

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 20, 2019

STATE

- ◆ **"2020 Sikh Referendum" - Google has removed this app from Play Store for being anti-India**



- ✓ **The Cyber Crime Centre of the Bureau of Investigation of Punjab had moved to get the app removed.**
- ✓ **The app is created by a developer named ICETECH.**
- ✓ **On November 8, a notice under Section 79 (3) B of the Information Technology Act was sent to Google.**
- ✓ **Agreeing to the demand of Punjab CM Amarinder Singh, the company has dropped an app called "2020 Sikh Referendum" from the Play Store for being anti-India.**

SCHEMES

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

- ✓ **The National Intelligence Grid or NATGRID is the integrated intelligence grid connecting databases of core security agencies of the Government of India.**
- ✓ **It is a robust intelligence gathering mechanism related to immigration, banking, individual taxpayers, air and train travels.**
- ✓ **The project, initially started in 2009 (conceptualised following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks) is an online database for collating scattered pieces of information and putting them together on one platform.**
- ✓ **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.**

Banking on information

- NATGRID started in 2009 with a budget of ₹2,800 crore. This year, ₹84 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
- 21 agencies, such as telecom firms, tax bodies and immigration department, will provide information
- While NATGRID's data recovery centre in Bengaluru has been constructed, its office complex in south Delhi is nearing completion



The NATGRID
has devel-

oped 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

G. KISHAN
REDDY
Minister of
State for
Home



✓ **10 Central government agencies:**

1. **Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW)**
2. **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI),**
3. **Enforcement Directorate (ED),**
4. **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI),**
5. **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU),**
6. **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT),**
7. **Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC),**
8. **Directorate General of Central Excise and Intelligence (DGCEI)**
9. **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), will have access to the data on a secured platform.**

COURT AND VERDICT

- ◆ **SC favours permanent commission for women in armed forces with retro effect.**



- ✓ **The Supreme Court on said the armed forces should consider granting permanent commission to women officers in armed forces under the Short Service Commission (SSC) before March 2019.**
- ✓ **The Army has notified permanent commission to women officers, who join the forces under SSC, after March 2019.**
- ✓ **These SSC officers — the only women officers in the army — have to retire after 14 years whatever their age, unlike their male counterparts who retire only on reaching 60 years.**
- ✓ **Delhi High Court had in 2010 held the practice unconstitutional and discriminatory and directed the Centre to treat all the women army officers on par with male officers.**
- ✓ **The same year, Centre challenged the decision in the apex court.**
- ✓ **The government has already issued notification for permanent jobs to women officers in 10 branches of the Army.**
- ✓ **All branches in the Indian Air Force, including fighter pilots, are already opened for women officers.**
- ✓ **In the Navy, SSC has been applicable in all non-sea going branches.**
- ✓ **In Naval Armament branch, women officers under SSC are eligible for grant of permanent commission.**
- ✓ **Now, to accommodate the women SSC officers, the government will have to confirm their permanent commissions with retrospective effect from 2010.**

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

◆ **India's approach to counter-terrorism.**

- ✓ **The current government has declared a “zero tolerance” policy on terrorism.**
- ✓ **India's military responses in 2016 (surgical strikes) and 2019 (Balakot airstrikes) in the backdrop of terrorist attacks in Uri and Pulwama, were framed as attempts to impose costs on the Pakistani terrorist groups and their Army backers.**
- ✓ **These responses mark a drastic change in India's approach to counter-terrorism.**
- ✓ **The present government has repeatedly declared that it will emulate Israel's apparently successful strategy in responding to cross-border terrorism.**

◆ **Indira Gandhi failed to convert India's victory in the 1971 war into a durable peace with Pakistan.**



- ✓ **November 19, 2019 marked the 102nd birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.**
- ✓ **Thirty-five years after her death, she continues to be regarded as the most courageous and decisive leader India has had.**
- ✓ **Her time in office was marked by epoch-making achievements, including the swift and successful prosecution of the war with Pakistan in 1971.**
- ✓ **The tenure also witnessed some serious lapses of judgment, including the Simla Agreement of 1972 which resulted in a disadvantageous peace with Pakistan following the 1971 Indo-pak war.**
- ✓ **The Simla Agreement was signed on July 2, 1972, by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the then Prime minister of Pakistan, and Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India.**

