

1. Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESTHA)

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment has launched SHRESTHA scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESTHA).

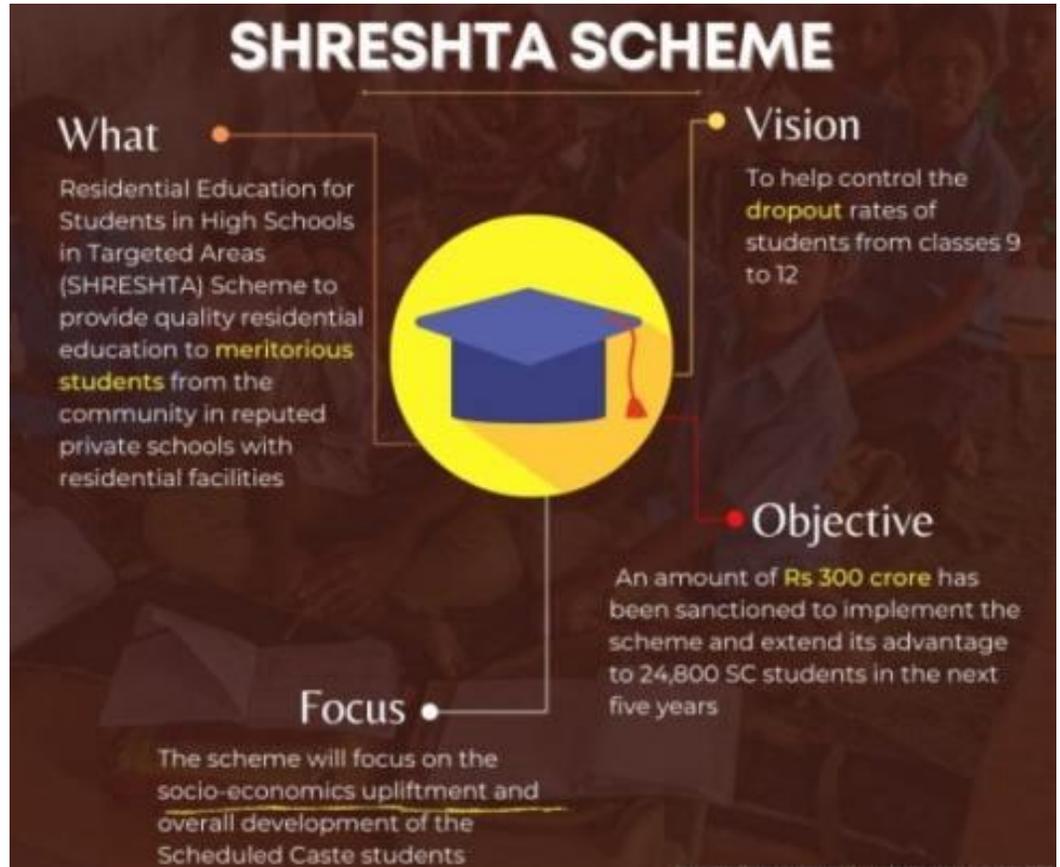
More on the Topic:

- The Scheme for Residential Education for Students in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) in the initial stage aims to provide quality education & opportunities to 3,000 students belonging to scheduled caste category.
- SHRESHTA envisions high quality free residential education from class 9th to class 12th to meritorious students from SC communities.
- The students whose parental annual income is up to Rs. 2.5 Lakh per annum will be covered under the scheme.

