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RAPID REVISION SERIES (RRS)

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

TOPIC 121-135



YouTube Initiative



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Session 9

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



TOPICS TO REVISE

121. Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI)
122. Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)
123. New Umbrella Entity (NUE)
124. Equalisation Levy
125. The Once-Only Principle (TOOP)
126. Eastern Economic Forum and Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)
127. Guru Ravidas
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129. Biomethanation
130. Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol
131. 2019 Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol
132. India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)
133. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
134. Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)
135. Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2019



Topic 121: Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI)

Key points:

1. India has ratified the Multilateral Instrument (MLI)
2. Outcome of the OECD / G20 Project (the “BEPS Project”)
3. Tackle Base Erosion and Profit Shifting
4. Curb revenue loss and combat tax avoidance by multinational enterprises (MNEs)



Topic 122: Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)

Key points:

1. Tax planning strategies to "shift" profits from higher-tax jurisdictions to lower-tax jurisdictions
2. Tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules
3. OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)
4. BEPS measures: Four "minimum standards"
 - 1) harmful tax practices,
 - 2) treaty abuse,
 - 3) country-by-country reporting and
 - 4) dispute resolution mechanisms



Topic 123: New Umbrella Entity (NUE)

Key points:

1. RBI has proposed to set up new umbrella entity (NUE) or entities focusing on retail payment systems with a minimum paid-up capital of Rs 500 crore.
2. The proposed entity will set up, manage and operate new payment systems
3. Eligibility - Entity eligible to apply as promoter or the promoter group for the NUE should be
 - 1) 'owned and controlled by residents' with 3 years' experience in the payments ecosystem
 - 2) Worked as Payment System Operator (PSO) or Payment Service Provider (PSP) or Technology Service Provider (TSP)
 - 3) Any entity holding more than 25 per cent of the paid-up capital of the NUE will be deemed to be a promoter
 - 4) NUE should conform to the norms of corporate governance along with 'fit and proper' criteria for persons to be appointed on its board
 - 5) RBI retains the right to approve the appointment of directors as also to nominate a member on the board of the NUE



Topic 124: Equalisation Levy

Key Points:

1. Introduced in India in 2016
2. To tax the digital transactions
3. Levy on revenue earned by non-residents from online advertising and related services
4. It is aimed at taxing business to business transactions.
5. It is also referred to as 'Google Tax'.

Equalisation Levy 2.0

1. Equalisation Levy introduced by the Finance Act 2016, was charged at 6%
2. The Finance Act 2020 amended the Finance Act 2016 – introduced new Equalisation Levy at 2%



Topic 125: The Once-Only Principle (TOOP)

Key points:

1. European Union countries to enact TOOP
2. Part of the 2017 Tallinn Declaration on e-Government
3. Objective of TOOP
 - 1) remove unnecessary administrative burdens on citizens
 - 2) citizens are not required to provide the same information more than once to govt
 - 3) public administration is allowed to re-use and exchange the data with each other
 - 4) incorporates data protection regulations and explicit consent of the users
4. EU's Single Digital Gateway Regulation

Other topics:

- Digital Single Market
- General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR)



Topic 126: Eastern Economic Forum

Key points:

1. International forum held each year in Vladivostok, Russia
2. Encourage foreign investment in the Russian Far East
3. It serves as a platform for the discussion of key issues
4. Russian Far East – comprises territory between Lake Baikal in eastern Siberia and the Pacific Ocean
5. Mineral sources - diamonds, borax materials, gold, tungsten, fish and seafood

Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)

- Military logistics support agreement between India and Russia
- Facilitates access to each other's' military facilities



Topic 127: Guru Ravidas

Key points:

1. He was a poet-saint, social reformer and a spiritual figure
2. Ravidas' devotional songs – had lasting impact upon the bhakti movement and are included in the Sikh scriptures, Guru Granth Sahib
3. Considered as the founder of 21st-century Ravidassia religion
4. Adi Granth of Sikhs and Panch Vani text of the Dadupanthi tradition within Hinduism
5. Songs of Ravidas discuss Nirguna-Saguna themes and foundation of Nath Yoga philosophy of Hinduism
6. He frequently mentions the term Sahaj (a mystical state where there is a union of the truths of the many and the one)



