

2 MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates 'Arogya Vanam' at Rashtrapati Bhavan



- The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated a newly developed '**Arogya Vanam**' at the **President's Estate, (Rashtrapati Bhavan) in New Delhi**. The objective of this Arogya Vanam is to promote the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on the human body.
- The concept of Arogya Vanam has been conceived with the aim of publicising the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on the human body. Spread in 6.6 acres, the Arogya Vanam has been developed in the shape of a human sitting in the Yoga Mudra.
- It consists of around 215 herbs and plants used for therapeutic purposes in Ayurveda. Some of the other features of this Vanam are water fountains, Yoga platform, water channel, lotus pond and a viewpoint. This Vanam will be now open for public viewing.

2. China's Long March-8 Rocket Launches 22 Satellites into Space



- **China's second Long March 8 rocket** launched carrying a domestic record **22 satellites** for a range of commercial Chinese space companies. The Long March 8 lifted off from Wenchang Satellite Launch Center at 10:06 p.m.
- Eastern Feb. 26, with the **China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC)** later confirming launch success.
- These satellites will be mainly used for commercial remote sensing services, marine environment monitoring, forest fire prevention and disaster mitigation. The mission marked the 409th flight of the Long March carrier rockets.
- **China Capital: Beijing**
- **China Currency: Renminbi**
- **China President: Xi Jinping**

3. US, EU, UK decided to eliminate selected Russian banks from SWIFT



- **Canada, U.S.A. and their European allies** have come to a conclusion to remove the key Russian banks from the **Interbank messaging system (IMS)** of **SWIFT**. This is a very big step that will cut off the country from much of the worldwide financial system.
- The major global powers issued a joint statement announcing this significant retaliatory measure. It said, “This will ensure that these banks are disconnected from the international financial system and harm their ability to operate globally”.
- Russia’s removal from **SWIFT** (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) will mean that the Russian banks will not be able to communicate securely with foreign banks.
- Previously, **Iran** has been removed from **SWIFT** in **2014** following developments to its nuclear program in Tehran.
- The announcement will follow several rounds of joint sanctions that will be imposed on Russia for its unprovoked attack on Ukraine.
- **SWIFT** stands for **Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications** and is an independent enterprise, which is based in **Belgium**. **SWIFT** serves as an internal communication mechanism between around **11,000 banks and financial institutions** for more than **200 countries and territories**.

4. India's first ambulance for street animals launched in Tamil Nadu



- India's first ambulance for street animals has been launched in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. It has been started by the **Blue Cross of India** in collaboration with the international animal welfare organization "**Four Paw**".
- Madras High Court Justice **Dr Anitha Sumanth** launched the ambulance. The Stray Animal Care programme will be a "hospital on wheels" with an onboard veterinarian to provide on-site treatment to injured and sick street animals.
- Apart from the veterinarian, the animal ambulance will also include a para veterinary-worker-cum-driver. The ambulance will include a treatment table, two fans, an inverter, a fridge, and drawers for sterile products and bandages.
- It will also come with a washbasin, an anti-skid shock-absorbing mat, a stretcher trolley, a retractable doctor's seat, a retractable tarpaulin, dog-catching equipment, two movable cages to hold dogs, and overhead cupboards. There will also be a provision to administer intravenous fluids and oxygen on board.
- Tamil Nadu Capital: Chennai;
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin;

- Tamil Nadu Governor: R. N. Ravi.

5. Ashneer Grover resigned from BharatPe as MD & Director



- **Ashneer Grover**, co-founder and Managing Director (MD) of **BharatPe**, a leading Indian fintech company, has resigned as the **MD and director** of the board of BharatPe.
- Ashneer Grover, who owns a 9.5% stake worth **Rs 1915 crore** in BharatPe, will continue as the single largest individual shareholder of the company. BharatPe became the 19th Indian startup to become a unicorn in 2021.
- Shashwat Nakrani, the co-founder of BharatPe, owns 7.8% and Sequoia Capital India, a venture capital (VC) investor and the largest shareholder of BharatPe, holds 19.6%, followed by Coatue at 12.4% and Ribbit Capital at 11%. As of August 2021, Tiger Global, Steadview Capital, and Beenext together hold a 60.4% stake in BharatPe.

6. Union Minister Smriti Irani launches 'Stree Manoraksha Project'

- On the occasion of launching the "Stree Manoraksha Project" for capacity building of One Stop Centre, this project has been designed to end the cycle of violence against women.
- Process of empowerment must be started from childhood.

- Women and Child Development Minister has assured that One Stop Centre will not be closed in the country.
- The government is continuously working for the empowerment of women.
- Stree Manoraksha Project is a life skill to provide help to women who are facing atrocities.
- Minister of State for Women and Child Development Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai said, the government took several steps for women empowerment like setting up One Stop Centre and women helpline.
- One Stop Centre has helped over five lakh women in the country.

7. CCI to hold 7th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law on 4th March

- Competition Commission of India has hold the 7th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law on 4th March in virtual mode.
- CCI has been organizing the conference every year since 2016.
- Neelkanth Mishra, who is a Member of, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has deliver the keynote address in the inaugural session.
- The Plenary at this year's conference is on the topic "Reforms and Deepening of Markets".
- The Conference is an endeavour to develop and sustain interest in the Economics of Competition Law and create a critical mass of antitrust economists.
- It brings together scholars, practitioners, academicians, and experts working in the area of economics of competition law.

8. EU Commission announces temporary residence permits to refugees and allows them to work in 27-nation bloc

- The European Union is stepped up aid for Ukraine and is moving toward granting temporary protection to those fleeing Russia's invasion.
- EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has said, all those fleeing Putin's bombs are welcome in Europe.
- EU has provided protection to those seeking shelter and help those looking for a safe way home.
- The EU Commission announced on 2 March 2022 it has give temporary residence permits to the refugees and allow them rights to education and work in the 27-nation bloc.
- Yesterday EU Chief committed at least half a billion euros of the bloc's budget to deal with the humanitarian consequences of the war in Ukraine.

9. ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 to begin from 4th March in New Zealand

- The 12th ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is all set to begin from Friday, 4th March 2022 in New Zealand.
- The opening match will be played between the hosts and the West Indies at the Bay Oval in Tauranga.
- Eight countries will battle it out in 31 matches over 31 days at six cities of the Island nation.
- The cities of Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Hamilton, Tauranga and Wellington will be hosting the matches across six different venues.
- The Teams participating are Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and West Indies.

- The tournament will be played in the league format, where all eight teams will face each other once, at the end of which the top four teams will qualify for the semi-finals.

10. GoI think tank, Niti Aayog developing National Gender Index

- NITI Aayog is in the process to develop a National Gender Index.
- The objective of the National Gender Index is to measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions.
- It will serve as a tool to map the progress of India's States and UTs on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change.
- The information was released in the Annual Report 2021-22 of NITI Aayog.
- Niti Aayog has also developed a draft State Energy and Climate Index to assess the performance of states on indicators such as discoms' viability and competition; access, affordability and reliability of energy; clean energy initiatives; energy efficiency; generation capacity; and environmental sustainability and new initiatives.
- The index will help states to efficiently manage their energy resources and provide better access to energy to the people.
- The NITI Aayog: serves as the apex public policy think tank of the Government of India, and the nodal agency tasked with catalyzing economic development, and fostering cooperative federalism through the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach.

Formed: 1 January 2015

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Narendra Modi