

## Just in Talks Speaker Session

### **Just-In-Talks with Ms. Rupam Jain**

APICS SSCBS hosted an engaging edition of its flagship speaker series *Just-In-Talks (JIT)* with Ms. Rupam Jain, Senior Consultant at Ernst & Young (EY). The session focused on *Strategic and Sustainable Procurement*, offering participants a deep dive into supply chain management, procurement strategies, and the evolving demands of the consumer goods industry.

Ms. Jain, a seasoned professional in supply chain and operations, brought forward her expertise in optimizing procurement systems, leveraging analytics, and enhancing operational effectiveness. She shared practical insights on how businesses today must balance cost efficiencies with sustainability, particularly in procurement functions where supplier relations, risk management, and long-term value creation play a critical role.

Key takeaways from the session included:

- The importance of sustainable procurement in today's global supply chain landscape
- Strategies to optimize supplier networks and reduce costs without compromising quality
- The role of data analytics and simulations in strengthening procurement decisions
- Challenges in aligning operational efficiency with long-term sustainability goals

Participants gained an insider's perspective on how large organizations navigate procurement complexities, from vendor negotiations to risk assessments, while maintaining resilience in uncertain market conditions. Ms. Jain also emphasized the importance of cultivating an analytical mindset and developing versatile skillsets—ranging from technical proficiency in simulation models to leadership and stakeholder management—for excelling in modern supply chain roles.

The session was highly interactive, with students actively engaging in discussions and clarifying their doubts about real-world supply chain practices. Ms. Jain's career journey, including her prior experience as a Senior Supply Chain Executive at LIXIL and her internship at the Reserve Bank of India, added valuable context to her professional insights.

Overall, the Just-In-Talks session with Ms. Rupam Jain proved to be a highly enriching learning opportunity for APICS members. It not only broadened their understanding of procurement and sustainability but also reinforced the importance of strong analytical and leadership skills in building successful careers in supply chain and consulting.