

UN GCNI NEWSLETTER

**OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2025
ISSUE**

Esteemed Participants, Valued Partners, and Friends of UN Global Compact Network India,

As we start the new year 2026, I extend warm season's greetings and convey my sincere appreciation for your continued partnership with the UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI). The past year has been marked by purposeful collaboration, steady leadership, and a shared resolve to advance responsible and sustainable business practices across India.

Over the past year, UN GCNI deepened engagement by meeting businesses where they operate. City-level convenings in Surat, Kochi, Pune, and Hyderabad enabled companies to move decisively from commitment to implementation, embedding sustainability within strategy, operations, and organisational culture. Our flagship platforms—including the 20th National Convention in Kolkata, the Regional Convention – West 2025, and the ESG Leadership Summits—demonstrated the power of collective action, advancing critical dialogue on sustainable finance, ESG integration, innovation, and emerging regulatory challenges.

Strengthening business integrity and governance remained a core priority. Through targeted MSME outreach, sectoral collective action in healthcare, and the launch of the Consensus Framework Primer for Healthcare, UN GCNI advanced scalable, trust-based governance models. In parallel, initiatives under the Centre for Business Leadership on Nature Restoration, Ocean Centre India, and work on India's Nationally Determined Contributions, Just Transition pathways for the cement sector, and responsible value chains reinforced sustainability, climate, and nature as strategic business imperatives. These efforts, undertaken in partnership with organisations such as the International Labour Organization and the Laudes Foundation, are closely aligned with the Forward Faster priorities.

As we look ahead in 2026, our focus remains clear:
to go deeper by strengthening engagement, capacity, and governance; and
to go better by driving measurable, scalable, and systemic impact across India's business ecosystem. With continued collaboration and shared commitment, we are well positioned to shape a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future.

With warm regards,
Ratnesh
Executive Director
UN Global Compact Network India

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS



REGIONAL OUTREACH & PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT

As a result, The period saw tangible progress in expanding the participant base, onboarding new organisations while strengthening engagement with existing members through a structured engagement matrix and systematic feedback mechanisms. Internally, operational processes were strengthened through improved data integration and tracking, enhancing coordination and pipeline visibility.

These efforts collectively reinforce UN GCNI's long-term strategy to scale participation across India and engage 1,000 organisations nationwide, while strengthening the Participant Engagement function's role in delivering sustained, regionally anchored, and measurable impact through a clearly defined 2026 outreach roadmap.

The Participant Relations (PE) function focused on strengthening regional presence and deepening engagement with existing and prospective participants, aligned with the theme "Collaborating for Impact: Bridging UNGC and Business Action."

Through 30+ targeted city-level engagements, the Network enhanced awareness of the UNGC's Ten Principles and SDG alignment, while fostering meaningful dialogue on translating global commitments into organisation-level action.

CLIMATE, NATURE AND POLICY PLATFORMS

UN GCNI advanced climate resilience and nature-positive business action through a series of targeted convenings and capacity-building initiatives in 2025. The Pre-COP 30 platform was co-organised as a national-level dialogue bringing together policymakers, academia, business leaders, and government representatives to help shape India's climate priorities ahead of COP 30, with a strong emphasis on climate resilience, ecological integrity, and restoration-led national action.

This was complemented by a Corporate Training on Water Stewardship for ESG and CSR Leaders delivered in partnership with Hindalco Industries, which strengthened corporate capacity on integrated water stewardship, biodiversity linkages, ESG/BRSR reporting, and locally grounded water solutions.

OCEAN CENTRES INDIA INITIATIVE

UN GCNI convened stakeholders' workshops in three key regions to advance structured, multi-stakeholder dialogue on India's emerging ocean economy. The workshops contributed to strengthening discourse on responsible ocean governance, ensuring that offshore renewable expansion is aligned with ecological integrity, community interests, and long-term economic sustainability.

Complementing the national engagements, UN GCNI also participated in the "Unlocking Blue Finance – Global Interactive Dialogue," a global-to-local platform focused on mobilising finance for a safe and sustainable ocean economy. The dialogue facilitated knowledge exchange across regions, linking international financing mechanisms and policy frameworks with India's regional and sectoral priorities.

In collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UN GCNI is hosting Responsible Business Conduct (CSR to RBC) Capacity Building Workshops for enterprises in the automotive and electronics sectors. The workshops reinforce a strategic shift from compliance-driven CSR towards leadership-led Responsible Business Conduct, anchored in the UN Global Compact's Protect, Respect, and Remedy framework, while strengthening corporate understanding of human rights due diligence, ethical supply chains, and responsible business practices aligned with evolving regulatory and market expectations.

