

WEBINAR ON ESG INTEGRATION: ESG DISCLOSURES, STRATEGIES, AND INTEGRITY



**“STRENGTHENING ESG READINESS ,
IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY, AND BUILDING
INTEGRITY DRIVEN ESG STRATEGIES IN
INDUSTRIES”**

Organized by:

UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI)

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI)

Date: June 13, 2025 | Mode: Virtual | Duration: 90 minutes

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

As global sustainability discourse matures, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles have become essential levers for corporate accountability and long-term value creation. In India, this shift is reinforced by evolving regulatory frameworks such as SEBI's BRSR guidelines, investor pressure, and the need for ethical, transparent, and inclusive growth models.

The **Webinar on ESG Integration: ESG Disclosures, Strategies, and Integrity** served as a multi stakeholder dialogue platform to enhance sectoral understanding of ESG readiness, drive cross-sector alignment, and promote integrity-driven ESG frameworks. With representation from legal, academic, consulting, healthcare, waste management, and financial sectors, the session spotlighted both strategic and practical pathways for operationalizing ESG across high-impact sectors.

INAUGURAL SESSION



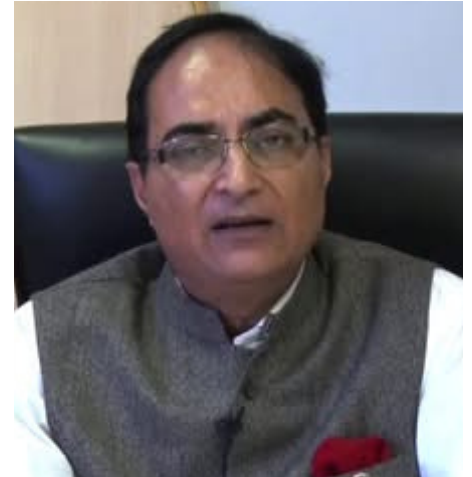
Mr. Jitender Rana

Mr. Jitender Rana commenced the session by warmly welcoming all participants and distinguished speakers to the webinar. Setting the tone for the event, he briefly outlined its objectives and structure, emphasizing the relevance of ESG integration in today's business and governance landscape.

He then introduced the profiles of the esteemed panellists, highlighting their diverse expertise and contributions to the ESG domain. With the stage aptly set, Mr. Rana invited Dr. Somnath Singh to take over and guide the audience through the thematic discussions that followed.

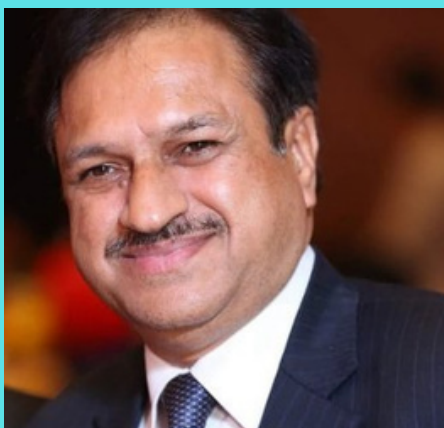
Mr. Ashish Mohan Wig, Chair, HR & IR Committee, PHDCCI

Mr. Wig emphasized the urgency of ESG as a strategic imperative rather than a compliance checklist. He reiterated PHDCCI's commitment to aligning ESG with worker safety, governance, and responsible business. He cautioned against treating ESG as a mere checklist and instead urged organizations to align ESG priorities with employee well-being, governance ethics, and sustainable value creation.



Mr. Wig reinforced PHDCCI's proactive role in supporting industry shifts towards responsible business practices, especially in sectors where worker safety and environmental impact are critical. His remarks underscored the importance of leadership commitment in embedding ESG into long-term organizational vision.

Dr. Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI



He stressed that ESG should not operate in silos, but rather be integrated into the very culture of corporate governance and strategic decision-making. Dr. Singh urged industry players to adopt cross-functional approaches where sustainability is embedded into product development, financial planning, operations, and stakeholder engagement.

He also emphasized that India's regulatory and investor landscape is fast evolving, making it imperative for companies to adapt with agility, integrity, and foresight. His vision advocated for a holistic ESG culture—grounded in ethics, transparency, and shared responsibility.

BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF THE SESSION



Dr. Somnath Singh, Deputy Director, UN GCNI

Dr. Somnath Singh, speaking on behalf of the United Nations Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), extended a warm welcome to all distinguished panellists, esteemed participants, and attendees at the high-impact webinar titled “ESG Integration: ESG Disclosures, Strategies, and Integrity.”

In his opening remarks, Dr. Somnath Singh emphasized that as Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations evolve from being voluntary initiatives to strategic imperatives, this session is especially relevant. He noted that the webinar aimed to unpack three core areas:

- The practical implementation of ESG disclosure mandates,
- Strategic ESG frameworks customized for high-risk, high-impact sectors (referred to as Type A and B), and
- The central role of integrity and governance in facilitating sustainable business transitions.

