

## AMARAVATI QUANTUM VALLEY (AQV): INDIA'S FIRST QUANTUM LEAP

In a historic move, the Andhra Pradesh government is set to inaugurate two pivotal units of the **Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV)** project on **April 14, 2026** (World Quantum Day).

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT

- **Inauguration:** Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu will launch the units on April 14, 2026.
- **Project Name:** Quantum Reference Facility (QRF).
- **Strategic Locations:** 1. SRM University-AP (Amaravati)  
2. Medha Towers (Gannavaram)
- **Collaboration:** Developed by Amaravati Quantum Research Facility in partnership with 'Qubit Force'.

### 1. INDIA'S FIRST QUANTUM TESTING BEDS

Until now, India lacked a standardized 'testing bed' for quantum computing components. These AQV units are **India's first**, capable of testing systems up to **100 Qubits**.

### 2. ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT: INDIGENOUS MANUFACTURING

Reflecting India's self-reliance, **70-80%** of the project components have been sourced domestically from premier institutes like **TIFR, IISc, and DRDO**.

### 3. THE IMPACT OF QUANTUM COMPUTING

Quantum computers use **Qubits** (utilizing Superposition) to solve complex problems exponentially faster than classical computers.

- **Key Sectors:** Defense, Secure Communications, AI, Healthcare (Advanced MRI), and Semiconductor manufacturing.

### 4. GOOGLE DATA CENTRE IN VISAKHAPATNAM

In another major tech boost, a **\$15 Billion Google Data Centre** will be grounded on **April 28** in Visakhapatnam, spanning 601 acres. It is expected to be operational by July 2028.

### WORLD BANK INDIA GDP FORECAST: KEY ECONOMIC INSIGHTS

The World Bank has recently released its '**India Development Update**' report, highlighting significant adjustments to India's economic growth projections due to global geopolitical shifts.

- **GDP Growth Revision:** The World Bank has revised India's growth forecast for **FY27 to 6.6%**, down from the previous estimate of **7.2%**.
- **Primary Drivers:** The downward revision is primarily attributed to the ongoing **West Asia tensions**, which have led to a surge in **global energy prices** and significant **supply chain disruptions**.
- **Banking Sector Impact:** A slower growth rate could potentially hinder **Credit Growth** and impact **Non-Performing Asset (NPA)** levels within the banking system.
- **Fiscal Challenge:** This slowdown poses a significant challenge to the government's **Fiscal Consolidation** (controlling the fiscal deficit) targets.

### CYBERSECURITY & AI: THE IMPACT OF CLAUDE MYTHOS ON BANKING SYSTEMS

The rapid evolution of AI technology is significantly reshaping the security landscape of the global banking and financial sectors.

- **The Threat - Claude Mythos:** Developed by **Anthropic**, 'Mythos' is a powerful AI model capable of identifying deep-seated vulnerabilities in legacy software codes.
- **Vulnerability in Indian Banking:** Since many Indian **Core Banking Solutions (CBS)** rely on older codebases, the emergence of such AI models increases the risk of sophisticated cyberattacks.
- **Digital Banking Regulations:** The role of the **RBI's Cybersecurity Framework** and **CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team)** guidelines has become critical in safeguarding financial data.
- **Risk to SaaS & SCADA:** Beyond traditional banking, **Software as a Service (SaaS)** platforms and **SCADA** systems (used in critical infrastructure) are now more susceptible to AI-driven infiltration.

### ANDHRA PRADESH TOURISM & INVESTMENTS: A NEW GROWTH ERA

Andhra Pradesh is emerging as a premier destination for hospitality investments, recently securing major deals at international forums.

- **Strategic MoU:** The State Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Olive Group** involving an investment of **₹500 crore**.
- **Banking Sector Relevance:** This massive investment is a key indicator for the banking sector, particularly in the areas of **Project Financing** and **MSME Loans**, as it spurs local entrepreneurship and infrastructure development.
- **HICSA 2026:** At the 21st **Hotel Investment Conference South Asia (HICSA)** held in Mumbai, the A.P. delegation successfully showcased the state's potential, leading to increased private sector interest in the hospitality and experiential tourism segments.

