

Primary and Secondary Corporate Bond Market

❖ Context

- A RBI official has said that the Illiquidity in the secondary corporate debt market is a global issue and so focus should be on further deepening the primary market.

❖ Key Highlights

- The **Indian primary corporate bond market** has grown four fold from ₹10.4 lakh crore in March 2012 to ₹40 lakh crore as of March 2022.
- During the same period, the secondary market volume spiked from ₹4.4 lakh crore to ₹14 lakh crore.
- **Only the U.S. has a 'very' liquid secondary corporate bond market** and India has the second best, which is very low.
- The U.S. market is very deep because it is led by corporates and municipalities. **The corporate bond market as a percentage of GDP is also the highest at 120% in the U.S., while in India, it is only 18%.**

❖ What is a Corporate Bond?

- A corporate bond is a type of debt security that is issued by a firm and sold to investors.
- The company gets the capital it needs and in return the investor is paid a pre-established number of interest payments at either a fixed or variable interest rate.
- When the bond expires, or "reaches maturity," the payments cease and the original investment is returned.

- The backing for the bond is generally the ability of the company to repay, which depends on its prospects for future revenues and profitability.
- **In some cases, the company's physical assets may be used as collateral.**

❖ What is a Primary Bond Market?

- The bond market is broadly segmented into 2 different silos: the primary market and the secondary market.
- The primary market is frequently referred to as the "**new issues**" market in which transactions strictly occur directly between the bond issuers and the bond buyers.
- In essence, the primary market yields the creation of brand-new debt securities that have not previously been offered to the public.

❖ What is a Secondary Bond Market?

- In the secondary market, securities that have already been sold in the primary market are then bought and sold at later dates.
- Investors can purchase these bonds from a broker, who acts as an intermediary between the buying and selling parties.

Gun Jumping and Open Market Purchases

❖ Context

- The bill to amend Competition Act 2002, tabled in Lok Sabha, aims to amend provisions in respect of gun jumping.

❖ What is Gun Jumping?

- Parties should not go ahead with a **combination** prior to the **approval of Competition Commission of India (CCI)**. Under the meaning of the Competition Act, 2002 a combination refers to the :
 - Direct or indirect acquisition of the shares, voting rights or assets or the control over management or control over assets of one or more enterprises by one or more persons, or,
 - A merger or amalgamation between enterprises, when the combining enterprises jointly exceed certain thresholds set under Section 5 of the Act.
- **If the combining parties close a notified transaction before the approval**, or have consummated a reportable transaction without bringing it to the Commission's knowledge, it is seen as gun-jumping. The penalty for gun-jumping was a total of 1% of the asset or turnover.

❖ Problem with the Current Provision

- There have been several gun-jumping cases owing to the **combining parties' inability to defer the consummation of open market purchases.**
- Many of them argue that acquisitions involving open market purchase of target shares must be completed quickly, lest the **stock value and total consideration undergo a change.**
- If parties wait for the Commission's clearance, the transaction may become unaffordable.

❖ What does the Amendment Propose?

- The present amendment Bill proposes to exempt open market purchases and stock market transactions from the requirement to notify them to the Commission in advance.
- This is subject to the condition that the **acquirer does not exercise voting or ownership rights** until the transaction is approved and the same is notified to the Commission subsequently. **The penalty for gun-jumping is now proposed to be 1% of the deal value.**

Ambee Launched New API to Alert Users of Severe Weather Events

❖ Context

- Ambee, a climate intelligence company, launched a new **Application Programme Interface (API)** to alert users of severe weather events.

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26 August, 2022

❖ Key Highlights

- Several environmental factors interact to increase the frequency and risk of extreme weather events and poor air quality.
- The weather alerts are available in the form of APIs and provide alerts of extreme weather events on a real-time basis, at a frequency of once every hour.



- It is designed to notify users about the likelihood of the occurrence of the following extreme weather events:
 - blizzard:
 - heavy snow, ice, and cold temperatures;
 - dust storm:
 - strong currents and arid conditions; etc.