Dr. Somnath Singh highlighted the significance of this conversation at a time when industry leaders, investors, and regulators are increasingly aligning their efforts to foster transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership across ESG initiatives. He further shared that, over the course of 90 minutes, the session would explore not only global ESG trends but also India’s evolving regulatory landscape, including the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework and the latest SEBI guidelines. In addition, the discussion would address sector-specific challenges and explore actionable, forward-looking solutions.

He concluded by acknowledging the diverse and distinguished panel of speakers drawn from academia, consulting, civil society, law, and industry who would provide deep insights into these nuanced topics, helping participants better navigate and implement ESG strategies in their respective fields.

EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Vidya Bhooshan Singh – Solid/Plastic Waste Specialist, IPE Global

Theme: Sectoral ESG Implementation in Environmental Management



- Explained ESG gaps in waste management and its impact on investor trust.
- Stressed the need for disclosure metrics for EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) and recycling practices.
- Emphasized MSME inclusion in ESG through support systems and decentralized models.
- Advocated for responsible sourcing and circularity in high-risk sectors like FMCG and textiles.

Dr. Uma Nambiar – CEO, IISc Medical School Foundation



Theme: Ethics, Leadership, and ESG in Healthcare and Education

- Argued that ethical governance is foundational to ESG transformation in healthcare and academia.
- Proposed that medical and academic institutions must model ESG transparency.
- Highlighted the role of leadership in embedding institutional integrity and long-term ESG culture.

**Mr. Dinesh Agrawal – Principal Consultant,
Consocia Advisory**

Theme: Strategic ESG Planning and Corporate Governance

- Discussed integrity-driven ESG strategy as a tool for brand trust and risk mitigation.
- Provided insights on how Type A & B industries can align cross-functional teams for ESG integration.
- Highlighted real-world examples of ESG operationalization in both public and private sectors



**Mr. Shantanu Srivastava – Sustainable
Finance & Climate Risk Lead, IEEFA**

Theme: ESG Finance and Investor Expectations



- Demystified global ESG frameworks like GRI, TCFD, and ISSB and their Indian adaptations.
- Explored how international investors evaluate climate risks and ESG disclosures.
- Called for better climate risk transparency in Indian corporate reporting and finance strategies.

Mr. Ravindra Joshi – Founder CEO, Agile Consultancy Services

Theme: Practical ESG Adoption in MSMEs and Mid-sized Enterprises

- Outlined the capacity and cost barriers that MSMEs face.
- Shared successful case studies where small firms led with ESG innovation.
- Advocated for consultancy-led models to bridge ESG knowledge gaps and scale adoption.



Mr. Sharad Nagpal – Advocate, High Court of Delhi

Theme: Legal and Regulatory Aspects of ESG



- Traced the evolution of ESG in India via SEBI mandates, BRSR, and MCA guidelines.
- Emphasized the integration of anti-corruption and compliance into ESG strategy.
- Warned against greenwashing and recommended corporate legal teams to reinforce integrity and procedural accountability.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Dr. Somnath Singh concluded the session with a vote of thanks, acknowledging all speakers, participants, and organizing teams. He reaffirmed UN GCNI's mission to:

1. Build ESG readiness across sectors
2. Support regulatory convergence and investor trust
3. Mainstream integrity in sustainable business transitions

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. From Environmental Challenges to Circular Innovation – ESG reporting must prioritize data transparency, particularly around waste, EPR, and responsible sourcing.
2. Leadership with Integrity – In sectors like healthcare and education, ethical leadership and transparent governance are foundational to ESG maturity.
3. Bridging ESG Strategy and Action – Especially for high-impact sectors, strategic alignment, leadership buy-in, and cross-departmental integration are essential.
4. Global Alignment for Capital Access – With investors demanding robust ESG credentials, aligning with frameworks like GRI, TCFD, and ISSB is now a necessity.
5. Empowering MSMEs – Scalable ESG adoption models tailored for MSMEs can democratize sustainable practices and build resilience across value chains.
6. Governance and Legal Frameworks – The evolving regulatory environment calls for authentic ESG disclosures, rooted in integrity and accountability, to avoid reputational risks.

PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Over 200 professionals joined the virtual session from corporate, academic, policy, and consulting domains. Active Q&A session with moderator and speakers case-based insights, and sectoral examples enriched dialogue and knowledge sharing. All attendees received e-certificates under the participation of the programme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UN GCNI, PHDCCI, and all collaborating institutions express their sincere appreciation to the speakers, moderators, and engaged participants. This dialogue serves as a collective stride toward transparent, ethical, and action-oriented ESG transformation in India and beyond.

