



11 Apr 2025

National and International News

<p>National Investigation Agency (NIA)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a Pakistani-origin Canadian-American wanted in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks case, was extradited from the U.S. and arrested by the NIA in Delhi. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NIA is a statutory body established under the NIA Act 2008 and functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It was established in the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack which exposed the limitations of existing intelligence agencies to prevent and fight such attacks. Objective: To investigate and prosecute offences that threatens India's sovereignty, security, and integrity, friendly relations with foreign States, matters relating to international treaties etc. Headed by: Director-General (DG), who is a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer. Jurisdiction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It extends to the whole of India and it applies also To citizens of India outside India. To persons in the service of the Government wherever they may be. To persons on ships and aircrafts registered in India wherever they may be, and To persons who commit a Scheduled Offence beyond India against the Indian citizen or affecting the interest of India.
<p>PM POSHAN scheme</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Centre will increase its contribution to the PM-POSHAN scheme in schools. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was earlier known as the National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in schools. In September 2021, Mid-Day Meal Scheme was renamed as Pradhan Mantri POSHAN Scheme. It is a 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. The objectives of the Scheme are to address two of the pressing problems for the majority of children in India, viz. hunger and education by:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving the nutritional status of eligible children in Government and Government aided schools. ○ Encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities. ○ Providing nutritional support to children of the elementary stage in drought-affected and disaster affected areas during summer vacation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Education
Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ayushman cards under the AB PM-JAY scheme were distributed to beneficiaries in the NCT of Delhi. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Launched in September 2018, the scheme aimed to offer secondary and tertiary care services to the vulnerable population in the society. ● It was launched as a second component of the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme. ● This scheme aimed to offer medical coverage of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to poor and vulnerable families. ● The scheme covers over nearly 40% of the population targeted towards the poorest and the vulnerable. ● Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The scheme is targeted to cover 10.74 crore poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational category of urban worker's families. ○ The beneficiaries as identified by latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data. ● Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service, i.e., the hospital. ○ Under the scheme every eligible family will be given Rs 5 lakh Insurance coverage benefit per year. ○ It offers Health Benefit Packages which covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revised India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.7% due to potential risks from U.S. tariffs. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a multilateral development bank established on 19th December 1966. ● It is the principal international development finance institution for the Asia-Pacific region. ● It envisions a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable



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	<p>Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It provides assistance to its developing member countries, the private sector, and public-private partnerships through grants, loans, technical assistance, and equity investments to promote social and economic development. ○ ADB maximizes the development impact of its assistance by facilitating policy dialogues, providing advisory services, and mobilizing financial resources through cofinancing operations that tap official, commercial, and export credit sources. ● Headquarters: Manila, Philippines. ● Control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ADB is run by a board of governors, which represents the member countries of the ADB. ○ The ADB was modelled closely on the World Bank and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion to members' capital subscriptions. ○ As of 2022, ADB's five largest shareholders are Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%). ● Source of Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It raises capital regularly through the international bond markets. ○ The ADB also relies on member contributions, retained earnings from lending, and the repayment of loans for the funding of the organization.
<p>Right to Information Act, 2005</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The upcoming amendment to the Right to Information Act, 2005, will uphold the importance of transparency in public life and will not limit the disclosure of personal information, said Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Right To Information is derived from the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 of the Constitution. ● If we do not have information on how our Government and Public Institutions function, we cannot express any informed opinion on it. ● The basic object of the Right to Information Act is to empower the citizens, promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government. ● The Act and its rules define a format for – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ requisitioning information, ○ a time period within which information must be provided,



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a method of giving the information, ○ charges for applying and ○ exemptions of information which will not be given. ● The RTI Act, 2005 extends to the whole of India. ● All bodies, which are constituted under the Constitution or under any law or under any Government notification or all bodies, including NGOs, which are owned, controlled or substantially financed by the Government are covered. ● All private bodies, which are owned, controlled or substantially financed by the Government are directly covered. ● Key Provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sec. 4: Public authorities must maintain records that are catalogued and indexed to facilitate access to information. Sec. 6: Individuals can request information from the Central or State Public Information Officer by submitting a written request specifying the details. Sec. 7: The Public Information Officer must provide or reject the requested information within 30 days, as per Secs. 8 and 9. Sec. 19: If no decision is made within 30 days or the individual is aggrieved by the decision, they can appeal to a senior officer. Exemptions: Information related to defense, national security, or personal details is exempt from disclosure.
Pegasus Spyware	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Court documents revealed that in 2019, Israeli company NSO Group's controversial spyware Pegasus was used to target 1,223 individuals via WhatsApp across 51 countries, with 100 Indians affected — the second highest number globally. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pegasus is spyware that can infect phones via exploit links or missed video calls (no user interaction needed). ● Once installed, it grants complete access to the target's phone, including passwords, messages, calls, camera, and microphone. ● Capabilities of Pegasus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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.



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