



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 [Lakhpati 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.

//



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.