

UN GCNI NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

WELCOMING 2025!

Embracing Sustainability, Innovation, and Responsible Business



Between October and December 2024, UN Global Compact Network India (GCNI) made significant strides in advancing sustainability, innovation, and responsible business conduct, with 30+ new companies joining us on their sustainability journey. The network organized a series of impactful events, including the launch of the inaugural Forward Faster Sustainability Awards, aimed at recognizing companies that have made significant contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally, GCNI hosted roundtables and dialogues across regions, focusing on key sustainability issues such as ESG reporting, water resilience, climate action and gender equality, helping businesses integrate these critical elements into their operations and drive measurable change.



Internationally, GCNI participated in regional and global forums, contributing to discussions on corporate sustainability and ethical leadership. In partnership with other organizations, GCNI also facilitated collaborative efforts around transparency in business practices, emphasizing the importance of collective action to tackle issues like corruption and promote responsible leadership. These initiatives reflected GCNI's continued commitment to driving sustainability and innovation, both within India and on the global stage, with a clear focus on creating a responsible and equitable future for businesses and communities alike.

In this newsletter you will find:

Latest events, publications, workshops and more. Keep Reading!



UN GCNI at COP29, Baku, Azerbaijan

On November 21, 2024, at the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) hosted a panel discussion chaired by Mr. Ratnesh Jha, Executive Director of UN Global Compact Network India (UNGJNI), featuring distinguished speakers from UNDP, HCL Foundation, and CEEW. UNGJNI launched the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework booklet and a Briefing Paper on Integrating Climate Action and Biodiversity Conservation, providing actionable corporate strategies for sustainability.

Through these initiatives, UNGJNI reinforced its pivotal role in aligning corporate actions with global environmental goals, fostering innovation and responsibility to address climate and biodiversity challenges.



UN GCNI at UNGC's Asia & Oceania Regional Meeting, Nepal

The United Nations Global Compact Asia & Oceania Regional Meeting 2024, held from November 27–29 in Kathmandu, Nepal, brought together over 15 Local Networks from the region to foster collaboration and innovation. Hosted by UN Global Compact Network Nepal, the event served as a platform to strengthen partnerships, align regional efforts, and share best practices to advance the SDGs.

The UN GC Network India team—led by Ratnesh Jha, Nancy D Cruz, and Naazneen Shekh—showcased India's progress in corporate sustainability and impactful collaborations. The meeting facilitated partnerships, fostered dialogues between businesses and policymakers, and strengthened regional efforts to drive sustainable development.

Successful Completion of the Climate Ambition Accelerator Program 2024!

The 2024 Climate Ambition Accelerator Program concluded successfully, empowering participants from the Asia Track to refine climate strategies and align with ambitious emission reduction targets. Through expert-led workshops and sessions, participants gained insights on ESG integration, GHG accounting, and carbon management.

The wrap-up session on 12th November, led by Country Network India, featured a keynote by Mr. Pratik Sanadhya, emphasizing private sector leadership in embedding climate considerations into ESG frameworks.

Marmagya 9.0 - Round Table Discussion IIM Sambalpur

UN GCNI was a proud partner for the Curtain Raiser event, Marmagya 9.0, hosted by IIM Sambalpur Campus, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, on October 19, 2024. This was an exclusive roundtable discussion, themed "Women Leadership in Business Excellence" that brought together over 30+ esteemed speakers and set the stage for the main conclave. The session aimed to outline strategies that can advance gender parity and foster inclusive growth and leadership globally.



Healthcare Innovation Meetings

UN GCNI played a pivotal role in organizing and facilitating the Healthcare Innovation Meetings across cities across India - Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad, focusing on themes such as ethical practices, trust, accountability, and innovation. By engaging diverse stakeholders, including MSMEs, healthcare providers, pharmaceutical leaders, and patient advocates, GCNI fostered meaningful dialogue to address pressing ethical challenges in the sector. These sessions laid the foundation for developing a Consensus Framework in India by identifying champions to lead the initiative and crafting a strategic action plan to scale it across the healthcare ecosystem.

Looking ahead to 2025, GCNI aims to develop a compendium of best practices from pharmaceutical companies, healthcare providers, and patient-advocacy organizations, which will be showcased at the Business Integrity Conclave in Chennai on February 13, 2025. Additional plans include a study visit for healthcare champions to Mexico, high-level dialogues on the Consensus Framework, and the development of strategies to promote and expand the framework, driving systemic change within the healthcare sector.



