

## 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 Current Affairs

### 1. Why did CCI slap ₹200 crore fine on Amazon?

Recently, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has fined US e-commerce giant, Amazon with Rs. 200 crore.



#### Key Highlights:

- CCI has also suspended the 2019 Amazon deal with Future Coupons, a unit of Future Retail Ltd.
- For concealing facts while obtaining approval for this deal Amazon was fined.

#### What is being said in CCI order?

According to CCI order, “it is needed to re-examine the combination and transactions”. In accordance with sub-section (2) of Section 45 of the Companies Act, CCI also directed Amazon to give Form II within 60 days from the receipt of the order. Furthermore, the approval granted on November 28, 2019 will remain in abeyance until such notice is disposed of. This is so because, Amazon had suppressed the actual scope of the deal and had made false & incorrect statements while getting clearances.

#### What was the reason to be fined?

The CCI has recently imposed a penalty of Rs. 200 crore on Amazon because, it had failed to identify and notify Future Retail Limited Shareholders Agreement (FRL SHA) under the agreement. Identification was a liability under Section 6(2) of the Act. Amazon is required to pay the fine within two months.

#### About the dispute between Amazon and Future Group:

- Actually, the Future Retail Limited (FRL) had announced to sell its retail and wholesale business to Reliance retail, in August 2020. Amazon objected to this deal before it could be executed.

- Amazon claimed that; it is a breach of contract it signed with Future Coupons. According to Amazon, its agreement with Future Coupons had given it a “call” option.
- The call option enabled it to exercise the option to acquire all or part of shareholdings of Future Retail in the company, within 3 to 10 years of the agreement.
- Amazon took Future Retail into Emergency Arbitration before the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), where an emergency arbitrator barred Future Retail from proceeding with its deal with Reliance retail.

#### About the Supreme Court Order:

Supreme Court had also upheld the enforcement of SIAC’s order, that puts on hold the deal between Future Group and Reliance Industries Limited.

## 2. Goa Liberation Day:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Goa on December 19, to attend Goa Liberation Day celebrations.

#### Key Highlights:

- The events were held at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in Goa.
- On the occasion, Prime Minister greeted the freedom fighters and veterans of ‘Operation Vijay’.

#### About the Goa Liberation Day:

- Goa Liberation Day is observed on December 19 annually. This Day is observed to mark the success of ‘Operation Vijay’, which was undertaken by Indian Armed Forces to liberate Goa from Portuguese rule.
- The day is celebrated to commemorate the Indian armed forces annexing Portuguese-ruled Goa. On this day, India was completely free from European rule.



### Inauguration of multiple development projects:

On the occasion, Prime Minister inaugurated many development projects, which include:

- Renovated Fort Aguada Jail Museum
- Super Speciality Block at Goa Medical College
- New South Goa District Hospital
- Aviation Skill Development Center at Mopa Airport
- Gas-insulated Substation at Dabolim-Navelim, Margao.

Prime Minister has also laid the foundation stone for the India International University of Legal Education as well as Research of Bar Council of India Trust at Goa.

### About the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana Scheme:

- Under this scheme, Super Speciality Block has been built at the Goa Medical College and Hospital costing Rs. 380 crore.
- The block was built in line with Prime Minister's vision of improving medical infrastructure and provide top-class medical facilities. This hospital would be able to provide services like liver transplant, angioplasty, bypass surgery, dialysis, kidney transplant, etc.

### Re-development of Aguada Fort Jail Museum:

Aguada Fort Jail Museum has been re-developed as a Heritage Tourism destination under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. It could be done at a cost of Rs. 28 crore. Aguada Fort was used to incarcerate and torture freedom fighters, before Goa's liberation. The Museum highlights the contributions and sacrifices of prominent freedom fighters, who took part in liberation of Goa.

### 3. Japanese space tourists has returned to Earth:

Recently, a Japanese billionaire, his producer and a Russian cosmonaut returned to Earth safely, after spending 12 days on the International Space Station.



#### Key Highlights:

- Fashion tycoon Yusaku Maezawa, his producer Yozo Hirano along with a Russian cosmonaut Alexander Misurkin has landed softly in a Russian Soyuz capsule in the steppes of Kazakhstan.
- Maezawa and Hirano are the first self-paying tourists to visit the space station, since 2009.
- On the other hand, Misurkin was on his third space mission.

#### Background:

In October 2021, Russian actor Yulia Peresild and film director Klim Shipenko had spent 12 days on the space station before them, for making world's first movie in orbit. This project was sponsored by Russia's space corporation Roscosmos.

