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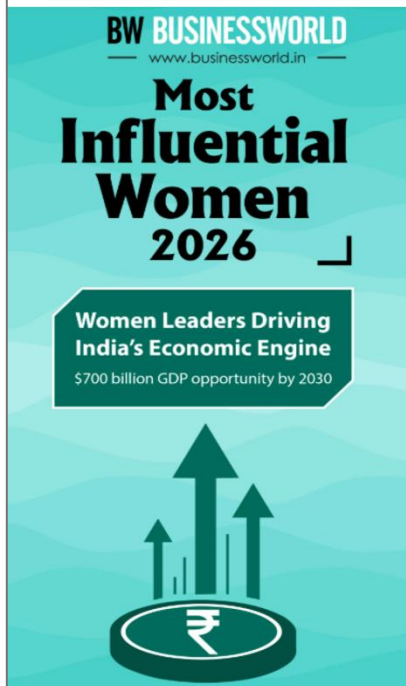
BW BUSINESSWORLD

100 Most Influential Women 2026: Driving India's \$700 Bn Economic Opportunity

Unlocking a potential \$700 billion GDP boost by 2030 through leadership across boardrooms, factory floors, policy corridors and playing fields

The Titans


The Titans represent leadership at the highest institutional and national levels. These are women who influence macroeconomic direction, global corporate strategy and public policy architecture. Their decisions affect capital flows, sectoral regulation, technological investments and social priorities. Whether in government, large conglomerates or multinational enterprises, they operate at a scale where leadership shapes systems rather than individual organisations. The Titans embody continuity, authority and national consequence, anchoring India's economic and institutional trajectory.













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Most Influential Women 2026

Women Leaders Driving India's Economic Engine
\$700 billion GDP opportunity by 2030



THE INDUSTRY CAPTAINS

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
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Ameera Shah
Metropolis Healthcare | 
Anjali Singh
Anand Group | 
Daisy Chittilappilly
Cisco India & SAARC | 
Geetika Mehta
Nivea India | 
Irina Ghose
Anthropic India |
| 
Jaya Jagadish
AMD | 
Jyotsna Surti
The Laxti Surti Hospitality Group | 
Malika Srinivasan
TAFE (Tractors & Farm Equipment) | 
Pavitra Shankar
Brigade Enterprises | 
Prabha Narasimhan
Colgate-Palmolive India |
| 
Pratiba Mohapatra
Adobe India | 
Preeti Lehana
Google India | 
Radhika Gupta
Edelweiss Mutual Fund | 
Sallia Pande
SB Card & Payment Services | 
Sandhya Devanathan
Meta India and SEA |
| 
Sindhu Gaogadharan
SAP Labs India, Nasscom | 
Suchitra Ella
Bharat Biotech International | 
Sudhija Pirodia Motwani
Kinetic Green | 
Vaishali Nigam Sinha
RelNew Energy Global | 
Vinati Saraf Motreja
Vinati Organics |
| 
Walta Singhania
JK Lakshmi Cement | 
Vishakha Motya
Aditya Birla Capital | | | |

India stands at a defining economic juncture. Multiple global studies estimate that advancing women's participation and leadership in the economy could add as much as USD 700 billion to India's GDP by 2030. Yet this projection is more about leadership. It is about who allocates capital, who shapes policy, who builds enterprises, who leads manufacturing lines, who governs institutions, and who defines culture.

The BW Most Influential Women 2026 list of 99 leaders is anchored in this larger economic reality. This year's edition reflects a decisive shift towards women who are actively steering India's growth story.

Women Leaders Rise Across Sectors

Women are no longer concentrated in traditional domains. Industrial manufacturing, automotive and mobility, mining, specialty chemicals, infrastructure and energy transition feature prominently. As India strengthens its manufacturing ambitions and industrial competitiveness, women are occupying consequential leadership positions in capital-intensive and operationally complex sectors.

Financial services, central banking, governance and regulatory institutions also stand out. Economic direction, fiscal design and capital allocation are increasingly influenced by women at the highest institutional levels. Simultaneously, in technology and digital platforms, leadership now spans enterprise tech, AI ecosystems, semiconductor capabilities and global capability centres, sectors directly tied to India's global competitiveness.

Another defining feature is the scale of entrepreneurship. Across FMCG, beauty, fintech, aerospace, edtech, consumer brands and deep technology, women founders are building nationally and globally relevant enterprises. They are not niche disruptors; they are central to India's scale-up narrative. Energy transition and climate leadership, too, have moved firmly into mainstream boardroom strategy.

The 99 women featured this year have been organised across seven broad classifications, from Titans and Industry Captains to Torchbearers, Builders, Champions, Distinguished leaders and Vanguards. Together, these categories reflect generational depth.