

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 21, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- Designated senior advocate S Prabakaran - was elected vice-chairman of the Bar Council of India (BCI) on April 20.



- ✓ Prabakaran, who represents Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry at BCI, was elected unopposed, as no other member had filed nomination.
- ✓ A veteran lawyer who was three-time president of the Madras High Court Advocates Association (MHAA), Prabakaran heads the Tamil Nadu Advocates Association.
- ✓ He was elected to the BCI for a second consecutive term two years ago.
- ✓ The post fell vacant due to the resignation of S A Deshmukh
- ✓ The tenure of Prabakaran will be only for the remaining period of one year
- **A 17th century stone inscription – was discovered in Ramanathapuram district during the desilting of a tank**
 - ✓ The stone pillar measures 4ft in length and 1ft in width.
 - ✓ The lines were inscribed in the Tamil year of Sarvathari on the 14th day of the month of Aani.
 - ✓ This timeframe can be compared to AD 1648.

- ✓ As is the case with many inscriptions, the name of a king is not mentioned in this one.



- ✓ The inscription reads 'Arumpoor Kootram, Kaliyaneri Thugavoorutaiyan Ponni Ataippar Udaiya Nayan' donated the tank to the village.
- ✓ It is called the donation of Ayiraveli and a village of the same name exists near Pattamangalam.
- ✓ The other village mentioned in the inscription, Kaliyaneri, is no longer in existence but is said to have been located about 2km from Pattamangalam.
- ✓ 'Thugavoorutaiyan Ponni Ataippar Udaiya Nayan' may refer to the name of a royal representative of the Sethupathi kings from Kaliyaneri.
- ✓ Koothan Sethupathi and Thalavai Sethupathi were also known by the adjective 'Udaiya Nayan'
- ✓ The Shiva temple, in front of which this tank exists, was constructed around the 13th century in late Pandiya period architecture.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On April 20, the Supreme Court – activates Article 224A for the first time in the last 58 years**
- ✓ The apex court allowed high court chief justices to start appointing retired HC judges as ad hoc judges for two to five years under Article 224A of the constitution
- ✓ A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices S K Kaul and Surya Kant referred to the dormant Article 224A to bring back the retired judges
- ✓ The provision is to be used as the High Court faces pendency of a large number of cases

- ✓ The judges appointed under the Article would only handle old cases which have been pending for at least 5 years without a hearing.
- ✓ Their salaries and allowances would come from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- ✓ The number of ad hoc Judges should be in the range of two to five in a High Court.
- ✓ Article 224A was included in the original Constitution adopted in 1949 but was deleted in 1956 only to be reintroduced in 1963.
- ✓ In the last 58 years, only three retired judges have been appointed as ad hoc judges to HCs for a period of one year each
- ✓ They are — Justice Suraj Bhan to Madhya Pradesh HC in 1972, Justice P Venugopal to Madras HC in 1982, and Justice O P Srivastava to Allahabad HC in 2007 for the Ayodhya case.
- ✓ Article 224A of the Constitution allows the Chief Justice of a High Court to appoint a person who has been a judge earlier to sit as a judge of the court with the previous consent of the President
- ✓ The top court noted that 40% vacancies in high courts had led to an accumulation of 57 lakh cases in the country.
- ✓ Madras High Court has only 7% vacancies in its sanctioned strength but has highest arrears at 5.8 lakh cases, while Calcutta High Court has 44% vacancies but has 2.7 lakh pending cases.
- ✓ Further, the Supreme Court fixed time limits for each stage of processing, considering the shortage of judges.
- ✓ Accordingly, a bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Suyu Kant said the Centre should forward names to the SC in 8-12 weeks from the date of receipt of views from states and input from the Intelligence Bureau.
- ✓ The bench also said the IB should file its report in 4-6 weeks.
- ✓ As per the timeline, states should not take more than six weeks to send their views
- ✓ The CJI has to send recommendations to the law minister within four weeks and the law minister has to put up the proposal to the PM within three weeks for advice of the President.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The Asia for Animals (AfA) Conference 2021 – will be held virtually for the first time this year on April 24 and 25.**
- ✓ Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organizations (FIAPO), along with the Blue Cross of India, and the AfA Coalition, is organising the conference
- ✓ The conference will discuss about the meat markets in Asia and measures to be taken to prevent them from becoming breeding ground for diseases
- ✓ It will also strive to initiate an Asian movement for ending live animal markets and wildlife trade

- ✓ Further, the conference will improve networking between animal welfare organisations across Asia, discuss best practices, and get them together to improve the lives of animals across Asia
- ✓ The biennial conference will feature 45 speakers from across the world, including English primatologist and anthropologist Jane Goodall.
- ✓ It has been hosted in various countries across Asia till now.
- ✓ AfA 2021 will have presentations, panel discussions and breakways, all of which will be followed by Q&A sessions for deriving customized solutions.

ECONOMY

➤ Chennai-based SaaS firm Chargebee – becomes the country’s 11th unicorn in the year 2021

ET tech **Indian startup 🐎 unicorns in 2021**

Unicorn	Date	Valuation (in \$billion)	Sector
Digit	Jan. 15	\$1.9	Insurance
Innovaccer	Feb. 24	\$1.3	Software
Infra.Market	Feb. 25	\$1.0	Infrastructure
Five Star	Mar. 27	\$1.4	Banking
Meesho	Apr. 05	\$2.1	Social commerce
Cred	Apr. 06	\$2.2	Fintech
Pharmeasy	Apr. 07	\$1.5	E-pharmacy
Groww	Apr. 07	\$1.0	Stockbroking
ShareChat	Apr. 08	\$2.1	Social media
Gupshup	Apr. 08	\$1.4	Enterprise messaging
Chargebee	Apr. 20	\$1.4	Fintech

Source: ETtech research

- ✓ Chargebee, a subscription billing and revenue management platform, raises \$125 million in Series G funding in a round co-led by new investor Sapphire Ventures and existing investors Tiger Global and Insight Venture Partners.
- ✓ With this funding, Chargebee has tripled its valuation in six months time and is now valued at \$1.4 billion.
- ✓ The company raised \$55 million in a Series F round in October 2020 at a valuation of roughly \$500 million.
- ✓ Launched in 2011, the startup, which was born in Chennai and develops its product primarily out of the city, has raised around \$230 million till date.
- ✓ The SaaS firm is the second unicorn from Chennai this year after NBFC Five Star Business Finance hit the milestone last month.
- ✓ Chargebee helps customers manage and grow revenue by automating operations around subscriptions, billing, invoicing, and payments.

- ✓ Chargebee's customers span across e-commerce, OTT streaming, e-learning, publishing, and more and include brands like Okta, Freshworks, Calendly, Study.com, and others.
- ✓ Chargebee's customers are mainly from the US (50%) and Europe (40%)

OBITUARY

- **Maidavolu Narasimham — known as the father of banking sector reforms in India — passed away on April 20.**



- ✓ Narasimham was a career central banker who moved to the finance ministry
- ✓ As a senior RBI official, he influenced policy at the time of bank nationalisation in 1969 and authored a report in 1991 that paved the way for private banks.
- ✓ The resilience of the Indian banking sector during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis is seen to have been an outcome of the reforms.
- ✓ He was again tasked with reviewing the progress of reforms in banking in 1998.
- ✓ It was his committee's recommendations that led to the implementation of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

SPORTS

- **On April 20, Tamil Nadu's Arjun Kalyan - became India's 68th Grandmaster.**



- ✓ The 18-year-old crossed the 2500 ELO mark in the 5th round of the ongoing GM Round Robin "Rujna Zora-3" tournament in Serbia.

