

**May – 21**

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India had appointed a committee for ‘Suggestions on promoting digital payment’.
  - It was headed by Nandan Nilekani and it has submitted its suggestions on promoting Payment and Settlement Systems in India.
- ❖ The Union government plans to introduce artificial intelligence system in the MCA 21 portal of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
  - It seeks to make the compliance process easier as well as ensure routine enforcement activities are done round-the-clock on autopilot basis.
- ❖ Rafael Nadal has won a record 34th ATP Masters 1000 title by defeating Novak Djokovic in the Italian Open final 2019. This is his ninth Rome title.
- ❖ The USA’s House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi was honoured with 2019 John F Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.
- ❖ The United States has recently approved Anti-Ballistic Missile sales to South Korea and Japan. The sale is worth more than \$600 million and comes in backdrop of mounting tensions with North Korea.
  - 92 ‘Standard Missile-2’ (SM-2) which is used by ships against air threats and 160 anti-air AMRAAM (Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile) were sold by the US.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### **Mega Missions**

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently announced that it has planned seven mega missions, including Chandrayaan-2.
- ❖ These will be conducted over a period of next 10 years.
- ❖ It has also prepared a roadmap for next 30 years.
- ❖ The missions planned are

Mission	Object of Study
Chandrayaan 2	Moon
Mangalyaan – 2	Mars
Aditya -L1	Sun



Venus Mission	Venus
Lunar Polar Exploration	Moon
XPOsAT	Cosmic Radiation
Exoworlds	Exploration outside the solar system

- ❖ ISRO has defined only 3 Missions – Chandrayaan-2, XPOsAT and Aditya-L1.
- ❖ The rest of them are undefined missions and in planning stage.

### **Ultima Thule**

- ❖ NASA has found evidence of a unique mixture of water ice, methanol, and organic molecules on Ultima Thule's surface.
- ❖ This mixture is very different from most icy objects explored previously by spacecraft till date.
- ❖ Ultima Thule is a Greco-Latin term which means a distant unknown world.
- ❖ Its scientific name is 2014 MU 69.
- ❖ It was discovered in 2014 by Marc Buie using Hubble Space Telescope as a part of the ongoing New Horizons Mission.
- ❖ It is a trans Neptunian object located in Kuiper belt.
- ❖ The New Horizon Mission was launched in 2006 to search for Kuiper Belt objects.

### **Kuiper Belt**

- ❖ Kuiper belt is a circumstellar disc in outer Solar System.
- ❖ It is approximately 6.4 billion km from Earth.
- ❖ It is the farthest world ever explored by mankind.
- ❖ The Kuiper belt is home to three officially recognized dwarf planets
  - Pluto
  - Haumea
  - Makemake
- ❖ Originally considered a planet, Pluto's status as part of the Kuiper belt caused it to be reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006.
- ❖ The objects within the Kuiper belt are referred to as trans-Neptunian objects (TNOs).

## STATES

### Assam Crisis

- ❖ The Supreme Court has declared that the Foreigners Tribunal's order declaring a person as an illegal foreigner will be binding.
- ❖ It will also prevail over the Assam government's decision to exclude or include the person's name from the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam.
- ❖ There are 100 foreigners' tribunals functioning in Assam as per the Government of Assam website.
- ❖ Judges and advocates are appointed as the members of the Foreigner's Tribunal under
  - The Foreigners Tribunal Act, 1941
  - The Foreigners Tribunal Order, 1964.
- ❖ The Supreme Court also ruled that the order of Foreigner's Tribunal will prevail over NRC as it was a quasi-judicial entity.
- ❖ The National Register of Citizens, or NRC, is the list of Indian citizens in Assam.
- ❖ It is being updated to weed out illegal immigration from Bangladesh and neighbouring regions.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### The Hindu

- ❖ The Hindu Group has bagged two prizes at the prestigious International News Media Association (INMA) Global Media Awards.
- ❖ Second place was awarded in "Best Marketing Solution for Client" category for the Hindu.
- ❖ It bagged third place for 'Best Idea to Encourage Print Readership or Engagement'.
- ❖ The INMA is a global community of market-leading news media companies reinventing how they engage audiences and grow revenue in a multi-media environment.



## SPORTS

### **New Badminton Format**

- ❖ The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has launched two new formats of badminton game namely
  - Air Badminton
  - Triples
- ❖ In contrast to traditional competitive badminton which is an indoor game the Air badminton is an outdoor game.
- ❖ The Air Badminton game and a new outdoor shuttlecock called Air Shuttle was launched in Guangzhou, China.
- ❖ The outdoor format will be played barefoot on an approved surface like sand and on courts of smaller dimensions.
- ❖ In Triples format, each team has 3 players with one mandatory female player.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development 2019 – May 21**

- ❖ World Day for Cultural Diversity is annually observed on May 21.
- ❖ In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity.
- ❖ In 2002, UN declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity.
- ❖ The day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity.

### **Vesak - the day of Full Moon – May 17**

- ❖ Vesak - the Day of the Full Moon in the month of May, is the most sacred day to millions of Buddhists around the World.
- ❖ This year it was observed on May 17.
- ❖ In 1999, the UN General Assembly recognized the Day of Vesak internationally to acknowledge the contribution of Buddhism to the spirituality of humanity.
- ❖ It was on the Day of Vesak that
  - Buddha was born

- Also attained enlightenment
- Also, in his eightieth year passed away.

## World Metrology Day – May 20

- ❖ World Metre Day is commemorated every year on May 20.
- ❖ The Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 established the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM).
- ❖ It provided the basis for a coherent measurement system worldwide.
- ❖ The theme for World Metrology Day 2019 is “The International System of Units – Fundamentally better”.



### 20 May 2019 - World Metrology Day

The new definitions of the SI base units have now come into effect!

- ❖ This theme was chosen because in November 2018 as the General Conference on Weights and Measures agreed for “revisions” to the International System of Units (the SI Units) which was fixed in 1875.
- ❖ The 7 base units of the SI system are

THE SEVEN FUNDAMENTAL UNITS		
UNIT	QUANTITY	HOW IT IS/WILL BE DEFINED
Meter*	Distance	Based on speed of light
Kilogram**	Mass	To be based on Planck constant
Second*	Time	Based on radiation of caesium-133 atom
Ampere**	Current	To be based on an electron's charge
Kelvin**	Temperature	To be based on Boltzmann constant
Mole**	Amount of substance	To be based on Avogadro constant
Candela*	Luminous intensity	From efficacy of light of specific frequency

*\* Current definition stands \*\* Being redefined*

- ❖ Currently the way we measure four base units are redefined - kilogram, kelvin, mole and ampere.
- ❖ Here after the SI units will be expressed in terms of the following constants.

The seven defining constants of the SI are:

- the caesium hyperfine frequency  $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$ ;
- the speed of light in vacuum  $c$ ;
- the Planck constant  $h$ ;
- the elementary charge  $e$ ;
- the Boltzmann constant  $k$ ;
- the Avogadro constant  $N_{\text{A}}$ ; and
- the luminous efficacy of a defined visible radiation  $K_{\text{cd}}$ .

### **World Bee Day – May 20**

- ❖ World Bee day is observed on May 20.
  - ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development
  - ❖ Bee day coincides with the birthday of Anton Janša.
  - ❖ In the 18th century he pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia.
  - ❖ The UN Member States approved Slovenia's proposal to proclaim 20 May as World Bee Day in December 2017.
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