ANNUAL EVENTS



20TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 20th National Convention of UN Global Compact Network India, commemorating 25 years of UN GCNI, was held on 12 December 2025 in Kolkata, marking a defining milestone in the Network's journey. Convened with Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. as the Title Partner, the Convention brought together nearly 600 participants from business, government, financial institutions, civil society, and thought leadership platforms, underscoring UN GCNI's role as one of India's most significant conveners on responsible and sustainable business.

The Convention was designed to elevate the national discourse on sustainable finance, equity, and climate-aligned capital, at a moment when India's growth trajectory and global sustainability commitments are increasingly interlinked.

A key outcome of the Convention was the launch of a Compendium integrating private sector insights with findings from a nationwide public survey. This compendium serves as a lasting knowledge and action framework—bridging perspectives from business, citizens, and policymakers—to inform future business strategy, strengthen policy dialogue, and guide the alignment of capital with India's sustainability priorities.



Through high-level plenaries and multi-stakeholder dialogues, the convening examined how financial systems, policy frameworks, and corporate strategies must evolve to support a just, inclusive, and climate-resilient transition, while reinforcing trust, accountability, and long-term value creation. The discussions highlighted the responsibility of business and finance to move beyond compliance and incremental action towards intentional capital alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.

REGIONAL CONVENTION – WESTERN REGION SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH ESG, AI & INNOVATION

The Regional Convention – Western Region, held on 10 October 2025 in Mumbai, convened over 300 participants, including business leaders, innovators, youth, and sustainability practitioners, to advance a future-oriented ESG dialogue integrating artificial intelligence, innovation, and human-centric solutions.

The Convention with Growlity India as the Knowledge partner reinforced the Forward Faster mission by moving ESG conversations beyond intent towards measurable, technology-enabled action, accelerating progress on the SDGs. A unique feature of the Convention was the "Beyond the Classroom – ESG Tech Lab: A Workshop for Impactful Innovation," which provided a hands-on, experiential platform for participants to co-create practical, tech-enabled sustainability solutions. Together, these engagements strengthened regional leadership and collaboration ecosystems, fostering scalable and action-oriented ESG outcomes.

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY (IACD) 2025 COMMEMORATION AND SECOND BUSINESS INTEGRITY CONCLAVE

Held on 9 December 2025 in Mumbai, the 2nd Business Integrity Conclave convened over 120 stakeholders from business, government, academia, and civil society, with strong participation from UN GCNI members, large enterprises, and MSMEs representing diverse sectors across India. The Conclave reinforced UN Global Compact Network India's leadership in advancing business integrity and anti-corruption, strengthening alignment with the UNCAC, the UN Global Compact Principles, and SDG 16, while promoting collective action and ethical governance practices.

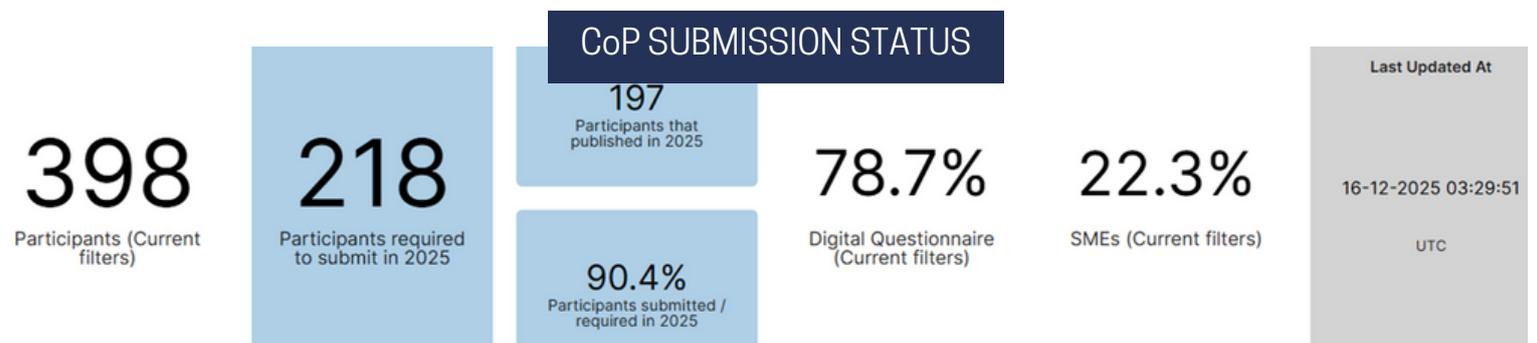
A key milestone was the formal launch and signing of 'SEHAT' (Strengthening Ethical Healthcare Alliance for Transparency)—a Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration in India's healthcare sector—marking a significant step towards institutionalizing integrity-driven, multi-stakeholder engagement. The event further established the Business Integrity Conclave as an annual International Anti-Corruption Day platform, enabling sustained corporate engagement on integrity and compliance and reinforcing the continuity and impact of UN GCNI's Anti-Corruption and Business Integrity (ACCA) programme.

REGIONAL OUTREACH & PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT

During this period, the Participant Relations function played a critical role in advancing UN GCNI's mandate by strengthening regional outreach and deepening engagement with both existing and prospective participants, in alignment with the theme "Collaborating for Impact: Bridging UN Global Compact Principles and Business Action." The focus moved decisively beyond outreach to building meaningful, action-oriented relationships that support companies in translating the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals into measurable business practices.

The Participant Engagement efforts generated measurable and tangible impact, contributing both to network growth and to deeper, more strategic engagement with existing participants. UN GCNI successfully onboarded **seven** new participant organisations across priority geographies—Hyderabad, Kerala, Surat, and Pune—enhancing the Network's regional representation and sectoral diversity, and expanding its reach into emerging business ecosystems.

In parallel, engagement with existing participants was significantly deepened through targeted and structured interactions with organisations including Matrix Pharmacorp, Maithri Aquatech, Birlasoft, Rohan Builders, and Suzlon Energy Limited. More importantly, it deepened participant trust, improved retention, and positioned UN GCNI as a more engaged, responsive, and impact-oriented Network, capable of supporting Indian businesses at different stages of their sustainability journey.



UPCOMNG CONVENINGS

Collectively, these initiatives advance UN GCNI's strategic objective of engaging 1,000 participant organisations nationwide, while establishing a robust and scalable foundation for expanded outreach in 2026. Building on strengthened regional presence, improved engagement processes, and growing participant trust, UN GCNI will translate this momentum into action through 10 targeted Participant Engagement (PE) engagements, 2 Inter-Country Network webinars to foster cross-regional learning and global alignment, and 4 Open House sessions delivered in collaboration with the Global Compact Office. Together, these platforms will support participant onboarding, deepen existing relationships, and reinforce alignment with global sustainability priorities.

Participant expectations in the current year increasingly centre on practical guidance, policy relevance, peer learning, and demonstrable outcomes across priority sustainability areas. In response, UN GCNI's engagement strategy is being deliberately aligned to deliver greater clarity, depth, and measurable value, shifting from awareness-raising to action-oriented support. Through structured dialogues, thematic learning platforms, and closer integration with UN Global Compact global priorities, UN GCNI will enable participants to translate commitments into implementation, strengthen reporting and accountability, and navigate evolving regulatory and market expectations. This approach ensures that participant engagement in the year ahead remains strategically focused, demand-driven, and fully aligned with UN GCNI's institutional objectives, reinforcing the Network's role as a trusted partner in advancing responsible business practices at scale.

CLIMATE, NATURE & POLICY PLATFORMS

OCEAN CENTRES INDIA

Between October and December 2025, UN GCNI advanced the Ocean Centres India initiative through a series of strategic dialogues and regional engagements focused on strengthening India's safe and sustainable ocean economy. Stakeholders' Workshops were convened in Mumbai (3 November 2025) and Chennai (28 November 2025), bringing together government, industry, academia, and civil society to address offshore renewables, marine spatial planning, and social and environmental considerations. This period also included the Cross-Country Workshop on "Unlocking Blue Finance" (3 December 2025), which linked global financing mechanisms with regional priorities, and participation in the ISWAN Conference in Mumbai (17 December 2025). The quarter concluded with a Stakeholders' Workshop in Bhubaneswar (19 December 2025), expanding regional outreach and reinforcing multi-stakeholder dialogue on ocean governance, safety, and sustainability.

Building on this momentum, Ocean Centres India will continue to scale its engagement through upcoming regional and national platforms aimed at deepening stakeholder collaboration across India's coastal and maritime sectors. The next phase will focus on expanding stakeholder workshops across additional geographies, strengthening dialogue on offshore renewable energy, blue finance, safety, and governance, and translating learning into actionable pathways that support India's blue economy ambitions.



BIODIVERSITY

Between October and November 2025, UN GCNI advanced climate and nature-focused action through a series of national and capacity-building platforms. The Pre-COP 30: Towards Climate Resilience and Ecological Integrity convening (14–15 October 2025, IISc Bengaluru) was co-organised as a national-level dialogue bringing together policymakers, academia, business, and government to help shape India's climate priorities ahead of COP 30, with a strong emphasis on resilience, ecological restoration, and national climate action. This was complemented by a Corporate Training on Water Stewardship for ESG and CSR Leaders (18–19 November 2025, Odisha), delivered in partnership with Hindalco Industries, which strengthened corporate capacity on integrated water stewardship, biodiversity linkages, ESG/BRSR reporting, and locally anchored water solutions. Additionally, the UN GCNI Knowledge Series on Business and Biodiversity – Episode 3 (4 November 2025) featured corporate leadership insights on biodiversity action and ESG integration, reinforcing peer learning and practical, on-ground conservation approaches.

