

## JGU-IICA Conclave

on

# Navigating the Present: The Role of ESG Accounting & Auditing for India's Sustainable Development



» Wednesday, 23 April 2025 «

🕒 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM



📍 PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY, PRITHVIRAJ JINDAL ACADEMIC BLOCK (T1),  
O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY, NCR DELHI, SONIPAT - 131001

# Navigating the Present: The Role of ESG Accounting & Auditing for India's Sustainable Development

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks have increasingly come to define the contours of responsible business conduct and sustained value creation. Globally, accounting and auditing for ESG issues has been shaping regulation, redefining corporate purpose and capital markets (WEF, 2025; Friedman, 1970). Similarly, in the Indian context, ESG accounting and reporting has transitioned from a peripheral concept to a policy and investment imperative. The introduction of the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework for the top 1,000 listed entities by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) marks a paradigm shift toward integrated, sustainability-driven disclosures (SEBI, 2021).

This development is further influenced by the goal to create a global baseline of sustainability-related disclosure standards by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB, 2021) underscoring the need for accountability in global trade. As Indian businesses increasingly participate in global value chains and access international capital markets, alignment with such frameworks is no longer optional but of strategic importance.

A central yet contested part of the ESG architecture is the role of ESG ratings and third-party assurance providers. These entities serve as intermediaries in translating unstructured, non-aligned and qualitative sustainability data into quantitative metrics that inform investor decisions. However, criticisms persist regarding methodological opacity, lack of standardization, rating divergence, and limited contextual sensitivity to emerging markets such as India (IFC, 2025; Qiang, 2023; Berg et al., 2022; OECD, 2022). For Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the challenge is further compounded by constraints in data infrastructure, compliance costs, and limited internal capacities.

The concurrent rise of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and big data analytics offers both promise and provocation. These tools can enhance ESG reporting, auditing, accuracy, improve traceability, and enable predictive risk analytics. Yet, they also present governance dilemmas related to data privacy, algorithmic bias, various cost components (preparation, propriety, litigation) and technological access disparities.

Against this backdrop, we aim to foster a multi-stakeholder dialogue through two panel discussions critically examining the evolving ecosystem of ESG auditing and disclosure in India and co-creating inclusive, mutually accountable, and future-ready structures that bridge global ambitions with local realities.

## References:

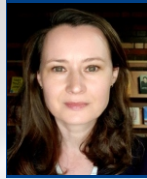
- ▶ Berg, F. et al. (2022). Aggregate Confusion: The Divergence of ESG Ratings. *Review of Finance*, 2022, 1315–1344.
- ▶ Friedman, M. (1970). The Social Responsibility of Business Is to Increase Its Profits. *The New York Times Magazine*, September 13, 1970.
- ▶ IFC (2025). Elevating Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting in Emerging Markets. Handbook. International Finance Corporation. World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- ▶ ISSB (2021). The International Sustainability Standards Board. Frankfurt (M.)
- ▶ OECD (2022). ESG Ratings and Climate Transition: An Assessment of Methodological Gaps. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris.
- ▶ SEBI (2021). Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting by Listed Entities. Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai.
- ▶ WEF (2025). Global Risk Report 2025. World Economic Forum, Geneva.
- ▶ Qiang, C. (2023). Why is ESG so difficult in practice? Understanding the challenges of ESG disclosure. City Perspectives, Singapore Management University.

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

1:00PM-1:45PM — Lunch (Savitri Jindal Faculty Office Block, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor)

## Inaugural Plenary Session

2:00PM-2:05PM



### Opening Address

**Dr. Annika Bose Styczynski**

Professor

Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, JGU

2:05PM-2:10PM



### Welcoming Remarks

**Dr. Dipika Jain**

Professor & Executive Dean

Jindal Global Law School

& Director – Centre for Justice, Law and Society (CJLS)

O.P. Jindal Global University

2:10PM-2:20PM



### Opening Remarks

**Dr. Garima Dadhich**

Head

School of Business Environment, IICA

2:20PM-2:35PM



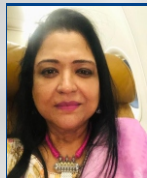
### Special Address

**CMA Manoj Kumar Anand**

Ex-Principal Advisor (Cost)

Government of India, Council Member ICMAI

2:35PM-2:55PM



### Keynote Address

**Ms. Sunita Singh**

IRS, Principal Commissioner Income Tax

Government of India

2:55PM-3:00PM



### Concluding Remarks

**Dr. Pankaj Gupta**

Professor JGLS and

Executive Director (CESM)

O.P. Jindal Global University

PANEL 1: 3:00 – 4.00 PM

## The evolving scenario of ESG Policy, Auditing Practices and Responsible Business in India and beyond

### Distinguished Speakers:



**CA Gaurav Vohra**

Partner  
KPMG



**Mr. Rahul Kapur**

Office Managing Partner  
Grant Thornton Bharat LLP



**Mr. Varun Jain**

Chairman Miles Education  
India & USA



**Ms. Priya Sahu (Ex IRS)**

Consultant  
IFC & World Bank, USA



**Dr. Garima Dadhich**

Head  
School of Business Environment  
IICA



**Ms. Sheetal Sharad**

Chief Ratings Officer  
ICRA ESG Ratings Limited



**CA Ankur Bahel**

Senior Director (Finance) &  
Joint CFO, JGU



**Dr. Pankaj Gupta**

Professor JGLS &  
Executive Director (CESM)  
O.P. Jindal Global University

**Moderator**

4:00 PM – 4:15 PM

Tea break (Big Bang Conference Room)

**JGU-IICA Conclave**

PANEL 2: 4:15 – 5:15PM

## Opportunities and Challenges in ESG Implementation, Technology Integration, and Corporate Readiness

### Distinguished Speakers:



**Mr. Ramendra Verma**

Partner  
Grant Thornton Bharat LLP



**Mr. Arjun Dutta**

Senior Programme Lead, Council on Energy  
Environment and Water (CEEW)  
Centre for Finance



**Ms. Swati Tewari**

Senior Counsellor  
CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for  
Sustainable Development



**Mr. Amitava Banerjee**

Visiting Faculty  
Ethics in Engineering & Business  
decisions at NRCVEE  
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi



**Ms. Jhumki Dutta**

Lead Programmes  
Partners-in-Change



**Ms. Shivangi Vashishta**

Senior Programme Associate  
Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)



**Dr. Annika Bose Styczynski**

Professor  
Jindal School of Government and Public Policy  
O.P. Jindal Global University

### Moderator

**5:15 PM - 5:25 PM**

Open discussion to explore institutional collaboration in research, teaching,  
joint publications, and consultancy activities for corporate sustainability reporting.

**5:25 PM - 5:30 PM**

Closing remarks and conclusion of the event

**JGU-IICA Conclave**