



Network India

# ACADEMIC SESSION ON PROMOTING COLLECTIVE ACTION (GOAL 16)

Advancing Integrity : Collective Action  
For Good Governance, Transparency  
and Accountability Across Sectors

29TH NOVEMBER, 2024

PHD House, Lucknow



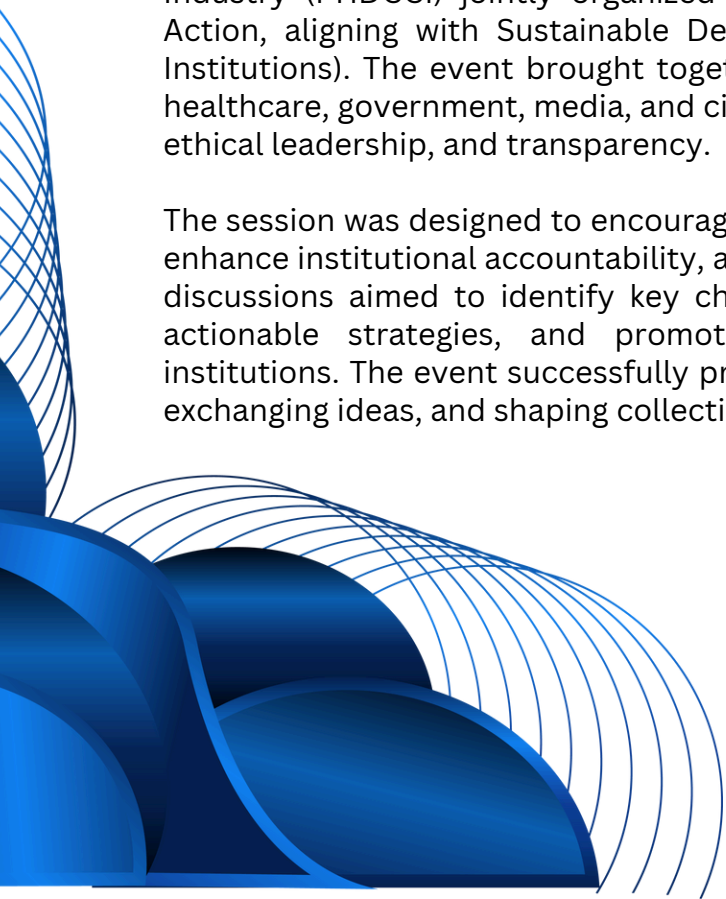
The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 underscores the importance of promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions, advocating for transparent, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. Aligned with UNGC Principle 10 (Anti-Corruption), this academic session will explore collective action as a robust approach to address corruption and governance challenges across diverse sectors—particularly business, Education, public service, and civil society. Corruption often compromises the integrity, efficiency, and trust in these sectors, creating a need for concerted efforts toward transparency, ethics, and accountability.

With its core values of critical inquiry and evidence-based practices, Academia plays an essential role in bridging sectoral gaps, fostering cross-disciplinary collaborations, and influencing policy. This session will examine how academic institutions can lead and facilitate collective action to strengthen anti-corruption frameworks and promote governance and ethical standards. Through knowledge-sharing, interactive workshops, and case studies, the session seeks to inspire all sectors to take active steps towards a corruption-free environment, contributing to SDG 16 and the broader Sustainable Development Goals

Collective action is a powerful strategy to tackle systemic corruption, but it requires the engagement of all sectors—corporate, NGOs, healthcare, academia, MSMEs, and government. This session will provide a platform for understanding the unique and shared governance challenges across these sectors and how collaboration can enhance institutional resilience and integrity. Academia is uniquely positioned to convene these stakeholders, offering evidence-based insights, facilitating dialogue, and fostering partnerships that can lead to meaningful change in governance practices.

The UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) and the PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI) jointly organized the Academic Session on Promoting Collective Action, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). The event brought together prominent leaders from academia, business, healthcare, government, media, and civil society to facilitate discussions on governance, ethical leadership, and transparency.

