Hyderabad held in Pak for illegal entry

Software engineer aimed to go to Turkey to meet girlfriend

NATGRID will help organisations to access database from a common platform

The ambitious National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) project will be operational by December 31, 2020, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

More than half the sanctioned land for NATGRID construction has been allotted, the official said.

NATGRID will have access to the data on a secured platform.

Periodic review

On Tuesday, Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy informed the Lok Sabha that "NATGRID has already developed a decision support system for holistic intelligence analysis for the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Planning and Development and others, will have access to the data on a secured platform.

Banking on information

NATGRID started in 2009 with a budget of Rs 2,800 crore. This year, Rs 44 crore has been allocated.

It is an online database for collating scattered pieces of information and putting them on one platform. Ten Central agencies will have access to the data on a secure platform.
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Electoral bonds: CEC objected to 1% vote share norm

Finance Ministry brushed aside objections, including those of Law Ministry, documents obtained via RTI application show

In the process of vetting the electoral bonds scheme in December 2017, the Law Ministry repeatedly objected to the Finance Ministry’s stipulation that political parties must have a 1% vote share in the Lok Sabha or State Assembly elections in order to be eligible for the scheme, documents obtained through an RTI query by activist Anjali Bhardwaj show.

The documents, which were viewed by The Hindu on Tuesday, show that the Law Ministry recommended the imposition of a 6% vote share requirement (similar to the requirement for recognised State, national parties) or the removal of the vote share requirement entirely. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) also objected to the vote share requirement as discriminatory, while political parties themselves were not consulted.

However, the Finance Ministry chose to ignore these concerns and insisted that only registered political parties which had “secured not less than one percent of votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly, as the case may be, shall be eligible to receive the bond.”

According to the latest data from the Election Commission of India, there are eight recognised national political parties, 52 recognised State parties and 2,487 unrecognised parties registered with the Commission. A 6% vote share is one condition for recognised parties. It is not clear how many of the unrecognised parties have a 1% vote share.

In May 2017, the Finance Ministry wrote to all State and national parties asking for their comments on the electoral bond scheme. Only four parties – the Congress, the Bahujan Samaj Party, the Communist Party of India and the Shiromani Akali Dal – responded, with most asking for a draft of the scheme.

The documents obtained through Ms. Bhardwaj’s RTI application show that in June, some early drafts of the scheme only referenced “registered political parties” as eligible to receive the bond, while another said the party would need to be a national/State political party.

**No public comment**

On August 5, a draft incorporated the 1% vote share stipulation for the first time.

On August 21, the draft was presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After that meeting, a proposal to circulate the draft to all national and State parties or to open it for public comment was scrapped.

On September 22, in a meeting with the Economic Affairs Secretary, CEC A.K. Joti raised concerns that individual candidates and new political parties would not be able to receive donations under the scheme and cautioned that the “somewhat discriminatory” provision might be challenged in the courts.

When the draft went for vetting in December, the Law Ministry recommended an amendment to a 6% vote share requirement, saying that the scheme should be aligned with the RPI Act.

In response, the Economic Affairs Secretary replied: “we have to retain the formulation of 1% votes.”
Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.
- Salient features of the Representation of People’s Act.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

PAPER-IV

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.

PAPER-V

General Studies- IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude
- Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.
- Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen’s Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

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Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018

- Electoral Bond → 'bearer' banking instrument
  - used for funding eligible Political Parties
  - similar to bank note → Payable to the bearer on demand, free of interest
  - issued in multiples of Rs.1,000; Rs.10,000; Rs.1 Lakh; Rs.10 Lakh; Rs.1 Crore.
  - available for purchase → 10 days in beginning of each quarter

- Who can purchase?
  - citizen of India / Incorporated / Established in India
  - KYC-compliant account
  - can donate to any party

- Eligible Political Party → Sec. 29A RPA, 1951
- Valid for 15 days
- Bond will NOT bear name of donor
  - Anonymity
• Benefits
- Transparent Political funding
- Protection to donors from harassment
- No disclosure of information to 3rd parties
- Brings donations under tax purview.

