



Network India

IACD 2024: Call to Action

Empowering Change
through Integrity: Cross-
Sector Collaboration
Against Corruption

“Advocate for transparency and
accountability in government and
business practices”

9th December'24 | Mumbai



IACD 2024: CALL TO ACTION

Age in Transparency: Advocate for transparency and accountability in government and business practices
"Empowering Change through Integrity: Cross-Sector Collaboration Against Corruption"



IACD 2024! The event commenced with a powerful speech emphasizing the need for integrity, transparency, and cross-sector collaboration in combating corruption. The speech highlighted the UNGC (United Nations Global Compact) commitment to sustainable development, stressing that responsible business practices are no longer optional but essential for business integrity and long-term growth. The audience was urged to take action and drive transformative change.

Following the speech, a video on the UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) role in advancing responsible business practices was presented. It underscored the Forward Faster 2030 initiative, which helps businesses maximize their impact on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) across five key areas:

1. Climate Action
2. Gender Equality
3. Living Wage
4. SDG Finance & Investment
5. Water Resilience

The video also highlighted that only 15% of SDGs are on track, urging businesses to take bold and urgent action. It emphasized that sustainability is not just a trend but the future of business success. The call to action was clear—companies must balance short-term needs with long-term sustainability to drive meaningful progress before 2030. The session set the stage for impactful discussions, inspiring participants to champion integrity and contribute to a more accountable and sustainable future.

Dr. Somnath Singh, Deputy Director of UN GCNI, set the stage by expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, especially members of the Anti-Corruption Collective Action Working Group (ACCA -WG), for their invaluable support in organizing International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) 2024.



He emphasized that cross-sector collaboration against corruption is central to fostering transparency and ethical governance. He said corruption affects diverse sectors, including healthcare, MSMEs, academia, and business, distorting resource allocation, stifling innovation, and eroding institutional trust. However, he stressed that these challenges present an opportunity to redefine the way we operate and collaborate.

UNGCNI's approach to combating corruption is multi-pronged, focusing on:

- Raising Awareness
- Strengthening Governance Frameworks
- Leveraging Technology
- Fostering Collective Action, and
- Building capacity and advocacy with decision makers

Guided by SDG 16.5 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), which aims to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms and envisions a corruption-free society, the day's discussions aimed to explore sector-specific challenges and collaborative pathways to inspire actionable solutions.

Dr. Singh concluded with a call to action, urging participants to make ethical practices the norm rather than the exception. He reaffirmed the collective commitment to empowering change through integrity and ensuring equitable opportunities and sustainable growth. Over 250 professionals from Public, Private, CSO and Academia sectors including youth attended the event and benefitted with the insights and knowledge sharing with the experts.



Dr. Subramanya Kusnur, Founder Chairman & CEO, AQUAKRAFT Project Pvt Ltd and member of the Governing Council, UN GCNI., began by emphasizing the importance of integrity as the foundation for business sustainability. Addressing a diverse audience from businesses, Government, Research Institutes/Academia, young professionals, and students, he highlighted that integrity is not just a value but a necessity for achieving sustainable growth and ethical governance. He urged the audiences, including youth, to champion integrity in their respective fields, reinforcing that a clear conscience is vital for long-term progress.

He introduced the distinguished panellists for the day, including:

- Guest of Honour - Dr. Pradnya Saravade (Rtd. IPS), A senior IPS officer, who shared insights on detection, investigation, and enforcement in the fight against corruption.
- Ms. Bhuvana, Global Director, Sri Sathya Sai Medical College and Trust, an institution that exemplified integrity through its philanthropic initiatives in healthcare, poverty alleviation, and social welfare.
- Mr. Ratnesh, Executive Director, UN GCNI, a visionary leader in sustainability and multi-sector collaboration, who discussed the critical role of cross-sector interventions in promoting transparency and combating corruption.

Dr. Kusnur also referenced India's ambitious \$5 trillion economy vision, stating that integrity and anti-corruption are crucial factors in achieving this milestone. He concluded by encouraging active participation in the day's discussions, emphasizing that collaboration and accountability are key to driving change to make a corruption-free nation.

The event set the tone for a day of impactful dialogues, fostering awareness, commitment, and action toward a corruption-free future.

Guest of Honour - Dr. Pradnya Saravade (Rtd. IPS), Independent Director and Former Director General of Police, delivered an insightful address, emphasizing the role of businesses, Government, and youth in ensuring good governance and systemic changes in tackling corruption.

Dr. Saravade acknowledged the presence of youth /students and stressed the importance of youth perspectives in discussions on governance and transparency. She emphasized that fresh, solution-oriented viewpoints from young minds can offer innovative approaches to tackling corruption.

