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+91 8434931877



www.achieversiaspatna.co.in



achieversiaspatna@gmail.com

Top Stories of The Day

- India Launches Sovereign-Backed *Maritime Insurance Pool* to Strengthen Shipping Security and Global Trade.
- *Indian Athletes* Win Wrestling and Commonwealth Games 2026 Medals, Showcasing Growing Sports Excellence.
- Saudi Arabia Leads *14-Nation Maritime* Alliance to Protect West Asian Shipping Routes.
- *US Senate Proposes 100% Tariffs* on Russian Energy Buyers Amid Ukraine Conflict.
- IRDAI Grants Licence to *Protec General Insurance*, Expanding India's Insurance Sector.
- NCDEX Launches *Mutual Fund Platform* and Plans Equity Market Entry.
- Indian Navy Commissions *INS Machilipatnam* to Boost Coastal Defence Capabilities.
- Four Mathematicians Receive *Fields Medal 2026* at Philadelphia Congress.
- Nauru Officially Changes Name to *Naoero* to Preserve Indigenous Heritage.
- Oscar-Winning Musician *Glen Hansard* Dies at 56, Remembered for Musical Legacy.

India Launches First Sovereign-Backed Maritime Insurance Product to Strengthen Shipping and Trade Security



Why is it in News?

- India has launched the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP), the country's first sovereign-backed maritime insurance product. Backed by a USD 1.5 billion insurance pool and a sovereign guarantee of USD 1.4 billion (₹12,980 crore), the initiative aims to provide uninterrupted insurance coverage for Indian ships and cargo, especially during geopolitical conflicts and global shipping disruptions.

Key Highlights

- Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) is India's first sovereign-backed maritime insurance mechanism.
- It has a USD 1.5 billion insurance capacity, supported by a USD 1.4 billion (₹12,980 crore) sovereign guarantee.
- Covers major maritime risks, including Hull & Machinery, Cargo, Protection & Indemnity (P&I), and War Risk.
- Applicable to Indian-flagged or Indian-controlled vessels, as well as ships travelling to or from India.
- The first insurance policies were issued to Vedanta Sterlite Copper Ltd., Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd., and Hoger Offshore and Marine Pvt. Ltd.
- The scheme is administered through a pool of Indian insurers to reduce dependence on foreign insurance providers.

Background

- India has traditionally depended on foreign insurers and international P&I Clubs for maritime insurance. However, recent geopolitical tensions, particularly in West Asia, led to rising insurance premiums and the withdrawal of coverage by some foreign insurers. To ensure uninterrupted maritime trade and strengthen self-reliance, the Government approved the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool in April 2026 and officially launched it in May 2026.

Significance

- The initiative enhances India's maritime security by ensuring continuous insurance coverage even during global crises. It reduces dependence on foreign insurers, supports uninterrupted imports and exports, strengthens India's shipping industry, lowers insurance uncertainty, and aligns with the vision of Maritime India Vision 2030 and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Exam Focus Points

• Scheme: Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP).
• Launched By: Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.
• Type: India's first sovereign-backed maritime insurance product.
• Insurance Capacity: USD 1.5 billion.
• Sovereign Guarantee: USD 1.4 billion (₹12,980 crore).
• Coverage: Hull & Machinery, Cargo, Protection & Indemnity (P&I), and War Risk.
• Beneficiaries: Indian-flagged/controlled vessels and ships operating to or from India.
• First Policy Holders: Vedanta Sterlite Copper Ltd., Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd., and Hoger Offshore and Marine Pvt. Ltd.

Way Forward

- India should strengthen domestic marine underwriting and reinsurance capacity, develop an indigenous P&I ecosystem, expand global partnerships, and leverage digital technologies for risk assessment. This will improve the

resilience of India's maritime sector, reduce external dependence, and support the country's ambition of becoming a leading global maritime and trading nation.

Indian Athletes Shine on Global Stage with Medals in Wrestling and Commonwealth Games 2026



Why is it in News?

