

MANAGE South Asia

APRIL 2023

A Boost to The Project Economy: One Project at a Time



In This Issue



PMI South Asia Regional Marketer

Ajit Iyer

Project Editor

Panchalee Thakur



PMI Organization Centre Pvt. Ltd.,

#105, WeWork, 1st Floor,
Oberoi Commerz II
International Business
Park,
Oberoi Garden City,
Off Western Express
Highway, Goregaon East,
Mumbai, India - 400063
Email: pmi.india@pmi.org
Website: PMI.org.in



Design, Spenta Multimedia Pvt Ltd
10 th Floor, Sun Paradise Business
Plaza, Opp. Kamala Mills, Senapati
Bapat Marg, Lower Parel,
Mumbai - 400 013.
Tel: (022) 6734 1010
Fax: (022) 6734 1021.

3 LETTER FROM MANAGING DIRECTOR, PMI SOUTH ASIA

4 COVER STORY
A Boost to The Project Economy: One Project at a Time

8 WHAT'S NEW AT PMI?

10 CHAPTER NEWS

16 VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

19 CHAMPION VOICES

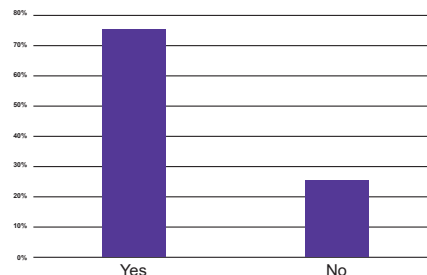
PMI POLL BOOTH

VOICE YOUR OPINION: PRECONFERENCE SPECIAL POLL

Q. Sustainability is a core aspect of program/project management in my organization.

RESULT OF POLL

Yes: 88% No: 11%



Dear Practitioners,

What standards work best in measuring project excellence in uncertain times? It is a question that faced our awards selection committee while judging the PMI South Asia Awards 2022. The projects executed during the COVID-19 pandemic faced added complexity and ambiguity. There was a greater need for project teams to think 'out of the box' and go beyond traditional practices to tackle unprecedented issues.

It gives me great pleasure to feature two of our award-winning projects in this edition. These two outstanding projects were honored for their creative approaches to project management at the Project Management South Asia Conference in December 2022 in Mumbai.

The Project of the Year (medium) winner, Medical Oxygen Plant by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd., illustrates how new approaches were needed to procure resources, manage stakeholders, communicate effectively and monitor and deliver the project during pandemic-related movement restrictions.

The Project of the Year (small) winner, Engine Management System Development by Bosch Global Software Technologies, exemplifies how effective coordination helped teams operating from Germany, Korea, India and Vietnam to unify goals and optimize project deliveries during the pandemic.

Also, read about our recently released reports: "Global Project Management Job Trends 2023" and "The State of Women in Project Management 2023." Among the key takeaways to note from the first report is that India's IT sector is expected to drive project activity and create an estimated 300,000 new jobs in 2023. The latter reinforces the need to bring more women into project. Only 15% of project managers are women in South Asia, while 84% are men.

The wait is finally over! The eagerly awaited Project Management Regional Conference 2023 will take place on 3 June in Dhaka, Bangladesh. [Register now](#).



Kind regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Dr. Srinivasan

Managing Director,
PMI South Asia



A Boost to The Project Economy: One Project at a Time

Manage South Asia features two outstanding projects that won the PMI South Asia Awards in 2022. These projects demonstrate exemplary project management standards and practices to address the world's pressing problems and yield positive organizational outcomes.

By Potshangbam July

Mission to Achieve Oxygen Self-Sufficiency

Project: Medical Oxygen Plant

Project Start Date: 28 April 2021

Project End Date: 6 October 2021

Cost: US\$35.28 million

Project Execution: Tata Advanced Systems Ltd.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit India in an unprecedented manner, pushing the healthcare infrastructure to a breaking point. The pressing need of the hour was to augment the infrastructure, bridge the supply-and-demand gap and save people's lives.

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) was awarded a contract by the Government of India to rapidly deploy 309 medical oxygen plants at 278 government hospitals across the country in about 100 days.

The project was funded by PM CARES Fund (the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund), a relief fund for emergency situations created in March 2020, following the onset of COVID-19 pandemic in India. The sole purpose of the project was to make life-saving medical oxygen readily available at hospitals so they could become self-sufficient and help India steer out of the medical emergency.

For this project, TASL received the Project of the Year Award in the medium category at both the PMI Professional Awards and PMI South Asia Awards 2022.

ROADBLOCKS TO IMPLEMENTATION

With restrictions on movement in place, the project encountered unique challenges to set up oxygen plants on location, given the spread of COVID-19 across India. Discussions with key stakeholders, including government bodies such as Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, PM CARES, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the National Highways Authority of India, took place virtually, which left a lot of room for communication gaps due to the number of stakeholders whose needs and expectations had to be met.

Before 2020, medical oxygen plants were

produced with a standard configuration using only one type of zeolite. Given the urgency of the situation, the required raw materials were not available and certain equipment or components needed to be imported. Concurrent engineering, with the help of local experts from academia/industry, was initiated. It enabled TASL to identify alternate materials that could be used. Nevertheless, technical issues still emerged once the plant was deployed.

Given the number of stakeholders and the pressure from various states and central ministries, the project's priorities required frequent recalibration.