The session was designed to encourage collaborative approaches to combat corruption, enhance institutional accountability, and promote ethical leadership across sectors. The discussions aimed to identify key challenges in governance and corruption, develop actionable strategies, and promote partnerships to build strong, accountable institutions. The event successfully provided a multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue, exchanging ideas, and shaping collective action strategies.



## INAUGURAL SESSION

The event commenced with a welcome address by **Dr. Somnath Singh**, Deputy Director, UN GCNI, who set the tone by emphasizing the need for collective action in governance. He highlighted that the success of any anti-corruption collective action initiative depends on active participation from government bodies, businesses, academia, and civil society organizations.



In his address, Dr. Somnath said that he was delighted to welcome all esteemed guests, speakers, and participants to the Academic Session on Promoting Collective Action, aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. He emphasized that the session reflects a shared commitment to fostering ethical governance, transparency, and accountability across sectors. Highlighting the significance of collective action in combating corruption, he underscored that academic institutions are not just centers of learning but powerful drivers of societal transformation.

Dr. Somnath noted that academia holds a unique position, with its values of critical inquiry, evidence-based research, and thought leadership, to bridge sectoral gaps, influence policy reforms, and promote ethical leadership. He stressed the growing need to integrate anti-corruption collective action into academic curricula and research agendas. Ethics, governance, and compliance training must be embedded not as peripheral subjects but as core components across disciplines—be it management, law, public administration, health sciences, or technology. This integration, he added, would help nurture a generation of ethically grounded and socially responsible professionals.

He further emphasized that research from academic institutions must actively contribute to shaping governance frameworks and public policy. By offering evidence-based insights, academia can support legislative development, strengthen corporate governance, and develop practical tools to address corruption and improve institutional accountability.

Dr. Somnath also reiterated that addressing corruption is not the responsibility of a single sector—it is a collective obligation. It demands cooperation and active engagement from government bodies, businesses, civil society, media, and academic institutions alike. In this regard, he highlighted academia's potential to serve as a convening platform—bringing diverse stakeholders together to engage in dialogue, share knowledge, and co-create innovative anti-corruption strategies.

He shared that UN GCNI, under the broader framework of the United Nations Global Compact and particularly Principle 10 on anti-corruption, is committed to fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships for integrity and good governance. He appreciated the participation of over 52 academic institutions and more than 150 representatives from key sectors like business, healthcare, and civil society in the session. Their support, he said, reflects a strong collective will to integrate anti-corruption thinking into education and research. He further elaborated on how governance challenges in India can be addressed through multi-sector collaboration, policy reforms, and ethical business practices.

In conclusion, Dr. Somnath encouraged all participants to use this platform not only for meaningful dialogue but also for initiating concrete actions. He urged academic institutions to take the lead in embedding integrity, transparency, and accountability into their systems and to emerge as torchbearers of ethical governance. He expressed confidence that the outcomes of the session would contribute meaningfully to the realization of SDG 16 and help build a more just, transparent, and inclusive society.



**CHIEF GUEST: SHRI B.N. RANJAN**  
SPECIAL SECRETARY & ADDITIONAL LEGAL  
REMEMBRANCER (NIYAY VIBHAG), GOVT. OF U.P

- Delivered a comprehensive overview of legal reforms aimed at strengthening governance and reducing corruption.
- Stressed the importance of an independent judiciary and efficient law enforcement in ensuring compliance with anti-corruption laws.
- Discussed ongoing initiatives by the Uttar Pradesh government to increase public trust in governance through transparent legal frameworks.

**SHRI ASHISH MOHAN WIG**  
CHAIR, HR & IR COMMITTEE PHDCCI

- Addressed the critical role of corporate ethics in ensuring sustainable business growth.
- Emphasized that business leaders must adopt self-regulatory mechanisms, corporate governance codes, and whistleblower protection policies to ensure ethical conduct within organizations.
- Urged companies to collaborate with academia and government institutions to develop strong ethical policies.