#### About Space Tourism:

Space tourism means human space travel for frolicking purposes. Different types of space tourism include orbital, suborbital and lunar space tourism.

During 2001 to 2009, seven space tourists had made right space flights aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft to the space station. The flight was brokered by Space Adventures in association with Roscosmos and RSC Energia. Later in 2010, Russia halted orbital space tourism because of increasing crew size in the International Space Station. But in 2021, Russian orbital tourism resumed again with the launch of Soyuz MS-20.

#### About International Space Station (ISS):

ISS is a modular space station, in low Earth orbit. It is a multinational collaborative project comprising of five participating space agencies:

1. NASA (United States)

2. Roscosmos (Russia)
3. JAXA (Japan)
4. ESA (Europe)
5. CSA (Canada)

The ownership and use of IIS is established by intergovernmental treaties and agreements. Space station is suited to test the spacecraft systems and equipment which are required for possible future long-duration missions to Mars and the Moon.

#### 4. K. Srikanth has won silver at BWF World badminton Championship:

Recently, Shuttler Kidambi Srikanth became the first Indian man to win a silver medal at BWF World Championships.



##### Key Highlights:

- In the final, he has lost by Singapore's Loh Kean Yew by 21-15, 22-20.
- This was the first time that a men's player from Singapore won gold at BWF World Championships.

##### The 2021 BWF World Championships:

2021 BWF World Championships is officially known as "Total Energies BWF World Championships 2021" for sponsorship purpose. This badminton tournament was held from December 12 to 19, 2021 in Huelva, Spain. Huelva was awarded this event in November 2018, when announcement was made for 18 major badminton event hosts from 2019 to 2025.

##### TotalEnergies SE:

It is a French multinational integrated oil and gas company, which was founded in 1924. Its businesses include crude oil & natural gas exploration and

production to power generation, refining, transportation, international crude oil & product trading and petroleum product marketing. It is also a large-scale chemicals manufacturer.

#### **About Srikanth Kidambi:**

He is an Indian badminton player, who trains at Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad. In April 2018, he was ranked as world number 1, at the BWF ranking. He also received the Padma Shri which is India's fourth highest civilian award in 2018 as well as Arjuna award in 2015. He became the first ever Indian to reach the final of 2021 BWF World Championships in Men's singles and win a silver medal.

#### **5. Indian Navy has conducted first sea trials for Mormugao:**

Recently, Indian Navy conducted the first sea trials for Indian Navy's indigenously built stealth destroyer called Mormugao, in the Arabian Sea.



#### **Key Highlights:**

- The maiden sea voyage of the warship has been built under the project P-15B.
- Its development coincides with the 60th anniversary of liberation of Goa from Portuguese rule.
- Mormugao is the second indigenous stealth destroyer that is being built under Project P-15B.
- It is likely to be commissioned in the mid of 2022.

#### **Who is building Mormugao?**

Stealth destroyer Mormugao is being built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDSL).

#### **First Ship under project P-15B:**

INS Visakhapatnam was the first ship built under project P-15B. The ship was commissioned into Indian Navy on November 21, 2021 in Mumbai.

### India's Destroyer Construction Programme:

Indigenous Destroyer construction programme of India was commenced in late 1990s with three Delhi class (P-15 class) warships. It was followed by three Kolkata class (P-15A) destroyers.

### About Project-15B:

Under this project, a total of four warships have been planned namely, Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Surat. These Guided missile destroyers are under construction at M/s Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai. Contract for these ships was signed in 2011. These ships are counted among most technologically advanced Guided Missile Destroyers worldwide. It comprises of features like state-of-the-art weapon or sensor package, high degree of automation and advanced stealth features.

### Salient Features of P-15B Ships:

P-15B Ships are equipped with long range Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAM) and BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles. It is also equipped with various indigenous weapons systems like medium range SAMs, anti-submarine indigenous rocket launchers, indigenous torpedo tube launchers and 76-mm super rapid gun mount.

### Four ships of the project:

**Visakhapatnam:** It was delivered to the Indian Navy, in November 2021.

**Mormugao:** It was launched in 2016 and its harbour trial was conducted recently.

**Imphal:** It was launched in 2019. Currently, it is at an advanced stage of outfitting.

**Surat:** It is under block erection. The ship is scheduled to be launched in 2022.

## 6. Maharashtra: Dogs have been affected by 'Canine parvovirus':

In November 2021, around 2,000 pet and stray dogs in Amravati city were get affected by canine parvovirus. Veterinarians also cautioned pet owners against a severe outbreak.



