

# UN GCNI Newsletter

April - June 2024



UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) has reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to sustainability in the first quarter of the new financial year 2024. Through strategic initiatives and collaborative efforts, GCNI continues to champion sustainable development goals (SDGs) and ethical business practices across the corporate landscape.

UN GCNI's dedication to sustainability is evident in its proactive engagement with stakeholders to promote inclusive growth and environmental stewardship. By fostering partnerships with leading organizations and facilitating dialogues on policy enablement and ethical practices, GCNI aims to drive systemic change towards a more sustainable future.

Moreover, UN GCNI's emphasis on innovation through programs like the SDG Innovation Accelerator underscores its role in catalyzing transformative solutions aligned with global sustainability targets. These initiatives not only foster innovation but also empower businesses to integrate sustainability into their core strategies, enhancing resilience and competitiveness in a rapidly evolving market.

Furthermore, UN GCNI's regional and international collaborations, such as the Climate Ambition Accelerator and cross-border webinars, highlight its proactive approach to addressing global challenges like climate change and promoting sustainability education on a global scale.

As UN GCNI moves forward, its ongoing initiatives, including the establishment of centers for nature restoration and empowerment of SMEs through initiatives like SPARK, underscore its commitment to driving tangible impact and advancing sustainable practices across sectors.

In essence, UN GCNI's proactive stance and comprehensive approach towards sustainability exemplify its role as a catalyst for positive change in India's corporate ecosystem and beyond. By fostering a culture of responsible business practices and promoting innovation, GCNI continues to lead by example in building a more sustainable and inclusive future.

## Major Events

7th Annual Gender Equality Summit 2024 on April 26, 2024.

Roundtable on, "Policy Enablement for Private Sector Acceleration on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" on June 13 and June 20, 2024.

Multi-Stakeholders Roundtable Conference on "Ethical Business Practices & Integrity in Healthcare Through Collective Action," on 6th June, 2024.

The SDG Innovation Accelerator program by the UNGC organised 3 Innovation Camps that drives transformative innovation aligned with global sustainability goals at the Goa Institute of Management on April 30, June 7 and June 8, 2024.

Focus Group Discussion at Zensar Technologies in Pune on June 4, 2024.

## Training & Webinar

WEPs Training with GFL on June 21, 2024.

The Climate Ambition Accelerator's Asia track Local Kick-Off on June 12, 2024.

The Anti-Corruption team organised 2 transformative workshops on Corporate Risk Management & Ethical Leadership! Gain insights and strategies at the AC CA Playbook Training at PHDCCI on May 22 and June 14, 2024

UNGCNI PE team facilitated an ESG engagement activity for IDFC FIRST Bank, orienting all employees on Business and Human Rights. The session covered key areas of human rights, their importance, applicability in the banking sector, and best practices.

## Latest Initiatives

UNGCNI has collaborated with Refex Group to establish Centre for Business Leadership on Nature Restoration in Chennai.

UN GCNI successfully completed its SDG Pioneers local round, which began in April and received numerous applications and nominations. The local round winner will be announced in July 2024.

UN GCNI organised its first-ever 3-day work retreat From April 4th to 6th 2024, our team embarked on an unforgettable journey amidst the serene surroundings of Rishikesh, India.

UN GCNI hosted a Country Network Dinner in honor of Ms. Neha Das, Head of the Asia and Oceania Region, UNGC on June 14, 2024 at Radisson Blu, New Delhi.

Country Network India is now accepting applications from SME participants (with less than 250 employees) of the UN Global Compact for SPARK, which is a community of SMEs and suppliers who are the critical drivers of job creation, poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth.



# Major Initiatives

## Gender Equality Summit 2024



The 7th Gender Equality Summit was a resounding success, with participation from 350+ individuals and 45+ leaders across the sectors. Ms. Vaishali Nigam Sinha, Chair, GES ignited the audience with her remarks, "As we stride halfway towards SDGs, it's a stark reminder that while we've made progress in various arenas, the glaring truth of SDG 5 being woefully off-track demands not just reflection, but urgent, concerted action from all stakeholders."