## INDIAN CRICKET LEGEND C.D. GOPINATH (1928–2026): A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS

C.D. Gopinath, India's oldest Test cricketer and the last surviving member of the historic 1952 victory, has passed away at the age of 96.

### 1. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- **The Last Witness:** He was the final surviving member of the Indian team that secured the country's **first-ever Test win** (Maiden Test Win) against England in 1952.
- **The Elder Statesman:** He held the distinction of being India's **oldest living Test cricketer**.

### 2. CAREER STATISTICS

- **Test Cricket:** He played 8 Tests between 1951 and 1960. He made his debut against England at the Brabourne Stadium.
- **First-Class Cricket:** Representing Madras (now Tamil Nadu), he scored 4,259 runs in 83 matches at an impressive average of **42.16**.
- **Domestic Success:** He was a key member of the Madras team that won the Ranji Trophy in 1954–55.

### 3. LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES

- Served as the **Chairman of the National Selection Committee**.
- Acted as the **Team Manager** during the 1979 tour of England.
- Served as the **Vice President of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA)** from 1977 to 1986.

### EXAM PERSPECTIVE & KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Sports Terminology:** For competitive exams, terms such as *Ranji Trophy*, *Brabourne Stadium*, and *First-Class Cricket* are relevant.
- **Obituary Section:** When asked about recently deceased sports personalities, it is important to remember his sport (**Cricket**) and his state (**Tamil Nadu/Madras**).

### ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026: INDIAN WOMEN'S QUEST FOR GOLD

Indian women boxers delivered a stellar performance at the Asian Boxing Championships held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, securing the top spot on the medals tally with a total of **4 Gold medals**.

### WINNERS - CATEGORY-WISE (EXAM ORIENTED DATA)

The Indian women's contingent secured a total of **10 medals** (4 Gold, 2 Silver, and 4 Bronze).

Boxer Name	Weight Category	Medal	Highlights
Meenakshi Hooda	48 kg	Gold	World Champion Meenakshi secured a dominant 5-0 victory.
Preeti Pawar	54 kg	Gold	Created a sensation by defeating World Champion Hsiao-Wen Huang.
Priya	60 kg	Gold	Won 3-0 against a North Korean boxer.

Boxer Name	Weight Category	Medal	Highlights
Arundhati Choudhary	70 kg	Gold	Achieved a 4-1 victory over a Kazakhstani boxer.
Jaismine Lamboria	57 kg	Silver	Settled for Silver after a loss to a Thai boxer.
Alfiya Pathan	80+ kg	Silver	Lost to a Kazakhstani boxer in the final.

## QUICK REVIEW

- **Event:** Asian Boxing Championships.
- **Venue:** Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- **Indian Women Gold Medals:** 4 (Meenakshi, Preeti, Priya, Arundhati).
- **Total Medal Count:** 10 (4 Gold, 2 Silver, 4 Bronze).

## WOMANIYA SCHEME: EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

'Womaniya on GeM' is an innovative initiative launched by the Central Government to increase the participation of women entrepreneurs and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in public sector procurement.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR EXAMS

1. **Launch:** Launched in **February 2019** on the **GeM (Government e-Marketplace)** portal. It is a part of the **SWAYATT** (Startups, Women and Youth Advantage Through e-Transactions) initiative.
2. **Objective:** To provide a platform for women-led MSMEs and SHGs to sell their products directly to government departments.

3. **Major Categories:** Handicrafts, Handloom, Jute, Coir, Home Decor, and Office Accessories.
4. **Latest Statistics (FY 2025-26):**
  - Approximately **2.1 lakh** women entrepreneurs are registered on GeM.
  - They have secured contracts worth over **₹28,000 crore**.
  - The share of women entrepreneurs in total government procurement has reached **5.6%** (surpassing the initial target of 3%).
5. **Administration:** It operates under the **Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

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## BANKING & ECONOMY ANALYSIS

- **Financial Inclusion:** Strengthening the rural economy by integrating 10 crore women into **90.09 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.
- **Digital India:** Implementing a transparent procurement process through **Udyam verification**, ensuring a digital workflow without the involvement of intermediaries.
- **Micro-Credit:** The increase in bank loans to these SHGs helps the banking sector achieve its '**Priority Sector Lending**' targets.