Another concern was to gain the trust of the end users, especially hospitals and doctors who were working under extremely stressful conditions. Doctors doubted the quality of the oxygen produced and refused to provide it to the patients directly from the plant. They had more confidence in oxygen cylinders as they had been using this source for multiple years. To allay the apprehensions, TASL hired agencies under the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) to test the purity of the manufactured gas and certify that the oxygen purity was within design tolerance ($90 \pm 3\%$).

Another stumbling block was a shortage of skilled hands to install and maintain these new plants.



Installed and commissioned plants at Leh and Kargil at an altitude of 11,480 ft and 8,780 ft, respectively, within seven days of being dispatched from Bangalore.

“More than commercial benefits, this project aimed to save the lives of people directly by making medical oxygen available abundantly at hospitals. The Tata Group, since its inception, has been continuously contributing to nation-building initiatives. This project was in line with our vision of giving back to the community.”

Suresh Baroth, Senior Vice President, Project Management, TASL

INNOVATIVE METHODOLOGIES: MAXIMIZING PROJECT SUCCESS

Procurement strategy

- More than 50 micro, small and medium enterprises were brought on board to minimize the risk of resource shortages caused by the disrupted global supply chain.
- A global source was identified to procure critical items as per the specifications and on a stringent schedule.

Stakeholder engagement

- A structured approach to stakeholder engagement and identification was applied, as recommended by PMI.
- A detailed stakeholder mapping and communication strategy was created for seamless project execution.

Technological innovation

- The project involved employing the Internet of Things (IoT) with SIM card technology and collection of remote critical parameters/data from plants to gauge performance.
- Data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) were used, and real-time monitoring of the dashboards was done to identify trends, improve efficiency and reduce downtime.
- A work breakdown structure (WBS)-based schedule was developed to deliver the project on time and within budget.

Risk management

- A risk register tool was used to identify and mitigate risks at various stages of the project.
- Reputation risk was managed by assessing inbound and outbound quality assurance for all sourced components and conducting NABL testing after plant installation.

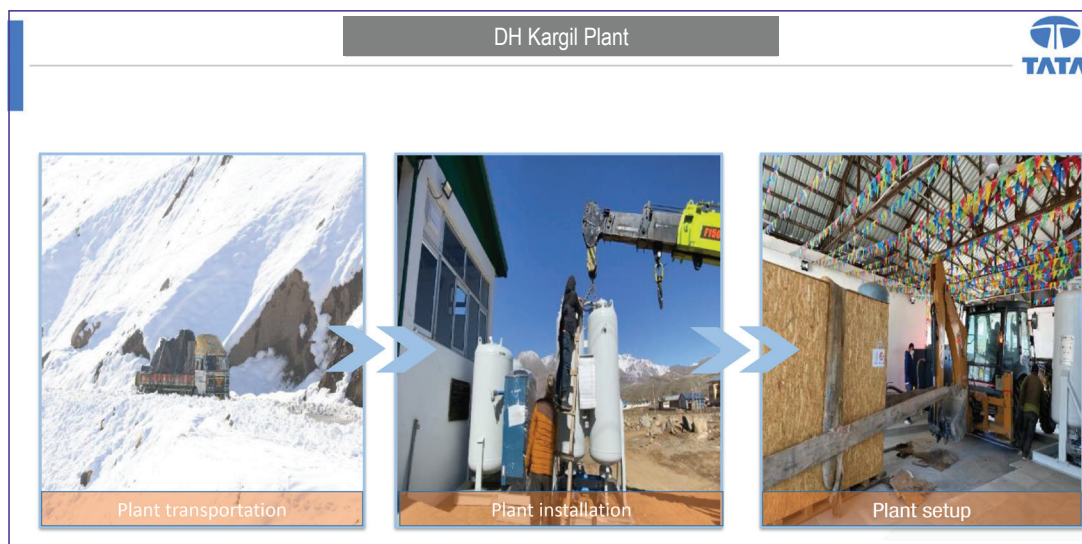
Technical skills

- Extensive training was provided online and in person to plant operators, technicians and biomedical engineers.



Key highlights:

- 309 plants installed in 287 districts across India.
- Dedicated the plants to the nation on 7 October 2021 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- 140 patients per plant supported with consumption capacity of 5 to 7 liters per minute.
- Reduced dependency on liquid medical oxygen.
- Followed PMI standards for project management, tailored to suit the project's needs.



Powering Systems for Tomorrow's Technologies

Project: Engine Management System Development

Project Start Date: 4 July 2017

Project End Date: 30 September 2021

Cost: US\$5.32 million

Project Execution: Bosch Global Software Technologies

In 2015, a leading Korea-based car manufacturer planned to update its entire diesel vehicles portfolio with future-ready, advanced technologies and add cutting-edge features to vehicles in the light commercial to ultra-luxury categories. Weighed down by obsolete technologies, the existing hardware was not scalable to accommodate advanced features.

The Bosch development center in India created a future-ready engine management system. The single system enables the introduction of state-of-the-art functions, such as remote smart park assist and smart cruise control, while making it “plug-and-play” and reusable across different projects.

The project was a significant milestone for the organization in India, and showcased the acquisition, software development and complete product and project management of the team.

Bosch Global Software Technologies won the Project of the Year Award in the small category for this project at the PMI South Asia Awards 2022.

KEY FACTORS THAT IMPEDED PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Varied requirements, one system:

The revamp extended to a large portfolio of vehicles that would be marketed in seven countries or regions — Korea, India, Europe, Australia, Taiwan, Russia and Latin America. Each country had its own emission regulations. It was therefore a challenge to design a single system that would meet the different requirements.

Cross-country coordination:

The project was executed from four countries — Germany, Korea, India and Vietnam — amid pandemic-induced movement restrictions and remote work. The different time zones of these countries made it difficult to communicate with the stakeholders, regular business hours, which caused delays. Cultural and language differences made it even harder.

Scope creep:

The client added additional functions during software releases that were not originally planned. In some cases, ad hoc requirements were included, which caused confusion during system testing.

Futuristic approach:

The customer wanted a future-ready, connected platform that would adapt to technological changes in the future. On top of that, the teams needed to balance specific needs of different vehicles with cost considerations.

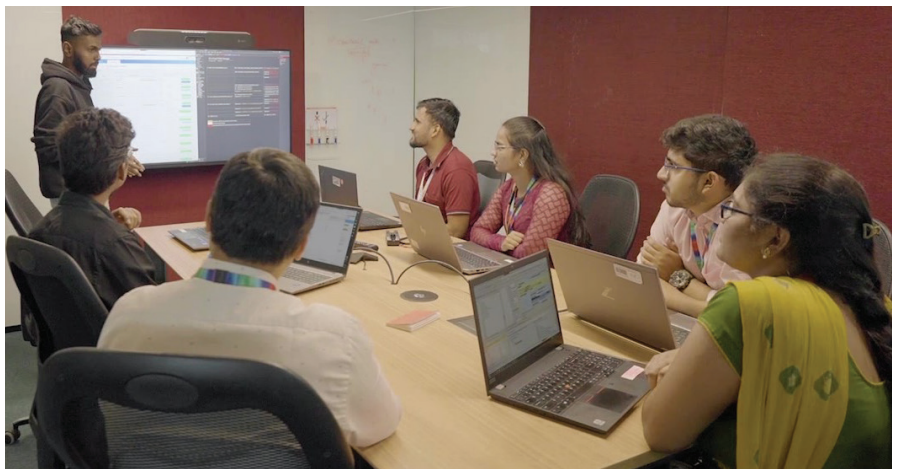
APPROACHES AND PRACTICES THAT LED TO DESIRABLE OUTCOMES

Technological innovation:

The team focused on plug-and-play function development, so that any software or hardware components can be integrated into any vehicle

Key highlights:

- More than 1.2 million vehicles on the road with new Bosch technology systems.
- The DfE (designed for environment) approach has been used, which means no harmful substances have been used.
- The project's success led to Bosch being awarded three new projects from the customer.
- Enabled an overall 33% savings on development costs.
- Won the Best Managed Project (Global) at the Bosch Global Project Management Awards.



platform with minimal user intervention. It significantly saved time and cost. To ensure the safety of the connected system, data security and new encryption algorithms were implemented to prevent unauthorized access to data.

Transparent communication:

Conducted open communication with all parties involved, which made it possible to coordinate, manage deliveries and keep all the stakeholders

informed about the project's status and constraints.

Procurement management:

Initiated contracts and service level agreements (SLAs) with suppliers at the beginning of the project so they were aware of their responsibilities. The approach enabled suppliers to deliver on time and within the estimated cost. This saved money with minimal deviations from the project time line.



Stakeholder management:

Implemented a stakeholder identification matrix of direct and indirect stakeholders and prioritized stakeholders based on their interest and influence. Stakeholders across countries regularly discussed project updates, and financial, technical and managerial implications to align with the project goals.

Human resources:

Identified and trained the right talent during the planning phase, so they were prepared on the project necessities in advance. This helped improve their efficiency and the overall performance of the project.

“At Bosch, we believe that our products are invented for life. We want our products to spark enthusiasm, improve quality of life and help conserve natural resources. We always strive for excellence while adapting to the changes and seizing opportunities. The project team stayed true to the Bosch values, while using state-of-the-art technologies and not deviating from project management principles.”

Mallikarjuna Rao M, Program Director



Women's Opportunity Gap in Project Management



Women hold significantly fewer jobs in project management than men, despite global equality movements, and diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) programs taking hold at the workplace.

Recent PMI research, “The State of Women in Project Management 2023,” shows that male project managers outnumber their female counterparts by three to one globally. South Asia fares worse than the global average, with only 15% of project managers being women, compared to 84% being men. The gender imbalance has immediate negative implications for project teams — 88% of project professionals said that diverse project teams create more value for the organization.

Key Takeaways

- Gender disparities are greater in the Middle East, North Africa, Asia Pacific and South Asia, and lowest in North America, sub-Saharan Africa and China.
- The pay gap for female project managers in most countries is below the global average.
- Gaining project management certifications can help women demonstrate their value and expertise, and shrink the pay gap.
- Male project managers outnumber female project managers by more than 50% in industries like construction, transportation, aerospace and manufacturing, among others.
- Healthcare is the only industry where the gap is less than 20%.
- The disparity in leadership roles is relatively small despite the gaps in job status and earnings.

Read the full report.

Job Trends in Project Management for 2023

Despite disruption and uncertainty, project professionals continue to have strong opportunities to advance their careers. Even as the threat of a global recession clouds all economic projections for 2023, companies continue to grapple with a talent shortage.

According to “The PMI’s Talent Gap” report, 2.3 million new project management employees will be needed each year to meet global talent demands by 2030. To remain competitive, companies will need to focus on hiring problem solvers and relationship builders who can help them drive change and deliver strategic value.

Key Takeaways

- Power skills, such as communication, problem-solving, collaborative leadership and strategic thinking, will provide a career advantage.
- Digital transformation continues to drive a positive economy and opportunities in South Asia.
- Salaries across all sectors in India are expected to increase by 10% in 2023 — the third straight year to see a jump.
- India’s massive IT sector will remain an engine of project activity and create an estimated 300,000 new jobs in 2023.

- Project professionals with innovative thinking and creative decision-making skills will be in high demand amid a digital-first, post-pandemic recovery.
- With increased government investment, the healthcare sector is expected to become a key employment generator in 2023.

Learn more about [job trends](#).



Upgrade Your Career With PMI Certifications

Forbes India recently published an exclusive interview with Srin Srinivasan, regional managing director, PMI South Asia. Srinivasan said that globally acclaimed PMI certifications are sought across all industry sectors. The certifications assist project managers in sharpening their skills, knowledge and expertise, and in executing projects successfully. He emphasized that these certifications help professionals to keep abreast of emerging technologies, ways of problem-solving and hyper-agile ways of working.

He also spoke about skill clusters, including business acumen, technical project management and people skills. These skills are in demand, regardless of whether someone is at the entry, middle management or leadership level.

Read the full [interview](#).



**Project
Management
Institute.
Bangladesh**



**Project
Management
Institute.**

PROJECT MANAGEMENT REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Project Management:
Architecting Resilience



3 June
2023

Hotel Sheraton, Dhaka

Registrations are open till 15 May 2023.



#PMRC23

PMI BANGLADESH CHAPTER IN-PERSON MENTORING SESSION

The PMI Bangladesh Chapter conducted the closing



session of “Mentoring Program 2022” on 10 February 2023. The event was attended in person by a significant number of mentors, mentees and chapter executive committee members.

Annesha Ahmed, president of the PMI Bangladesh Chapter, expressed her appreciation for the hard work and commitment of all of the mentors and mentees involved in the program. Roger Rodrigues, global marketing and events manager at PMI, shared his insights as a special guest at the event.

ROUNDTABLE ON SMART TECHNOLOGIES



A roundtable session on “Smart Technology Management for Smart Bangladesh” was held on 26 February at BASIS SoftExpo. Ahmed and Ahmed Zafor Sadeq Bhuiyan, director of technology of the chapter, expressed their interest in supporting project management upskilling initiatives in Bangladesh and creating a pool of highly capable citizens.

RECOGNIZING FAMILY MEMBERS’ CONTRIBUTIONS

The PMI Bangladesh Chapter organized a fun-filled family outing on 20 January, which was attended by the board of directors and their family members. The chapter took the opportunity to honor the spouses,



children and parents of the board members for their support in the members, taking on new challenges and initiatives.

PMI CHENNAI CHAPTER KNOWLEDGE-ENRICHMENT SESSIONS

On 21 January, the PMI Chennai Chapter launched its first knowledge-sharing session of 2023. Bhanu M. Viswanadha, president of the PMI Silicon Valley



Chapter and PMI Authorized Training Partner (ATP) instructor, spoke about “Kanban for Predictive Value Delivery.” The session provided an opportunity for the audience to understand Kanban at a basic level and learn the steps in implementing a successful Kanban framework. Viswanadha emphasized that the framework must not be introduced as a new tool to the team, but as a part of the existing process.

The chapter conducted a knowledge-sharing session on 11 February at Anna Centenary Library in Chennai. Chandrasekar Pandyan, a knowledge management and design thinking expert, spoke on the topic, “Design Thinking for Business and Customer-Centric Innovation.” He discussed the main elements of the design thinking framework — empathize, define, ideate, prototype and test.

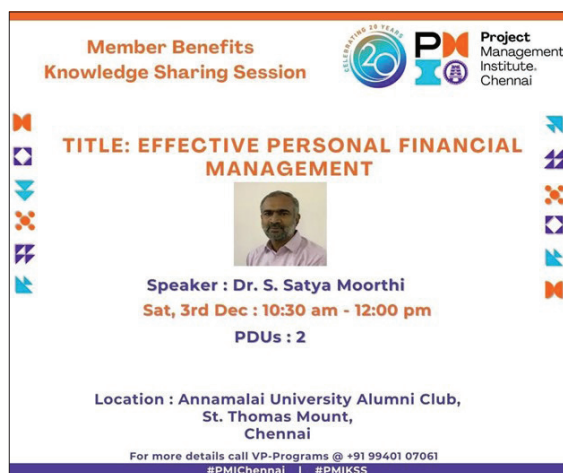
D.C. Mathangi, a wellness and lifestyle coach, explained the importance of the well-being of working

professionals, considering the long working hours and high stress levels of today's work life.

Additionally, the chapter, in partnership with Aura Holistic Wellness Centre, hosted a health camp for its members. More than 45 members participated in the holistic health drive.

On 17 December 2022, the chapter conducted an insightful session on the theme, "Business Storytelling for Project Managers." Sundararaman Chintamani, a distinguished toastmaster, explained the various elements of business storytelling and how it differs from personal storytelling.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES



The chapter organized a knowledge-sharing session on "Personal Financial Management" on 3 December 2022. S. Satya Moorthi provided advice to the participants on how to develop financial goals, achieve financial stability and decide where and how to invest money. The session was packed with fun exercises that allowed participants to self-evaluate their financial status.

EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH EDUCATION

The chapter has been actively involved in empowering girls in collaboration with Project Puthri, a program that aims to create career intentionality among underprivileged girls. To strengthen the program, Haribabuji Hari Krishnan, vice president of volunteer development, addressed more than 150 female students at the Udyog Utsav event in Puducherry on 28 January. He enlightened the students on the



importance of project management as a life skill.

The event served as a grand opening to the current year's youth and social impact (YSI) initiatives of the chapter.

As part of the YSI outreach initiatives, volunteers of the PMI Chennai Chapter also conducted multiple sessions on "Project Management as a Life Skill" for Project Puthri scholars during Q3 2022. Four volunteers delivered the sessions at various schools in Chennai and Coimbatore.

TRAINING PROGRAM ON POWER BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE



After nearly three years, the chapter revived its in-person training program. A full-day event was held on 28 January on the theme, "Become a Power Business Intelligence (BI) Data Analyst in a Day." Eighteen professionals from various domains participated and learned about data analysis, data visualization, secure report publication and dashboard/app creation. The chapter also formed a Power BI community at the event. The community will aim to answer members' queries and share their experiences that can benefit others.

PMI GUJARAT, INDIA CHAPTER CELEBRATING A MILESTONE

On 29 January, the PMI Gujarat, India Chapter held a celebration to commemorate the chapter's recent achievement of winning the prestigious PMI Chapter



of the Year Award. Chapter members, volunteers and the PMI Region 11 leadership team, including Sridhar Srinivasan, regional managing director of PMI; Prasanna Sampathkumar, regional mentor; Abhishek Sharma, chapter partner, and Nisha Nanda Kumar, chapter administrator, were part of the celebration.

Also in attendance were many senior professionals from different sectors. They extended their support to the chapter's initiatives that aim to strengthen the project management ecosystem in the state.

PMI PEARL CITY, HYDERABAD CHAPTER INSIGHTS ON AGILE PRACTICES

The PMI Pearl City, Hyderabad Chapter (PMIPCC) organized the "Agile Conference 2023" on 21 January. Focused on the theme, "Sustaining Business Agility," the hybrid conference had more than 25 delegates.



Komal Mathur, vice president of PMIPCC, set the context of the conference. Venkata Reddy Chirla, president of PMIPCC, welcomed the delegates and spoke about the importance of business agility and its application in the project management world.

Sridhar Srinivasan, regional managing director of PMI South Asia, and Prasanna Sampathkumar, region

mentor of PMI South Asia, shared their perspectives on the topic. They congratulated the chapter for conducting a conference that emphasized the future of project management.

John Munro, global agile and business transformation lead at PMI, presented the opening keynote session on "Sustaining Business Agility With the Agile Manifesto as Your North Star." This was followed by a session on "Sustaining the Transformation" by Dave McMunn, executive vice president, application development, at PennyMac Loan Services. Other eminent speakers included Krishnamurthy Pammi, director of software delivery at Techmojo Solutions Pvt. Ltd., and Sairam B. S., executive director of DBS Tech India.

Additionally, an engaging gamification workshop, "Gamify the Agile Mindset," was conducted by Debopom Sanyal, agile coach at Factset. The event culminated with a power-packed fireside chat on "Sustaining Business Agility," moderated by Krishna Joshi, director of program management, Salesforce. The panelists included Deepti Jain, founder and transformation strategist of Agilevirgin; Nagini Chandramouli, senior enterprise agile coach; and Parul Sharma, director of product management of Novartis.

OBSERVING STUDENT LEADERSHIP DAY



PMIPCC celebrated "International Student Leadership Day" with local students on 11 February. With a warm welcome message, Chirla spoke on the need of preparing today's students for the future and giving them the right support to navigate smoothly while proceeding toward career success.

Manohar Yerraguntla, general secretary of PMIPCC,

spoke about the benefits of student membership. The keynote address was delivered by Sai Kaustav Dasgupta, a global TEDx motivational speaker, graphics designer and happiness coach. He said that one must set a goal and constantly focus on it to see it accomplished.

N. Saujanya Yelisetty, director, finance and youth and social impact of the chapter, moderated a panel discussion on “Reimagining Leadership in the Digital Era.” The panelists included V. Srinivasa Rao, chairman and managing director of BT&BT; A. Chandrasekaran, CEO, founder and director of Infocareer; and Sudha Turaga, director of DPS Nacharam, Mahendra Hills and Pallavi Group of Schools and Colleges.

PMI TRIVANDRUM, KERALA CHAPTER HONORING VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS



The PMI Trivandrum, Kerala Chapter received the Global Best Chapter Award for its contribution to professional and community engagements at the PMI® Global Summit held in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

The chapter won the award in recognition of its flagship programs, such as promoting organic farming, introducing project management concepts to school/college student forums under the academic outreach initiative, empowering women, organizing cross-continent professional development events and providing support to government organizations in developing project management practices.

The chapter was also honored with the Fearless Vision 2022 Award at the PMI South Asia Awards. Some of the key programs and initiatives undertaken by the chapter are the project management conference called Waves;



the academic conclave called Wings; social outreach programs; Whiz Talks sessions; and the Hours of Impact initiative for which the chapter has contributed 15,000 hours.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS

Considering the success of the academic outreach program, the chapter launched the PMI student membership program at its annual academic conference, Wings. The program offers a discounted price of US\$12 plus taxes instead of the usual fee of US\$32 plus taxes to student members. It provides a one-year membership to PMI and the PMI Trivandrum, Kerala Chapter. Students can access all PMI resources, webinars, certification offers and a huge network of project professionals across the world.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



With the unveiling of the anniversary logo, the chapter has now begun celebrating its 20th anniversary. Srinivasa Srinivasan joined the first event, which was attended by founding board members, past leaders, volunteers and their families.

INSIGHTFUL SESSION ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The PMI Trivandrum, Kerala Chapter started its Whiz Talks sessions for 2023 with a session held in collaboration with the PMI Lakeshore, Ontario

	Project Management Institute, Kerala India		Project Management Institute, Lakeshore, Ontario
WhizTalks 2023			
3 PRINCIPLES OF GROWTH FOR PROJECT LEADERS			
		18th February 2023 8 to 9 pm IST / 9.30 to 10.30 am EST ONLINE Platform : Webex	
		Speaker YEMISI IYILADE, M.ENG, PMP, SMC Portfolio Manager Technology Governance, PMI Lakeshore Ontario Chapter	
PMI Kerala Chapter in Collaboration with PMI Lakeshore Ontario Chapter			

Chapter. Yemisi Iyilade, project manager and Maxwell Leadership coach and trainer, spoke on “Three Principles of Growth for Project Leaders.” PMI Whiz Talks provides an opportunity for professionals to share their expertise with chapter members.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

and practices on her road to recovery from an accident. She spoke about how they assisted her treatment and recovery process.

The chapter, under its initiative Empower Women in Project Management, hosted a fireside chat with Deepa Bhide, a medical practitioner. Bhide discussed with Smitha Padmanabhan, senior development manager at IBM India, about how she used project management principles

BUILDING MEMBERSHIPS

The PMI Trivandrum, Kerala Chapter's Toastmasters Club won the Membership Rockstar Award in District 121. The club was chartered with 20 members during April-September 2022. The club added five new/dual/reinstated members from October to December 2022. The announcement was made during the Club Office Training Program of District 121 held on 5 February.

PMI MUMBAI CHAPTER

DEVELOPING EARLY READING HABITS

The PMI Mumbai Chapter's outreach program, "Dnyansarita," aims to inculcate reading habits in children at an early age for a better future. It supports Goal 4 of the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals — Quality Education.

As a part of the initiative, a book donation drive was held on 26 February at three locations in Mumbai. The one-day drive saw more than 300 books being donated, ranging from works of fiction and dictionaries to non-fiction books on technical subjects and competitive exam guides.

The chapter also received books via courier, and collected notebooks, sketch books and other stationery items. These books will be given to the

Human Welfare Charitable Trust India Foundation and Seva Sahayog Foundation.

YOUTH SUPPORT INITIATIVE

As a part of the G.R.O.W. (Guide, Raise, provide Options, for Way forward) program, a youth support



initiative of the PMI Mumbai Chapter, an in-person event was organized on 4 February. The event, held in collaboration with ITM Business School, Kharghar, discussed the theme, "How to Go From Prototype to Product."

The session started with a brief introduction by the college coordinator, Gayatri Chakle, followed by an introduction by Jacob Zachariah, president of the PMI Mumbai Chapter, and Priya Patra, the chapter's vice president for outreach.

Apurva Joshi, vice president of R&D, Indrones, was the speaker at the event. He explained the process from "envisioning a prototype to creating a product and deploying it." Over 20 students attended the session.

BEACH CLEANUP CAMPAIGNS



The chapter's team of volunteers from its outreach program, "Saksham Samarth," joined hands with two nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) — Project Mumbai and Seva Sahayog — to conduct beach cleanup drives. The program is in line with the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The initiative aims to create social awareness about the impact of hazardous wastes on natural water bodies and the environment.

PMI WEST BENGAL CHAPTER CONNECTION WITH STUDENTS



The PMI West Bengal Chapter initiated a project management advocacy program by reaching out to various academic institutions. The program was held with an aim to share insights with youth about acquiring 21st-century work and life skills by building project management competency.

From 22 December 2022 to 23 February 2023, the chapter organized several sessions for students of eight engineering and management institutes. The session held at Don Bosco Institute of Management, Guwahati on 3 February also marked the debut of PMI South Asia in Northeast India. Sessions were also held at the Dr. BC Roy Engineering College, Durgapur; NSHM Knowledge Campus, Kolkata; and University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata.

FILLING SKILL GAPS IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Kailash Karthik, director of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Assam, recently approached the PMI West Bengal Chapter to help their engineers and contractors understand basic project management principles to ensure successful project delivery. Jal Jeevan Mission is a central government program that aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water to every household in the country.



The chapter curated customized training workshops, covering project management best practices, tools and techniques. The first session was held for more than 30 individuals. This engagement shows how PMI can play a significant role in government initiatives.

Chapter news contributors: Rizwana Parveen, PMP; Priya Patra, PMP; Anita Kanojia, PMP; Rajendra Bhatt, PMP; Mehul Patel, PMP; Arumugam Mariappan, PMI-ACP, PMP; Muthukumaran Sowndhararajan, PMP; Mohammed Ejaz Bashee, PMP; Gayatri Vasudevan PMP; Jaydeep Chakraborty, PMP; Tamal Banerjee, DASSM, PMP; Saon Sen Nandi, PMP; Uday Bhattacharya, PMP; Sazzad Ar. Rahman, PMP; Rashmi Mohandas, DASSM; Vinay Babu Tarala, PMI-ACP, DASSM; N Saujanya Yelisetty, DASSM, PMP

STAR VOLUNTEERS

In this column, we shine the spotlight on our star volunteers from PMI South Asia chapters who have made immense contributions through their dedication and passion. This is your opportunity to learn a bit about these remarkable men and women from our practitioner community.



ANITA KANOJIA, PMP

Senior Consultant, Ernst & Young
Volunteer, PMI Mumbai Chapter

Been a PMI member since: November 2019

The biggest hurdles I face as a project manager:

Dealing with stakeholders (internal and external), poor team Communication and acknowledging problems in time to take actionable measures.

The top skills I have learned through PMI: Intellectual curiosity and leadership.

My new success mantra as a project manager: Consistent, agile and technology-advanced.

The big takeaway for me from volunteering: Grabbing opportunities to explore, grow and network with inspiring professionals to become better.

The future is: Agile and hybrid project management for the betterment of society.



MUTHUKUMARAN SOWNDHARARAJAN, PMP

Senior Project Manager, Wells Fargo

Associate Vice President — Social Media Task Force, PMI Chennai Chapter

Been a PMI member since: January 2013

The biggest hurdles I face as a project manager: Scope creep.

The top skills I have learned through PMI: Leadership, communication and risk management.

My new success mantra as a project manager: Build the best team through a servant leadership approach.

The big takeaway for me from volunteering: The servant leadership can get things done without authoritarianism.

The future is: Artificial-intelligence-powered project management tools that help in automating manual tasks and generating insights on project performance.



ARUMUGAM MARIAPPAN, PMI-ACP, PMP

Senior Program Manager, Unisys

Associate Vice President — Communications, PMI Chennai Chapter

Been a PMI member since: April 2013

The biggest hurdles I face as a project manager:

Organizational project priorities and budget restrictions.

The top skills I have learned through PMI: Effective communication.

My new success mantra as a project manager:

To support and convert leadership/organizational vision into reality.

The big takeaway for me from volunteering: Networking and giving back to society.

The future is: Keeping an eye on the industry revolution and upgrading skills as required to grow in the leadership role.



MOHAMMED EJAZ BASHEER, PMP

Delivery Manager, TCS

Associate Vice President — Marketing, PMI Chennai Chapter

Been a PMI member since: January 2018

The biggest hurdles I face as a project manager: Scope ambiguity and creep.

The top skills I have learned through PMI: Giving back to the community.

My new success mantra as a project manager: Persistence.

The big takeaway for me from volunteering: We grow as we make a difference in others' lives.

The future is: Resplendent.

**G. RAGOTHAMAN**

Full-time volunteer
Associate Vice President —
Branches, PMI Chennai Chapter

Been a PMI member since: August 2022

The biggest hurdles I faced as a project manager: A specific project, the execution of Delhi Metro, because it was so new in India.

The top skills I have learned through PMI: Improving my reading habits to understand topics I had never come across before.

My new success mantra as a project manager: Quality and safety are always my two biggest goals.

The big takeaway for me from volunteering: Bringing project management concepts to students in senior schools and engineering colleges.

The future is: Increasing the number of leaders in project management by conducting sessions for new students.

**MOHAMMAD ARIFUL ISLAM, PMP**

Principal Architect/Project
Manager, One Vision Architects
Volunteer, PMI Bangladesh
Chapter

Been a PMI member since: May 2020

The biggest hurdles I face as a project manager: Managing change.

The top skills I have learned through PMI: Risk management.

My new success mantra as a project manager: Clear your preconceived notions about the outcome.

The big takeaway for me from volunteering: Developing new skills.

The future is: An amalgamation of human creativity and artificial intelligence in project management.

**PRASHANT DESHPANDE, PMP**

Associate Director — Project
Management, Real Estate and
Data Center Services, Kyndryl
Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Volunteer, PMI Pune-Deccan
India Chapter

Been a PMI member since: October 2022

The biggest hurdles I face as a project manager: Uncertainty in executing the plan due to some unforeseen and unexpected reasons.

The top skills I have learned through PMI: Systematic study of project management, agile project management, agile methodologies like Scrum, stakeholder management and cost management.

My new success mantra as a project manager: Work with the team, work in the team and work for the team.

The big takeaway for me from volunteering: Sharing knowledge gives me satisfaction and even more pleasure when someone acknowledges my efforts.

The future is: Agile project management.

**ABU NAYEM MOHAMMAD ALI KHAN, PMP**

Senior Project Manager,
Millennium Information Solution
Ltd.

Volunteer, PMI Bangladesh
Chapter

Been a PMI member since: March 2019

The biggest hurdles I face as a project manager: Finding the right stakeholders and setting clear goals for a project.

The top skills I have learned through PMI: How to make a difficult task easier and achieve more.

My new success mantra as a project manager: Build trust within the team to accomplish goals.

The big takeaway for me from volunteering: Discovering my passion for social work.

The future is: Full of potential for project managers.



**SHYAMASREE
HALDAR, PMP**

Senior Associate, Cognizant
Technology Solutions

Lead Volunteer, PMI West Bengal
Chapter

Been a PMI member since: 2022

The biggest hurdles I face as a project manager: Budget
management.

The top skills I have learned through PMI: Negotiation
skills.

My new success mantra as a project manager is: Motivate
the team.

