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1. Kulsī multi-purpose dam, declared a National Project, is being constructed along the Assam-Meghalaya border. The dam is proposed on the Kulsī, a river where the endangered Gangetic river dolphins from the Brahmaputra breed, near Ukiam, a village about 75 km west of Guwahati. The Kulsī multipurpose project envisages construction of a 62-metre-high concrete dam across the Kulsī river to harness its potential for irrigation and power generation. The river, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, originates from the northern slopes of the Khasi hills in Meghalaya. After flowing for 100km in the hills of Meghalaya, the river enters the plains of Assam at Ukiam village, the proposed dam site. From there it flows farther north, where it breaks into three streams. After crossing National Highway 17, all the streams take a westerly course, flow into Jaljālī river before meeting the Brahmaputra in Kamrup district of Assam. The catchment area of the Kulsī basin up to the proposed dam site is 1,694.4 square km, which lies in the states of Meghalaya and Assam. <https://www.telegraphindia.com/states/north-east/ukiam-villagers-oppose-kulsi-dam/cid/1704739>
2. Small hydro projects are the domain of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), while the Ministry of Power oversees large hydro projects. Large hydroelectric projects rely on creating a barrier to river water flowing downstream, which is then channelized into a large reservoir for storage. This can be distinguished from smaller “run of the river” hydro projects, where water passes through a turbine and is released downstream without being stored, which is why they are regarded as a renewable source of energy.
3. The decennial census exercise will be undertaken in 2021 and, for the first time, move from paper to digital format.
4. National Population Register helps in tracking criminal activities, and better planning and execution of government schemes. The NPR links biometric and demographic details of any ordinary resident, thus making it a comprehensive database of residents. The NPR exercise is different from the census and is not linked to the National Register of Citizens (NRC). For the purpose of the NPR, an ordinary resident is defined as a person who has resided in a local area for the past six months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next six months or more.
5. India has committed to the creation of 175 GW renewable energy capacity by 2022 under the Paris Climate Agreement.

6. 'Vahan' is the national vehicle registry, which intends to collate all the information available with road transport authorities for easy access by both citizens and regulators. Vahan allows access to all details related to vehicles such as registration number, chassis/engine number, body/fuel type, colour, manufacturer and model and provides various online services to citizens. Driving Licence and related data are automated through a separate application called 'Sarathi'. Vahan has been designed to capture all the information mandated by the Central Motor Vehicle Act 1988 as well as State Motor Vehicle Rules. It has been customised to suit the varied requirements of all States and Union Territories. This way, the system ensures access to such information from anywhere. Besides, centralisation of data through the creation of the State and National Registries under Vahan also helps address the needs of RTOs, police and motor insurers. The Police Department will also have access to the registry. The information available online can help in resolving crimes such as theft of vehicles and usage of fake registration numbers. Traffic-check points can cross-check the validity of the documents such as licences presented by motorists through hand-held devices. Enforcement activities such as issue of challan and settlement of penalty amount can also be carried out through Vahan. Banks, which may have given out loans for vehicle purchases, will also have access to the National/State Registry to track the status of vehicles under lien. Other services such as registration of vehicles, transfer of ownership, change of address, issue and renewal of permits and fitness certificates are also available on this portal. The need for 'No objection certificate' for transfers will be eliminated since all RTOs will have access to the centralised data. Both the 'Vahan' and 'Saarathi' portals would be helpful for a number of purposes including inter-state transfer of vehicles or obtaining a driver's license. Read about the 'Vahan Portal' in detail (important for prelims and mains): <https://pointias.com/vahan-portal/>

7. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi announced a global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019 held in New York City, USA, on September 23, 2019. ₹480 crore has been allocated for technical assistance and projects. The CDRI will be a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks, financing mechanisms, private sector, and knowledge institutions which will promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development. The U.K., Australia and island nations such as Fiji and the Maldives will be part of this coalition. CDRI thus aims to enable the achievement of objectives of

expanding universal access to basic services and enabling prosperity as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals, while also working at the intersection of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Climate Agreement. Established as a platform for generating and exchanging knowledge, CDRI will conduct country-specific and global activities. CDRI will provide member countries technical support and capacity development, research and knowledge management, and advocacy and partnerships to facilitate and encourage investment in disaster resilient infrastructure systems.

