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RAPID REVISION SERIES (RRS)

**500 HIGH PROBABLE
TOPICS FOR UPSC
PRELIMS 2020**

TOPIC 216-235



YouTube Initiative



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Session 15

**Rapid Revision Series
of
500 HIGH PROBABLE TOPICS
for
PRELIMS 2020**



TOPICS TO REVISE

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217. Clouded leopard
218. Northern River Terrapin
219. Red-Crowned Roof Turtle
220. South Asian narrow-headed softshell turtle
221. Black Softshell Turtle
222. Asian Giant Softshell Turtle
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233. Ghumot
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235. Queen Prabhavatigupta



Topic 216: Red Panda

Key points:

1. Status: IUCN – Endangered
2. Found in:
 - montane forests with dense bamboo-thicket
 - deciduous and coniferous forests of the eastern Himalayas
 - endemic to the temperate forests of the Himalayas
3. Unique characteristics:
 - They are arboreal
 - Feeds mainly on bamboo, but also eats eggs, birds, and insects
 - Solitary animal
 - Mainly active from dusk to dawn
 - Largely sedentary during the day





Topic 217: Clouded leopard

Key points:

1. Status:
 - IUCN status – Vulnerable
 - CITES Appendix I animal
2. Habitat
 - Forest, Shrubland
 - Found in 9 countries
 - Dampa tiger reserve in Mizoram
3. State animal of Meghalaya





Five freshwater turtles

Turtles	Location	IUCN Status
1. Northern River Terrapin(Batagur baska)	Sunderbans	Critically Endangered
2. Red-Crowned Roof Turtle(Batagurkachuga)	National Chambal Sanctuary,spread across Uttar Pradesh,Rajasthan and MadhyaPradesh.	Critically endangered
3. South Asian Narrow-Headed Softshell Turtle(Chitra indica)	Gangetic river system	Endangered
4. Black Softshell Turtle(Nilssonianigricans)	Temple ponds in Assam and Bengal	Extinct in the wild
5. Asian Giant Softshell Turtle (Pelochelyscantorii)	In the eastern part of thecountry	Critically Endangered



Topic 218: Northern River Terrapin

Key points:

1. IUCN status – Critically Endangered
2. HABITAT – Marine Coastal/Supratidal, Marine Neritic, Wetlands (inland), Forest
3. Found in Bangladesh (in the Sundarbans), India (parts- West Bengal & Odisha), Myanmar (Extinct) and Thailand (Extinct)
4. Scientific name - Batagur baska





Topic 219: Red-Crowned Roof Turtle



Key points:

1. Found in Bangladesh, India, Nepal
2. IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
3. Found only within the National Chambal River Sanctuary
4. Breeding: Crocodile Bank Trust

Topic 220: South Asian narrow-headed softshell turtle



Key points:

1. Found in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan
2. IUCN Red List: Endangered



Topic 221: Black Softshell Turtle



Key points:

1. Found in Bangladesh and India
2. IUCN Red List: Extinct in the Wild
3. But a few temple ponds in Assam and Bangladesh are bringing these turtles back from the brink.
4. Hayagriva Madhab Temple at Hajo, Assam
5. Haduk Beel (wetland) of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary – a.k.a ‘Mini Kaziranga’

Topic 222: Asian Giant Softshell Turtle



Key points:

1. IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
2. China, South Asia, Southeast Asia



Topic 223: Sovereign bonds

Key points:

1. Govt debt securities issued in overseas markets in foreign currency denominations
2. Currently, the Govt only issues bonds in the domestic market in rupees
3. About Overseas Sovereign bonds:
 - Indian govt borrows from overseas markets
 - Floated type
 - Both the initial loan amount and the final payment will be in either US dollars or some other comparable currency

Issue with Sovereign Bonds

Case for sovereign bonds



- » Raise cheaper and very long-term funds overseas
- » Softer interest rates as some govt borrowing shifts overseas
- » More space in domestic market for local borrowers
- » Low external debt means risks are contained

Case against

- » Not so cheap after considering hedging cost
- » Raises external risks for India
- » Can lead to greater currency fluctuation
- » Better option is raise FPI limit in govt bonds

The sovereign bonds issuance which is basically intended to ease the pressure on the domestic availability of resources, specially into the private sector, was a very well-considered decision. It has enormous benefits and the risks are much less

Subhash Chandra Garg
Power Secretary





Topic 224: Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21

Key points:

1. They are G-secs denominated in grams of gold
2. Issued by RBI on behalf of the GoI
3. Eligibility for investment
4. Tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with exit option in 5th, 6th year and 7th year.
5. Maximum limit (4 KG for the individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts/entities)
6. These Bonds can be used as collateral for loans
7. They are tradable on stock exchanges



Topic 225: Government bonds for NRIs

Key points:

1. RBI to issue certain series of G-secs under the “fully accessible route” for NRIs
2. How are these Bonds different?
 - No foreign portfolio investor (FPI) limits
 - Indian G-secs listed on global bond indices
 - Attract access cheap liquidity in the overseas markets
 - Facilitate the inflow of stable foreign investment in Indian bonds
3. Under FAR, eligible investors can invest in specified government securities without being subject to any investment ceilings.
4. This scheme shall operate along with the two existing routes, viz., the Medium Term Framework (MTF) and the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR).



