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RAPID REVISION SERIES (RRS)

500 HIGH PROBABLE TOPICS FOR UPSC PRELIMS 2020



TOPIC 151-165

YouTube Initiative



IASbaba's

Session 11

Rapid Revision Series
of
500 HIGH PROBABLE TOPICS
for
PRELIMS 2020



TOPICS TO REVISE

151. Chagos Archipelago and Diego Garcia
152. Mediterranean Sea
153. International Court of Justice (ICJ)
154. International Criminal Court (ICC) and Crimes against humanity (CAH)
155. Permanent Court of Arbitration and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
156. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
157. PROJECT NETRA
158. LOx METHANE ENGINE
159. Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS)
160. LIGO-INDIA
161. Global E-Mobility Programme and National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020
162. BreatheLife campaign
163. India joined CCAC
164. Global Fund for Ecosystem-based Adaptation
165. CoP 15 UN-CBD

Topic 151: Chagos Archipelago and Diego Garcia

Key points: Chagos Islands

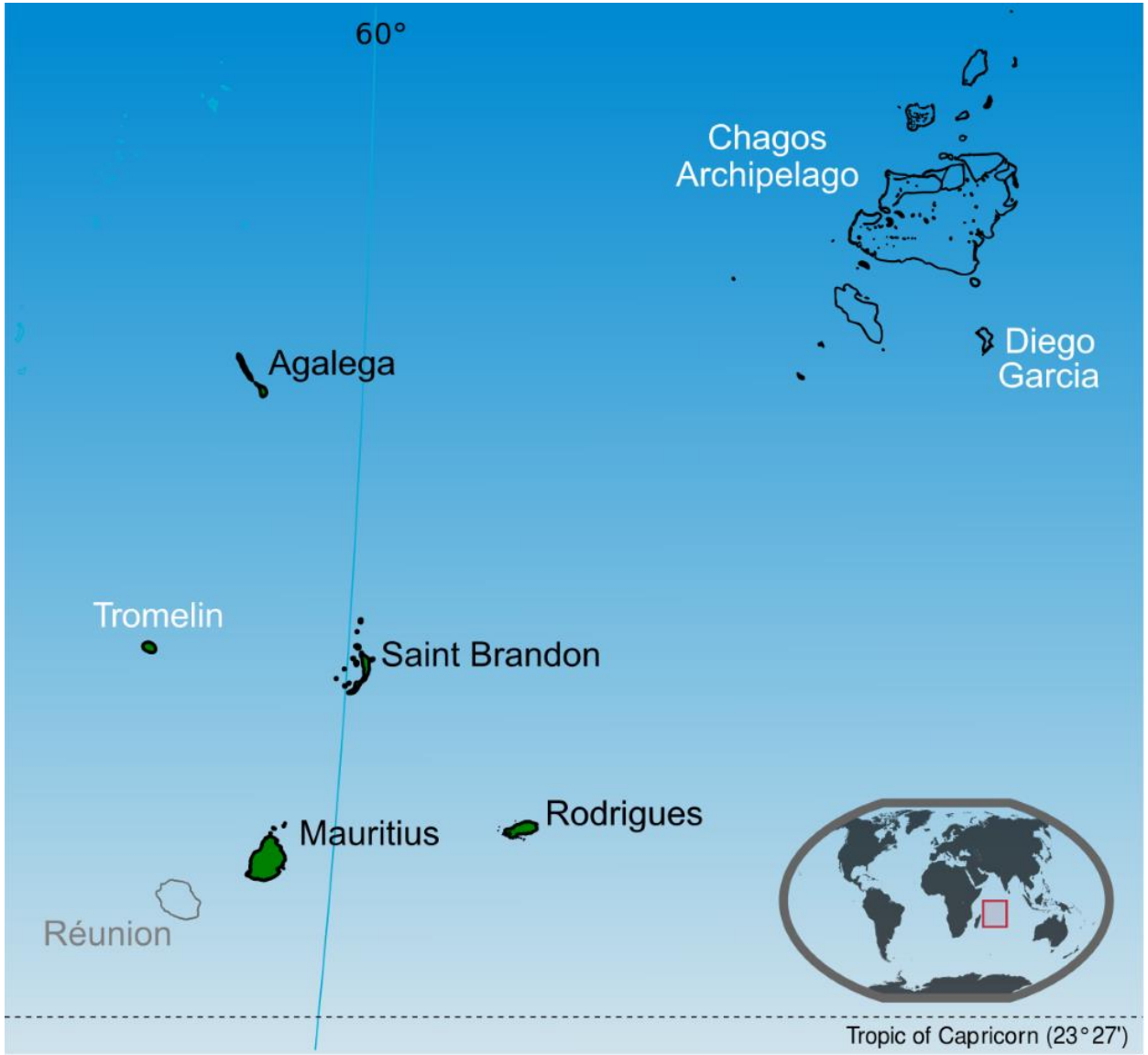
1. Located in Indian Ocean (south of south of the Maldives archipelago)
2. Group of seven atolls comprising more than 60 individual tropical islands
3. Part of Chagos-Laccadive Ridge - a long submarine mountain range
4. Dispute between UK and Mauritius
5. Major islands: Diego Garcia, Peros Banhos, Salomon Islands, Egmont Islands



