



The 6th Capacity Building Program in Mussoorie | Uttarakhand | 11 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, The [6th Capacity Building Program](#) for the [Civil Servants of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka](#) commenced at [National Centre for Good Governance \(NCGG\)](#) in Mussoorie.

Key Points

- **Program Duration and Participants:**
 - The Program is organized from 9th to 20th December 2024.
 - The program is **hosting 40 mid-career civil servants from Sri Lanka**, including Divisional Secretaries, Assistant Divisional Secretaries, District Secretaries, and officers from key ministries like Public Administration, Home Affairs, Agriculture & Livestock, and Health.
 - Participants also include officials from the **Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA)**.
 - The program aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of [governance and administration](#).
- **Sessions will focus on:**
 - Basic administration.
 - Policy frameworks in healthcare and public administration.
 - Technology's role, especially [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#), in governance.
 - Successful governance models, including [waste management systems](#), with insights into urban and [non-biodegradable waste handling](#).
- **Topics covered include:**
 - Changing Paradigm of Governance.
 - E-Office, [Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana](#).
 - [Real Estate Regulatory Authority \(RERA\)](#), [Climate Change](#) impacts, [Aadhaar](#).
- **Field visits to significant institutions like:**
 - [Forest Research Institute \(FRI\)](#), District Administration Ghaziabad, and [Cyber Security Cell Noida](#).
 - Global Robotics Company, [PM Gati Shakti Anubhuti Kendra](#), [Bharat Mandap](#), and Pradhanmantri Sanghralaya.
 - A visit to the [Taj Mahal](#).
- **NCGG's Global Training Role:**
 - NCGG, **established in 2014**, has trained 214 senior Sri Lankan officers.
 - It has **provided governance training to officers from 34 nations**, including Malaysia, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Kenya, South Africa, and Fiji.

Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY

- PM-JAY is the **world's largest health insurance scheme** fully financed by the government.
- Launched in February 2018, it offers a sum insured of **Rs. 5 lakh per family for secondary care and tertiary care**.
 - Health Benefit Packages covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.

First Validation Flight Landing at Jewar Airport | Uttar Pradesh | 11 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the [Noida International Airport \(NIA\)](#) achieved a major milestone as its **first validation flight successfully landed**, bringing it closer to operational readiness.

Key Points

- **Successful Landing of Validation Flight:**
 - The validation flight was **operated by IndiGo**.
 - Special acknowledgement was given to the site workers for their critical role in the project's progress.
- **Flight's Objectives:**
 - The flight tested and confirmed the **airport's approach and departure procedures, accuracy of navigational aids, and air traffic control systems**.
- **Ministerial Remarks and Vision:**
 - The Union Civil Aviation Minister commended the team's efforts and emphasized:
 - The airport's potential to **transform air travel and regional connectivity**.
 - Its design reflects **Uttar Pradesh's cultural heritage**.
 - A terminal capacity of 12 million passengers annually at its 2025 opening.
 - With this development, **Uttar Pradesh will have its 17th operational airport**.
- **Sustainability Focus:**
 - The Minister emphasized sustainability through:
 - **Solar energy** utilization for powering the airport.
 - **Eco-friendly infrastructure development** aligned with government priorities.
- **Economic and Developmental Impact:**
 - The project is expected to **create thousands of jobs**.
 - It is also expected to boost tourism and drive regional development in Western Uttar Pradesh and serve as Asia's largest airport upon completion.

Noida International Airport (NIA)

- The Noida International Airport at Jewar is **developed as the country's first transit hub** with aspirations to develop it into an [Asia-Pacific](#) transit hub, **a first for India**.
 - It is developed based on the **Zurich Airport model in Switzerland**, with the goal of enhancing passenger and flight handling capabilities to world-class standards.
 - The greenfield **airport is being** constructed in the Jewar area of Gautam Buddh Nagar district in western Uttar Pradesh.
 - It **will be the second international airport in the National Capital Region**, alongside Delhi's [Indira Gandhi International Airport](#).
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Bihar Khel Pratibha Khoj Pratiyogita | Bihar | 11 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Chief Minister of Bihar launched '**Bihar Khel Pratibha Khoj Pratiyogita**', the **largest talent search competition in the world of sports**, lighting the torch at the [Patliputra Sports Complex](#) in Patna.

Key Points

- **Participation and Scope:**
 - Approximately **60 lakh children from 40,000 government secondary and higher secondary schools will participate.**
 - The competition will also **welcome children from outside schools to compete.**
 - Total **prize pool is set at 10 crore rupees.**
- **Promoting a Sporting Ecosystem:**
 - It aims to build a robust **sporting culture in Bihar.**
 - Follows the success of the [Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey](#) held in Rajgir, where India defended its title.
 - Designed as a **step toward nurturing future sporting talent.**
- **Olympic Aspirations:**
 - One of the long-term goals is to **identify and prepare potential medal contenders for the 2032 and 2036 Olympic Games.**
- **Competition:**
 - Participants will compete at three stages, **Block, District, and State level.**
 - Key sports in the competition include **Athletics, Kabaddi, Football, Volleyball.**
 - **Winners will be awarded sports kits and certificates** as part of the recognition and encouragement package.