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ India-ASEAN Inno Tech Summit 2019



- ✓ **A Three day India ASEAN InnoTech Summit is to being held in Davao, Philippines.**
- ✓ **The Summit is organized between 20 November, 2019 and 22 November, 2019.**
- ✓ **It focuses on innovative technologies, exhibitions, and back to back meetings to accelerate innovative development.**

◆ India hosts World Customs Organization RCP meeting of Asia Pacific

- ✓ **India hosted the World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia Pacific Regional Contact Points (RCP) that was held for 3 three days on Puducherry.**
- ✓ **The conference is being held for the fourth time in India. Previously it was held in Jaipur and Cochin.**
- ✓ **International Organizations like UNCTAD, Global Alliance on Trade Facilitation (GATF) participated in the conference.**
- ✓ **They presented the best practices that are involved in customs procedures.**
- ✓ **The conference also discussed about the key focus areas of the Asia Pacific Region.**
- ✓ **It includes security, enforcement, facilitation and capacity building.**

DEFENCE

◆ DRDO to double ASTRA's range

- ✓ **The DRDO Chief, Mr G Sateesh Reddy recently announced that DRDO (Defence Research Development Organization) is to increase the range of ASTRA air-to-air missiles.**
- ✓ **India is one of the few countries to own a successful BMD-Ballistic Missile Defence programme.**
- ✓ **Astra (Sanskrit word for weapon) is an all-weather air-to-air missile developed completely by DRDO.**
- ✓ **Currently, ASTRA is capable of engaging targets upto a distance of 110 km.**
- ✓ **The ASTRA missiles are integrated with Sukhoi Su-30 MKI aircrafts of India.**

RANKINGS

- ◆ **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 shows that India has sustained its progress in reducing stunting, wasting and the number of underweight children in the last decade.**
- ✓ **The Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) report was brought out recently by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- ✓ **Between 2005-06 and 2015-16, child stunting and the condition of being underweight declined by 10% and 7% points, respectively. The survey reveals that India has sustained its progress made in reducing the number of stunted and underweight children in the last decade.**
- ✓ **India's past performance in child wasting has been rather poor, however, the report reveals an interesting, rather surprising, turnaround.**
- ✓ **The extent of the decline in wasting is larger than that of stunting: about 4% points within 22 months. This is indeed a remarkable achievement, especially against a measly decline in wasting in the last ten years: 21% in 2015-2016 from 19.8% in 2005-2006.**
- ✓ **Despite such sustained decline, the present stunting level still belongs to the threshold level of 'very high'.**
- ✓ **The Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2019 ranks India at the 102nd position out of 117 countries. Hence, what is of urgent requirement is increasing the rate of decline.**

◆ **India ranks 59th in 2019 IMD World Talent Ranking.**

- ✓ India was ranked 59th among 63 countries in the 2019 IMD World Talent Ranking released by International Institute for Management Development.
- ✓ This year, India slipped by 6 places as compared to 53rd rank in 2018 edition of this global annual list.
- ✓ India's poor performance was on account of low quality of life and expenditure on education.

AWARDS

◆ **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2019: David Attenborough**

- ✓ Renowned naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough will be conferred the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2019.
- ✓ He was selected for the 2019 prize by an international jury chaired by former President Pranab Mukherjee.
- ✓ He is being awarded the prize for a lifetime of doing more to reveal wonders of natural world to people than perhaps any other individual.