Topic 151: Chagos Archipelago and Diego Garcia

Key points: Diego Garcia

1. Island of the British Indian Ocean Territory
2. Militarised atoll just south of the equator
3. US set up a foreign military base
4. US and the UK operate a large military base





Topic 152: Mediterranean Sea

Key points:

1. Sea connected to Atlantic Ocean

2. Almost completely enclosed by land
   - North by Southern Europe and Anatolia
   - South by North Africa
   - East by the Levant

3. Countries surrounding the Mediterranean

4. Gaza Strip, British Overseas Territories of Gibraltar and Akrotiri and Dhekelia have coastlines on the sea





Topic 153: International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Key Points:

1. It is principled judicial organ of the United Nations
2. Estd. In 1945 under the Statute of the International Court of Justice
3. Seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands)
4. Court is composed of 15 judges
5. Term: 9 yrs
6. Function: resolve disputes between sovereign states



Topic 154: International Criminal Court (ICC)

Key Points:

1. Intergovernmental organization and international tribunal
2. Hague, Netherlands
3. Rome Statute - serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document
4. India - Non-state party, non-signatory
5. ICC's jurisdiction

Crimes Against Humanity (CAH)

- Internationally, CAH are dealt with Rome Statute of ICC
- India is not a party to the Rome Statute, so no obligation to enact separate legislation dealing with CAH
- India has ratified Genocide Convention (1948) but has not enacted it in domestic legislation.



Topic 155: Permanent Court of Arbitration and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

Key points: PCA

1. Estd. In 1899 (Hague, Netherlands)
2. Intergovernmental organization – to serve the international community in the field of dispute resolution and to facilitate arbitration
3. PCA is not a court in the traditional sense
4. Not a United Nations agency (PCA is an official UN Observer)

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

1. Independent judicial body
2. Estd. By UNCLOS
3. Both PCA and ITLOS have agreed to cooperate to matters related to disputes under Annex VII of UNCLOS

Topic 156: United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

Key points:

