

UN GCNI Newsletter

April 2025 - June 2025

LATEST UPDATES

Nature & Sustainability

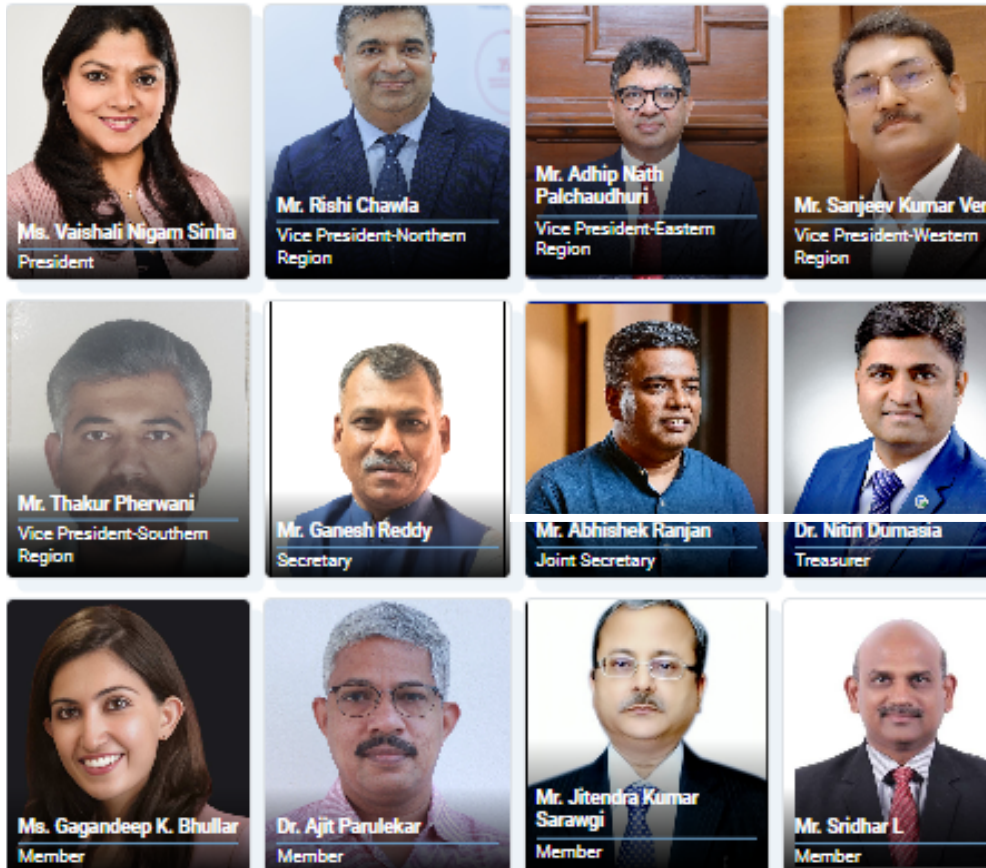
UN GCNI is actively advancing the biodiversity agenda by fostering business leadership for nature restoration. Through multi-stakeholder workshops, policy dialogues, and partnerships with leading corporates and government bodies, we are promoting nature-positive action aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the SDGs.

From Compliance to Commitment

UN GCNI is equipping Indian businesses with essential ESG knowledge and BRSR compliance skills through focused trainings and capacity-building sessions. These programmes help companies align with SEBI mandates, understand ESG risks and opportunities, and integrate sustainability into core operations, fostering transparency, accountability, and long-term value creation.

Health & Community Resilience

UN GCNI continues to drive multi-stakeholder dialogue on public health and well-being, aligning efforts with SDG 3. Through partnerships with institutions like IEEE Delhi SIGHT, initiatives emphasize value-based healthcare, preventive practices, and community resilience—creating inclusive platforms to foster equitable, sustainable health systems across urban and rural India.



Welcoming our New Governing Council Members 2025-2027

GCNI is delighted to welcome the newly appointed Governing Council Members for the 2025–2027 term. These distinguished leaders from business, civil society, and academia bring with them a wealth of experience, commitment to sustainable development, and a shared vision for advancing the UN Global Compact’s principles across India.

We look forward to their guidance and collaboration as we collectively work towards a more inclusive, resilient, and responsible future for all.

