



# IAS PARLIAMENT

*Information is Empowering*  
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

## Prelim Bits 17-04-2017

### Vistadome Coach

\n\n

\n

- It is the new type of coach that runs between Vishakapatnam and Araku in A.P state.

\n

- It has distinct features like the glass roof inside these new coaches which will allow the commuters to enjoy the outside view of journey to Araku Valley.

\n

- Araku Valley is a hill station in the Eastern Ghats, known for its coffee.

\n

- It is located close to A.P - Odisha border and surrounded by various mountains which are endowed with bauxite ores. One of the important mountains is Galikonda which is one of the highest in A.P.

\n

- The nearest cave to Araku Valley is Borra cave.

\n

\n\n

### Three new plant species in Nilgiris Biodiversity

\n\n

\n

- The three new species of plants belonging to the Balsaminaceae family were identified in Mukurthi National Park.

\n

- The species *Impatiens Kawttiana*, *tiahmushkulni* and *nilgirica* were named after Toda Deity hills 'kawtty', 'Taihmushkuln'.

\n

- Toda tribes in Nilgiris believe that their god resides and rules them from the hills and thus they preserve the ecosystem.

\n

- Mukurthi National Park is a protected area located in the western corner of the Nilgiris plateau in Tamil Nadu.
- It is part of Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, India's first International Biosphere Reserve and part of UNESCO World Heritage Site.



## Shell Companies

- Shell Company is a company without active business operations or significant assets.
- It is not necessarily illegal or illegitimate, as they often serve an important role for potential startups, for takeover of other business.
- It can act as a tax avoidance technique for legitimate businesses.
- It also acts as tax havens where one can transfer tax liability between different entities within the same company and money laundering.
- Recently, Enforcement Directorate has launched an operation against these shell companies under Prevention of Money Laundering Act to unearth the black money being channeled by the tax professionals using shell companies.

\n

\n\n

## **Global Health Estimates for South Asia**

\n\n

\n

- It is compiled by World Bank for the World Health Organisation (WHO).

\n

\n



**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*  
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative