

From Factory Floors To The
AI Economy: Women Reshape
Technology Leadership p. 11

Gen Z Women Are Speaking Up,
But Workplaces Still Need To
Catch Up p. 64

www.dqindia.com

40+
YEARS
SINCE 1982

Lisa Su's Systems Bet Puts Women At
AI Infrastructure's Core p. 70

Jharkhand's Plan for Responsible
and Inclusive AI p. 78

VOL XLII No 8 | AUGUST 2026 | ₹100

DATAQUEST

CyberMedia

THE BUSINESS OF INFOTECH

FROM PRESENCE TO POWER WOMEN LEADING THE AI ECONOMY

How technical depth, ownership, and influence
are redefining women's leadership.



CONTENTS

WOMEN IN TECH

08 From presence to power:
Women leading the
AI economy

11 From factory floors to the AI
economy: Women reshape
technology leadership

18 The barriers are quieter now,
but the leadership gap still
speaks loudly

ARUNDHATI BHATTACHARYA

President and CEO, Salesforce South Asia

22 Give women businesses to
run, not just transformations
to support

BHAWNA AGARWAL

Senior Vice President and Managing
Director, HPE India

24 Stop waiting to be ready:
Visibility is the next
leadership advantage

DAISY CHITILAPILLY

President, Cisco India & South Asia

27 Women must shape the silicon
powering the AI economy

JAYA JAGADISH

Country Head and Senior Vice President,
Design Engineering, AMD India

30 Don't wait for a seat: Redesign
the table and own the
transformation

LALITHA INDRAKANTI

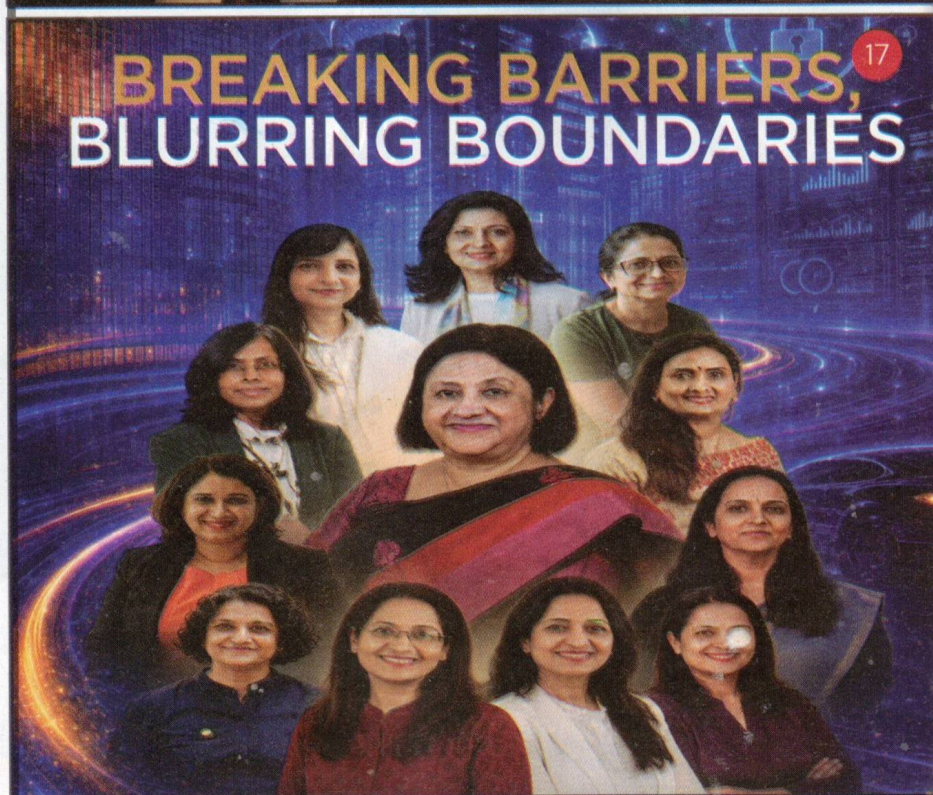
CEO, JLR Technology &
Business Services India

08 | COVER STORY

FROM PRESENCE TO POWER: WOMEN LEADING THE AI ECONOMY



BREAKING BARRIERS, BLURRING BOUNDARIES



Scan QR Code
& Subscribe now...



WOMEN IN TECH

- 32** AI can widen opportunity, but only if engineers own the consequences

NITHYA RAJAGOPALAN

Director of Engineering, LinkedIn India

- 36** Women in science have gained ground, but recognition still lags

PROF. PREETI AGHALAYAM

IIT Madras

- 38** Technology transformations run on trust, not contracts alone

PREETI MENON

Chief Operating Officer, PDES, Happiest Minds Technologies

- 41** Building technology leadership through depth, diversity and global perspective

SINDHU GANGADHARAN

Managing Director, SAP Labs India, and President, Indo-German Chamber of Commerce

- 44** India must convert women's STEM talent into R&D and innovation

SUJATHA MUKUNTHAN

VP & Head of Research & Technology, Siemens Technology and Services Pvt. Ltd

- 47** Good ideas need a voice: Lessons from a non-linear technology career

SWAPNA BAPAT

Vice President and Managing Director for India and SAARC at Palo Alto Networks

- 50** Building women's leadership where data, cloud and AI converge

VASANTHI RAMESH

Vice President of Engineering and Site Leader, NetApp

WOMEN IN TECH

- 53** Attentive listening is a strategic advantage in technology leadership

VIBHA MEHRA

Country Manager, Nokia India

- 56** Women in boardrooms: From compliance seats to real decision-making power

- 61** Don't pull out a chair for women. Design AI with them from the start

- 64** Gen Z women are speaking up, but workplaces still need to catch up

- 70** Lisa Su's systems bet puts women's leadership at the heart of the AI infrastructure race

OPINION

- 76** Cyber resilience in the age of AI will be decided in the boardroom



TALKING POINT

- 78** Pooja Singhal on Jharkhand's plan for responsible and inclusive AI

POOJA SINGHAL, IAS

Secretary, Department of Information Technology & e-Governance, Government of Jharkhand



REGULARS

06 DQ Team

07 Edit

82 Epilogue