

**NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC****Bodo Agreement**

A historic agreement was signed between Government of India, Government of Assam and Bodo representatives to end the over 50-year old Bodo crisis.

**Key highlights of the agreement:**

- Increase the scope and powers of the Bodo Territorial Council (BTC) and to streamline its functioning;
- Set up a commission under Section 14 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, to recommend the inclusion or exclusion of tribal population residing in villages adjoining Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) areas;
- The Government of Assam will establish a Bodo-Kachari Welfare Council;
- The Assam government will also notify Bodo language as an associate official language in the state and will set up a separate directorate for Bodo medium schools;
- promote and protect Bodo's social, cultural, linguistic and ethnic identities;
- Providing legislative protection for the land rights of tribals;
- A Special Development Package Rs. 1500 crores over three years will be given by the Union Government to undertake specific projects for the development of Bodo areas.
- Rehabilitate members of National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB) factions (With this agreement, over 1500 armed cadres will abjure violence and join the mainstream).

**GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.****Gott Project Management Unit (PMU)**

Government eMarketplace (GeM), under the Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce) and Government of Uttar Pradesh, signed a MoU to set up a GeM Organizational Transformation Team (GOTT) Project Management Unit (PMU) in the State.

**About:**

- The PMU to be setup under the MoU will make it easier for MSMEs of U.P. to onboard and transact on GeM. GOTT will assist the buyer agency to redesign the procurement processes and enhance competencies to derive maximum benefit from the online marketplace.
- The Government of Uttar Pradesh is the second State after Punjab to establish a GOTT-PMU for efficient and transparent procurement. Among the CPSEs, SAIL has already signed MoU for setting up a PMU.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS****75th Anniversary of The Liberation Of Auschwitz**

On January 27, 2020, survivors of the Holocaust and international heads of state marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

**About:**

- During the Second World War, the government of Nazi Germany killed approximately 17 million people across Europe in half a dozen camps specifically designated for killings.
- Of these seven killing centers, the camp at Auschwitz (in German-occupied Poland), perhaps the most well known, was the largest in size. In many ways, Auschwitz has become the center of Holocaust history and research and serves as a reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust.
- Allied forces entered Auschwitz on January 27, 1945, finding hundreds of sick, starving and exhausted prisoners, who had somehow survived. In 2005, the UN-designated January 27 as the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT****3rd Global Potato Conclave**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the 3rd Global Potato Conclave at Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 28th of January 2020. The Potato Conference will be held for 3 days during 28-30 January, 2020.

**About:**

- Bodies involved: The Conclave is being organized by Indian Potato Association (IPA) in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, and ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla and International Potato Center (CIP), Lima, Peru.
- Background: The present conclave is the third in the series. During last two decades two Global Potato Conferences were organized during 1999, and 2008.

- Aim: The Conclave will provide an opportunity so that all the issues are discussed and future plans are made involving everyone related to the potato sector.

**Gujarat and Potato sector:** Gujarat is one of the leading producers of Potato in the country. In the last eleven years alone, while the area under potato in India, has increased by 19%, it has increased by about 170% in Gujarat. With a productivity of more than 30t/ha, Gujarat is holding the No. 1 position in India for last one decade.

### **Related-Party Transactions**

A working group, put in place by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in November 2019, has proposed significant changes to strengthen the regulatory framework for related-party transactions that have been the subject of many corporate governance matters.

### **Recommendations made:**

- Broaden the definition of RPTs (related-party transactions) to include transactions which are undertaken, whether directly or indirectly, with the intention of benefitting related parties.
- An audit committee approval must be made mandatory for transactions between a listed entity or its subsidiary with its related party.
- Any entity related to the promoter or promoter group should be considered a related party. Further, any entity holding — directly or indirectly along with their relatives — 20% or more stake in the company should also be considered a related party.

## **DEFENCE AND SECURITY**

### **National Security Act (NSA), 1980**

Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Anil Bajjal has issued an order giving the Police Commissioner the power to detain individuals under the tough National Security Act (NSA), 1980.

### **About:**

- The National Security Act, 1980 is described as “an Act to provide for preventive detention in certain cases and for matters connected therewith”.
- The Act has been widely criticised as being “draconian” because of the powers of preventive detention that it gives to the government.
- The detention under the NSA can extend up to 12 months — or even for longer if the government is able to produce more evidence against the detainee.

## **PRELIMS SPECIFIC FACTS- INDICES, DAYS, EVENTS, AWARDS ETC**

### **Gallantry Awards 2020**

India’s third-highest gallantry medal in peacetime, Shaurya Chakra, has been awarded to six Army and three police personnel for conspicuous bravery in counter-terror operations.

### **About:**

- Order of precedence of these awards is the Param Vir Chakra, the Ashoka Chakra, the Mahavir Chakra, the Kirti Chakra, the Vir Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra.
- Announcement: These gallantry awards are announced twice in a year - first on the occasion of the Republic Day and then on the occasion of the Independence Day.
- Shaurya Chakra is awarded to the armed forces for instances of extraordinary gallantry.
- President Kovind also approved four Uttam Yudh Seva Medals (UYSM) for top Army generals including Lt. Gen. Y K Joshi, who will soon take charge of the Northern Army Command.
- The President also approved five Nao Sena Medals (gallantry), four Bar to Sena Medals (devotion to duty), 36 Sena Medals (devotion to duty), eight Nao Sena Medals (devotion to duty), one Bar to Vayu Sena Medal (devotion to duty) and 13 Vayu Sena Medals (devotion to duty).

