



India alumni newsletter



#KPMG josh



December 2019

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Arun M. Kumar
Chairman and CEO
KPMG in India

Message from Arun

Dear colleagues,
First of all, best wishes for the season.

Looking back over 2019, it has been a year of unease around the world. The U.S. China trade war and the continuing Brexit saga dominated and dampened world economic news and in India we had our own share of controversies. All this undoubtedly affects business everywhere to varying extents, but luckily, we continue to see strong opportunities. Our teams are doing yeoman work, staying focused on our clients.

We recently held another impactful digital townhall, Konvergence 2019, where we talked about our strategy that has two pillars – trust and growth.

And we celebrated the jOSH of our people. Over the last year, we have collected 80 such jOSH-stories, stories of our people that are inspiring to all of us. In the new year, we will release a book containing these stories.

We are delighted to welcome back to the Firm, Hariharan Gangadharan who joins our tax team. Our culture, people and the values which we exemplify were key motivators for Hariharan to return to the fold.

Many of you have taken out time to share your jOSH stories with us and what the KPMG brand

means to you. Read the stories of Amit Shukla, Abhishek Kochar and Sidharth Balakrishna in this issue. And we welcome more such stories.

#KPMGjOSH was evident on Global Cyber day which was celebrated in October. Our cyber professionals conducted sessions across 160 schools, covering more than 70000 students, imparting awareness on the need to be cyber-safe in the digital world. Our event, ENRich, has become the flagship conference for the Energy and Natural Resources space. ENRich 2019 was held in Delhi on 6 November, with Minister Dharmendra Pradhan speaking. And at The CFO Board retreat at Kochi on 6-7 December, sponsored by KPMG, an audience of India's topnotch CFOs discussed topics of contemporary importance; our partners participated on many panels.

The recognitions we continue to receive are a testimony to our talent - Best Companies for Millennials Awards 2019, Great Indian Workplace Award 2019 and Best 50 PCI Companies for 2019.

I hope you will get a refreshing break this holiday season and have fun times with your families and friends.

All my best wishes to you and your families for joy and success in 2020.

Happy New Year!

Alumni speak



Sidharth Balakrishna

Group Strategy and Innovation
Head-Essel (Zee) Group

Straight from the heart

Sidharth has over 15 years of experience in Media and Entertainment, Artificial Intelligence, Energy, Infrastructure and Education sectors. During his tenure with KPMG in India as an Assistant Manager, he worked on several studies in the Energy sector. In his current role, his responsibilities include implementing AI and digitalisation initiatives across the group along with bringing in usage of big data and analytics, virtual and augmented reality.

Being a distinguished alumnus of KPMG in India, Sidharth has considerable academic experience and has written several books. He is also a columnist with the London School of Economics and Economic Times.

What values from KPMG in India have stayed with you and shaped you as the professional you are today?

I strongly believe that professionalism and integrity go hand-in-hand. The three values that stem from this belief and that have shaped me as a professional are:

- Following a structured approach and effective decision making
- Aiming for excellence in the work one does
- Respecting everyone at work.

What is your success mantra?

Coming from a consulting background, I believe that there are no shortcuts in life and working hard is the only way we can achieve the desired success in our careers. During my tenure at KPMG and in my current role, I have always tried to analyse the situations in depth and recommend solutions that are forward looking, especially in this rapidly changing business environment. I believe in setting very high standards and trying to deliver more than what is expected, which has helped me in my career and personal growth.

How have you balanced the demands of your personal and professional life?

To manage your personal and professional life, it is always important to choose a career that you are passionate about. This not only increases your level of engagement in every aspect of the business but also relieves you of any possible stress. It is the motivation to work that helps make a difference.

Message for alumni

We are in a dynamic world wherein we need to relook at existing solutions to come up with the best. My message to all alumni, especially to the younger generation, is that we need to invest in ourselves and the learning should continue at each level. Always try to be a 'go to' person for your colleagues for expert advice in at least one field – gradually they will begin to rely on you.



Up close and personal

Abhishek worked with KPMG in India, in the Advisory practice as an Associate Director. He was associated with the Firm for over eight years (2010-2018)

If not your current profession, what would you be?

A techie working on some crazy idea, somewhere in the Silicon Valley

If you could go back in time what would you do differently?

I would rather prefer to go into the future to get inspiration on the right thing to be done today

A gadget you cannot do without?

My Kindle

Your favourite food?

Rajma Chawal - when I am in India; else 'when in Rome, do as the Romans do'

Best childhood memory?

My parents are at office and I am playing with my elder sister in the backyard of our house. I have always shared a very special bond with my sister, so this memory is very special.

In your free time where can we find you

Sleeping on my bed/driving my car/riding my Bullet/running a marathon/cycling down a hill on my MTB

Who is your role model?

Rajat Gupta and Ram Charan

A habit you cannot live without.

Being with myself and thinking about things

An ideal weekend for you would mean?

Early morning run, heavy breakfast, lunch with family, evening at some event or with a group of friends, late night sleep

What is your success mantra?

Respect every opportunity and keep learning. My seniors have played a significant role in shaping my views and my career

Two qualities you look for in an individual?

Trust and commitment

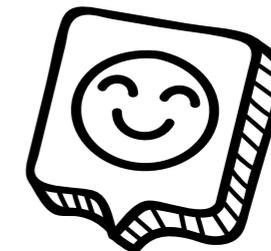
What according to you is jOSH, both personally and professionally?

When you love what you are doing and look forward to doing it again the next time - that is jOSH



Abhishek Kochar

Partner and Head - Industrial and Infrastructure at Nomura Consulting (NRI)



ALUMNI SPEAK

jOSH story

Amit was with KPMG in India's IGH practice from September 2008 to August 2010. Thereafter, he joined Accenture Management Consulting. Presently, he is MD and CEO of EasyGov.

Amit Shukla's stint at KPMG in India began in 2008, when he joined the Firm's IGH practice. Being among the first five people in the e-Governance practice (IT Advisory), he got the opportunity to work across states on several government projects. In 2010, he moved on to explore further growth and within five years he founded EasyGov – an organisation that aims to provide easy and convenient access to government welfare schemes and services. In 2019, EasyGov was acquired by Reliance, with Amit continuing as MD and CEO.

Amit has worked in government consulting for over a decade. He remembers always being appreciated as the most passionate person in the project or team. He never thought that he would get into entrepreneurship so early in his career, but his drive to make things better for citizens and clients eventually led him to this path. According to him, country comes first, citizens second and clients third.

Amit is one of the Champions of Change for Digital India, recognised by Niti Aayog in 2017 for building an organisation playing an active part in the Digital India movement. He believes that jOSH means always giving your best to anything you do. The choice is ours, whether we succumb to life's frustrations or harness our jOSH to own our problems and commit our lives to finding solutions. Passion may not be important to start something new if an idea is good, but it is vital to help you survive some of the most difficult times of an entrepreneurial journey. Real learning in a start-up stems from failure so we must not be afraid of it. Only those who dare to experiment and innovate rise to the challenges of the real world.



Amit Shukla
MD and CEO
EasyGov



ALUMNI SPEAK



Hariharan Gangadharan

Partner, Tax
KPMG in India



Welcome back

Hari has over 16 years of experience in Direct and International Tax, including structuring of complex cross-border mergers and acquisitions, setting up of tax-efficient financing structures and structuring of international investments. He also has significant experience in developing and implementing litigation strategies for complex and high-stake tax matters, and a strong understanding of tax jurisprudence and policy. His sector expertise includes Telecom, Media and Technology. Hari enjoys reading topics on History and listening to classical music.

What brings you back to KPMG in India?

After over four years in a boutique firm, I felt that being part of a larger firm like KPMG would offer me a better opportunity to develop and grow as a tax professional. The fact that I had worked here in the past made the decision to return far easier, as I was familiar and comfortable with the culture, values, and most importantly, the people with whom I would work.

