

UN GCNI NEWSLETTER

July 2025 – September 2025



UNGA80 & 25 YEARS OF THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT: FROM VISION TO BOLD ACTION

The 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80), held under the theme “Better Together: 80 Years and More for Peace, Development and Human Rights,” arrives at a pivotal moment to reaffirm global commitment to multilateralism, solidarity, and collective action for people and the planet. This year’s High-Level Week underscores the urgency of delivering on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals.

September 2025 marks not only the historic convening of UNGA80 but also the 25th Anniversary of the UN Global Compact — the world’s largest corporate sustainability initiative. For GCNI, this celebrates 25 years of driving responsible business practices and aligning India Inc. with global sustainability priorities.

At the opening, **UN Secretary-General António Guterres** reminded the world of the true spirit of the United Nations: *“It is alive in the men and women who devote their lives to a better future for all. It is not easy, but decades of wars prevented, children educated, diseases cured, and lives saved tell us one thing: anything and everything is possible when we stand united.”*

According to **Sanda Ojiambo, CEO & Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact**, *“twenty-five years since the founding of the UN Global Compact, more than 20,000 companies across 160 countries are proving that sustainability is not a trade-off between purpose and profit, but the foundation of competitiveness, resilience, and growth. Through our Forward Faster initiative, companies are already committing to climate, gender equality, living wages, water resilience, and sustainable finance — with over \$31 billion in SDG-aligned investment reported to date. At this year’s United Nations Private Sector Forum, convened by the Secretary-General, we focused on one urgent question: how to accelerate private capital*

toward sustainable and inclusive growth. The business case is clear — inaction already costs billions annually, while sustainable investments could unlock \$10 trillion in opportunities and 400 million jobs by 2030".



At the UN Global Compact Hub, participants can expect high-impact sessions on supply chains, human rights, finance, and climate action; dynamic networking opportunities at the Connection Café; and flexible spaces to connect, collaborate, or recharge.

Ratnesh, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network India, added: *"As the UN Global Compact and Network India together complete 25 years, this moment is not just about celebration but about reaffirming our collective resolve to move from vision to action. India's leadership in sustainable development is stronger than ever, and we are proud to bring the voice of Indian business to this global dialogue."*

FORWARD FASTER: TWO YEARS ON — HOW INDIAN BUSINESSES ARE RESPONDING



As the UN Global Compact's Forward Faster initiative completes two years, most of the 64 listed Indian companies have committed to at least one target, demonstrating that sustainability is becoming central to business strategy.

- **Gender Equality & Living Wage:** Widely adopted across pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, and diversified sectors, highlighting India's focus on inclusive and fair workplaces.
- **Climate Action:** Strong uptake in energy, aerospace, and chemicals, with companies advancing renewable energy, carbon reduction, and green innovation.
- **Water Resilience:** While less widely adopted by the listed companies, it represents a tremendous opportunity for companies to lead on India's water challenges. Many are beginning to integrate innovative water sustainability practices into their commitments.
- **Sustainable Finance:** Gaining steady traction, as companies increasingly recognize the potential of ESG-aligned financing. Growing adoption is paving the way for mainstreaming responsible investment across the private sector.

Sectoral Insights

- Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology companies show strong commitments to gender equality and living wages — aligning with their human-centric missions.
- Energy & Infrastructure players are more active in climate action, though not all have aligned with water resilience or finance targets.
- Diversified Conglomerates are balancing across multiple areas, with a noticeable tilt towards gender and wage equity.
- Technology & Aerospace firms are experimenting with newer commitments like climate innovation and sustainable finance.

PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT TREND

The past quarter has been marked by robust growth and deepening engagement across the UN Global Compact Network India community.

Growth Trends Q3 Highlights:

Q3 highlights the collective strength and momentum of our network:

- **New Joiners:** The network continues to expand at a remarkable pace, with new members increasing by 44% this quarter.
- **SMEs¹:** Demonstrating exceptional engagement, SMEs grew by 84.4% this quarter, setting the pace for the network's continued expansion.
- **Companies²:** Participation remains steady at 21%, providing a strong and stable foundation for growth.

Sectoral Growth Highlights:

The network is expanding across diverse industries, with strongest growth in Chemicals, Healthcare, Technology, and Industrial Goods & Services.

Regional Footprint:

- **Metro Hubs:** Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, with Mumbai leading in participation.
- **Emerging Regions:** Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across Central (Madhya Pradesh), East (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal), South (Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka), North (Punjab, UP, Haryana), and West (Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra) are showing increasing momentum.

Nature of Engagement:

A strong majority of Indian companies are actively reporting on their sustainability commitments: 82.3% have published their CoP, of which 79.6% completed the digital CoP questionnaire.