Controversy
• Anonymity
  - ECI → Scheme legalises anonymity
    → Lack of transparency
    → ‘Important to know principal than the agent’
  - Govt → Voters need not know donor identity

• Supreme Court → KYC information alone will not block ‘Black Money’
• RBI → Scheme will not solve problem of unaccounted money
• Law Ministry → Objection to 1% vote share in election
  - Recommended 6% vote share or removal of vote share.
Network for intel agencies to share info will go live next year

NATGRID will help organisations to access database from a common platform

The ambitious National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) project will be operational by December 31, 2020, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

More than half the sanctioned positions are vacant, the government said.

The NATGRID will enable multiple security and intelligence agencies to access a database related to immigration entry and exit, banking and telephone details, among others, from a common platform.

The project, initially started in 2009 with a budget of ₹2,800 crore, is an online database for collating scattered pieces of information and putting them together on one platform.

At least 10 Central government agencies, such as the Intelligence Agencies, the Research and Analysis Wing and others, will have access to the data on a secured platform.

Periodic review
On Tuesday, Minister of State for Home C. Kishan Reddy informed the Lok Sabha that “NATGRID has developed application software for proof of technology, which is yet to be fully rolled out. NATGRID solution is planned to go live by 31.12.2020.” He said the progress was reviewed from time to time, and during the current financial year, ₹84.80 crore had been allocated to the project.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I— (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

PAPER-IV

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Functioning</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 26/11 attacks → Weakness in India's Intelligence gathering network</td>
<td>• Link 21 agencies with citizen data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Attached to Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
<td>- bank, airlines, railway, telecoms, tax bodies, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• An IT Platform</td>
<td>- Central Government Security &amp; Intelligence agencies - IB, RAW, NIA, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Assist Intelligence and law enforcement agencies</td>
<td>• Information: call data, bank account details, passport details, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To ensure national and internal security + Counter terror</td>
<td>• Concerns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It connects approved User Agencies with designated data providers</td>
<td>• Right to Privacy - misuse of private data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• S1PRNet in USA: Classified Information accessed by WikiLeaks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- NATGRID will be operational by 31 Dec 2020
  - developed software for proof of technology

- NATGRID: Exempted from RTI Act, 2005
  - Section 24(1): Agencies such as IB, RAW, BSF, CRPF mentioned in 2nd schedule - not under RTI Act.
  - Section 24(2): Empowers Centre to amend Second schedule
    - to include any other Intelligence Organization
    - to remove an existing organisation
‘53 road crashes, 17 deaths per hour in 2018’

Over-speeding is a major killer, followed by driving on the wrong side, says annual government report.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

More than 1.5 lakh people lost their lives in road crashes in the country in 2018, registering an increase of 2.6% as compared to the year before, when there were 1.47 lakh fatalities.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways released the annual report on road accidents in India on Tuesday, which shows a daily average of 2,800 road crashes and 414 deaths. This translates into 53 crashes and the loss of 17 lives every hour. Road traffic injuries constitute the eighth leading cause of deaths in India in 2018.

India is the most unsafe country in the world for road users across 199 countries, as reported by the Geneva-based World Road Federation’s World Road Statistics 2018. It’s followed by China (63,000 deaths) and the U.S. (57,000 deaths).

The annual report also reveals that the total people killed in road crash deaths in 2018, 43% were between 18 years and 35 years old. Males involved in road crash deaths were at 6.6% of the total deaths.

Over-speeding

Over-speeding is a major killer, accounting for 64.4% of the persons killed. This category was followed by driving on the wrong side of the road, which accounted for 5.9% of the accident-related deaths. Use of mobile phones accounted for 2.4% of the deaths and drunken driving accounted for 2.5% of the persons killed.

Not wearing helmets and seat belts are not causes of crashes, but are critical for avoiding grievous injuries and fatalities. As many as 43,604 deaths or 28.8% of total road accident deaths in the country last year were caused due to “non-wearing of helmets”. “Non-wearing of seat belts” was linked to 24,435 deaths or 16.6% of total road accident deaths in the country. Among the States, Tamil Nadu (13.7%) topped the country in terms of the total number of road crashes, followed by Madhya Pradesh (13%) and Uttar Pradesh (12%). The highest road fatalities were observed in Uttar Pradesh (22,256), followed by Maharashtra (13,261) and Tamil Nadu (12,260).