8. In line with digitisation drive of the government, driving licence and related data are automated through an application called 'Sarathi'. Sarathi and Vahan are the two flagship applications of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. These applications are brought under Mission Mode Project by National e-Governance Programme. Sarathi & Vahan are designed, developed, implemented and supported by NIC. These applications are implemented across 1000+ RTOs of the country. The Driving Licence data is consolidated at State and National level through periodic replication process.
9. Government approved 100% foreign direct investment under the automatic route in mining, processing and sale. In an earlier decision government had allowed commercial coal mining by private operators, ending Coal India's monopoly. The FDI has been allowed for coal mining activities including associated processing infrastructure subject to provisions of Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 as amended from time to time. Associated processing infrastructure would include washery and facilities for crushing and coal handling. Before this decision, 100% FDI under the automatic route was allowed for coal and lignite mining for captive consumption by power projects as well as iron and steel and cement units. FDI was also permitted for setting up processing plants like washeries subject to the condition that the company shall not do coal mining or sell the washed or sized coal in the open market. They could, under the then existing rules, supply the processed coal to those who were supplying raw coal to them. The Coal Mines Special Provision Act 2015 provides for opening up commercial coal mining to private and public entities.
10. India has held the Siachen glacier's (18000-21000 ft.) heights since India occupied them in 1984 under 'Operation Meghdoot'.
11. The government has reconstituted the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM) for a period of two years. The EAC-PM consists of both full-time and part-

time members. The EAC-PM was revived in September 2017 with a term of two years. Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister is a non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister. The Terms of Reference of EAC-PM include analyzing any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advising him thereon, addressing issues of macroeconomic importance and presenting views thereon to the Prime Minister. These could be either suo-motu or on reference from the Prime Minister or anyone else. They also include attending to any other task as may be desired by the Prime Minister from time to time.

12. The government has launched a new unified 'Jal Shakti' ministry that is aimed at providing clean drinking water as well as fight India's water woes. The new ministry has been formed by merging the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The new ministry will encompass issues ranging from providing clean drinking water, international and inter-states water disputes, to the Namami Gange project aimed at cleaning Ganga and its tributaries, and sub tributaries. Namami Gange was launched under the Ministry of Water Resources as the biggest ever initiative of over Rs 20,000 crore to clean Ganga river by 2020, during the first tenure of the Narendra Modi government. Jal Shakti Ministry will also work with states to ensure that every rural house gets water by 2024 under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Nal se Jal scheme that aims to provide piped water supply for every household. The scheme comes under the ambit of the Jal Shakti Ministry.
<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/water/government-launches-new-jal-shakti-ministry-64869> ; <https://www.businesstoday.in/union-budget-2019/budget-2019-nal-se-jal-scheme-to-offer-piped-water-to-every-rural-house-by-2024/story/361737.html> ; <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/have-advised-states-to-charge-water-fee-for-infra-upkeep-gajendra-singh-shekhawat/articleshow/71931760.cms?from=mdr>
13. Kashmir's famed saffron has been granted the Geographic Indication (GI) tag, which is likely to boost its market and ensure quality control.
14. An occupational disease, silicosis is more prevalent among miners who are exposed to dust containing crystallised silica. Over time, it could build up in lungs, cause bloody coughing and breathlessness.
15. The presence of tigers in high altitude regions in India and Nepal has been reported. While India is home to the greatest number of tigers in the world, most of them are

focussed in Central India and the Western Ghats. The latest tiger survey, made public earlier this year estimated 2,967 tigers all over India. Potential high-altitude tiger landscapes include the Valmiki-Chitwan-Annapurna (India-Nepal), Manas-Royal Manas-Jigme Dorji (India-Bhutan); Neora Valley-Torsa-Buxa-Phibsu (India-Bhutan); Askot-Pithoragarh-Nandhaur-Suklaphanta (India-Nepal); and Arunachal-Sikkim-bordering Bhutan (India-Bhutan).

