Current events of national and international importance
1. UN 75 Declaration
In order to commemorate the historic moment, world leaders come together, at a one-day high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly.

**United Nations**

- The United Nations (UN) is a **global organisation tasked with maintaining international peace** and security while fostering friendly relations among nations.
- It was formed following the devastating World War II, with the **aim of preventing future global-scale conflicts**. It was a successor to the ineffective League of Nations.
- The representatives of **50 governments met in San Francisco on 25 April 1945**, to draft what would become the UN Charter.
- The Charter was adopted on 25 June 1945 and came into effect on 24 October 1945.

**United Nations Structure**

- The UN is structured around five principal organs:
  - General Assembly
  - United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
  - Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
  - International Court of Justice
  - UN Secretariat
2. Central Pollution Control Board has celebrated its 46th Foundation Day.
Why in news?
Central Pollution Control Board has celebrated its 46th Foundation Day and pledged to provide technical leadership for more science-based environmental management.

CPCB
- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of India is a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Mo.E.F.C).
- It was established in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act, 1974.
- The CPCB is also entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- It is the apex organisation in country in the field of pollution control, as a technical wing of MoEFC.
- The board is led by its Chairperson appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet of the Government of India.
3. Rafale vendors yet to confirm each transfer
French aerospace major Dassault Aviation and European missile maker MBDA have till date “not confirmed” the transfer of technology for the indigenous development of engine for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Rafale jets

- Rafale is a twin-engine medium multi-role combat aircraft.
- It is manufactured by the French company Dassault Aviation.
- Dassault claims Rafale has 'Omnirole'.
- This is the capability to perform several actions at the same time.
- Rafale can carry out both air-to-ground as well as air-to-air attacks.
- It can also carry out interceptions during the same flight.
- The aircraft is fitted with an on-board oxygen generation system (OBOGS).
- It suppresses the need for liquid oxygen re-filling or ground support for oxygen production.
How much India spends in defence as compared to other sectors

The ministries with the 13 highest allocations account for 53% of the estimated total expenditure in 2020-21. Of these, the Ministry of Defence has the highest allocation in 2020-21, at Rs 4,71,378 crore. It accounts for 15% of the total budgeted expenditure of the central government. Other Ministries with high allocation include: (i) Home Affairs, (ii) Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, (iii) Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and (iv) Rural Development.
4. World Bank seeks ‘universal eligibility’
Why in news?

The $1 billion World Bank loan to prevent, detect and respond to the threat of coronavirus and strengthen national health systems for preparedness as India combats the ongoing pandemic comes with a condition of “universal eligibility” in procurements.

India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Strengthening Project

• It is a joint initiative of the Government of India and the World Bank that has disbursed $1 billion loan by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
• The Railway Ministry is one of the implementing agencies of the project.
• It is aimed at accelerating India’s COVID-19 Social Protection Response Program to support the country's efforts for providing social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households, severely impacted by the pandemic.
• The money will also be used for reforms in social security net, making it more integrated, portable and focussed on the urban poor.

The support was to be funded in two phases:

• An allocation of $750 million — more than ₹5,600 crore — would be made immediately to help fund the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, which the govt. announced in March to scale up cash transfers and free food grain distribution to vulnerable communities, pensioners and poor workers, and provide insurance support to health workers.
• The second phase will provide $250 million — almost ₹1,900 crore — post July, which will fund additional cash and in-kind benefits based on local needs through the State governments and portable social protection delivery systems.
5. International Day of Peace
Why in News
Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21st September.

Theme for 2020 : Shaping Peace Together.
- The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly.
- In 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.
- The United Nations (UN) will celebrate its 75th anniversary on 24th October 2020.
6. Antyodya Diwas
• 25th September was observed as Antyodaya Diwas across the country to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, a noted philosopher, historian and political activist.
• Antyodaya means uplifting of the weakest section of the society.

Deendayal Upadhyaya
• Deendayal Upadhyaya (25 September 1916 – 11 February 1968) was an Indian politician, noted thinker, philosopher and the leader of the political party Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), the forerunner of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
• Upadhyaya started the monthly publication Rashtra Dharma in the 1940s, while involved with the RSS, to spread Hindutva ideology.
• He launched the weekly Panchjanya and the daily Swadesh.
• He wrote a drama Chandragupta Maurya in Hindi and later wrote a biography of Shankaracharya.
7. Renowned Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri was conferred the Jnanpith award.
Why in News?