**MR. NAVEEN KUMAR,**  
REGIONAL COMMISSIONER-I, EPFO, U.P

- Spoke about the importance of financial transparency in social security and pension fund management.
- Highlighted how EPFO has adopted digital reforms to reduce fraudulent activities and ensure the timely disbursement of benefits to employees.
- Called for stronger financial oversight mechanisms and technology-driven compliance solutions to promote accountability.

## TECHNICAL SESSION

**ACADEMIC PANEL: SCHOLARLY PATHWAYS TO TRANSPARENCY  
ACADEMIA'S ROLE IN GOVERNANCE AND ETHICAL LEADERSHIP**

**DR. JATINDER SINGH**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, PHDCCI

- The intersection of academic research and policymaking – leveraging scholarly insights for governance reforms.
- How universities can play a pivotal role in shaping ethical leadership.
- Technological innovations for governance transparency – the role of AI, blockchain, and data-driven policymaking.

**MODERATOR**



**DR. ARJUMAND ZAIDI**  
FOUNDER, HOLY VISION INTERNATIONAL



- Advocated for academic institutions to be at the forefront of governance discourse, shaping future policymakers through research-driven insights.
- Discussed successful case studies where academic institutions influenced governance policies and anti-corruption reforms.

### **DR. SMRITI SRIVASTAVA**

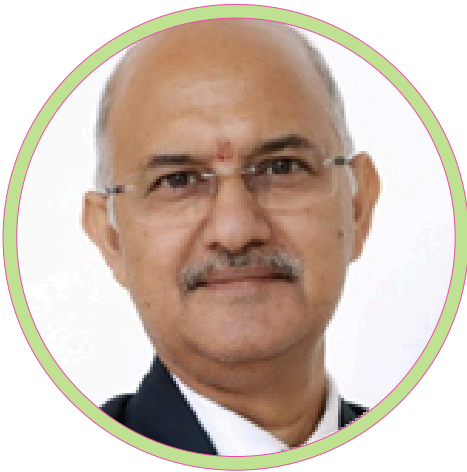
APJ ABDUL KALAM TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

- Emphasized the need for integrating ethics, compliance training, and responsible leadership modules in higher education curriculums.
- Proposed a framework where universities actively collaborate with industries to instill ethical business practices among students.



### **PROF. (DR.) MANOJ JOSHI**

IIT, LUCKNOW



- Discussed the role of financial governance in ensuring corporate accountability.
- Provided insights into how emerging financial technologies, AI-driven audits, and predictive compliance tools can prevent financial fraud.

### **PROF (DR.) MONOWAR ALAM KHALID**

INTEGRAL UNIVERSITY, LUCKNOW

- Highlighted the critical role of environmental governance in ethical decision-making.
- Stressed that sustainable development should be central to governance policies and corporate responsibility initiatives.





**DR. KAVITA PATHAK**

DIRECTOR, JAIPURIA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

- Addressed the importance of corporate governance in maintaining investor trust and market stability.
- Presented best practices from leading business schools on instilling integrity in business education.

## BUSINESS PANEL

UNIFIED HORIZONS - CROSS-SECTOR STRATEGIES FOR  
TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

**PROF. (DR.) AJAI PRAKASH**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,  
UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW  
DISCUSSION POINTS

- Strengthening governance frameworks through corporate responsibility and self-regulation.
- Public-private partnerships for anti-corruption – collaborative models and best practices.
- How digital platforms can improve business accountability and transparency.

**MODERATOR**



**DR. NIRUPAM PRAKASH**

HEALTHCARE CONSULTANT



- Spoke about the ethical challenges in healthcare governance and how lack of transparency affects patient rights.
- Highlighted how adopting standardized compliance frameworks can ensure integrity in healthcare administration.

**MR. AAKASH SRIVASTAVA**  
DIRECTOR, TECHQRT PRIVATE LIMITED

- Focused on AI-driven risk assessment tools for corporate governance.
- Explained how automation and blockchain technology can ensure accountability in various sectors.



