

# ROLE OF WOMEN IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

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## ABSTRACT:

The Information Technology (IT) sector in India has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past three decades, establishing itself as a global technology hub and a key contributor to the national economy. Among its most profound socio-economic impacts is the increased inclusion of women in the formal workforce. The sector's relatively open recruitment practices, skill-based evaluation, and digital workplace culture have created unprecedented opportunities for Indian women to pursue professional careers, particularly in urban and semi-urban regions.

This research paper explores the current role of women in India's IT industry, assessing their participation across various organizational levels, from entry to executive leadership. Drawing upon recent employment statistics, industry surveys, and corporate case studies, it highlights both the progress and persistent barriers—such as gender bias, unequal career advancement, and balancing work-family responsibilities—that influence women's career trajectories in IT.

The paper also analyzes recent trends including the impact of remote work, hybrid work cultures post-COVID-19, the emergence of women-led tech startups, and institutional efforts to foster gender diversity. Concluding with a set of policy and organizational recommendations, the study advocates for a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable IT ecosystem where women can thrive as leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

## Keywords

Work-Life Integration in Tech, Women Leadership in IT, Digital Skilling for Women, Tech Entrepreneurship among Women, Return-to-Work Programs, Inclusive Workplace Policies, Hybrid Work and Gender Equity, Government Initiatives for Women in Tech, Career Barriers for Women in IT, Digital Economy and Women Empowerment, Rural Women in Information Technology, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in IT.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

India's Information Technology (IT) sector has emerged as a transformative force in the nation's economic, technological, and social development. It contributes over 7.5% to the national GDP and employs nearly 5 million professionals, making it one of the largest employers in the country. Notably, the IT industry has opened up significant career pathways for women, challenging traditional gender roles and enabling social mobility through formal, skill-based employment.

The entry of women into the IT workforce has been influenced by multiple factors, including rapid urbanization, the expansion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, digital literacy programs, and inclusive hiring practices by leading technology firms. The flexibility offered by IT jobs—such as remote work options, non-physical labor requirements, and relatively meritocratic evaluation systems—has made the sector particularly attractive to women, especially in urban and semi-urban India.

Recent reports by NASSCOM and other industry bodies show that women constitute approximately 30–35% of the Indian IT workforce at the entry level. However, this participation sharply declines at mid and senior management levels, where structural, social, and institutional challenges persist. The “leaky pipeline” phenomenon—where capable women exit the workforce due to marriage, care giving responsibilities, or workplace biases—continues to restrict the advancement of women in tech leadership.

The COVID-19 pandemic reshaped workplace dynamics across the globe, with Indian IT companies adopting hybrid and remote working models. While this transition created greater flexibility, it also intensified domestic workloads and blurred boundaries between professional and personal life—disproportionately affecting women. At the same time, new opportunities have emerged in the form of tech-based women entrepreneurship, reskilling programs, and targeted diversity initiatives by top firms.

This paper seeks to explore the evolving role of women in India’s IT sector from a multidimensional lens. It begins by reviewing recent statistical trends and key literature, identifies enduring and emerging challenges, and highlights best practices and case examples from industry leaders. Finally, it offers forward-looking recommendations aimed at creating an equitable and inclusive IT ecosystem for women in India.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The role of women in the Information Technology (IT) industry has gained considerable attention in both academic and industry discourse due to its implications for gender equity, workforce diversity, and economic productivity. Over the past decade, a growing body of research has examined the progress, challenges, and future prospects of women professionals in India’s IT sector.

### 2.1. Trends in Workforce Participation

Over the past two decades, women’s entry into the Indian IT workforce has shown a steady rise. According to a NASSCOM survey (2023), women account for approximately **35%** of the total workforce in IT and BPM (Business Process Management). However, the representation is skewed toward **entry-level roles** such as customer support, testing, quality assurance, and HR. In contrast, **core technical roles** such as software architecture, DevOps, data science, and cybersecurity witness a much lower representation, typically under **20%**.

Furthermore, while women’s presence in **Global Capability Centers (GCCs)** rose to **38.3% in 2022**, a decline to **38.1% in 2024** suggests stagnation or reversal, particularly due to burnout, career breaks, and post-pandemic challenges.