- ✓ Interestingly, the 2500 ELO mark had eluded Arjun, who has five GM norms, for a long time.
- ✓ Arjun learned the nuances of the sport from AL Kasi at the T Nagar chess academy.
- ✓ He is also coached by IM Saravanan and Ukrainian GM Aleksandr Goloshchapov.
- ✓ Arjun is pursuing his bachelors' course from SRM College.
- ✓ Earlier, Arjun had won GM Round Robin Rujna Zora-1 in Serbia in April 2021
- ✓ He became an International Master in July 2018 and finished 6th in the World Junior chess championship in Mumbai in October 2019

RANKINGS

- **India - retained its lowly 142 rank out of 180 countries in Reporters Without Borders 2021 annual report.**
- ✓ The report categorised India as “one of the world’s most dangerous countries for journalists trying to do their job properly”.

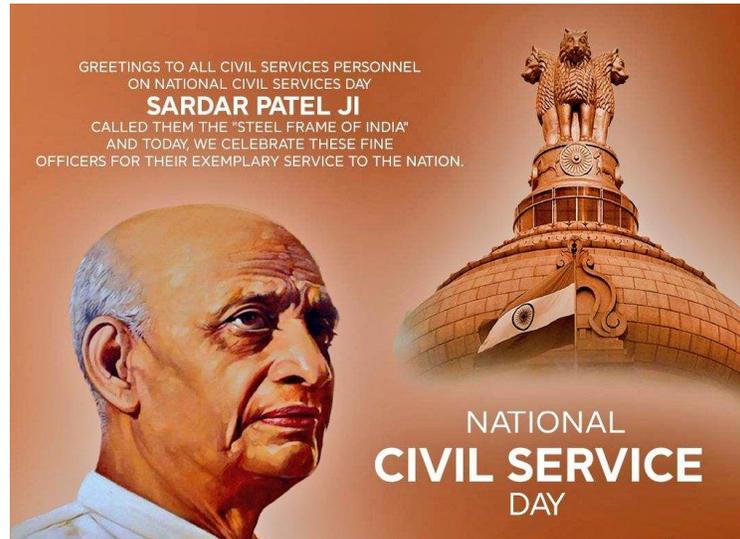


- ✓ Published annually since 2002, the report’s Index ranks 180 countries according to the level of freedom available to journalists.
- ✓ India has consistently dropped in the ranking beginning 2016, when it was placed at 133.
- ✓ The report noted that four journalists were killed in India in connection with their work in 2020.
- ✓ It also underscored the rising instances of journalists being charged with sedition, which is punishable with life imprisonment.
- ✓ The report classified India under “BAD” category along with Brazil, Russia and Mexico.
- ✓ The 2020 Index leader, Norway topped the index this year also, followed by Finland and Denmark.
- ✓ China was ranked 177, with just Turkmenistan, North Korea and Eritrea placed below it.

- ✓ Amongst the Indian neighbourhood, Sri Lanka was ranked at 127, Nepal was ranked at 106, Myanmar at 140, Bangladesh at 152 and Pakistan at 145.
- ✓ The US was ranked 44.

NATIONAL DAY

➤ National Civil Services Day - April 21



- ✓ The day is observed every year to appreciate the tremendous work done by the civil servants engaged in public administration, in various departments of the central and state governments.
- ✓ The Day is dedicated to all those who are involved in civil service in order to commemorate their exemplary services.
- ✓ On National Civil Service Day, the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration are also presented to districts for implementing priority programmes
- ✓ On this day in 1947, the country's first home minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the newly appointed Administrative Services Officers at the Metcalf House in Delhi.
- ✓ Sardar Vallabhai Patel often referred the Indian Administrative Service as "Steel Frame of India".
- ✓ The first National Civil Service Day function was held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on April 21, 2006.
- ✓ Hailed as 'Iron Man of India', Sardar Vallabhai Patel was the first Deputy Prime Minister of India.
- ✓ He played a big role in unifying the princely states across the country.
- ✓ On 31 October, 2018, the world's tallest statue at 182 metres, 'Statue of Unity' was dedicated to him.