**MR. RATAN MANI LAL**  
FORMER EDITOR, HINDUSTAN TIMES

- Stressed the role of media in promoting transparency through investigative journalism.
- Suggested strategies for media houses to act as watchdogs against corruption in public and private sectors.



**MR. ANOOP KISHORE AGARWAL**  
FOUNDER, MY MENTOR

- Stressed the media's vital role in raising public awareness on corruption and governance issues through effective storytelling and investigative journalism.
- Called for media accountability and emphasized the role of mentorship in fostering ethical leadership and integrity among professionals and entrepreneurs.
- Highlighted how mentorship programs can bridge knowledge gaps, enhance governance skills, and instill values of transparency.
- Advocated for integrating mentorship models into academic institutions and businesses to promote accountability.
- Encouraged collaboration between academia, corporate leaders, and policymakers to cultivate responsible leadership.
- d self-regulation frameworks to strengthen public trust and journalistic integrity.
- Encouraged adoption of data journalism and digital investigative tools to expose systemic corruption.
- Recommended collaborative campaigns with civil society and government to drive policy discourse and governance reforms.





### **MR. SYED NAJMIUL HASSAN RAZVI**

SECRETARY, TMT

- Discussed the role of collective action in ensuring ethical business practices and sectoral governance.
- Stressed the need for public-private partnerships to create transparent, fair, and corruption-free trade ecosystems.
- Highlighted recent developments in governance frameworks that impact trade and manufacturing sectors.



### **MR. AJITESH TIWARI**

LABOUR ENFORCEMENT OFFICER,  
LABOUR RESOURCE DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF BIHAR

- Addressed the significance of ethical labor governance and the role of enforcement in ensuring fair wages and working conditions.
- Discussed the impact of corruption on labor rights and the need for robust enforcement mechanisms.
- Emphasized the importance of digital governance tools to enhance labor law compliance and reduce exploitation.
- Advocated for cross-sector collaboration to promote fair employment practices and worker welfare.



## **VISIONARY DIALOGUE**

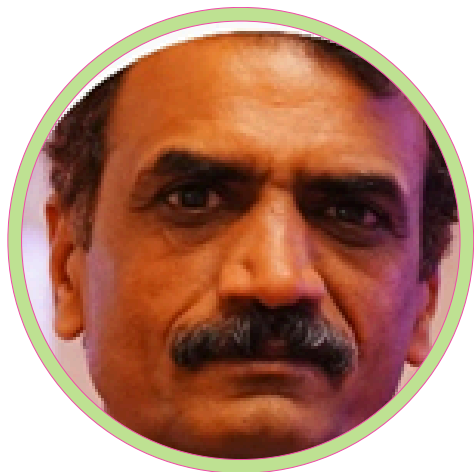
**SHARING BEST PRACTICES ACROSS SECTORS: PATHWAYS  
TO INTEGRITY - LEARNING FROM SECTOR EXPERTS AND LEADERS**

### **MR. SIDDHARTH KALHAN**

EDITOR - BUSINESS STANDARD (MEDIA)

- Stressed the media's vital role in raising public awareness on corruption and governance issues through effective storytelling and investigative journalism.
- Called for media accountability and self-regulation frameworks to strengthen public trust and journalistic integrity.
- Encouraged adoption of data journalism and digital investigative tools to expose systemic corruption.
- Recommended collaborative campaigns with civil society and government to drive policy discourse and governance reforms.





**PROF. (DR) JEET SINGH MANN**

DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNANCE – NLU, DELHI

- Advocated for institutional reforms to improve transparency and justice delivery mechanisms in both public and private institutions.
  - Emphasized the importance of legal literacy and access to justice as enablers of stronger institutions under SDG 16.
  - Suggested mainstreaming anti-corruption laws and whistleblower protections into sectoral governance frameworks.
- Highlighted academic research-based policy advocacy to inform legal reforms and drive collective action.