1. International agreement resulted from the third UN Conference on Law of Seas

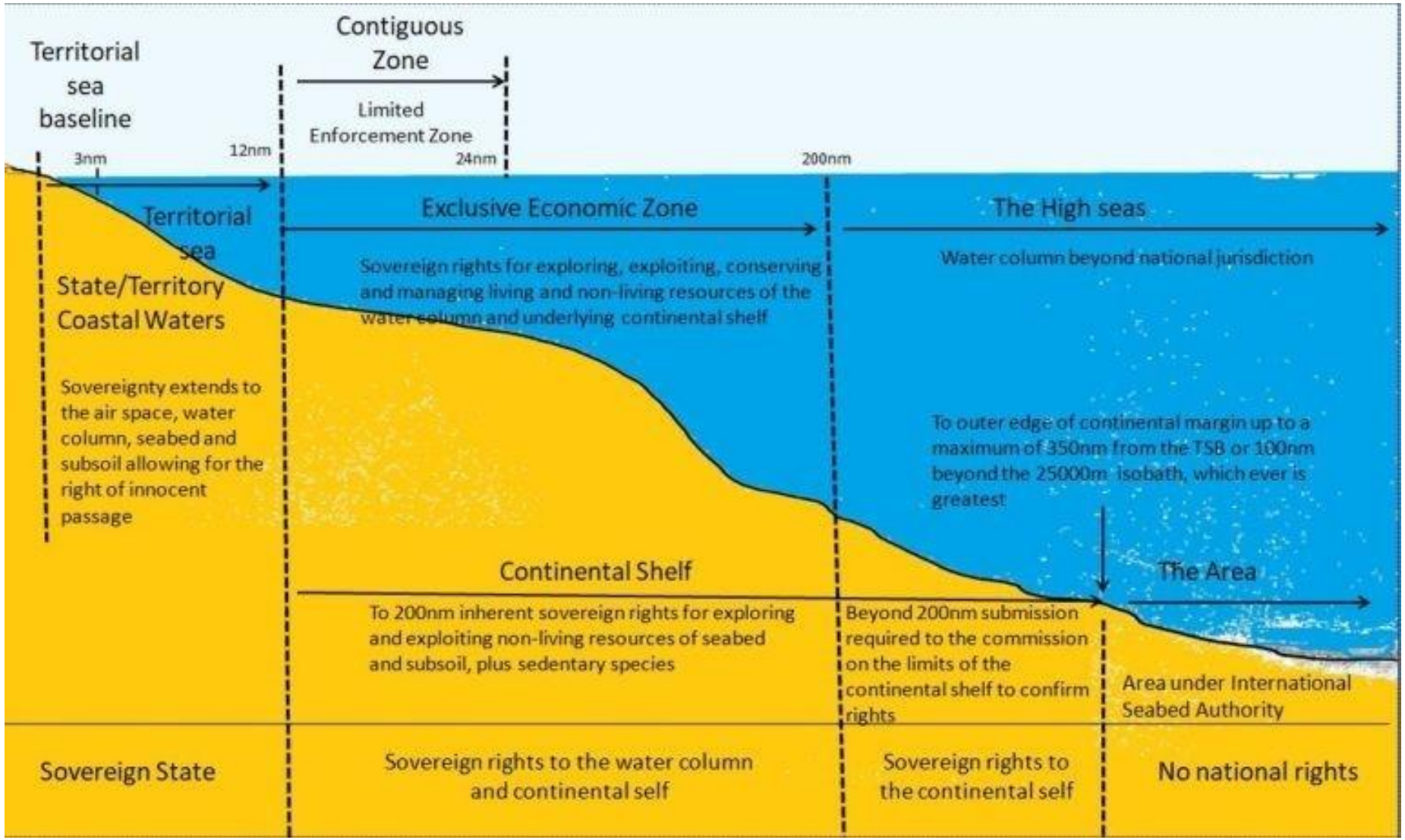
2. Defines rights and responsibilities of nations wrt use of world's oceans and management of marine resources

3. UN has no direct operational role in its implementation

4. Major roles played by IMO, IWC and ISA



Topic 156: United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)





Topic 157: PROJECT NETRA

Key points:

1. NETRA - NETWORK FOR SPACE OBJECT TRACKING AND ANALYSIS

2. ISRO's early warning system (includes network of observational facilities)

3. Predict threats to Indian satellites from space debris, space attacks etc.

The telescopes and radars under the network would be set up at -

1. Ponmudi in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)
2. Mount Abu (Rajasthan)
3. One in Deep North (Leh)
4. One in the Northeast region
5. Multi Object Tracking Radar at Nellore

The telescope network will be set up under the Directorate of Space Situational Awareness and Management at Bengaluru.

