



Andhra Pradesh to Launch India's First Quantum Computer | National Current Affairs | 03 Apr 2026

Why in News?

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** announced that the State will launch **India's first quantum computer** on **14th April 2026**.

Key Points

- **Launch:** The first quantum computer in India is scheduled to be launched in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**.
 - The initiative is part of the broader **Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV)** project
 - The launch aligns with **India's National Quantum Mission**.
- **Global Ambition:** AQV is expected to help **position Andhra Pradesh** among the top five global quantum technology hubs by **2030**.
- **Objective:** The State aims to **reduce reliance on imports** by developing key technologies locally, including **cryogenics, photonics, advanced electronics, and quantum devices**.
 - The focus is on building **end-to-end capabilities** encompassing **design, innovation, testing, and complete system development**, rather than merely assembling imported components.
- **Technology Integration:** The initiative focuses on the **integration of emerging technologies** like **artificial intelligence, real-time data systems, and digital health platforms** to drive innovation and efficiency in governance and service delivery.
 - The State is planning **AI-driven services** such as **AI doctors, AI tutors, and AI agronomists** to enhance **governance** and improve **public service delivery** across sectors.

Read More: [Amaravati Quantum Valley](#), [National Quantum Mission](#), [Artificial intelligence](#)

PM-KUSUM Scheme Deadline Extended to March 2027 | National Current Affairs | 03 Apr 2026

Why in News?

The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has extended the deadline for completion of the projects under the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM)** scheme to **31st March 2027**.

Key Points

- **PM-KUSUM:** The **scheme** was launched in **2019** to promote **solar energy adoption** in the

agricultural sector, decentralise power generation, reduce diesel dependence, and improve farmers' energy security.

- **Extended Deadline:** MNRE has extended the completion deadline for eligible PM-KUSUM projects to **31st March 2027**, applicable to projects whose **Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)** were issued on or before **31st December 2025**.
- **PM-KUSUM 2.0:** The proposed upgraded version of the scheme aims to incorporate **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)** for storing excess daytime solar power and releasing it during evening peak hours to enhance grid stability.
- **Objective:** The scheme aims to **enhance farmers' energy security**, reduce dependence on **diesel-powered irrigation pumps**, and increase the share of **renewable energy in agriculture**.
- **Scheme Components:** Three Major Components:
 - **Component-A:** Installation of decentralised grid-connected solar power plants on barren or fallow land.
 - **Component-B:** Installation of stand-alone solar-powered agricultural pumps for farmers.
 - **Component-C:** Solarisation of existing grid-connected agricultural pumps.

Read More: [PM-KUSUM](#)

NASA's Artemis II Mission Launched | National Current Affairs | 03 Apr 2026

Why in News?

NASA successfully launched the **Artemis II mission**, sending **four astronauts** on a historic crewed journey around the Moon.

Key Points

- **Mission:** Artemis II is the **first crewed flight of the Orion spacecraft** under NASA's Artemis programme, designed to test deep-space exploration systems before future lunar landings.
 - Artemis II will **not land on the Moon**; instead, the spacecraft will perform a **lunar flyby**, in which astronauts will travel around the Moon and return to Earth without landing on the lunar surface.
 - NASA's last mission to the Moon was **Apollo 17**, which was launched in **December 1972**.
- **Launch Details:** The mission lifted off on **1st April 2026** aboard the **Space Launch System (SLS) rocket** from **Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA**.
- **Mission Duration:** The mission is expected to last about **10 days**, following a free-return trajectory around the Moon before splashing down in the **Pacific Ocean**.
- **Crew Members:** The four-member crew includes **NASA astronauts** Reid Wiseman (commander), Victor Glover, and Christina Koch, along with **Jeremy Hansen** from the Canadian Space Agency.
 - **Jeremy Hansen** will make history by becoming the **first Canadian astronaut** and the **first non-American** to travel to the Moon.
 - **Victor Glover (Pilot)** will become the **first person of color** to travel beyond low-Earth orbit.
 - **Christina Koch** will be the **first woman** to travel to the Moon's vicinity.
- **Objective:** The mission aims to **test life-support systems, spacecraft performance, and deep-space navigation**, paving the way for future lunar landing missions under the Artemis programme.

Read More: [Artemis II Mission](#), [Artemis I mission](#)

Varkala Included in the United Nations Global 'Zero Waste City' List | National Current Affairs | 03 Apr 2026

Why in News?

Varkala in Kerala has been included in the “**20 Cities Towards Zero Waste**” initiative led by the **UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Zero Waste**, with support from **UN-Habitat** and the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.

Key Points

- **Recognition:** Varkala has been selected among **20 cities worldwide** demonstrating innovative and ambitious approaches to waste reduction and sustainable urban development.
- **Objective:**
 - Recognises city leadership and innovative initiatives.
 - Encourages the exchange of best practices and lessons learned.
 - Motivates other cities to speed up their transition toward a zero-waste model.
 - Promotes the adoption of circular economy practices at the local level.
- **Contribution to SDGs:** The initiative contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG-11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG-12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG-13 (Climate Action).
- **International Day of Zero Waste:**
 - The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on **14 December 2022**, during its **77th session**
 - The Day is **observed annually on 30 March** across the world.
 - The observance is **facilitated by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme.**
 - **2026 Theme:** Food Waste.

Read More: [UNEP](#), [United Nations](#)

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