16. Bathukamma, a nine-day flower festival, is a colourful floral festival of Telangana and is celebrated by womenfolk with exotic flowers of the region. The festival has over the years become a symbol of Telangana culture and identity. Bathukamma comes during the latter half of monsoon, before the onset of winter.
17. President's Colours is the highest honour bestowed upon a regiment of the Indian Armed Forces in recognition of invaluable contributions to the security of the nation during peace and hostility. It was presented on the completion of 25 years of the Army Air Defence as an independent arm of the Army. Air Defence came into existence in 1940 as part of Corps of Artillery. In 1994 it was bifurcated from the Regiment of Artillery. Its troops had shown valour during World War II in various operations and won gallantry awards, namely four Military Crosses, one Medal of the British Empire, seven Indian Distinguished Service Medals and two Orders of the British Empire.
18. The government has planned to procure almost 12 lakh tonnes of apples directly from farmers under the special Market Intervention Price Scheme (MISP) with the help of the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED). J&K contributes over 70% of the apple production in the country. Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is a price support mechanism implemented on the request of State Governments for procurement of perishable and horticultural commodities in the event of a fall in market prices. The Scheme is implemented when there is at least 10% increase in production or 10% decrease in the ruling rates over the previous normal year. Market Intervention Scheme works in a similar fashion to Minimum Support Price based procurement mechanism for food grains, but is an adhoc mechanism. Proposal of MIS is approved on the specific request of State/Union Territory (UT) Government, if the State/UT Government is ready to bear 50% loss (25% in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation. Further, the extent of total amount of loss shared is restricted to 25% of the total procurement value which includes cost of the commodity procured plus permitted overhead expenses. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing the scheme. Under MIS, funds are not allocated to the

States. Instead, central share of losses as per the guidelines of MIS is released to the State Governments/UTs, for which MIS has been approved, based on specific proposals received from them. Under the Scheme, in accordance with MIS guidelines, a pre-determined quantity at a fixed Market Intervention Price (MIP) is procured by NAFED as the Central agency and the agencies designated by the state government for a fixed period or till the prices are stabilized above the MIP whichever is earlier. The area of operation is restricted to the concerned state only.

19. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) was established on the auspicious day of Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October 1958. NAFED is registered under the Multi State Co-operative Societies Act. NAFED was setup with the object to promote Co-operative marketing of agricultural produce to benefit the farmers.
20. India's second Scorpene-class submarine INS Khanderi that has superior stealth and other major combat capabilities has been commissioned. INS Khanderi, the second Scorpene-class submarine that can attack with torpedoes as well as tube-launched anti-ship missiles whilst underwater or on surface, has been built by the Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) in Mumbai. The state-of-the-art features of the Scorpene-class submarine include superior stealth and ability to launch a crippling attack on the enemy using precision guided weapon. The stealth features will give it an invulnerability, unmatched by many submarines. The submarine is designed to operate in all theatres, including the tropics. All means and communications are provided to ensure interoperability with other components of a naval task force. It can undertake multifarious types of missions typically undertaken by any modern submarine, i.e anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying and area surveillance. The remaining four submarines in the Scorpene-class are -- 'Karanj', 'Vela', 'Vagir' and 'Vagsheer'. The first Scorpene-class submarine INS Kalvari was commissioned into the Navy by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2017.
21. The Project 75I-class submarine is a follow-on of the Project 75 Kalvari-class submarines for the Indian Navy. Under this project, the Indian Navy intends to acquire six diesel-electric submarines, which will also feature advanced air-independent propulsion systems to enable them to stay submerged for longer duration and substantially increase their operational range. All six submarines are expected to be constructed in Indian shipyards. Six Scorpene class conventional diesel-electric submarines are being built by Mazagon Dock Ltd. (MDL) in Mumbai with technology transfer from the Naval Group of France.

22. The Nilgiri-class frigate or Project 17A is a follow-on of the Project 17 Shivalik-class frigate for the Indian Navy. A total of seven ships will be built at Mazagon Dock and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. The ships have been named after the first major warships to be built in India, which in turn were named after hill ranges in India. The Navy has planned to name the seventh ship in the P17A frigate series as 'Mahendragiri'. The first of the seven frigates, christened 'Nilgiri', has recently been launched. Five more ships of the Nilgiri-class, an upgrade of Leander-class, were also named after other hill ranges of India. The six ships were built a few decades ago and have been decommissioned. These six ships were called -- 'Nilgiri', 'Himgiri', 'Udaygiri', 'Dunagiri', 'Taragiri' and 'Vindhyagiri'.
23. An aircraft carrier drydock, housed within the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, was recently inaugurated which is capable of docking India's largest ship, INS Vikramaditya, and has the ability to maintain ships for decades to come. The carrier dry dock is the largest dock of the Indian Navy measuring 281m in length, 45m in breadth and 17m in depth and is also the first Indian dry dock built into the sea, unlike the conventional docks built on land. It is capable of servicing the 44,500 tonne aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya and in the first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant under construction at Kochi.
24. Meghalaya is divided into autonomous councils in the names of the three major matrilineal communities — Garo, Khasi and Jaintia. The minority tribes include the Hajong, Koch, Rabha, Boro and Mann. Parts or the whole of the four northeastern States — Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura — fall under the Sixth Schedule, which makes special provisions for “tribal areas”. The five minor tribes – Bodo-Kachari, Hajong, Koch, Mann and Rabha – are clubbed as “unrepresented tribes” for nomination in Meghalaya’s autonomous tribal councils. These councils are in the names of Garo, Jaintia and Khasi, the State’s three major matrilineal communities. The minority tribes in the region have been in news as a sub-committee constituted by the Meghalaya government had decided to recommend to the Standing Committee of Parliament the removal of the word “unrepresented tribes” from the amended Sixth Schedule. The minority tribes have resisted such a move of the removal of the term ‘unrepresented tribes’.
25. Scientists have captured a view of a colossal black hole violently ripping apart a star, illustrating an extraordinary and chaotic cosmic event from beginning to end for the first-time using NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, better known as TESS. The view revealed the detailed timeline of a star 375 million light-years away warping and