- India delivered an impressive performance in international sports by winning one silver and two bronze medals at the U17 World Wrestling Championships 2026 in Baku, Azerbaijan, while Lovepreet Singh secured a silver medal in the men's +110 kg weightlifting event at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2026 in Glasgow, Scotland. These achievements reflect India's growing strength in wrestling and weightlifting at the global level.

Key Highlights

- Nikita Sehrawat won the silver medal in the women's 57 kg category at the U17 World Wrestling Championships.
- Kamna and Garima secured bronze medals in their respective weight categories.
- At the CWG 2026, Lovepreet Singh won the silver medal in the men's +110 kg weightlifting event.
- Lovepreet set a new Commonwealth Games record in the snatch lift, narrowly missing the gold medal by just one kilogram.

Background

- The U17 World Wrestling Championships is an annual international tournament organised by United World Wrestling (UWW) to identify emerging wrestling talent. The Commonwealth Games is a prestigious multi-sport event held every four years, featuring athletes from Commonwealth nations. India's consistent performances in both events underline the country's expanding sporting ecosystem and investment in young athletes.

Exam Focus Points

Event 1: U17 World Wrestling Championships 2026.

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|--|
| • Venue: Baku, Azerbaijan. |
| • Organiser: United World Wrestling (UWW). |
| • India's Performance: 1 Silver and 2 Bronze medals. |
| • Silver Medalist: Nikita Sehrawat (Women's 57 kg). |
| • Bronze Medalists: Kamna and Garima. |

Event 2: Commonwealth Games 2026.

- | |
|--|
| • Venue: Glasgow, Scotland. |
| • Silver Medalist: Lovepreet Singh. |
| • Sport: Weightlifting. |
| • Category: Men's +110 kg. |
| • Special Achievement: Set a Commonwealth Games record in the snatch lift. |

CWG 2026

- | |
|---|
| • Organising Body: Commonwealth Sport. |
| • First Edition: 1930 (Hamilton, Canada). |

• Frequency: Every 4 years.	• Next Host (2030): Ahmedabad (Amdavad), India.
• 2026 Host: Glasgow, Scotland.	
• Duration: 23 July – 2 August 2026.	
• Participating CGAs: 74.	

14 Countries, Led by Saudi Arabia, Launch Maritime Defence Alliance to Protect Key West Asian Shipping Routes



Why is it in News?

- Saudi Arabia and 13 other countries have launched a Saudi-led Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition to protect commercial shipping and ensure freedom of navigation in key waterways of West Asia. The initiative aims to counter rising attacks on merchant vessels and safeguard global trade and energy supply routes.

Key Highlights

- The alliance has been formed to protect commercial ships operating in key maritime routes of West Asia.
- It aims to ensure safe and uninterrupted movement of global trade, especially oil, gas, and essential commodities.
- The coalition will strengthen maritime surveillance, intelligence sharing, coordinated naval patrols, and rapid response to security threats.
- The initiative focuses on protecting critical sea routes such as the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and the Persian Gulf.
- It seeks to deter attacks on merchant vessels and maintain freedom of navigation in international waters.

Background

- West Asia contains some of the world's busiest and most strategic maritime trade routes, through which a significant share of global crude oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG), and commercial goods is transported. In recent years, attacks on commercial ships and regional conflicts have increased security concerns, leading to higher shipping costs, insurance premiums, and disruptions in global supply chains. The new alliance has been established to address these challenges through collective maritime security.

Significance

- The alliance is expected to enhance maritime security, protect global energy supplies, and reduce risks to international trade. It will strengthen cooperation among participating countries, ensure safer navigation in critical waterways, and contribute to regional stability. For India, secure sea lanes are crucial as a large share of its energy imports and overseas trade passes through these routes.

Waterway

Importance

• Red Sea	Connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean via the Suez Canal; one of the world's busiest trade routes.
• Gulf of Aden	Connects the Arabian Sea with the Red Sea; a key route for ships travelling between Europe and Asia.
• Bab el-Mandeb Strait	A narrow chokepoint linking the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden; vital for global oil, LNG, and container shipping.
• Persian Gulf	One of the world's most important energy corridors, exporting a

significant share of global crude oil and natural gas through the Strait of Hormuz.