Renowned Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri was conferred the Jnanpith award, the country's highest literary award.

Jnanpith Award

- Jnanpith Award is literary award presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their “outstanding contribution towards literature“.
- Instituted in 1961, the award is bestowed only on Indian writers writing in Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English, with no posthumous conferral.
- From 1965 till 1981, the award was given to the authors for their “most outstanding work” and consisted of a citation plaque, a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, and a bronze replica of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of knowledge and wisdom.
8. India, Pak. trade charges at SAARC, CICA meets
**Why in news?**

India and Pakistan crossed swords over terrorism and Jammu and Kashmir at the Foreign Minister’s meetings of the 8-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the 27-nation Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

**SAARC:**

- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was **established in Dhaka on 8 December 1985.**
- Originally there were 7 members in the SAARC.
- Afghanistan became the **8th member of the SAARC** organisation in the summit held in the Dhaka in November **2005.**
- Currently there are **8 members** in the SAARC organisation i.e. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- The SAARC comprises 3% of the world’s area, 21% of the world’s population and 4.21% (US$3.67 trillion) of the global economy, as of 2019.
- The Secretariat of the Association was set up in Kathmandu on 17 January 1987.
- It launched the **South Asian Free Trade Area** in 2006.
CICA:
- The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
- The idea of convening the CICA was first proposed by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev on 5 October 1992, at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

CoiNex
- At the video conference of SAARC Health Ministers on COVID-19 hosted by Pakistan on 23 April 2020, India developed an electronic platform, namely ‘SAARC COVID19 Information Exchange Platform (COINEX)’ for use by all SAARC countries.
- The platform will be launched for exchange of specialized information and tools on COVID-19 among designated health professionals in the region.
- COINEX will also offer and facilitate various online training resources and e-learning modules.

The SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund
- On March 15, 2020, during a video conference of the SAARC Heads of State and Government, India proposed a Coronavirus Emergency Fund.
- This emergency fund was set up in response to the global coronavirus pandemic.
- The initiative seeks to mitigate the risks associated with the coronavirus pandemic in the South Asian region.
- It is based on voluntary contributions from all SAARC members.
- India announced donating $10 million as its initial contribution to support the initiative.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has also constituted the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund with the help of corporate bodies, foundations and the UN Foundation.
Economic and Social Development
1. Banks Board Bureau (BBB)
Why in news?
The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has recommended to the government names of 13 general managers of various public sector banks (PSBs) for appointment as executive directors.

Banks Board Bureau (BBB)

- Banks Board Bureau (BBB) is an autonomous body of the Government tasked to improve
- the governance of Public Sector Banks, recommend selection of chiefs of government owned banks and financial institutions and to help banks in developing strategies and capital raising plans.
- In February 2016, the NDA government approved the proposal for setting up BBB and it started functioning from April 2016.
- The BBB works as step towards governance reforms in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as recommended by P.J. Nayak Committee.
2. Foundation laid for National highway projects
Why in news?
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for nine National Highway Projects worth Rs 14000 crore in Bihar and launched the project to provide internet services through Optical Fibre in the state today through video conferencing.

National Highways Development Project (NHDP)

- The National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is a project to upgrade, rehabilitate and widen major highways in India to a higher standard.
- The project was started in 1998 under the leadership of Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- National Highways account for only about 2% of the total length of roads, but carry about 40% of the total traffic across the length and breadth of the country.
- This project is managed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways.
- The NHDP represents 49,260 km of roads and highways work and construction in order to boost economic development of the country.
- The government has planned to end the NHDP program in early 2018 and consume the ongoing projects under a larger Bharatmala project.
3. Parliament passes Insolvency and Bankruptcy code bill
Why in news?
The Lok Sabha passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, which provides that insolvency proceedings against defaulting companies will not be initiated for at least six months starting from March 25.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy code, 2016
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) is the bankruptcy law of India which seeks to consolidate the existing framework by creating a single law for insolvency and bankruptcy.
- The bankruptcy code is a one stop solution for resolving insolvencies which previously was a long process that did not offer an economically viable arrangement.
- The code aims to protect the interests of small investors and make the process of doing business less cumbersome.
The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill 2020