## NITI AAYOG REPORT: INDIA'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) ECOSYSTEM

With the objective of transforming India into a global Science & Technology hub, NITI Aayog has released two pivotal reports.

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## KEY POINTS FOR EXAMS

1. **Report Titles:** "Ease of Doing Research & Development in India" and "Survey Report on Ease of Doing R&D in India."
2. **Objective:** To eliminate barriers in the research sector and create an environment conducive to **innovation**.
3. **Major Recommendations:**
  - **Private Sector Participation:** Increasing the involvement of the private sector and utilizing CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds in R&D funding.
  - **Simplification of Funding:** Implementing **financial flexibility** and a **trust-based** funding distribution model.

- **Institutional Governance:** Establishing robust institutional frameworks to convert research outcomes into practical applications (**Research Translation**).
- **Support for Young Scientists:** Providing special incentives and support for scientists who are in the early stages of their careers.

#### SAGARMALA PROJECT: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The **Sagarmala Programme** was launched in March 2015 to revolutionize India's maritime sector. Its primary objective is '**Port-led development.**'

#### KEY STATISTICS (AS OF 2026)

- **Total Projects:** 845 projects valued at **₹6.06 lakh crore**.
- **Completed Projects:** 315 projects worth **₹1.57 lakh crore**.
- **Cargo Handling:** Major ports handled a record **915 million tonnes** of cargo in the 2025-26 financial year.
- **Turnaround Time:** The average waiting time for ships was reduced from 96 hours in 2014 to **49.5 hours** by 2025.

#### THE 5 MAIN PILLARS OF SAGARMALA

1. **Port Modernization:** Upgrading existing ports and constructing new green-field ports.
2. **Connectivity Enhancement:** Connecting ports to the hinterland via road, rail, and inland waterways.
3. **Port-led Industrialization:** Establishing industrial clusters near ports to reduce logistics costs.
4. **Coastal Community Development:** Skill training, welfare for fishermen, and development of coastal tourism.
5. **Coastal Shipping & Inland Waterways:** Promoting cost-effective water transport as an alternative to land routes.

#### HIGHLIGHTS & MILESTONES

- **Sagarmala 2.0:** Proposed with a budget support of **₹85,482 crore** as part of the '**Viksit Bharat 2047**' vision.
- **SMFCL (Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited):** Restructured from SDCL in June 2025, it was established as the country's first **NBFC** dedicated to providing financial assistance to the maritime sector.
- **Global Ranking:** **9 Indian ports** have secured spots in the world's top 100 container ports (with Visakhapatnam ranking in the top 20).
- **Water Transport Growth:** Cargo transport via inland waterways has recorded a growth of approximately **700%** since 2014.
- **Employment:** The project aims to create approximately **1 crore jobs** (40 lakh direct and 60 lakh indirect).

#### PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- **Ghogha-Hazira Ro-Pax:** Reduced travel time from 10 hours to **4 hours**.
- **Museum/Heritage:** Modernization of the historic **Bascule Bridge** in Kolkata.
- **Fisheries:** Development of Malpe and Kulai fishing harbours in Karnataka.

**Conclusion:** Through Sagarmala, India is transforming its extensive **11,099 km coastline** into an economic powerhouse, reducing logistics costs and playing a pivotal role in international trade.

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#### KUNO NATIONAL PARK: A HISTORIC MILESTONE IN THE CHEETAH CONSERVATION PROJECT

A significant milestone has been recorded in India's **Cheetah Reintroduction Project**. For the first time, a second-generation cheetah born on Indian soil has given birth to four cubs at **Kuno National Park** in Madhya Pradesh.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS (EXAM PERSPECTIVE)

- **Historic Significance:** This is the **first instance** of an Indian-born cheetah (Gamini-KGP12) giving birth in the wild since the reintroduction programme began in 2022. This serves as evidence of the project's success and the successful adaptation of cheetahs to the Indian environment.
- **Cheetah Details:** The 25-month-old female cheetah (KGP12), who herself was born to the cheetah 'Gamini', gave birth to these four cubs.
- **Project Cheetah:** After cheetahs were declared extinct in India in 1952, they were reintroduced to Kuno National Park 70 years later, brought from Namibia and South Africa.

