

IICA CERTIFIED ESG PROFESSIONAL IMPACT LEADER PROGRAMME

*Integrating Environment, Social, and
Governance Excellence into Leadership*



MARCH 2026



ABOUT

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) stands at the confluence of governance, sustainability, and corporate transformation. Established under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, IICA serves as the national knowledge and capacity-building hub for corporate regulation, governance, and sustainable enterprise.

Operating as a think-and-do tank, IICA integrates policy research, capacity development, and stakeholder engagement to drive the evolution of India's corporate ecosystem. Its work underpins major policy instruments such as the Companies Act 2013, National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC), and Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Within IICA, the School of Business Environment (SBE) leads India's institutional efforts in ESG, CSR, and Business & Human Rights. The School has played a catalytic role in designing national frameworks, ranging from the Zeroth Draft of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights to advisory inputs for the High-Level Committee on CSR, and continues to shape how enterprises integrate ethics, environment, and equity into the core of business strategy.

Building on this policy pedigree, SBE now presents the IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme, a flagship initiative crafted to empower senior executives and board-level professionals to lead India's ESG transition with strategic depth, regulatory literacy, and global foresight.



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL & CEO, IICA



Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh
Director General & CEO, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, has been entrusted with a unique institutional responsibility, to shape, inform, and strengthen the governance foundations of India's corporate and economic architecture. As the national knowledge and capacity-building institution for corporate affairs, IICA has, over the past decade, supported India's transition towards transparent, accountable, and responsible enterprise through policy research, institutional advisory, and executive leadership development.

Within this mandate, the IICA Certified ESG-Impact Leader Programme, meticulously conceptualised and delivered by the School of Business Environment, has, over the last four years, emerged as a nationally recognised platform for building leadership capability in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) domains. Since its inception, the programme has evolved in close alignment with India's regulatory architecture, including the Companies Act, 2013, the National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC), and the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework, as well as international frameworks. Successive cohorts have comprised senior professionals from leading corporates, financial institutions, advisory firms, and public sector organisations, contributing to a growing institutional legacy of ESG leadership in the country.

Building on this foundation, the Fifth Batch of the IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme represents the next phase of this journey. Positioned as a flagship executive offering of the Institute, the programme has been especially designed to move beyond compliance-orientated understanding towards strategic integration of ESG into enterprise governance, risk management, disclosure, and long-term value creation. The programme draws strength from IICA's unique institutional position, combining policy proximity, global benchmarking, and applied learning, ensuring that programme delivery remains rigorous, current, and outcome-orientated.

This prospectus extends an invitation to senior executives, board-level professionals, and institutional leaders who are directly engaged in shaping organisational strategy and governance outcomes. Participation in this programme reflects a commitment to leadership responsibility in an increasingly complex and sustainability-driven business environment. Through a selective and merit-based process, the programme seeks to curate a cohort of professionals capable of contributing meaningfully to India's evolving ESG and responsible business agenda.

Through this flagship initiative, IICA reaffirms its commitment to supporting India's transition towards resilient, transparent, and future-ready enterprises, in alignment with national priorities and the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047



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MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR



Dr. Garima Dadhich
Associate Professor & Head, School of Business Environment (SBE)
Programme Director, IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme

Across boardrooms and ministries alike, a quiet revolution is underway one where sustainability is redefining strategy, disclosure, and leadership itself. The transition from compliance-based responsibility to purpose-driven governance demands a new cadre of professionals: leaders who can translate ESG principles into measurable, strategic impact.

The IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme is built precisely for this moment. Conceived and delivered by the School of Business Environment (SBE) at IICA, it is designed to nurture leaders capable of steering organisations through the evolving terrain of climate risk, ethical governance, and stakeholder expectations.

What distinguishes this programme is its boardroom orientation and policy depth. While most ESG certifications stop at operational compliance, this course moves decisively into the realm of strategic foresight, disclosure maturity, and leadership accountability. Each module is anchored in practical application supported by case-based learning, peer dialogue, and global benchmarking that reflect India's position in the international ESG ecosystem.

We have envisioned this not as another certificate, but as a transformational journey an opportunity to align professional ambition with national purpose. Our participants are not just learners; they are future architects of India's sustainable business landscape.