• It suspended the application of three provisions (Sections 7, 9 and 10 of the IBC) to prevent any company, stressed due to the COVID-19 situation, from being pushed into insolvency proceedings.
• Sections 7 and 9 pertain to the initiation of corporate insolvency proceedings by a financial creditor and an operational creditor, respectively.
• Section 10 relates to filing an application for insolvency resolution by a corporate.
• The Code provides a time-bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals.
• Insolvency is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.
• When an organisation is unable to honour its financial obligations or make payment to its creditors, it files for bankruptcy. A petition is filed in the court for the same where all the outstanding debts of the company are measured and paid out if not in full from the company’s assets.
• The Bill seeks to temporarily suspend initiation of the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) under the Code.
• It replaces the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 promulgated on June 5, 2020.
4. TRAI recommends body to monitor net neutrality
The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is a statutory body set up by the Government of India under section 3 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. It is the regulator of the telecommunications sector in India. It consists of a Chairperson and not more than two full-time members and not more than two part-time members. The TRAI Act was amended by an ordinance, effective from 24 January 2000, establishing a Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) to take over the adjudicatory and disputes functions from TRAI.

What is Net neutrality

Network neutrality, most commonly called net neutrality, is the principle that Internet service providers (ISPs) must treat all Internet communications equally, and not discriminate or charge differently based on user, content, website, platform, application, type of equipment, source address, destination address, or method of communication.

Without net neutrality, ISPs may prioritize certain types of traffic, meter others, or potentially block traffic from specific services, while charging consumers for various tiers of service.

The discrimination of content includes practices like blocking, degrading, slowing down or granting preferential speeds or treatment to any content.

The term was coined by Columbia University media law professor Tim Wu in 2003, as an extension of the longstanding concept of a common carrier, which was used to describe the role of telephone systems.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India recommended the creation of a multi-stakeholder body (MSB) to ensure that Internet access providers adhere to the provisions of net neutrality.
5. State development loan
Why in news?

- Eleven States raised a total of Rs. 14,298 crore at the auction of State government securities or State development loans (SDLs) held on September 22.
- From April 7 to September 22 in this financial year, 27 States and 2 Union Territories have cumulatively raised Rs. 3.26 lakh crore via market borrowings, which is a 45% increase from the borrowings in the corresponding period of 2019-20.

What is SDL

- State Development Loans (SDLs) are dated securities issued by states for meeting their market borrowings requirements.
- In effect, the SDL are similar to the dated securities issued by the central government. Purpose of issuing State Development Loans is to meet the budgetary needs of state governments.
- Each state can borrow upto a set limit through State Development Loans.
- The SDL securities issued by states are credible collateral for meeting the SLR requirements of banks as well as a collateral for availing liquidity under the RBI’s LAF including the repo.
- It is a market oriented instrument for states to mobilise funds from the open market.
6. MSP will be continued
Why in news?

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has assured farmers that MSP will be continued at a time when farmers are concerned about the MSP after the newly passed farm bills

Minimum support price

- MSP is the **minimum price paid to the farmer** for procuring food crops.
- It offers an assurance to farmers that their realisation for the agricultural produce will not fall below the stated price.
- The government uses the MSP as a **market intervention tool** to incentivise production of a specific food crop which is in short supply.
- It also **protects farmers from any sharp fall** in the market price of a commodity.
- MSPs are usually announced at **the beginning of the sowing season** and this helps farmers make informed decisions on the crops they must plant.
- MSP is computed on the basis of the **recommendations made by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- It considers factors such as the cost of production, change in input prices, market price trends, demand and supply, and a reasonable margin for farmers.
- The Centre has increased the **MSP of kharif crops for 2020-21 crop year in line with the principle of fixing MSPs** at a level which is at 1.5 times the cost of production that was announced in Union Budget 2018-19.
- **Crops covered under MSP**: Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Maize, Tur, Moong, Urad, groundnut, sunflower seed, soyabean, nigerseed, Cotton and sesamum
7. RBI releases document on UCBs’ cybersecurity
**Why in News?**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come out with a document to enhance cybersecurity of urban co-operative banks (UCBs).