KUNO NATIONAL PARK – QUICK FACTS

- **State:** Madhya Pradesh (Sheopur district).
- **River:** The **Kuno River** flows through this park.
- **Flora:** The park consists of dry deciduous forests with trees such as **Kardhai, Khair, and Salai**.
- **Significance:** The primary reasons for selecting this park for cheetah reintroduction were its vast grasslands and low human presence.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR UPSC/BANKING EXAMS

Category	Details
IUCN Status	African Cheetah: <b>Vulnerable</b> ; Asiatic Cheetah: <b>Critically Endangered</b> .
Nodal Agency	National Tiger Conservation Authority ( <b>NTCA</b> ).
Objective	To maintain ecological balance and restore India's open forest and grassland ecosystems.
Important Note	The Cheetah is the world's fastest land animal.

POTENTIAL COMPETITIVE EXAM QUESTIONS:

1. Which was the first National Park selected for the reintroduction of cheetahs in India? (**Answer: Kuno**)
2. From which countries were the cheetahs brought to India? (**Answer: Namibia and South Africa**)
3. Which organization oversees the project to reintroduce extinct cheetahs in India? (**Answer: NTCA**)

**Conclusion:** This development stands as a milestone in India's wildlife conservation history, proving that the project has gone beyond just bringing cheetahs to India—they are now naturally thriving and breeding here.

On the occasion of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule's birth anniversary (April 11), Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid rich tributes. Notably, the year 2026 marks the commencement of the **200th birth anniversary celebrations** of Phule.

Mahatma Phule was not just an individual, but a social revolution. Here are the key points related to him from a competitive exam perspective:

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#### HISTORICAL PROFILE

- **Life Span:** April 11, 1827 – November 28, 1890.
- **Title:** In 1888, Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar conferred the title of '**Mahatma**' upon him.
- **Satyashodhak Samaj (1873):** Established on September 24, 1873, to fight against caste discrimination and advocate for the rights of marginalized sections. Its primary goal was to liberate Dalits, Bahujans, and women from social slavery.
- **Women's Education:** He established the **first school for girls** in 1848 at Bhidewada, Pune. His wife, Savitribai Phule, played a pivotal role in this endeavor.

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#### IMPORTANT LITERARY WORKS (BOOKS)

Phule's works are frequently asked about in competitive exams:

1. **Gulamgiri (Slavery):** A famous book written on the caste system and slavery. He dedicated this book to the people of America who fought for the liberation of Black slaves.
2. **Shetkarayacha Aasud (The Cultivator's Whipcord):** A book depicting the hardships and exploitation of farmers.
3. **Sarvajanik Satya Dharma (Universal True Religion).**
4. **Tritiya Ratna:** A play written to expose the exploitation of the masses.

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#### SOCIAL REFORMS

- **Against Caste Discrimination:** To abolish untouchability, he opened the water tank in his own house to people from marginalized communities.
- **Widow Remarriage:** He established the '**Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha**' (Home for the Prevention of Infanticide) in 1863 to support pregnant widows and their children.
- **Farmer Welfare:** He worked extensively for agricultural reforms and supported farmers during times of famine.

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#### QUICK REVISION POINTS

- **Significance of 2026:** Commencement of the bicentenary (200th) birth anniversary celebrations.
- **Ideals:** Equality, Social Justice, and Education.
- **Primary Focus:** Empowerment of women and the marginalized sections of society.
- **Prime Minister's Remark:** Phule's thoughts serve as a '**Guiding Light**' for the social progress of the current generation.

**Conclusion:** Jyotirao Phule is one of the foremost reformers who laid the foundation for social equality in modern India. The Satyashodhak movement he started served as an inspiration for great leaders like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.