# Expectations from the Union Budget 2024-25: A Vision for Economic Growth and Women's Empowerment

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As India continues its journey towards becoming a \$5 trillion economy, Sudha Reddy, Entrepreneur, Director – MEIL, and Women

Industry Leader, highlights that the upcoming Union Budget 2024-25 is a crucial opportunity to reinforce growth across industries, strengthen infrastructure, and foster inclusivity-especially for women in business and leadership.



Mrs. Sudha Reddy, Director – MEIL – Visionary Woman Leader Driving Innovation and Growth at MEIL

## **Empowering Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders**

India has witnessed a remarkable rise in women-led enterprises, yet access to capital, skill development, and policy support remain critical challenges. The budget must introduce incentives such as low-interest credit lines, venture capital funds for women-led startups, and increased government procurement from women-owned <u>businesses</u>. These initiatives will not only <u>boost women's participation in</u> <u>economic</u> activities but also accelerate innovation and job creation.

## Infrastructure Growth and Manufacturing Excellence

MEIL has been at the forefront of <u>India's</u> infrastructure and manufacturing expansion, playing a pivotal role in energy, water, and transportation sectors. The <u>budget must prioritize</u> <u>investment in large-scale infrastructure</u> projects, streamline approval processes, and encourage public-private partnerships (PPPs). A robust infrastructure sector will <u>ensure seamless</u> logistics, enhance industrial productivity, and attract global investments.

# Technology and Sustainability as Economic Pillars

India's manufacturing sector needs strong support for digitalization and sustainability. Incentives for smart manufacturing, AI-driven automation, and clean energy initiatives will enhance efficiency and global competitiveness. Tax benefits for companies adopting green <u>technologies</u> and carbon-neutral strategies should be a priority to align with India's net-zero commitments.

## Skilling and Workforce Development

A future-ready workforce is essential for <u>sustained growth</u>. The budget should allocate greater funds towards technical and vocational training, particularly for women, in high-growth sectors like renewable energy, aerospace, and digital <u>technology</u>. Collaborations between industries and <u>educational institutions</u> should be incentivized to bridge the skill gap and prepare young talent for emerging job markets.

# A Call for Inclusive Economic Policies

As an entrepreneur and industry leader, I believe a truly progressive budget must focus on inclusivity-supporting MSMEs, boosting research and development, and enabling financial accessibility for underrepresented groups. Policies that encourage women's leadership in boardrooms and create a more balanced corporate ecosystem will be instrumental in <u>shaping</u> <u>India's economic future</u>.

The Union Budget 2024-25 holds immense potential to <u>accelerate</u> <u>India's</u> growth trajectory. With the right focus on infrastructure, women empowerment, and technological advancement, we can build a resilient and globally competitive economy that thrives on <u>innovation and inclusivity</u>.

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