Notable participants included Ms. Anuradha Shankar, IPS, Additional Director General of Police (Training), Madhya Pradesh Police; Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India; Ms. Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chairperson, Sangeet Natak Akademi; Ms. Supriya Paul, Co-Founder & CEO, Josh Talks; Ms. Anisha Singh, Founder, She Capital; and Mr. Vinod Pandey, Secretary, UN GCNI & Director, Government and External Affairs, CSR, BMW India Private Limited, among others.

The Compendium on 'Forward Faster- Gender Equality' was released during the summit, Parul Soni, Founder and Global Managing Partner-Thinkthrough Consulting spotlighted the pivotal role of companies in accelerating gender inclusion and catalyzing positive change. In a first at GES, trailblazers were honored for their endeavors to foster gender inclusion. This year's recipients were Padma Shovana Narayan, Ms. Seema Sahai & Mr. Sanjeev Sharma.

## SDG Innovation Accelerator Program

The SDG Innovation Accelerator program by the UNGC empowers companies to innovate in line with global sustainability goals. Supported by The Goa Institute of Management, GCNI organized three impactful Innovation Camps with over 75 participants. Facilitated by Dr. Sreerupa Sengupta and Dr. Prakash Singh, participants identified relevant SDGs, brainstormed innovative ideas, and developed solutions to specific company challenges. The third camp focused on transforming these ideas into tangible prototypes. Ms. Neeta Aggarwal, Programme Officer, Mr. Ratnesh, Executive Director, UN GCNI successfully led the program.



## Focused Group Discussion

UN GCNI organized a Focus Group Discussion in Pune on June 4, 2024, hosted by Zensar Technologies. Business leaders, sustainability experts, government representatives, and civil society members discussed collective action in sustainable development. Key speakers included Ms. Gayatri Joshi, Mr. Sanjeeva Maithani, Ms. Shubha Kumar, and Ms. Bhanushree Sharma. Mr. Ratnesh and Mr. Deep Chandra Papnoi of UN GCNI introduced the Forward Faster Initiative and provided updates on UN GCNI activities. The event aimed to connect participants, discuss sustainability, and identify strategies for collaboration on achieving the SDGs.



# Integrating Responsible Business Practices in MSMEs: Business Integrity, New Risk, and Compliances

UN GCNI held an insightful session on "Integrating Responsible Business Practices in MSMEs: Business Integrity, New Risk, and Compliances." In partnership with IamSMEofIndia, this event held on June 1, 2024 was part of UN GCNI's ongoing efforts to promote ethical practices and advocate for transparent business operations across various cities. These sessions have successfully fostered a culture of integrity and accountability among MSMEs.

Additionally, this event marked the inauguration of the Centre of Excellence for MSMEs at Kalinga University, Raipur.



## Ethical Business Practices & Integrity in Healthcare Through Collective Action

A Multi-Stakeholders Roundtable Conference on "Ethical Business Practices & Integrity in Healthcare Through Collective Action," was organized by UN GCNI in collaboration with KAPITI GROUP and The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry on June 6, 2024.

## Policy Enablement for Private Sector Acceleration on the SDGs



UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI), in collaboration with Mahindra Group and Deloitte as the India knowledge partner, successfully organized roundtable discussions on 'Policy Enablement for Private Sector Acceleration on the SDGs.' These events aimed to gather insights for a 'Public Summary Report' by the UN Secretary-General to support private sector sustainable progress and address challenges in the policy landscape.

The discussions focused on uncovering private sector sentiment and summarizing insights from business leaders across various sectors. Participants highlighted current barriers and opportunities for policy in advancing sustainable development, and identified policy options to accelerate private sector action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The in-person events were held on two separate dates to accommodate participants. The first event took place in Delhi on June 13, 2024. The second event was held in Mumbai on June 20, 2024.

