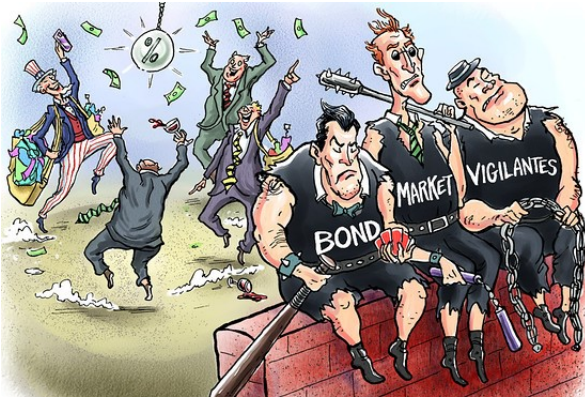


22.03.21

Bond Vigilantes



- Bond Vigilantes refers to any of the large bond market investors who aggressively sell government bonds in the open market as a mark of protest against the policies adopted by the government or the central bank of a country.
- The huge selling of government bonds can cause the price of these bonds to witness a sharp drop in price, thus leading to a significant rise in their yields.
- Bond investors can cause a considerable rise in the borrowing rates of governments, thus exerting significant pressure on them.
- A bond vigilante is an investor who protests monetary or fiscal policies considered inflationary by selling bonds, thus increasing yields.
- In the bond market, prices move inversely to yields. When investors perceive that inflation risk or credit risk is rising they demand higher yields to compensate for the added risk.
- As a result, bond prices fall and yields rise, which increases the net cost of borrowing.
- The term refers to the ability of the bond market to serve as a restraint on the government's ability to overspend and over-borrow.
- While some view bond vigilantes as harmful speculators, others see them as an essential force disciplining governments that spend beyond their means.

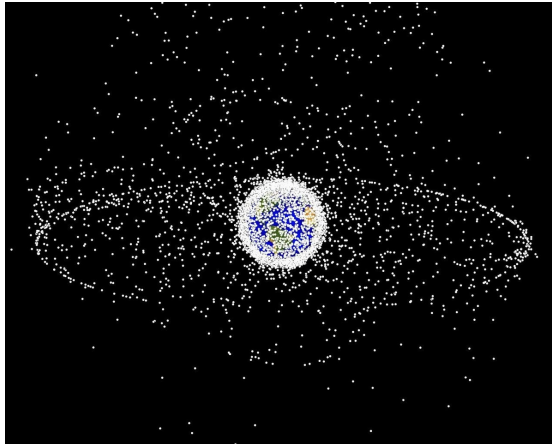
Pritzker prize, 2021



- French architect duo, Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, were honoured with the 2021 Pritzker Prize recently
- It is the international prize, which is awarded each year to a living architect/s for significant achievement
- It honours architects whose built work demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision and commitment, which has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture”

- It is considered to be one of the world's premier architecture prizes, and is often referred to as the Nobel Prize of architecture
- Launch: The award was founded in 1979 by Jay A. Pritzker and his wife Cindy
- Funding: the award is funded by the Pritzker family and sponsored by the Hyatt Foundation
- The Pritzker Architecture Prize is said to be awarded "irrespective of nationality, race, creed, or ideology".
- The recipients receive US\$100,000, a citation certificate, and, since 1987, a bronze medallion

Kessler Syndrome



- The Kessler syndrome, also called the Kessler effect, collisional cascading or ablation cascade, is a scenario in which the density of objects in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) is high enough that collisions between objects could cause a cascade where each collision generates space debris that increases the likelihood of further collisions.
- It is a theory proposed by NASA scientist Donald J. Kessler in 1978, used to describe a self-sustaining cascading collision of space debris in LEO.
- In an article published on June 1, 1978 in the American Journal of Geophysical Research, the authors Donald J. Kessler and Burton G. Cour-Palais, two NASA experts, identified the risk of an exponential increase in the number of space debris or orbital debris under the effect of mutual collisions.
- The two authors believed that a belt formed by these objects or fragments of objects around the Earth would soon form.
- Eventually threatening space activities, this phenomenon will be popularized a few years later under the name of Kessler syndrome
- LEO is an Earth-centred orbit with an altitude of 2,000 km (1,200 mi) or less or with at least 11.25 periods per day (an orbital period of 128 minutes or less) and an eccentricity less than 0.25.
- Most of the artificial objects in outer space are in LEO
- It is relatively close to Earth's surface.