- Reason for Formation: Rising attacks on merchant ships and increasing geopolitical tensions.

Exam Focus Points

- Initiative: Maritime Defence Alliance.
- Led By: Saudi Arabia.
- Participating Countries: 14 (Saudi Arabia + 13 others).
- Objective: Protect commercial shipping and ensure freedom of navigation.
- Region: West Asia.
- Key Waterways: Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab el-Mandeb Strait, Persian Gulf.
- Major Focus: Maritime surveillance, intelligence sharing, coordinated naval patrols, and rapid response.

Way Forward

- The success of the alliance will depend on effective coordination among member countries, real-time intelligence sharing, and sustained naval cooperation. Strengthening maritime domain awareness, adopting advanced surveillance technologies, and ensuring adherence to international maritime law will be essential for securing global shipping routes and maintaining stability in the region.

US Senate Proposes 100% Tariffs on Countries Buying Russian Energy



Why is it in News?

- A bipartisan group of US Senators has introduced the Sanctioning Russia Act, 2026, proposing 100% tariffs on imports from countries that continue to purchase Russian oil, natural gas, uranium, and other energy products. The move is aimed at increasing economic pressure on Russia over the Ukraine conflict. If enacted, countries such as India and China, which continue to import Russian energy, could face higher tariffs on their exports to the United States.

Key Highlights

- The proposed legislation is called the Sanctioning Russia Act, 2026.

- It seeks to impose 100% tariffs on imports from countries purchasing Russian energy resources.
- The Bill targets countries buying crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas, uranium, and petrochemicals from Russia.
- The objective is to reduce Russia's energy revenues and increase economic pressure over the Ukraine war.
- Countries likely to be affected include India, China, and several other nations importing Russian energy.
- The proposal is still under consideration in the US Senate and has not yet become law.

Background

- Since the Russia-Ukraine conflict began in 2022, Western countries have imposed multiple sanctions on Russia to limit its economic and financial capabilities. However, Russia has continued to earn significant revenue through energy exports, particularly to Asian countries. The proposed legislation seeks to discourage these purchases by imposing trade penalties on importing countries rather than directly targeting Russia.

Significance

- If passed, the legislation could affect global trade, energy markets, and diplomatic relations. Countries dependent on discounted Russian energy, including India, may face increased export costs in the US market. The proposal also reflects the growing use of secondary sanctions by the United States to influence the policies of third countries.

- Energy Products Covered: Crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas, uranium, and petrochemicals.
- Objective: Reduce Russia's energy revenue and increase pressure over the Ukraine conflict.
- Countries Potentially Affected: India, China, and other buyers of Russian energy.
- Current Status: Proposal under consideration; not yet enacted into law.

Exam Focus Points

- Bill: Sanctioning Russia Act, 2026.
- Introduced In: US Senate.
- Proposed Tariff: 100%.
- Target: Countries importing Russian energy products.

Way Forward

- The future of the proposal will depend on its approval by the US Congress and the President. Countries affected may diversify energy imports, strengthen diplomatic engagement with the United States, and accelerate investments in renewable energy and alternative suppliers to reduce geopolitical risks.

IRDAI Grants Licence to Protec General Insurance, Strengthening India's Insurance Ecosystem



Why is it in News?

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has granted a general insurance licence to Protec General Insurance Ltd. It is the fourth insurance company to receive regulatory approval in 2026. The move is expected to increase competition in the insurance sector, improve customer choices, and support the government's vision of 'Insurance for All by 2047'.

- Protec General Insurance Ltd. has received a licence to operate as a general insurance company.
- It is the fourth insurer to receive an IRDAI licence in 2026.
- The company will offer products such as motor, health, property, travel, and commercial insurance.
- The approval is expected to promote innovation, improve insurance penetration, and enhance financial inclusion.

What is Insurance?

- Insurance is a financial risk management tool under which an individual or business pays a premium to an insurance company. In return, the insurer provides financial compensation in case of specified losses such as accidents, illness, theft, fire, or natural disasters.