### About Canine Parvovirus:

- It is a highly contagious viral disease, which can be life-threatening for dogs.
- This virus affects the intestinal tract of canines.
- Puppies are more susceptible to this virus.
- Symptoms associated with the virus include- vomiting, bloody diarrhea, dehydration, drastic weight loss, and lethargy.
- Parvovirus has reported a 90 % mortality rate.

### Number of Cases in Amravati:

- In Amravati, around 2000 pet and stray dogs were affected by Parvovirus in November 2021. It accounted for 50 % dog population in city.
- According to Amravati-based WASA Conservation organisation, government-run clinic is getting reports that 20 dogs affected by this virus daily.

Experts are of the view that, increasing cases of Parvovirus in pets is due to Covid-19 pandemic. Pandemic has compelled many pet owners to miss timely vaccination of their dogs.

Furthermore, in last three years, animal birth control programme has not been implemented. This has led to rising parvovirus cases in street dogs because birth control programme helps in controlling stray dog population, dog vaccination and rabies.



### Spread of virus:

Parvovirus spreads through direct contact with the infected dog or by indirect contact with any contaminated object, like hands and clothing of people handling infected dogs. Dogs get exposed to the virus with sniffs, licks, or when they consume infected faeces. Virus can also transmit indirectly when dogs come in touch with the person, who has recently been exposed to an infected dog or when dogs come in contact with contaminated object, such as food or water bowl, collars and leashes.

## 7. LogiXtics: DPIIT Launched Hackathon for Logistics:

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has recently launched the Unified Logistics Interface Platform's (ULIP) Hackathon called 'LogiXtics' for crowdsourcing more ideas for the benefit of logistics industry.

### About Unified Logistics Interface Platform's (ULIP) Hackathon:

- ULIP is designed for enhancing efficiency and reducing logistics cost across India. This objective will be achieved by creating a transparent platform which will provide real time information to all the stakeholders and remove all asymmetry information.
- ULIP Hackathon – LogiXtics is being organised by NITI Aayog and Atal Innovation Mission.
- It is also supported by NICDC Logistics Data Bank Services Limited (NLDSL) and National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC).
- ULIP was conceptualised as a technology platform in logistics sector.

### Purpose of ULIP:

- ULIP is being developed as technology platform to provide real time information to all the stakeholders.



- It will converge visibility of multi-modal transport across existing systems of several Ministries or Departments working in silos.
- ULIP will transform the logistic sector by lowering down the logistics cost and enhancing India's competitiveness in international trade.
- ULIP is in line with the objective of PM GatiShakti, that aims to break the individual silos, promote integration among several Ministries or Departments and promote real single window.

#### **About National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC):**

NITI Aayog had developed NICDC in January 2021 for developing ULIP by leveraging the Logistics Data Bank Project.

#### **About LogiXtics**

Under the ULIP umbrella, LogiXtics invites everyone to showcase their strategic, coding and domain skills on a national-level platform for solving the existing issues in logistics industry. Hackathon is significant to achieve the vision of ULIP platform.

#### **8. 'Rashtriya Ekta Geet' composed by NCC Cadets has been launched:**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently has launched Rashtriya Ekta Geet, composed by the National Cadet Core cadets.

#### **Key Highlights:**

- Rashtriya Ekta Geet has been composed in 22 languages. It is based on the theme of national integration.
- It was launched during the grand finale of Vijay Shrankhla aur Sanskrityon ka Mahasangam campaign.
- The mega event was conducted by NCC in New Delhi, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.



- The campaign concluded with 'Sanskritiyon ka Maha Sangam' wherein selected NCC cadets congregated and showcased their shared cultural heritage.

### About National Cadet Corps (NCC):

NCC is the youth wing of Indian Armed Forces. Its headquarter is in New Delhi. NCC is open to school and college students on voluntary basis as a Tri-Services Organisation, comprising of the Army, the Air Wing and the Navy. They are engaged in developing the youth of India into disciplined and patriotic citizens. It is a voluntary organization, that recruit cadets from high schools, higher secondary, universities and colleges. All the young Cadets are given basic military training in small arms and drill.

### Background

NCC was established by the Act of 1950. Its establishment can be traced back to 'University Corps', which was set up under the Indian Defence Act 1917. It was set with the objective of making up for the shortage in Army. In 1920, 'University Corps' was replaced by the University Training Corps (UTC), with the aim of raising the status of UTC and make it attractive to the youth.