National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)



- NRAA was established as per decision of Cabinet on 3rd November 2006 as an expert body of Ministry of Agriculture to provide the much needed knowledge inputs regarding systematic up-gradation and management of country's dry land and rainfed agriculture.
- The Authority is serviced by the Ministry of Agriculture and is located at Delhi.
- The Authority is an advisory, policymaking and monitoring body charged with examining guidelines in various existing schemes and in the formulation of new schemes including all externally aided projects in this area.
- The NRAA has formulated common guidelines for the Watershed Development Project and is in consultation with all the States for its implementation as per instructions contained in the guidelines.
- The Authority has published the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects with a fresh framework for next generation watershed programmes.
- The Governing Board is chaired by the Union Agriculture Minister and co-chaired by the Union Minister of Rural Development.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" Campaign



- The theme of the campaign is 'Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls'. In the presence of the Prime Minister, the signing of historic Memorandum of Agreement between the Minister of Jal Shakti and the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to implement the Ken Betwa Link Project will also take place.
- This is the first project of the National Perspective Plan for interlinking of rivers.
- This project involves transfer of water from the Ken to the Betwa River through the construction of Daudhan Dam and a canal linking the two rivers.
- It will provide annual irrigation of 10.62 lakh hectare, drinking water supply to about 62 lakh people and also generate 103 Mega Watt of hydropower.
- The Project will be of immense benefit to the water starved region of Bundelkhand, especially to the districts of Panna, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Sagar, Damoh, Datia, Vidisha, Shivpuri and Raisen of Madhya Pradesh and Banda, Mahoba, Jhansi and Lalitpur of Uttar Pradesh.
- It will pave the way for more interlinking of river projects to ensure that scarcity of water does not become an inhibitor for development in the country.

- The campaign will be undertaken across the country in both rural and urban areas.
- It will be implemented from today till 30th November - the pre-monsoon and monsoon period in the country.
- It will be launched as a Jan Andolan to take water conservation at grass-root level through people's participation.
- The campaign is intended to nudge all stakeholders to create rainwater harvesting structures suitable to the climatic conditions and subsoil strata, to ensure proper storage of rainwater.
- After the event, Gram Sabhas will be held in all Gram Panchayats of each district, except in the poll bound states to discuss issues related to water and water conservation. Gram Sabhas will also take Jal Shapath for water conservation.
- National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Bill, 2021
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will introduce the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Bill, 2021 in the Lok Sabha today.
- The bill seeks to establish the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development.
- Its objective is to support the development of long-term non-recourse infrastructure financing in India including development of the bonds and derivatives markets necessary for infrastructure financing and to carry on the business of financing infrastructure.

Asia's Largest Tulip Garden In Kashmir



- Situated in the heart of the Zabarvan Mountains of Srinagar .. Asia's largest tulip garden has a large number of workers and gardeners engaged in making the beautiful arrangements of flowers.
- Even though there is two weeks left, they are all busy ensuring everything goes well as any kind of negligence can dampen the effect of the place.
- Asia's largest Tulip garden spanning across an area of 120 acres has more than 18 lakh Tulip flowers of 90 varieties planted in.
- The authorities have also changed the design of the garden by installing waterfalls and fountains like those seen in Mughal gardens.

Odissi dance



- Odisha, on the eastern sea coast, is the home of Odissi, one of the many forms of Indian classical dance. Sensuous and lyrical, Odissi is a dance of love and passion touching on the divine and the human, the sublime and the mundane.
- The Natya Shastra mentions many regional varieties, such as the south-eastern style known as the Odhra Magadha which can be identified as the earliest precursor of present day Odissi
- Archaeological evidence of this dance form dating back to the 2nd century B.C. is found in the caves of Udayagiri and Khandagiri near Bhubaneswar
- For centuries maharis were the chief repositories of this dance.
- The maharis, who were originally temple dancers came to be employed in royal courts which resulted in the degeneration of the art form.
- Around this time, a class of boys called gotipuas were trained in the art, they danced in the temples and also for general entertainment.
- Many of today's gurus of this style belong to the gotipua tradition.
- Odissi is a highly stylised dance and to some extent is based on the classical Natya Shastra and the Abhinaya Darpana. In fact, it has derived a great deal from the Abhinaya Darpana Prakasha by Jadunatha Sinha, the Abhinaya Chandrika by Rajmani Patra, and the Abhinaya Chandrika by Maheshwara Mahapatra.
- The techniques of movement are built around the two basic postures of the Chowk and the Tribhanga.
- The chowk is a position imitating a square - a very masculine stance with the weight of the body equally balanced.
- The tribhanga is a very feminine stance where the body is deflected at the neck, torso and the knees.
- An Odissi orchestra essentially consists of a pakhawaj player (usually the Guru himself), a singer, a flutist, a sitar or violin player and a manjira player.
- The dancer is adorned in elaborate Odiya silver jewellery and a special hair-do.
- The sari, usually stitched nowadays, is unique to the style.
- In each performance, even a modern Odissi dancer still reaffirms the faith of the devadasis or maharis where they sought liberation or moksha through the medium of dance.

Kambala



- Noted Kambala jockey Srinivas Gowda, who was termed Usain Bolt of Kambala last year by covering a 125-metre buffalo racing track in 9.55 seconds, has created a new record by completing 100 metres in just 8.96 seconds
- Kambala is an annual buffalo race held in the southwestern Indian state of Karnataka.
- Traditionally, it is sponsored by local Tuluva landlords and households in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of Karnataka and Kasaragod of Kerala, a region collectively known as Tulu Nadu.
- The Kambala season generally starts in November and lasts until March.
- The Kambalas are organized through Kambala samithis (Kambala Associations), of which there are currently 18.
- Over 45 races are held annually in coastal Karnataka, including smaller remote villages such as Vandaru and Gulvadi.