Key Highlights

Types of Insurance

- Life Insurance: Covers the risk of death and provides financial security to the nominee.
- General (Non-Life) Insurance: Covers risks related to health, motor vehicles, property, travel, crops, marine cargo, etc.

About IRDAI

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is the statutory regulator of India's insurance sector.
- Established: 1999 under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.
- Became Operational: 2000.
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Chairperson: Ajay Seth.
- Vision: Insurance for All by 2047.

Functions of IRDAI

- Grants licences to insurance companies and intermediaries.
- Regulates and supervises the insurance industry.
- Protects the interests of policyholders.

- Ensures the financial soundness of insurance companies.
- Promotes fair competition and development of the insurance sector.

Significance

- The approval of Protec General Insurance is expected to deepen competition in the non-life insurance market, encourage product innovation, improve customer service, and expand insurance coverage across India. It will also contribute to financial inclusion by making insurance more accessible and affordable.

Exam Focus Points

- Regulator: Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- New Company: Protec General Insurance Ltd.
- Type of Licence: General Insurance.
- Approval Year: 2026.
- IRDAI Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana.
- IRDAI Established: 1999.

NCDEX Launches Mutual Fund Platform, Plans Entry into Equity Cash Market



Why is it in News?

- The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) has launched its Mutual Fund (MF) Distribution Platform and announced plans to enter the equity cash segment by January 2027, subject to regulatory approvals. The initiative aims to diversify

NCDEX's business beyond commodity trading and provide investors with a wider range of financial products.

Key Highlights

- NCDEX has introduced a Mutual Fund Distribution Platform for investors.
- The platform will allow investors to buy, sell, and manage mutual fund investments through a single digital interface.
- NCDEX also plans to launch operations in the equity cash segment by January 2027, subject to approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

- The move is part of NCDEX's strategy to expand beyond commodity derivatives into broader capital market services.

About NCDEX

- The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) is India's leading commodity derivatives exchange, established to facilitate transparent and efficient trading in agricultural and other commodity futures.

• Established: 2003.
• Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
• Regulator: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
• Major Products: Agricultural commodity futures and options such as wheat, chana, soybean, mustard seed, jeera, cotton, and other commodities.

What is a Mutual Fund?

- A Mutual Fund is an investment vehicle that pools money from many investors and invests it in a diversified portfolio of securities such as shares, bonds, government securities, and money market instruments. It is managed by professional Asset Management Companies (AMCs) and helps investors diversify risk.

What is the Equity Cash Segment?

- The equity cash segment is the market where investors buy and sell shares of listed companies for immediate delivery and ownership. Unlike

derivatives, transactions in the cash segment involve actual transfer of shares.

Significance

- The launch of the Mutual Fund platform marks NCDEX's diversification into investment services beyond commodity trading. Entry into the equity cash segment will increase competition in India's capital markets, improve investor access to multiple asset classes, and strengthen the country's financial market infrastructure.

Exam Focus Points

• Exchange: National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX).
• Established: 2003.
• Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
• Regulator: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
• New Launch: Mutual Fund Distribution Platform.
• Future Plan: Entry into the equity cash segment by January 2027 (subject to SEBI approval).
• Primary Business: Commodity derivatives trading.
• Mutual Fund: Pooled investment managed by Asset Management Companies (AMCs).
• Equity Cash Segment: Market for buying and selling shares with immediate ownership transfer.

Indian Navy Launches INS Machilipatnam to Strengthen Anti-Submarine Warfare Capability

Why is it in News?

- The Indian Navy has commissioned INS Machilipatnam, an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), to enhance India's coastal defence and maritime security.

The warship is designed to detect, track, and neutralise enemy submarines operating in shallow coastal waters, strengthening the Navy's underwater warfare capabilities.

Key Highlights

- INS Machilipatnam is an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC).
- It has been inducted into the Indian Navy to strengthen coastal surveillance and underwater defence.
- The warship is equipped with advanced sonar systems, torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, and modern surveillance equipment.
- It is capable of detecting, tracking, and destroying enemy submarines in shallow waters.
- INS Machilipatnam has been designed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, with a high percentage of indigenous content.