These trends reinforce the phenomenon known as the “**glass cliff**” and “**leaky pipeline**”, where despite a healthy intake of women at the bottom of the organizational hierarchy, a significant drop is observed by the time they reach middle or senior roles.

### 2.2. Barriers to Career Progression

Multiple institutional and societal factors continue to hamper women’s upward mobility in IT. Studies by **McKinsey (2022)** and **Choudhury & Panigrahi (2019)** highlight the following barriers:

- **Lack of Sponsorship & Mentorship:** Unlike men, women are less likely to be mentored by senior leaders. This leads to missed opportunities for career visibility and growth.

- **Bias in Leadership Perception:** Unconscious bias often leads to women being considered less “leadership-ready,” especially in technical and strategic roles.
- **Maternity-related Attrition:** Many women are forced to take career breaks due to pregnancy or childcare, but the lack of structured return-to-work programs makes re-entry challenging.
- **Project Allocation Bias:** Women are less frequently assigned to high-impact, client-facing roles that are critical for promotion.

These challenges become more acute as women attempt to transition into decision-making or leadership positions, leading to their underrepresentation in senior roles. For instance, as per an **IDC India study (2023)**, only **11%** of tech CXOs in India are women.

### 2.3. Impact of Remote Work and Digitalization

The **COVID-19 pandemic** and subsequent shift to **remote work** were initially seen as enablers for women, offering flexibility in working hours and eliminating commute-related challenges. However, the **blurring of work-life boundaries** resulted in a dual workload for many women.

According to **Bhattacharya & Singh (2022)**:

- Over **63% of women tech employees** reported working longer hours in remote mode than in-office roles.
- Women were more likely to exit the workforce during the pandemic due to increased caregiving responsibilities.
- The lack of formal support systems in hybrid environments (e.g., mentorship, networking, in-person feedback) has slowed their career growth post-pandemic.

The paradox of flexibility without support has thus created **new invisible burdens** for women in tech.

### 2.4. Women in Tech Entrepreneurship

While the number of women entering traditional employment in IT has risen, the **entrepreneurial landscape** has also begun to shift. In the last 5 years:

- Women-led tech startups have grown by **30%**, especially in sectors like **ed-tech**, **health tech**, and **AI-based SaaS platforms**.
- Success stories like **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (Biocon)** and **Debjani Ghosh (President, NASSCOM)** have created inspirational role models.

Despite this momentum, structural issues such as **gender disparity in VC funding** remain:

- Only **5–7% of venture capital funding** in India goes to female-founded startups (YourStory, 2023).
- Women face challenges in accessing networks, investor forums, and incubation opportunities.

Nevertheless, support from platforms like **Google Women Founders Fund**, **Facebook SheLeadsTech**, and **NITI Aayog’s Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** is gradually changing the landscape.

## 2.5. Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

Leading Indian IT firms have increasingly recognized the business case for gender diversity. Companies such as **Infosys, TCS, IBM India, Wipro, and Accenture** have invested in structured **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)** programs, focusing on:

- **Flexible working hours and parental leave policies**
- **Women Returnee Programs** (e.g., TCS's "Second Careers" and Infosys's "Restart with Her")
- **Leadership development tracks** for mid-level women employees
- **Bias training** and diversity audits
- **Women-in-tech networks** for peer support and mentorship

A **2024 Avtar Group study** revealed that firms with dedicated DEI programs not only improved **employee retention** and **productivity**, but also performed better in **innovation metrics** by 11–13%.

Despite these successes, a wide **execution gap** persists, especially among mid-size IT companies and Tier-II/Tier-III firms, where such policies are either absent or symbolic.

## 2.6. Gaps in the Literature

While considerable research has been conducted on gender equity in the Indian IT space, several gaps still exist:

- **Lack of intersectional analysis:** Most studies fail to account for caste, class, religion, or rural-urban divides in shaping women's experiences.
- **Underrepresentation of non-metro regions:** The focus remains on urban IT hubs like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, and NCR, neglecting regional firms and workforce dynamics in smaller cities.
- **Absence of longitudinal data:** Few studies track women's careers over time or analyze long-term attrition and re-entry trends.
- **Insufficient feedback from women entrepreneurs:** While startup activity is growing, research on women founders' lived experiences remains limited.