She provided a broad view of governance systems across the world, including free-market economies, communist regimes, and democratic socialism. Highlighting India's unique position, she discussed the challenges posed by wealth inequality and the pervasive role of government in citizens' lives, which often leads to bureaucratic inefficiencies and corruption.

Dr. Saravade discussed several key issues leading to corruption, including:

- **Large Government Size:** Excessive bureaucratic processes create opportunities for corruption.
- **Lack of Accountability:** Absence of oversight mechanisms allows corruption to flourish.
- **Political Interference:** Corrupt influences in procurement and postings weaken governance.

She advocated for three fundamental principles to combat these challenges:

1. **Transparency** – Making government operations open to scrutiny.
2. **Digitization** – Reducing human intervention to minimize corruption opportunities.
3. **Monitoring and Enforcement** – Ensuring continuous oversight of policies and procedures.



Dr. Saravade shared her experiences and corruption-mitigating strategy from her tenure at CIDCO and Maharashtra Railways, where structured monitoring systems led to a reduction in corruption and enhanced efficiency:

- **Process Streamlining at CIDCO:** She introduced clear job descriptions, timelines, and monitoring mechanisms in land-related processes, reducing discretion and increasing accountability.
- **Public Feedback Mechanism:** Visitors to government offices were asked to rate their experiences, allowing authorities to identify and address inefficiencies and corrupt practices.
- **FIR Registration in Maharashtra Railways:** A strict one-hour FIR registration rule was enforced across railway police stations, with regular monitoring through CCTV and performance-based rankings. This initiative significantly improved efficiency and public trust in law enforcement.

Key Takeaways on Anti-Corruption Efforts

1. **People Change When Incentives Align:** Punitive measures alone do not work; systemic changes and behavioral nudges drive real improvements.
2. **Monitoring is Essential for Sustainability:** Any transparency or digitization effort must be coupled with effective monitoring to prevent gaming of the system.
3. **Building Public Trust is Crucial:** When citizens trust institutions, perceptions of corruption decrease, leading to a more accountable governance system.
4. **The Private Sector Must Also Be Accountable:** Corruption is not limited to government entities; businesses must implement robust compliance measures.

Dr. Saravade's speech underscored that corruption is not an insurmountable problem but one that requires a multi-pronged approach involving transparency, digitization, and strict monitoring. Her insights provided valuable lessons on policy implementation, accountability, and public trust-building, reinforcing the event's theme of cross-sector collaboration against corruption.



Mr. Ratnesh, Executive Director, UN GCNI, in his theme address, emphasized the collective responsibility in combating corruption. He highlighted the UN Global Compact's role as a neutral convening platform, fostering collaboration without external agendas. According to him, corruption is an endemic issue that affects multiple sectors, including governance, business, education, and healthcare. He underscored that the solution lies within India, emphasizing that external forces cannot rectify internal issues — only collective action can.

Drawing from historical and philosophical perspectives, he invoked the principles of Nishkam Karma, urging stakeholders to focus on ethical action rather than immediate gains. He illustrated real-life challenges, such as bureaucratic hurdles and the reluctance to register complaints, stressing that corruption thrives when accountability is absent.

Mr. Ratnesh stressed the role of youth in shaping a corruption-free future. He encouraged students to engage with thought leaders and experts to gain insights and be inspired by their persistence and principles. He reiterated that small, ethical actions contribute to a larger change and urged young leaders to remain steadfast in their commitment to integrity.

The Role of UN Global Compact in Business Ethics

Highlighting the UN Global Compact's 10 Principles, he elaborated on the importance of ethical business practices. The Compact, founded in 1999, provides a structured framework for businesses to adopt sustainable and ethical practices. India has been an active participant since 2002, creating a platform to discuss issues like sustainability, gender equality, and environmental restoration. Unlike other UN bodies that engage with government agencies, the UN Global Compact uniquely collaborates with the private sector, fostering ethical business models.

Mr. Ratnesh pointed out the long-term benefits of ethical business practices, such as reduced financial leakages, risk diversification, and sustainable growth. He emphasized the need for ongoing engagement beyond the event, with continued discussions, case studies, and training programs to reinforce anti-corruption measures.

In conclusion, Mr. Ratnesh passionately called for collective action beyond just a one-day event. He emphasized that while corruption may offer short-term gains, it ultimately erodes institutions and harms even those who engage in it. He urged all stakeholders, particularly the youth, to actively participate in anti-corruption initiatives and uphold ethical standards in their personal and professional lives.

The IACD 2024 event successfully reinforced the importance of integrity and accountability in fostering sustainable and ethical governance. Moving forward, the discussions and insights from the event will continue to shape anti-corruption efforts, ensuring that the commitment to transparency extends beyond a single day into continuous action.



Ms. Bhuvana Santhanam, Director, Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, in her Special Address on Collective Action for Integrity and Human Excellence, delivered a powerful address on the fundamental role of human values in fostering integrity and combating corruption. Despite facing health challenges, she passionately engaged the audience, emphasizing that integrity is deeply rooted in human values and collective action.

Key Insights from the Address:

- Integrity as the Foundation of Society: Integrity is not just a concept but an essential characteristic of ethical societies.
- The prevalence of corruption and unethical practices stems from a gradual decline in core human values.

The Role of Human Values in Combating Corruption:

- Values such as honesty, compassion, and love are inherent in all individuals but often diminish due to societal conditioning.
- Children naturally exhibit unity and selflessness, but over time, societal influences promote individualism and self-interest, leading to ethical erosion.

Understanding the Roots of Social Inequality:

- The widening gap between the "haves" and "have-nots" has led to increased crime and social unrest.
- Addressing corruption requires recognizing and restoring the lost connection among individuals and communities.

The Power of Collective Action:

- Integrity begins at an individual level but has a collective impact.
- The COVID-19 pandemic served as a reminder of global interconnectedness and the need for a united approach to social issues.

Practical Implementation of Integrity and Values:

Ms. Santhanan highlighted initiatives undertaken by her institution, including:

- Annapurna Breakfast Program: Providing free nutritious meals to 10 million children daily across 25 states and 4 union territories.
- Healthcare for All: Running paediatric cardiac hospitals and multi-specialty hospitals worldwide, offering completely free treatments.
- Value-Based Education: Establishing free schools and the world's first fully free medical college to support underprivileged students.

Creating an Equitable Society:

- Institutions must take proactive steps to prevent disparities that lead to unethical behavior.
- Her university eliminated material differences among students by ensuring uniform access to resources, preventing envy and dishonesty.

Call to Action:

Integrity must be practiced in thought, word, and action.

Individuals must reflect on their daily conduct and uphold ethical standards in their personal and professional lives.

By fostering values-driven environments, organizations and institutions can contribute to a just and corruption-free society.

Ms. Bhuvana Santhanan's address reinforced the importance of integrity as a personal and collective responsibility. By embedding ethical values in education, governance, and society, we can work toward a future where transparency and accountability prevail. The session left attendees with a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment to fostering ethical leadership and systemic change.

Concluding Remarks of Inaugural Session: Fostering Sustainable Action

Dr. Somnath Singh delivered the concluding remarks, emphasizing the importance of integrity, preventive and corrective actions against corruption, and the role of every individual in fostering ethical practices.

He reflected on the day's discussions, highlighting the insightful session by Dr. Pradnya, who shared valuable experiences from her work across sectors, including capital markets, anti-corruption, and railways. He particularly appreciated her compelling example of how early intervention and legal actions can be transformative in preventing corruption.

Drawing inspiration from the session, Dr. Singh encouraged attendees, particularly the youth, to take responsibility for change. He urged participants to "each one, reach one, teach one", promoting the principles of integrity and ethical conduct within their circles. He stressed the importance of learning from role models and institutions that have set benchmarks in transparency and accountability.

As he concluded, Dr. Singh expressed gratitude to the event co-organizer, particularly the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), for joining hands with UN GCNI in organizing this meaningful and impactful event. He urged everyone to internalize the day's key takeaways and actively contribute to spreading the message of integrity.

Final Message: "Let's commit to honesty, uphold ethical values, and create a corruption-free society."



Technical Session 1

Insight Forum – Fostering Ethics and Transparency in Healthcare and MSME

Session Moderator: Mr. Suhas Tuljapurkar, Founder Director, Legasis Private Limited

Session Summary: The session aimed to explore challenges and strategies for fostering ethics and transparency in the healthcare and MSME sectors. Mr. Suhas Tuljapurkar, in his opening remarks, highlighted the stark contrast between these two industries, describing the topic as seemingly disjointed yet deeply interconnected. He emphasized that corruption and bribery are pervasive issues affecting both sectors and, by extension, society at large.

The discussion covered key areas, including:

1. Corruption in Healthcare and Pharma:

- The industry faces significant challenges related to bribery and unethical practices that impact both businesses and individuals.
- Corruption in healthcare affects accessibility, affordability, and the quality of services provided to patients.

2. Regulatory Challenges and Compliance:

- The upcoming implementation of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) regulations in December 2024 will raise compliance costs, potentially leading to the shutdown of nearly 40% of MSME pharmaceutical units, as per the IDMA report.
- While these regulations aim to enhance drug quality and patient safety, they also pose economic challenges for small-scale manufacturers.