Topic 128: Parivara, Talwara and the Siddi community

Key points:

1. Tribes from Karnataka
2. Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950
3. Currently, the Siddi tribe of Uttar Kannada alone is included in the list of Scheduled Tribes

Siddi Community:

1. Also known as Sidi, Siddhi, Sheedi or Habshi
2. Ethnic group inhabiting India and Pakistan
3. Descended from the Bantu peoples of the East African region
4. Siddis are primarily Muslims
5. Siddis of Karnataka are an ethnic group of mainly Bantu descent (made Karnataka their home for the last 400 years)
6. The first Siddis are thought to have arrived in India in 628 AD at the Bharuch port.



Topic 129: Methanogenesis or Biomethanation

Key points:

1. Formation of methane by microbes
2. Archaea: Only organisms capable of producing methane
3. The production of methane is an important and widespread form of microbial metabolism
4. Concept of Methanogenesis



Topic 130: Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol

Key points:

1. 2019 - three decades of Montreal Protocol
2. Montreal Protocol has led to the phase-out of 99 per cent of ozone-depleting chemicals

Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer

- It is a multilateral environmental agreement signed in 1985
- Reductions in the production of chlorofluorocarbons

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

- It is a protocol to the Vienna Convention
- International treaty designed to protect the ozone layer
- Phasing out the production of numerous ozone-depleting substances



Topic 131: 2019 Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol

Key points:

Under the Kigali Amendment -

1. Countries promised to reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
2. Goal: Reduce HFCs by more than 80% over the next 30 years

About HFCs

- Produced mostly in developed countries
- HFCs replaced CFCs and HCFCs
- HFCs pose no harm to the ozone layer
- They are GHG - with a high global warming potential (GWP)

Kigali amendment to the legally-binding Montreal Protocol – reduce HFC production and consumption by

- at least 85 per cent by 2040 (average 2011-2013 values) by industrialized countries
- at least 85 per cent by 2045 (average 2020-22 values) by developing countries
- at least 85 per cent by 2047 (average 2024-26 values) by other developing countries (India)



Topic 132: India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)

Key points:

1. India is one of the first countries in the world to develop ICAP
2. World Ozone Day - 16 September
3. Long term vision is to address the cooling requirement across sectors

India Cooling Action seeks to

1. reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38,
2. reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38,
3. Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38,
4. recognize “cooling and related areas” as a thrust area of research under national S&T Programme
5. training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, synergizing with Skill India Mission.



Topic 133: Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

Key points:

1. Launched in 2015
2. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
3. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)
4. Aim - mobilize youth to take up skill training - as per National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)
5. PMKVY 1.0 - 19 lakhs students against the target of 24 lakh were trained
6. PMKVY 2.0 (2016-2020) - 12000 Crores budget allocation - aims to train 10 million youth by the year 2020



Topic 134: Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)

Key points:

Under the Montreal Protocol,

1. 2013 as the time to freeze HCFCs for developing countries
2. For developed countries, HCFCs reduction began in 2004 and 2010 (with 100% reduction set for 2020)
3. Developing countries agreed to start reducing its consumption and production of HCFCs by 2015, with 100% reduction set for 2030.

About HCFCs

1. Group of man-made compounds containing hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine and carbon
2. They are not found anywhere in nature
3. It is a chemical used by foam manufacturing enterprises
4. Most potent ozone depleting chemical after CFCs
5. Used mainly as a blowing agent in the production of rigid polyurethane (PU) foams



Topic 135: Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2019

Key points:

1. Complete phase out of HCFCs – on 31 Dec 2010, MOEFCC notified above Rules
2. As per the Rules, issuance of import license for HCFC-141b is prohibited from 1st January, 2020
3. India achieved complete phase out of HCFC – 141b
4. Nearly, 50 % of the consumption of ozone depleting chemicals, attributable to HCFC-141 b in the foam sector
5. HCFC Phase out Management Plan (HPMP) used baseline level of 2009 and 2010 of the country