Bima Sakhi Yojana | Haryana | 11 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister launched the '**Bima Sakhi Yojana**' of [Life Insurance Corporation](#) in Panipat, Haryana. During the occasion, he also **laid the foundation stone of** the Main campus of **Maharana Pratap Horticultural University, Karnal.**

Key Points

- **Bima Sakhi Yojana:**
 - It is designed for **women aged 18-70 years**, focusing on [financial literacy and insurance awareness.](#)
 - It includes training and a stipend for three years, with opportunities to become LIC agents or Development Officers and create employment for 2 lakh women.
 - It will strengthen the mission of ["Insurance for All,"](#) promoting [social security and eradicating poverty.](#)
- **Maharana Pratap Horticulture University:**
 - It is spread over 495 acres, featuring research stations, a College of Horticulture, and five schools.
 - It aims to **diversify crops and promote world-class horticulture technologies.**
- **During the event the PM also highlighted:**

- **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign** launched from Panipat, contributed to saving the lives of thousands of daughters in the last decade.
- **Highlighted various initiatives for women, including:**
 - Training women as **Bank Sakhis, Insurance Sakhis, and Krishi Sakhis.**
 - Increasing maternity leave to 26 weeks.
 - Introducing programs like **Jan Dhan Yojana** for **financial inclusion**, with 30 crore women benefitting.
- He emphasized **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** as a cornerstone of rural economic transformation, with over 10 crore women associated.
- Highlighted achievements like the **Lakshmi Didi Campaign** which has enabled 1.15 crore women to earn over Rs 1 lakh annually.
- He highlighted the transformation brought by Jan Dhan Yojana, ensuring direct transfer of benefits from schemes like:
 - **Kisan Kalyan Nidhi.**
 - **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana.**
 - **Funds for housing and small businesses.**

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme

▪ About:

- The Scheme was **launched by the Prime Minister on January 22, 2015** to **address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR)** and related issues of women's empowerment over a life-cycle continuum.
- It is a **Tri-ministerial effort** of the Ministries of Women and Child Development (MW&CD), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (**MH&FW**), and Ministry of Education.

▪ Main Objectives:

- Prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination.
- Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child.
- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
- Protecting rights of Girl children.

Marbled Duck | Haryana | 11 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, bird enthusiasts were thrilled to spot a **marbled duck**, a rare winter migrant, at **Sultanpur National Park**. Last recorded sighting of this species in Sultanpur was in 1990.

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Key Points

- **Physical Characteristics:**
 - **Medium-sized** duck with **grey-white plumage**.
 - Distinguished by a **large head and light eye patches**.
 - **Feeds on fish and aquatic plants**.
- **Global Conservation Status:**
 - Classified as "**vulnerable**" globally by the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#).
 - Population decline attributed to habitat destruction and hunting.
- **Geographic Range and Habits:**
 - Native to Europe, where it breeds during the summer months.
 - Known to breed in three distinct regions: the [eastern Mediterranean, western Mediterranean, and Iran](#).
 - Prefers lowland, shallow freshwater habitats for breeding.
- **Occurrence in India:**
 - Rarely spotted in Delhi-NCR; last recorded at [Bhindawas wetland in 2022](#).
 - Limited sightings in Haryana, with records in Gurgaon during the 2000s.
 - Previous observations include Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Sultanpur National Park

- **About:**
 - Sultanpur National Park is a bird paradise for bird watchers. It is famous for its **migratory as well as resident birds**.
 - Migratory birds start arriving in the park in September. Birds use the park as a resting place till the following March-April.
 - During **summer** and **monsoon** months the park is inhabited by many local bird species.
 - In April 1971, the [Sultanpur Jheel](#) inside the park (an area of 1.21 sq. Km.) was

accorded **Sanctuary status** under section 8 of the **Punjab Wildlife Preservation Act, 1959**.

- The status of the park was upgraded to **National Park** under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** in July 1991.

▪ **Location:**

- It is **situated in Gurgaon district of Haryana**. The distance of the park is around 50 Km from Delhi and 15km from Gurgaon.

▪ **Important Fauna at the Park:**

- **Mammals:** **Blackbuck, Nilgai**, Hog deer, Sambar, **Leopard** etc.
- **Birds:** **Siberian Cranes, Greater Flamingo, Demoiselle Crane** etc.

Leopard Strays Into Residential Colony in Jaipur | Rajasthan | 11 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Panic spread in the Vidhyadhar Nagar area after a **leopard strayed into a residential colony and attacked three people**. The wildcat was later tranquillised and rescued by a forest department team.



Key Points

▪ **About Leopards:**

- Its scientific name is ***Panthera pardus***.
- The leopard is the smallest of the Big Cats of genus Panthera namely the **Tiger, Lion, Jaguar, Leopard, and Snow Leopard**. It known for its ability to adapt in a variety of habitats.
- A nocturnal animal, the leopard hunts at night.
- It feeds on smaller species of herbivores found in its range, such as the chital, hog deer and

wild boar.

- Melanism is a common occurrence in leopards, wherein the entire skin of the animal is black in colour, including its spots.
 - A melanistic leopard is often called **black panther** and mistakenly thought to be a different species.

▪ **Habitat:**

- It occurs in a wide range in **sub-Saharan Africa**, in small parts of **Western and Central Asia**, on the **Indian subcontinent** to **Southeast** and **East Asia**.
- The **Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*)** is a leopard widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent.

▪ **Population in India:**

- As per a recent report '**Status of leopards in India, 2018**' released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, there has been a "60% increase in the population count of leopards in India from 2014 estimates".
- The 2014 estimates placed the population of leopards at nearly 8,000 which has increased to 12,852.
- The largest number of leopards have been estimated in **Madhya Pradesh (3,421) followed by Karnataka (1,783) and Maharashtra (1,690)**.

▪ **Threats:**

- Poaching for the illegal trade of skins and body parts.
- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Human-Leopard conflict

▪ **Conservation Status:**

- **IUCN Red List**: Vulnerable
- **CITES**: Appendix-I
- **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**: Schedule-I