AQUAKRAFT



IACD 2024: Call to Action
ADVOCATE FOR
TRANSPARENCY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY IN BUSINESS
PRACTICES
 Monday 9th December 2024

Register Now



IACD 2024 – Empowering Change through Integrity!

Corruption undermines growth, trust, and equality globally. On December 9, International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) highlighted the need for transparency, accountability, and ethics across all sectors.

In 2024, UN GCNI, PHDCCI, and AQUAKRAFT hosted a transformative dialogue on "Advocating for Transparency and Accountability in Business Practices," focusing on eliminating corruption in healthcare, MSMEs, academia, and business.



Forward Faster Sustainability Awards 2025!

The inaugural Forward Faster Sustainability Awards by UN GCNI were announced, with applications open from November to December 2024.

These awards honor companies advancing the UN SDGs in India, aiming to inspire the corporate sector to adopt sustainable practices and contribute to a sustainable future by 2030. Categories include Water Resilience, Climate Action, SDG-Aligned Finance, Living Wage, and Gender Equality, as well as specialized awards for LGBTQ+ Inclusion, Biodiversity Excellence, and Sustainable Supply Chain. Open to companies of all sizes, from Mega to Micro Enterprises, the awards encourage wide participation.

Bayer Rainwater Harvesting Project: Enhancing Water Resilience in Morena District

The Bayer Rainwater Harvesting Project, implemented in the Morena District of Madhya Pradesh, is a transformative initiative designed to tackle the critical groundwater issues facing the region. The project involves the installation of 30 rainwater harvesting systems, featuring covered percolation pits, at Anganwadi Centers spread across the districts of Morena, Ambah, and Porsa. These installations aim to address water scarcity while promoting the replenishment of local groundwater supplies, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which focuses on Clean Water and Sanitation.

The project is particularly focused on empowering local communities by engaging them in water conservation efforts and providing them with the tools and knowledge to take charge of their water resources. The initiative is designed to foster sustainable water management practices that will benefit not only the immediate communities but also the broader ecosystem. The systems themselves will serve as a critical resource for local communities, helping to ensure that clean water is available even during times of scarcity.

The Global Compact Network India (GCNI) plays a central role in supporting the project's success. GCNI is involved in all aspects of project implementation, from initial planning to the mobilization of key stakeholders, as well as community engagement and capacity-building. This includes facilitating training sessions for local communities and other relevant stakeholders on water conservation practices and ensuring that the project aligns with the UN's Forward Faster initiative, which focuses on Water Resilience. Through these efforts, GCNI is working to ensure the project's long-term sustainability, while enhancing its impact on the ground.

Key outcomes from the project thus far include the successful generation of baseline data on groundwater conditions, which will guide future interventions. The installation of rainwater harvesting systems has already begun at 30 Anganwadi Centers, engaging local communities and stakeholders through training and capacity-building programs. These efforts have already reached over 2,000 community members, helping to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for maintaining the water conservation systems and promoting sustainable water management practices.



Yamuna River Basin Collective Action

HCL Foundation hosted the inaugural Roundtable on 'Yamuna River Basin Collective Action' at the HCL Tech Noida campus. As part of the 'CEO Water Mandate Water Resilience Coalition,' HCL Tech has committed to leading water stewardship efforts in the Yamuna Basin. The event brought together representatives from civil society organizations, think tanks, and experts, including Mr. G. Asok Kumar, former Director General of NMCG. Mr. Ratnesh, Executive Director of UN GCNI, participated alongside organizations such as Development Alternative, Dhan Foundation, INTACH, and others, discussing evidence-based strategies for improving water resilience in the Yamuna Basin.



Global Symposium

On December 19-20, 2024, UN GCNI, NLUD, and PHD Chamber of Commerce, with support from PSI India and Shikhar SOSD, hosted a landmark symposium in Delhi.

Bringing together leaders from healthcare, academia, industry, and government, the event focused on ethical leadership, digital transparency, judicial integrity, and collective action against corruption. A key highlight was the launch of the publication, *The Evaluation of Health Systems in India: Decoding the Impact on Health Governance, Transparency, and Infrastructure*.

19th National Convention

ACCELERATING INDIA'S GREEN GOALS : THE PATH TO 2030 WITH
FORWARD FASTER

February 14, 2025

09:00 Hrs - 17:30 Hrs

The Leela Palace, Chennai

#UnitingBusiness

#ForwardFaster



2024: A Year of Tangible Impact and Purpose for UN GCNI

The year 2024 was a milestone for the United Nations Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI), marked by meaningful action, innovative strides, and a growing collective commitment to sustainability. Building on the momentum of previous years, UN GCNI strengthened its role as a catalyst for change, empowering businesses to align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advance responsible practices across industries.