The future is: Networking.



JAYSHREE S, PMP

Program Manager, Cheil India
Pvt. Ltd.

Volunteer, PMI Pearl City,
Hyderabad Chapter

Been a PMI member since: 2021

The biggest hurdles I face as a project manager:
Scope creep and volatility in the business environment,
which can result in unrealistic deadlines at times.

The top skills I have learned through PMI:
Transformation and change management.

My new success mantra as a project manager is: Set
priorities based on business requirements and viable
planning to achieve them.

The big takeaway for me from volunteering: Every
small contribution makes a huge impact. One must be
able to multitask and understand the importance of
communication.

The future is: To remain agile and possess cognitive
flexibility to manage new challenges and changing
priorities and demands.



Inviting article submissions



Calling all PMI/chapter members and certification
holders to submit their original writings on the
topic of project management. Earn PDUs for your
published article!

Submission deadline for the next issue: **20 May 2023**

Email your article along with your recent photograph to
editor.manageindia@pmi-india.org

The Road to Project Management: Not by Accident but by Design



POOVANNAN C, PMP
PMI SOUTH ASIA SENIOR CHAMPION
 DIRECTOR-PROJECT MANAGEMENT, INFOR
 GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

WHAT ARE THE TOP PROJECT MANAGEMENT SKILLS REQUIRED TO MEET THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF TODAY'S MARKET?

I would categorize skill requirements into 3Ps—people, product and process.

People-related skills are crucial for project managers as they deal with different stakeholders, clients and vendors. These skills include communication, negotiation, motivation, listening, conflict management and coaching. They need to know the product well. Focus on the technical know-how, the sales angle and product usage. They need to have an industry perspective and adapt the product to changing trends in technology.

For process, it's important to pay attention to an execution framework that adds value, such as Azure Devops (ADO), Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe®) and Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMi). Other capabilities include innovation, creativity and project management methodologies.

IN WHAT WAYS DO CERTIFICATIONS DIFFERENTIATE PROJECT MANAGERS?

The pathway that leads to the role of a project manager is by design, not by chance or accident. Certifications enable this design by providing global recognition of one's project management skills. They provide a framework of having a common language to deal with project execution, give shape to the professional experience, expand reach through marketability and help gain structural learning of critical project management factors. Certifications open the door to networking with global professionals. They are fulfilling

and exemplify one's commitment to the job. Someone with a certification typically gets preference over those without certifications in assignments. It helps you stay ahead in the job market and improve income competitiveness.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ADVICE TO SOMEONE WHO IS CONSIDERING A CERTIFICATION BUT DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT?

The decision to pursue certification is the first step toward growth. Once you have reached a decision, you can go through a staged approach toward certification, starting with the following eight steps:

- Understand the certification course structure.
- Create a detailed schedule with a list of stages through to the completion stage, and follow it strictly.
- Form a like-minded study group.
- Take multiple practice exams.
- Review your performance periodically and focus on the areas of improvement.
- Prepare flashcards for easy reference and memorization.
- Rest before the final exam.
- Celebrate the successful completion of your certification exam.

Certifications Help Project Managers Speak One Language



RADHA SOMASUNDARAM
PMI SOUTH ASIA SENIOR CHAMPION
 PROGRAMMANAGER—INSTRUMENTCLUSTERDOMAIN,
 BOSCH GLOBAL SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGIES PVT. LTD.

WHAT ARE THE TOP PROJECT MANAGEMENT SKILLS NEEDED TO MEET THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF TODAY'S MARKET?

For project managers, proactive communication is essential. In the interest of solving project issues before the delivery date or managing risks due to project limitations, we sometimes miss providing a heads-up to all of the stakeholders about the impact. This can lead to escalations.

Project planning may sound like a basic element of project management, but we often fail to do detailed planning across both waterfall and agile methodologies. If we plan meticulously in collaboration with all project interfaces, monitoring and controlling can be quite effective. Otherwise, it would be hard to measure the project's progress if the plans tend to change or evolve continuously.

Building and nurturing project teams is critical for the success of a project. Nothing is possible without teams. It's important to focus on building high-performing teams, work on establishing trust, create a positive environment and leave room for failure.

IN WHAT WAYS DO CERTIFICATIONS DIFFERENTIATE PROJECT MANAGERS?

Project managers with certifications can speak

a language that everyone in the global project management industry can understand, enabling them to be frontrunners. Besides, certified project managers would have unlimited tools at their disposal to manage challenges and complexities throughout the project life cycle. They are well versed in concepts and strategies to keep projects on track in a world of volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity. They are well known for successfully finishing projects.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ADVICE TO SOMEONE WHO IS CONSIDERING A CERTIFICATION BUT DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT?

A certification can help you feel confident and proud while also enabling you to assess your competency. Certifications with experience can add more value to projects. You need to first decide your career path and visualize where you want to see yourself in the next three to five years. This will help you choose the right certification. Get all of the relevant information about the certification and connect with people who are certified already to learn from their experience. Finally, pay for the certification exam, set the date, discover your learning style and give your best effort. Take a few practice exams to build your confidence. Post-certification, it is important to apply what you have learned to your projects.



PMI Organization Centre Pvt. Ltd.,
#105, WeWork, 1st Floor,
Oberoi Commerz II
International Business Park,
Oberoi Garden City,
Off Western Express Highway,
Goregaon East,
Mumbai, India - 400063
PMI.org.in | PMI.org