3. Unifying Code for Pharma Marketing (UCMP):

- The new UCMP guidelines, though currently non-mandatory, seek to regulate ethical marketing practices.
- Unlike stringent compliance frameworks such as HIPAA in the U.S., India's guidelines lack punitive measures, relying instead on voluntary adherence by pharma associations.
- However, an evolving redressal mechanism may allow individual patients to file complaints, leading to increased accountability among pharma companies.

Role of Digital Transformation:

- AI-driven solutions and digital interventions, including social media platforms, can enhance transparency and regulatory compliance.
- Benchmarking frameworks, as suggested by Dr. Pradnya, could help identify and promote ethical manufacturers based on consumer complaints and compliance history.

The session underscored the urgent need for stricter enforcement of ethical standards in both healthcare and MSME sectors. The panellists advocated for increased regulatory oversight, the adoption of global best practices, and leveraging digital tools for improved transparency. As Mr. Tuljapurkar concluded, ethical governance is essential for fostering trust and ensuring long-term sustainability in these industries.

Key Insights:

- Corruption in healthcare and MSMEs remains a critical issue requiring immediate attention.
- New GMP regulations will improve drug quality but pose financial challenges for MSMEs.
- UCMP guidelines mark a step toward ethical pharma marketing but need stronger enforcement.
- Digital interventions can enhance transparency and accountability.

The discussion served as a significant step toward creating actionable strategies for ethical and transparent business practices in these crucial sectors.

Dr. Suruchi Desai, Head of High-Risk Obstetrics and senior Consultant, Nanavati Max Super Specialty Hospital, emphasized the critical need for transparency at multiple levels within the healthcare sector. She highlighted the importance of compliance units in hospitals, stressing that such units should be led by both medical and legal professionals. Each healthcare institution should implement a dedicated compliance framework and adhere strictly to established guidelines. Additionally, the involvement and sensitization of medical associations in ensuring ethical medical practices were underscored.

She acknowledged the financial pressures on young medical professionals due to the rising cost of education. Unlike their engineering counterparts, who begin earning at an early age, doctors often settle into their careers much later. This financial burden can sometimes drive professionals toward unethical shortcuts, necessitating stronger ethical training from the undergraduate level. She advocated for integrating healthcare management and ethics courses into medical education to create a more conscientious medical workforce.



Dr. Desai also highlighted challenges related to compliance and auditing in hospitals. She pointed out discrepancies in pharmaceutical billing, citing an example from Nanavati Max Hospital where redundant prescriptions led to excessive medication billing. The hospital introduced a Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPRS) system to streamline prescription practices, ensuring that drugs were dispensed based on need and reducing patient drug costs by 38-45%. This digital intervention not only minimized waste but also enhanced transparency and patient trust.

She further discussed inefficiencies in cost-cutting measures within corporate hospitals, where some resources are over-utilized while others are under-allocated. Regular audits and accountability mechanisms are essential to address these gaps and prevent unnecessary expenses.

In conclusion, Dr. Desai emphasized that while individuals are making efforts toward ethical practices, there is a pressing need for integrated digital solutions and standardized compliance mechanisms across the healthcare sector. By fostering transparency, ensuring stringent audits, and leveraging technology, the healthcare industry can work toward greater integrity and accountability.



Ms. Taral Taruni, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of KJ Somaiya Medical Hospital, emphasized the crucial need for ethical practices and transparency in the healthcare sector. She highlighted that healthcare is a dynamic and complex ecosystem involving multiple stakeholders beyond just the patient and provider. These stakeholders include insurance companies (payers), medical equipment and pharmaceutical suppliers, and policymakers, all of whom play a critical role in shaping healthcare practices.

She underscored the significance of eliminating corruption in healthcare, as it directly impacts patient well-being. Any unethical practices in this sector can have severe consequences, affecting the quality of care and patient outcomes. Given these challenges, she stressed that platforms like the IACD 2024 Insight Forum are essential for fostering discussions on integrity, transparency, and accountability in healthcare governance.

Ms. Sowmya Jandhyala, Trust Officer at Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital, addressed the fundamental concepts of ethics and transparency in healthcare. She defined ethics as doing what is right and transparency as ensuring accountability. Viewing the healthcare system holistically, she emphasized the importance of embedding these principles across health financing, delivery, and support services.



She proposed a five-pronged approach to ethics and transparency in healthcare:

1. **Beneficence** – Ensuring that every action benefits the patient, whether in terms of medical care or financial decisions.
2. **Non-Maleficence** – Avoiding harm to patients by eliminating unnecessary treatments, excessive medication, or redundant tests.
3. **Justice** – Upholding fairness, protecting medical personnel, and ensuring patients receive informed and just treatment.
4. **Autonomy** – Empowering patients with knowledge and choice regarding their treatment plans, rather than imposing decisions upon them.
5. **Equity** – Addressing financial barriers in healthcare, especially in a country where a significant portion of medical expenses are out-of-pocket, often pushing families into poverty.

