Network India

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK 2026

"Probity for Prosperity"

WEBINAR

Expert Dialogue: Advancing Vigilance, Climate Accountability, Sustainable Finance and Circularity for Prosperity



Date: Sunday, 1 November 2026
Time: 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM IST
Mode: Virtual Webinar | Zoom

Organised by:
United Nations Global Compact Network India (UNGCNI)

In Collaboration With:
ImpleMentors | QAccess Education and Wellness LLP

HUMAN RIGHTS LABOUR ENVIRONMENT ANTI-CORRUPTION

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Background and Overview

On the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026, observed under the official theme "Probity for Prosperity," the United Nations Global Compact Network India (UNGCNI), in collaboration with ImpleMentors and QAccess Education and Wellness LLP, organised an expert dialogue titled "Advancing Vigilance, Climate Accountability, Sustainable Finance and Circularity for Prosperity" on 1 November 2026.
The webinar brought together experts from academia, public policy and youth development to deliberate on the role of responsible governance, climate accountability, sustainable finance, environmental stewardship and circularity in advancing sustainable development.

The discussion highlighted that environmental responsibility must extend beyond institutional commitments and regulatory compliance. It requires timely climate action, evidence-based policymaking, investment in research and development, responsible resource consumption, effective waste management and greater participation from businesses, educational institutions and individuals.

The dialogue reinforced the relevance of the Vigilance Awareness Week theme by connecting probity with transparency, accountability and responsible decision-making in the context of climate action and sustainable prosperity.

2. Objectives of the Dialogue

The webinar aimed to:

- Examine the importance of climate accountability and responsible environmental governance.
- Explore the role of sustainable finance in supporting India's climate transition.
- Highlight the need for stronger investment in climate and environmental research and development.
- Discuss circular economy approaches, resource efficiency and responsible plastic waste management.
- Encourage individual awareness, youth participation and climate education.
- Promote transparency, accountability and responsible practices across institutions and businesses.

3**. Expert Panel**

Moderator
Dr. Somnath Singh
Deputy Director – HR, Finance and Programmes
United Nations Global Compact Network India (UNGCNI)
Panellists

- Mr. Rahul Menon – Chief Advisor, ImpleMentors
- Dr. Atrayee Choudhury – Assistant Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP)
- Mr. Sourav Saha – Doctoral Researcher, Department of Sociology, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence

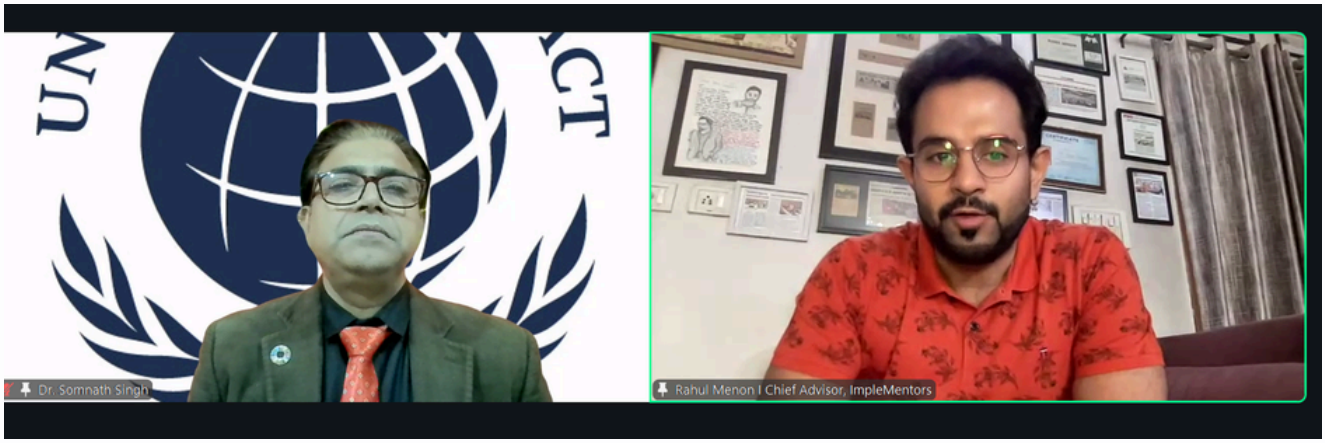
"Probity is the foundation of trust, accountability is the strength of governance, and transparency is the pathway to sustainable prosperity."