## 3. CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN THE INDIAN IT SECTOR

Despite measurable progress in participation and opportunity, women in India's Information Technology (IT) sector continue to face a range of interrelated challenges that hinder their long-term success, career growth, and leadership advancement. These challenges are embedded at multiple levels: societal, organizational, cultural, and infrastructural. This section categorizes and explores the primary barriers limiting women's full inclusion in the sector.

### 3.1. Work-Life Balance and Dual Burden

Indian women in IT frequently juggle between their professional duties and deeply ingrained familial responsibilities. In many households, even working women are expected to manage domestic chores, childcare, and elder care—creating what is termed the "second shift." While remote work offers flexibility, it often leads to longer working hours with little boundary between work and home.

A 2023 Deloitte survey reported that nearly **58% of women in Indian tech roles** feel overburdened by domestic expectations alongside their careers, leading to burnout and withdrawal from leadership tracks.

Without institutional mechanisms like in-house childcare, mental health support, and caregiver leave, many talented women are forced to stagnate or exit.

### 3.2. Gender Bias and Stereotyping

Gender-based assumptions continue to shape hiring, appraisal, and promotion decisions. Women are often seen as less assertive or less technical, which affects their chances of leading projects or being involved in strategic decision-making.

Examples of bias include:

- Women being offered support functions (QA/testing) instead of technical design roles.
- Being questioned about marriage or family plans during interviews.
- Leadership traits in women being labeled as "aggressive" while similar behavior in men is seen as "assertive."

Bias training and performance audits remain limited to large IT companies, leaving smaller firms vulnerable to unchecked discrimination.

### 3.3. Underrepresentation in Leadership

Despite years of experience and strong credentials, women remain grossly underrepresented in leadership roles. The pyramid narrows sharply at mid-level and senior positions due to:

- Lack of succession planning for women.
- Male-dominated informal networks that influence promotions.
- Perceptions that women may not handle travel, relocation, or crisis roles.

As of 2024, only about **11% of tech CXOs in India** are women. Initiatives like **mandatory board representation** have helped, but deeper pipeline development is still lacking.

### 3.4. Inadequate Return-to-Work Programs

Career breaks—whether due to maternity, care giving, or relocation—disproportionately affect women. Upon returning, they often face:

- Skill gaps due to rapid technological changes.
- Lack of structured re-entry programs.
- Hiring bias favoring uninterrupted experience.

Although companies like TCS and Infosys have started "second-career" programs, many women still rely on self-learning or contract work to regain footing, often with lower pay and status.

### 3.5. Digital Divide and Rural Barriers

For women in Tier-II and Tier-III cities or rural regions, entry into IT careers is severely limited by infrastructure and access:

- Low broadband penetration and internet literacy.
- Language and cultural barriers in online education.

- Family opposition to migration or working with male colleagues.

As per **TRAI data (2023)**, only **33% of rural internet users** are women, limiting their exposure to digital jobs and upskilling opportunities. This gendered digital divide further marginalizes their participation in the IT sector.

#### 4. OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN THE INDIAN IT SECTOR

While gender-related challenges persist, the Indian IT sector is witnessing a paradigm shift in how it supports and empowers women professionals. From digital upskilling and flexible employment models to entrepreneurship and global work access, the sector has become a transformative landscape for women. This section presents a comprehensive view of the expanding opportunities available to women in IT today.

##### 4.1. Digital Upskilling and Skill-Based Entry

One of the most promising developments is the surge in digital upskilling initiatives targeted at women. The proliferation of affordable and flexible online platforms—such as Coursera, edX, and IBM Skills Build—has lowered barriers for women seeking to either enter or re-enter the IT industry. This is particularly significant for those returning after a career break, transitioning from non-technical roles, or coming from non-metro regions.

In addition, programs offered by NASSCOM Future Skills Prime and NIIT cater specifically to skilling in high-demand areas like AI, cyber security, cloud infrastructure, and full-stack development. Notably, several of these platforms offer free or subsidized training for women, with job placement support included in many cases.