Urgently implement

Commenting on the report, Prashant Twatty, CEO and Founder, SaveLIFE Foundation, said, “A lot of States that have opposed the implementation of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act are amongst the States with the highest road crash fatalities. The data highlights the urgent need on part of the States to implement safety provisions of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019.”

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

• Current events of national and international importance.

• Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

• Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

PAPER-IV


• Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Road Accidents in India - 2018 - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
  - India: highest number of road fatalities - 11% share

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>~1.47 Lakh</th>
<th>2.4% increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>~1.51 Lakh</td>
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Daily: 1280 accidents + 415 deaths
In an hour: 53 accidents + 17 deaths

- Age group | Percentage |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 - 45</td>
<td>69.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 60</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- State-specific data:
  - Highest number of road crashes: Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh.
  - Highest road fatalities: Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu

- World Road Statistics - 2018
  - India - most unsafe country in the world for road users; followed by China, US.
  - Released by International Road Federation (IRF)
### Important reasons:
- Human error, road environment, & vehicular conditions
  - Overspeeding - 64.4%
  - Driving on the wrong side - 3.8%
  - Use of mobile phones - 2.4%
  - Drunken Driving - 2.8%
  - Driving without valid license - 13% of accidents
  - Non-use of helmets - 29%
  - Non-use of seat belts - 16%
  - Overloaded vehicles - 12%
  - Vehicles over than 10 years - 41%

### Important measures:
1. **Motor Vehicle Amendment Act, 2019**
   - Hike in penalty for violations
2. **Section 215 (B): National Road Safety Board**
3. **Section 134(A): Protection of Good Samaritans**
4. **Section 162: Cashless treatment during golden hour**
5. **Section 164 B: Motor Vehicle Accident Fund**
6. **Section 110 A: To recall vehicles**
Tracing His footprints

From a faraway land: South Korean monks offer prayers at the Maha Bodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya on Tuesday. Buddhism travelled to China from India and then to Korea. Bodh Gaya is the spiritual home of Buddhists across the world.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- History of India and Indian National Movement.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
• One of the 4 holy sites of Lord Buddha - Bihar

• Other 3 Sites
  ➔ Lumbini - Nepal
  ➔ Sarnath - UP, India
  ➔ Kushinagar - UP, India

• 1st temple - by Ashoka - 3rd Century B.C.
• Present temple - from 5th - 6th Century
• Comprises of 50 m high grand Temple, Vajrasana, Sacred Bodhi Tree, etc

• First reference - made by Fa Hien [Chinese traveller]
• One of UNESCO World Heritage Sites [Cultural] - 2002
Architectural Style

• Entirely built in brick

• Central tower – 55 m, 4 smaller towers, surround central tower

• Railings on all 4 sides
  → 2 types
    - Sandstone (Old)
    - Granite (Gupta period)
Turning the policy focus to child undernutrition

India has sustained its progress in reducing stunting and the number of underweight children in the last decade.

The Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) report, brought out recently by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, underscores the importance of reducing child undernutrition. The survey is a crucial component of the country’s efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and eradicate malnutrition.

The CNNS report highlights that while the overall prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years has decreased from 40.1% in 2005-06 to 26.4% in 2015-16, there is a need for continued efforts to further reduce this number. The report also underscores the importance of early childhood development and nutrition interventions to improve child health and well-being.

The stunting prevalence in rural areas is higher compared to urban areas, with 29.1% of children under 5 years stunted in rural areas compared to 20.8% in urban areas. Similarly, the prevalence of underweight among children under 5 years is also higher in rural areas (17.4%) compared to urban areas (10.7%).

The report also highlights that while there has been a decrease in the prevalence of stunting, the problem of underweight persists, with 19.7% of children under 5 years being underweight in 2015-16. The underweight prevalence is higher in rural areas (23.6%) compared to urban areas (14.9%).

The report suggests that there is a need for targeted interventions to address the specific needs of children in rural and urban areas, with a focus on improving access to quality nutrition and health services.