The Bridge Course:

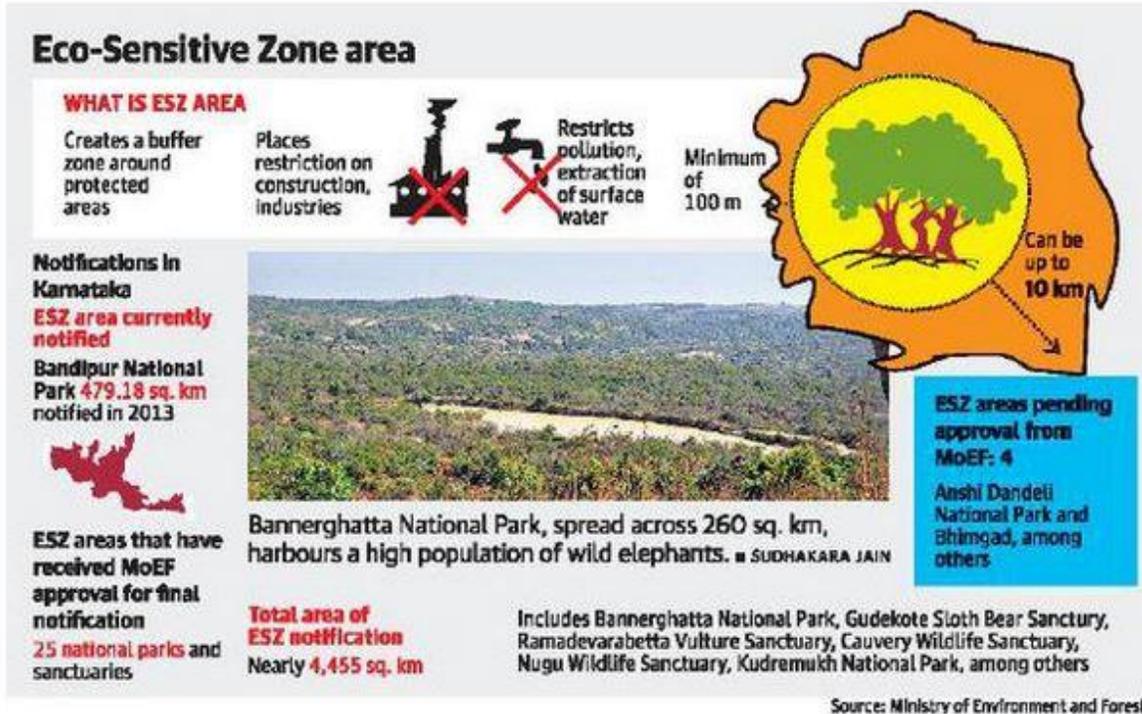
- Another highlight of the scheme is **the provision for a bridge course in it**. To help students adapt to the new school environment, a bridge course of 3 months is provided to students from state schools and rural areas.

Source: Indian Express



2. Eco-sensitive zone

Topic: Environment and Ecology



Eco-Sensitive Zone area

WHAT IS ESZ AREA

- Creates a buffer zone around protected areas
- Places restriction on construction, industries
- Restricts pollution, extraction of surface water
- Minimum of 100 m
- Can be up to 10 km

Notifications in Karnataka

ESZ area currently notified

Bandipur National Park 479.18 sq. km notified in 2013

ESZ areas that have received MoEF approval for final notification

25 national parks and sanctuaries

Total area of ESZ notification

Nearly 4,455 sq. km

ESZ areas pending approval from MoEF: 4

Anshi Dandeli National Park and Bhimgad, among others

Bannerghatta National Park, spread across 260 sq. km, harbours a high population of wild elephants. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

Includes Bannerghatta National Park, Gudkote Sloth Bear Sanctuary, Ramadevarabetta Vulture Sanctuary, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary, Kudremukh National Park, among others

Source: Ministry of Environment and Forests

In News: The Supreme Court on Friday directed that every protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuary across the country should have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of a minimum one km starting from their demarcated boundaries.

More on the Topic:

- Supreme Court has directed that the **State has to act as a trustee for the benefit of the general public in relation to the natural resources** so that sustainable development could be achieved in the long term.
- Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) are areas in India notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Significance of Eco Sensitive Zones:

- The purpose of declaring ESZs is **to create some kind of "shock absorbers"** to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas.
- They also act as a **transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.**
- They also help in reducing **man animal conflict.**

- They aid in **in-situ conservation** as well.
- It will also **reduce the impact of urbanisation and other developmental activities** on protected areas.

