Tech Gig’s Geek Goddess is an all India coding battle for the title “geek goddess”. This year 32k women coders from leading companies like Accenture, Microsoft, Deloitte, Capgemini and Verizon participated along with many open participations. This exclusive women competition takes the philosophy of gender diversity & inclusion a notch higher. Apart from the coding contest there were theme challenge like UI UX, Machine Learning, lean coding and software testing challenge.

After 45 day long battle the finale was conducted on 17th March at Radisson Blu Bangalore. I met so many passionate women coders across the nation under one roof. Along with our VP Kalyani Sekar, I got a chance to interact with other Women leaders across the IT space.

I enjoy competing in hackathons everywhere, however participating individually in such a grand event was memorable experience. Finale was 5 and a half hours coding challenge to solve 2 real world problems. The codes were evaluated automatically on 10 unseen test cases w.r.t. to time and memory constraints and results were shown on leader board.

Though I worked hard and believed in myself, I had a feeling that winner position is still far-fetched, may be it was just my day.

When the results were getting announced I witnessed that competition and adrenaline have an addiction beyond anything else. It was the best feeling when my pounding heart that believed in my efforts won over the pessimistic brain. Since my childhood I had a dream of making my dad proud. This is first time I've come first somewhere; it was a dream come true for me when Mr. Indranil Mukherjee VP Sapient crowned me as geek goddess 2017.

This has also changed the work environment around me. Now I feel bit more confident while taking up new tasks at work. Also, I used to be shilly-shally while talking to colleagues from different teams. But now, people across different teams have come forward to congratulate me and my level of discomfort has come down.

I would like to share 4 very important lessons that I learnt through this competition.

1. During the contest, I witnessed that it is hard to find an error in your code when you are looking for it and even harder when you assume that your code is error-free. We should look for all possible scenarios.

2. **Never under estimate yourself**, Make the most of every opportunity that comes to your way. You never know what you are capable of!

3. **Never stop learning** Take part in hackathons and other coding challenges; it brings in a different flavor to career. I feel that coders are neither born, nor they learn overnight, all it takes is practice and continuous learning.

4. Stay calm while solving a problem and never leave a problem unsolved.

Thank you 