Traditionally, there were types of Kambalas

1. Pookere Kambala
2. Baare Kambla
3. Kori Kambala
4. Arasu Kambla
5. Devere Kambla
6. Baale Kambala

Anangpal II



- Anangpal II, popularly known as Anangpal Tomar, belonged to the Tomar dynasty that ruled parts of present-day Delhi and Haryana between the 8th and 12th centuries.
- The capital of the Tomars changed many times from its initial location in Anangpur (near Faridabad) during the reign of Anangpal I (who founded the Tomar dynasty in the 8th century), to Dhillikapuri (Delhi) during the reign of Anangpal II.
- The Tomar rule over the region is attested by multiple inscriptions and coins, and their ancestry can be traced to the Pandavas (of the Mahabharata)
- Anangpal Tomar II was succeeded by his grandson Prithviraj Chauhan, who was defeated by the Ghurid forces in the Battle of Tarain (present-day Haryana) after which the Delhi Sultanate was established in 1192.

- Anangpal II is credited with having established and populated Delhi during his reign in the 11th century. Mani said:
- Anangpal II was instrumental in populating Indraprastha and giving it its present name, Delhi.
- The region was in ruins when he ascended the throne in the 11th century, it was he who built Lal Kot fort and Anangtal Baol

Tiger spotted in Maharashtra wildlife sanctuary for the 1st time since 1940



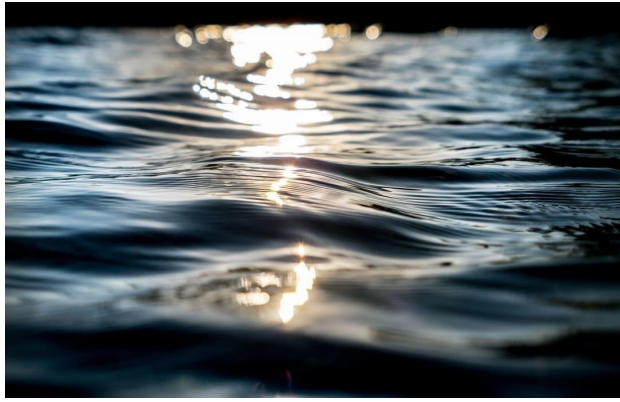
- A tiger has been spotted in the Gautala Autramghat wildlife sanctuary in Maharashtra's Aurangabad after 81 years.
- The last time the animal was seen there was in 1940.
- The tiger, a fully grown male, has trayed from Yavatmal's Tipeswar wildlife sanctuary in search of prey, a forest official said, adding, "[It's] journey may be close to 2,000 km".

India, Pak, China to hold joint anti-terror exercise as part of SCO



- India, China, Pakistan and other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will hold a joint anti-terrorism exercise this year.
- The decision to hold 'Pabbi-Antiterror-2021' was taken during a meeting in Uzbekistan
- "Decisions have been made to improve cooperation between...SCO...states in...suppressing channels that finance terrorist activities," an official statement said.

New species of diatoms found in Maharashtra's Mula river: Study



- Researchers have found a new species of diatoms living in the Mula river in Maharashtra.
- The study led by Agharkar Research Institute's researchers named the new species as *Epithemia agharkarii*, in honour of the institute's founder-director SP Agharkar.
- The species was found thriving on submerged stones located downstream Mulshi dam, indicating its preferred ecosystem to be freshwater reserves.

Jharkhand's SAAMAR Campaign



- The Jharkhand government has launched the "SAAMAR Campaign" which stands for "Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anaemia Reduction" campaign recently.
- The campaign was launched to tackle the malnutrition in Jharkhand.
- The Economic Survey 2021 states that, A Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey was conducted in the state for the period of March 2017 to July 2017.
- As per the survey, 36% of the children under five years of age are stunted, 29% are of the children are affected from Wasting, while 45% of the children are underweight.
- These factors indicate the status of undernutrition in state.
- SAAMAR campaign has been launched in the state with a 1000 days target.
- Under the campaign, annual surveys will be conducted in order to track the progress.
- The campaign seeks to converge several departments like Rural Development Department, Food & Civil Supplies and engagement with the school management committees & gram sabhas to make them aware of nutritional behaviour.
- It also focusses on the Primarily Vulnerable Tribal Groups for their nutritional needs.
- The campaign further encourages the research and proposes fellowships on the nutritional behaviour of these groups in order to effectively implement the schemes.
- Under the campaign, all the Anganwadi centres will be engaged in identifying those children who are undernourished so that severe acute malnutrition among children can be tackled.

- After the children are identified, they will be treated across the Malnutrition Treatment Centres.
- In the similar manner, the anaemic women will also be listed and will be treated in serious cases.
- This survey will be done by measuring the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) of women and children using the MUAC tapes and Edema levels which results into swelling in a small area or entire body.

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