She emphasized the need for collaboration among the government (Sarkar), society (Samaj), and institutions (Sansthan) to effectively implement ethical and transparent practices. She concluded by saying that ethical governance in healthcare cannot be the responsibility of a single entity but must be a collective effort across all stakeholders.

Ms. Jandhyala brought a unique perspective to the discussion by sharing the ethical leadership model followed by Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital, which operates India's largest chain of paediatric cardiac hospitals. She emphasized how their hospitals have conducted over 35,000 free child heart surgeries and, notably, do not have billing counters, ensuring that financial constraints never hinder a child's access to life-saving treatment. She highlighted that the absence of financial transactions in their healthcare model eliminates conflict of interest, reinforcing their strong ethical foundation. According to her, fostering ethical leadership at an individual level is key to sustaining transparency and accountability in healthcare. She stressed that if leadership is driven by integrity, then values and ethics will naturally permeate throughout the organization, ultimately contributing to a corruption-free ecosystem.

Her insights resonated deeply with participants, demonstrating how healthcare institutions can lead by example in promoting ethical governance and prioritizing service over profit. Ms. Sowmya Jandhyala, Trust Officer at Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital, delivered an insightful address on the significance of ethics and transparency in the healthcare sector. She began by defining ethics as "what is right" and transparency as "what is accountable." She emphasized that ensuring ethical and transparent practices requires a system-wide approach that includes all stakeholders—patients, healthcare providers, insurers, suppliers, and policymakers.

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A Five-Pronged Approach to Ethics and Transparency in Healthcare

Ms. Jandhyala outlined five fundamental principles that should guide ethical healthcare practices:

1. **Beneficence (Patient-Centric Approach)**
 - The healthcare system must prioritize patient welfare in all aspects, from clinical care to financial practices.
 - Every decision should be assessed based on whether it benefits the patient directly.
2. **Non-Maleficence (Do No Harm)**
 - Healthcare providers must ensure that treatments, medications, and procedures do not cause unnecessary harm.
 - Overuse of antibiotics, excessive testing, and unnecessary medical interventions should be avoided.
3. **Justice (Fair and Equitable Treatment)**
 - Patients must be well-informed about their treatments to prevent exploitation.
 - Systems should be developed to ensure fairness in medical access, protect healthcare workers, and uphold patient rights.
4. **Autonomy (Empowering Patients)**
 - Patients often face an imbalance of information, making it essential to educate them about their treatment plans.
 - Healthcare professionals must respect patients' right to make informed decisions rather than imposing predetermined care plans.
5. **Equity (Addressing Healthcare Disparities)**
 - With over 62% of healthcare expenses in India being out-of-pocket, financial burdens push families into poverty.
 - Ethical healthcare reform must integrate Sarkar (government), Samaj (society), and Sansthan (institutions) to create a transparent, inclusive, and accessible healthcare system.



Mr. Neeraj Bhargava, Founder of Aistra AI, addressed the evolving role of technology in ensuring transparency and accountability in the healthcare sector. He began by referencing a recent, tragic incident in the health insurance industry, highlighting the growing frustration among consumers due to unethical practices and lack of transparency. This, he emphasized, serves as a wake-up call for the industry to prioritize consumer rights and ethical governance.

Technology as a Catalyst for Transparency

Mr. Bhargava explained that technology, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), has the potential to empower consumers by:

- Providing access to information about healthcare providers, treatments, and costs.
- Synthesizing vast amounts of data to offer expert insights and recommendations.
- Enabling real-time feedback mechanisms to assess the appropriateness of medical treatments.

However, he cautioned that while AI-driven insights can enhance consumer awareness, they must be balanced with professional medical judgment. Patients should be mindful that technology does not always account for individualized clinical assessments, environmental factors, or real-time medical expertise.

The Need for a "Controlled Revolution"

Mr. Bhargava introduced the concept of a "controlled revolution," stressing that while technology can drive positive change, it must be used responsibly. Over-reliance on AI-generated medical advice without contextual human judgment could lead to misinformation or misinterpretation. The challenge lies in integrating technology to enhance transparency while maintaining trust in healthcare professionals.

Technology in Preventive Healthcare

One of the most significant impacts of technology, he noted, will be in preventive healthcare. Advancements in AI and digital health tracking will provide individuals with better insights into their health, allowing for proactive lifestyle changes. This, in turn, can reduce dependence on the healthcare system, minimizing opportunities for malpractice and corruption.

