

UN GCNI Newsletter

January - March 2025

Celebrating Our Flagship Successes!

The **19th National Convention & 1st Forward Faster Awards**, **8th Gender Equality Summit**, and **1st Business Integrity Conclave** were milestone events that brought together 600+ participants, driving meaningful dialogue on sustainability, gender equality, and ethical business practices. These platforms strengthened our commitment to accelerating impact, fostering collaboration, and shaping a responsible business ecosystem in India.



Empowering Through Training & Knowledge Sharing

Through our **Biodiversity & Business Training**, we are helping businesses understand their role in ecosystem conservation and how integrating biodiversity-friendly practices can drive long-term sustainability. Our **Capacity-Building Training for Frontline Health Workers (FWs) & Community Groups** (Jan & March 2025) focuses on strengthening community resilience by equipping health workers and local leaders with critical knowledge to enhance public health, well-being, and emergency response strategies. Additionally, **The Bayer Rainwater Harvesting Initiative in Morena, Madhya Pradesh**, is making significant strides in strengthening water security through sustainable water management. With 30 RWH systems being installed across Anganwadi Centers, the project supports SDG 6 and ensures long-term water availability for local communities.



Driving Impact Through Green Partnerships

Uniting for Nature: A Collaborative Conference on Forest & Water Stewardship brought together leaders to drive action on biodiversity, water conservation, and sustainability. **ARE&M's 1st Supplier Sustainability Summit** marked two years of supplier capability-building on ESG, audits, and target setting.

8th Gender Equality Summit



The 8th Gender Equality Summit was an inspiring and transformative event that brought together 300+ industry leaders, activists, and lawmakers to discuss the most pressing issues in gender equality. The summit, themed, **"Pathways to Partnerships and Collaborative Action: Bringing South Asia together for SDG 5"** provided a powerful platform for sharing insights, showcasing best practices across South Asia and exploring innovative solutions to advance gender equity in businesses and communities.

With engaging discussions and impactful presentations and the First ever Masterclass, the event highlighted the critical role of businesses in promoting gender equality and creating inclusive workplaces.

19th National Convention

The 19th National Convention and the 1st Forward Faster Sustainability Awards were landmark events that brought together a diverse group of leaders, sustainability experts, and industry pioneers. The convention provided a platform for meaningful discussions on sustainability challenges, best practices, and solutions for driving positive environmental impact. India Solutions Report 2025, an outcome of the SDG Innovation Accelerator Programme 2024 was published during the event.

The Forward Faster Sustainability Awards celebrated exceptional organizations that are leading the way in sustainable business practices, recognizing their efforts in creating a resilient, responsible future. Both events reinforced the collective commitment to accelerating progress towards a sustainable and ethical business ecosystem.



1st Business Integrity Conclave



The 1st Business Integrity Conclave, marked a significant milestone in promoting ethical governance, building on the legacy of Principle 10 of the UN Global Compact (Anti-Corruption). With over 15 years of leadership in championing integrity and ethical business practices, UN GCNI had mobilized businesses, policymakers, and civil society to promote transparency and accountability. The conclave focused on collective action to combat corruption, explored ethical healthcare collaborations, and discussed the integration of governance in ESG to drive sustainable practices.

Business & Biodiversity Workshop

On March 7, 2025, we hosted a highly impactful One-Day Certificate Training on Business & Biodiversity, aimed at equipping businesses with the knowledge and tools to address the growing risk of biodiversity loss. Organized by the Centre for Business Leadership on Nature Restoration, established by UN GCNI, the training brought together professionals from various sectors to explore how biodiversity can be effectively integrated into corporate strategies. The session offered in-depth insights on the importance of understanding environmental risks and provided actionable steps for businesses to play a pivotal role in conservation efforts. Participants learned how to align their business models with the principles of sustainable development, contributing to both their environmental responsibilities and long-term success. The event also served as a platform for knowledge-sharing, fostering collaboration among businesses to adopt more nature-positive practices.

Inaugural Address



Mr. Ratnesh Jha,
Executive Director, UNGCNI

Mitigating Business Impacts on
Biodiversity & Integrating Biodiversity
into ESG and CSR frameworks

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - Business Dependencies and Risks



Dr. Madhu Verma,
Senior Economic Advisor and
Chief Environmental Economist,
IORA Ecological Solutions

Global developments on strengthening
corporate disclosure related to biodiversity



Ms. Pratima Washan,
Independent Sustainability Advisor

Introduction to
Business and Biodiversity



Ms. Eva Bortolotti, Programme
Specialist, Nature Finance,
Nature Hub, UNDP.

