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RAPID REVISION SERIES (RRS)

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

TOPIC 401-420



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Session 25

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



TOPICS TO REVISE

401. 'Arogyapacha' or 'Miracle Plant'
402. Jatropha curcas
403. Carissa kopilii: A new Plant Species found in Assam
404. Bladderworts or Utricularia kamarudeenii and Myristica swamps
405. Important forests in news - Salix swamp forest; Gondwana Rainforests; Kelp forests; Miyawaki forest
406. Brazzaville Declaration and Global Peatlands Initiative
407. UNESCO Global Geopark Network status
408. Essential Commodities Act
409. Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)
410. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)
411. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanrakshAn Abhiyan" (PM-AASHA)
412. Price Support Scheme (PSS)
413. Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
414. Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS)
415. Quant Funds
416. Ways and Means Advance (WMA)
417. National Mineral Policy 2019
418. Asiatic golden cat (Catopuma temminckii)
419. Golden langur breeding project
420. Conservation efforts to revive gharial population



Topic 401: 'Arogyapacha' or 'Miracle Plant'

Key points:

1. Scientists decode genome of this 'miracle plant'
2. Endemic to the Agastya hills
3. Utility: Traditional use by the Kani tribal community (Medicinal properties)
4. Kani is a tribe living in the Western Ghats area of Kerala



Topic 402: *Jatropha curcas*

Key points:

1. Biofuel --> using blend of *Jatropha* oil
2. Bio-jet fuel technology --> was first developed by Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) under CSIR
3. *Jatropha curcas* is a plant of Latin American origin
4. Now widespread throughout arid and semi arid tropical regions of the world
5. *Jatropha* seeds contain about 35% of non-edible oil
6. Utility of *Jatropha*



Topic 403: *Carissa kopilii*

Key points:

1. *Carissa kopilii*: A new Plant Species found in Assam
2. Wilder variety of the more familiar *Carissa carandas*
3. Distributed sparsely along the Kopili riverbed at altitudes ranging from 85-600 metres above sea level
4. About Kopili River
5. *Carissa carandas*



Topic 404: Bladderworts or *Utricularia kamarudeenii* and *Myristica* swamps

Key points:

1. *Utricularia* --> carnivorous plants
2. New species of *Utricularia* --> *Utricularia kamarudeenii* a.k.a bladderworts
3. It was found in Kerala

Biodiversity-rich *Myristica* swamps

1. They are a type of tropical freshwater swamp forest
2. About *Myristica* trees
3. Endemic to Western ghats



Topic 405: Important forests in news

Key points:

1. Salix swamp forest
2. Gondwana Rainforests
3. Kelp forests
4. Miyawaki forest



Topic 406: Brazzaville Declaration and Global Peatlands Initiative

Key points:

1. Brazzaville declaration --> to conserve world's largest tropical peatlands
2. Jointly signed by DRC, Congo and Indonesia

About Global Peatlands Initiative

1. Tropical peatlands --> world's largest terrestrial organic carbon stock
2. Multipartner UNEP initiative --> launched at the Global Landscapes Forum in Marrakesh in 2016
3. About Peat and peatland ecosystem



Topic 407: UNESCO Global Geopark Network status

Key points:

1. About UNESCO Global Geoparks
2. Currently, there are 140 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 38 countries
3. As of now, no Geopark in India
4. Set of criteria
5. About Global Geoparks Network (GGN)
6. About Lunar Lake
7. About St. Mary's island and Malpe beach



Topic 408: Essential Commodities Act

Key points:

1. It was enacted by Parliament in 1955
2. Regulation and control of production, distribution and pricing
3. Aim --> Maintaining/increasing supplies/securing equitable distribution and availability of these commodities at fair prices; prevent hoarding; timely delivery
4. Centre is empowered to include items to the list
5. States are the implementing agencies
6. No specific definition of essential commodities



Topic 409: Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

Key points:

1. Price support mechanism --> implemented on the request of State Governments
2. Main focus -->
 - procurement of perishable and horticultural commodities in the event of a fall in market prices
 - protect the growers of these horticultural/agricultural commodities from making distress sale
3. Criteria --> at least 10% increase in production or 10% decrease in the ruling rates over the previous normal year
4. Difference between MIS and MSP based procurement mechanism
5. It is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
6. With MIS guidelines, a pre-determined quantity at a fixed Market Intervention Price (MIP) is procured by NAFED
7. The area of operation is restricted to the concerned state only