## **ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**

### **Rukuna Ratha Yatra**

During the Republic Day celebrations of 2020, the tableau of Odisha displayed the famous Rukuna Ratha Yatra of Lord Lingaraja worshipped as both Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu in a sixth century built temple named 'Lingaraj Temple' at Bhubaneswar.

### **About:**

- Rukuna Rath Yatra of Lord Lingaraj in Bhubaneswar is one of the biggest festival of the city.
- The Chariot Festival of Lord Lingaraja is celebrated at Bhubaneswar on the day of Ashokastami or Basanti Durga Puja. The festival takes place in the month of Chaitra (March-April) the day preceding Ramanavami.
- On the day of Ashokastami 3 deities i.e. Chandrasekhar – the representative of lord Lingaraja, Rukmini & Basudeva are ceremonially brought to ascend chariot.

- After that, the chariot is drawn to Rameswara temple and remained there for four days called Gundicha Gharand on the fifth day the three deities start the return journey called Bahuda.

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns. India needs to focus on quality and unique solutions through technology to improve delivery systems of education. Comment.**

**Ans:**

In recent decades, India has increased school enrolment but struggled to deliver actual learning. An annual survey conducted by the NGO Pratham spotlights large learning deficits in basic reading and arithmetic. Only half of Class V students can read texts meant for Class II. More than half the students in Class VIII struggle to do simple division. Education technology (Edtech), mainly information and communication technology, can address these problems by delivering better lessons, training teachers and motivating students.

Uses of Technology in the Education Sector

- Edtech can help to deliver high-quality lessons in a variety of formats: text, video, games and interactive tutorials.
- A deeper benefit of edtech is the ability to tailor lessons as per the progress of the student. For example Mindspark, a computer-assisted learning software, delivers lessons through videos, games and questions on computers and tablets. The software analyses each student's learning level pitches content suitable for this level and adjusts the difficulty according to the student's progress.
- Edtech can also help in capacity building of the teachers. For example, Kenya's literacy program Tusome, uses coaches equipped with tablets who visit classrooms, evaluate student reading skills, provide tailored advice to teachers and upload assessment data to administrators.
- Availability of broadband and hi-speed internet along with low-cost computers to tier 2 and tier 3 cities has made learning through distance mode seamless without any glitches.
- Use of technology-enabled teaching aids- projector, powerpoint presentation, animated tutorials, digital gadgets for notes making, etc. has made Classroom-based learning smart and adaptive to students' needs.
- Online learning management system: Many colleges and universities in India are integrating online Learning Management System or LMS platform into their web portal. Students can remotely login to access course material and also attend live classes with teachers. Pre-recorded lectures, videos can be uploaded on the LMS platform making it easy for students to go through it multiple times.

Challenges of use of Education Technology in India: Despite the early implementation of technologies in the education system, India still faces teething problems for the new technologies in education.

- Not enough or limited access to computer hardware & computer software in educational institutes.
- Lack of time in the school schedule for projects involving the use of technologies.
- Lack of adequate technical support and necessary infrastructure for educational institutes.
- Lack of sufficient teacher training.
- Lack of knowledge about ways to integrate technologies to enhance the curriculum.
- Education technologies integration is not a priority due to some vested interest.
- Students and Teachers do not have access to the necessary technology at home.

Conclusion

- Taking advantage of the edtech opportunity will require deep collaboration between the government, private sector and NGOs.
- To enable technology in India, computer-based learning system must be introduced from the junior level so that the students become computer savvy from a very young age and are not afraid of using Education Technology when actually needed.

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs**

1. Which of the following is India's third-highest gallantry medal in peacetime?  
(a) **Shaurya Chakra**  
(b) Param Vir Chakra  
(c) Mahavir Chakra  
(d) Vir Chakra
2. With reference to the National Security Act (NSA), 1980, consider the following statements:
  1. The National Security Act, 1980 is described as "an Act to provide for preventive detention in certain cases and for matters connected therewith".

2. The detention under the NSA can extend up to 12 months — or even for longer if the government is able to produce more evidence against the detainee.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
(a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) **Both 1 and 2**  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Which of the following proposed by the working group, put in place SEBI changes to strengthen the regulatory framework for related-party transactions that have been the subject of many corporate governance matters?  
1. Broaden the definition of RPTs (related-party transactions) to include transactions which are undertaken, whether directly or indirectly, with the intention of benefitting related parties.  
2. An audit committee approval must be made mandatory for transactions between a listed entity or its subsidiary with its related party.  
3. Any entity related to the promoter or promoter group should be considered a related party.  
Select the correct answer using the code given below:  
(a) 1 only  
(b) 1 and 2 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only  
(d) **1, 2 and 3**
4. With reference to the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, consider the following statements:  
1. The camp was located at Auschwitz in German-occupied Poland.  
2. In 2005, the UN-designated January 27 as the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
(a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) **Both 1 and 2**  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. With reference to the Bodo agreement, consider the following statements:  
1. Set up a commission under Section 14 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, to recommend the inclusion or exclusion of tribal population residing in villages adjoining Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) areas.  
2. The Government of Assam will establish a Bodo-Kachari Welfare Council.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
(a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) **Both 1 and 2**  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. Which of the following is the second State after Punjab to establish a GOTT-PMU for efficient and transparent procurement?  
(a) **Uttar Pradesh**  
(b) Bihar  
(c) West Bengal  
(d) Odisha