SPORTS

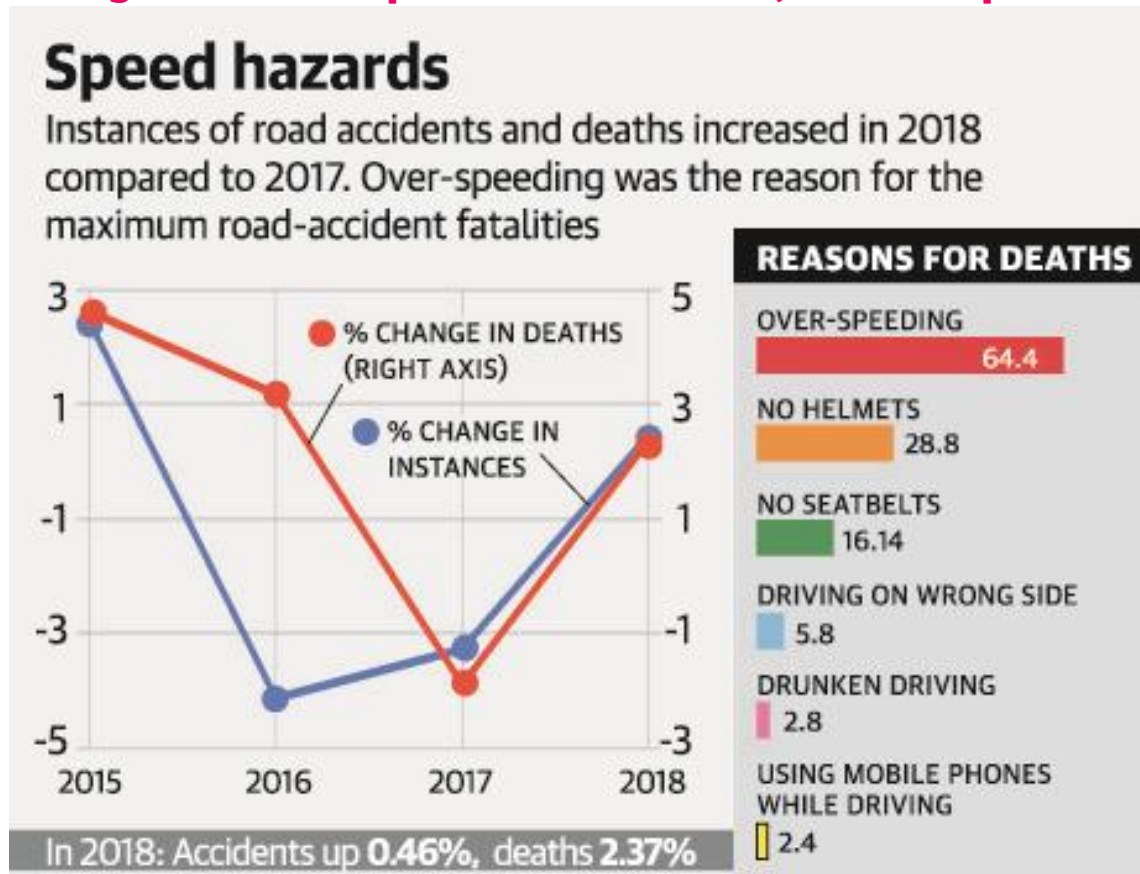
◆ **2020 Hockey Pro League: Bhubaneswar to host India's home matches.**



- ✓ Odisha's Capital Bhubaneswar has become a hockey hub in India as it has been hosting a majority of tournaments.
- ✓ The city most recently hosted Olympic qualifiers.
- ✓ The 2020 Hockey Pro League will be played between 11 January and 28 June 2020. It will feature 144 matches in the coming season.
- ✓ The first match will feature the Netherlands and China on 11 January 2020 at the Wujin Hockey Stadium in Changzhou, China.
- ✓ The first team that India will host in second Hockey Pro League is the Netherlands on January 18.

REPORT

◆ **Annual government report: 53 road crashes, 17 deaths per hour in 2018.**



- ✓ **The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways released the annual report on road accidents in India.**
- ✓ **Road traffic injuries constituted the eighth leading cause of deaths in India in 2018.**
- ✓ **More than 1.5 lakh people lost their lives in road crashes in the country in 2018, registering an increase of 2.4% as compared to the year before.**
- ✓ **The report states a daily average of 1,280 road crashes and 415 deaths.**
- ✓ **The highest road fatalities were observed in Uttar Pradesh followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.**
- ✓ **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, use of mobile phones and drunken driving.**
- ✓ **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. (37,000 deaths).**

IMPORTANT DAYS

◆ 20 November - Universal Children's Day



- ✓ **Universal Children's Day is observed on 20 November annually to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide and improving children's welfare.**
- ✓ **It was established in 1954.**
- ✓ **On this day in 1959, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.**
- ✓ **In 1989 on the same day, the UN General Assembly also adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