Tell us what you missed most about KPMG?

I missed dealing with the variety and the sheer breadth of issues that I had encountered in my earlier stint with the Firm

How do you think KPMG has changed over the years?

I see a lot more collaboration within the Firm. While this was always a priority, I find that this culture of collaboration is far more firmly entrenched in the organisation today.

Do you have a message for our readers?

As someone who spends most of his time reading on tax, I must confess to not having any serious message on life or its lessons for our readers. I do wish to send my best wishes to the readers for a wonderful holiday season, and a great New Year ahead.





Raman Sobti
National Leader - KPMG Enterprise
KPMG in India

Know our leader



Raman Sobti is the National Leader – KPMG Enterprise, leading and building the enterprise business across key locations of KPMG in India, as well as expanding the firm’s presence in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, working closely with the Office Managing Partner teams. His specialisation includes statutory audit, process reviews, U.S. GAAP and due diligence. Raman has expertise in leading large projects, developed over years of managing large projects with multi-disciplinary teams.

Most recently he served as the Chief Operating Officer (COO), KPMG in India for a period of three years, as part of which he led the infrastructure functions, including finance. Before taking on his COO responsibilities, he led the regional initiatives and was spearheading KPMG in India’s northern region initiatives. He plays an active role in business federations such as FICCI and CII, particularly in the northern region. He is a seasoned professional with more than 30 years of experience in consulting and audit in various sectors, including retail and wholesale, consumer markets, auto and IT-enabled services.

Describe your first day at KPMG

It’s still a pleasure to revisit the memories from the day I was given a warm welcome. Right from receiving a bouquet of flowers, to attending informative induction sessions, to meeting a few leaders and my team, there were enough reasons to make the day a memorable one.

On a lighter note, I’ll never forget the 45 minutes wait at the basement just to exit the premises, but happy to report that it is a seamless drive today!

What are your biggest takeaways from your journey at the firm?

KPMG provides great opportunities to work across roles and keeps you engaged through various initiatives. The firm not only appreciates good work but also values loyalty. Being a young firm, we are high on #jOSH.

KPMG’s biggest impact on you and your biggest impact on KPMG

Working with a large firm like KPMG has helped me tap my potential as a leader, team member and as a professional. I have seen how the power of collaborating with people with diverse skill sets, experience and ideas can bring out the best in you. The firm has helped me both discover and deliver on my untapped potential, helping me become a complete professional.

One thing that nobody knows about you.

I love chocolates and have a terrible sweet tooth.

If you could go back in time what would you tell your 25-year-old self?

Tell myself to keep the passion, grab the opportunities and gain diverse experiences.

If you could trade lives with someone for a day, who would it be and why?

Warren Buffet - to live values of simplicity, commitment, master the art of evaluating and investing and above all, to give back to society.

What is jOSH for you, personally and professionally?

jOSH to me means pursuing your personal and professional responsibilities with passion to the best of your abilities and at the same time continuing to evolve as a better person.

KPMG in focus

TiEcon Kerala 2019

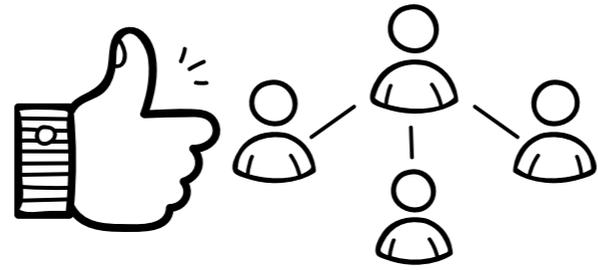
TiEcon Kerala 2019 is one of south India's largest entrepreneurs' convention and is conducted annually. This year it was spread over 4 and 5 October in Kochi. This was the eighth edition of TiEcon and is one of the largest entrepreneurial conference in Kerala. There were more than 60 speakers at the event, with KPMG in India as the Knowledge Partner. Start-ups were also given a chance to showcase their products at a dedicated display area, allowing delegates and visitors to interact with companies and see innovation at its best. Arun M. Kumar, Chairman and CEO, KPMG in India, was the guest of honour and gave a speech on the start-up ecosystem in India. We also conducted a start-up clinic at the venue, with representation across Tax, Advisory and Infrastructure Government and Healthcare (IGH) functions. This gave entrepreneurs a chance to interact with our people to understand where the firm could help them with different aspects of doing business.

