

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. CCI revoked Amazon deal with Future group ( Dec. 18, 2021 )**

- The Competition commission of India has revoked its earlier approval to Amazon's 2019 deal with Future Coupons, a subsidiary of Kishore Biyani-led Future Group.
- In 2019, Amazon.com NV Investment Holdings, a direct subsidiary of Amazon.com Inc, signed an agreement with the Future Coupons Private Limited (FCPL) for buying 49 percent of its shares for Rs 1431 crore .
- Later ,Future Coupon Private Limited (FCPL) and the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) complained to the CCI to cancel the approval for the 2019 deal between Amazon and Future Coupons on the grounds that Amazon had “concealed facts” at the time of seeking approval for its investment.
- The CCI held Amazon guilty of concealing the facts and imposed a penalty of Rs. 200 crore on Amazon and cancel the deal
- Future Group is the owner of the popular departmental stores like Big Bazar Central etc.

#### **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is the chief national competition regulator in India.
- It is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- It enforces the Competition Act, 2002 (last amended in 2009).
- It promotes healthy market competition and prevents activities that have an adverse effect on competition in India.
- CCI also approves combinations under the act so that two merging entities do not overtake the market.

#### **Formed in 14th October 2003**

Headquarters - **New Delhi**

Current Chairman - **Ashok Kumar Gupta**

### **2. “Swarnim Vijay Varsh Special” Train ( Dec. 18, 2021 )**

- Indian railway has launched a special “Swarnim Vijay Varsh train” for the visiting Bangladeshi freedom fighters (Mukti Jodha) and Armed Force personnel.
- **The train which will start from Safdarjung station, Delhi will take the guests to Agra and Ajmer.**
- The Bangladeshi are visiting India to take part in the events as part of the “Swarnim Vijay Varsh” celebrations organised to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.

### **3. 488 journalists jailed, 46 killed across the world in 2021 - Reporters without Borders ( Dec. 17, 2021 )**

Reporters without Borders (RSF)'s the international non-profit organization for safeguarding the right to freedom of information, has released their latest annual roundup of violence and abuse suffered by journalists across the world.

**Report Highlights-**

- There are currently 488 media professionals imprisoned around the world, the highest number since Reporters Without Borders began counting more than 25 years ago.
- The number killed this year — 46 — was the lowest since it began issuing annual tallies, due to the relative stabilisation of conflicts in West Asia especially in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen.
- China once again has the highest number of imprisoned journalists at 127. Out of this number, more than half about 71 are Uighur journalists.
- **The most dangerous countries were Mexico and Afghanistan, with seven and six journalist deaths respectively, followed by Yemen and India with four deaths each.**

**Reporters Without Borders (French: Reporters Sans Frontières; RSF)**

- RSF is an international non-profit and non-governmental organization with the stated aim of safeguarding the right to freedom of information.
- **RSF has consultative status at the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the International Organisation of the Francophonie.**
- **Since 1995, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has been compiling annual round-ups of violence and abuses against journalists based on precise data gathered from 1 January to 1 December of the year in question. Headquarter - Paris, France**
- **Notable Report - World Press Freedom Index since 2002**

**4. Super Typhoon Rai lashes Philippines ( Dec. 17, 2021 )**

- **Super Typhoon Rai, known locally as Odette**, continued to wreak havoc across the Philippines, as the **storm moved west across the archipelago, bringing with it heavy rain and widespread flooding.**
- **Rai, the 15th typhoon to hit the Philippines this year**, weakened slightly from a Category 5 to a Category 3 storm (as per **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale**) after **making landfall Thursday on Siargao Island, a popular tourist and surfing destination on the central east coast.**

**Philippines**

**Capital** - Manila

**Currency** - Philippine Peso

**President** - Rodrigo Duterte

**5. National Conference on Women winning against Tuberculosis (TB) ( Dec. 17, 2021 )**

- It was organised by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi.
- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu was the chief guest.
- Speaking on the occasion Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, called for making people 'key partners' in the campaign for 'TB Mukta Bharat' by 2025.
- Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani stated that in India, **women account for nearly 36% of the total TB cases**. TB among women often goes unreported as women do not come forward to seek medical care due to societal stigma & lack of awareness.
- **The Government of India has set a target to eliminate TB from India by 2025.**
- India has the largest TB population in the world and around one fourth of the TB population is found in India.
- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a **bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.

**6. Foundation Literacy and Numeracy Index ( Dec. 17, 2021 )**

The report on the State of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy in India which highlights the importance of early education years in the overall development of a child was released by **the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**.

- **Foundation Literacy and Numeracy refers to basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills of children aged below ten years in India.**

**Key Highlights of the report:**

- The report was prepared by "Institute of Competitiveness" and released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- The index includes five pillars:

**(a) Educational Infrastructure,****(b) Access to Education****(c) Basic Health****(d) Learning Outcomes****(e) Governance.**

**States and UT (Union Territory) were grouped into four categories, i.e. Large States, Small States, Union Territories and North Eastern States.**

- **Among the Large State Category , West Bengal (58.95)** topped the ranking followed by **Tamil Nadu (55.49)** and **Maharashtra (53.11)** and **Bihar** was at the bottom.
- **Among the Small States category,** the top ranked state was **Kerala (67.95)** followed by **Himachal Pradesh (57.36)** and **Punjab (56.17)**.