❖ Significance

- The API can help users to take precautions, build necessary solutions, and, most of all, prepare for the future.
- As the intensity and frequency of severe weather disasters increase, there is a need to track Earth's climatic changes more closely.

The One Nation One Fertiliser scheme

❖ Context

- The government has decided to implement One Nation One Fertiliser by introducing a "Single Brand for Fertilisers and Logo" under the fertiliser subsidy scheme named "Pradhanmantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna" (PMBJP).



❖ Key Highlights

- Under the new "One Nation One Fertiliser" scheme, companies are allowed to display their name, brand, logo and other relevant product information only on one-third space of their bags.
- On the remaining two-thirds space, the "Bharat" brand and Pradhanmantri Bharatiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana logo will have to be shown.

- The maximum retail price of urea is currently fixed by the government, which compensates companies for the higher cost of manufacturing or imports incurred by them.

❖ Key Issues

- It will disincentivise fertiliser companies from undertaking marketing and brand promotion activities.
- Any company's strength ultimately is its brands and farmer trust built over decades.

Arth Ganga

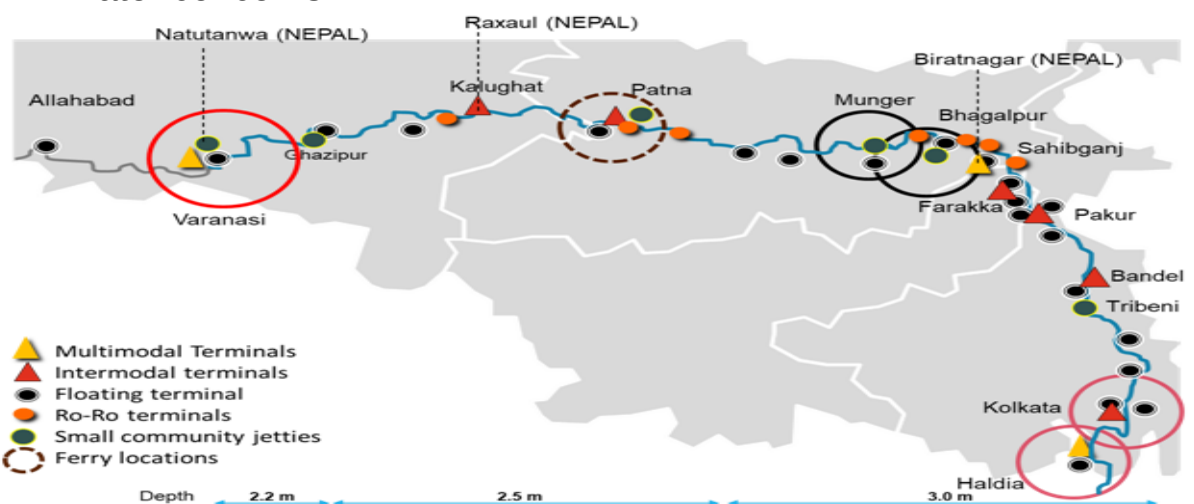
❖ Context

- The Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, recently spoke about the Arth Ganga model during his virtual keynote address to the Stockholm World Water Week 2022 .

❖ About Arth Ganga Project

- The Arth Ganga project's interventions are in accordance with India's commitments towards the UN sustainable development goals.
- Under Arth Ganga, the government is working on six verticals.
- The first is **Zero Budget Natural Farming**, which involves chemical-free farming on 10 km on either side of the river, and the promotion of cow dung as fertiliser through the GOBARDhan scheme.
- The **Monetization and Reuse of Sludge & Wastewater** is the second, which seeks to reuse treated water for irrigation, industries and revenue generation for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- Arth Ganga will also involve **Livelihood Generation Opportunities**, by creating haats where people can sell local products, medicinal plants and ayurveda.

- The fourth is to increase **public participation** by increasing synergies between the stakeholders involved with the river.
- The model also wants **to promote the cultural heritage** and tourism of Ganga and its surroundings, through boat tourism, adventure sports and by conducting yoga activities. The model seeks to **promote institutional building** by empowering local administration for improved water governance.
- Note:-** Since 1991, the Stockholm International Water Institute has been organising the World Water Week every year to address global water concerns.



Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2022

❖ Context

- Prime Minister addressed the Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2022 recently.

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❖ Key Highlights

- Smart India Hackathon is a nationwide initiative to provide students with a platform to solve some of the pressing problems we face in our daily lives & thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem-solving.
- The first four editions SIH2017, SIH2018, SIH2019 and SIH2020 proved to be extremely successful in promoting innovation out-of-the-box thinking in young minds, especially engineering students from across India.
- There are two formats for the Hackathon – SIH Software and SIH Hardware Editions.
- The theme of SIH 2022 is 'No problem is too big... No idea is too small'.



Ingenious

Harnessing creativity and expertise of students, academicians and visionaries



Engaging

Sparking institute-level hackathons, fuelling imagination



Futuristic

Building funnel for 'Start-up India' campaign



Collaborating

Crowdsourcing intelligence for improving governance and quality of life



Empowering

Enabling possibilities and enhancing opportunities for citizens to deliver innovative solutions to India's daunting problems

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



SIH Junior(Jr)

School students from 6th to 12th class will be able to showcase their talent and generate out-of-the-box open innovation ideas



SIH Senior(Sr)

Regular Students of HEIs pursuing "Graduate/Post-Graduate/Ph.D." will be able to showcase their talent and generate out-of-the-box open innovation ideas

News in Between the Lines

Electronic-Passports



❖ Context

- Secretary External Affairs, informed the media that electronic-Passports will be rolled out by the end of this year or early next year i.e 2023.

❖ Key Highlights



- An e-chip and a few more features will be added to the passport book which will provide security upgradation of the Indian passport and enable machine reading.
- 87 billion dollars have been remitted to India by diaspora last year in 2021, compared to the 83 billion dollars in the previous year.
- The chip will carry the details of the passport holder in electronic form and this would, in all likelihood, put an end to forged passports.

Country's First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier



❖ Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will preside over the commissioning of the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-1), at Kochi on September 2 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

- It has been named after INS Vikrant, India's first aircraft carrier that saw operations in the 1971 war.
- India has joined the select club of nations including the US, UK, Russia, China, and France to design and manufacture aircraft carriers above 40,000 tonnes.



- The ship would be capable of operating an air wing consisting of 30 aircraft comprising MIG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31, MH-60R multi-role helicopters, in addition to indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) (Navy).
- India currently has only one aircraft carrier -- the **INS Vikramaditya** -- procured from Russia.
- Significance:** Commissioning of the country's first aircraft carrier Vikrant will enhance peace, security & stability in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific Region.

Yakshagana

❖ Context

- More than a century-old **Yakshagana theatre troupe** has decided to switch to shorter duration shows from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. in view of the government circular banning the use of loudspeakers between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

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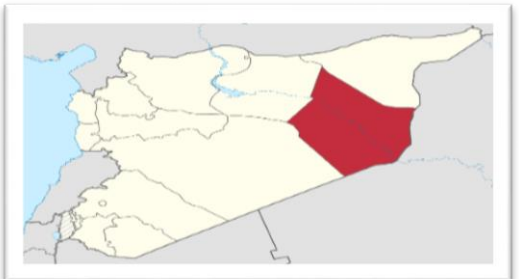




❖ Key Highlights

- Yakshagana (Yaksha - celestial; Gana - music) is a **traditional folk dance form popular in Coastal Karnataka districts** of Udupi, South Canara and North Canara. This is a **night-long event**, with elaborately adorned performers dancing to the beat of drums in **open-air theatres** – usually in the **village paddy fields** after the **winter crop has been harvested**.
- Traditionally, men portray all roles**, including the female ones, though **women are now part** of Yakshagana troupes. A typical troupe consists of 15 to 20 actors & a **Bhagavatha**, who is the master of ceremonies and the main storyteller.
- Each performance typically focuses on a small sub-story (known as ‘**Prasanga**’) from ancient **Hindu epics of Ramayana or Mahabharata**.
- Musical instruments used in Yakshagana include **Chande (drums), Harmonium, Maddale, Taala (mini metal clappers) & flute** among others. Costumes used in Yakshagana are very unique and elaborate. Large size head gear, coloured faces, elaborate costumes all over the body and **musical beads on the legs (Gejje)**.