**Urban Co-operative banks**

Co-operative banks, which are distinct from commercial banks, were born out of the concept of co-operative credit societies where members from a community band together to extend loans to each other, at favourable terms.

- Credit co-operatives (or co-operative banks) are broadly classified into urban or rural co-operative banks based on their region of operation.
- Urban co-op banks are classified into scheduled and non-scheduled banks.
- RBI had announced a scheme on voluntary transition of UCBs into Small Finance bank in September, 2018.

- **Small Finance Banks are a specific segment of banking created by RBI** under the guidance of Government of India with an objective of furthering financial inclusion by primarily undertaking basic banking activities to un-served and underserved sections including small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries and unorganized entities.
8. IRDAI lists ‘too big to fail’ organisations
Why in news?

The Insurance Regulator and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has named three public sector insurance companies — Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), General Insurance Corporation (GIC Re) and New India Assurance — as ‘too big or too important to fail’ (TBTF) institutions.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

- It is an autonomous, statutory body tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.
- It was constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, an Act of Parliament passed by the Government of India.
- The agency's headquarters are in Hyderabad, Telangana, where it moved from Delhi in 2001.
- IRDAI is a 10-member body including the chairman, five full-time and four part-time members appointed by the government of India.
Environment, biodiversity and Ecology
1. More than 300 African elephants died
Why in news?

Neuro-toxins in water produced by cyanobacteria killed more than 300 African elephants in the Okavango delta region, Botswana (country in Southern Africa).

Cyanobacteria

- These are a group of photosynthetic bacteria, some of which are nitrogen-fixing, that live in a wide variety of moist soils and water either freely or in a symbiotic relationship with plants or lichen-forming fungi (as in the lichen genus Peltigera).
- They range from unicellular to filamentous and include colonial species.
- Colonies may form filaments, sheets, or even hollow spheres.

African Elephants

- African elephants are the largest land animals on Earth.
- They are slightly larger than their Asian cousins and can be identified by their larger ears that look somewhat like the continent of Africa. (Asian elephants have smaller, rounded ears.)
- African elephants are a keystone species, meaning they play a critical role in their ecosystem.
- Also known as "ecosystem engineers," elephants shape their habitat in many ways.
- During the dry season, they use their tusks to dig up dry riverbeds and create watering holes many animals can drink from.

They’re protected under international environmental agreements, CITES and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species.
2. EPCA asks Punjab Haryana to act against stubble burning
Why in news?
The Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority wrote to the chief secretaries of Punjab and Haryana stating that early burning of crop residue was taking place and urged them to address the issue “urgently”.

EPCA

- **EPCA** is **Supreme Court mandated body** tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- It was notified in **1998 by the Environment Ministry** under Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- Its mandate is to protect and improve the quality of the **environment and prevent and control environmental pollution in the NCR**.
- It is also **mandated to enforce Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** in NCR that defines specific measures to tackle different levels of air pollution throughout the year.
- **It has 14 members** including environment secretary of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT), chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council, transport commissioner of the NCT, the commissioners of various municipal corporations of Delhi and professors at IIT Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University.

What is Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)?

- **GRAP was notified in 2017** by the Centre and draws its authority from this notification.
- GRAP works only as an **emergency measure**.
- As such, the plan does not include action by various state governments to be taken throughout the year to tackle industrial, vehicular and combustion emissions.
• When the air quality shifts from poor to very poor, the measures listed under both sections have to be followed since the plan is incremental in nature.
• If air quality reaches the severe+ stage, GRAP talks about shutting down schools and implementing the odd-even road-space rationing scheme.

Why in news?
The U.S. is guilty of “obstructing” the global fight against emissions, China said, as Beijing seized the climate agenda by vowing to go carbon neutral by 2060, a target welcomed by environmentalists despite its patchy detail.

What is carbon neutrality
• Carbon neutrality means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks.
• Removing carbon oxide from the atmosphere and then storing it is known as carbon sequestration. In order to achieve net zero emissions, all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions will have to be counterbalanced by carbon sequestration.
• Another way to reduce emissions and to pursue carbon neutrality is to offset emissions made in one sector by reducing them somewhere else.
• This can be done through investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency or other clean, low-carbon technologies.
3. China vows to go carbon neutral by 2060
Intended Nationally determined contributions

- Countries across the globe committed to create a new international climate agreement by the conclusion of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris in December 2015.
- In preparation, countries have agreed to publicly outline what post-2020 climate actions they intend to take under a new international agreement, known as their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).
Indian Polity and Governance
1. Twelve parties give no-trust notice
Why In News

Twelve opposition parties gave notice for a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, accusing him of violating the parliamentary procedures in trying to pass the farm sector Bills in haste, circumventing all demands for proper voting.