spiralling into the unrelenting gravitational pull of a supermassive black hole. The star, roughly the same size as the sun, was eventually sucked into oblivion in a rare cosmic occurrence that astronomers call a tidal disruption event. A tidal disruption event (also known as a tidal disruption flare) is an astronomical phenomenon that occurs when a star approaches sufficiently close to a supermassive black hole that it is pulled apart by the black hole's tidal force. Such phenomena happen when a star ventures too close to a supermassive black hole, objects that reside at the centre of most large galaxies including the Milky Way. The black hole's tremendous gravitational forces tear the star to shreds, with some of its material tossed into space and the rest plunging into the black hole, forming a disk of hot, bright gas as it is swallowed. Observing the oscillation of light as the black hole gobbles the star and spews stellar material in an outward spiral could help astronomers understand the behaviour of black holes.

26. At about 1.5 lakh people, the Galos are one of the 26 major communities of Arunachal Pradesh. The Galos belong to the Tani group inhabiting Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, besides Tibet. Unlike the Mising (Assam), Adi, Apatani, Nyishi and Tagin, the other communities, only the Galos maintain genealogy through given names.
27. The Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF between February 2016 and October 2018 is the first study undertaken to measure malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies through biochemical measures such as blood and urine samples, anthropometric data as well as details of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol and kidney function in children and adolescents. When compared with CNNS, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) collects anthropometric data (weight for age, height for age, weight for height, mid-upper arm circumference) to measure prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight and household dietary intake to measure deficiencies mainly for the 0-5 years bracket. The main objective of the CNNS was to collect nationally representative data on the nutritional status of pre-schoolers (0–4 years), school-age children (5–9 years) and adolescents (10–19 years) through interviews, comprehensive set of anthropometric measures and biochemical indicators.
28. Kerala and Rajasthan have emerged as States with the best quality of school education in the country, with scores of 76.6% and 72.9% respectively, in the recently released NITI Aayog's rankings. The Union Territory of Chandigarh had even better performance overall with a score of over 80%. Reflecting the huge differences in quality across the country, Uttar Pradesh scored the lowest among 20 large States, with just 36.4%, although

the small State of Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep had even lower scores. The School Education Quality Index (SEQI) is part of the NITI Aayog's effort to rank the performance of States in across various indicators, including water, health and the ease of doing business, to encourage data-driven policy reforms. The first edition of the SEQI assessed the States on the basis of learning outcomes, access, equity, infrastructure and facilities, and the governance processes which aid such outcomes. The Index is largely based on data from the National Achievement Survey (NAS) of 2017-18 and the Unified District Information on School Education data of 2016-17.

29. To assess the learning levels of the students in Classes 3, 5 and 8 National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducted the National Achievement Survey (NAS) on 13th February, 2017 in which approximately 22 lakh children across the country participated. NAS at the elementary level was based on the Learning Outcomes developed by the NCERT. The design and implementation of the survey included in its ambit the school leaders, teachers and the whole network of officials at the Cluster, Block, District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and the Directorates of Education in the different States/ UTs. NCERT similarly conducted NAS for class 10 on February 05, 2018.
30. Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) (Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development), initiated in 2012-13, integrated DISE for elementary education and SEMIS for secondary education and is one of the largest Management Information Systems on School Education covering more than 1.5 million schools, 8.5 million teachers and 250 million children. UDISE+ (UDISE plus) is an updated and improved version of UDISE. The entire system will be online and will gradually move towards collecting data in real time. Data from 2018-19 will be collected through this software. It will improve the quality and credibility of the data provided thereby making it analysis more robust and accurate. With the introduction of this system it will be easier for the States and UTs to monitor the progress of the schools and to reduce the time taken in data collection and analysis.
31. The IPCC provides regular assessment of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. Created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization(WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the objective of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies. IPCC reports are also a key input into international climate change negotiations. The IPCC is an