Key Publications & Events:

- 2024 CoP Insights

The 2024 Communication on Progress (CoP) Insights Report is now live on the UN Global Compact website. The report offers valuable insights into the progress, challenges, and opportunities that businesses and stakeholders are experiencing in advancing sustainability through the CoP framework.

- To read the 2024 CoP Insights Report [Register here](#)
- For inquiries: cop-support@unglobalcompact.org

¹¹ **Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME):** A company with fewer than 250 employees.

² **Company:** A legal entity (such as a corporation or partnership) with **250 or more full-time employees**, or any **state-owned company**.

- Upcoming Engagements:
 - Next Office Hours on CoP on November 5, 2025. Indian companies. For more information contact, membership@globalcompact.in
- **CoP Submission Window**
- The UN Global Compact CoP submission window for **2025** was **April 1, 2025, to July 31, 2025**.
- Participants who did not submit by **July 31, 2025** were listed as **"non-communicating."**
- Failure to submit a late CoP by December 31, 2025 will result in delisting on January 1, 2026.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Ocean Centres India Stepping Stone towards a Safe & Sustainable Ocean Economy in India



Following its global launch at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice, UN Global Compact Network India officially rolled out the Ocean Centres initiative locally on 10 July 2025 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The event brought together leaders from government, industry, academia, NGOs, and community organisations to advance a safe and sustainable ocean economy.

The Ocean Centres, hosted by the UN Global Compact and supported by the Lloyd's Register Foundation, operate in seven countries, including India, and focus on four key areas: shipping & ports, fishing & aquaculture, offshore renewables, and finance & investment. These centres promote locally led solutions, responsible business practices, and new policies for sustainable ocean economies.

The India launch featured high-level panels on creating a safe and sustainable ocean economy, with participation from Dr. M. Ravichandran, Dr. Vishwapati Trivedi, Shri H.N. Aswath, and other dignitaries. The first workshop was held on 11 September 2025 in Kochi, focusing on challenges in fishing, aquaculture, and shipping.

Ocean Centres India will be hosting a Workshop Series during 2025 to March 2026 across multiple cities to address ocean sustainability and safety, providing a platform for stakeholders to share insights and best practices.

For more details, please contact: raviraj.atrey@globalcompact.in

ESG and Sustainability Leadership Summit 2025

Embedding ESG for Resilient Business and Supply Chains



The UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) hosted the ESG and Sustainability Leadership Summit 2025 in a two-part series on 7th and 20th August at PHD House, Delhi. The Summit brought together senior policymakers, corporate leaders, regulators, academia, and civil society to deliberate on embedding ESG as a strategic imperative for resilience, competitiveness, and long-term value creation.

Key discussions highlighted:

- ESG must move beyond compliance to measurable action.
- Supply chains are critical levers—responsible sourcing, digital traceability, just transitions, and climate-smart logistics.
- Technology (AI, blockchain, analytics) is essential for transparency and credible adoption.
- Sectoral focus: healthcare and hard-to-abate industries like steel.
- Governance, inclusivity, and integrity remain non-negotiable foundations.

Major Highlights:

- Launch of the Theme Paper and Best Practices Compendium on ESG and Sustainability Leadership.

- Release of the UN GCNI–IMT Ghaziabad Study: “Creating Effective ESG Action Plans for Businesses and Supply Chains.”
- A Masterclass on Next-Gen ESG Leaders to prepare youth and professionals for future transformations.

The Summit reinforced UN GCNI’s role in shaping India’s sustainability agenda, with a clear call to action: embedding ESG at the core of business is an imperative for building responsible, resilient, and future-ready enterprises.

Distinguished speakers included representatives from DRDO, SEBI, Ministry of Steel, MoHFW, GMR, TVS Motors, Carlsberg India, Bureau Veritas, ISB Hyderabad, IMT Ghaziabad, BSI, PHDCCI, and UN GCNI.



WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

1. Collaborating for Impact – Western Region Roundtable



On 11 August 2025, the Western Region Roundtable was hosted at Mahindra Group, Mumbai, under the theme “Collaborating for Impact.” The session brought together sustainability leaders from top companies across the Western Region, which represents the largest network within UNGCNI, with over 50% of participants from this region. The event provided a platform to exchange ideas, share best practices, and co-create innovative pathways for impactful sustainability initiatives.

Spotlight presentations by Mr. Badal Balchandani (JSW Steel) and Mr. Ankit Todi (Mahindra Group) showcased exemplary sustainability practices, while strategic dialogues facilitated by Dr. Mritunjay Chaubey (UPL) enabled participants to collectively identify actionable steps to strengthen sustainability performance across industries. A special note of appreciation goes to Team Mahindra for their warm hospitality and for hosting an engaging and seamless event experience.

2. Pre-NDC and Just Transition Virtual Roundtable

In a spirit of shared responsibility and collective vision, UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) and Laudes Foundation embarked on a two-year initiative (2025–2027) to align India’s 2035 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with decarbonization pathways for the cement sector, while embedding the principles of a Just Transition.

The dialogue, held on Tuesday, 30 September 2025, at 10:00 AM IST via Zoom, brought together stakeholders from government, the cement and energy sectors, industry, labour, finance, and civil society to surface key challenges and opportunities for a low-carbon and inclusive cement sector transition. Insights from the discussion directly informed the subsequent in-person Roundtable and helped shape the two-year roadmap.

3. First Governing Council Meeting (2025–2027) & AGM

On 22 July 2025, UNGCNI held the first Governing Council (GC) meeting for the 2025–2027 term along with the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The council meeting set priorities for the new term, reaffirming UNGCNI's commitment to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through bold, responsible, and inclusive business practices. The AGM reviewed progress made in 2024–2025, presented the strategic roadmap for 2026, discussed strategies to accelerate corporate action under #ForwardFaster, and explored ways to strengthen regional networks and thematic interventions.

The combined meetings provided an opportunity for members and council representatives to align on strategic objectives and chart a visionary agenda for the coming years.



UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Collaborating for Impact: Bridging UNGC and Business Action

virtusa



United Nations
Global Compact

25
YEARS



COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT : BRIDGING UNGC AND BUSINESS ACTION



OCTOBER 9, 2025



1500 Hrs. - 1730 Hrs.



VIRTUSA CONSULTING SERVICES LIMITED

2. Regional Convention – West 2025



**FORWARD
FASTER**



United Nations



Building
Our Future
Together



REGIONAL CONVENTION- WEST

**Shaping the Future with ESG, AI and
Innovation**

OCTOBER 10, 2025

0930 Hrs. - 1730 Hrs.

MCA, BKC MUMBAI



3.Pre-COP 30: Towards Climate Resilience and Ecological Integrity, National Priorities for COP 30



SAVE THE DATE

Pre-COP 30

Towards Climate Resilience and Ecological Integrity
National Priorities for COP 30

October 14-15, 2025

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru



4. Ocean Centres Stakeholders' Workshop – Mumbai



HOSTED BY



SUPPORTED BY



Stakeholders Workshop - Mumbai

Stepping Stone Towards a Safe and Sustainable Ocean Economy in India

03 November 2025

Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Mumbai

Strategic Partners



पृथ्वी विज्ञान
मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
EARTH SCIENCES



Institutional Support



Other Partners



5. Business Integrity Conclave 2.0 (IACD 2025)



Business Integrity Conclave 2.0 IACD 2025

Cultivating Integrity in Business & Supply Chains Through Collective Action

**December 9, 2025 | MCA, Mumbai
10:00 AM - 16:30 PM**

#UnitedAgainstCorruption



WELCOMING PARTICIPANTS

A warm welcome to the newest members of the UN GCNI community:

Injotech India Private Limited	Horizon Industrial Parks Private Ltd
Citiustech Healthcare Tech Pvt Ltd	Usha Martin Limited
JSW Energy Limited	Sun Extrusions Pvt Ltd
JSW Steel Ltd	Welspun BAPL Private Limited
Novopor Advanced Science Private Limited	Indic EMS Electronics Pvt Ltd
Global PathFields	GMM Pfaudler Ltd
Sharp Mint Ltd (Formerly Sharp Glosharp House)	Ecoratings Software Solutions Private Limited
SL AP Private Limited	OW Dataleads Private Limited
Talent Tribe Consulting International	Voxco Pigments and Chemicals Pvt Ltd
Falcon Autotech Pvt Ltd	Vassar Labs It Solutions Private Limited
Bharat Gears Limited	Bharti Realty Limited
LEPRO Herbals Pvt Ltd	Birlasoft Limited
Cflo World Limited	Atlantiser Mediatech Private Limited

Consortium for DEWATS Dissemination Society (CDD Society)	Cognitud Sustainability Pvt Ltd
HED Healthcare (P) Ltd	Vestian Global Work Place Services Private Limited
Glochem Industries Pvt Ltd	Eisqr Solutions Private Limited
RoboSpecies Technologies Pvt. Ltd	Resins and Plastics Limited
Inzi Auto Components AN Pvt Ltd	Champion Advanced Materials Pvt Ltd
Tata Nyk Shipping (India) Private Limited	Trayambhu Tech Solutions Private Ltd
Cundall India Private Limited	