Removal of Deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha

- Rajya Sabha elects a Deputy Chairman to perform the functions of the Chairman in case of a vacancy in the office of the Chairman or when the Vice-President is acting as or discharging the functions of the President.
- Article 90 deals with “vacation and resignation of, and removal from, the office of Deputy Chairman a member holding office as Deputy Chairman of the Council of States”.
- A member holding office as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha may be removed from his office by a resolution of the Rajya Sabha passed by a majority of all the then members of the Rajya Sabha; but the resolution can be moved only when at least fourteen days’ notice has been given of the intention of moving
No confidence motion

- A no-confidence motion is a parliamentary motion which is moved in the Lok Sabha against the entire council of ministers, stating that they are no longer deemed fit to hold positions of responsibility due to their inadequacy in some respect or their failure to carry out their obligations. No prior reason needs to be stated for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.
- The motion of “No Confidence Motion” against the Government can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha under rule 198.
- The Constitution of India does not mention about either a Confidence or a No Confidence Motion. Although, Article 75 does specify that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

Why in News

Six members of two Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (Bondas and Didiyais) in Odisha contracted Covid-19, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has sought a report from the state government and has termed it a “matter of grave concern”.
2. Corona found in members of PVTGs
PVTGs

- Tribal communities are often identified by some specific signs such as primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness to contact with the community at large and backwardness.
- Along with these, some tribal groups have some specific features such as dependency on hunting, gathering for food, having pre-agriculture level of technology, zero or negative growth of population and extremely low level of literacy. These groups are called Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

Why in News

Eight opposition members from Congress, CPI(M), Trinamool Congress and AAP were suspended for their unparliamentary behaviour in the upper House on Sunday, during the passage of two agri-Bills.

Rule Number 373 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business says:

Opinion that the conduct of any Member is grossly disorderly, may direct such Member to withdraw immediately from the House, and any Member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall remain absent during the remainder of the day’s sitting.”

To deal with more recalcitrant Members, the Speaker make take recourse to Rules 374 and 374A.
3. Rajya Sabha MPs suspended
Rule 374 says:

1. The Speaker may, if deems it necessary, name a Member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the House by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business there of.

2. If a Member is so named by the Speaker, the Speaker shall, on a motion being made forthwith put the question that the Member (naming such Member) be suspended from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session: Provided that the House may, at any time, on a motion being made, resolve that such suspension be terminated.
4. YuWaah
Why in News?

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) have signed a “Statement of Intent to establish YuWaah, Generation Unlimited (GenU), a global multi-stakeholder platform in India.

As per the Statement of Intent, the objectives of this project are:

• **Support young people** by providing entrepreneurship classes (online and offline) with successful entrepreneurs and experts, towards establishing entrepreneurial mindset among young people.

• Upskilling of young people on 21st century skills, life skills, digital skills through online and offline channels and support them through self-learning, for their productive lives and the future of work.

• **Create linkages with aspirational economic opportunities** to connect young people with employment opportunities, including building pathways to connect them with jobs or self-employment. For this, innovative solutions and technology platforms will be engaged to take maximize the scale and reach.

• **Providing career guidance** support to young people through career portal as well as through job-readiness and self-exploration sessions to make young people career-ready.

• The role of Department of Youth Affairs in this project is to provide relevant experts to participate on the YuWaah Technical Working Groups/ Task Forces.
5. More opposition against Tripura bru resettlement
Who are the Brus?

- Bru or Reang is a community indigenous to Northeast India, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram and Assam.
- In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.
- In Mizoram, they have been targeted by groups that do not consider them indigenous to the state.
- In 1997, following ethnic clashes, nearly 37,000 Brus fled Mamit, Kolasib and Lunglei districts of Mizoram and were accommodated in relief camps in Tripura.
- Since then, 5,000 have returned to Mizoram in eight phases of repatriation, while 32,000 still live in six relief camps in North Tripura.
6. 40% toilets in govt. schools nonexistent, unused: CAG
Why in news?

