

Recently, government used a special zero coupon bond to recapitalize Punjab & Sind Bank.

Zero coupon bonds are generally - zero interest bonds, which are issued at discount and at maturity 100% capital is transferred. Thus interest is converted into discount.

However unlike corporate or earlier zero coupon bond, which were tradable in secondary market

→ These coupon bonds have no mark to market system and will be parked under Held to maturity category (HTM) within bank.

→ only specified banks by RBI can deal with this bond.

## Advantage

- These bonds generate an illusion of double impact in the market.
- Thus govt can issue them for certain amount and will benefit for much large.
- Thus fiscal deficit can be handled properly.
- This initiative is in sync with western practices.

## Concerns

- This bond will not solve the root cause of cash crunch, rising NPA and structural issues of bank.
- Being short term measures, it will generate problems upon maturity.

Being innovative & experimented in western countries, the method is helpful when government is struggling in fund management amid pandemic.