**DR. ASHISH SHARMA**

SR. MANAGER -SALES AND MARKETING,  
MAX SUPER SPECIALTY HOSPITAL, LUCKNOW



- Highlighted sector-specific challenges in healthcare, including procurement fraud, unethical marketing, and lack of transparency.
- Proposed institutional ethics committees, transparent procurement protocols, and digital audits to ensure integrity in healthcare services.
- Emphasized capacity-building for frontline health professionals on compliance, ethics, and patient rights.
- Advocated for cross-sector integrity alliances between healthcare, pharma, regulators, and civil society to promote accountability.



**MS. RICHA SHARMA**

PRINCIPAL, RAMJAS INTERNATIONAL  
RK PURAM, DELHI

- Advocated for integrity education at an early age to build a strong ethical foundation.
- Emphasized institutionalizing values-based learning models that nurture honesty, civic responsibility, and transparency.
- Highlighted the need for youth leadership initiatives to build a future cadre of integrity champions aligned with SDG 16.
- Promoted cross-sector collaboration between academia and government for curriculum reforms focused on ethics and good governance.

## CROSS-CUTTING THEMES & ALIGNMENT WITH SDG 16

- Promoting peace and inclusive institutions through education, ethical leadership, and public engagement.
- Fighting corruption in all forms through collaborative action, legal reforms, and media vigilance.
- Strengthening transparent institutions via digital innovation, accountability mechanisms, and participatory governance.

## OUTCOMES

### Mainstreaming Anti-Corruption Education in Academia:

- Increased commitment from academic institutions to incorporate anti-corruption, ethics, and integrity modules in their regular curriculum across disciplines such as management, law, public administration, and healthcare.
- Developed new or revised academic courses, case studies, and training content focused on responsible leadership and governance.

**Enhanced Research and Policy Advocacy:**

- Promotion of interdisciplinary research on anti-corruption, ethical governance, and institutional accountability.
- Strengthening academia's role in influencing public policy through evidence-based recommendations and thought leadership.

**Institutional Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange:**

- Creation of academic-industry-government-civil society partnerships to co-create solutions and share best practices in governance and compliance.
- Establishment of forums or working groups within academic institutions for continued engagement on SDG 16 themes.

**Capacity Building and Leadership Development:**

- Initiation of workshops, training programs, and mentorship opportunities to build the capacity of students, faculty, and young professionals in areas of transparency, compliance, and ethical leadership.
- Creation of youth-led governance clubs or ethics forums on campuses to encourage active participation.

**Strengthening Collective Action Platforms:**

- Increased engagement of academic institutions in multi-stakeholder platforms such as the UN GCNI's Anti-Corruption Collective Action initiative.
- Enhanced role of academia as a convening power to facilitate dialogue between public and private sectors on governance issues.

**Technology-Driven Governance Solutions:**

Encouragement to adopt and promote the use of digital tools, AI, and blockchain to address governance challenges and ensure accountability in public and institutional systems.

**Increased Awareness and Sensitization:**

- Greater awareness among students and faculty regarding the social, economic, and institutional costs of corruption.
- Deepened understanding of the importance of ethical practices in achieving sustainable development and institutional trust.



**Institutionalization of Academic Integrity Frameworks:**

Adoption of institutional codes of conduct, academic integrity charters, and whistleblower protection systems within universities and colleges.

**Sustained Engagement with UNGC Principles:**

Broader alignment of academic institutions with the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, especially Principle 10 (Anti-Corruption), contributing to long-term sustainability goals.

**Creation of a Replicable Model:**

The event served as a blueprint for similar academic engagements in other states or institutions, thereby scaling the impact of anti-corruption education across the country.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Cross-sector collaboration is essential for implementing anti-corruption frameworks and ensuring institutional transparency.
- Legal enforcement, technological advancements, and corporate self-regulation are key pillars of ethical governance.
- Academic institutions must play a more active role in research-driven policy advocacy and leadership development.

The event successfully provided a platform for meaningful discourse, knowledge exchange, and the formation of strategic partnerships. Moving forward, continued collaboration among government bodies, businesses, academia, and civil society organizations will be instrumental in ensuring the realization of SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