Mr. Bhargava concluded by emphasizing that ethical healthcare practices must involve both technological advancements and human integrity. While AI can provide valuable tools for transparency, trust, and accountability, a balanced approach—where both technology and human expertise work in synergy—is essential to drive meaningful change in the healthcare sector.

He highlighted the role of technology and artificial intelligence (AI) in fostering transparency and accountability across industries, particularly in supply chain management and supplier onboarding. He emphasized how AI-powered tools can help organizations streamline compliance processes, reduce inefficiencies, and ensure ethical practices.

He pointed out that traditional approaches to governance have focused on aggregation and centralization to improve oversight, but the next generation of technology will enable real-time transparency and automated compliance checks. He cited examples of how his company is working with global agricultural firms to onboard millions of farmers, analyzing their financial and operational records to assess credibility and compliance risks.

Mr. Bhargava stressed the importance of seamlessly integrating various regulatory and financial databases to allow organizations to perform instant supplier due diligence. He envisioned a future where businesses can, with a single command, retrieve comprehensive compliance reports on their stakeholders, dramatically reducing corruption risks.

He also humorously noted how AI can summarize industry trends and insights in seconds, demonstrating the potential of digital tools in enhancing decision-making. His session underscored that leveraging technology for proactive governance and compliance will be a game-changer in combating corruption across sectors.

Mr. Bhargava addressed the critical role of technology in promoting ethics and transparency in the healthcare sector. He began by highlighting a recent incident in the health insurance industry, where public outrage over unethical practices reached an extreme. This, he emphasized, served as a wake-up call for the industry, reinforcing the urgent need for accountability and consumer-centric reforms.

The Role of Technology in Consumer Empowerment

Mr. Bhargava discussed the dual impact of technology—both as a tool for transparency and as a potential source of misinformation. He explained how AI and digital platforms provide consumers with greater access to healthcare information, allowing them to:

- Identify reliable healthcare providers
- Assess the credibility of treatments and medical advice
- Cross-check diagnoses and prescriptions using AI tools

However, he cautioned that the proliferation of information also brings risks of disinformation and manipulation, making it essential for consumers to exercise judgment and discernment in evaluating healthcare data.

The Concept of a "Controlled Revolution"

Mr. Bhargava introduced the idea of a "controlled revolution," where AI and technology improve healthcare accessibility and insights without undermining the expertise of medical professionals. He noted that:

- AI can synthesize medical data and expert opinions, making healthcare insights more ubiquitous and accessible.
- The challenge lies in ensuring that patients do not become overly dependent on AI-based recommendations while ignoring the contextual expertise of healthcare providers.

He stressed that technology is a tool, not a replacement for human judgment, and a balanced approach is necessary to maintain trust in healthcare professionals.

Preventive Healthcare and Reducing Corruption

One of the most profound impacts of technology, Mr. Bhargava stated, is in the realm of preventive healthcare. He highlighted that:

- AI can provide individuals with real-time insights about their health, dietary habits, and exercise routines, leading to better lifestyle choices.
- Reducing the need for medical interventions through prevention can eliminate opportunities for corruption in healthcare systems.

He discussed the transformative role of technology in enhancing transparency, particularly in supply chains and compliance processes. He emphasized that while previous technological advancements focused on aggregation and centralization of data, the next wave of innovation will enable greater accessibility, efficiency, and automation in compliance-related activities.

Key Insights on Technology and Transparency:

1. The Evolution of Technology in Compliance

- Over the past two decades, technology has focused on aggregation and centralization, allowing for more efficient data management.
- The next phase of innovation will make compliance tools more accessible, simpler to use, and more widely available, benefiting organizations of all sizes.

2. Revolutionizing Supply Chain Due Diligence

- Companies can leverage AI and data-driven solutions to improve stakeholder assessments, supplier onboarding, and risk analysis.
- He highlighted his company's work in onboarding and evaluating millions of suppliers and farmers globally, using AI to assess track records, financial stability, and operational risks.
- Automating supplier due diligence can lead to more efficient and transparent supply chain management, reducing the risk of unethical practices.

3. The Role of AI in Compliance and Risk Management

- AI-powered tools can simplify compliance checks, allowing businesses to instantly verify supplier credentials, financial history, and legal standings.
- He proposed the idea of seamlessly integrating national databases (such as police records, financial statements, and credit scores) into a single query system.
- Such a system would instantly verify a supplier's credibility, solving 80-90% of compliance-related challenges.

4. Making Compliance Universally Accessible

- Technology should democratize access to compliance tools, ensuring that businesses of all sizes—especially MSMEs—can perform due diligence effectively.
- By making compliance checks ubiquitously available, corruption risks can be significantly reduced.
- He humorously illustrated the power of AI by sharing how he used ChatGPT for quick insights on corruption in the pharma and MSME sectors, highlighting how AI can streamline knowledge gathering and decision-making.



