



### **Launches 'EmpowHER Biz' to Boost Women Entrepreneurship in Retail**

The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) of NITI Aayog, launched EmpowHER Biz – Sapno Ki Udaan in partnership with New Shop, India's largest 24/7 convenience retail chain under its Award to Reward (ATR) program. This initiative aims to empower women entrepreneurs by equipping them with the skills and resources needed to succeed in the organized retail sector.

- ❖ EmpowHER Biz will offer mentorship and comprehensive training, covering retail management, digital tools, financial literacy and business development to aspiring women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Through this collaboration with New Shop, WEP aims to create a robust retail ecosystem that empowers women entrepreneurs and drives sustainable growth in the sector.
- ❖ The program is being launched for women from Delhi NCR, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.

- ❖ WEP was launched by NITI Aayog in 2018.

### **Sri Lanka launches 1st Hindi certificate course at Bharat Sri Lankan Hindi Sammelan.**

In a historic step towards promoting Hindi education in Sri Lanka, the country's first certificate course in Hindi through open and distance learning was launched on 10 January 2025 at the first-ever Bharat Sri Lankan Hindi Sammelan held in Colombo.

- ❖ The unveiling of the course curriculum was done by Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Dr. Madhura Senevirathne and the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha.
- ❖ The Sammelan saw over 400 scholars, teachers, and students from India, Sri Lanka and Nepal participating.
- ❖ A Kavi Sammelan featuring Sri Lanka's Hindi poets was also organised as a part of the event.

**Dr Syed Anwar Khursheed honoured  
with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman  
Award 2025.**

- ❖ Dr. Syed Anwar Khursheed, a distinguished Indian physician based in Saudi Arabia, will be awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2025.
- ❖ The highest recognition for overseas Indians by the Government of India.
- ❖ The award celebrates his remarkable contributions to healthcare, community welfare, and strengthening ties between India and Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ He played a critical role by providing essential healthcare, vaccine advocacy, and round-the-clock consultations to the Indian diaspora.

**Indian-origin MP Chandra Arya  
announces bid for Canada's next PM**

- ❖ Indian-origin Member of Parliament of Canada Chandra Arya has announced his candidacy for Prime Minister following the resignation of Justin Trudeau.

- ❖ Arya, a Liberal party MP from Ottawa has pledged to eliminate the consumer carbon tax and advocate for Canada to become a republic.
- ❖ Arya hails from Dwarlu village in Tumkur district, Karnataka and immigrated to Canada in 2006.
- ❖ He was elected as the MP for Nepean in the 2015 Canadian federal elections, securing re-election in both the 2019 and 2021 polls.
- ❖ He currently serves as a member of the Standing Committee on International Trade.

**"Water-360 Degrees" begins in  
Raipur to promote water  
management**

- ❖ The 57th Annual Convention of the Indian Water Works Association started on 10 January, 2025 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The theme of this convention is "Water-360 Degrees."
- ❖ The convention was inaugurated by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai.

- ❖ More than 400 water experts and engineers from across the country are participating in this convention.
- ❖ The aim of Water-360 Degrees is to promote comprehensive water conservation and management practices. It focuses on addressing water scarcity, pollution, and sustainability through collaborative efforts.

#### CM Yogi inaugurated 'Maa Ki Rasoi',

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday inaugurated 'Maa Ki Rasoi' run by Nandi Seva Sansthan at Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital in Prayagraj.
- ❖ The initiative aims to provide meals to economically weaker sections of society.
- ❖ Under this program, people can enjoy a full meal for just Rs.9
- ❖ The meal includes dal, four rotis, vegetables, rice, salad, and a dessert.

#### Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched All India Radio's special FM channel 'Kumbhvani' and 'Kumbh Mangal Dhwani' in Prayagraj

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today launched a special FM channel of All India Radio Kumbhvani (103.5 MHz), dedicated to Maha Kumbh 2025, at Circuit House.
- ❖ CM Adityanath also inaugurated the Kumbh Mangal Dhwani on this occasion.
- ❖ The live commentary on Kumbhvani will be especially beneficial for those who would not be able to come to Prayagraj to participate in the Kumbh.
- ❖ This will also be helpful in bringing the ambience of this historic Mahakumbh to the country and the entire world.
- ❖ This initiative of Prasar Bharati, the country's public service broadcaster.

**Chief minister Mamata Banerjee  
launched India's first new-generation  
electric ferry**

- ❖ Chief minister Mamata Banerjee launched India's first new-generation electric ferry 'Dheu' on 9 January 2025.
- ❖ The vessel named as 'Dheu' (wave) will operate as a pleasure trip from Millennium Park to Belur-Dakshineswar.
- ❖ The vessel solely powered by batteries and supplemented by solar panels to cater for lighting loads boasts zero emissions and minimal non-polluting overboard discharge, ensuring a clean and sustainable operation.

- ❖ The vessel has a seating capacity of 92 passengers that includes AC as well as non-AC facilities. The total cost of manufacturing the vessel is Rs 13.5 crore.
- ❖ Chief minister Mamata Banerjee also inaugurated Ganga Sagar Mela 2025 at the fair transit camp near Outram Ghat in Kolkata.



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