Executive Summary

The April–June quarter was more than a period of compliance—it was a season of reawakening. With recommitments rising, corporate engagement intensifying, and bolder sustainability targets on the horizon, India is truly emerging as a sustainability powerhouse in the Asia-Pacific region. At UN Global Compact Network India, we remain steadfast in our commitment to walk alongside our participants, listen deeply, and empower them to go Forward Faster—not just in setting goals, but in driving lasting impact.”
— Mr. Ratnesh, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network India

India's Business Leadership in Sustainability Gains Ground

In the second quarter of 2025, UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) continued to see encouraging momentum as Indian companies deepened their commitment to responsible business practices. From recommitments and personalized engagement to bold sustainability targets—India's business landscape is showing signs of transformative change.

A Renewed Commitment to the Global Compact

Twelve companies rejoined the UN Global Compact between April and June 2025, reinforcing a nationwide movement toward ethical leadership and sustainable growth. This trend highlights a growing awareness that sustainability isn't a one-time commitment—it's an evolving journey that companies are willing to recommit to, again and again.

Hands-On Support Reaches 280+ Companies

UN GCNI's Participant Relations Team provided tailored assistance to more than 280 companies during the quarter. From helping companies:

- Navigate the Communication on Progress (CoP) portal,
- Complete the new digital questionnaire, and
- Submit sustainability and integrated reports—

This direct engagement ensured that Indian businesses remained compliant, confident, and aligned with the expectations of the global community.

Forward Faster Commitments: Targeting Transformational Impact

As part of the UN Global Compact's Forward Faster initiative, Indian companies are stepping up to make bold, measurable commitments toward five critical areas. Here's what the data reveals from the 67 Indian companies analyzed:

- Top 5 Sectors:
 - Software & Computer Services – 13
 - Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology – 12
 - Diversified – 7
 - Alternative Energy – 5
 - Chemicals – 5

Insights That Matter

- Climate Action (Target 1) leads the way, with 50 companies demonstrating bold ambition.
- Gender Equality and Sustainable Finance have solid traction, with 14–16 companies engaged.
- Water Resilience lags, revealing an urgent opportunity to raise awareness and action.

Participant Voices Guide Our Journey

Feedback from our participants continues to shape our direction.

One notable voice from our participating companies, raised concerns about the rigid new CoP timelines and platform communication:

“The shift from flexible deadlines to a fixed 31 July CoP deadline—without adequate communication—posed serious challenges. We need more clarity and adaptability.”

We hear you. UN GCNI is actively incorporating such insights into our approach. We are committed to refining our systems to better align with the realities and timelines of the businesses we serve.



BUSINESS LEADERSHIP ON BIODIVERSITY: A YEAR IN REFLECTION SINCE THE LAUNCH OF THE CENTRE (JULY 2024 – JULY 2025)

Since the launch of the Centre for Business Leadership on Nature Restoration in July 2023, UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) has been at the forefront of driving biodiversity action within the private sector. What began as a bold and visionary initiative has rapidly matured into a dynamic, multi-stakeholder platform for fostering awareness, driving capacity building, shaping policy, and integrating nature-based thinking into core business strategy.

Over the past year, the Centre has convened an ever-widening circle of industry leaders, government bodies, regulatory institutions, academic researchers, civil society organizations, and youth leaders, united by a shared commitment to restoring and preserving biodiversity. These dialogues have consistently underscored a critical insight: biodiversity is no longer just a scientific or environmental concern—it is a material business risk and an emerging opportunity for resilient, future-ready enterprises.

At the heart of the Centre's mission is the ambition to mainstream biodiversity into ESG frameworks, CSR strategies, sustainability reporting, and financial disclosures. By encouraging companies to view nature not as a side issue but as a strategic asset, the Centre is helping reshape the corporate sustainability agenda. This shift is especially timely as global standards evolve to reflect nature-related dependencies and risks, and as investors increasingly seek nature-positive commitments alongside climate action.

Importantly, this is not a niche movement—it is growing rapidly. From legacy companies in manufacturing and infrastructure to emerging sustainability-driven startups, the diversity of participating organizations has been one of the Centre's greatest strengths. Each engagement has contributed to a deeper ecosystem of accountability and innovation, reinforcing the idea that nature stewardship must be inclusive, science-based, and action-oriented.

