MARCH 2019 EVENTS

HBS India Impact Series
The India Research Center recently launched the HBS India Impact Series. This series will hold discussions with change makers who are using their leadership, networks, and problem-solving skills to address fundamental challenges facing society. The first conversation was held with Zarina and Ronnie Screwvala, well-known entrepreneurs and philanthropists. The discussion focused on their efforts to facilitate rural transformation in the Indian state of Maharashtra through the Swades Foundation. The interactive discussion brought together 28 alumni to learn about the 360-degree model of change used by Swades, the scale and impact they have achieved, milestones, challenges, and future outcomes. We hope conversations in this series inspire thoughtful action and serve as a catalyst to building a community of like-minded and socially responsible leaders.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2019 EVENTS

Driving Digital Strategy Discussion with Professor Sunil Gupta
This January and February Professor Sunil Gupta, Edward W. Carter Professor of Business Administration, toured Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai, presenting his research on the use of digital technology and its impact on consumer behavior and firm strategy. Alumni, business leaders, and entrepreneurs attended events where he discussed his recent book “Driving Digital Strategy, A Guide to Reimagining your Business.” His book provides a framework for companies to reimagine their business. Referring to numerous case studies and his own research, Professor Gupta demonstrated how the rules of business have changed and why it is no longer enough for firms to be better or cheaper to gain competitive advantage. He described how these new rules make it essential for companies to re-examine four fundamental aspects of their business to thrive in the digital era – their strategy, value chain, customer engagement, and organization structure.

JANUARY 2019 EVENTS

Entrepreneurs Unplugged – Conversation with Sanjiv Bajaj (MBA 1997)
This January, alumni and a few select entrepreneurs congregated in Pune for a discussion with Sanjiv Bajaj as a part of the India Research Center's Entrepreneurs Unplugged Series. The focus of the series is to forge a deeper understanding of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in South Asia. The series tracks the journeys of entrepreneurs who have attempted to launch new business models as they push scale and manage various stakeholders including investors, employees, customers and regulators. During the conversation, Sanjiv Bajaj (MBA '97), Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv, one of India’s flagship non-bank finance companies, shared insights on business strategy and the use of technology, data mining, AI and machine intelligence to drive innovation and long-term value creation. He also shared his perspective on developing a culture of accountability and entrepreneurship within a corporate set up.
Exploring the Future of Work for Women

The HBS India Research Center, the HBS Club of India and the HBS Gender Initiative hosted their first joint conference devoted to exploring what the future holds for working women. The Future of Work: Accelerating Gender Parity Conference, held on September 21, 2018 in Mumbai, was an invitation-only opportunity for 200 CEOs and senior managers to convene with experts and scholars. Professors Robin J. Ely, Diane Doerge Wilson Professor of Business Administration and Faculty Chair of the HBS Gender Initiative and Joseph B. Fuller Professor of General Management who co-leads the School's Managing the Future of Work project presented their research. Professor Lakshmi Ramarajan, Anna Spangler Nelson and Thomas C. Nelson Associate Professor of Business Administration, gave a presentation on gender identity.

Creating Opportunity for Indian Entrepreneurs

Harsh Bhargava (MBA 1977) was visiting his hometown of Jaipur, India, in 1999 when tragedy struck. In the midst of an unemployment crisis during the Kargil War, the government advertised for 120 open positions in the nearby town of Jhunjhunu. More than 100,000 young men showed up looking for work. The government was not prepared to handle the number of job-seekers, resulting in matters becoming out of control and police killing three young men. The incident ate at Bhargava, and led to an idea: Why not create job creators instead of job seekers through an entrepreneurship training program at the grassroots level? Inspired, Bhargava founded I Create, an organization that teaches entrepreneurship skills to students at the secondary level and also works with disadvantaged women, youth, and discharged soldiers to provide comprehensive training and mentorship.

HBS Alum to Expand Company's Automotive Operations to Detroit

Anand Mahindra (MBA 1981) has plans to expand the automotive operations of the Mumbai-based company, Mahindra Group, into Detroit in early 2018. The company will begin producing off-road recreational and work vehicles that will contribute to their current U.S. production of tractors.

An HBS alumnus and his City of Dreams - Colombo, Sri Lanka

With a clear vision and big dreams for change, HBS graduate Nayana Mawilanda (MBA 2005) shares his plans for turning Sri Lanka’s capital city of Colombo into a megapolis that resembles other major international port cities. His master plans for transformation include housing,
transportation, water, and environmental priorities, and he talks about how his unexpected career path led him to have the skills he needs to make these big changes.