

**20**



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**RAPID REVISION SERIES (RRS)**

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

**TOPIC 306-320**



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**Session 20**

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



# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 306. Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)
- 307. Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)
- 308. BHARAT-22
- 309. Alternative Investment Funds
- 310. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)
- 311. Angel Tax
- 312. Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)
- 313. Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE 3.0)
- 314. Shell Companies
- 315. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
- 316. International Charter "Space and Major Disasters"
- 317. Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies
- 318. Raman Spectroscopy and Raman Effect
- 319. SATYABHAMA Portal and NGO Darpan Portal
- 320. RNA and MicroRNA (miRNA)



# Topic 306: Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)

## Key points:

1. It is a marketable security that tracks an index, a commodity, bonds, or a basket of assets like an index fund.
2. ETFs and Mutual Funds – Difference
  - 1) Unlike mutual funds, an ETF trades like a common stock on a stock exchange.
  - 2) ETFs share prices fluctuate all day as it is bought and sold.
  - 3) MFs only trade once a day after the market closes.
  - 4) ETFs typically have higher daily liquidity and lower fees than MF shares.



# Topic 307: Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)

## Key points:

1. First corporate Bond ETF in the country
2. It creates an additional source of funding for CPSEs and govt organizations
3. Tradable on exchange
4. It will have a fixed maturity date
5. Small unit size Rs 1,000
6. Transparent Portfolio (Daily disclosure on website)
7. Low cost (0.0005%)
8. Index will be constructed by an independent index provider – National Stock Exchange

## Benefits

1. Provides safety, liquidity and predictable tax efficient returns
2. Easy access to retail investors to invest in bonds
3. Bond ETF would offer CPSEs, CPSUs - additional source of funding



# Topic 308: BHARAT-22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)

## Key points:

1. Launched by Gol --> Managed by ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund
2. Specially created Index S&P BSE BHARAT-22 INDEX
3. Unique blend of shares of key CPSEs, PSBs and Government owned shares in blue chip private companies
4. Part of government of India's overall disinvestment program
5. The weightage in the Bharat 22 Index given to basic materials is 4.4%, energy 17.5%, finance 20.3%, FMCG 15.2%, industrials 22.6%, and utilities 20%.



# Topic 309: Alternative Investment Funds

## Key points:

1. AIFs are defined in Regulation 2(1)(b) of SEBI (AIF) Regulations 2012
2. AIFs are any fund established or incorporated in India which is a privately pooled investment vehicle
3. In India, AIFs are private funds which are otherwise not coming under the jurisdiction of any regulatory agency in India.
4. Types of AIFs -
  - 1) Category I AIF
  - 2) Category II AIF
  - 3) Category III AIF



# Topic 310: National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

## Key points:

1. Aim – To provide long-term capital to the country's infrastructure sector
2. Was set up as an alternative investment fund (AIF) in 2016 (planned corpus of ₹40,000 crore)
3. NIIF is jointly-owned by the Government of India (49%) and certain domestic and international investors (51%)
4. NIIF is considered India's quasi sovereign wealth fund
5. NIIF currently manages three funds and funds are registered as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with the SEBI





# Topic 311: Angel Tax

## Key points:

1. It is a 30% tax that is levied on the funding received by startups.
2. It was introduced in 2012, with the purpose of keeping money laundering in check.

Centre notified new rules pertaining to angel tax:

- 1) Investments of up to ₹25 crore --> will be exempt from the angel tax and any scrutiny
- 2) Eligibility --> Start ups' registered with the govt; incorporated <10yrs; Turnover <100crores
- 3) Investments made by a listed company of a net worth of at least ₹100 crore or a turnover of at least ₹250 crore would also be exempt.
- 4) Investments made by non-residents will also be exempt.
- 5) However, Category II Alternate Investment Funds was not included in the exclusion list.



# Topic 312: Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)

## Key points:

1. Fee-sharing mechanism between govt and telcos
2. AGR is the usage and licensing fee that telecom operators are charged by the DoT
3. AGR comprises the regulatory fees that are broadly categorised into two areas -
  - 1) license fee --> 5% USOF + 3% license
  - 2) spectrum usage charges --> ranges from 3-5%
4. Dispute and how it is calculated?



# Topic 313: Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE 3.0)

## Key points:

1. Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE)
2. Finance Minister launched Ease 3.0 for tech-enabled banking.
3. Aim --> provide advanced solutions that will make the PSBs smart and technology-enabled
4. Achieve ease of banking for customers

EASE 3.0 reforms agenda include facilities like:

- Palm Banking for “End-to-end digital delivery of financial service”.
- “Banking on Go” via EASE banking outlets at frequently visited spots like malls, stations, complexes and campuses.



# Topic 314: Shell Companies

## Key points:

1. They are typically corporate entities which do not have any active business operations or significant assets in their possession
2. Multiple layers of companies --> created for the purpose of diverting money/money laundering
3. However, not all shell companies may be money laundering vehicles.

Laws targeting the activities of shell companies are

- Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Amendment Act 2016
- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002
- The Companies Act, 2013



## Topic 315: Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

### Key points:

1. RRBs were set up as a regional based rural lending institutions under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.
2. They ensure adequate credit for agriculture and other rural sectors.
3. Recommendations by Narsimham Committee working group
4. Equity --> 50:15:35
5. As per RBI, RRBs have to provide 75 per cent of their total credit under Priority Sector Lending and should maintain minimum Capital to Risk weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9%
6. The recapitalisation process of RRBs was approved by the cabinet in 2011 based on the recommendations of a committee set up under the Chairmanship of K C Chakrabarty.



# Topic 316 and 317: International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" and Moon Agreement

## Key Points:

1. Worldwide collaboration --> satellite data are made available --> disaster mgt
2. It is a non-binding charter --> for the charitable and humanitarian tasks
3. Initiated by the European Space Agency and the French space agency CNES after the UNISPACE III conference held in Vienna, Austria in July 1999
4. Officially came into operation on November 1, 2000
5. ISRO is a charter member

## Key Points:

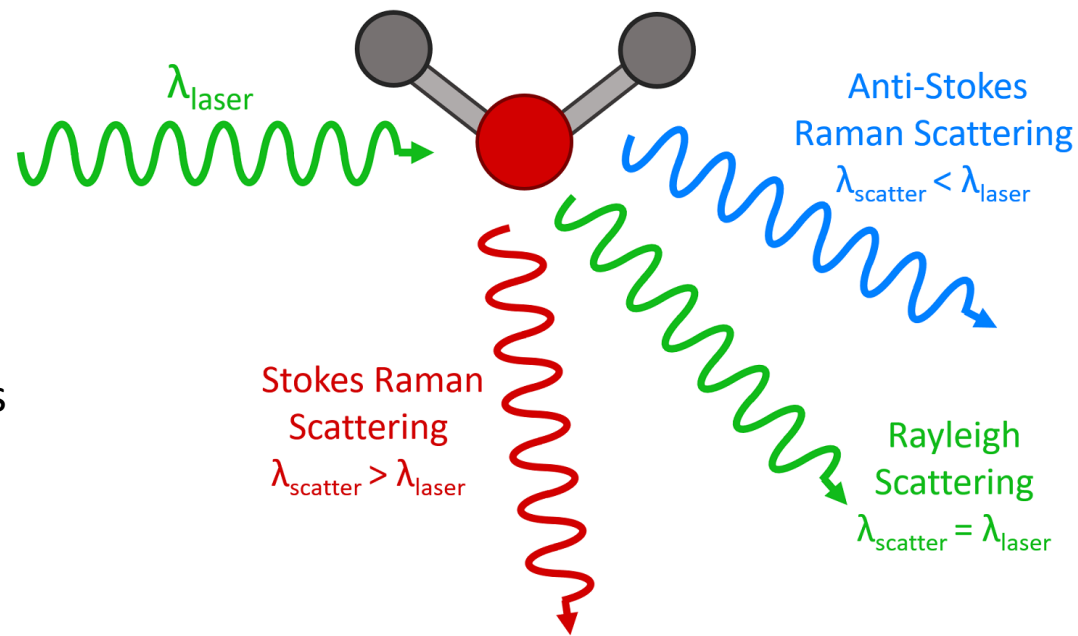
1. Multilateral treaty
2. All activities would conform to international law, including the United Nations Charter
3. India signed this 'Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, but never ratified it.
4. Seeks to "promote rule of law in this human endeavor"
5. Only 18 countries signed the agreement, including India and France, but not including the US, Russia and China.



# Topic 318: Raman Spectroscopy

## Key Points:

1. An analytical technique --> where scattered light is used to measure the vibrational energy modes of a sample.
2. In 1928, Raman discovered that when a stream of light passes through a liquid, a fraction of the light scattered by the liquid is of a different colour.
3. Raman was able to show that the blue colour of the water was due to the scattering of the sunlight by water molecules.
4. Raman Effect is when the change in the energy of the light is affected by the vibrations of the molecule or material under observation, leading to a change in its wavelength.
5. Applications





# Topic 319: SATYABHAMA Portal and NGO Darpan Portal

## Key Points:

1. Science and Technology Yojana for Atmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement (SATYABHAMA)
2. Ministry of Mines
3. Designed, developed and implemented by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Mines Informatics Division
4. The Portal is integrated with NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog
5. NGO Darpan Portal --> provides interface between Voluntary Organizations (VO)/NGOs with government ministries and departments





# Topic 320: RNA and MicroRNA (miRNA)

## Key Points: RNA

1. Ribonucleic acid (RNA) --> nucleic acid which is directly involved in protein synthesis
2. RNA is an important nucleotide with long chains of nucleic acid present in all living cells
3. Main role --> to act as a messenger conveying instructions from DNA for controlling the proteins synthesis
4. Difference between RNA and DNA --> Single stranded and double stranded
5. RNA --> uracil as a nitrogenous base; DNA --> thymine

## Key Points: miRNA

1. They are small RNA
2. They are non-coding RNAs involved in the regulation of a variety of biological and pathological processes
3. Main function of miRNA is to silence the expression of the other genes
4. Oncogene --> gene that has the potential to cause cancer
5. miRNAs associated with cancer are called Oncomirs
6. Difference between miRNA inhibition therapy and miRNA inhibition therapy