Mr. Vikas Gupta, General Counsel & Compliance Head, Actylis (Aceto Pharma), in his address, emphasized the critical role of compliance culture in combating corruption, particularly in the healthcare and MSME sectors. He highlighted that strong leadership and a clear “tone at the top” are essential in fostering an ethical work environment.

He shared best practices from his extensive 30-year career in legal and compliance, underscoring the importance of regular anti-corruption training, leadership-driven compliance messaging, and corporate policies that prioritize ethical conduct. He also discussed how whistleblower mechanisms are being increasingly adopted in the corporate world, providing employees with a safe avenue to report unethical activities.

Mr. Gupta further elaborated on the business partner evaluation process, where companies are now rigorously assessing contractors, suppliers, and consultants for their compliance track records before engaging in business partnerships. He highlighted that organizations must take firm stances against unethical practices and refuse to work with entities that have been involved in corruption.

He expressed optimism about the future of compliance, noting that advancements in technology are making it easier to identify and prevent corruption through greater transparency, data analytics, and real-time monitoring. He concluded by reaffirming that corporate integrity and accountability are key drivers in the fight against corruption, and with strong leadership and commitment, the compliance landscape will continue to improve.

Mr. Vikas Gupta shared his insights on the importance of implementation in the fight against corruption. While laws, policies, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) exist, he emphasized that effective enforcement and action are crucial to creating real change.

Despite challenges, he expressed optimism about the evolving corporate landscape, where organizations are increasingly prioritizing ethical behaviour and compliance. He believes that the key to sustainable change lies in strong leadership, continuous training, and robust anti-corruption mechanisms.

Key Strategies for Anti-Corruption and Compliance:

1. Leadership and Tone at the Top

- Ethical business practices must be driven from the highest levels of management.
- Leaders should consistently reinforce anti-corruption messages through direct engagement with employees.
- Regular compliance training sessions should include brief addresses by top executives, reinforcing the company's commitment to ethical conduct.

2. Embedding Compliance in Corporate Culture

- Successful organizations integrate compliance into their daily operations and decision-making.
- He cited the "SQCH" framework (Safety, Quality, Compliance, Humanity) used by some multinational corporations, where every meeting starts with a discussion on these core values.
- The idea is to make compliance a fundamental part of corporate identity, not just a regulatory obligation.

2. Whistleblower Mechanisms

- A strong and effective whistleblower mechanism is crucial for detecting unethical practices.
- Many corporations now actively encourage whistleblowing, and legal frameworks in India protect whistleblowers.
- However, enforcement remains an issue, and efforts should be directed toward strengthening the implementation of these protections.

3. Business Partner Evaluation

- Multinational corporations are implementing strict due diligence before engaging with business partners.
- This includes background checks on suppliers, contractors, and consultants for political exposure, past criminal activity, or unethical practices.
- Mr. Gupta shared an example where a company refused to do business with a distributor due to unethical practices in the past, demonstrating a zero-tolerance approach.

4. Leveraging Technology for Transparency

- Digital tools and AI-driven monitoring systems are enabling better oversight of corporate practices.
- Technology allows for real-time tracking of compliance, making it easier to identify and address corruption risks.
- Greater accessibility of information also empowers consumers and stakeholders to demand higher standards of transparency.

The session was highly interactive, providing participants with valuable insights into corporate ethics and practical strategies for strengthening transparency in their respective sectors.

Technical Session 2

Leadership and Integrity Exchange: Collaborative Pathways and Public-Private Partnerships for Anti-Corruption

This session focused on the role of leadership and public-private partnerships in fostering ethical business practices and ensuring integrity in governance. The distinguished panellists shared their perspectives on how organizations can embed ethical principles in corporate and institutional frameworks.

Key Speakers' Insights

Dr. Anita Shantaram, Founder and Director, Ethics India



- Introduced the session with a compelling statistic: 10% of individuals remain ethical regardless of circumstances, 10% will be unethical no matter what, while 80% can be influenced.
- Advocated for active leadership in driving ethical workplace culture and emphasized that ethics should not be mere lip service but translated into actionable business practices.
- Highlighted the importance of self-regulation within organizations and how organizations must prioritize values over profits.



Ms Shakti Leekha, Founder & CEO Shakti Leekha Ventures

- Provided insights into how businesses and entrepreneurs can drive ethical practices from the startup phase.
- Emphasized that new-age entrepreneurs and startups are embracing ethical business models as a competitive advantage.
- Shared real-life experiences on how digital transparency and compliance tools are transforming corporate governance.

