



April -16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Inspector General KR Nautiyal, on promotion to the rank of Additional Director General, has been appointed as the new Coast Guard Commander (Eastern Seaboard). He will succeed Inspector General KS Sheoran on April 12, 2018.
- ❖ The UN World Tourism Organization has appointed FC Barcelona's Argentine star Lionel Messi as an ambassador to promote responsible tourism.

NATIONAL

Banning of Steroid Creams

- ❖ The Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry have banned the sale of 14 steroid creams to prevent the indiscriminate sale of ointments containing steroids and antibiotics.
- ❖ These 14 preparations were included under Schedule H of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to impose the ban.
- ❖ The decision was taken following consultation with Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).
- ❖ It is notable that DTAB already recommendation to ban the sale of such creams without a prescription.
- ❖ It also had submitted their recommendations to Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- ❖ Some banned ointments are beclomethasone, desonide, alclometasone and fluocinonide among others.

Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB)

- ❖ DTAB is highest statutory decision-making body on technical matters related to drugs in the country. It is constituted as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- ❖ It is part of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

NITI Aayog Forum for North East

- ❖ The first meeting of newly constituted 'NITI Aayog Forum for North East' was held in Agartala, Tripura.



- ❖ The Meeting is convened to discuss ways to boost development projects in the North East states.
- ❖ The first meeting of NITI Aayog Forum for North East was chaired by Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog – Rajeev Kumar and the Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jitendra Singh.
- ❖ 'NITI Forum for North East' was constituted in February 2018
- ❖ The aim of the NITI Forum for North East is to ensure the sustainable economic growth of the North Eastern Region (NER) of India and review the status of development projects in the North Eastern region at periodic intervals.

INTERNATIONAL

Bangladesh - Quota

- ❖ Due to nation-wide protests by thousands of students, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced abolishment of the quota system for recruiting government officials through an annual civil service exam.
- ❖ At present, 56% posts in the annual civil service examination are reserved under various quotas.
- ❖ Among those, the largest chunk—30%—is reserved for children of freedom fighters.
- ❖ The quota system in Bangladesh's civil service was introduced in 1972 after independence on December 16, 1971.

ECONOMY

PCA Framework

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has placed 11 public sector banks (PSBs) out of 21 State-owned banks under its Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework because of deteriorating performance.
- ❖ The 11 banks placed under PCA framework are IDBI Bank, UCO Bank, Bank of India (BoI), Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Dena Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), Bank of Maharashtra (BoM), United Bank of India, Corporation Bank and Allahabad Bank.

The Prompt Corrective Action framework

- ❖ Banks can be placed under Prompt Corrective Action Framework by Reserve Bank of India if they have high non-performing assets (NPAs) and insufficient common equity tier 1 capital (CET 1) and negative return on assets (ROA).



- ❖ Under RBI's new PCA framework, breaching a net NPA ratio of 6% invites action.
- ❖ Under the old rules, net NPA ratio had to breach 10% for taking action.
- ❖ The objective of the PCA framework is to facilitate the banks to take corrective measures including those prescribed by the RBI, in a timely manner, in order to restore the banks' financial health.

Index of Economic Freedom 2018

- ❖ Index of Economic Freedom 2018 was released recently. It measures the degree of economic freedom in the world countries. India ranked 130th out of 186 economies in this index.
- ❖ In this edition of the index, India with a score of 54.5 jumped 13 places from the 143rd rank in the previous year (2017) with a score of 52.6 points.
- ❖ The top 10 countries in the Index of Economic Freedom 2018 is Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, Australia, Ireland, Estonia, United Kingdom, Canada, and UAE.
- ❖ China ranked at 111th place. It has jumped one spot compared from the 112th rank in the previous edition.

Index of Economic Freedom (IEF)

- ❖ The Index of Economic Freedom (IEF) is released by top US-based Think Tank, The Heritage Foundation.
- ❖ It ranks countries based on a score ranging from 0 (least free) to 100 (most free).
- ❖ 0 denotes countries with least free economies. 100 denotes countries with most free economics.
- ❖ The score is based on 12 factors of economic freedom, using statistics from international organizations like World Bank, IMF, Economist Intelligence Unit and Transparency International.
- ❖ Based on the score, countries are grouped into 5 different categories,
 - Free (80–100),
 - Mostly Free (70.0–79.9),
 - Moderately Free (60.0–69.9),
 - Mostly Unfree (50.0–59.9) and
 - Repressed (0–49.9).