Key Discussion Highlights4.1 Moving from Climate Commitments to Immediate Action

Mr. Rahul Menon – Chief Advisor, ImpleMentors

Mr. Rahul Menon emphasised the urgency of moving beyond long-term climate commitments towards immediate, measurable and result-oriented climate action. During the discussion, he questioned the tendency to place significant emphasis on distant target years, including 2070, highlighting that climate action cannot be postponed or viewed merely through the lens of future commitments. He stressed that the real challenge lies in identifying what governments, businesses, institutions and individuals can do today to address the growing environmental challenges.

He underlined the importance of translating climate ambitions into practical interventions, supported by individual responsibility, institutional commitment and collective participation. According to his perspective, meaningful progress requires continuous action rather than waiting for a predetermined target year. Businesses and institutions must take ownership of their environmental footprint and integrate climate considerations into their everyday operations, planning and decision-making.



Key Insights:

- Climate action must be immediate, measurable and continuous rather than limited to long-term commitments.
- National and organisational climate targets should be supported by short-term implementation plans and clearly defined milestones.
- Businesses and institutions must take greater responsibility for reducing their environmental footprint.
- Individual awareness, behavioural change and collective participation are essential to addressing climate challenges.
- The focus should shift from announcing commitments to demonstrating measurable progress and tangible outcomes

Key Discussion Highlights

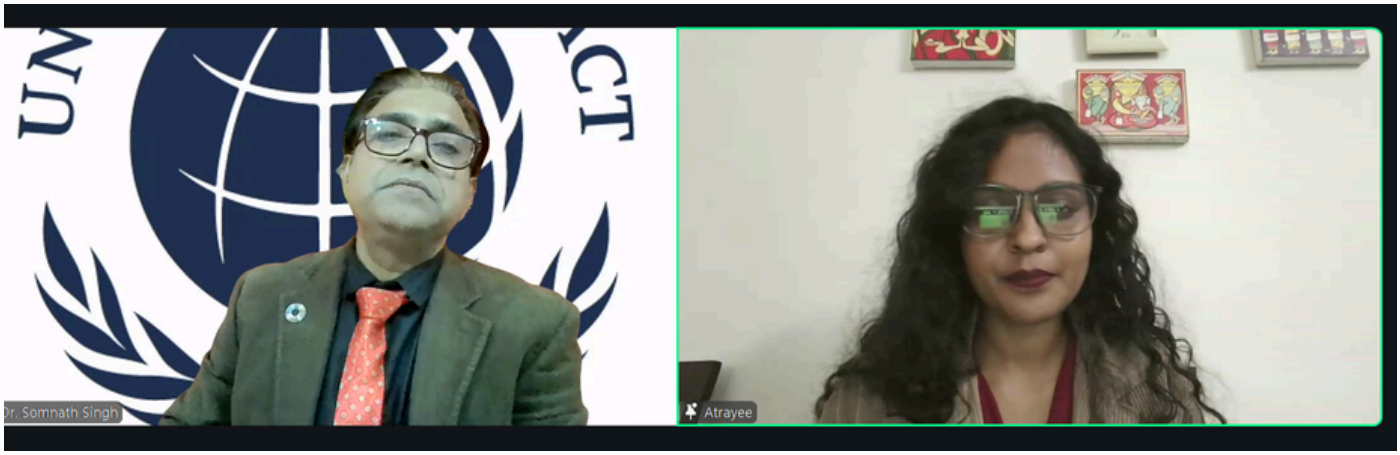
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4.2 Strengthening Climate Research, Data Availability and Sustainable Finance
Dr. Atrayee Choudhury – Assistant Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP)

Dr. Atrayee Choudhury brought a public finance and economic policy perspective to the discussion, highlighting the importance of reliable data, research and adequate financial investment in addressing climate and environmental challenges. She drew attention to the gaps in available data and the limitations these create for understanding environmental issues, designing effective policies and evaluating the outcomes of climate interventions.

She emphasised that stronger investment in research and development is essential to building the evidence base required for informed policymaking. Climate and environmental research needs sustained financial support to generate reliable data, encourage innovation and strengthen institutional capacity. She also highlighted the importance of connecting financial governance with environmental sustainability, ensuring that investments and public resources contribute to meaningful and measurable outcomes.

Her observations reinforced that sustainable finance should not be limited to funding implementation alone; it must also support research, knowledge generation and the development of evidence-based solutions.