Looking ahead, the Centre is preparing to scale its impact through:

- Regional and sector-specific dialogues that address localized biodiversity challenges
- Industry playbooks and toolkits tailored to key sectors like agriculture, textiles, infrastructure, and finance
- Knowledge-sharing platforms and communities of practice to support both MSMEs and large corporations in taking measurable, science-aligned biodiversity actions.

With a clear vision and an expanding coalition, the Centre continues to push the boundaries of what business can do for nature. The journey from awareness to action is well underway, and UN GCNI remains committed to nurturing a new generation of business leaders—not just nature-aware, but nature-positive, capable of delivering long-term value for both the economy and the planet.



THIS QUARTER AT A GLANCE

Celebrating Business Leadership in Biodiversity | 18 June 2025

UN GCNI hosted a landmark convening at The Leela Palace, Chennai, dedicated to recognizing and advancing business leadership in biodiversity and nature restoration. The high-impact evening brought together thought leaders, industry champions, and senior policymakers in a powerful show of commitment toward embedding biodiversity into core business strategy. A highlight of the event was the unveiling of three seminal publications that provide practical guidance and strategic pathways for corporate engagement in biodiversity, covering areas such as ESG integration, supply chain restoration, and biodiversity metrics. These publications mark a critical milestone in mainstreaming biodiversity within India Inc.'s sustainability agenda. A keynote address by Mr. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.), Chairman of the National Biodiversity Authority, added gravitas to the evening. He stressed the urgency of integrating nature-positive approaches into business models and reaffirmed the importance of policy-business alignment to scale impact across sectors. The event closed with renewed commitment and collaboration among stakeholders to embed nature restoration as a core pillar of responsible business.

24 May 2025 | International Biodiversity Day at The Imperial, New Delhi

Marking International Biodiversity Day, UN GCNI, in collaboration with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), hosted a day-long summit at The Imperial, New Delhi, bringing together over 250 business leaders, regulators, accountants, and sustainability experts. The event focused on advancing nature-based finance, ESG-aligned disclosures, and biodiversity accounting—topics central to ensuring that biodiversity becomes a measurable component of business value. The convening featured insightful sessions led by experts from leading organizations including the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), JK Cement, Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), and IUCN. Discussions explored the future of nature-related risk assessments, innovations in biodiversity-linked financial instruments, and emerging regulatory and voluntary disclosure frameworks.

Webinar Highlights: Biodiversity & Business

As part of its ongoing commitment to integrating biodiversity into corporate strategy, the UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) hosted two insightful webinars under its Biodiversity Webinar Series. These sessions brought together leading voices in nature-related finance and policy to deepen corporate understanding of nature-positive frameworks and economic valuation of ecosystems.

📌 Session 1: Business and Nature-related Financial Disclosures

The series opened with a compelling session led by Tajeshwar S. Goyal, CFA, Market Engagement Lead – Asia-Pacific, Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD). Mr. Goyal provided a deep dive into how businesses can identify, manage, and transparently disclose nature-related risks and dependencies.

📌 Session 2: Valuing Ecosystems in Business and Policy

The second webinar shifted focus to the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) approach. Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Country Head – UNEP India, led a thought-provoking discussion on how businesses and policymakers can embed the economic value of nature into strategic decision-making.

INDIA'S VOICE AT THE GLOBAL INTEGRITY STAGE: UN GCNI AT THE SIEMENS INTEGRITY INITIATIVE CLOSING IN MEXICO CITY

In June 2025, UN GCNI participated in a landmark global gathering in Mexico City, marking the culmination of the 15-year Anti-Corruption Collective Action (ACCA) project under the Siemens Integrity Initiative. Titled "Celebrating the Journey", the two-day event celebrated the Initiative's legacy in advancing business integrity across 13 countries and multiple sectors, while looking toward the future of collaborative anti-corruption efforts.

At the core of the discussions was a shared understanding that corruption is not a challenge to be tackled in isolation. Instead, it requires sustained Collective Action—across private sector, government, and civil society—to build transparent, resilient, and ethical ecosystems. UN GCNI's presence highlighted India's pioneering work in the healthcare sector, particularly through the development of Consensus Framework that brings together diverse stakeholders around shared standards of integrity.