About the ASW-SWC Project

- The Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) Project aims to build a fleet of 16 indigenous shallow-water anti-submarine warships for the Indian Navy. These vessels are intended to replace the ageing Abhay-class corvettes and strengthen India's capability to protect its long coastline and strategic maritime assets.

About Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)

- Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) refers to military operations aimed at detecting, tracking, and neutralising enemy submarines using sonar systems, aircraft, helicopters, warships, torpedoes, and anti-submarine rockets.

Significance

- The induction of INS Machilipatnam significantly enhances India's coastal defence, maritime domain awareness, and underwater warfare capabilities. It supports the Navy's efforts to secure sea lanes, protect strategic ports and offshore assets, and strengthens indigenous defence manufacturing under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Exam Focus Points

• Warship: INS Machilipatnam.
• Type: Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC).
• Force: Indian Navy.
• Role: Detect, track, and neutralise enemy submarines.
• Project: ASW-SWC Project (16 indigenous warships).
• Designed By: Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
• Built By: Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).
• Replaces: Abhay-class corvettes.
• Additional Roles: Search & Rescue (SAR), coastal patrol, and low-intensity maritime operations.

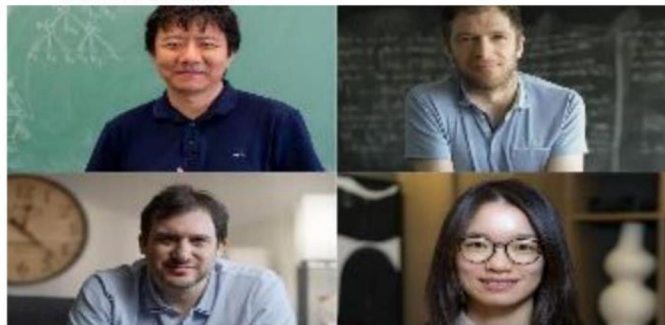
Four Mathematicians Receive Prestigious Fields Medal 2026 for Outstanding Contributions to Mathematics

Why is it in News?

- The Fields Medal 2026, the world's most prestigious award in mathematics, has been awarded to Yu Deng (China), John Pardon

(United States), Jacob Tsimerman (Canada), and Hong Wang (United States) for their exceptional contributions to different branches of mathematics. The awards were presented during the International Congress of

Mathematicians (ICM) 2026 in Philadelphia, United States.



Key Highlights

- The Fields Medal 2026 was awarded to Yu Deng, John Pardon, Jacob Tsimerman, and Hong Wang.
- The award is presented by the International Mathematical Union (IMU).
- It recognises outstanding mathematical achievements and future research potential.
- The medal is awarded once every four years.
- Only mathematicians below the age of 40 are eligible.
- The award ceremony took place at the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) 2026 in Philadelphia, USA.

Background

- The Fields Medal was established in 1936 by Canadian mathematician John Charles Fields. It is regarded as the highest honour in mathematics and is often called the "Nobel Prize of Mathematics", as there is no Nobel Prize in this field. The medal honours young mathematicians who have made exceptional contributions and show promise for future research.

Significance

- The Fields Medal encourages excellence in mathematical research and recognises groundbreaking discoveries that contribute to science, technology, engineering, economics, and artificial intelligence. It also inspires young researchers to pursue advanced mathematical studies.

Exam Focus Points

• Award: Fields Medal 2026.
• Awarding Body: International Mathematical Union (IMU).
• Presented At: International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) 2026.
• Venue (2026): Philadelphia, United States.
• Frequency: Every 4 years.
• Eligibility: Mathematicians below 40 years of age.
• Recipients (2026): Yu Deng (China), John Pardon (USA), Jacob Tsimerman (Canada), and Hong Wang (USA).
• Established: 1936.
• Founder: John Charles Fields.
• Popularly Known As: "Nobel Prize of Mathematics."

Way Forward

- Promoting mathematical research through funding, international collaboration, and support for young researchers will foster innovation and scientific advancement. Recognising excellence through awards like the Fields Medal motivates future generations to contribute to solving complex global challenges through mathematics.

Pacific Island Nation Nauru Officially Changes Its Name to 'Naoero'

Why is it in News?