Cyber security for financial services

The conference on Fortifying Financial Services: From the cyber threats was hosted in association with Banking, Finance and Insurance Institute of Nepal (BFIN) on 25 October 2019 at Kathmandu, Nepal. The conference saw a presence of over 150 participants, including CXOs and other officials involved in information technology and information system security across Nepal. The event provided an opportunity for delegates to deliberate upon legal and regulatory issues on payment systems in Nepal, technical aspects of cyber security, understanding cyber threats in banking, tackling advanced threats against growing threat of hackers, aggressive competitors and advanced persistent threats, and on the progress on regulation on cyber security from a government perspective. As Knowledge Partner for the event, our Partners, Kunal Pande and Sony Anthony presented their views on emerging risks and threats in digital payments and gen-next payment channels security, respectively, as well as the relevance of cyber security to Nepal as a country. The event was appreciated and very well received by the participants.



Cover story



Konvergence 2019 – shaping the future

We ended the year with the fourth edition of our e-townhall – Konvergence 2019 - based on the theme ‘Shaping the future: Focus, Collaborate, Think Big and Act Fast’. The theme represents the firm’s collective vision for the future based on the four pillars of growth, as we step into a new decade.

Hosted enthusiastically by Aditya Rath, Partner, Customer and Operations, Konvergence 2019 began on a #joshful note, with Arun M. Kumar, Chairman and CEO reflecting on the year gone by and how KPMG in India continues an impressive growth path. “Our firm is a great place to take advantage of tremendous opportunities. We are a blue-blooded brand that has a lot to contribute to the economy and we can only do that if we treat learning as a personal responsibility. We are a high performing organisation that has high inclusion because of which we have received recognition throughout the year. But our journey does not stop here.” Our focus, he stated, is shifting from trust and growth to inculcating trustworthiness and creating transformative solutions for our clients and our people.

Focus, collaborate, think big, act fast

Partners leading significant engagements talked about how their teams went the extra mile to win and deliver extraordinary service to their respective clients. Our leaders championing various initiatives within the firm spoke on how we are becoming future ready through our people agenda by harnessing talent management, upskilling, inclusion and diversity, open workspaces, agile working and operating within our refreshed core values. They also expressed their views on #jOSH and how they are leveraging it to bring together their teams through our pillars of growth to make a global impact as ‘one firm’.

The highlight of the event, however, was the talent at KPMG, where our people entertained audiences across 14 locations through musical performances and stand-up comedy.



COVER STORY



COVER STORY



Anish De
Partner, National Head - Energy & Natural Resources
KPMG in India

ENRich 2019

Economies have started transitioning their energy sectors to manage the climate imperative. The Indian energy sector has also started this transformation. Renewable energy is gaining share in the energy basket, and over time, it will displace carbon heavy alternatives. The economy is moving towards electrification across board. The tenth edition of ENRich, KPMG in India's annual energy conclave, held during 5 and 6 November 2019 at New Delhi, deliberated around the core theme of **'Navigating energy transition'**. It dealt with various aspects of this transition, including

Partner Notes

a socially inclusive course, technology, investments, manufacturing and deployment, demand side efficiency, promoting the circular economy, resources for shared mobility and energy equity.

During the conclave, KPMG in India released its thought leadership paper on 'Electric future – and its implications for India'. In the ministerial session, Honourable Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, unveiled 'Voices 2019: Navigating energy transitions'. He also tweeted extensively about the event and his address was livestreamed as well, during which he mentioned that the oil and gas sector will need an investment of about USD100 billion by 2024 to support the energy transition of India.

A key highlight of ENRich 2019 was the 'Digital Lounge' - an experience centre comprising an **Immersive Zone, a Technology Zone and Start-up Zone**, showcasing cutting-edge digital solutions in the energy sector.

The two-day event was spread across three roundtables, four panel discussions and saw participation from more than 240 delegates, including CXOs, policy makers, regulators, government utilities, private players, developers, investors, financiers, private equity firms, pension funds, trade bodies and sector leaders. Participants discussed and deliberated on six key themes, that could have critical implications for stakeholders.

Several eminent speakers came to ENRich 2019 and shared their views on various aspects of energy transitions and

interventions required. These included, Dr. M. M. Kutty, Secretary Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India; P. K. Pujari, Chairman, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission; M. K. Surana, CMD, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation.

ENRich 2019 themes

- Inclusion in energy
- Getting the right Rol from energy and resources investments
- Investing amidst the energy transitions
- Sustainable agenda for India
- Circular economy in energy and resources
- ENR and the evolving Autonomous Connected Electric and Shared (ACES) economy

Limited; Rajiv Bansal, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; Michael Satin, Director, Clean Energy and Environment Office, USAID/India; Sugata Sircar, CFO, Schneider Electric in India; Nitin Prasad, Country Chair, Shell India; Dr. Jennifer Holmgren, CEO, LanzaTech; B. N. Reddy, Joint Secretary (IC), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; Atul Arya, Head Energy Systems Division, Panasonic India; Naveen Munjal, Managing Director, Hero Electric Vehicles





Atul Gupta

Partner and Head, IT Advisory
India Cyber Security Lead
KPMG in India



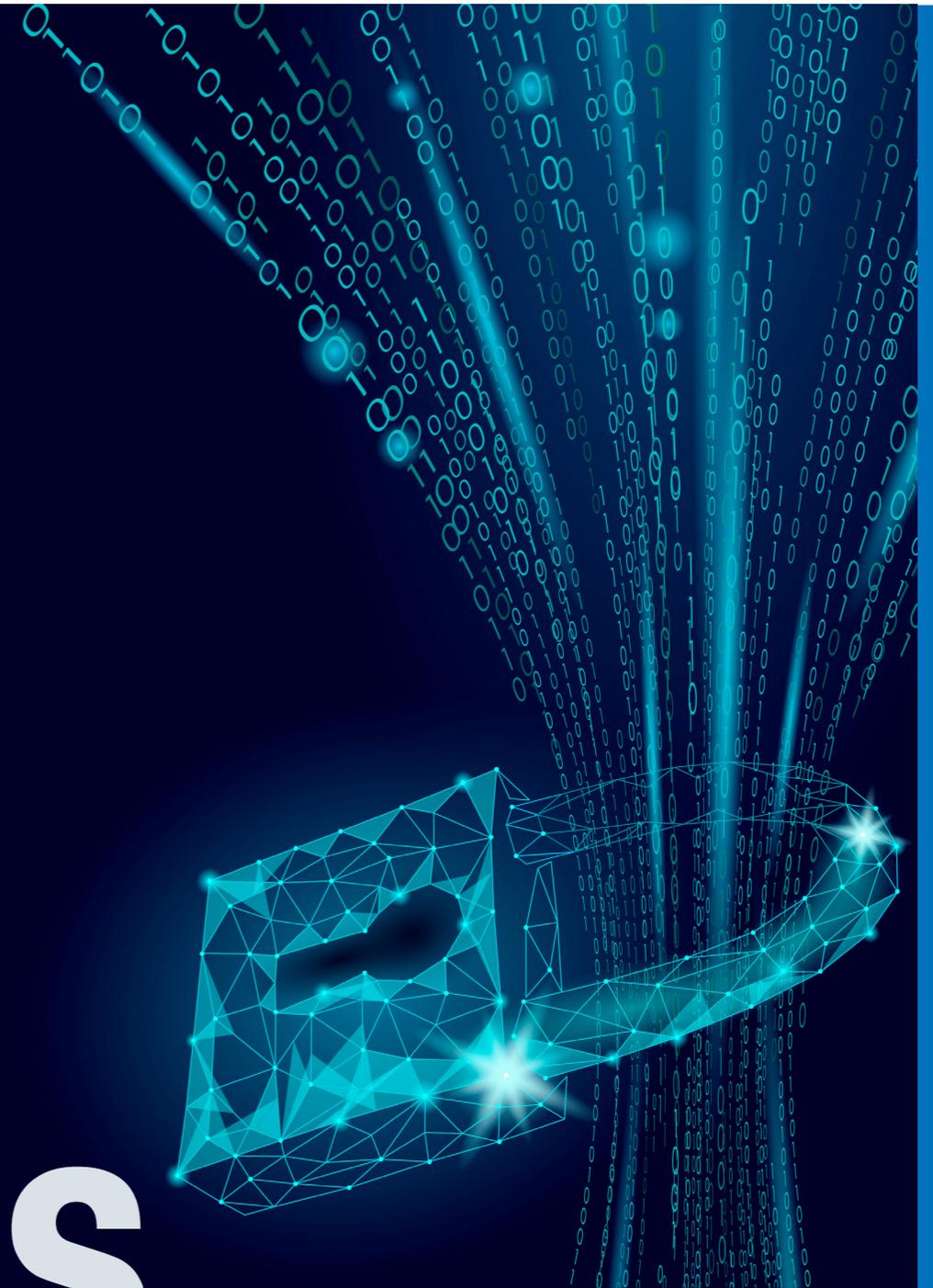
KPMG Global Cyber Day

The annual KPMG Global Cyber Day Initiative is a Global Corporate Citizenship programme aimed at educating youth about the importance of cyber security and internet risk. In our third year of this flagship initiative, **the India firm reached out to nearly 70,000 students across 160 schools** – imparting key lessons in staying cyber safe and being cyber smart.

The topics we focused on this year in sessions include social media, online identity protection, cyber bullying, online gaming and cyber threats that can affect school children and teenagers in their everyday lives.

A key highlight of this year's social media campaign was an **Instagram takeover** by Akhilesh Tuteja, Global Cyber Security Co-leader and Head - Risk Consulting, **on the KPMG Global Instagram channel**. Clocking over **5,600 views**, it provided a glimpse into a day in the life of a cyber professional as well as a sneak peek into Akhilesh's purpose and passion.

Our social media channels came alive with **memes, pictures and highlights of our cyber champions conducting workshops with school children** across the country. Valuable resources in the form of infographics, Twitter and Insta polls, cyber safety tips, expert articles and publications weblinks continue to be shared with our social media audiences.



PARTNER NOTES

Corporate citizenship

Through multiple volunteering events and activities, we endeavour to increase avenues through which our staff can utilise their time, skills and knowledge to benefit our communities. Through the year, our people engage in various volunteering activities with children at schools and non-profit organisations we work with. Some of the activities include excursions, educational trips to museums, constructing watershed, art and craft, reading sessions, movie screenings and organising fun events like summer carnival.

Snippets of our staff volunteering for activities that were recently held across locations:

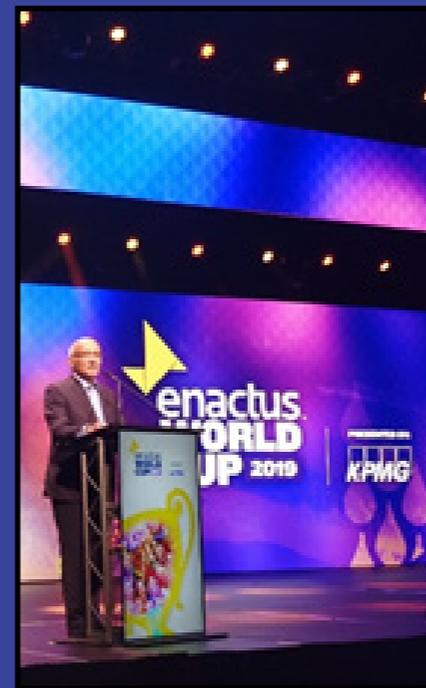
1

Enactus World Cup 2019

Through our Corporate Citizenship initiatives, we have been actively supporting Enactus - an international not-for-profit organisation that is dedicated to inspiring college students to use **the power of entrepreneurial action to make a sustainable difference in communities.**

The **Enactus World Cup 2019** was held during 16-18 September in San Jose, U.S.A. where college teams from 31 countries got an opportunity to showcase their entrepreneurial action. The global Enactus competition is an annual event featuring the best social innovation projects. **Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi**, a team mentored by us, represented India at the competition this year.

Arun M. Kumar (Chairman and CEO, KPMG in India) is the Chairman of the Enactus India National Advisory Board and serves on the Enactus Worldwide Board of Directors.



2

Volunteers along with their families honour the Gandhian value of cleanliness by participating in the India Plog Run 2019 - a cleaning drive across ten cities held on 2 October organised by United Way India.



3

The Physical Security Advisory Services team led by Colonel Naresh Jethwani (Technical Director, Risk Consulting, KPMG in India) imparted training sessions on **Fire Safety and Basic Security** at NGO run schools we work with in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai covering over 300 students from grade six to 10. The training covered areas such as:

- Actions during natural disasters such as earthquake, floods and fires
- Safety aspects such as electrical safety, travel safety, controlled usage of mobile phones, etc.
- Security aspects while travelling, in school and at home
- How to be vigilant and the do's and don'ts
- Detailed insights on fire safety, followed by a live demonstration on how to use a fire extinguisher.



4

Volunteers at the Bengaluru office organised a **fun-filled fundraiser** event to support the requirements of Shishu Mandir School and the Shishu Home (orphanage). They set-up game stalls and sold snacks, paintings, handicrafts which were made by the volunteers themselves.



5

Aspire Meet 2019

14 – 16 November 2019 | Delhi NCR

We are pleased to share that we successfully concluded the second **Aspire Meet** for 39 girls (students of grade 11) from our partner schools in **Mumbai, Noida, Gurugram and Bengaluru** who spent three days in Delhi NCR, undergoing a life-enriching experience. The event's purpose is to **enhance exposure, ignite curiosity and strengthen confidence** of the students.

Over these three days, the students were part of several unique experiences such as:

- a few of them taking their first ever airplane ride, staying away from home by themselves and understanding culture diversity of their peers from different parts of the country.
- attending an informative session on understanding the importance of career planning and goals identification, followed by **sessions organised on career prospects** in Banking, Finance, Chartered Accountancy, Aviation, Teaching, Armed Forces and Public Sector Units.



- interacting with KPMG in India leaders such as **Akhil Bansal (Deputy CEO), Nitin Atroley (Office Managing Partner) and Vandana Chopra (Executive Director, Markets)** who spoke to them about the importance of education, financial independence and the significance of extra-curricular activities in shaping a confident personality.
- going on **educational visits** to the Rashtrapati Bhawan, India Gate, Humayun's Tomb and Akshardham complex.
- having a **fun-filled experience** at Snow World and watching a play at the Kingdom of Dreams.

About the programme:

Launched in 2014 with 23 students, our **Aspire programme** now empowers over **230 young meritorious girl students** by supporting them from grade 9 till they get their first degree. The main objective of the programme is to make these girls employable and to help them rise above their circumstances.

Publications



You may browse through many more reports and download them from our [website](#).

If you are interested in hard copies of the reports or would like to be included in the firm's external initiatives, you can write to in-fmkpmgalumni@kpmg.com

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Our alumni website

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[Visit the Website](#)



Our flourishing alumni network not only helps you in establishing contact with your former colleagues, friends and KPMG in India, but also keeps you abreast of our alumni programmes, news and events, as well as latest services and offerings.

By registering with the network on our [Alumni portal](#), you can also actively participate and contribute to our [Citizenship programme](#) and other initiatives of the firm, wherever you are based.

We hope your continuous relationship with the firm will serve as a cherished source of inspiration in all your future endeavours.