



## Eco Clubs

### Why in News

The first annual meeting of the State Nodal Agencies implementing the **National Green Corps Ecoclub programme** was recently organized by the Environment Ministry's Education Division in collaboration with the GEER Foundation (Gujarat). It was held from 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> December 2019 in **Kevadia, Gujarat**.

- **Best Ecoclub Award** at national level were also awarded to the students of the Ecoclub from Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Telangana who secured First, Second and Third position respectively.

### Key Points

#### Environment Education Awareness and Training

- In the fiscal year 1983-84, the **Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT)** was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) as the **central sector scheme**.
  - It aims to promote **environmental awareness** among all sections of the society and to **mobilize people's participation** for conservation of environment.
  - Its objectives are achieved through the implementation of **four** programmes:
    - National Green Corps (NGC),
    - National Environment Awareness Campaign,
    - Seminars/Workshops, and
    - National Nature Camping Programme.
  - Under these programmes, **financial assistance** is provided to various organisations for undertaking activities and awareness campaigns for the protection of environment in the country.

#### NGC- Ecoclub Programme

- Under National Green Corps (NGC), the **Ecoclub programme was initiated in 2001-2002**.
- **Objectives:**
  - To **impart knowledge** to school children through hands on experience, about their immediate environment, interactions within it and the problems therein.
  - To **inculcate compassion** among people towards environment and **sensitize children** on issues related to environment and development.
  - To **build young cadres** of students and trigger their sensitivity towards environment protection and conservation. Although it is envisaged that the number of Ecoclubs must be enhanced from about 1.5 lakh at present to 2 lakh in the ensuing year 2020-21.

[Source: PIB](#)

