

April – 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central Railway Station, lost the distinction of having the world's longest railway station name by a single letter.
 - The record for the longest railway station name, which is 58 letters long, is held by 'Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch' in Wales, UK.
- ❖ The UAE has announced that India will be the Guest of Honour country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019, to be held at the end of April 2019. ADIBF was launched in 1981.
- ❖ HDFC Bank has been identified as number 1 bank by customers in India, as per Forbes World's Best Bank survey. Forbes magazine conducted the survey 23 countries. ICICI is ranked No.2 and SBI at No.11.
- ❖ Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has bagged the prestigious 'AIMA Managing India Award 2019 for outstanding PSU of the year. The All India Management Association (AIMA) is the apex body of management professionals in the country.

TAMIL NADU

Drone Testing

- ❖ The DGCA (The Directorate General of Civil Aviation) has assigned Vellore, Salem, Coimbatore and Erode as the new test spots for drones under the RPAS scheme.
- ❖ The Requirements for Operation of Civil Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) 2018, regulates and controls operation of the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) to ensure flight safety.



- ❖ It is mandatory for all drones to be registered with DGCA in the “Digital Sky” platform before commencement of operation.
- ❖ RPAS defines “No Drone Zones” around airports, near international border, Vijay Chowk in Delhi, State Secretariat Complex in State Capitals, strategic locations/vital and military installations.

NATIONAL

Electoral Bond Scheme

- ❖ The Supreme Court has directed all political parties to furnish details about the receipts of electoral bonds in a sealed cover to the Election Commission.
- ❖ To know more about electoral bonds pls go here <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/sbi-to-issue-and-encash-electoral-bonds/>



Loopholes

- ❖ Electoral bonds are prone to misuse because of the lack of disclosure requirements for individuals purchasing electoral bonds.
- ❖ Electoral bonds make election funding even more opaque. It will bring more and more black money into the political system.

- ❖ They can be used as a legal channel for companies to round-trip their black money saved in tax haven countries to a political party.
- ❖ Electoral bonds eliminate the maximum 7.5% cap on company donations, which means even loss-making companies can make unlimited donations.

Assam Rifles

- ❖ Assam Rifles which is also referred to as the “Sentinels of North East” is the oldest paramilitary force of India.
- ❖ It was formed by the British as a paramilitary force in 1835 known as “Cachar Levy”.
- ❖ The first non-British Director General (DG) of Assam Rifles was Col. Sidhiman Rai, MC.



- ❖ The Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 placed Assam Rifles under the head ‘Police’ while the objective and functions of Assam Rifles were that of military and paramilitary force.
- ❖ As an anomaly, the administrative control of Assam Rifles lies with the Home Ministry, while the operational control is with the Defence Ministry.
- ❖ All India Assam Rifles Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association have filed a case in Delhi High court to put an end to the dual control .

World’s Largest Aircraft

- ❖ The world’s largest aircraft, developed by an aerospace venture Stratolaunch, has successfully completed its first flight test.

VITAL STATISTICS

LENGTH **238 feet**

WEIGHT **Half a million pounds**

COCKPITS **2**

FUSELAGES **2**
(but only one is used to fly the plane)

POWERED BY **6 Boeing 747 engines**

WORLD'S LARGEST PLANE TAKES FLIGHT

The gigantic, six-engine mega jet with the wingspan of an American football field made its first test flight over the Mojave desert in California on Saturday. Built by Stratolaunch, the company set up by late Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen in 2011, it is designed to act as a flying launch pad for satellites. The test flight lasted for **2-and-a-half hours** and touched top speed of **304kmph**. It reached altitude of **17,000ft**

HOW WILL IT WORK

- 1 Jet – carrying a rocket loaded with a satellite – will take off to 35,000 feet
- 2 Launch rocket from the plane on a trajectory toward space
- 3 Plane will land safely back at Mojave
- 4 Rocket deploys satellite before eventually falling back to Earth, burning up like a meteor

WINGSPAN 385 feet
about 1.5 times that of an Airbus A380

LANDING GEAR HAS **28 wheels**

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

- Designed to carry into space a rocket that would in turn deploy satellites
- Aims to offer military and even Nasa an economical way to get into space

WHY IS IT ECONOMICAL

- Made of carbon fiber, not aluminum, to make it light
- Only requires a runway for takeoff and no pricey equipment needed for traditional rocket launch
- Burns less fuel
- Can take off and fly in bad weather too
- Launches can be done more frequently

British billionaire Richard Branson's company Virgin Galactic has also developed aircraft that launch rockets into orbit from great height

- ❖ Stratolaunch was founded by the Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen in 2011
- ❖ The Aircraft achieved a maximum speed of 189 miles (302.4 km) per hour.
- ❖ The plane flew for 2.5 hours over the Mojave Desert, California at altitudes up to 17,000 feet.

ECONOMY

Attachment of Property

- ❖ The Delhi High Court has held that in case of attachment of tainted properties obtained from “money laundering” and “from scheduled criminal activity”, PMLA prevails over the RBDA, SARFAESI and Insolvency code.
- ❖ Section 71 of the PMLA has the overriding effect over other existing laws.

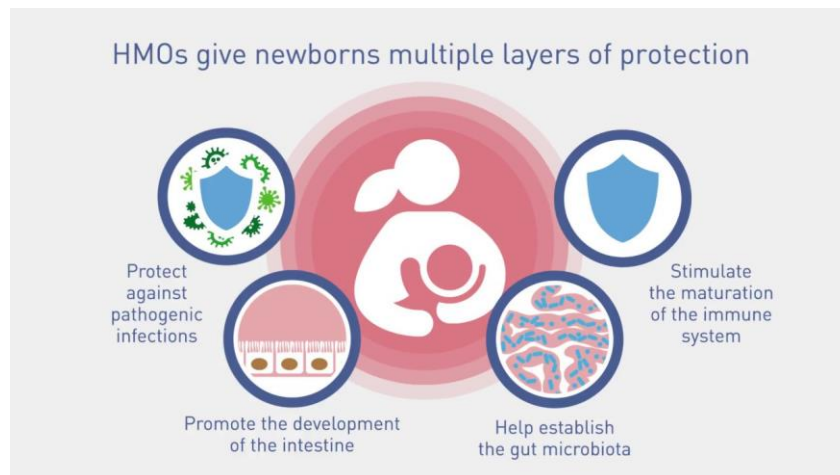
Act	Abbreviation	Year	Objective
RBDA	Recovery of Debt and Bankruptcy Act	1993	To establish Tribunals for expeditious adjudication and recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions

PMLA	Prevention of Money Laundering Act	2002	To prevent money-laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from money-laundering
SARFAESI Act	The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act	2002	It allows banks and other financial institution to auction residential or commercial properties (of Defaulters) to recover loans
Insolvency Code	The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code	2016	It is also a bankruptcy law which seeks to consolidate the existing framework by creating a single law for insolvency and bankruptcy.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Adult Super Food

- ❖ Global chemical giants DowDuPont and BASF are investing millions to ramp up production of Human milk oligosaccharide (HMO), a component to make superfoods for adults.³



- ❖ HMO is the indigestible sugar found naturally in breast milk.
- ❖ HMO escapes digestion, allowing it to reach the colon where it feeds beneficial bacteria thereby ensuring better health of breast-fed babies.

First 'Cold Spray' SMART lab

- ❖ Madras (IIT-M) announced its collaboration with American conglomerate General Electric (GE) to set up a lab that will develop advanced services technology for aircraft engine components.
- ❖ The 'Cold Spray' SMART (Surface Modification and Additive Research Technologies) Laboratory is the first-of-its-kind being installed in any academic institute in India.
- ❖ It is an emerging technology for advanced manufacturing and services and will be utilised to co-develop processes for aero-engine applications.
- ❖ Cold spray technology is different from other widely used thermal spray processes in that there is no melting and oxidation of powders.
- ❖ Thus, high quality coatings can be produced.

SPORTS

Tiger Wins

- ❖ Tiger Woods has won the Augusta Masters National Golf tournament.
- ❖ Woods made history 22 years ago in 1997 when he won his first Masters Tournament at age 21.



- ❖ This victory at Augusta gives him 15 career major titles, just three behind all-time Golf great Jack Nicklaus.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Ambedkar Jayanthi

- ❖ Ambedkar Jayanthi is celebrated every year on April 14th.
- ❖ This event coincides with the birth day of Dr. Ambedkar. April 14,2019 was his 128th birth anniversary.



- ❖ Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was the chairman of the Drafting committee of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ His extraordinary brilliance and immense contribution to the Indian society is revered through the length and breadth of India.

MISCELLANEOUS

My Circle App

- ❖ My Circle App was launched by Bharti Airtel in collaboration with FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) to aid in the safety of women.
 - ❖ During emergency situations, this app enables women to send SOS alerts with location tracking facility to any of their family or friends in 13 languages including English and Tamil
 - ❖ This app would work on phones with any telecom service network, both Airtel and non-Airtel.
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