- The Pacific island nation Nauru has officially changed its name to the Republic of Naoero, restoring its traditional indigenous name. The

move aims to reaffirm the country's cultural identity, heritage, and language by replacing the colonial-era name adopted by European settlers.

Key Highlights

- Nauru has officially been renamed Republic of Naoero.
- "Naoero" is the country's traditional indigenous name.
- The change was enabled through a constitutional amendment passed by Parliament.
- The government decided not to hold a referendum, stating that "Naoero" was already widely accepted by the people.
- Citizens will now be officially known as "dei-Naoero."
- The government has begun informing the United Nations and other countries about the official name change.



Background

- The name "Nauru" originated during the colonial period when European settlers altered the indigenous name because it was difficult to pronounce. The government stated that restoring "Naoero" reflects the nation's heritage,

language, and identity. The country became independent from Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom's trusteeship on 31 January 1968.

Significance

- The renaming symbolises decolonisation and the revival of indigenous identity. It also reflects a growing global trend of countries reclaiming traditional names to preserve their cultural heritage and strengthen national identity.

Exam Focus Points

• Country (New Name): Republic of Naoero.
• Former Name: Republic of Nauru.
• Region: Micronesia, Oceania.
• Capital: Yaren (de facto).
• President: David Adeang.
• Official Languages: Nauruan and English.
• Currency: Australian Dollar (AUD).
• Population: Around 12,000.
• Significance: Restoration of the country's indigenous name and cultural identity.
• Citizens' Demonym: dei-Naoero.

Oscar-Winning Irish Musician Glen Hansard Dies at 56



Why is it in News?

- Irish singer-songwriter and Academy Award (Oscar) winner Glen Hansard passed away at the age of 56 in Dublin, Ireland. He was internationally renowned for starring in the film Once (2007) and co-writing and performing the

Oscar-winning song "Falling Slowly." His death has prompted tributes from political leaders, musicians, and fans across the world.

Key Highlights

- Glen Hansard died in Dublin, Ireland, at the age of 56.
- He gained global recognition through the 2007 musical film Once.
- Hansard co-wrote and performed "Falling Slowly," which won the Academy Award for Best Original Song.

- Apart from music, he was known for his humanitarian work and annual charity events supporting homeless people in Ireland.

Background

- Born in Dublin, Ireland, Glen Hansard began his career as a street musician (busker) before becoming one of Ireland's most respected singer-songwriters. His breakthrough came with the independent film *Once* (2007), which later inspired a successful Broadway musical. Throughout his career, he was celebrated for his soulful music, live performances, and contributions to Irish culture.

Exam Focus Points

• Person: Glen Hansard.
• Nationality: Irish.
• Profession: Singer-songwriter, musician, and actor.
• Famous Film: <i>Once</i> (2007).
• Oscar-Winning Song: <i>Falling Slowly</i> .
• Award: Academy Award for Best Original Song.
• Band: The Frames.

The

Lets Revise

- ❖ What is the name of India's first sovereign-backed maritime insurance product? **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP).**
- ❖ Which ministry launched the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)? **Ministry of Finance (through the Department of Financial Services).**
- ❖ What is the total insurance capacity of the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)? **USD 1.5 billion.**
- ❖ What is the value of the sovereign guarantee provided under BMIP? **USD 1.4 billion (approximately ₹12,980 crore).**
- ❖ Where was the U17 World Wrestling Championships 2026 held? **Baku, Azerbaijan.**
- ❖ Which organisation conducts the U17 World Wrestling Championships? **United World Wrestling (UWW).**
- ❖ Which city hosted the Commonwealth Games 2026? **Glasgow, Scotland.**
- ❖ Which organisation governs the Commonwealth Games? **Commonwealth Sport (formerly the Commonwealth Games Federation).**