Public sector units claimed to have constructed 1.4 lakh toilets in government schools as part of a Right to Education project, but almost 40% of those surveyed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) were found to be non-existent, partially constructed, or unused.

Swachh Bharat: Swachh Vidyalaya is the national campaign driving ‘Clean India: Clean Schools’.

- A key feature of the campaign is to ensure that every school in India has a set of functioning and well maintained water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene in schools refers to a combination of technical and human development components that are necessary to produce a healthy school environment and to develop or support appropriate health and hygiene behaviours.
- The technical components include drinking water, hand washing, toilet and soap facilities in the school compound for use by children and teachers.
- The human development components are the activities that promote conditions within the school and the practices of children that help to prevent water, hygiene and sanitation related diseases.
7. IAF bought uncertified UAV Engines at inflated prices: CAG
What is UAV

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) popularly known as Drone, is an airborne system or an aircraft.
- It is operated remotely by a human operator or autonomously by an onboard computer.
- Drone surveillance technology has emerged as an important and cost-effective tool for security surveillance over large areas with limited manpower.
- Drones were used to enforce lockdown and monitor the movement of migrants during the COVID-19 lockdown.
- Remotely piloted aircraft have been divided into five categories based on their weight:
  - Nano: Less than or equal to 250 grams.
  - Micro: From 250 grams to 2kg.
  - Small: From 2 kg to 25kg.
  - Medium: From 25kg to 150kg.
  - Large: Greater than 150kg.
8. Eights bills passed on the last day of RS
Why in News?
Rajya Sabha passed **eight bills on the last day of the monsoon session**. The House was adjourned after the bills were passed.

Key details
- The House passed **eight Bills in less than four hours** as the Opposition boycotted the proceedings over the manner in which two farm bills were passed.
- In the 10 sittings, **25 bills were passed and 6 bills introduced**.
- The productivity of the House during this session has been **100.47 %**.
- During the day, the House passed the following legislations: The bills included the FCRA Bill, 2020; the Bilateral Netting of Qualified Financial Contracts Bill, 2020; and the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020, three labour codes were passed and two appropriation bills were approved by the House.
   • It is a bill that proposes to include public servants in the prohibited category to provide that no foreign contribution shall be accepted by them.
   • It has also sought to prohibit any transfer of foreign contribution to any other association or person.

   • The Bill, seeks to include Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi as the official languages in the newly created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
   • Earlier, only English and Urdu were the official languages in the former State.
   • The Bill has been passed by both Houses.

   • The Bill seeks to provide a legal framework for bilateral netting of qualified financial contracts which are over the counter derivatives contracts.
   • Bilateral netting refers to offsetting claims arising from dealings between two parties to determine the net amount payable or receivable from one party to the other.
   • Qualified financial contracts (QFC): QFC means any bilateral contract notified as a QFC by the relevant authority.
4) The Occupational Safety Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020
• The Occupational Safety Code subsumes and replaces 13 labour laws relating to safety, health and working conditions.
• These laws include: Factories Act, 1948; Mines Act, 1952; Dock Workers Act, 1986; Contract Labour Act, 1970; and Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979, which has been highlighted during the recent migrant workers crisis due to COVID-19.

5) The Industrial Relations Code, 2020
• The Code provides for the recognition of trade unions; notice periods for strikes and lock-outs, standing orders, and resolution of industrial disputes.
• It would subsume and replaces three labour laws: The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; the Trade Unions Act, 1926; and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.

6) The Code on Social Security, 2020
• The Bill replaces nine laws related to social security.
• These include the Employees’ Provident Fund Act, 1952, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, and the Unorganised Workers’ Social Security Act, 2008.

7) The Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2020
Provides for authorization of appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on March 31, 2017, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.
8) The Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2020
The Appropriation (No 4) Bill, 2020 authorizes payment and appropriation of certain further sums out of the Consolidated Fund of India for services of the financial year 2020-2021.
1. ICMR’s second sero-survey ends
Why in news?
The Indian Council of Medical Research has completed its second national sero-survey to gauge the prevalence of COVID-19.