Key Insights:

- Data gaps and limited availability of reliable information can constrain effective climate policymaking.
- Greater investment in climate and environmental research and development is required.
- Public and private financial institutions should strengthen funding support for research, innovation and knowledge generation.
- Evidence-based policymaking depends on credible data, research and institutional capacity.
- Financial governance and resource allocation should be aligned with measurable environmental and sustainability outcomes.

Key Discussion Highlights

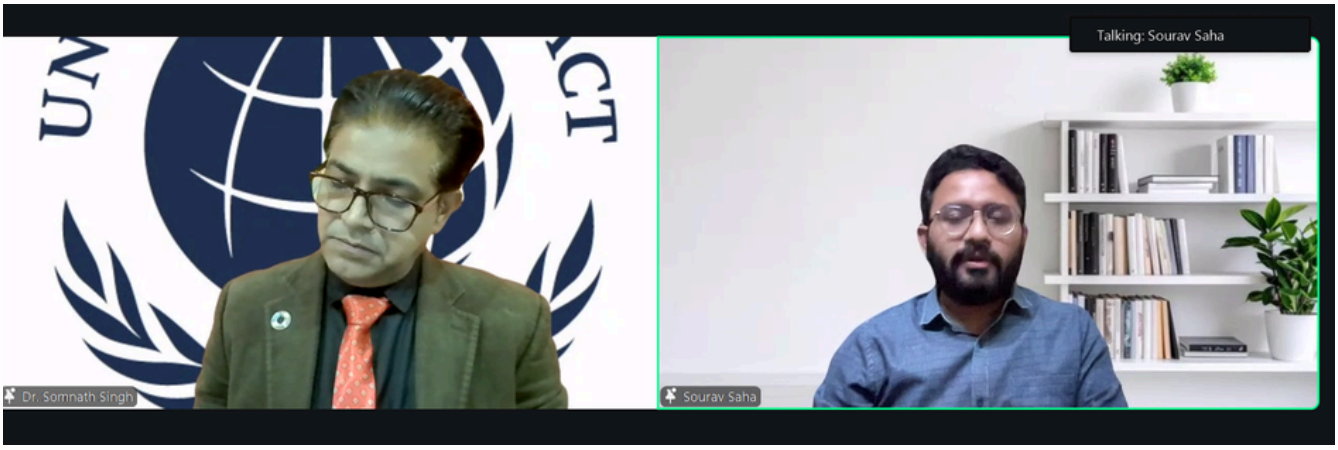
4.3 Individual Awareness, Youth Engagement and Climate Education

Mr. Sourav Saha – Doctoral Researcher, Department of Sociology, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence

Mr. Sourav Saha highlighted the importance of individual awareness and the role of students and educational institutions in building a more environmentally conscious society. He emphasised that climate action should not remain confined to government policies, corporate strategies or institutional commitments. It must also become part of everyday social behaviour and individual decision-making.

He drew attention to the potential of students and young people as important contributors to environmental awareness and action. Educational institutions can play a transformative role by introducing students to climate challenges, environmental responsibility and practical sustainability measures from an early age.

He particularly emphasised the need to incorporate climate action measures and environmental awareness into school curricula. Moving beyond theoretical learning, students should be encouraged to understand local environmental challenges and participate in practical initiatives that promote responsible consumption, waste reduction and environmental protection.



Key Insights:

- Individual awareness and responsible behavioural practices are important foundations of climate action.
- Students and young people should be encouraged to participate in environmental initiatives and community-level action.
- Climate change and environmental sustainability should receive greater attention within school curricula.
- Educational institutions should complement classroom learning with practical environmental activities.
- Building awareness among children and young people can contribute to long-term behavioural change and a culture of environmental responsibility.

Key Discussion Highlights

4.4 Moderation and Observations: Connecting Climate Accountability with Sustainable Prosperity
Dr. Somnath Singh – Deputy Director, HR, Finance and Programmes, UN Global Compact Network India

As moderator, Dr. Somnath Singh facilitated the discussion by bringing together perspectives on climate action, public finance, research, individual responsibility and environmental sustainability. He provided a platform for the panellists to examine how accountability and responsible decision-making can contribute to addressing interconnected climate and environmental challenges.