FREE (100-80)

RANK	COUNTRY	OVERALL	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	OVERALL	CHANGE
1	Hong Kong	90.2	+0.4 ▲	4	Switzerland	81.7	+0.2 ▲
2	Singapore	88.8	+0.2 ▲	5	Australia	80.9	-0.1 ▼
3	New Zealand	84.2	+0.5 ▲	6	Ireland	80.4	+3.7 ▲

MOSTLY UNFREE (59.9-50)

RANK	COUNTRY	OVERALL	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	OVERALL	CHANGE
97	Tanzania	59.9	+1.3 ▲	129	Kenya	54.7	+1.2 ▲
98	Saudi Arabia	59.6	-4.8 ▼	130	India	54.5	+1.9 ▲
99	Tunisia	58.9	+3.2 ▲	131	Pakistan	54.4	+1.6 ▲
100	Nicaragua	58.9	-0.3 ▼	132	Zambia	54.3	-1.5 ▼
101	Cambodia	58.7	-0.8 ▼	133	Nepal	54.1	-1.0 ▼
102	Guyana	58.7	+0.2 ▲	134	Mauritania	54.0	-0.4 ▼
103	Namibia	58.5	-4.0 ▼	135	Burma	53.9	+1.4 ▲

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Banks Board Bureau chairman

- ❖ The Union Finance Ministry has reconstituted the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) and appointed Bhanu Pratap Sharma as its chairman, replacing former Comptroller and Auditor General Vinod Rai.
- ❖ Mr. Sharma was formerly the chairman of recruitment and assessment centre of DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) and former Principal Secretary (Finance) in the Bihar government.
- ❖ The body was also reconstituted and the government also appointed VedikaBhandarkar, P. Pradeep Kumar and Pradeep Shah as the new members.



Banks Board Bureau (BBB)

- ❖ The BBB, which has the responsibility of selecting members, including MDs & CEOs of public sector banks, started functioning in April 2016 with Mr. Rai at the helm.
- ❖ The BBB was set up on the recommendations of a committee headed by banker P J Nayak.
- ❖ Its mandate is to improve PSB governance, recommend on the selection of chiefs of government-owned banks and financial institutions and to help banks in developing strategies and capital raising plans.
- ❖ It is based in Mumbai, at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ The chairman and its committee members had a two-year term, which ended in March 2018.

SPORTS

Wisden's Leading Cricketers

- ❖ India captains Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj were named as the leading men's and women's cricketers in the world respectively.
- ❖ Kohli won this award for the second year in a row. With this, Kohli has become the third cricketer after Virender Sehwag and Kumar Sangakkara to be honored with the award multiple times.
- ❖ While Raj was acknowledged after a year in which she became the leading run-scorer in One-day Internationals during India's run to the World Cup final.



- ❖ Along with them, three English women cricketers - Heather Knight, Anya Shrubsole, and Nat Sciver - also made it to the Wisden's five cricketers of the year.
- ❖ The Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World is an annual cricket award selected by Wisden Cricketers' Almanac.
- ❖ It was established in 2004, to select the best cricketer based upon their performances anywhere in the world in the previous calendar year.

World No. 1 Badminton Player

- ❖ Kidambi Srikanth became the first Indian male to become world No. 1 in badminton rankings.
- ❖ The ace Indian shuttler dethroned Denmark's Viktor Axelsen to reach to the top of rankings.
- ❖ He's the second Indian to do so after Saina Nehwal, who became the first Indian to climb atop the world rankings in 2015.

Men's Singles

[More](#)

Country Filter:

Filter

Rank	Country	Player	Member ID	Points	Tournaments	Confederation	Country
1	IND	KIDAMBI Srikanth	93627	76895	12	Asia	India
2	DEN	Viktor AXELSEN	25831	75470	11	Europe	Denmark
3	KOR	SON Wan Ho	54346	74670	19	Asia	Korea
4	CHN	CHEN Long	75787	73466	12	Asia	China
5	CHN	SHI Yuqi	57945	72743	15	Asia	China
6	TPE	CHOU Tien Chen	34810	65521	19	Asia	Chinese Taipei
7	MAS	LEE Chong Wei	50152	65394	13	Asia	Malaysia
8	CHN	LIN Dan	50906	62076	13	Asia	China
9	HKG	NG Ka Long Angus	45171	55029	18	Asia	Hong Kong
10	INA	Anthony Sinisuka GINTING	95661	54235	17	Asia	Indonesia

Commonwealth Games

- ❖ Muhammed Anas Yahiya has become the first Indian to qualify for the men's 400m final at the Commonwealth Games since Milkha Singh.



- ❖ Anas was the joint-third fastest runner to qualify for final with a timing of 45.44 seconds.



- ❖ Milkha had won gold in the 400m race (then called 440-yard race) at the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in 1958.

IMPORTANT DAYS

The World Aviation and Cosmonautics Day – 12 April

- ❖ On April 12 the whole World celebrates an Aviation and Cosmonautics Day – a date to commemorate the first-ever flight of a human in space.
- ❖ On April 12, 1961, a citizen of the Soviet Union, first lieutenant Yuri Gagarin orbited the Earth onboard “Vostok” spacecraft for the first time in mankind history, thus opening the era of manned space missions.