Topic 226: Additional Tier-1 or AT1 Bonds

Key Points:

1. These bonds are a type of unsecured, perpetual bonds and carry no maturity date.
2. They are issued by banks to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms
3. According to Basel-III norms banks' regulatory capital is divided into Tier 1 and Tier 2, while Tier 1 is subdivided into Common Equity Tier-1 (CET-1) and Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) capital.
 - **Common Equity Tier 1 capital** includes equity instruments where returns are linked to the banks' performance and therefore the performance of the share price. They have no maturity.
 - **Additional Tier-1 capital** are perpetual bonds which carry a fixed coupon payable annually from past or present profits of the bank. They have no maturity, and their dividends can be cancelled at any time.
4. Banks issuing AT-1 bonds can skip interest payouts for a particular year or even reduce the bonds' face value



Topic 227: 7.75% RBI Savings Bonds, 2018

Key points:

1. These were issued in 2018.
2. These were available for subscription to resident citizens/Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) to invest in a taxable bond.
3. These bonds were first introduced in 2003 as 8% GOI Savings (Taxable) Bonds.
4. The interest rate was brought down to 7.75% in January 2018.
5. One bond was of Rs 1,000 each. The bonds had no maximum limit for investment.
6. The bonds had a 7-year lock-in period from the date of issue.
7. Premature encashment was permitted to individuals who were 60 years and above.
8. Interest on these bonds is taxable under the Income-tax Act, 1961.



Topic 228: Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020 (Taxable)

Key points:

1. To be issued by RBI on behalf of Govt
2. The Bonds may be held by a person resident in India (NRIs cannot invest in these bonds)
3. There will be no maximum limit for investment in the bonds.
4. The minimum investment starts from Rs 1,000 and in multiples of Rs 1,000, thereof.
5. The interest on the bonds is payable half-yearly and the Bonds shall be repayable on the expiration of 7 (Seven) years from the date of issue.
6. The Bonds will be issued only in the form of Bond Ledger Account and may be held at the credit of the holder in an account called Bond Ledger Account (BLA).
7. Taxable under the Income-tax Act, 1961



Topic 229: Consol Bonds

Key points:

1. It was used as early as the First World War.
2. Consols was a name given to certain government debt issues in the form of perpetual bonds, redeemable at the option of the government.
3. It is a fixed income security with no maturity date. This type of bond is often considered a type of equity, rather than debt.
4. They are not redeemable. However, the major benefit of them is that they pay a steady stream of interest payments forever.



Topic 230: Korvai & Sungudi

Key points: Korvai Kanjivaram

1. An ancient weaving technique of Tamil Nadu
2. Requires two weavers (labour-intensive)
3. The word 'korvai' in Tamil means 'in sync'.
4. In this technique the body of the sari is woven separately and the border separately on the same loom and the two interlocked by skilful weaving.

Key points: Madurai Sungudi

1. cotton fabric of Madurai
2. traditionally produced using tie and dye (using natural dyes) method by the Saurashtrians who migrated to Madurai
3. King Thirumalai Naicker
4. The product has been given protection under the GI registration act.



Topic 231: Mudiyettu and Theyyam

Key points: Mudiyettu

1. It is a traditional ritual theatre and folk-dance drama from Kerala
2. Enacts the mythological tale of a battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika
3. The ritual is a part of the bhagavathi or bhadrakali cult.
4. Part of UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Key points: Theyyam

1. Popular ritual form of worship in Kerala
2. It is performed by mainly by males, except the Devakoothu theyyam (performed only by women).
3. Performed only on Thekkumbad Kulom temple



Topic 232: Chaukhandi Stupa

Key points:

1. It is an ancient Buddhist site (stupa) in Uttar Pradesh's Sarnath
2. ASI declared this monument as national importance in 2018
3. Originally was built as a terraced temple during the Gupta period
4. Later Govardhan, the son of a Raja Todarmal, modified the stupa to its present shape by building the octagonal tower



Significance in Buddhism: Chaukhandi Stupa was built to mark the place where Lord Buddha met his first disciples as he traveled from Bodh Gaya to Sarnath.



Topic 233: Ghumot

Key points:

1. It is an indigenous earthen drum, with the skin of the monitor lizard stretched across the pot's mouth
2. Percussion instrument
3. In recent years attempts were made to revive the heritage instrument of Goa by replacing monitor lizard skin with the skin of a she-goat
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Topic 234 and 235: Nagardhan Excavations, Vakataka Dynasty and Queen Prabhavatigupta

Key points:

1. Nagardhan Fort was constructed during the Gond Raja period and later re-used by the Bhosales
2. The excavations have provided evidence on the life, religious affiliations and trade practices of the Vakataka dynasty.
3. Vakatakas ruled parts of Central and South India between the third and fifth centuries
4. Nagardhan served as the capital of the Vakataka kingdom
5. Findings:
 - First time clay sealings have been excavated from Nagardhan.
 - Belonged to period when Prabhavatigupta was the queen of the Vakataka dynasty.
 - The sealing is 1500 years old and bears the queens name in Brahmi script, along with depiction of conch
 - The presence of the conch is regarded as a sign of the Vaishnava affiliation that the Guptas held.
 - An intact idol of Lord Ganesha, which had no ornaments adorned, too was found from the site.



Key points: Queen Prabhavatigupta

1. She is the daughter of Chandragupta-II and granddaughter of Samudragupta.
2. Vakataka rulers of Central India forged several matrimonial alliances with Guptas of North India so as to maintain harmonious relations.
3. Prabhavatigupta was married to Vakataka king Rudrasena II and enjoyed the position of Chief Queen
4. After sudden death of the King, Queen Prabhavatigupta ruled for about 10 years until her son Pravarasena II succeeded
5. Vakataka rulers followed the Shaivism while the Guptas were staunch Vaishnavites.
6. She had a pivotal role in propagation of Vaishnava practices in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra