The Hindu News Analysis – 27th July 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Himalayan knotweed latest threat to Nilgiris ecosystem</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Heritage by-laws for Purana Qila, Sher Shah Gate, Khair-ul-Manazil tabled</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Private Bill urges state election funding</td>
<td>14 12 12 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cell for mangrove conservation</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kerala may have undercounted jumbos</td>
<td>11 9 9 9</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
News article:
- Sikkim Knotweed - invaded landscapes of Nilgiris
- Polygonum molle - Polygonaceae family
- Threatens biodiversity - Upper Nilgiris
  → Doddabetta, Kodappamund, Adasolai, Ketti valley
- Spread to the Nilgiris - last couple of decades
- Usually grow along the sides of streams and rivers
- Because of spreading → little/no space for other native plant species to grow
- One of the newest species of invasive flora in W.Ghats

Sikkim knotweed:
- Edible and medicinal herb
- Straight stem
- Ground cover species
  → Doesn’t allow weeds to increase
  → Important for soil stabilization value
- Found in forest, scrub and damp ground, slopes, valleys
- 1200m – 3500m elevation
- Eastern Asia to Indian Himalayas and Southwest China
- Nepal - species - endangered - unsustainable extraction from forests - edible purposes
- Used to re-vegetate and stabilize against landslides

Invasive Alien Species:
→ Alien plant not native to the place
→ Referred as Exotic/Introduced/foreign/non-indigenous/non-native
→ Introduced intentionally or accidentally
→ Naturalized species → displaces native biota
→ Threatens environmental, agricultural or personal resources
→ Disrupt nutrient cycle
→ IUCN → "Alien species which becomes established in natural or semi-natural ecosystems or habitat; an agent of change and threatens native biological diversity
Convention for Biological Diversity - Second largest cause of biodiversity loss in the world.

> greater threat than

Pollution + harvest + disease

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**Heritage by-laws for Purana Qila, Sher Shah Gate, Khair-ul-Manzil tabled**

No construction work allowed within 100 metres of monuments.

**Part A — Preliminary Examination**

**Paper I — (200 marks)**

- Current events of national and international importance.
- History of India and Indian National Movement.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayat Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

**Part B — Main Examination**

**PAPER-II**

**General Studies I:** Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture, from ancient to modern times.

**News:**

- Heritage bye-laws to regulate the construction activities of heritage sites are tabled in both houses of the Parliament.

**Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act of 2010:**

- **Section 20 E (6)** - Heritage by-law shall be laid before both the houses of the Parliament.

**Prohibited Areas**

- Located in 100 metre span from the protected monuments.
- No construction activity is allowed.

**Regulated area**

- From 100 m - 300 m.
- Construction activity regulated by heritage bye-laws.
Q. Consider the following statements regarding Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act of 2010.

1. National Monuments Authority has been formed as an autonomous body as per the provisions of this act.
2. This act also provides Heritage Byelaws for Prohibited and Regulated Area for each centrally protected monuments and sites.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Private Bill urges state election funding

 dois aapual-1 st of the print expenditure limit of (Italia)

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)
• Current events of national and international importance.
• Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

Paper III

General Studies - II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

Salient features of the Representation of People’s Act.

Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance—applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Private Member’s Bill
• Introduced by member other than a Minister

Two main proposals:
1. State Election Funding
2. Removing per candidate’s expenditure limit of 70 lakh rupees

State Election Funding:
• Government giving funds to political parties or candidates to contest election
• Eligibility: to get state funding—party’s recent electoral performance

National Election Fund

Advantages:
1. Limit the influence of ‘vested interest money’ and ‘black money’
2. Decrease entry of criminals into election process
3. Reduce corruption and bribing

Negative aspects:
1. Increase the distance between party leaders and party members
2. More burden on Government’s fiscal policy
3. Turn political parties into organs of the State rather than part of civil society

Needed:
• Strong regulatory framework—

National Election Fund

Previous government reports:

• Indrajit Gupta Committee on State Funding of Election (1999)


• National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2001)

• Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2009)

• Section 13A of Income Tax Act—Tax exemption to registered political parties
Q. With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements:

1. A private member’s bill is a bill presented by a Member of Parliament who is not elected but only nominated by the President of India.

2. Recently, a private member’s bill has been passed in the Parliament of India for the first time in its history.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Mangrove forests are commonly found in the hilly regions.
2. Mangroves forests are not found in the state of Kerala due to the presence of Western Ghats.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Kerala may have undercounted jumbos

Mammoth count

Table lists State-wise population estimates of elephants as per census conducted during 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>6,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>5,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>5,706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>2,761</td>
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<tr>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>1,976</td>
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<td>Uttarakhand</td>
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<td>Meghalaya</td>
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<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
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<td>W.B. (north+south)</td>
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<td>Jharkhand</td>
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<td>Nagaland</td>
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<td>Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands</td>
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<td>Bihar</td>
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<td>Manipur</td>
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<td>Haryana</td>
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<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
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News:

- Kerala may have undercounted 8700 elephants in the latest elephant census
  - Synchronized Elephant Population Estimation India 2017
  - Under the aegis of ‘Project Elephant’, MoEF&CC
  - Conducted once in 5 years

- Elephant Count Estimation Methods
  - Direct count
  - Indirect count

- Direct count:
  - Larger populations - Sample block counts
  - Scattered small elephant groups and solitary individuals - total counts

- Indirect count
  - Based on elephant dung
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with respect to “All India Synchronized Elephant Population Estimation 2017”.

1. The state of Karnataka has recorded the largest population of elephants in India.
2. The population of elephants is estimated using direct count only.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
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Practice Question – Prelims

Answers 27-07-2019

1. Option ‘c’ – Both 1 and 2
2. Option ‘d’ – Neither 1 nor 2
3. Option ‘a’ – 1 only