What is sero survey

- **Serological surveys are usually used to quantify the proportion** of people or animals in a population positive for a specific pathogen.
- Such serological surveys are increasingly being used by States.
- The prominent objective behind such surveys is to **check for levels of ‘herd immunity’**, or if 60%-70% of the population have encountered the infection. This level of exposure is believed to be effective in protecting the rest of those uninfected.
- **A serological survey is conducted to assess the prevalence of a disease in a population.**
- It is done by detecting the presence of specific antibodies that are produced against the virus.
- A serological survey includes the IgG Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test.

It estimates the proportion of the population exposed to SARS-CoV-2 infection.
2. India based Neutrino Observatory
Why in news?

An India based Neutrino Observatory (INO) is going to be set up in Bodi West Hills, in Theni district, Tamil Nadu.

Neutrino observatory

- India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) is a particle physics research project under construction to primarily study atmospheric neutrinos in a 1,200 meters (3,900 ft) deep cave under INO Peak near Theni, Tamil Nadu, India.
- This project is notable in that it is anticipated to provide a precise measurement of neutrino mixing parameters.
- The project is a multi-institute collaboration and one of the biggest experimental particle physics projects undertaken in India.

Neutrinos

- A neutrino is a subatomic particle that is very similar to an electron, but has no electrical charge and a very small mass, which might even be zero.
- Neutrinos are one of the most abundant particles in the universe.
- Because they have very little interaction with matter, however, they are incredibly difficult to detect.
- To detect neutrinos, very large and very sensitive detectors are required. Typically, a low-energy neutrino will travel through many light-years of normal matter before interacting with anything.
3. It’s National Medical Commission now
Why in news?
The National Medical Commission (NMC) has replaced the Medical Council of India (BoG-MCI), as per information released by the Health Ministry

- National Medical Commission (NMC) is an Indian regulatory body of 33 members which regulates medical education and medical professionals.
- It replaced the Medical Council of India on 25 September 2020.
- The Commission grants recognition of medical qualifications, gives accreditation to medical schools, grants registration to medical practitioners, and monitors medical practice and assess the medical infrastructure in India.
- It was earlier established for 6 months by an ordinance in January 2019 and later became a permanent law passed by Parliament of India and later approved by President of India on 8 August 2019.
- The NITI Aayog had recommended the replacement of Medical Council of India (MCI) with National Medical Commission (NMC)
History of India including art and culture
1. Ganapati deva and Kakati Devi
**Why in news?**

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has replaced the Medical Council of India (BoG-MCI), as per information released by the Health Ministry

- Ganapati Deva is the first king who introduced the worship of **Kakati Devi** into the coastal region of Andhra and outside the dominions of his kingdom.
- Later, the abode was developed under the patronage of **Ganapamba**.
- The goddess is gracefully seated in **Padmasana** with eight hands. Her facial physiognomic features are oval, distinguished with slender cheeks, wide open eyes, an elongated nose and closed tender pair of lips.
- She has eight hands and poses eight different special attributes. Her lower right hand is benevolently blessing the devotees.

**Architectural features**

- The ceiling bears **decorations of lotus medallions and no sikhara** on its top.
- These architectural features are totally akin to their counterparts found in shrines at Hanamkonda and Warangal fort etc., - the original home land of Kakatiya dynasty,
- With passage of time, when patrons became extinct the shrine was neglected and unpreserved, the idol rolled out from its original place in the sanctum and mutilated.
- Currently, the idol is placed in a small shelter on the southern side of the temple, locally known as **Gollabhama Gudi**.
Kakatiya dynasty

- The Kakatiya dynasty was a South Indian dynasty whose capital was Orugallu, now known as Warangal. It was eventually conquered by the Delhi Sultanate.
- The dynasty's name derives from the word "Kakati", which is thought to be the name of a goddess.
- Much of the information about the Kakatiya period comes from inscriptions, including around 1,000 stone inscriptions, and 12 copper-plate inscriptions.
- Most of these inscriptions document matters relating to religion, such as donations to Hindu temples.
- They are particularly abundant for the period 1175–1324 CE, which is the period when the dynasty most flourished and are a reflection of that.
- The probability is that many inscriptions have been lost due to buildings falling into disuse and also the ravages of subsequent rulers, most notably the Muslim Mughal Empire in the Telangana region.