The discussion reflected the importance of viewing climate action as a shared responsibility involving businesses, policymakers, financial institutions, academic organisations, educational institutions and citizens. The exchange of perspectives also highlighted that climate commitments need to be supported by credible data, adequate financing, institutional accountability and greater public awareness.

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Key Observations:

- Climate accountability requires coordinated action across businesses, institutions, policymakers and communities.
- Reliable data, research and sustainable financing are important enablers of effective environmental action.
- Environmental responsibility must be reflected in institutional governance and everyday operational practices.
- Circularity, resource efficiency and responsible waste management are essential to sustainable development.
- Education, awareness and stakeholder participation can strengthen long-term environmental responsibility.
- The transition towards sustainable prosperity requires a shift from commitments and compliance towards implementation, transparency and measurable outcomes.

Key Discussion Highlights

4.5 Advancing Circularity and Responsible Plastic Waste Management

The dialogue highlighted the importance of circularity and responsible plastic waste management as essential components of environmental stewardship and sustainable prosperity. Moving towards a circular economy requires a transition from the conventional linear model of production, consumption and disposal to an approach that prioritises waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and resource recovery.

During the discussion, **Dr. Somnath Singh emphasised the importance of UNGCNI's ongoing engagement in plastic waste management, particularly through its collaboration with UFLEX under the "Litter to Livelihood" project**. He highlighted the relevance of bringing together corporate participation, institutional collaboration and community-level interventions to strengthen sustainable waste management practices.

The "Litter to Livelihood" project, supported by UFLEX and implemented by UNGCNI, reflects this approach by focusing on strengthening waste management systems, promoting stakeholder collaboration and supporting the formalisation and inclusion of waste pickers. The initiative seeks to connect environmental sustainability with livelihood opportunities through improved waste management practices and greater engagement with relevant stakeholders.



The discussion further reinforced that effective plastic waste management requires coordinated action across the entire value chain. Businesses must strengthen responsible material use, reduce unnecessary plastic consumption, improve packaging practices and adopt resource-efficient production processes. Equally important are effective waste segregation at source, improved collection systems, recycling infrastructure and responsible material recovery.

Collaboration among businesses, government authorities, waste management agencies, recyclers, civil society organisations, communities and waste workers remains essential to building an inclusive and effective circular economy. The discussion positioned initiatives such as Litter to Livelihood as an important example of translating the principles of circularity into practical interventions.

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Major Themes Emerging from the Dialogue

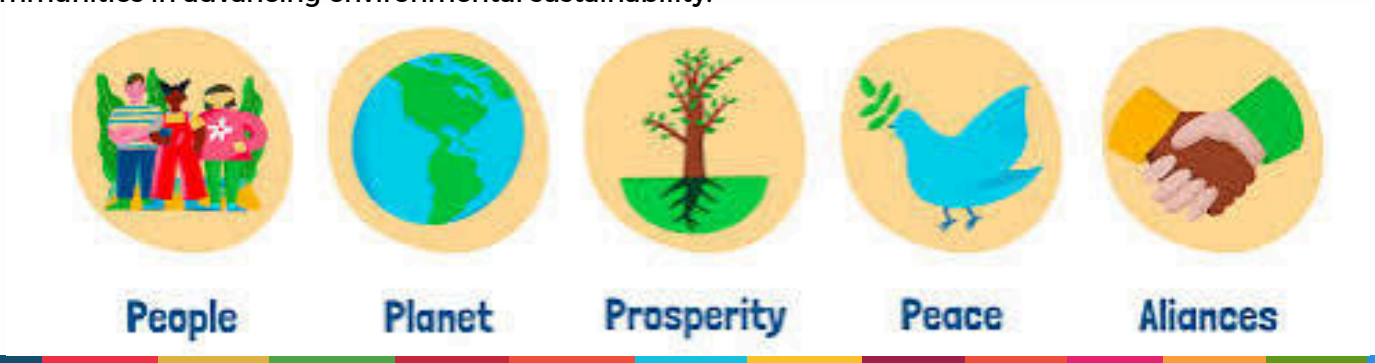
1. Immediate Climate Action
Moving beyond distant commitments towards timely, measurable and accountable climate interventions.
2. Research and Development
Increasing investment in climate and environmental research to address knowledge gaps and support evidence-based decisions.
3. Data and Transparency
Improving the availability and reliability of environmental data for effective planning, monitoring and accountability.
4. Circularity and Plastic Waste Management
Promoting resource efficiency, waste reduction, recycling and responsible production and consumption practices.
5. Individual and Institutional Responsibility
Encouraging businesses, institutions and citizens to adopt responsible environmental practices.
6. Climate Education and Youth Engagement
Integrating environmental awareness and practical climate action into educational systems to empower future generations.