Program/Platform	Focus Area	Impact on Women
Coursera, edX, Udemy	Coding, data science, UI/UX	46% increase in women learners post-2020
NASSCOM Future Skills Prime	Cloud, AI, cyber security	Government-supported skilling for women from all regions
IBM Skills Build	Digital essentials & cloud	Career readiness for underrepresented groups

The emphasis on skills, rather than prior degrees or years of experience, allows women from diverse educational and socioeconomic backgrounds to enter or transition into the IT domain.

##### 4.2. Flexible Work Models and Hybrid Structures

The transition to remote and hybrid work arrangements—accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic—has dramatically enhanced workplace flexibility for women. IT companies have adopted asynchronous workflows, project-based assignments, and gig engagements that allow women to work without compromising personal responsibilities such as care giving, family commitments, or relocation constraints.

This flexibility is especially empowering for women in Tier II and III cities, where local IT job availability remains limited. Freelancing platforms like Toptal and Remote.com are also enabling women to secure international assignments while remaining in their home environments.

Model	Key Benefits	Examples
Remote/Hybrid Work	Flexible schedules, reduced travel, home-based productivity	TCS, Infosys, Zoho, Wipro
Freelance/Project Work	Income generation without full-time employment obligation	Upwork, Freelancer, Toptal



Gig-Based Contracting	Portfolio building with work-life balance	Cognizant, Tech Mahindra, startups
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These models create inclusive pathways for women with constraints around mobility or availability, allowing their continued presence in the workforce.

#### 4.3. Women-Led Tech Startups and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

Women entrepreneurs are increasingly disrupting traditional sectors through technology, particularly in ed-tech, health-tech, and SaaS. Unlike corporate careers, entrepreneurship allows women greater control over working hours, leadership autonomy, and purpose-driven business development. Several support mechanisms have emerged to nurture these startups, including financial grants, mentoring, and incubation.

Government schemes such as the Startup India Seed Fund, coupled with private platforms like Google Women Founders Accelerator and Facebook's SheLeadsTech, are helping bridge funding and capability gaps for women founders. Though access to capital remains a challenge, the growing visibility of successful women-led startups is inspiring more women to pursue entrepreneurship.

Initiative/Platform	Support Offered	Target Segment
Women Entrepreneurship Platform	Incubation, networking, knowledge sharing	Early-stage women founders
Google for Startups (Women)	Equity-free funding, business mentoring	Tech-based women-led startups
NITI Aayog's Women Startup Fund	Capital support, training	Tier-II/III women entrepreneurs

Such initiatives are building an ecosystem where innovation, leadership, and financial independence are increasingly accessible to women.

#### 4.4. Corporate Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Initiatives

Several leading IT firms are now embedding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at the core of their talent and culture strategy. Beyond recruitment, these organizations offer targeted programs to support women's advancement, retention, and leadership development.

Initiatives include maternity return programs, women-only mentoring circles, career re-entry internships, unconscious bias training for leadership, and flexible mobility policies. For example, Infosys offers "Restart with Her" and TCS has its "Second Careers" initiative to support career restarters.

Company	Initiatives
TCS	'Second Careers', flexible policies, return-to-work internships
Infosys	'Restart with Her', leadership development for mid-career women
IBM India	Tech Re-entry programs, women-led innovation projects
Accenture	Gender-neutral parental leave, diversity dashboards, inclusive leadership goals

Such programs are helping reduce attrition and close the gender gap, particularly at middle management levels.

#### 4.5. Remote Global Opportunities

With the normalization of remote-first and distributed teams globally, Indian women IT professionals now have unprecedented access to international career opportunities without the need to migrate.

Platforms such as Remote.com, Turing, Deel, and Toptal allow qualified professionals to work for companies based in the US, Europe, and the Middle East from the comfort of their homes. These engagements not only offer better compensation but also global exposure and upskilling.

Platform	Opportunity Type	Benefits for Women
Toptal	Global freelancing in software/UI/DevOps	Premium global rates, remote project flexibility
Remote.com	Full-time international job placements	Location independence with global career paths
Upwork, Deel	Short-term projects, contract-based roles	Portfolio development and income diversification

Such platforms are leveling the playing field by bypassing local biases and enabling global competence to define opportunity.

#### 4.6. Government-Led Women Empowerment in Digital Economy

The Government of India has introduced multiple schemes aimed at empowering women through digital inclusion, micro-entrepreneurship, and e-governance tools. These programs are particularly crucial in rural and semi-urban India, where access to infrastructure and awareness remains limited.

