

**April – 22**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ National Green Tribunal established a committee planned to examine the alleged erosion of Yamuna floodplain due to movement of heavy vehicles in Sonipat district in Haryana.
  - This committee headed by NGT chairman, Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel.
- ❖ Central government has given nod to change the name of a village in Madhya Pradesh from 'Durjanpur' to 'Shivdham'.
- ❖ A book containing English translation of the 100-year-old classic Punjabi poem written by Nanak Singh, about Jallianwala Bagh massacre, 'Khooni Vaisakhi' has released in Abu Dhabi.
  - India's Ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri, who translated this book, commended the launch of the book.
- ❖ The first-ever global coalition on clean and efficient cooling was launched at the First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia will host the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Summit of Group 20 leaders in November 2020.
- ❖ NASA has chosen a team led by an Indian American student, Keshav Raghvan to have its CubeSat which is a mini research satellite to be sent to space to detect cosmic rays.
- ❖ British racing driver, Lewis Hamilton has achieved his 75<sup>th</sup> career victory in Formula One's 1000<sup>th</sup> race at the Chinese Grand Prix.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Coast Guard patrol ship-Veera**

- ❖ Indian Coast Guard vessel Veera has been commissioned by General Bipin Rawat at Eastern Naval Command in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Veera, the third in the series of the new generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) is indigenously designed and built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Developmental Projects in Africa

- ❖ India will collaborate with Japan and United Arab Emirates (UAE) to develop two projects in Africa.
- ❖ It seeks to expand its footprint in the booming economy of the continent and counter growing Chinese influence in the region.
- ❖ Under the arrangement,
  - India along with Japan will build a cancer hospital in Kenya.
  - India join hands with the UAE to set up an information and communications technology (ICT) centre in Ethiopia.

## ECONOMY

### Quasi-Cryptocurrency

- ❖ International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are partnering up to launch a private blockchain and “quasi-cryptocurrency.”
- ❖ The asset, “Learning Coin,” will be accessible only within the Washington-based multinational agencies.
- ❖ Since the coin has no monetary value, it’s not an actual cryptocurrency.

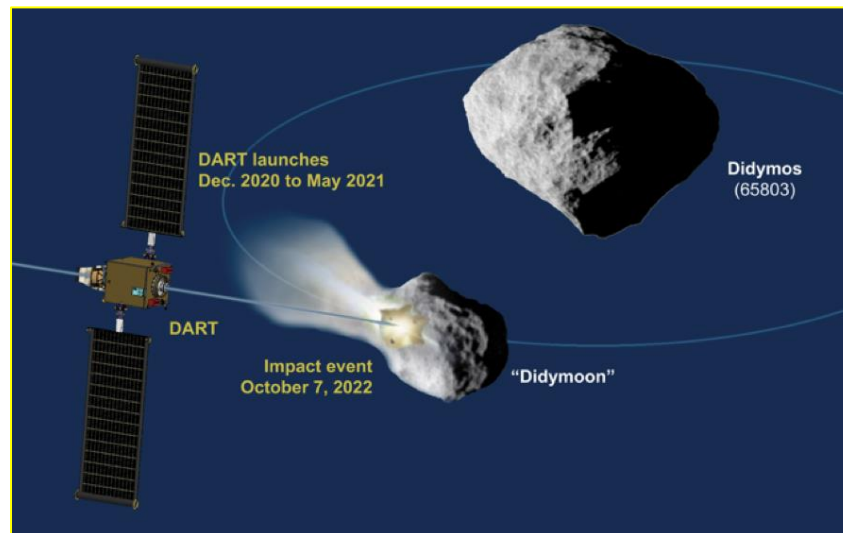
## **ETMONEY Financial Services App**

- ❖ ETMONEY India's largest app for financial services has integrated with Unified Payment Interface (UPI) as a payment method.
- ❖ The reason for this is to double its monthly user base by the end of 2019.
- ❖ This integration will simplify the mutual fund payment for millions of ETMONEY users.
- ❖ ETMONEY is owned by Times Internet which is a part of the Times Group.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Asteroid-Walloping Mission**

- ❖ NASA has announced that SpaceX will fly its Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) planetary-defence mission.
- ❖ DART planetary-defence mission will be will launched by the Falcon 9 rocket from California in June 2021.
- ❖ The spacecraft will slam into "Didymoon," the 540-foot-wide (165 meters) satellite of the near-Earth asteroid Didymos which is located at about 4 million miles from Earth in October 2022.



