

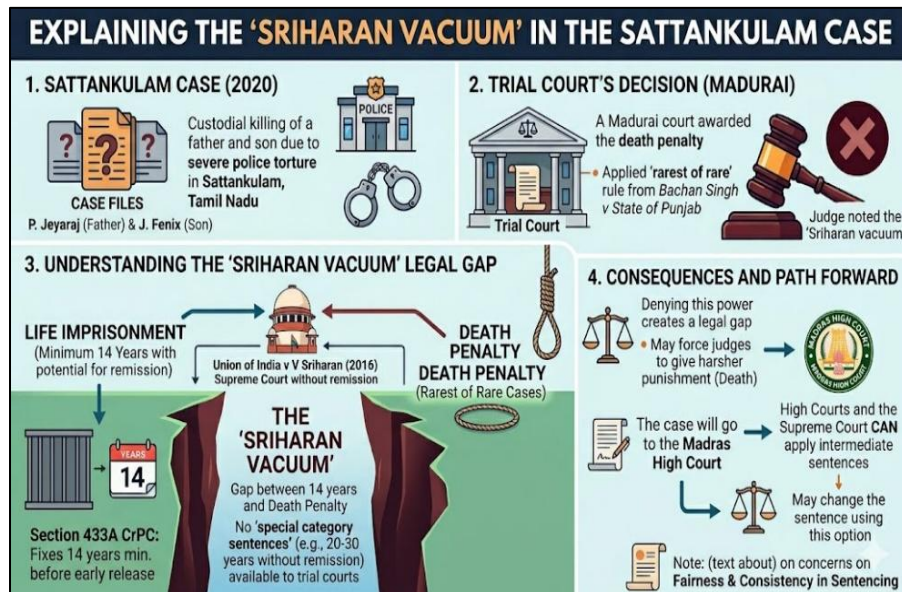
April - 15

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A life-size bronze statue of Swami Vivekananda was unveiled in Seattle, the first such statue of him in the United States.
- ❖ Sarun Payasingh won the men's long jump at the Indian Athletics Series in Ranchi with a jump of 7.46 metres.
- ❖ Sawan Barwal broke India's oldest marathon record at the Rotterdam Marathon by finishing in 2:11:58, surpassing Shivnath Singh's 1978 record of 2:12:00.
- ❖ Banaras Hindu University won the AIU National Moot Court Competition 2026 held at Integral University, Lucknow.
- ❖ The Indian Navy will host the first edition of the Commanders' Conference 2026 in New Delhi, organised by the Ministry of Defence, to review naval operations and maritime security.
- ❖ World Art Day is celebrated every year on April 15 to promote the development, diffusion, and enjoyment of art across the world.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Sriharan Vacuum in Sattankulam Case



- ❖ A court in Madurai awarded the death penalty in the Sattankulam custodial death case, highlighting the "Sriharan vacuum".

- ❖ The case involves the custodial killing of a father and son in 2020 due to severe police torture.
- ❖ The trial court applied the “rarest of rare” rule from Bachan Singh v State of Punjab to award the death sentence.
- ❖ Under Union of India v V Sriharan, trial courts cannot give fixed-term life imprisonment without remission (early release).
- ❖ Section 433A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) fixes a minimum of 14 years for life imprisonment before remission.
- ❖ Because of this rule, the judge had only two options: life imprisonment (minimum 14 years) or the death penalty.
- ❖ This gap between 14 years and the death penalty is called the “Sriharan vacuum”, where no middle punishment is available to trial courts.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India created “special category sentences” (like 20–30 years without remission) for serious crimes.
- ❖ But only higher courts like the Supreme Court of India and the Madras High Court can use this option, not trial courts.

## NATIONAL NEWS

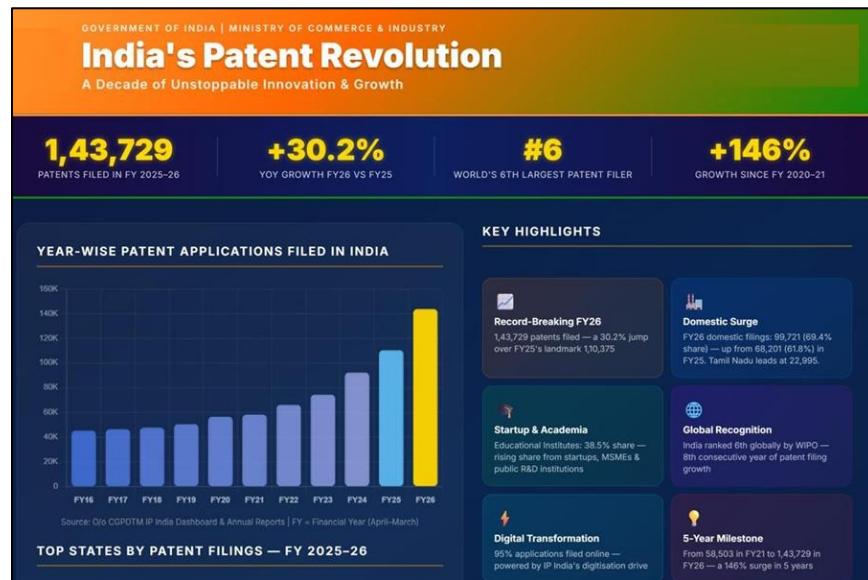
### Supreme Court on Voting Rights 2026



- ❖ The Supreme Court of India ruled that the right to vote and contest elections is a statutory right, not a fundamental right.

