



Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Index

Why in News?

The latest **Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Index**, developed by the **Department of Planning**, highlights the significant progress made in enhancing [women's economic participation](#) in **Uttar Pradesh**.

Key Points

About the WEE Index

- **About:** It is a pivotal report from the **Planning Department** and **Udayati Foundation**, aimed at evaluating the **impact of government schemes** on women and fostering **gender-inclusive, data-driven policymaking** in the state.
- **WEE Index Structure:** The index evaluates all **75 districts** based on five key parameters:
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Employment
 - Education & Skill Development
 - Livelihood
 - Safety & Transportation infrastructure
 - **49 indicators** from **15 departments** are analyzed to gauge performance across these categories.
- **District Classification:** The districts were categorized based on their performance in the WEE Index:
 - **'Champions':** These districts demonstrated strong outcomes due to **effective government schemes, active women's participation, and structural support**. Women in these districts are excelling in entrepreneurship, education, and employment. The list includes:
 - Lucknow, Kanpur Nagar, Varanasi, Jhansi, Sultanpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Prayagraj, Ayodhya, Sonbhadra, Rae Bareilly, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Ambedkar Nagar, Agra, Ghaziabad.
 - **'Leader':** These districts performed well but need to maintain momentum. The list includes:
 - Pratapgarh, Moradabad, Barabanki, Aligarh, Bareilly.
 - **'Contender':** These districts have shown progress, but more efforts are required, particularly in **skill training** and **employment opportunities**. The list includes:
 - Ghazipur, Jalaun, Muzaffarnagar, Bulandshahr.
 - **'Aspirational':** These districts face challenges in **grassroots awareness, education, safety, and self-employment**. Special campaigns will be launched to address these issues. The list includes:
 - Chandauli, Baghpat, Amroha, Badaun, Sitapur, Siddharthnagar, Balrampur, Mahoba, Sambhal, Shravasti.
- **Key Insights of the Index:**
 - **Education & Skill Development:** There has been a notable increase in women's involvement in education and skill development programs.
 - Government initiatives such as **vocational training**, [Mission Shakti Pradhan](#)

[Mantri Ujjwala Yojana](#), and [Swachh Bharat Mission](#) have empowered women socially and economically by enhancing safety, social awareness, and mobility.

- **Public Transport Inclusion:** Schemes to recruit women as **drivers and conductors in public transport** have boosted women's economic independence and mobility.

▪ **Actionable Measures:**

- **Integration of WEE Index:** The WEE index will be integrated into the Chief Minister's Control Room for **real-time monitoring**, serving as a **foundational tool for policymaking** and tracking outcomes across all departments.
 - Departments are required to **develop actionable plans** focused on [women's empowerment](#) and create district-level strategies to localize the impact of state schemes.
- **Targeted Campaigns:** Specific districts such as Banda, Jalaun, Jaunpur, Mahoba, Shravasti, and Sitapur will launch campaigns under the [ODOP Margin Money Scheme](#) to increase women's inclusion.
- **Recruitment Drives:** Recruitment drives for home guards and teachers will prioritize women, drawing from the successful model used in police recruitment.
- **Expanding Women's Workforce Participation:** Efforts will be made to boost [women's enrollment in technical institutes](#), vocational programs, and skill training centers.
 - The creation of '**Re-enrolment Units**' will aim to bring back women who have dropped out of courses.
- **Support for Healthcare Careers:** Paramedical institutes will be developed to facilitate women's careers in [healthcare](#) and service sectors.
- **Public Transport Roles:** There will be an emphasis on increasing women's roles in public transport, specifically as drivers and conductors, by providing **specialized training** and support facilities.

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