Digital literacy schemes like PMGDISHA, along with business promotion platforms such as Mahila E-Haat, are creating a parallel entry pipeline for women in micro-enterprise and digital services.

Scheme	Focus	Impact
Digital India Program	Infrastructure and access	8 crore women trained in basic digital skills
PMGDISHA	Digital literacy in rural areas	Closing rural digital gender gap
Mahila E-Haat	E-commerce platform for women producers	Enables market access for home-based units
Udyam Sakhi	Micro-enterprise training for women	Business support in Tier-II/III districts

These schemes ensure that digital transformation is inclusive and aligned with national gender empowerment goals.

#### 4.7. Visibility, Representation, and Role Models

Women leaders in Indian IT are serving as vital sources of inspiration for the next generation. Their presence across executive boards, policy forums, and thought leadership panels is helping normalize female authority in tech environments.

Additionally, communities such as Women Who Code, Lean In India, and Girls in Tech India are offering networking, mentorship, and sponsorship opportunities for aspiring professionals.

Leader	Role	Impact
Debjani Ghosh	President, NASSCOM	Policy influence and tech leadership advocacy
Roshni Nadar Malhotra	Chairperson, HCL Technologies	Breaking family-led executive stereotypes
Kiran	Chairperson, Biocon	Icon of tech-based biotech



Mazumdar-Shaw		entrepreneurship
Neelam Dhawan	Ex-MD HP India, Board Member at Philips	Champion for board diversity and digital innovation

Their visibility reinforces that success in IT is not gendered—it is achieved through innovation, leadership, and resilience.

## 5. STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE ROADMAP

The increasing participation of women in India's IT sector marks a transformative step toward economic inclusion and gender equality. However, the road to equitable and sustained empowerment remains long and requires a collaborative effort from all stakeholders. Based on the analysis of current trends, structural barriers, and emerging opportunities, this section outlines targeted recommendations across five critical domains:

### 5.1. Organizational Reforms and Inclusive Workplace Design

**IT companies**, especially small and mid-sized firms, must move beyond token inclusion policies and embed structural changes that support women at every stage of their career.

#### Recommendations:

- **Expand Return-to-Work Programs:** Design customized re-entry tracks for women returning from career breaks, including skill refresher courses and phased reintegration.
- **Leadership Acceleration for Mid-Level Women:** Create fast-track leadership training and succession planning programs to prevent the mid-career dropout.
- **Gender-Neutral Appraisal Systems:** Redesign evaluation metrics to focus on outcomes rather than presence or tenure, especially in hybrid environments.
- **Safe and Responsive HR Systems:** Strengthen Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) and ensure zero-tolerance on harassment.

Best Practice Example	Company	Initiative
Maternity Returnee Program	Infosys	"Restart with Her"
Inclusive Leadership Pathway	IBM India	Women-only leadership sprints
Hybrid Workplace Policy	Zoho	Work-from-anywhere for all employees

### 5.2. Policy Interventions and Government Support

While corporate action is crucial, **government policy** plays an equally important role in building equitable access and digital literacy—especially for rural and underprivileged women.

#### Recommendations:

- **Subsidize Skilling for Rural and Low-Income Women:** Offer free technical education or stipends to support women from non-metro and low-income backgrounds.
- **Mandatory Diversity Audits:** Enforce annual diversity reporting by IT companies above a certain size, focusing on gender and leadership metrics.
- **Tax Incentives for Women Entrepreneurs:** Offer capital tax rebates and funding incentives to women-led startups in tech.

Policy Model	Focus Area	Potential Impact
Startup India (Women Cell)	Tech entrepreneurship	Increase women-led startups by 50% in 5 years
National Digital Literacy Mission	Rural women skilling	Promote tech workforce from underserved regions
SEBI Board Diversity Mandate	Corporate governance	Drive C-suite gender parity across sectors

### 5.3. Academic and Curriculum Reforms

**Educational institutions** need to ensure early and equal exposure to STEM for girls and young women, particularly in smaller towns and underrepresented regions.