- ❖ Which city will host the Commonwealth Games 2030? **Ahmedabad (Amdavad), India.**
- ❖ Which country has led the formation of the Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition? **Saudi Arabia.**
- ❖ How many countries are part of the Saudi-led Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition? **14 countries (Saudi Arabia + 13 others).**
- ❖ Name the four key waterways covered under the Maritime Defence Coalition: **Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and the Persian Gulf.**
- ❖ Which proposed US legislation seeks to impose tariffs on countries buying Russian energy? **Sanctioning Russia Act, 2026.**
- ❖ What tariff does the proposed Bill seek to impose on countries importing Russian energy? **100% tariff on imports into the United States.**
- ❖ Which regulatory body granted a general insurance licence to Protec General Insurance Ltd.? **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).**
- ❖ Which company received a general insurance licence from IRDAI in July 2026? **Protec General Insurance Ltd.**
- ❖ Which exchange has launched a Mutual Fund (MF) Distribution Platform? **National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX).**
- ❖ What is the full form of NCDEX? **National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange.**
- ❖ When was NCDEX established? **2003.**
- ❖ Who manages Mutual Funds in India? **Asset Management Companies (AMCs).**
- ❖ What type of warship is INS Machilipatnam? **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC).**
- ❖ What is the primary role of INS Machilipatnam? **To detect, track, and neutralise enemy submarines operating in shallow coastal waters.**
- ❖ Which project is INS Machilipatnam a part of? **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) Project.**

- ❖ Which organisation designed INS Machilipatnam? **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).**
- ❖ Which shipyard built INS Machilipatnam? **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).**
- ❖ Which is the highest international honour in the field of mathematics? **Fields Medal.**
- ❖ Who were awarded the Fields Medal 2026? **Yu Deng, John Pardon, Jacob Tsimerman, and Hong Wang.**
- ❖ Which organisation awards the Fields Medal? **International Mathematical Union (IMU).**
- ❖ How often is the Fields Medal awarded? **Once every four years.**
- ❖ What is the maximum age limit for receiving the Fields Medal? **Below 40 years of age.**
- ❖ Who established the Fields Medal? **John Charles Fields.**
- ❖ In which year was the Fields Medal established? **1936.**
- ❖ Why is the Fields Medal often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of Mathematics"? **Because there is no Nobel Prize in Mathematics, and the Fields Medal is regarded as the highest honour in the field.**
- ❖ Which country did Yu Deng represent while receiving the Fields Medal 2026? **China.**
- ❖ Which country did Jacob Tsimerman represent while receiving the Fields Medal 2026? **Canada.**
- ❖ Which two Fields Medal 2026 recipients are from the United States? **John Pardon and Hong Wang.**
- ❖ What is the new official name of Nauru? **Republic of Naoero.**
- ❖ Why did Nauru change its name to Naoero? **To restore its traditional indigenous name and strengthen its cultural identity and heritage.**
- ❖ What is the capital of the Republic of Naoero? **Yaren (de facto capital).**
- ❖ What is the currency of the Republic of Naoero? **Australian Dollar (AUD).**
- ❖ In which year did Nauru gain independence? **1968 (31 January 1968).**

- ❖ Which Oscar-winning song was co-written and performed by Glen Hansard? "Falling Slowly."
- ❖ Which Irish rock band was led by Glen Hansard? The Frames.





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IMPORTANCE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS IN UPSC EXAMINATIONS

Current Affairs hold a crucial place in the preparation for the UPSC Civil Services Examination. A comprehensive understanding of recent national and international developments helps aspirants strengthen their General Studies foundation and develop a well-rounded perspective on important issues. Topics such as government policies, schemes, economy, international relations, science and technology, environment, defence, social justice, governance, reports, indices, appointments, awards, and major global events are highly relevant for both the Prelims and Mains examinations. Regular study of current affairs not only enhances factual knowledge but also improves analytical ability, critical thinking, answer-writing skills, and decision-making aptitude. Since UPSC questions often connect contemporary developments with static subjects, consistent preparation of current affairs enables aspirants to understand issues in depth and present balanced, informed, and relevant answers. It also plays an important role in Essay writing, Ethics, and the Personality Test, giving candidates a strong edge throughout the examination process.

CONTACT US



+91 8434931877



achievers_ias_patna



PATLIPUTRA GOLAMBAR



ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY (UPSC/BPSC)



achieversiaspatna@gmail.com



Achievers IAS Academy



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