UN GCNI's Executive Director, Mr. Ratnesh Jha, participated in a high-level panel exploring how collective action must evolve in the face of emerging risks such as AI-driven vulnerabilities, opaque supply chains, and challenges to business and human rights. The India project team—Arya Dev and Dr. Somnath Singh—contributed strategic insights drawn from India's on-ground experience, including the development of a national Consensus Framework and regional dialogues around ethical healthcare governance.

A dedicated session, co-organized by UN GCNI, delved deeper into how multi-stakeholder collaboration can institutionalize transparency in healthcare systems. Drawing from India's model and lessons from the Mexican Ethical Health Alliance, the session unpacked themes such as ESG integration, adapting integrity frameworks across cultural contexts, and financing sustainable governance mechanisms beyond donor-led cycles.

UN GCNI's participation reaffirmed India's role as a regional leader in Collective Action, underscoring how aligned action, trust-building, and ethical innovation are critical for the next generation of anti-corruption efforts globally.



GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH – RISKS AND STRATEGIES

The Global Symposium on Occupational Safety and Health: Risks and Strategies, held on April 5, 2025, brought together over 200 participants from across the globe for a high-impact virtual event organized by UN GCNI, PHDCCI, IGFP India, and CTAG/NLUD. Expert speakers from India, Germany, Denmark, and Switzerland shared insights on AI-driven prevention, legal enforcement, mental health, and behavior-based safety. The symposium emphasized global collaboration, regulatory innovation, and technology as key enablers for advancing safe, resilient, and inclusive workplaces. Dr. Somnath Singh, Deputy Director, UN GCNI, represented the Network at the event.



GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH: RISKS AND STRATEGIES

ORGANIZED BY
UN GCNI, PHDCCI,
IGFP - India, and CTAG/ NLUD

Saturday, 5th April
11:00 am to 3:15 pm

SCAN TO JOIN
WEBINAR



ADVANCING ESG & ETHICAL LEADERSHIP IN INDIA'S BUSINESS EDUCATION

UN GCNI continued its commitment to shaping India's sustainable business future through two major academic collaborations. In partnership with the Institute of Management Technology (IMT), Ghaziabad, UN GCNI launched a nationwide ESG-focused survey to capture insights from Indian companies on their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) journeys. The findings will inform tailored training programs, policy recommendations, and business school curricula to build ESG-ready workforces. The nationwide survey invites Indian businesses to share their experiences, challenges, and best practices in implementing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. The goal is to generate actionable insights that will shape industry-specific ESG capacity-building programs, inform national sustainability strategies, and guide the integration of ESG modules into academic curricula. This initiative is not merely a data collection effort—it is a collaborative step toward empowering Indian industry with the knowledge and tools required to embed ESG thinking at the core of business strategy. The findings will also help bridge the current gap between academia and corporate ESG expectations by influencing course design for India's next generation of business leaders.

Additionally, a landmark MoU was signed between UN GCNI and IILM University, Greater Noida. This collaboration aims to co-develop capacity-building initiatives, Management Development Programs (MDPs), and certificate courses on sustainability and business ethics. Together, these efforts mark a significant step toward mainstreaming responsible business and ethical leadership into India's academic and corporate landscape.



Institute of
Management Technology
Ghaziabad, Delhi NCR



MASTERS IN
MANAGEMENT
2024 RANKING
GLOBAL TOP 100



IMT Ghaziabad - UN GCNI ESG Survey

Survey Focus:

- Identifying structural and skill gaps in ESG adoption
- Shaping targeted training and capacity-building efforts
- Informing future-ready business school curricula to nurture sustainability leaders



You can access the form [here](#)



WORLD HEALTH DAY 2025 – A CALL FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

On April 7, 2025, UN Global Compact Network India and IEEE Delhi SIGHT marked World Health Day with a hybrid event under the theme “Collective Action for Better Health Across Society.” Held at the UNGCNI office in Noida, the event brought together over 200 participants—government officials, healthcare leaders, corporates, academia, and community organizations. Speakers highlighted the urgent need for value-based healthcare and multi-sector partnerships to improve outcomes and equity. The day featured yoga sessions, expert panels, a health awareness quiz, and vibrant discussions focused on building SDG-aligned, inclusive health systems for all.