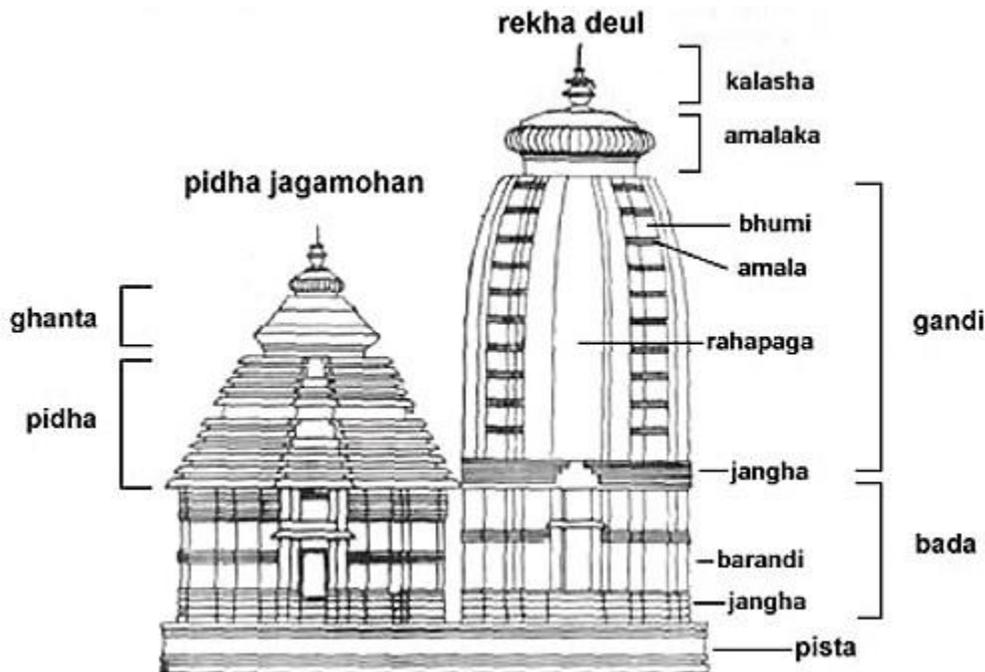
Environment Protection Act and Eco Sensitive Zone:

- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does not mention the word "Eco-Sensitive Zones".
- However, Section 3(2)(v) of the Act, says that **Central Government can restrict** areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards.
- **Besides Rule 5(1) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986** states that central government can prohibit or restrict the location of industries and carrying on certain operations or processes on the basis of considerations like the biological diversity of an area, maximum allowable limits of concentration of pollutants for an area, environmentally compatible land use, and proximity to protected areas.
- The above two clauses have been effectively used by the government to declare ESZs or EFAs.

Source: Indian Express

3. Puri Jagannath Temple

Topic: Art and Culture



In News: The Supreme Court has dismissed a batch of petitions against excavation and construction work by the Odisha government along the Puri Jagannath temple as part of the Puri Heritage Corridor Project.

More on the Topic:

- The temple is believed to be constructed in **the 12th century by King Anatavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.**
- The temple is dedicated to Jagannath, a form of Krishna, **in Puri in the state of Odisha on the eastern coast of India.**
- This temple was called the **“White Pagoda” and is a part of Char Dham pilgrimages** (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram).
- Konark Sun Temple is called 'Black Pagoda' due to its dark color.

Architecture Style:

- With its **Oriya style of temple architecture**, it is one of the most magnificent monuments of India.
- Main temple is a curvilinear structure. Divided into 4 sections, namely –
- Deula, Vimana, or Garba griha (Sanctum sanctorum) in the style of Rekha Deula
- Mukhashala (Porch in front)
- Nata mandir/Natamandapa/ Jagamohan
- Bhoga Mandapa (Offerings Hall)

Source: Indian Express

4. Stockholm +50 Conference

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: The Stockholm +50 conference is being held in Sweden.