organization of governments that are members of the United Nations or WMO. The IPCC currently has 195 members. The IPCC is divided into three Working Groups and a Task Force. Working Group I deals with The Physical Science Basis of Climate Change, Working Group II with Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability and Working Group III with Mitigation of Climate Change. Since 1988 the IPCC has produced five comprehensive Assessment Reports and several Special Reports on specific topics. The IPCC is currently in its Sixth Assessment cycle.

32. The Press Freedom Index, released by Reporters Without Borders in August 2019, ranked India 140 out of 180 countries. In 2018, India was ranked 138th.
33. To open a bank account, the rules mandate proof of current address. Customers have to submit any of the six officially valid documents in proof of their address. The six documents are voter ID, passport, driving licence, letter issued by the National Population Register, NREGA job cards and Aadhaar.
34. Meghalaya has almost 10% of India's limestone (a key ingredient in cement manufacturing) reserves. Cement manufacturing companies in Meghalaya rely largely on coal, also mined in the State, for fuel.
35. New monsoon models, called the Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecast Model (CFS), deployed by the Indian Meteorological Department over the last decade don't do better than the older ones in long-range forecasting. The Climate Forecast System or coupled forecast system (both names abbreviated CFS) is a medium to long range numerical weather prediction and a climate model run by the United States National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) to bridge weather and climate timescales. The NCEP Climate Forecast System is a state-of-the-art coupled climate model and it has been implemented to the Prithvi High Performance Computer (HPC) at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune with support from the Monsoon Mission Project of Ministry of Earth Science, Govt. of India. The newer models were developed as part of a ₹1200 crore 'Monsoon mission' that has been underway for over a decade and were meant to improve both short term and long term forecasts.
36. The India Meteorological Department is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India. It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.
37. The National Moonsoon Mission was has launched by Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). The Ministry has bestowed the responsibility of execution and coordination of this mission to Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune. The project has a

budget of around Rs. 1200 crores. As part of the mission, IMD will collaborate with weather research organisations nationally as well as internationally to improve monsoon forecast for the country. The mission's focus is on developing a dynamic model for monsoon prediction.

38. Bharat 22 Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) is the first corporate bond ETF to be launched in India. It was announced by Mr. Arun Jaitley, the then Finance Minister, in his 2018-19 budget speech. ETFs are essentially index funds that are listed and traded on stocks exchanges just like regular shares. The Bharat Bond ETF will be a basket of bonds issued by state firms or any government organisation, and it will be traded on the exchange. Retail investors will be allowed to invest in Bharat Bond ETF. Bharat Bond ETF is targeted at 'aam janta' or 'aam aadmi.' Retail investors will be able to invest as low as Rs 1,000 in these bonds. Bharat Bond ETF will deepen the debt market in India and diversify the investor base. Bharat Bond ETF will provide additional money for PSUs and other government organisations. ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund will manage the fund. The Fund a basket of stocks with assigned weights that reflects the composition of an index. Bharat 22 comprises 22 stocks including those of central public sector enterprises, PSU banks and holdings under the Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India. The ETF is aimed at helping speed up the government's disinvestment programme. An open-ended ETF, the fund allows investors to invest in a basket of government-owned and private sector entities like NTPC, Power Grid Corporation, ONGC, Indian Oil Company, State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, L&T, ITC, Axis Bank and BPCL, among others. Bharat Bond ETF will have a fixed maturity of three and ten years and will trade on the local stock exchange. It will invest in a portfolio of bonds of state-run companies and other government entities. Compared to existing options, the new ETF will have a lower fees and better tax treatment. In general, ETFs have become a popular investment vehicle for investors because they allow them to invest in a diverse collection of assets.
39. 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev was celebrated in November 2019. Kartarpur Sahib is a revered shrine of the Sikh community where Guru Nanak Dev settled down and lived for 18 years until his death. In November last, India and Pakistan agreed to build the Kartarpur Corridor in Pakistan to connect Kartarpur Sahib with Dera Baba Nanak Sahib on the Indian side.
40. Nankana Sahib is a city and capital of Nankana Sahib District in the Punjab province of Pakistan. It is named after the first Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Nanak, who was born in the

city and first began preaching here. Nankana Sahib is the most important religious site for the Sikh religion.

41. 42 parameters for drinking water quality check (including odour, PH levels, total dissolved solids and metal content) make up the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS). Currently, it is mandatory for bottled water manufacturers to meet the BIS quality standard. However, the BIS standard for tap water is voluntary for the public agencies which supply and distribute piped water. The Bureau of Indian Standards is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India. It is established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 which came into effect on 23 December 1986.
42. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation is a subsidiary of the Indian Railways that handles the catering, tourism and online ticketing operations of the latter. IRCTC the only entity authorised by the Ministry of Railways to provide catering services to railways, online railway tickets and packaged drinking water at railway stations and trains in India. Some shares of IRCTC were recently subjected to public offering as part of the government's disinvestment programme. This public offering will lead to the government — which holds the stake through Ministry of Railways — holding coming down from the current 100% to 87.5%.
43. Prime Minister Modi and Chinese leader Xi Jinping recently met at Mamallapuram. Mamallapuram, an important town of the erstwhile Pallava dynasty that ruled the part of south India from 275 CE to 897 CE, is renowned for its architecture, widely admired across the world. Mamallapuram and the Pallava dynasty are also historically relevant, for the earliest recorded security pact between China and India (in the early 8th century) involved a Pallava king (Rajasimhan, or Narasimha Varma II), from whom the Chinese sought help to counter Tibet, which had by then emerged as a strong power posing a threat to China. The important monuments are - monuments — Arjuna's Penance, Panch (Five) Rathas, the Shore Temple, Varaha Cave, located behind Arjuna's Penance, Krishna's Butter Ball [which is a natural rock formation, perched precariously on the hillock slope].
44. India recently announced an "all arms integrated" exercise 'codenamed Changthang Prahar (assault)' in a "super high altitude" area near Chushul in eastern Ladakh, featuring tanks, artillery guns, drones, helicopters and troops, as well as para-drops. Also, the

Advance Landing Ground at Vijoyanagar in Arunachal Pradesh for the use of military aircraft has been reopened. These actions by India are being read suspiciously by China.

45. The IIT Council recently introduced the tenure track system. Under this system, an assistant professor may be hired without the mandatory post-PhD experience requirement and her performance reviewed internally after three years. Based on an evaluation by an external committee at the end of 5.5 years, he or she may either be granted tenure (made permanent) and promoted to the next higher level of associate professor or asked to leave. In certain cases, based on the recommendation of the external committee, an extension of two years may be granted to the candidate before being assessed again. The tenure track combines academic freedom with responsibility and accountability.
46. NCRB was set-up in 1986 to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators, based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task force (1985). NCRB was entrusted with the responsibility for monitoring, coordinating and implementing the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project in the year 2009. The project connects 15000+ police stations and 6000 higher offices of police in the country. On 21st August 2017, NCRB launched National Digital Police Portal. It allows search for a criminal / suspect on the CCTNS database apart from providing various services to citizens like filing of complaints online and seeking antecedent verification of tenants, domestic helps, drivers etc. The Bureau has also been entrusted to maintain National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO) and share it with the States/UTs on regular basis. NCRB has also been designated as the Central Nodal Agency to manage technical and operational functions of the 'Online Cyber-Crime Reporting Portal' through which any citizen can lodge a complaint or upload a video clip as an evidence of crime related to child pornography, rape/gang rape. NCRB also deals with associated work of Cyber Crime Prevention against Women & Children (CCPWC) through this portal. NCRB also compiles and publishes National Crime Statistics i.e. Crime in India, Accidental Deaths & Suicides and also Prison Statistics. These publications serve as principal reference point by policy makers, police, criminologists, researchers and media, both in India and abroad. NCRB has also floated various IT based Public Services like Vahan Samanvay (online matching for Stolen/Recovered vehicles) and Talash (matching of missing persons and dead bodies). In addition, NCRB also maintains Counterfeit Currency Information and Management System (FICN) and

Integrated Monitoring on Terrorism (iMoT) applications. The Central Finger Print Bureau under NCRB is a national repository of all fingerprints in the country and has more than one million ten-digit finger prints database of criminals both convicted and arrested and provides for search facility on Fingerprint Analysis and Criminal Tracing System (FACTS). Through the proposed National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) in near future, all States will be able to upload and search finger prints directly online to NCRB. CFPB publishes 'Finger Prints in India' annually and organizes the annual conference of Directors of Finger Print Bureaux of all the states. NAFIS is not to be confused with 'NABARD All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey'.

47. Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a six-member body and the main objective of MPC is to maintain the price stability and boosting up the growth rate of the country's economy. MPC is instituted by the Central Government of India under Section 45ZB of the Reserve Bank of India Act. Read about Monetary Policy in detail: <https://pointias.com/monetary-policy/>
48. The President can exercise powers to commute sentences under Article 72 of the Constitution after the convicts file mercy petitions. The President commuted death sentences to life imprisonment in at least 20 cases over the past nine years, based on the recommendations received from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
49. The RBI has several instruments to infuse liquidity. These are Open Market Operations, forex swaps, term repo etc. RBI does not manage yields. Yields are market driven.
50. OMO [open market operations] is basically a liquidity instrument which is used to deal with the liquidity situation, either to infuse or suck out liquidity.
51. In a move that will enable more borrowers to avail loans from microfinance institutions (MFI), the Reserve Bank of India has decided to raise the household income limit of borrowers to ₹2 lakh for urban and semi urban areas from ₹1.6 lakh. For rural areas, the limit has been increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.25 lakh. Loans by MFIs to such borrowers are uncollateralised.
52. "Improved crackers", which have been introduced in the market have reduced levels of barium nitrate. In order to reduce pollution from crackers, "new crackers" have been introduced, where potassium nitrate and zeolite are used.
53. With over 49,000 plant species reported as of 2018, India holds about 11.5% of all flora in the world. A new fossil record has shown that India is the birthplace of Asian bamboo, and they were formed about 25 million years ago in the north-eastern part of the country.

54. The Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAiC) expedition is a one-year-long expedition into the Central Arctic, planned to take place from 2019 to 2020. For the first time a modern research icebreaker will operate in the direct vicinity of the North Pole year-round, including the nearly half year long polar night during winter. In terms of the logistical challenges involved, the total number of participants, the number of participating countries, and the available budget, MOSAiC represents the largest Arctic expedition in history. Scientists from across the world are aboard the MOSAiC expedition, which will help the researchers better understand the impact of climate change and aid in improved weather projections. Spearheaded by the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany, MOSAiC, the largest ever Arctic expedition in history, will be the first to conduct a study of this scale at the North Pole for an entire year. The aim of the expedition will be to parameterise the atmospheric, geophysical, oceanographic and all other possible variables in the Arctic, and use it to more accurately forecast the changes in our weather systems.
55. Recently launched, IT Department's National E-assessment Centre (NeAC), will reduce face-to-face interaction between taxpayers and tax officials. The setting up of NeAC is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of 'Digital India' and promotion of ease of doing business. With the launch of NeAC, the Income Tax Department will usher in a paradigm shift in its working by introducing faceless e-assessment to impart greater efficiency, transparency and accountability in the assessment process. With NeAC, there would be no physical interface between the tax payers and the tax officers.
56. Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) was launched in Dec 2018 at the Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) Gurugram. The Indian Ocean Region is vital to world trade and economic prosperity of many nations as more than 75% of the world's maritime trade and 50% of global oil consumption passes through the IOR. The IFC-IOR aims to engage with partner nations and multi-national maritime constructs to develop comprehensive maritime domain awareness and share information on vessels of interest. The IFC has been established at Gurugram, India and is collocated with Information Management and Analysis Centre which is jointly administered by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard. The information Exchange at the IFC-IOR would be initially undertaken by virtual means, using telephone calls, faxes, emails and video conferencing over internet. Subsequently, to enable better interconnection, quicker analysis of information and provide timely inputs, the IFC-IOR would host Liaison Officers from partner countries. Additionally, towards enhancing

capability building, the IFC-IOR would undertake conduct of exercises and training capsules in maritime information collection and sharing. The setting up of IFC-IOR underscores the governmental approach and effort in line with the vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi towards Security and Growth of All in the Region (SAGAR).

57. Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI. When a bank is liquidated, depositors are entitled to receive an insurance amount of ₹1 lakh per individual from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (DICGC). The ₹1 lakh insurance limit includes both principal and interest dues across your savings bank accounts, current accounts, fixed deposits and recurring deposits held with the bank. Deposit insurance covers all commercial banks and foreign banks operating in India, State, Central and Urban Co-operative Banks, local area banks and regional rural banks. When a bank fails to pay up the premium for deposit insurance, DICGC sometimes de-registers the bank and its insurance cover ceases. If you have multiple bank accounts with the same bank, you will receive only ₹1 lakh as insurance payout against all the accounts held in your name.
58. The recently released Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) noted that overall 8% of children aged 5-9 years and 6% of adolescents aged 10-19 years had a high subscapular skinfold thickness — an anthropometric measurement used to evaluate nutritional status by estimating the amount of subcutaneous fat — for their age. The Ministry of Health conducted the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) to collect a comprehensive set of data on nutritional status of Indian children from 0–19 years of age. This survey was the largest micronutrient survey ever implemented globally. Also, the survey used gold standard methods to assess anaemia, micronutrient deficiencies and biomarkers of NCDs for the first time in India.
59. The Hindu-Kush Himalayan (HKH) region, also referred to as the Third Pole spans Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The Third Pole, which contains vast cryospheric zones, is also the world's largest store of snow and ice outside the polar region, and the source of 10 major rivers, and, therefore, particularly sensitive to climate change.
60. Two Americans and a British scientist won a Nobel Prize on Monday for discovering details of how the body's cells sense and react to low oxygen levels, providing a foothold for developing new treatments for anemia, cancer and other diseases. William G. Kaelin Jr. of Harvard University, Gregg L. Semenza of Johns Hopkins University and Peter J.

Ratcliffe at the Francis Crick Institute in Britain and Oxford University won the prize for advances in physiology or medicine.

61. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) launched a system wherein all notices and communication sent by the I-T department would come with a computer-generated documentation identification number (DIN). Notices without this DIN will be considered non est or non-existent under the law.
62. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is a rural wage employment programme. It provides for a legal guarantee of at least 100 days of unskilled wage employment in a financial year to rural households whose adult members are willing to engage in unskilled manual work at a pre-determined minimum wage rate. MGNREGA was initially implemented as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 200 selected backward districts in India on February 2, 2006. It was extended to an additional 130 districts with effect from April 1, 2007. Later, the remaining 285 districts were covered from April 1, 2008. The National Rural Employment Guarantee (Amendment) Act, 2009 renamed NREGA as MGNREGA.
63. To avoid communication blackouts that led to 20 fishermen going missing in the aftermath of Cyclone Ockhi in 2017, a slew of government departments, research agencies and private companies have developed GEMINI, a portable receiver linked to ISRO satellites, that is “fail-proof” and warn fishermen of danger. GEMINI works on GAGAN, developed by ISRO and the Airports Authority of India, and is an India-made global positioning system. It relies on the positioning system of ISRO’s GSAT satellites. Even now we provide services such as storm alerts and advisories of potential fish catch. However, it’s dependent on the mobile services provided by your phone company.
64. Geo Augmented Navigation-GAGAN project as a Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS) for the Indian Airspace. The objective of GAGAN to establish, deploy and certify satellite-based augmentation system for safety-of-life civil aviation applications in India has been successfully completed. The system is inter-operable with other international SBAS systems like US-WAAS, European EGNOS, and Japanese MSAS etc. GAGAN GEO footprint extends from Africa to Australia and has expansion capability for seamless navigation services across the region. GAGAN provides the additional accuracy, availability, and integrity necessary for all phases of flight, from enroute through approach for all qualified airports within the GAGAN service volume. GAGAN is the first SBAS system in the world to serve the equatorial region. GAGAN ionospheric algorithm known as ISRO GIVE Model-Multi-Layer Data Fusion (IGM-MLDF) was developed by ISRO

and is operational in the implemented GAGAN System. India has become the third country in the world to have such precision approach capabilities. GAGAN though primarily meant for aviation, will provide benefits beyond aviation to many other user segments such as intelligent transportation, maritime, highways, railways, surveying, geodesy, security agencies, telecom industry, personal users of position location applications etc.

65. IRNSS, the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System, is an ISRO initiative to design and develop an independent satellite-based navigation system to provide positioning, navigation and timing services for users over Indian region. While GAGAN will redefine navigation over Indian Airspace, IRNSS will provide independent and self-reliant satellite-based navigation services over Indian region.
66. Global Positioning System (GPS) is a network of 30+ satellites controlled by the US. While the system was developed for military, it has now been put to commercial use. These satellites are located at an altitude of 20,000 km and work via radio signals. While the acronym GPS has come to denote all navigation systems, the names are different for other countries. Russia's system is called GLONASS. Europe has Galileo, and China has Beidou. The Japanese system is called Quasi. The Indian navigation system, which is the most recent of them all, has been named NAVIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) or Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).

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