FOSTERING ETHICAL LEADERSHIP THROUGH ESG TRAINING

On May 9, 2025, UN GCNI hosted a high-impact orientation on Business Integrity and ESG at The Lalit, New Delhi. The training brought together professionals from across sectors to explore the ethical dimensions of ESG, focusing on governance, compliance, and leadership. Through interactive sessions, real-world case studies, and peer-led knowledge cafés, participants gained practical tools to integrate ethics into their sustainability strategies. The workshop underscored GCNI's commitment to nurturing values-based decision-making and strengthening the ‘G’ in ESG.

VALUE PROPOSITION SESSION– UNGC

On June 4, 2025, Ms. Konwika Phochatan, Participant Recruitment Manager for Asia and Oceania, led an insightful virtual session highlighting the UN Global Compact's value proposition for businesses across the region. The session showcased how companies can derive strategic value from aligning with the 10 Principles and the Sustainable Development Goals, using compelling real-world business case studies.

COUNTING WHAT MATTERS: UNLOCKING GENDER DATA IN ESG & POLICY

On May 28, 2025, UN GCNI hosted a powerful session titled “Counting What Matters: Unlocking Gender Data in ESG & Policy.” The session was skillfully led by Ms. Nancy D'Cruz, Assistant Manager and Ms. Mallika Gandhi, Programme Officer, UN GCNI brought together stakeholders to highlight how gender-disaggregated data can drive business value, compliance, and systemic equity.

Key frameworks such as SEBI BRSR, GRI 405, and the SDGs were explored, along with practical insights on aligning gender equity with ESG goals and investor expectations. Participants gained valuable insights into aligning with investor expectations, regulatory requirements, and making a compelling business case for advancing gender equity as a core part of ESG strategy.



COUNTING WHAT MATTERS UNLOCKING GENDER DATA IN ESG & POLICY

May 28, 2025 11:00 – 12:00

Ishika Mookerjee
ESG and Climate Reporter
Bloomberg News
Moderator

Kumar Anurag Pratap
Vice President - Corporate
Social Responsibility
Capgemini

Rashmi Mohanty
Chief Financial Officer
SBI Credit Card

Samita Thapa
Gender Research Lead
World Benchmarking Alliance
(WBA)



PROGRAM INTERVENTIONS – CSR

BASF Project Field Visit – Dharashiv, May 2025

From May 25–31, 2025, a BASF delegation visited Dharashiv District to introduce two key initiatives: indigenous seed banks and a circular economy-focused biomass mobile app. The team engaged with local stakeholders including government departments, NGOs, and farmers, identifying villages for Phase 1 rollout. Farmers expressed interest in native seeds and shared feedback on agri-waste usage and app usability. Key recommendations included Marathi-language app support, transparent biomass transactions, and pilot testing with 50+ farmers. An Inception Workshop is tentatively scheduled for the first week of August, 2025, to launch the seed bank initiative in partnership with National Biodiversity Authority, BASF and with district-level institutions.

Phuguri Tea Estate Water Project – Darjeeling, June 2025

From June 4–6, 2025, a team visited Phuguri Tea Estate, Darjeeling to assess water scarcity in Kothidura and Chuwandhura villages. Key engagements with tea estate managers, local civil societies, WWF, and community members highlighted severe depletion of natural springs. A new water source was identified and discussed for pumping-based distribution. The team recommended springshed management, catchment revitalization, and community-led solutions. Emphasis was placed on geological surveys, integrated planning, and stakeholder collaboration. The community showed strong willingness to participate, and partnerships with panchayat institutions will drive the water sustainability measures in the region.

BAYER Rainwater Harvesting Project – June, 2025

"This project is a reminder that even small, community-rooted actions can recharge not just groundwater, but public trust." — Executive Director, UN GCNI

In water-scarce Morena, UN GCNI and Bayer are implementing rainwater harvesting systems across 30 Anganwadi Centres to support long-term groundwater recharge. By capturing rain directly from rooftops, the initiative ensures that more water percolates back into the ground — helping nearby handpumps stay functional even in dry seasons. The project is already raising awareness about sustainable water use, with Anganwadi workers trained as "Rainwater Champions" to oversee system maintenance. Children are engaging through model-making and storytelling around water. With 29 sites completed and the final one underway, this community-led model is shaping a more water-secure future - one recharge at a time.