Deir Ez-Zor

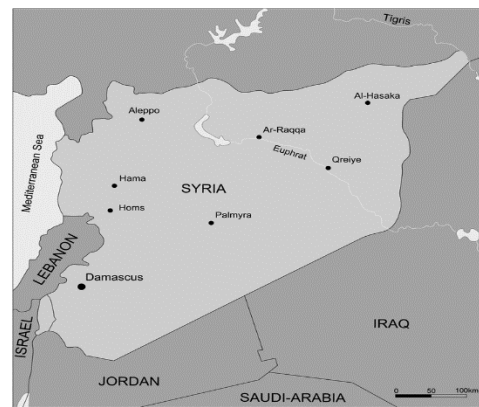


❖ Context

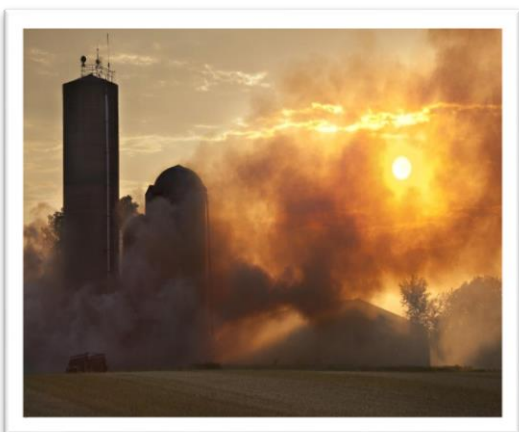
- The **U.S. military** claimed that it carried out airstrikes in **eastern Syria**.

❖ Key Highlights

- Deir Ez-Zor** is a **strategic province** that **borders Iraq** & contains oil fields.
- Syria is bounded by** Turkey to the north, by **Iraq** to the east & southeast, by **Jordan** to the south & by **Lebanon & Israel** to the southwest.



Heatwave and Air Pollution



❖ Context

- According to researchers, extreme temperatures in July 2022 experienced by the United Kingdom have altered the levels of harmful pollutants in the atmosphere.

❖ Key Highlights

- The heatwave had added dangerously high levels of ozone (**exceeding WHO's standard: 100 µg/m3 8-hour mean**) and Particulate matter to the atmosphere.
- Heatwaves are known to trigger ozone pollution which is released as a result of atmospheric reactions and not directly by any human activity.
- Sunlight combines with pollutants already present in the air, such as oxides of nitrogen from car exhausts and volatile organic compounds, to form ground-layer ozone. During hot spells, slow air movement & rapid evaporation can accumulate pollutants & boost the rate of emissions of volatile organic compounds.
- The scientists also discovered that the bulk of small particulate matter formed from organic material, which may be more harmful than non-organic ones.
- It is suspected that wildfires, heatwaves and sunlight had contributed to this too.

PEN-PLUS Strategy



❖ Context

- Africa has adopted a new strategy to boost access to the diagnosis, treatment and care of severe **non-communicable diseases (NCD)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- It Called ‘**PEN-PLUS, A Regional Strategy to Address Severe Non-communicable Diseases at First-Level Referral Health Facilities**’.
- NCDs account for 71% of global mortality, according to WHO. In the African Region, the proportion of mortality due to NCDs ranges from 27-88%.
- Severe non-communicable diseases are those chronic conditions that lead to high levels of disability and death among children, adolescents and young adults if left undiagnosed or untreated.
- In Africa, the most prevalent, severe non-communicable diseases include **sickle-cell disease, type 1 and insulin-dependent type 2 diabetes, rheumatic heart disease, severe hypertension & moderate to severe and persistent asthma**.

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