Prelim Bits 19-03-2017

Vernal Window

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- The transition from winter to the growing season, with rising temperature and melting ice, is referred to as the “vernal window”.
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- Historically, the transition into spring is comparatively shorter than other seasons.
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- Climate change is altering the timing and duration of the vernal window.
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- Research shows that the extent of snow cover over the Northern Hemisphere has declined significantly in the past 30 years leading to warmer winters with less snow.
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- This resulted in a longer lag time between spring events and a more extended vernal window.
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University Grants Commission (UGC)

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- UGC is a statutory body set up by the Indian Union government in accordance to the UGC Act 1956, under Ministry of Human Resource Development.
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- It is charged with coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of higher education.
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- It provides recognition to universities in India, and disburses funds to such recognised universities and colleges.
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- Recently it was on news for sending a letter addressed to the Registrar of JNU stated that the UGC would stop funding the Centre for the Study of

Discrimination and Exclusion.
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- Later it clarified that the letter was forged.
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Repatha

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- It is a new drug can reduce cholesterol levels to almost never seen naturally in adults.
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- It was tested recently and it is proven that it would significantly reduce the chance of a high-risk patient having a heart attack or stroke.
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- It would be used to help men and women who had exhausted all other options.
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- It was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2015 with the hope that they would lower the risk of heart attacks and strokes, and not just reduce levels of LDL cholesterol.
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