**Mr. Atul Juvle, Senior Advisor and Director
DB Tech Pvt Ltd.**

- Focused on the concept of 'Tone from the Top'—the role of leadership in shaping an organization's integrity framework.
- Stressed that corruption often starts from small, seemingly insignificant rule-breaking behaviours and evolves into larger ethical violations.
- Highlighted the importance of whistleblower mechanisms and the need for companies to ensure a safe and effective process for ethical reporting.



**Dr. Rajesh Chitre
Chief Compliance Officer, Merck India, Mumbai**

- Addressed compliance in the pharmaceutical industry, where ethical breaches have serious consequences on public health.
- Explained how strict adherence to compliance regulations (UCPMP) ensures transparency in interactions between pharmaceutical companies and healthcare professionals.
- Encouraged businesses to move beyond regulatory compliance and embed integrity as a core business principle.

**Mr. Neeraj Acharya, Former Director- Finance, Operations,
and Grant Management, India Health Fund & Lead
Procurement, Tata Trusts**

- Shared strategies for corruption-resistant partnerships and the role of corporate philanthropy in governance reform.
- Discussed the Tata Trusts' initiatives in supporting healthcare infrastructure and public health initiatives while ensuring financial transparency.
- Spoke on the importance of digital monitoring in tracking procurement processes and fund disbursement.





Dr. Karthik Ramesh
Chief Strategic Advisor, CardioBionic

- Focused on how technological innovations like AI and blockchain are transforming governance and compliance.
- Emphasized the role of predictive analytics in fraud detection and risk mitigation.
- Highlighted the need for cross-sector partnerships between technology firms, government institutions, and the private sector to build robust anti-corruption frameworks.

Technical Session 3

Fireside Chat and Values Dialogue - Cultural Shift for a Corruption-Free Society

This session emphasized the need for cultural transformation in society to foster ethical governance and accountability. The panellists shared insights on how education, ethical leadership, and societal values shape integrity across generations.

Key Speaker Insights:



Ms. Rukaiya Joshi
Retired Professor, SPJIMR, Visiting Faculty, MKS

- Explained that integrity should be ingrained in individuals from an early age and highlighted the importance of ethical leadership in education.
- Stressed that educational institutions must lead by example in fostering values-based leadership.

Ms. Bhuvana Santhanan
Director
Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence

- Spoke on how character-building should be an integral part of education.
- Shared examples of value-based education models implemented at Sri Sathya Sai University, where ethics and moral responsibility are at the core of learning.



Ms. Nirmala Joshi, Head
Research and MET SEVA
Mumbai Educational Trust Institute of Management

- Discussed the role of research in promoting transparency and ethical governance.
- Highlighted case studies where empirical research led to policy reforms in public and private sector organizations.



Dr. Sanjay Chordiya
Founder President & Chairman
Surya Datta Education Foundation

- Shared examples of industry-academia partnerships in developing ethical corporate leaders.
- Encouraged students and young professionals to take up ethical leadership roles in their careers.





**Ms. Yogini Suvarna, Principal
Thakur Public School**

- Stressed the importance of embedding moral education at the school level.
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- Discussed how schools play a crucial role in shaping the ethical framework of future professionals and leaders.

Capstone Session

Collective Action to Uphold Integrity and Build Trust

This session provided strategic insights on sustaining anti-corruption efforts and fostering long-term cross-sector cooperation.

Key Speaker Insights:

Dr. Jayesh Lele
Former General Secretary
Indian Medical Association (IMA), India

- Stressed the importance of transparency in the healthcare sector and ethical medical practices.
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- Spoke about the impact of unethical behaviors on public trust in medical institutions.



Dr. Somnath Singh
Deputy Director, UN GCNI

- Highlighted the role of UN GCNI in advancing SDG 16 and how businesses can collaborate to strengthen ethical governance.
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- Spoke on global best practices in fighting corruption and ensuring business accountability.

Mr. Jitender Rana,
Deputy Secretary, PHDCCI

- Shared best practices from corporate sectors in implementing anti-corruption policies.
- Encouraged businesses and government bodies to co-create solutions that drive transparency and accountability.



Mr. Arya Dev
Assistant Manager, UN GCNI

- Reinforced the importance of ethical collaboration across sectors.
- Role of collective action in fostering an anti-corruption culture.



Key Takeaways & Next Steps

- Cross-sector collaboration is crucial for effective anti-corruption measures.
- Leadership accountability must be strengthened across all industries.
- Technology-driven transparency tools should be widely implemented.
- Education must integrate values-based learning to shape ethical leaders.
- Sustained partnerships are required to ensure long-term impact.

The event successfully fostered discussions on ethical governance, corporate integrity, and collaborative action against corruption, setting the stage for future initiatives to drive transparency and accountability across sectors.