1. **Mahatma Jyotiba Phule:** April 11 marks the birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule (1827–1890), a pioneering social reformer, educationist, and anti-caste activist, whose legacy continues to inspire social justice movements in India.



   - **About Mahatma Jyotiba Phule:** Born on April 11, 1827, in the Mali caste, a community traditionally engaged in gardening and floristry.
     - Influenced by Thomas Paine's Age of Reason that critiqued Christian orthodoxy, which Phule related to Hindu orthodoxy.
   - **Education Initiatives:** In 1848, Phule and his wife Savitribai co-founded India's first school for girls. They opened 18 more schools in the next three years. By 1855, started night schools in Pune for workers, farmers, and working women.
   - **Opposition to Orthodoxy:** Opposed Vishnu Shashtri Chiplunkar and later his protégé Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
     - Supported working with the British government for upliftment of Dalits and women.
     - Bailed out Tilak and Gopal Ganesh Agarkar from Dongri Jail despite ideological differences.
   - **Satyashodhak Samaj:** Founded in September 1873 as an alternative to upper-caste dominated reform movements like Brahmo Samaj, Prarthana Samaj, and Arya Samaj.
   - **Gulamgiri (Slavery):** Compared caste-based oppression in India with American slavery.
   - **Satsar (The Essence of Truth):** Defended Pandita Ramabai's right to convert to Christianity.
     - Text is a dialogue between a Brahman and a Shudra that challenges Brahmanical hegemony.
   - **Shetkaryanche Asud (Farmer's Whip):** Advocated educating farmers, use of machines, and secular alternatives to cow slaughter.
   - **Sarvajanik Satya Dharma Pustak:** Rejected all scriptures as interpolated, leading to sectarianism.
   - **Legacy:** Phule's lifelong battle against caste, superstition, and gender injustice continues to inspire modern radical thought and action.

2. **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme: Recently,** the Central Government has enhanced the material cost by 9.50% under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme.
   - **About Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme:** It was earlier known as the National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools. In September 2021, the Mid-Day Meal Scheme was renamed as Pradhan Mantri POSHAN Scheme.

- **Centrally sponsored scheme** under which one hot cooked meal is served to students studying in Balvatika and Classes I to VIII, in Government and Government-aided schools on all school-days.
  - The scheme aims at providing nutritional support and enhancing school participation of students.
- **Objectives of the Scheme:** Address two pressing problems: hunger and education.
  - Improve nutritional status of eligible children in Government and Government-aided schools.
  - Encourage poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.
  - Provide nutritional support to children of the elementary stage in drought-affected and disaster-affected areas during summer vacation.

3. **Pegasus:** India is the second most impacted country by the NSO Group's Pegasus spyware, with 100 Indians targeted out of 1,223 individuals globally using WhatsApp in 2019, according to court documents.
   - The revelation is part of a lawsuit filed by WhatsApp against the NSO Group, accusing it of exploiting a vulnerability in the messaging platform to target users including journalists, lawyers, politicians, and human rights activists.
   - **About:** Pegasus is spyware developed by the Israeli company NSO Group.
     - It can infect phones via exploit links or missed video calls, requiring no user interaction.
     - Once installed, it grants complete access to the target's phone, including passwords, messages, calls, camera, and microphone.
   - **Capabilities of Pegasus:** Accesses private data, passwords, contact lists, calendar events, emails, SMS, and browsing history.
     - Activates the phone's camera and microphone for live surveillance.
     - Works on Android, iOS, BlackBerry, and Symbian devices.
     - Leaves no trace, has a self-destruct feature, and uses minimal resources to avoid detection.
4. **Thangjing Hill:** A fresh controversy has erupted in Manipur over the alleged renaming of Thangjing Hill range — sacred to the Meitei community — as 'Thangting Camp' of the Kuki National Front – Military Council (KNF-MC).



- **About:** Thangjing Hill is an important pilgrimage site for followers of Sanamahism in the Meitei community.
  - The hill lies in the Churachandpur-Khaopum Protected Forests, under Henglep police station in Kuki-Zomi majority Churachandpur district.
  - It is associated with the Ibudhou Thangjing temple, believed to be the original abode of deity Thangjing. The Kuki residents refer to the hill range as 'Thangting'.
- **Government Action:** A Zero FIR has been registered against KNF-MC, a party to the Suspension of Operations (SOO) agreement, under the Manipur Names of Places Act and Historical Monuments Act, 1976.
  - The Manipur Names of Places Act, introduced in March 2025, makes unauthorised renaming of places a punishable offence.

5. EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): The European Commission is planning to revise the GDPR due to its cumbersome compliance burden on businesses.

- Meanwhile, India is gearing up to implement the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDPA), which, despite initial efforts to reduce compliance pressure, is expected to be more stringent and harder to implement than GDPR.
- **About EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):** It is a legal framework that sets guidelines for the collection and processing of personal information from individuals of the European Union (EU).
  - It imposes obligations on organizations anywhere, as long as they target or collect data related to people in the EU.
  - It aims to give consumers control over their personal data by holding companies accountable for how they handle and treat this information.
- **About Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDPA):** It is a legal framework introduced in India to safeguard personal data and ensure data is shared only with consent.
  - It regulates the processing of digital personal data and includes provisions to protect privacy in the digital age.

- Applicability: It applies to processing of digital personal data within India, whether collected online or offline and later digitized.
- It also applies to processing outside India, if it involves goods or services for data principals within India.

6. **Renewable Energy (RE) status:** India's renewable energy sector witnessed historic growth in FY 2024–25, with a record capacity addition of 29.52 GW.
   - This progress aligns with India's commitment under the 'Panchamrit' goals to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based capacity by 2030.
   - **About:** Renewable Energy (RE) includes sources like solar, wind, bioenergy, and small hydro power, which are sustainable and non-polluting.
     - It plays a critical role in India's climate goals, energy security, and decentralised energy access.
     - The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), under Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi, leads key initiatives to scale up RE deployment in India.
   - **About the Renewable Energy (RE) status in India:** As of 31st March 2025, the total installed RE capacity is 220.10 GW, up from 198.75 GW in the previous fiscal. A record annual capacity addition of 29.52 GW was achieved in FY 2024–25.
   - **Solar Energy:** Total solar capacity now at 105.65 GW.
   - **Wind Energy:** Total installed wind capacity stands at 50.04 GW.
   - **Bioenergy capacity** reached 11.58 GW, including 0.53 GW from off-grid and waste-to-energy projects.
   - **Small Hydro Power** capacity is 5.10 GW, with 0.44 GW under implementation.
   - **Clean Energy Project Pipeline:** 169.40 GW of RE projects are under implementation.
     - Includes 65.29 GW from emerging solutions such as: Hybrid systems → Round-the-clock (RTC) power → Peaking power → Thermal + RE bundling projects
7. **Bio-CNG Plant:** Uttar Pradesh's first and India's second waste-to-CNG plant is being established in Prayagraj.
   - **About the Plant:** Will produce Bio-CNG from straw, poultry litter, cow dung, and wet waste.
     - Operated under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

- Adani Gas Limited will lay a pipeline for biofuel supply.
- Expected to save Rs 5 crore annually in waste disposal.
- Will utilise one-third of Prayagraj's waste.

- **Objectives:** Streamline waste management → Promote renewable and clean energy → Reduce environmental pollution, especially from stubble burning → Make city gas supply accessible and affordable.
- **About Bio-CNG (Biomethane):** It is a renewable and clean-burning fuel, derived by purifying biogas to natural gas quality.
  - Produced from **organic waste** like: crop residues, straw, manure, spoiled food, leftovers, and solid waste from wastewater treatment plants.

8. **Sea Lions:** An algal bloom along the California coast has released a neurotoxin, causing sea lions to become aggressive and attack beachgoers and surfers.



- **About Sea Lions:** Brlongs to Otariidae family, includes five species – California, Northern, Southern, Australian, and New Zealand sea lions.
- **Habitat**: Found along Western coasts of North America, from southeast Alaska to central Mexico, mainly on rocky shores and sandy beaches.
- **Physical Traits**: External ear flaps → long foreflippers Males have mane-like fur → Weight up to 1200 pounds (approx. 545 kg).
- **Behavior**: Normally non-aggressive and social, but currently showing lethal aggression due to neurological disorders.
- **Lifespan**: Average is 20 to 30 years.
- **Cause of Sea Lions' Aggression:** Aggressive and erratic behaviour is due to a neurotoxin called domoic acid.
  - Domoic acid is released by toxic diatom algae *Pseudo-nitzschia*, which thrives under nutrient-rich ocean conditions.
  - The toxin enters the marine food chain, affecting small fish and predators like sea lions that consume them.