Practical tools for Biodiversity Mapping
and Risk Assessment



Mr. Suneel Padale,
Senior Technical Advisor, UNGCNI



Priyanka Dharne
Lead- Ecology and Biodiversity
Terracon Ecotech Pvt. Ltd.

Date: 07th March, 2025 Time: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM



Bayer Rainwater Harvesting Initiative

The Bayer Rainwater Harvesting Project is making significant progress in addressing groundwater challenges in Morena, Madhya Pradesh, with the installation of 30 rainwater harvesting (RWH) systems across Anganwadi Centers in Morena, Ambah, and Porsa blocks. Aligned with SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), the initiative aims to ensure long-term water availability for communities. Since February 2025, all 30 sites have been surveyed, and installation is nearly complete at 12 sites, with additional improvements like ceiling repairs and exterior painting for durability. The project has also involved direct engagement with local communities, highlighting challenges like safe drinking water accessibility and electricity shortages.

Despite facing hurdles such as administrative delays, labour shortages, and local political interference, the project continues to make strides. Looking ahead, the project remains on track for completion by mid-2025, with plans for scaling the initiative and seeking corporate and institutional partnerships to expand its reach to more communities. Additionally, technical training and ongoing collaborations ensure the project's sustainability and long-term impact.

Strengthening Healthcare at the Grassroots

UN GCNI successfully conducted Capacity-Building Training for Frontline Health Workers (FHWs) and Community Groups in the Palwal districts of Haryana during January (29-31) and March (5-8) 2025. The training, featuring interactive sessions, hands-on demonstrations, and expert-led discussions, focused on Antenatal Care (ANC) and Maternal & Child Health (MCH). Key achievements included increased awareness of institutional deliveries and newborn care, improved knowledge on high-risk pregnancy identification and nutritional guidance, and strengthened collaboration between ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers, SHGs, and other community groups.



Uniting for Nature: A Collaborative Conference on Forest & Water Stewardship

On March 21, 2025, UN GCNI, in collaboration with Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), hosted a high-impact event, "Uniting for Nature: A Collaborative Conference on Forest & Water Stewardship," bringing together nearly 300 delegates to explore strategies for biodiversity conservation and water management. This event, aligned with International Day of Forests and World Water Day, emphasized the urgent need for corporate leadership in environmental sustainability.

The conference featured impactful sessions on topics such as circular economy solutions, crop residue management, and water stewardship, with leaders from organizations like TVS Motors, Reflex Group, and BIAL. The event included a site visit to BIAL's Green Escape Botanical Park, highlighting the airport's green initiatives.

ARE&M's 1st Supplier Sustainability Summit



On February 20, 2025, Ratnesh Jha, Executive Director of UN GCNI, had the honor of being the Chief Guest at Amara Raja Energy & Mobility Ltd's 1st Supplier Sustainability Summit. The event marked the culmination of two years of supplier capability-building, focusing on ESG MIS implementation, target setting, and site audits. The summit brought together 19 vendor partners and 27 representatives, all of whom were acknowledged

for their significant contributions to Amara Raja's sustainability goals. Throughout the event, awards were presented to vendors that demonstrated exemplary efforts in driving sustainability, and the focus was on fostering long-term collaborations that align with Amara Raja's environmental and social objectives.

Welcoming New Members

Eternis Fine Chemicals Ltd
Western Refrigeration Pvt Ltd
Sasken Technologies Limited
GSP Crop Science Private Limited
Enexion Consulting Private Limited
RenewSys India Pvt Ltd
Chalet Hotels Limited
Statkraft India Private Limited
Rain Cements Limited
Suzlon Energy Limited
Crest Speciality Resins Private Limited
J B Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited
Nirantara Ecoventures Private Limited
Transpek Industry Limited
WIPRO Limited
KAMTECH Associates Private Limited
Inventys Research Company Pvt. Ltd.
D R Coats Ink & Resins Pvt. Ltd
Solara Active Pharma Sciences Limited
Everrenew Energy Private Limited
Enexion Consulting Private Limited
SUPERPACKS Business Solutions LLP
Navin Fluorine International Ltd
Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd
ACC Limited
PMC Rubber Chemicals India Pvt Ltd



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