



# DAILY PT POINTERS

15<sup>th</sup> December, 2023



## The Hindu: GS2-Polity and Governance (Page 1)

### 14 Opposition MPs suspended from House amid face-off

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Escalating the face-off with the Opposition parties, which have been demanding a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah over the security breach in Lok Sabha, as many as 14 Opposition MPs were suspended on Thursday for the remaining days of the Winter Session for disrupting Parliament proceedings.

The Winter Session is scheduled to end on December 22.

While Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien was the only one to have been suspended from the Rajya Sabha, as many as 13 Opposition MPs, including nine from the Congress and the DMK's Kanimozhi, were among those who were suspended from the Lok Sabha.

Though the DMK's S.R. Parthiban was also initially suspended, the govern-



Suspended MP Derek O'Brien protests outside the Parliament House on Thursday. PTI

ment withdrew his name after the Congress's Karti Chidambaram and the BSP's Danish Ali pointed out that the DMK MP was not even present in the House on Thursday and was away in Chennai.

Earlier, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi moved two separate resolutions in the Lok Sabha to suspend 14 Opposition members for showing "utter disregard to the House and showing disrespect to the House".

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- The general principle is that it is the role and duty of the Presiding Officer — Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairman of Rajya Sabha — to maintain order so that the House can function smoothly.
- In order to ensure that proceedings are conducted in the proper manner, the Speaker/Chairman is empowered to force a Member to withdraw from the House.
- Rule Number 373 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business says: "The Speaker, if is of the opinion that the conduct of any Member is grossly disorderly, may direct such Member to withdraw immediately from the House, and any Member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall remain absent during the remainder of the day's sitting."

The Hindu: GS2-Polity and Governance (Page 6)

# Do pregnancy test in all POCSO cases, says Karnataka HC

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed pregnancy test on every victim of rape and sexual offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, along with other mandatory medical examinations after registration of a first information report on the alleged offences.

This measure will help to ascertain, among other relevant medical conditions, the gestation period for termination of pregnancy at the earliest, the physical and mental status of the victim, the ability to undergo medical termination of the pregnancy, aggravating factors that will impinge upon the health and well-being of the victim, the Karnataka High Court said.

- The POCSO Act was enacted in 2012 to protect children from sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography. It also provides for establishment of special courts for trial of such offences.
- Under the Act, a child's right to privacy and confidentiality should be protected and respected by every person by all means through all stages of the judicial process.
- The Act was further reviewed and amended in 2019 to introduce more stringent punishment including the death penalty for committing sexual crimes on children, with a view to deter the perpetrators & prevent such crimes against children.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## The Hindu: GS3-Environment (Page 6)

### 'India's fastest' solar-electric boat launched

The Hindu Bureau  
KOCHI

Taking ahead the cause of eco-friendly maritime transportation, *Barracuda*, said to be India's fastest solar-electric boat, was launched on Wednesday at the yard of Navalt Solar and Electric Boats, located off Aroor in Alappuzha.

Named after the swift, long fish, *Barracuda* was designed by Navalt and can be deployed even in the rough seas as a workboat to ferry up to 12 passengers and cargo. The 14-metre-long, 4.4-metre-wide vessel can attain a top speed



**Green and fast:** *Barracuda*, said to be India's fastest solar-electric boat, was launched off Aroor on Wednesday.

power, says a release issued by Navalt. Sanjay Kumar Singh, the eco-friendly vessel at its Mumbai dock. It is engineered to navi-

**Barracuda can navigate through waves as tall as four metres and operates without noise and vibration**

er and quieter ocean, for which such boats would provide affordable substitutes for conventional fossil-fuelled boats," said Sandith Thandasherry, managing director, Navalt Solar and Electric Boats. It won the world's best start-up award in the mobility and transportation category at the Berlin Start-up

- The Barracuda, India's fastest solar-electric boat, was ceremoniously launched at the Navgathi Panavally Yard in Alappuzha.
- This cutting-edge vessel was jointly developed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders and Navalt.
- The Barracuda, named after the swift long fish, is designed by Navalt for workboat purposes.
- the Barracuda excels in challenging marine environments. Certified under IRS, it can accommodate 12 passengers, offering a noise-free, vibration-free, and pollution-free journey.

## The Hindu: Miscellaneous (Page 16)

### Activist Ali Abu Awwad and pianist Daniel Barenboim win Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Classical pianist Daniel Barenboim and peace activist Ali Abu Awwad have been named the winners of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2023 for their efforts in bringing together the youth and people of Israel and the Arab world for a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The international jury, headed by former Chief Justice of India T.S. Thakur, observed that Mr. Barenboim and Mr. Awwad have fostered meaningful, mutual social and cultural understanding, and peaceful public cooperation through the tools of music, dialogue, and people's participation.



Ali Abu Awwad and Daniel Barenboim

known for his relentless endeavour in using music to foster harmony in West Asia.

"His friendship and partnership with Palestinian literary scholar Edward Said shaped his vision of a peaceful resolution of Israel-Palestinian conflict through respect, discourse, and dialogue."

and North-African countries in spaces of unity and understanding," a release said.