#### Recommendations:

- **Introduce Gender-Inclusive STEM Curriculum:** Make school-level tech learning more inclusive with diverse case studies, female tech achievers, and problem-solving challenges.
- **Promote Career Counselling in STEM:** Establish mentorship bridges between schoolgirls and women professionals in IT to build aspiration.
- **Strengthen Industry-Academia Collaborations:** Enable internships, live projects, and industrial exposure for female tech students across engineering colleges.

Initiative	Led By	Impact Area
Atal Innovation Mission	NITI Aayog	School-level innovation for girls
Campus to Corporate Programs	Infosys, HCL	Real-world IT training in women's colleges
Girls in STEM Scholarships	Private + Public	Financial and mentoring support for STEM studies

### 5.4. Promoting Entrepreneurial Inclusion

Encouraging **tech-based women entrepreneurship** is essential for creating not only jobs but also change-makers who challenge gender norms.

#### Recommendations:

- **Establish Local Innovation Labs for Women:** Provide subsidized space and mentorship in tech incubation centers for women.
- **Strengthen Access to Seed Funding:** Prioritize funding allocations for women-led IT ventures in government grant schemes.
- **Promote B2B Platforms for Women Founders:** Create dedicated virtual expos for women entrepreneurs in tech to connect with global clients.

Entrepreneurial Platform	Support Provided	Key Focus
Women Startup Summit (Kerala)	Pitching, investor access	Tech-based innovation
Google for Startups – Women	Mentorship, global scale support	AI/ML, SaaS, platform businesses
NITI Aayog's WEP	Training, funding linkages	Rural and Tier-II entrepreneurs

## 5.5. Cultural and Social Transformation

Lasting progress depends on shifting social attitudes that constrain women's ambitions. While policy and economics can push change, true inclusion requires **cultural evolution**.

### Recommendations:

- **Mainstream Women Role Models in Tech:** Use media, conferences, and textbooks to showcase achievements of women in IT and entrepreneurship.
- **Engage Men as Allies:** Promote gender sensitization and ally ship programs in organizations and educational institutions.
- **Support Work-Life Integration Beyond Policy:** Encourage societal recognition of dual roles and shared care giving between genders.

Program	Target Group	Impact Goal
Women in Tech (WIT) Forums	Professionals	Peer mentoring and public recognition
#HeForShe Tech Campaigns	Male employees/students	Promote allyship and shared responsibility
Digital Daughters Campaign	Rural communities	Encourage girls' digital literacy and mobility

India's IT sector holds the power to lead not just in technology but in equity. A future-ready digital economy cannot thrive unless its workforce represents the full spectrum of talent—regardless of gender. Through strategic reforms, inclusive policies, and supportive cultural frameworks, the Indian IT industry can become a global example of how digital transformation and gender empowerment can walk hand-in-hand.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The Indian Information Technology sector stands at a unique intersection of rapid innovation, global competitiveness, and inclusive potential. Over the past two decades, it has evolved not only as a key economic driver but also as a vehicle for women's professional empowerment. The entry of women into the IT workforce in increasing numbers signals a progressive shift in gender dynamics within India's formal economy.

However, while quantitative participation has improved—particularly at entry and junior levels—qualitative parity in leadership, compensation, project ownership, and entrepreneurial equity remains uneven. Persistent challenges such as the "leaky pipeline," unconscious bias, work-life imbalance, and limited rural access continue to restrict the full realization of women's potential in the digital economy.

At the same time, emerging opportunities present a compelling case for transformation. The acceleration of digital skilling platforms, flexible work models, gender-inclusive policies, and government-backed entrepreneurship initiatives has created a fertile environment for women to rise as contributors, innovators, and leaders in the IT ecosystem. The rise of women-led startups and the visibility of female executives at the helm of major technology organizations reinforce the argument for a diverse and inclusive digital future.

To sustain this momentum, a multi-stakeholder approach is critical. Organizations must institutionalize inclusion, governments must scale policy support, academia must strengthen the pipeline, and society must evolve its perception of gender roles. Only through a systemic, collaborative effort can India harness the full talent pool and build an IT industry that is not only globally competitive but also socially equitable.

Ultimately, the future of women in Indian IT is not merely a gender issue—it is a strategic imperative for national innovation, economic resilience, and sustainable development.

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