

**18**

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**RAPID REVISION SERIES (RRS)**

**500 HIGH PROBABLE  
TOPICS FOR UPSC  
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**TOPIC 271-290**



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**Session 18**

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



# TOPICS TO REVISE

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272. Original Jurisdiction and Exclusive Jurisdiction
273. Neutrality and security of tenure of Speaker
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276. Countervailing duty (CVD)
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# Topic 271: Lokpal

## Key points:

1. Lokpal (and Lokayuktas at State level) are statutory bodies – estd. under Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013
2. Perform function of an ombudsman and inquire into allegations of corruption
3. Jurisdiction of Lokpal
4. Mandatory - all public officials should furnish the assets and liabilities
5. It has the powers to superintendence over, and to give direction to CBI
6. It has been vested with the powers of a civil court (Lokpal has powers of confiscation)
7. It is empowered under the law to set up its own inquiry wing
8. Lokpal has the power to recommend transfer or suspension of public servant



# Topic 272: Original Jurisdiction and Exclusive Jurisdiction

## Key points:

1. Article 131 of the Constitution - gives SC the power to resolve disputes (b/w C-S or S-S or C+S-S)
2. Article 32 gives the Supreme court original jurisdiction but not exclusive jurisdiction (because HC also have such jurisdiction according to Article 226)
3. It is only Article 131 that gives the court original and an exclusive jurisdiction
4. With regard to matters dealing with fundamental rights, Supreme Court has original jurisdiction. However, the writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is not exclusive.
5. When the Fundamental Rights of a citizen are violated, the aggrieved party has the option of moving either the high court or the Supreme Court directly.



# Topic 273: Neutrality and security of tenure of Speaker

## Key points:

### Neutrality of the Speaker

1. Serves for a term of five years
2. Chosen from sitting members of the Lok Sabha (House of the People)
3. By convention a member of the ruling party or alliance

### Security of tenure

1. He is provided with a security of tenure.
2. Can be removed only by a resolution passed by the Lok Sabha by an Effective Majority.
3. His work and conduct cannot be discussed and criticised in the Lok Sabha except on a substantive motion.
4. Salary and allowance – fixed by Parliament and charged on the Consolidated Fund of India

### When can Speaker vacate his office earlier -

- if he ceases to be a member of the Lok Sabha
- if he resigns by writing to the Deputy Speaker

Indian Convention and British Convention



# Topic 274: Judge's Recusal

## Key points:

1. Recusal is the withdrawal of a judge, prosecutor, or juror from a case
2. It usually takes place when a judge has conflict of interest or prior association with the parties in the case (which may lead to lack of impartiality)
3. Rules on recusals -
  - no written rules
  - left to the discretion of a judge
  - reasons for recusal are not disclosed in an order of the court
  - decision to convey the reasons rests on the conscience of the judge



# Topic 275: Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT)

## Key points:

1. DDT is a return given by a company to its shareholders out of the profits earned by the company.
2. Dividend should be subject to income tax, however, income tax laws provide for an exemption of the dividend income received from Indian companies.
3. Rather DDT is levied on the company paying the dividend. (at the rate of 15%)
4. DDT was also applicable on mutual funds.





# Topic 276: Countervailing duty (CVD)

## Key points:

1. Import tax imposed on certain goods to prevent dumping or counter export subsidies.
2. Preferential treatment wrt CVDs falls under US' Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) scheme.
3. GSP --> bulk of preferential schemes granted by industrialized nations to developing countries.
4. Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) has taken off India from the list of developing and least-developed countries.



# Topic 277: Tariff Rate Quota Scheme

## Key points:

1. Centre notified norms for import of 5 lakh tonnes of maize under Tariff Rate Quota Scheme
2. Under the scheme, the government allows import of four products
  - maize (corn),
  - milk and cream in powder, granules,
  - crude sunflower seed or safflower oil and fractions thereof; and
  - refined rape, colza or mustard oil and fractions thereof

--- at concessional rates of customs duty

## Tariff Rate Quota Scheme

1. Allows a set quantity of specific products to be imported at a low or zero rate of duty
2. TRQ commitment does not apply any limits on the quantity of import of a product
3. Instead, it applies a higher rate of duty for that specific product once imports up to the TRQ commitment have been reached
4. Therefore, TRQ is a two-tiered tariff instrument



# Topic 278: Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020

## Key points:

1. NITI Aayog + Institute for Competitiveness
2. 1st report to examine export preparedness and performance of Indian states

## The structure of the EPI includes 4 pillars:

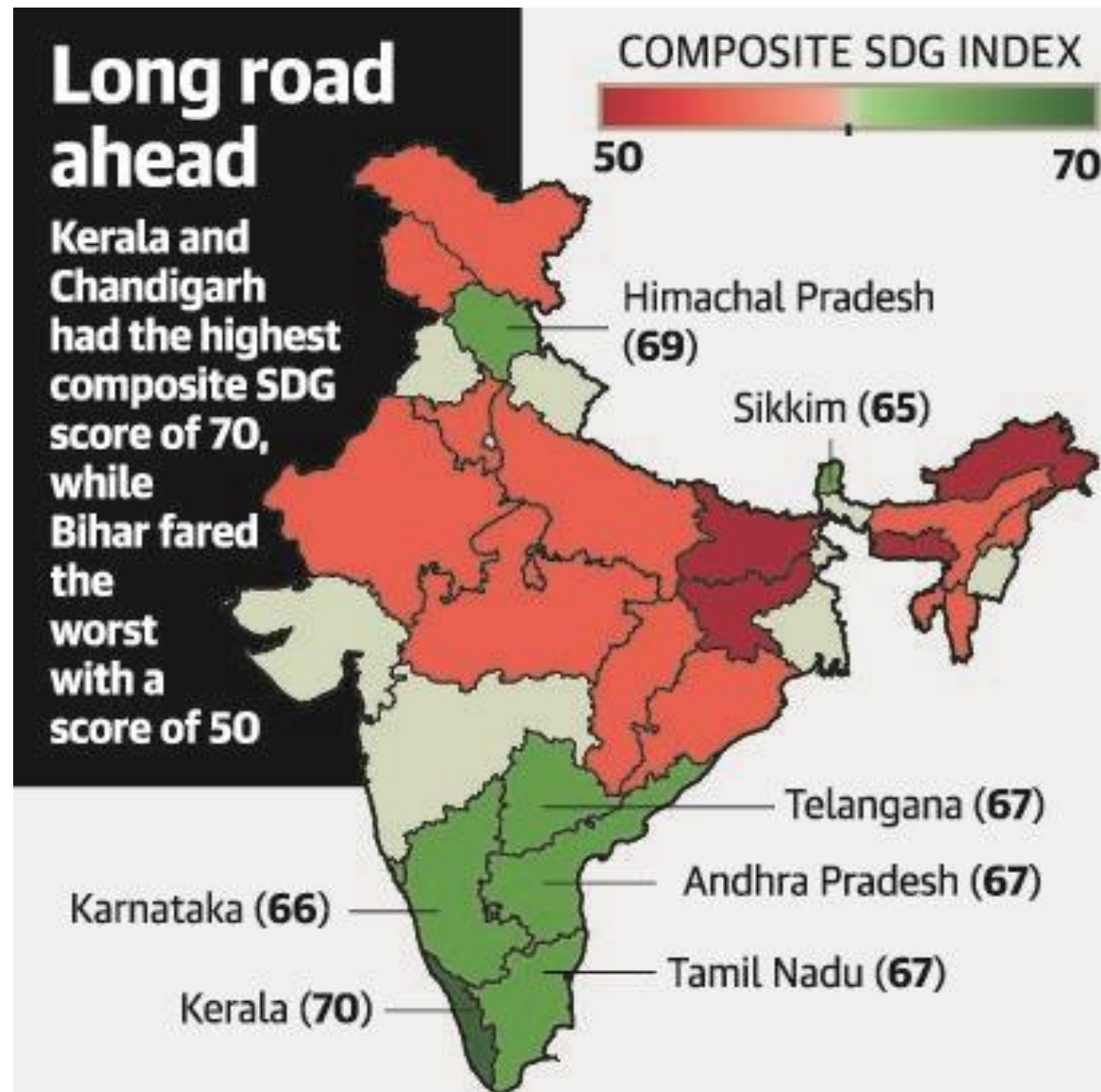
<b>Policy</b>	<b>A comprehensive trade policy provides a strategic direction for exports and imports.</b>
Business Ecosystem	An efficient business ecosystem can help states attract investments and create an enabling infrastructure for individuals to initiate start-ups.
Export Ecosystem	This pillar aims to assess the business environment, which is specific to exports
Export Performance	This is the only output-based pillar and examines the reach of export footprints of States and Union Territories.



## Topic 279: NITI Aayog's SDG Index

### Key points:

1. UN has developed 232 indicators; NITI Aayog has adapted 100 indicators of its own for the Index
2. NITI Aayog has constructed the SDG India Index spanning across 13 out of 17 SDGs
3. Provides a holistic view on the social, economic and environmental status of States and UTs
4. It aims to measure India and its States' progress towards the SDGs for 2030
5. Kerala tops the States in progress towards the UN SDG, while Bihar is at the bottom of the NITI Aayog's SDG Index





## Topic 280: Digital Quality of Life Index 2020

### Key Points:

1. Released by SurfShark
2. India ranks among the lowest in the world in terms of Internet quality.
3. In terms of e-infrastructure, India occupies 79th place
4. India stands at the overall rank of 57 out of the 85 countries.
5. India makes it into the top 10 in terms of Internet affordability.



# Topic 281: National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE)

## Key Points:

1. Prepared by the National Centre for Financial Education in consultation with RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA and Ministries + Technical Group on Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy (TGFIFL)
2. Focus : : Empower people - adequate knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour

## '5 C' approach for dissemination of financial education -

- 1) Capacity-developing capacity among the intermediaries involved in providing financial services.
- 2) Content-development of relevant content in curriculum in schools, colleges and training establishments.
- 3) Communication- Use of technology, media and innovative ways of communication for financial education.
- 4) Community- community-led model for financial literacy through appropriate communication strategy
- 5) Collaboration-enhancing collaboration among various stakeholders.



# Topic 282: Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

## Key Points:

1. Apex regulatory body for regulating financial sector
2. It was established in 2010
3. Union Finance Minister is chairman of FSDC
4. Members includes the heads of the financial sector regulatory authorities
5. Objectives:
  - To strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability
  - Enhancing inter-regulatory coordination
  - Promoting financial sector development
  - Assess the functioning of the large financial conglomerates.



# Topic 283: Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing

## Key Points:

1. Launched by MeitY in 2020 -- Part of National Policy on Electronics (NPE 2019)
2. Scheme offers a production linked incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments
3. Extends an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales
4. Period of five years
5. Scheme will be implemented through Nodal Agency which shall act as a Project Management Agency (PMA)
6. Eligibility - All electronic manufacturing companies which are Indian or have registered unit in India





# Topic 284: International Comparison Program (ICP)

## Key Points:

1. World Bank released new Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) for reference year 2017 under ICP
2. India is 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy accounted for 6.7 percent of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in terms of PPPs (after China and USA)
3. India is also third largest economy in terms of its PPP-based share in global Actual Individual Consumption and Global Gross Capital Formation.

## About ICP:

1. ICP is one of the largest statistical initiatives in the world
2. It is managed by the World Bank under UN Statistical Commission
3. Objective of ICP



# Topic 285: Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)

## Key Points:

1. Facilitate incentivisation of investments in infrastructure for dairy and meat processing; establishment of animal feed plant in the private sector.
2. Size of the fund is 15000 crore
3. Eligible beneficiaries – MSMEs, FPOs, Section 8 Companies, Private Companies, Individual entrepreneurs
4. Minimum 10% margin money contribution by eligible beneficiaries (balance 90% loan)
5. Provision of 3% interest subvention and 2 years moratorium period



# Topic 286: Cooperative banks to come under RBI supervision

## Key Points:

1. Aim : : providing comfort to depositors and prevent repeat of PMC Bank-like scams.
2. RBI's powers, as they apply to scheduled banks, will apply for cooperative banks as well.
3. About Cooperative banks:
  - They are financial entities established on a co-operative basis and belonging to their members
  - Customers of a co-operative banks are also its share-holders
  - Provide regular banking and financial services
  - Registered under the Co-operative Societies Act of the State concerned or under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002
  - Governed by the Banking Regulations Act, 1949 and Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act, 1955



# Topic 287: Map Activity - Black Sea and Aegean Sea

## Key points:

1. Locate important seas
2. Countries surrounding the Black Sea
3. Aegean Sea
  - Elongated embayment of the Mediterranean Sea
  - In the north, the Aegean is connected to the Marmara Sea and the Black Sea by the straits of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus.





# Topic 288: Baltic Countries & Travel Bubbles

## Key points:

1. Baltic states - Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
2. Baltics launched Europe's first pandemic 'travel bubble'
3. The region has been part of the European Union since 2004 and since 2007 has been a member of the European Schengen Free Travel Area.





## Topic 289: Influenza Viruses – A, B, C, D

### Key points:

1. Flu, or influenza, is a contagious respiratory infection caused by a variety of flu viruses.
2. Symptoms of flu involve muscle aches and soreness, headache, and fever.
3. Human influenza A and B viruses cause seasonal epidemics of disease (known as the flu season)
4. Influenza type C infections generally cause mild illness and are not thought to cause human flu epidemics.
5. Influenza D viruses primarily affect cattle and are not known to infect or cause illness in people.



## Topic 290: Kyasanur Forest Disease

### Key points:

1. KFD is caused by Kyasanur Forest disease Virus (KFDV)
2. It was first identified in 1957 in a sick monkey in Kyasanur forest in Karnataka (Monkey Fever)
3. It is tick-borne viral hemorrhagic fever endemic to South Asia
4. Endemic Regions of KFD in India are: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala
5. Rodents, shrews, and monkeys are common hosts for KFDV after being bitten by an infected tick. KFDV kills most primates it infects.
6. Larger animals such as cattle, goats or sheep may become infected with KFD but play a limited role in transmission of disease to humans
7. Transmission to humans may occur after a tick bite or contact with an infected animal, most importantly a sick or recently dead monkey. No person-to-person transmission has been described