Topic 410: National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)

Key points:

1. Apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce
2. Under Ministry of Agriculture
3. Founded on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October 1958
4. It is registered under Multi State Co-operative Societies Act
5. NAFED is the nodal agency to implement price stabilization measures under "Operation Greens"
6. NAFED along with FCI with proactive role of state governments also physically procures oilseeds, pulses and copra under the Price Support Scheme (PSS)



Topic 411: Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan” (PM-AASHA)

Key points:

1. Umbrella Scheme “Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan’
2. It ensures that farmers growing oilseeds, pulses and copra actually get the minimum support price (MSP) they are promised for their crops every year.
3. Components of PM-AASHA
 - Price Support Scheme (PSS),
 - Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
 - Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS)



Topic 412: Price Support Scheme (PSS)

Key points:

1. Physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and Copra will be done by Central Nodal Agencies with proactive role of State governments.
2. In addition to NAFED, FCI will also take up PSS operations in states /districts.
3. Procurement expenditure and losses due to procurement will be borne by Central Government as per norms.



Topic 413: Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)

Key points:

1. It is proposed to cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified
2. In this direct payment of the difference between the MSP and the selling/modal price will be made to pre-registered farmers
3. All payment will be done directly into registered bank account
4. This scheme does not involve any physical procurement of crops
5. The support of central government for PDPS will be given as per norms



Topic 414: Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS)

Key points:

1. It has been decided that for oilseeds, states have the option to roll out Private Procurement Stockist Scheme (PPSS)
2. District or concerned APMCs will cover one or more crop of oilseeds for which MSP is notified
3. Involves physical procurement of the notified commodity



Topic 415: Quant Funds

Key points:

1. Investment decision or the stock selection is done according to predetermined rules based on a statistical or mathematical model
2. Quant funds rely on an automated program to make these decisions
3. Difference between quant fund and index fund manager
4. Example - DSP Mutual Fund; Reliance Quant fund



Topic 416: Ways and Means Advance (WMA)

Key points:

1. It is a facility for both the Centre and states to borrow from the RBI
2. Aim --> to meet temporary mismatches between revenue and expenditure
3. Section 17(5) of the RBI Act, 1934 authorises the central bank to lend to the Centre and state governments
4. The government has to pay an interest rate equal to the repo rate, while the tenure is three months
5. Limits for WMA are mutually decided by the RBI and the Gol
6. Types of Ways and Means Advance



Topic 417: National Mineral Policy 2019

Key points:

Salient Features of NMP 2019

1. Introduction of Right of First Refusal for RP/PL holders, (There are three kinds of mineral concessions, viz Reconnaissance Permit (RP), Prospecting License (PL) and Mining Lease (ML))
2. Encouraging the private sector to take up exploration
3. Auctioning in virgin areas for composite RP cum PL cum ML on revenue share basis,
4. Encouragement of merger and acquisition of mining entities and transfer of mining leases and creation of dedicated mineral corridors to boost private sector mining areas.
5. The 2019 Policy proposes to grant status of industry to mining activity to boost financing of mining for private sector and for acquisitions of mineral assets in other countries by private sector
6. It also mentions that Long term import export policy for mineral will help private sector in better planning and stability in business



Topic 418: Asiatic golden cat

Key points:

1. Asiatic golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*)
2. IUCN --> Near threatened
3. Habitat --> It is found across eastern Nepal through north-eastern India to Indonesia
4. They are found at different habitats at different elevations — from wet tropical lowland forests to alpine scrubs

Why in news?

- Indian scientists discovered six colour morphs of the golden cat in Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh.

Additional info:

1. About Dibang River
2. About Colour morphs and being melanistic
3. About polymorphism and alternative phenotypes
4. About sexual dimorphism



Topic 419: Golden langur breeding project

Key points:

1. Golden Langur Conservation Breeding Programme --> Assam
2. IUCN Status --> Endangered
3. It is endemic to western Assam and southern Bhutan
4. Chakrashila WLS in Assam



Topic 420: Conservation efforts to revive gharial population

Key points:

1. Five gharials, were bred at the Nandankanan Zoological Park, Odisha and released into the Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi — the southernmost limit of gharials' home range in India.
2. Odisha is the only State in India having all three species — gharial, mugger and saltwater crocodile
3. Critically endangered; CITES Appendix I
4. It is native to sandy freshwater river banks in the plains of the northern part of the Indian subcontinent.
5. Beas Conservation Reserve