# Training and Webinar

## WEPs Training

UN GCNI organized a one-day Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) training for Gujarat Fluorochemicals Limited and their Women Empowerment and Diversity Committee (WEDC), on 21 June, 2024. Trainers from UN Global Compact Network India— Ms. Suman Singh, Ms. Subha Kawatra, Assistant Manager, and Ms. Nancy D Cruz, Assistant Manager, brought their expertise and insights, making the session highly impactful. The training session provided a valuable opportunity to delve into the WEPs, discuss best practices for gender equality in the workplace, and develop actionable strategies to foster an inclusive and empowering environment for all employees.



## Climate Ambition Accelerator 2024



Led by the UN Global Compact, the Climate Ambition Accelerator (CAA) aims to drive credible climate action across companies worldwide, empowering them to set ambitious, science-based emissions reduction targets aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement.

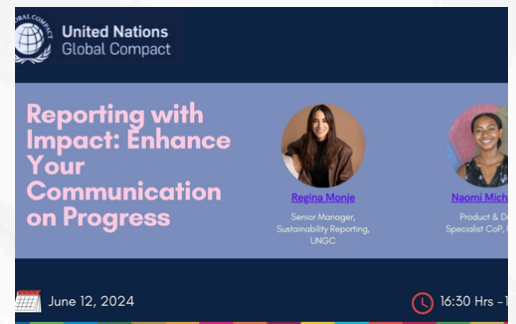
The Asia track of the Climate Ambition Accelerator kicked off online on June 12, 2024, marking the start of our journey towards impactful climate action. Over 170 participants gathered virtually to inaugurate the fourth round of the CAA. The session began with an introduction to Climate Action by Mr. Lucas Ribiero, Senior Manager at CAA, followed by an interactive demonstration of the Academy's cutting-edge learning platform, showcasing our innovative approach to education and inspiration, expertly hosted by Ms. Nur Aisya, Senior Coordinator at UN Global Compact Network Malaysia & Brunei.

## CoP Webinar

The United Nations Global Compact CoP Webinar, co-hosted by UN Global Compact Network India and UN Global Compact Network Sri Lanka, took place on June 12, 2024. The event saw participation from around 200 members of the UNGC community from both India and Sri Lanka.

Ms. Regina Monje Saavedra, Senior Manager of Sustainability Reporting at the United Nations Global Compact, and Ms. Naomi M, Product & Data Specialist at the United Nations Global Compact, delivered an in-depth presentation on CoP and its latest updates along with PE team support from Country Networks.

UN GCNI is committed to organizing more CoP learning sessions to support all participants and associates in their sustainability journeys.



## AC CA Playbook Training Workshop



UNGCNI organized two insightful workshops on "Navigating Corporate Governance and Ethical Practices - AC CA Playbook Training workshop," aimed at empowering professionals with the tools and knowledge to excel in corporate governance and uphold ethical standards. Led by Dr Somnath Singh, Deputy Director, UN GCNI, these workshops took place at PHDCCI on May 22nd and June 14, 2024.



# GCNI Initiatives

## SDG Pioneers 2024

Each year, the UN Global Compact celebrates the efforts of business professionals who are driving positive change by advancing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and embodying the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact. UN GCNI successfully completed its SDG Pioneers local round, which began in April and received numerous applications and nominations. The local round winner will be announced in July 2024.



#SDGPioneers

## Partnership Support to IDFC First Bank's ESG Engagement Activities

The UN GCNI Participant Engagement team facilitated an ESG engagement activity for IDFC FIRST Bank, orienting all employees on Business and Human Rights. The session covered key areas of human rights, their importance, applicability in the banking sector, and best practices. Brig. Rajiv Williams, Former Board Member, UN GCNI and Mr. Bob Dannhauser, Senior Advisor at Shift, a non-profit organization specializing in the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights, led the session.

This Pan-India session was hosted online via Microsoft Teams to enhance awareness of human rights among IDFC FIRST Bank employees. The bank upholds world-class standards of ethics and human rights, aligning with ILO Standards, the United Nations Global Compact, and other major applicable standards. Each month, the bank focuses on specific themes to raise awareness, encourage participation, and promote collective impact.