The report also stresses the importance of integrating nutrition interventions with other health and nutrition programs to ensure a comprehensive approach to child nutrition.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance—Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development—Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER II

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Role of women and women’s organizations in poverty-related issues, womeDEV, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

PAPER III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations.

- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes: mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey

- Conducted between 2016 and 2018
- By Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, and UNICEF
- Cross-sectional, household survey
- Covered children and adolescents in the age group 0-19 years
  - Both urban and rural areas of all the states of India

• Aim of the study
  ➔ Measure malnutrition
    - Worm infestation
    - Micronutrient deficiency
  ➔ Anthropometric data
    - Weight for age
    - Height for age
    - Weight for height
  ➔ Non-Communicable diseases
  ➔ Prevalence of obesity or overweight
  ➔ Muscular strength and fitness
Editorial
- CNNS report assumes importance
  - Global Hunger Index, 2019
    - India's ranking → 102/117 countries
  - India's past performance in reducing child undernutrition → Mixed performance
    - Stunting
    - Wasting
    - Underweight

Definitions
- Stunting: Low height for age
  - Sign of chronic undernutrition
  - Affected by recurrent and chronic illness.
- Wasting: Low weight for height
  - Measure of acute undernutrition
  - Failure to receive adequate nutrition
  - Inadequate food intake or recent episode of illness.
- Underweight: Low weight for age
  - Both acute and chronic undernutrition
• Importance [continued]:
  ➤ Timely report on nutrition status
  ➤ Collection of national level nutrition data

• Findings of CNNS report:
  ➤ Decline in conditions between 2005-06 and 2015-16
    - Child Stunting -10%
    - Underweight - 7%
    - Wasting - 1%
  ➤ Sustenance in the progress of reducing
    - stunting
    - underweight

➤ Concerns: Stunting level → High at present (34.7%)
  ➤ Govt. target → Reduce to 25% by 2022

➤ Key factor: to reduce malnutrition among children
  ➤ Education attainment of the mothers
    Education → CNNS
    Illiteracy/No schooling
    ↓
    12 years of schooling → 27% decline in stunting

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Other factors

- Ending open defecation
- Enhancing access to safe water and sanitation
- Dietary diversity
  - Inclusion of millets
- Address obesity

Child wasting

- Decline of 4.2% (22 month period)
- Decline of 1.2% (last ten years)

- Top performing states which have reduced wasting by 10% points or more within 30 months.
  - Uttarakhand
  - Punjab
  - Arunachal Pradesh
  - Haryana
  - Gujarat

These states witnessed increase in wasting in the last decade (2005-06 to 2015-16).

Appreciable if measures were taken by Govt.

These states have not performed equally well in reducing stunting — Possible anomaly in data.
Author's suggestion

• Independent validation
  • to dispel doubt on data quality
  • to identify the rapid drivers of reduction
Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID).

1. It is an IT platform with real time citizen data to assist the intelligence and law enforcement agencies in ensuring national security, with the ultimate aim to counter terror.

2. It is attached to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which among the above statement(s) is/are correct?

a) Only 1
b) Only 2
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the National Road Safety Board.

1. The Central government has constituted the National Road Safety Board under the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act 2019.

2. The Board can advise both the Central and State governments on matters related to road safety and traffic management.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

a) Only 1
b) Only 2
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Which of the following Buddhist monuments are part of UNESCO World Heritage sites?
   1. Bodhgaya Temple, Bihar
   2. Buddhist monuments, Sanchi
   3. Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath

Select the correct answer from the code given below:
   a) 1 and 2 only
   b) 2 and 3 only
   c) 1 and 3 only
   d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Consider the following statements about Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey.
   1. It was jointly conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Health Organization (WHO).
   2. The aim of this survey is to exclusively measure the malnutrition status of children across India.

Which of the above statement/s is/are incorrect?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2
Q5. Consider the following statements.

1. Stunting refers to a condition of high height for age.
2. Iron deficiency can lead to a condition called anemia.
3. Underweight refers to a condition of low weight for their height.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 3 only
Practice Question – Mains
GS - II

Q. In the light of recent controversy regarding the anonymity in the Electoral Bond Scheme, what are the challenges to ensure transparency in political funding?

(10 mark, 150 words)