CEO Water Mandate All India River Basins Program

Our Executive Director, Mr. Ratnesh, was invited to participate in a high-level convening held at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi, on May 5, 2025, as part of the 100 Basins Program hosted by leading water stewardship platforms. The event focused on strategic collaboration for water security across the Ganga, Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri basins. The meeting was led by Mr. Jason Morrison (Head, UN Global Compact CEO Water Mandate).

The meeting spotlighted:

- Collective Action Circles spanning over 2,000 km² each, aligning corporate commitments with district-level and basin-wide goals.
- Proven Solutions already scaling through corporate-NGO partnerships to enhance water availability, community resilience, and environmental outcomes.
- Collaborative Delivery Models aimed at expanding engagement from 30 to 75 corporations by 2025.

The event reaffirmed our role in this growing alliance for integrated water management, aligning with our ongoing initiatives and commitment to basin-level impact.

ALNF 2025 - CAPE TOWN

Mr. Ratnesh, Executive Director of UN GCNI, participated in the Annual Local Network Forum, which brought together representatives from various country networks and the UN Global Compact Office from April 28, 2025 - May 1, 2025

The Forum featured a series of thematic sessions and working groups focused on reviewing current activities, setting future priorities, and strengthening collaboration across local networks. Key discussions centered around strategic program directions, upcoming initiatives, and enhancing the impact of ongoing efforts. Participants also deliberated on the organization's growth strategy, the importance of deeper engagement from the private sector in the Forward Faster initiative, and the need for stronger cooperation with state agencies to drive systemic change.



UN GCNI IS THE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE ENERGY TRANSITION SUMMIT INDIA 2025!

UN GCNI is proud to support Energy Transition Summit India
16-17 September 2025
In-Person & Digital | Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi

As a proud supporting partner, UN GCNI is pleased to be associated with the Energy Transition Summit India.

India's ambitious pledge to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070 positions it to become a global leader in clean energy. Realizing this vision requires the country to carefully balance energy security for its population and industries with the urgent need to phase out fossil fuels, scale renewable energy, and decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors. Achieving this transition will demand an estimated additional investment of at least \$2.5 trillion.

Building on the success of its inaugural edition in 2024, the Energy Transition Summit India will once again convene in New Delhi. The event will bring together senior policymakers, global investors, and leaders from the Indian and international energy, metals, and manufacturing sectors. The summit will explore viable pathways for India to accelerate its renewable energy capacity, adopt hydrogen and alternative fuels, electrify its transport system, and transform its industries into global hubs for green products and sustainable technologies.

Speakers include: Principle Scientific Adviser of the Government of India, Chairperson, Hindustan Zinc and Non-Executive Director of Vedanta, CEO of Tata Power, former Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation, Chief Economist of Aditya Birla Group, President and CEO of International Council on Mining and Metals, plus many more.

Save 20% off with your in-person and digital passes with code UNGC: [#FTEnergy](https://bitly.cx/TzugX)

FT LIVE

ENERGY TRANSITION SUMMIT India

The leading international gathering on
India's drive to net-zero

16-17 September 2025 | In-Person & Digital
New Delhi | #FTEnergy

[Register now](#)

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Business

- Doconline Health India Private Limited
- Priya Blue Industries Private Limited
- Talin Modular Office Furniture Systems Private Limited
- Palladium Consulting India Private Limited
- Reliable Autotech Pvt Ltd
- Sambodhi Research & Communications Pvt. Ltd.
- GMR Airports Limited
- SONI Intl Jewelry Mfg Co
- Virupaksha Organics Pvt Ltd
- JSW Infrastructure Ltd
- India Impex
- Tianish Laboratories Private Limited
- Rajsha Chemicals Private Limited
- Western Refrigeration Private Limited
- OneSource Specialty Pharma Limited
- Ramratna Wires Limited
- Templeton And Partners India Pvt Ltd
- Brookfield India Real Estate Trust
- Century Enka Limited
- Jay Finechem Private Limited
- VVF India Ltd
- Shiv Om Brass Industries
- Aeronero Solutions Private Limited
- Dalberg Design Private Limited

Non - Business

- Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam
- Project Concern International



Network India

UN GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK INDIA (UN GCNI)

17th Floor, World Trade Tower, Sector 16, Noida 201301

Email us at gcnindia@globalcompact.in

Contact:

Website: <https://globalcompact.in> | [@GCNIndia](https://twitter.com/GCNIndia)