ISRO currently depends on NORAD (North American Aerospace Defence Command) for tracking of space debris and protect its satellites



Topic 158: LOx METHANE ENGINE

Key points:

1. LOx - Liquid oxygen oxidiser and methane fuel

2. Developed by Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre of ISRO

3. Benefits:
    1) Can be synthesized in space
    2) It is non-toxic
    3) Easy to store
    4) Less bulky
    5) Does not leave a residue upon combustion



Topic 159: Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS)

Key points:

1. Earth observation satellite

2. Orbiting at 636 km above the surface of the earth

3. Observes earth's surface in 3 different ranges -
   1) visible,
   2) near infrared and
   3) shortwave infrared

4. In short HysIS enables us to do a 'CATSCAN' equivalent of Earth from space.

5. Hyperspectral imaging combines digital imaging and spectroscopy. It uses critical chip called as 'optical imaging detector array'



Topic 160: LIGO-INDIA

Key points:

1. IndIGO (Indian Initiative in Gravitational-wave Observations) - to set up advanced experimental gravitational-wave observatory facilities

2. Piloted by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Department of Science and Technology (DST)

3. Located near Aundha Nagnath, Hingoli District, Maharashtra

4. LIGO-India is planned as a collaborative project between a consortium of Indian research institutions and the LIGO Laboratory in the USA

5. International partners Australia, Germany and the UK

About LIGO

- It is a massive observatory for detecting cosmic gravitational waves and for carrying out experiments.

- The objective is to use gravitational-wave observations in astronomical studies.



Topic 161: Global E-Mobility Programme and National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020

Key points: Global E-Mobility Programme

1. It was launched at UNFCCC COP 25
2. UNRP will implement this programme, in partnership with the International Energy Agency (IEA)
3. Supports developing and transitional countries shift from fossil fuel to electric vehicles

Key points: NEMMP 2020

1. Achieve 6-7 million sales of electric and hybrid vehicles by 2020
2. Under NEMMP 2020, Govt has launched FAME India Scheme
3. GST rates on electric vehicles have been slashed from the earlier 28% with cess to 12% with no cess.



Topic 162: BreatheLife campaign

Key points:

1. Global campaign associated with tackling air pollution

2. Joint campaign led by WHO, UN Environment and Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

Three core strategic goals:

1) Achieve WHO Air Quality Guidelines by 2030
2) Halve the number of air pollution related deaths by 2030
3) Slow the pace of climate change by 0.5 degrees Celsius by 2050

It also aims to build awareness to reduce air pollution and short-lived climate pollutants to meet health and development priorities by 2020, and the SDGs by 2030.

Topic 163: India joined CCAC

Key points:

1. In 2019, India formally joined CCAC
2. India also launched NCAP
3. CCAC is voluntary global partnership
4. CCAC aims to reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, including methane, black carbon and many hydrofluorocarbons.





Topic 164: Global Fund for Ecosystem-based Adaptation

Key points:

1. UNEP, IUCN to launch new €20m programme on ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)
2. Period: 2020 to 2024
3. It was announced in UNFCCC COP 25 Madrid
4. Programme is funded by Germany and jointly implemented by IUCN and UNEP.
5. Provides targeted and rapid support mechanisms through seed capital for innovative approaches to EbA



Topic 165: CoP 15 UN-CBD

Key points:

1. Rio Conventions
2. CBD CoP 15 to review CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
3. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be taken in CBD CoP 15
4. 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature"

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

- It is an international agreement
- Safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs)

Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing

- It is an international agreement
- Sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way