- **Among the Union Territories category**, the top ranked UT was **Lakshadweep (52.69)** followed by **Delhi (50.74)** and **Puducherry (50.08)**.
- **Mizoram (51.64)** is the top **North-Eastern State**.
- The poor performing states in the overall index were **Jharkhand (45.28)**, **Odisha (45.58)**, **Madhya Pradesh (38.69)**, **Uttar Pradesh (38.49)**, **Bihar (36.81)**.

### **About EAC-PM**

**The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** is a non-constitutional, non-statutory, independent body constituted to give economic advice to the Government of India, specifically the Prime Minister.

- The council serves to highlight key economic issues facing the country to the government of India from a neutral viewpoint.
- It advises the Prime Minister on economic issues like inflation, microfinance, and industrial output.
- It was first constituted in 2017.

The main functions of PMEAC are as follows:

- Analyzing any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advising him thereon;
- Addressing issues of macro-economic importance and presenting views there on to the Prime Minister. This could be either suo-moto or on a reference from the Prime Minister or anyone else;
- Submitting periodic reports to the Prime Minister on macroeconomic developments and issues with implications for economic policy;
- Attending to any other task as may be desired by the Prime Minister from time to time.
- **The current Chairman of the EAC-PM is Bibek Debroy.**

### **7. Supreme Court approves Bullock Cart Race in Maharashtra ( Dec. 17, 2021 )**

Supreme Court has allowed the resumption of the traditional rural bull racing sport popular as **'bailgada', 'sharyat', 'chakkadi' and 'shankar path'**.

A 2-judge Supreme Court (SC) Bench of Justice A.M. Khanwilkar and Justice C.T.Ravikumar gave the nod to resume bullock cart races in Maharashtra that were prohibited since 2017, in response to an application filed by the Maharashtra government.

**SC said the amended rules notified by the Maharashtra State under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960 would** apply to the conduct of the races until a final decision of SC's constitutional bench on the 2018 Jallikattu case arrives.

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## **8. President Ramnath Kovind on a 3-day State Visit to Bangladesh ( Dec. 16, 2021 )**

Indian President Ramnath Kovind is currently on a 3-day State visit to Bangladesh from December 15 to 17, 2021.

**Bangladesh is observing the golden jubilee celebrations of its independence from Pakistan in 1971. Notably, President Kovind is the only foreign head of state invited to join the celebrations.**

### **Highlights of his visit**

- He visited the National Martyrs' Memorial and paid tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War of Bangladesh. **The Indian President also planted an 'Ashoka' sapling at the memorial garden.**
- Subsequently, he visited the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Dhaka where he paid homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the nation of Bangladesh.
- The President reiterated that Bangladesh has a special place in India's 'neighbourhood first' policy.
- **The President will also witness the Victory Day parade and attend the Victory Day reception hosted by the President of Bangladesh to mark the conclusion of the "Mujib Borsho (March 17, 2020, to December 16, 2021)" celebrations.**
- As part of the celebration, President Kovind is also scheduled to inaugurate the renovated **Sri Ramna Kali Mandir in Dhaka, which was completely destroyed by Pakistani forces during Operation Searchlight in 1971.**
- A 122-member **tri-services contingent of the Indian Armed Forces** will also participate in the celebration parade.

## **Bangladesh**

**Capital of Bangladesh:** Dhaka

**Currency of Bangladesh:** Taka

**President of Bangladesh:** Mr. Abdul Hamid

**Prime Minister of Bangladesh:** Sheikh Hasina

## **9. Government has given approval for 21 greenfield airport in India ( Dec. 16, 2021 )**

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India has given approval to set up 21 greenfield airports in India.
- It will be set up in Mopain Goa, Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Kalaburagi, Bijapur, Hassan and Shimoga in Karnataka, Datia (Gwalior) in Madhya Pradesh, Kushinagar and Noida (Jewar) in Uttar Pradesh, Dholera and Hirasar in Gujarat, Karaikal in Puducherry, Dagadarthi, Bhogapuram and Oravakal in Andhra Pradesh, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kannur in Kerala and Hollongi (Itanagar) in Arunachal Pradesh.

- Out of which eight airports namely Durgapur, Shirdi, Sindhudurg, Pakyong, Kannur, Kalaburagi, Oravakal and Kushinagar have been operationalized.

**Greenfield Airport means a new airport will be built in an area where there is no Airport.**

**Union Minister for Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya Scindia**

**10. National Helpline 14566 launched by the Government against atrocities on SCs/STs ( Dec. 16, 2021 )**

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has initiated a National Helpline Against Atrocities (NHAA), to prevent atrocities against people belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- The Helpline is available round the clock on toll-free number **“14566”** across the country in Hindi, English and regional language of the State/UTs.

**Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment: Virendra Kumar**