More on the Topic:

- The conference is being held to commemorate 50 years of the Stockholm Conference — the first United Nations conference on environment.

- **Theme of Stockholm+50:** A healthy planet for prosperity of all — our responsibility, our opportunity.

About Stock Holm Conference:

- It is also known as **United Nations Conference on the Human Environment**.
- The 1972 Stockholm conference was the **first globally to put the spotlight on environmental issues** and present 26 principles on conserving the environment.
- It also **marked the start of a dialogue between industrialized and developing countries** on the link between economic growth, the pollution of the air, water, and oceans and the well-being of people around the world.
- Key principles of the conference included **assistance to developing countries, safeguarding wildlife and natural resources, control pollution and assert human rights**.
- One of the major results of the Stockholm conference was the **creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- Then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was the only foreign head of government out of 113 nations to attend the conference.

Source: Indian Express

5. 'e-Sanjeevani' - Free Telemedicine Service

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: The National Health Authority (NHA) announced the successful integration of eSanjeevani with its flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

More on the Topic:

- This integration allows the existing users of eSanjeevani, the telemedicine service of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) **to easily create their Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)**.
- It can be used **to link and manage their existing health records** like prescriptions, lab reports, etc.
- The users would also be able to share their health records with doctors on eSanjeevani which will help in better clinical decision making and ensuring the continuum of care.

About e Sanjeevani Services:

- eSanjeevani service is available in two variants. **The first one is eSanjeevani Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWC) – the Doctor-to-Doctor telemedicine service** through which the beneficiaries visiting a Health and Wellness Centre and can



virtually connect to doctors/ specialists in the Hub that could be at tertiary healthcare facility/hospital/medical college.

- This enables the government to provide **general and specialised health services in rural areas and isolated communities.**
- The second variant, **eSanjeevani OPD is serving patients across the country**, connecting them directly to doctors from the comforts of their homes.
- Both versions – eSanjeevani AB-HWC and eSanjeevani OPD have been integrated with ABDM platform.

Source: Business Standard

6. Sanjhi Art

Topic: Art and Culture

In News: PM Modi has Gifted Mathura's Famous Sanjhi Art to Joe Biden at Tokyo Meet.

More on the Topic:

- Sanjhi Painting is a tradition of art that **originated out of the cult of Krishna and flourished in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.**
- It is in Vraja, or Vrindavan, the homeland of Lord Sri Krishna, that this art of Sanjhi painting reached its pinnacle.
- **Sanjhi is the art of hand-cutting designs on paper.**
- Traditionally motifs from Lord Krishna's stories are created in stencils. These stencils are cut freehand using a scissor or a blade.
- The delicate Sanjhi is often held together by thin sheets of paper.
- This art painting is rooted in **the folk culture of the region.** It was taken to its glory by the Vaishnava temples in the 15th and 16th centuries.



Source: Hindu

7. The Energy Progress Report 2022

Topic: Reports and Indices

TRACKING **SDG7** THE ENERGY PROGRESS REPORT **2022**



A joint report of the custodian agencies



In News: Tracking SDG 7 – The Energy Progress Report 2022 was published recently by the collaboration of the World Bank, WHO, UNSD, IEA (International Energy Agency) and IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency).

More on the Topic:

- Important findings by the report are as follows:
- At today's rate of progress, **the world is still not on track to achieve the SDG 7 goals of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030.**
- Globally, **733 million people still have no access to electricity**, and 2.4 billion people still cook using fuels detrimental to their health and the environment.
- **The COVID-19 pandemic has been a key factor in slowing progress** toward universal energy access.
- At the current rate of progress, 670 million people will remain without electricity by 2030.
- **The access gap has widened across regions.** The 20 countries with the least access to electricity are home to 76 percent of the global population left in the dark.
- Nearly 90 million people in Asia and Africa who had previously gained access to electricity, can no longer afford to pay for their basic energy needs.

Source: Hindu



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