- ❖ The judgment was given on April 11, 2026, in a case related to cooperative society elections in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Court said these rights are governed by laws like the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- ❖ Statutory rights are created by laws and can be restricted, unlike Fundamental Rights under Part III of the Constitution.
- ❖ The Court upheld eligibility rules (bye-laws) for cooperative elections, saying they are legally valid.
- ❖ It also stated that courts should not interfere in internal matters of cooperative societies unless there is clear illegality.

## Patent Applications in India 2025–26



- ❖ India recorded a 30.2% rise in patent applications, reaching 1,43,729 in FY 2025–26.
- ❖ India is now the 6th largest patent filer in the world.
- ❖ About 69% of filings are from domestic applicants, showing a shift towards “Invented in India”.
- ❖ Major contributing states include Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.
- ❖ Patent filings increased from 45,444 (2016–17) to 1,43,729 (2025–26), showing steady growth.
- ❖ The process is governed by the Patents Act, 1970.

## Indian Ocean Conference 2026

- ❖ The 9th Indian Ocean Conference 2026 concluded in Mauritius, focusing on regional cooperation and security in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ❖ India highlighted the need to address maritime chokepoint concerns and build trusted partnerships for stability.
- ❖ The conference was started in 2016 by the India Foundation with participation from 40+ countries.
- ❖ It is a key forum for cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region under the SAGAR vision.
- ❖ The region is important for global trade, energy routes, and maritime security with major sea lanes and chokepoints.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

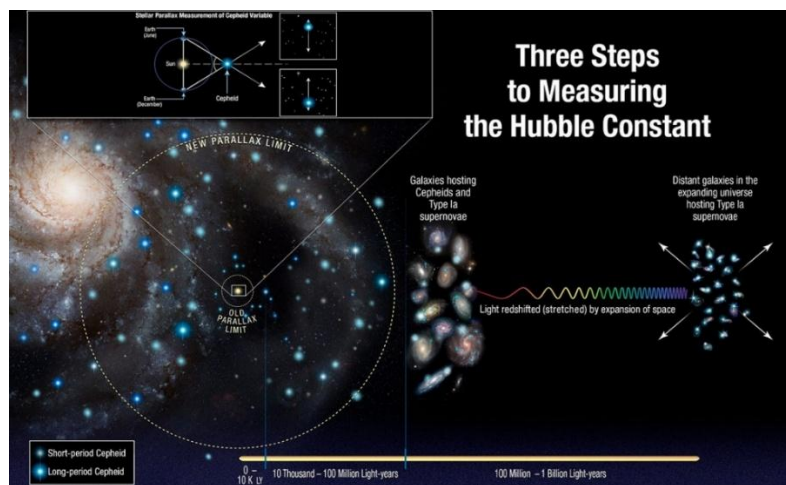
### Hungary Election and Orbán's Rule

- ❖ Hungary held an election that may end Viktor Orbán's 16-year rule.
- ❖ Orbán served as Prime Minister for 16 years and won four consecutive elections with a strong majority.
- ❖ During his rule, government control increased over the media, judiciary, and key institutions.
- ❖ He followed nationalist policies and maintained close ties with Russia and Vladimir Putin.
- ❖ He used veto power in the European Union to block decisions, including aid to Ukraine.
- ❖ His 16-year rule led to tensions with the EU over democracy, rights, and governance.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Universe Expansion Measurement Discrepancy



- ❖ A new study confirms that the “Hubble tension” between two major methods of measuring the Universe’s expansion rate is not caused by a single incorrect measurement.
- ❖ The Universe’s expansion rate shows a long-standing mismatch called the Hubble tension.
- ❖ Early-Universe methods (Cosmic Microwave Background and baryon acoustic oscillations) give about 67 km/s/Mpc.
- ❖ Late-Universe distance ladder methods (Cepheid stars and Type Ia supernovae) give about 73 km/s/Mpc.

- ❖ A comprehensive cross-check using multiple independent techniques shows the results remain consistent even after removing any single method or calibration.
- ❖ The study concludes that “one bad measurement” cannot explain the discrepancy.

## STATE NEWS

### World Bank Funding for Amaravati Project



**World Bank Releases USD  
340 mn for Amaravati  
Development, Additional  
USD 150 mn Likely in April**

- ❖ The World Bank released \$340 million for Phase I of Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ An additional \$130–150 million is expected to be released in April 2026.
- ❖ The project is jointly supported by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank with a total commitment of \$1.6 billion.
- ❖ The Government of India has also committed about ₹15,000 crore for the project.
- ❖ It is implemented under the Amaravati Integrated Urban Development Programme (AIUDP) using a Program-for-Results (PforR) model.

### Lanjia Saora Community

- ❖ The Lanjia Saora community is preserving its unique visual heritage, like traditional metal earrings metal earrings, music, dance, nature-based religious beliefs and tattoos, while adapting to modern lifestyles.

- ❖ They are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) mainly found in the forested hills of Odisha, especially Rayagada and Gajapati districts.
- ❖ They are known for Saora paintings called Idital, which are wall murals used for ritual and spiritual communication.
- ❖ Their lifestyle includes shifting cultivation, forest-based livelihood, and strong community living.



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