Mr. Barenboim believes that "to make music, you have to listen. You have to listen [to] what the other one is doing, but you also have to listen [to] what you are doing and how it affects the other - this is the best school of human rela-

ing conflict. Born in 1972, he was raised in a politically-active refugee family. Unable to meet each other while in prison for three years, he and his mother undertook a 17-day hunger strike, which resulted in achieving permission for a visit.

#### 'Watershed moment'

"This success was a watershed moment in Abu Awwad's realisation that non-violent action along Gandhian principles could be the way forward for achieving one's goals of freedom and dignity," the release said.

In 2014, Mr. Awwad co-founded a local Palestinian-Israeli initiative called Roots, promoting understanding, non-violence and transformation. "His peace-building efforts led

- The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual prestigious award.
- It has been named after former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi.
- It is being conferred every year since 1986 by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. It consists of a monetary award of `25 lakh along with a citation.

The Hindu: IR–GS 2 (Page 17)

## European Union agrees to open membership negotiations with Ukraine

**Associated Press**  
BRUSSELS

The European Union decided on Thursday to open accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova. European Council president Charles Michel called it “a clear signal of hope for their people and our continent.”

The decision was announced at a summit gathering leaders of the 27 EU countries.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed the decision as “a victory for Ukraine. A victory for all of Europe”.

Meanwhile, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban insisted that the European Union should not yet start talks on Ukraine joining the bloc, a lone stand-out ahead of an EU summit that comes at a critical

**Hungarian PM Orban insist that the European Union should not yet start talks on Ukraine joining the bloc**

time for Kyiv in its war against Russia. Mr. Orban is also blocking giving 50 billion euros (\$54 billion) in financial aid for Kyiv from the EU budget, but signalled he could back long-term aid outside the EU budget, opening a door for some form of deal on that front.

Ukraine badly needs support from its Western allies in its nearly two-year fight against Moscow’s invasion. Its counter-offensive has failed to make major gains and the Biden administration has so far been unable to get a \$60 billion aid package for Kyiv through Congress.

- The EU is a unique economic and political partnership between 27 European countries.
- It was first created in 1958 as the European Economic Community (EEC) by Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.
- since 1993, known as the European Union.
- The EU is based on the rule of law – everything it does is founded on treaties, voluntarily and democratically agreed by all member countries.
- In 2012, the European Union received the Nobel Peace prize for the stabilising role it has played in transforming most of Europe from a continent of war to a continent of peace; advancing the causes of reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Economy–GS 3 (Page 18)

## ‘Logistics costs drop to 7.8%-8.9% of GDP’

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

India’s logistics costs had reduced from a range of 8.6% to 9.8% in 2013-14 to 7.8%-8.9% of GDP in 2021-22, as per a report by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) commissioned by the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

The estimate, which re-



time and costs experienced by industry,” said Rajesh Kumar Singh, secre-

- India’s logistics costs had reduced from a range of 8.6% to 9.8% in 2013-14 to 7.8%-8.9% of GDP in 2021-22, as per a report by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) commissioned by the Commerce and Industry Ministry.
- The estimate, which relied on National Accounts Statistics for data such as the output of transport services, storage and warehousing sectors, dispels earlier estimates that pegged the country’s logistics costs as high as 14% of GDP.

### Do you know ?

- India’s National Logistics Policy was launched in September 2022 to reduce logistics costs in India. The latest report on logisticS costs is expected to help achieve the target of reducing the country's logistics costs.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

**PIB: Defence - GS 3**



Indian Navy commissioned INS Tarmugli, a Fast Attack Craft, at Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command.

The ship is a Trinkat Class FAC which was gifted to the Maldivian Naval Defence Forces (MNDF) in 2006 by the Govt of India.

The ship was returned to the Indian Navy in May this year, which also provided an in-service Waterjet Fast Attack Craft, to MNDF as the new MCGS Huravee.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB: GS 2-Welfare Schemes





The Ministry of Minority Affairs launched 'Naya Savera' scheme ('Free Coaching and Allied' scheme) in 2007 to assist students/candidates belonging to the six notified minority communities namely Sikh, Jain, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Parsi by way of special coaching for qualifying examinations for admission in technical/professional courses and competitive examination for recruitment to Group 'A', 'B', & 'C' services and other equivalent posts under the Central and State Governments including public sector undertakings, banks and railways.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB: GS 2-Welfare Schemes

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Central share of Rs. 157.75 Cr released to 7.38 lakh beneficiaries under Pre-matric Scholarships scheme for SC & Others during FY2023-24 through DBT

Central share of Rs. 1623.42 Cr released to 13.56 lakh beneficiaries under Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students during FY2023-24 through DBT

Posted On: 14 DEC 2023 5:49PM by PIB Delhi



- The Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students (PMS-SC) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the SC students for studies in India only whose Parent/Guardian's income should not exceed Rs. 2.5 lakh per annum.
- The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Castes students and to appreciably increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio of SC students in higher education with a focus on those from the poorest households.
- It is the endeavour of the Government to raise the GER of SCs in higher education from 23.0 % to the national average till FY2025-26.

**Pre-Matric Scholarships Scheme** for SCs and Others is a Centrally Sponsored scheme with the objective of promoting literacy and uninterrupted education at the Pre-Matric level for children belonging to Scheduled Castes and children of parents/guardian who are engaged in unclean and hazardous occupation