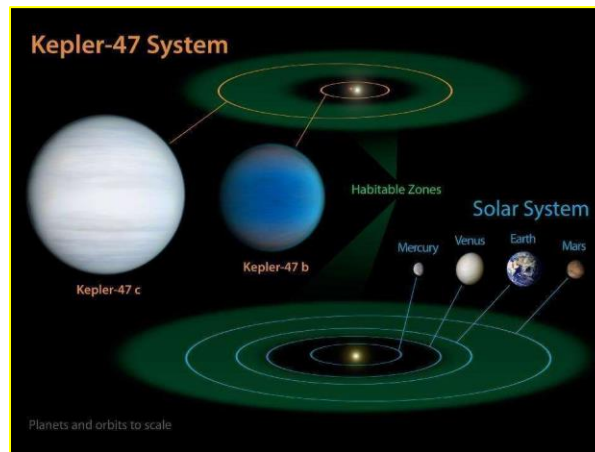
- ❖ After this mission, in 2023, European mission called "Hera" would launch toward the Didymos system and get there in 2026.
- ❖ Recently, Japan's Hayabusa 2 probe smashed a copper cannonball into the space rock Ryugu, to unearth pristine subsurface material for study.

## Kepler-47 system

- ❖ Astronomers have discovered a third planet in the Kepler-47 system, this new planet named as Kepler-47d.
- ❖ Using data from NASA's Kepler space telescope, they detected the new Neptune-to-Saturn-size planet orbiting between two previously known planets Kepler-47b and Kepler-47c.
- ❖ According to a new study, Kepler-47d is about seven times larger than Earth and also the largest of the three planets in the Kepler-47 circumbinary system.

## Kepler-47 system

- ❖ The Kepler-47 system is approximately 3.5 billion-years-old and it is 3,340 light years away in the direction of the constellation Cygnus.



- ❖ After the discovery of Kepler-47d, now there are three planets in Kepler-47, that are orbiting two stars.
- ❖ Kepler-47 is a binary star system and only known multi-planet circumbinary system.
- ❖ Circumbinary planets are those that orbit two stars.

## First armed amphibious drone boat

- ❖ The world's first armed amphibious drone boat named "Marine Lizard" has been successfully tested by China.
- ❖ It is guided by China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System.

- ❖ It has a capability of forming a combat triad with aerial drones and other drone ships, it could be used in land and sea assault operations.



- ❖ The drone can autonomously sail, avoid obstacles, plan routes and its payloads include an electro-optical system and a radar system.

### **Electricity from snowfall**

- ❖ The researchers at the University of California, created a 3D-printed device that that can produce electricity from falling snow.
- ❖ The device is small, inexpensive, thin, flexible like a plastic-sheet and can work anywhere because it provides its own power and does not need batteries.
- ❖ The device termed as snow-based triboelectric nanogenerator or “snow TENG”.
- ❖ It generates charge through static electricity and produces energy from electron-exchange.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2019**

- ❖ Reuters agency’s journalists, Kyaw Soe Oo and Wa Lone have been selected for UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2019.
- ❖ This award given for recognizing their commitment, courage and resistance to freedom of expression.
- ❖ Currently, they are serving seven-year prison sentence in Myanmar since 12 December 2017 under the Official Secrets Act.

- ❖ This Prize will be given on May 2<sup>nd</sup> as part of the observance of World Press Freedom Day (3 May) in Ethiopia.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Earth Day- April 22

- ❖ World Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22 Worldwide.
- ❖ The first Earth Day, on April 22, 1970, was marked by 22 million Americans who marched to protest against damage done to the environment.
- ❖ This day is celebrated to remind us about the need to protect and safeguard our environment so that we can make this planet a better place for our future generations.



- ❖ The theme for Earth Day 2019 is 'Protect Our Species'. It aims to draw attention to the rapid extinction of species across the world.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Rajouri Day – April 13

- ❖ Rajouri Day is celebrated on April 13 every year to commemorate the bravery and valour of the soldiers who laid down their lives for the liberation of Rajouri district.
- ❖ After the accession of Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan invades along with the rebels and deserters from the western districts of the state, captured Rajouri on 7 November 1947.

- ❖ Rajouri was recaptured on 12 April 1948 from rebels and Pakistan Army personnel who had infiltrated from across the border.



-----