## Centre for Business Leadership on Nature Restoration, Chennai

UN GCNI has collaborated with Refex Group to establish Centre for Business Leadership on Nature Restoration in Chennai. With active support from business leaders, the centre aims to enable the private sector to significantly strengthen action, monitoring and reporting related to biodiversity-positive initiatives.

The mission of the centre is to:

- Serve as a knowledge sharing platform for strategic integration of biodiversity-sensitive practices into business strategy and operations.
- Support corporates to enhance the quality of existing and upcoming compliance/disclosures expected at the national and global levels with regards to biodiversity.
- Support multi-stakeholder dialogue for pragmatic policy directions which contribute to better coherence between business and biodiversity conservation objectives.
- Enable better linkages of private sector action with global and national priorities and targets related to biodiversity conservation



## Life at GCNI

UN GCNI hosted a Country Network Dinner in honor of Ms. Neha Das, Head of the Asia and Oceania Region, UNGC on Jun 14, 2024 at Radisson Blu, New Delhi. The event was attended by UN GCNI office staff and served as a great platform for interactive and personal exchanges. The dinner featured engaging conversations, allowing CN Staff to connect more deeply and discuss various aspects of sustainable development and UNGC's regional impact.

The evening fostered a warm and collegial atmosphere, enhancing the bonds within the local network and reinforcing a shared dedication to advancing the UN Global Compact's goals.



## Office Retreat

UN GCNI organized its first-ever 3-day work retreat, and it was phenomenal! From April 4th to 6th 2024, our team embarked on an unforgettable journey amidst the serene surroundings of Rishikesh, India.

This retreat was truly exceptional, brimming with enriching experiences aimed at fostering collaboration, innovation, and personal growth. From stimulating brainstorming sessions to insightful strategic planning presentations and adrenaline-pumping team-building exercises, every moment was filled with learning and camaraderie.

We were honored to have Mr. Ganesh Reddy, Joint Secretary of UN Global Compact Network India, join us. His presence was invaluable, as he shared profound insights, suggestions, and visions for the future, enhancing the overall impact of the retreat.

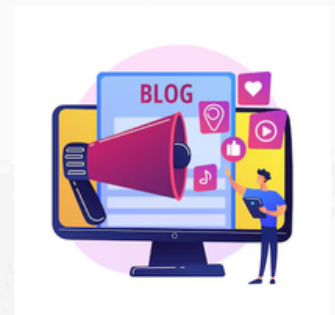


## GCNI Blog is now Live!

Our UN GCNI blog section is now updated and shining bright! Dive into our latest posts to explore the efforts, action areas, and future initiatives of UN Global Compact Network India and United Nations Global Compact's Forward Faster initiative!

Discover how we're driving sustainability and making a positive impact across various sectors.

Don't miss out—read our latest insights here: <https://lnkd.in/gVEbvkr>



## SPARK

Country Network India is now accepting applications from SME participants (with less than 250 employees) of the UN Global Compact for SPARK, which is a community of SMEs and suppliers who are the critical drivers of job creation, poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth.

The initiative facilitates collaborative action on urgent challenges faced by SMEs and improving their sustainability performance through sharing best practices, building knowledge and internal capacity, and forming partnerships and collaborations to sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

By joining the SPARK Community, businesses will engage in a transformative learning journey, accessing a diverse range of self-paced courses and interactive workshops tailored to their needs, all while realizing the concrete benefits of sustainable practices. With a mix of on-demand courses and live sessions (global and regional), we aim to tackle multiple priority areas for SMEs helping them gain access to practical tools and networking opportunities.





# WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

- **APL Apollo Tubes**
- **PCBL Limited**
- **US Technology International Private Limited**
- **Saptagir Camphor Private Limited**
- **Nagarro**
- **Ami Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd.**
- **Keshav Exports**
- **auctusESG**
- **Medhaj Techno Concept Private Limited**
- **CLIFTON EXPORT PRIVATE LIMITED**
- **Godrej Consumer Products Limited**
- **Trident Limited**
- **Shree Ramkrishna Exports Pvt. Ltd.**
- **ONGC TRIPURA POWER COMPANY LIMITED**
- **Building Zero Consultants**
- **Growlity Private Limited**



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