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

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<td>Heritage by-laws for Purana Qila, Sher Shah Gate, Khair-ul-Manazil tabled</td>
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<td>Private Bill urges state election funding</td>
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<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td>@end of the video</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.Chats

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
- 1200 m - 3500 m 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 habitats, 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

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

No construction work allowed within 100 metres of monuments

Heritage by-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 bye-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.

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, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies-1: 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.
Section 20 E C - Notification of Competent Authority by the Central Government

- Competent authority shall prepare the heritage bye-laws in respect to each protected monuments and areas
- Delhi → Archaeological Survey of India
- A heritage bye-laws for 3 sites
  - Purana Qila
  - Khair-ul-Manazil Mosque & Sher Shah gate
- Purana Qila - built by Humayun in 16th Century
- Khair-ul-Manazil → built in 1561 AD
- Rubble Masonry
- Mosque - cum - madrasa of early Mughal period.

Sher Shah gate → believed to be an entrance to old city of Delhi
- Built with red sandstone
- Also known as Lal Darwaza

National Monuments Authority:
- Statutory Authority
- Composition
  - Chairperson + 5 full time members
  - 5 part time members
  - Member Secretary
  - DGR, ASI (Ex-officio member)
- Functions:
  - Management of prohibited and regulated areas
- Functions under Ministry of Culture

Private Bill urges state election funding

A plea sought removal of the present expenditure limit of 70 lakhs.

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

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.
• Previous government reports:
  - Inrakjit Gupta Committee on State Funding of Election (1998)
• Section 13A of Income Tax Act → Tax exemption to registered political parties

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
  - Transparency and Accountability of spending inside political parties

Cell for mangrove conservation

News:
• Kerala Forest Department has submitted a proposal to Kerala State government to establish Mangrove and Marine Biodiversity foundation
  - Mangrove cover has reduced in Kerala

Mangroves:
• Tree, shrubs and ferns that occupy the boundary between land and sea.
• Form in the tropical and subtropical intertidal coastlines
• Roots are exposed to Saline water and also to freshwater surface runoffs and flooding
  - Derive the nutrition
**Importance of Mangroves:**
- Stilt roots and pneumatophores impede the water flow → helps in deposition of sediments
- Support numerous flora, avifauna and wildlife
- Moderate monsoonal tidal flood and reduce the inundation of coastal wetlands
- Guard against natural calamities like Tsunamis, Storms and floods
- Act as a natural barrier and prevents soil erosion

**News:**
- Cell for Mangrove conservation
- Mission Mangrove - Kerala State
- Districts with Mangrove cover
  - Kasargod - Malappuram
  - Kannur - Thrissur
- International Day for the conservation of the Mangrove ecosystem
- Adopted by General Conference of UNESCO in 2015
- Celebrated on 26th July every year

**Kollam Kaudal Project**
- Mangrove Conservation Initiative of Wildlife Trust of India and Apollo Tyres
- Aim → Ensure survival of existing mangrove cover in Kollam district
  → Increase the acreage of mangrove cover across Kollam district
- Mangrove Interpretation Centre has been launched
  - Mangrove-based research and education
  - Restoration of mangrove cover through community and government participation
Kerala may have undercounted jumbos

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

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<td>Karnataka</td>
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<td>Assam</td>
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<td>Kerala</td>
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PRACTICE QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION

Practice Question – Prelims
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

Practice Question – Prelims
Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Mangrove forests are commonly found in the hilly regions.
2. Mangrove 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
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
d) Neither 1 nor 2

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