</li> </ul> </li> <li>Fauna:         <ul> <li>Apex Predator: Tiger, with an estimated population of 40</li> <li>Endangered Species: Chinkara</li> <li>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</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Adam's Bridge or Ram Setu Bidge at Pamban Part & Brance Bidge at Pamban Part & Brance Bidge Or Ram Setu	<ul> <li>Why in the news?</li> <li>ISRO scientists have successfully mapped the submerged structure of Adam's Bridge, also known as Ram Setu.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>About Adam's Bridge:</li> <li>Connects Rameswaram Island (southeast coast of India) to Mannar Island (northwest coast of Sri Lanka).</li> <li>Separates the Gulf of Mannar from the Palk Strait.</li> <li>Geological and Historical Significance: <ul> <li>Represents a former land connection between India and Sri Lanka.</li> <li>Mentioned in the epic Ramayana as the bridge constructed by Lord Rama and his vanara (monkey)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>







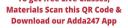
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	<ul> <li>army to rescue Goddess Sita from the demon king Ravana.</li> <li>Described as Sethubanthan in Valmiki's Ramayana.</li> <li>Cultural and Religious Importance:         <ul> <li>According to Islamic legend, Adam used this bridge to reach Adam's Peak in Sri Lanka.</li> <li>Rameshwaram temple records indicate that Adam's Bridge was above sea level until 1480, after which it was submerged due to natural calamities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Brown dwarfs	<ul> <li>Why in the news?</li> <li>Researchers used observations from the James Webb Space Telescope to conduct detailed examinations of the atmospheric conditions on pairs of brown dwarfs.</li> <li>About Brown dwarfs: <ul> <li>Celestial Bodies: Bigger than a planet, smaller than a star.</li> <li>Size Range: Between giant planets like Jupiter and small stars.</li> <li>Formation: Accumulate material like a star, not like a planet.</li> <li>Atmospheric Clouds: Can have clouds made of precipitates, likely hot silicate particles, unlike Earth's water clouds.</li> <li>Element Retention: Hold onto lighter elements (hydrogen and helium) more effectively than planets, with low metal content.</li> <li>Nuclear Fuel: Do not have enough mass for their cores to burn nuclear fuel and radiate starlight.</li> <li>Nickname: Sometimes referred to as "failed stars" due to the inability to sustain nuclear fusion.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>







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