Building on this momentum, UN GCNI, in collaboration with JSW Sambalpur, will organise a One-Day Corporate Training Programme on "Achieving Sustainability through Water Conservation" on 20 January 2026 at the JSW BPSL Campus, Sambalpur, Odisha followed by Training Programme on Business and Biodiversity Organised by Center for Business Leadership on Nature Restoration, UNGCNI, supported by TVS Motor Company between 28-29 January 2026.

TVS

UN GLOBAL COMPACT
Network India

**UN Global Compact Network India
Training Programme on
'Business and Biodiversity'**

Date: 28 - 29 January 2026
Time: 10:00 AM (Day 1) - 2:00 PM (Day 2)

Venue: TVS Motor Company,
Hosur Campus

Training Fees UN GCNI Members: Rs. 5,000
Non-Members: Rs. 7,500 (includes full access @ networking)

Register: <https://forms.gle/q6wx3xNjdvG9UkmS7>

Supported by TVS Motors and Center for Business Leadership on Nature Restoration, UN GCNI

SUSTAINABILITY IN PARTNERSHIP

FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION

NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDC) IMPLEMENTATION IN INDIA

Supported by the Laudes Foundation, this initiative is designed to advance the effective implementation of India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by enabling structured, evidence-based public-private collaboration within the cement sector—one of India's most emissions-intensive and economically strategic industries. As India prepares its next NDC cycle, the programme responds directly to the global ambition gap identified in recent UNFCCC assessments, as well as to the limited integration of Just Transition considerations within national climate frameworks for hard-to-abate sectors.

Over a two-year engagement period, UN GCNI is convening a targeted ecosystem of stakeholders—including central and state government representatives, cement and energy companies, labour organisations, financial institutions, and civil society—to co-develop sector-specific, investible, and inclusive decarbonisation pathways. The initiative follows a structured engagement model combining virtual technical pre-roundtables with in-person, multi-stakeholder dialogues, aimed at identifying policy enablers, financing instruments, technology readiness needs, and workforce transition strategies tailored to India's cement value chain.

Events Convened:

- Pre-NDCs and Just Transition Virtual Roundtable – 30 September 2025
- NDCs and Just Transition: In-Person Roundtable – 22 December 2025, JSW Cement, Navi Mumbai

Upcoming Events:

- Post-NDCs and Just Transition Virtual Roundtable – February 2026



BUILDING RESPONSIBLE VALUE CHAINS IN INDIA

The Building Responsible Value Chains in Asia – Phase II project is an initiative of the International Labour Organization (ILO), supported by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and implemented across India, Japan, Lao PDR, and Malaysia. The India component of the project (2024–2026) focuses on advancing responsible and sustainable business conduct within the electronics and automobile manufacturing sectors, two highly globalised and strategically important value chains that play a significant role in India's industrial growth, employment generation, and integration into global markets.

Implemented in partnership with UN GCNI, the project aims to strengthen enterprise-level capacity to systematically embed Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) and Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) into core business operations and supply chain governance. The initiative supports companies in moving beyond compliance-oriented approaches by strengthening adherence to national labour legislation and aligning business practices with international labour standards, including the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the ILO Tripartite Declaration concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy. Particular emphasis is placed on risk-based due diligence, supplier engagement, and the integration of human rights considerations across procurement and operational decision-making.

Events Convened:

- From CSR to RBC: Navigating the New Business Responsibility Landscape – Capacity-Building Workshop for the electronics and automobile manufacturing sectors, 24 November 2025, Noida

Upcoming Events:

- From CSR to RBC: Navigating the New Business Responsibility Landscape – Capacity-Building Workshop, 23 January 2026, Ahmedabad
- From CSR to RBC: Navigating the New Business Responsibility Landscape – Capacity-Building Workshop, February 2026, Bengaluru



WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

- Deepak Novochem Technologies Ltd
- GCBC Vaccines Private Limited
- Bajaj Healthcare Ltd
- Honour Lab Limited
- Coforge Limited
- Schevaran Laboratories Pvt Ltd
- Rossari Biotech Limited
- Micob Private Limited
- Desicrew Solutions Private Limited
- Efficient Plastech Private Limited



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