Key Outcomes and Way Forward

The dialogue reinforced that sustainable prosperity requires coordinated action across policy, finance, research, business practices, education and individual behaviour.

The following priorities emerged:

- Strengthen climate accountability: Translate long-term climate commitments into measurable short-term actions.
- Increase research investment: Mobilise greater financial resources for climate and environmental research and development.
- Address data gaps: Improve environmental data collection, accessibility and quality.
- Accelerate circularity: Encourage businesses to adopt resource-efficient production systems and circular business models.
- Improve plastic waste management: Strengthen segregation, collection, recycling and responsible disposal systems.
- Promote responsible business practices: Integrate environmental considerations into business operations and value chains.
- Strengthen climate education: Integrate environmental awareness and practical climate action into school curricula.
- Encourage collective participation: Engage businesses, government institutions, academia, students and communities in advancing environmental sustainability.



Closing Reflections

The expert dialogue concluded with a shared recognition that sustainable prosperity requires more than commitments and declarations. It demands transparency in decision-making, accountability in implementation, investment in knowledge and research, responsible management of resources and active participation from all sections of society.

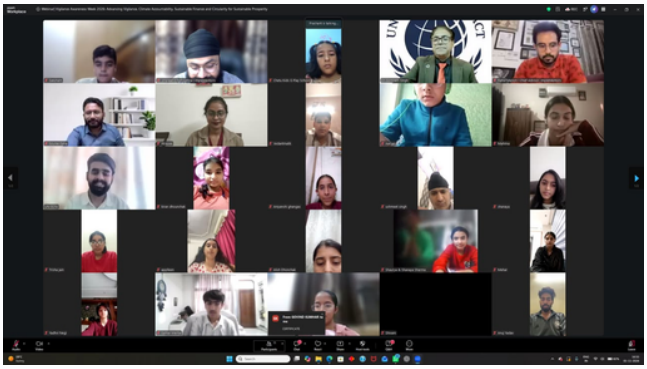
The discussions highlighted that vigilance in the context of sustainability must extend to how institutions manage environmental responsibilities, how businesses use resources, how public and private finance supports climate action and how individuals contribute to a sustainable future.
As the world continues to face interconnected climate and environmental challenges, the transition towards sustainable prosperity must be driven by practical action, responsible governance and collective commitment.

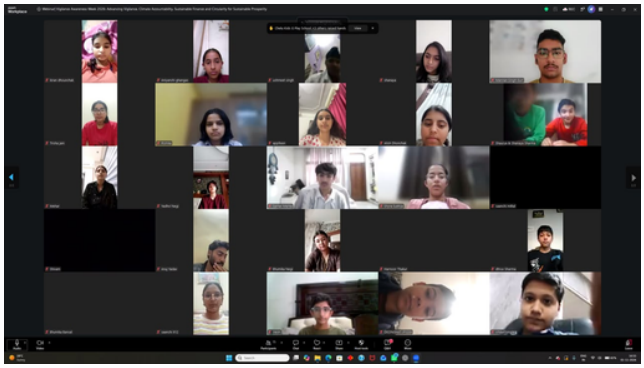
From Commitments to Action. From Awareness to Accountability. From Linear Consumption to Circularity.

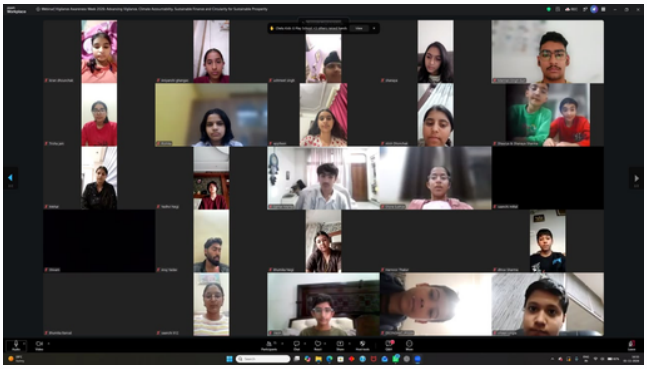


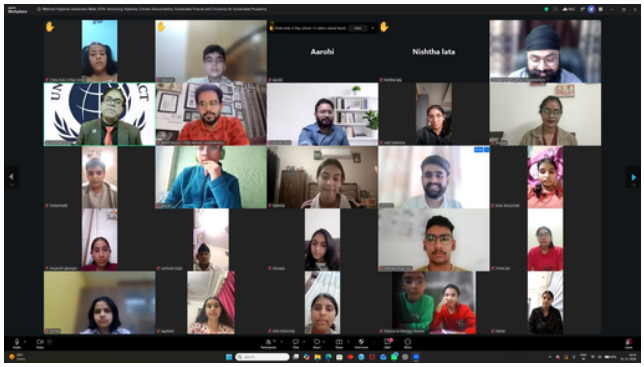
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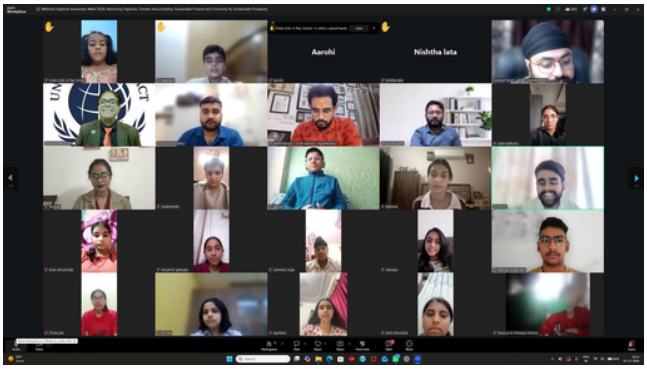
Participation

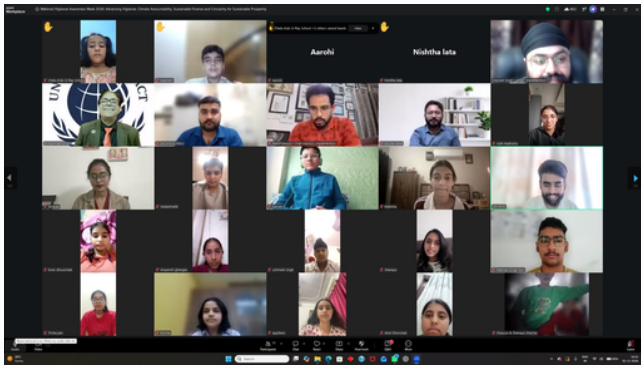












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Thank you Partners

ImpleMentors is a youth-led organisation committed to the holistic development of students through academic mentorship, leadership training, policy education and skill-building initiatives. With a vision to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application, the organisation equips young people with the knowledge, confidence and capabilities to engage with contemporary global challenges.

ImpleMentors has collaborated with organisations including the UNCCD Youth Caucus, UN SDSN Youth Nigeria and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), South Asia Office, to deliver certificate programmes, academic training and educational initiatives. It has also worked with schools and universities across India and internationally, extending its engagement to students in India and Canada.

Through initiatives such as the Climate Justice Summit (CJS), ImpleMentors creates platforms for young people to explore climate action, sustainability, public policy and governance. Its work seeks to nurture informed, confident and socially responsible individuals equipped to contribute meaningfully to society.

QAccess Education and Wellness LLP works at the intersection of education and well-being, with an emphasis on mental health awareness, emotional resilience and self-empowerment. Its initiatives include engaging students and educators through awareness sessions and creating supportive spaces for conversations around mental well-being and personal development.

Through its focus on education and wellness, QAccess seeks to encourage greater awareness of well-being and support the development of resilient, confident and empowered individuals. Its participation in this webinar reflects a shared interest in fostering informed dialogue, responsible engagement and positive social impact.

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“Choose probity. Uphold accountability. Build sustainable prosperity.”

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About UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI)

As a United Nations Global Compact local arm, Global Compact Network India has been acting as a country-level platform for businesses, civil society organisations, public and private sectors, and aids in aligning stakeholders' responsible practices towards the Ten Universally Accepted Principles of UNGC in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti– corruption and 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other key sister initiatives of the United Nations and its systems. UN GCNI is working hand in hand with the Government of India to balance the three dimensions of Sustainable Development, the economic, social and environmental, to take the UN Agenda of SDGs forward. At present, the Indian Network has a Pan-India membership of over 450 Leading Business and Non-Business Partners.

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