This year was more impactful than ever, not just in terms of numbers but in the depth and breadth of engagement. UN GCNI hosted groundbreaking events and launched transformative initiatives that fostered innovation, collaboration, and real-world impact. From convening global and regional leaders to address urgent challenges like climate resilience and gender equality to creating platforms for cutting-edge discussions on healthcare and sustainable business innovation, 2024 was a year of turning vision into action.

The Forward Faster Initiative remained a guiding force, inspiring companies to commit to ambitious targets in areas such as climate action, inclusive growth, and ethical supply chains.

Participant engagement has grown by 30%, with an outstanding 99% submission rate for CoPs, highlighting significant progress in aligning operations with sustainability principles such as climate action, gender equality, and ethical supply chains. The Forward Faster Initiative has gained substantial momentum, with over 30 member companies setting ambitious targets in areas like gender equality, living wages, water resilience, and climate action. This surge in commitment underscores the urgency of advancing the 2030 SDG agenda.

In 2024, UN GCNI organized over 15 major events, including the 12th Subir Raha Memorial Lecture, the 7th Gender Equality Summit, and the 18th National Convention, which collectively attracted over 1,000 participants from across the country. The Centre for Business Leadership on Nature Restoration, launched in Chennai, saw active participation from companies in diverse regions, who are already driving tangible biodiversity conservation efforts. Accelerator programs such as the SDG Innovation and Climate Action initiatives further motivated Indian companies to take on leadership roles and showcase their capabilities in driving meaningful solutions. Additionally, regional initiatives like the Healthcare innovation meetings across regions empowered Indian SMEs to embed sustainability into their core business strategies, fostering a heightened commitment to ESG compliance among participants.

Our most significant initiatives include the launch of our dedicated training center in Noida, designed to serve as a platform for inviting more companies to join us on our journey toward sustainability and responsible business practices. Additionally, we announced the inaugural edition of the Forward Faster Sustainability Awards 2025, aimed at recognizing companies that have transformed from decision-makers to action leaders. The awards ceremony will take place during our upcoming National Convention on February 14th in Chennai.

In 2024, UN GCNI strengthened its role as a key implementation partner, driving sustainability through innovative project designs and programs that delivered tangible benefits to both communities and businesses alike.

Internationally, UN GCNI's presence reached new heights in 2024. This year, we proudly showcased our Centre for Biodiversity and Nature Restoration at COP29, highlighting our commitment to addressing critical environmental challenges. Through this initiative, we demonstrated India's leadership in advancing nature-based solutions, fostering global partnerships, and promoting sustainable practices to combat biodiversity loss. Our participation at COP29 underscored our growing influence on the international stage and reaffirmed our dedication to driving impactful change in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration.

Looking ahead to 2025, UN GCNI aims to build on this momentum. With plans to double our engagement, deepen its regional collaborations, and expand initiatives like waste-to-wealth and circular economy programs, UN GCNI is set to achieve even more ambitious results. By focusing on measurable outcomes and fostering partnerships, 2025 will be a year of transformative change, advancing the global and local SDG agenda with renewed vigor.

Ratnesh
Executive Director,
UN Global Compact Network India

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

PrediQt Business Solutions Private Limited
Jutify Lifestyle Private Limited
SuprAlly Technologies India Private Limited
Yamuna International Airport Private Limited
Ashapura Minechem Limited
RSJ Inspection Service Limited
Fitsol Supply Chain Solutions Pvt. Ltd
Sonata Software Limited (SEZ-Unit)
JK Cements Limited
BLS International Services Limited
JB Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd
Seedworks International Pvt Ltd
Zifo Technologies Private Limited
Face Palette
Ganges Jute Pvt Ltd
MSS India Pvt Ltd
Synechron Technologies Private Limited
Narayan Organics Pvt Ltd
Sambodhi Research & Communications Pvt. Ltd.
Ambuja Cements Limited
Convergent View Research & Consultancy Private Limited
Malhar Roadlines
OW Dataleads Private Limited
Vassar Labs IT Solutions Private Limited
Waaree Energies Limited
Mastek Limited
Innovotek Private Limited
GSNR Rice Industries Private Limited
Bhabani Colors Private Limited
Cohizon Life Sciences Limited (Sajjan India Limited)
Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India Pvt Ltd
Crystal Quinone Pvt Ltd
ACC Limited
Falcon Autotech Pvt Ltd



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