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PROGRAMME VISION & OBJECTIVE

VISION

To cultivate a generation of ESG-literate leaders who can drive corporate India's transition from compliance to conscience leaders who embed sustainability into governance, transform disclosures into strategic tools, and align corporate growth with the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

OBJECTIVE

The IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme aims to build advanced strategic capacity among India's senior executives, board members, and ESG heads. Designed as a premium executive certification, the programme empowers participants to:



Through this certification, IICA extends its legacy of policy innovation into executive education bridging India's corporate leadership with global sustainability standards and national policy priorities.

WHY THIS PROGRAMME STANDS APART

In a landscape saturated with short-term sustainability courses and compliance-driven ESG certifications, the IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme stands out as an executive-level transformation experience curated by the Government of India's own institution shaping the country's corporate conduct agenda.

This programme is not designed to train compliance managers; it is built to transform strategic decision-makers. Every element, from its policy grounding to its global pedagogy, reflects IICA's role as the national anchor for responsible business conduct.



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DISTINCTIVE VALUE PROPOSITIONS

1

Leadership Orientation:

Unlike operational ESG programmes that focus on checklists or audits, this certification is boardroom-facing. It equips CXOs, ESG heads, and independent directors to lead sustainability integration at the enterprise level.

2

Policy & Regulatory Proximity:

As an institute under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, IICA provides participants with firsthand access to evolving regulatory frameworks including SEBI's BRSR Core, MCA-led disclosures, and India's emerging sustainability finance ecosystem.

3

Global Pedagogy:

The curriculum is co-designed with international faculty from Yale, Cornell, and global ESG think tanks, integrating best practices from the EU, US, and Asia-Pacific markets to benchmark Indian corporates against global standards.

4

Applied Executive Learning:

The capstone project and case clinics use live disclosure data from India's top 100 listed companies, ensuring that learning outcomes are measurable, contextual, and directly applicable to participants' organisations.

5

Network & Visibility:

Graduates join the National Association of Impact Leaders (NAIL), a curated state-of-art and unparalleled hybrid network of India's top ESG professionals, corporate strategists, and policy innovators, offering continuous engagement through IICA's advisory and policy dialogues.

By combining policy insight, global perspective, and leadership practice, this programme positions its participants not as ESG officers, but as ESG visionaries ready to redefine corporate purpose in India and beyond.



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WHO SHOULD APPLY ?

The IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme is purpose-built for senior executives who already influence decision-making at the strategic level and now seek to institutionalise sustainability thinking within their organisations. It is not a general ESG orientation course, it is a leadership immersion designed for those shaping the governance and disclosure agenda of India's largest enterprises.

Ideal Participants

- ▶ CXOs and Board Members of listed and large unlisted companies aiming to strengthen boardroom competence on ESG risk, disclosure, and stakeholder engagement.
- ▶ Heads of ESG, Sustainability, CSR, and Corporate Governance, responsible for integrating sustainability into corporate strategy, investor relations, and enterprise risk frameworks.
- ▶ Partners and Senior Managers from consulting, assurance, or legal firms advising clients on BRSR Core, climate disclosures, or sustainable finance.
- ▶ Institutional Investors, Regulators, and Policymakers seeking advanced insight into corporate ESG integration, valuation, and transition pathways.

Participants in this programme are not learners they are leaders committed to redefining value creation through ethics, environment, and equity. The classroom becomes a strategy lab, where practitioners engage with peers from India's top corporations to craft the next blueprint of responsible business leadership.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

- ➔ The IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme is a six-month hybrid executive certification meticulously designed to combine academic depth, policy proximity, and practical leadership application.
- ➔ It reflects IICA's role as India's institutional engine for responsible business transformation, bringing together government policy, corporate leadership, and international expertise under one learning continuum.
- ➔ Every participant undertakes a structured journey that evolves from foundational insight to strategic integration and culminates in a board-level ESG leadership capstone project.
- ➔ The result: a transformation from informed professionals into ESG-ready enterprise leaders capable of driving organisational change.

PROGRAMME DURATION

Six Months | Hybrid Delivery (Online + In-Person Leadership Lab at IICA)

PROGRAMME FEE

- ₹ 2,10,000 + GST (with option of part payment for individual candidates)
- 10% Discount for enrolment of 3 and more delegates.



COHORT COMPOSITION

The diverse group of delegates per batch, represent listed companies, institutional investors, advisory firms, and government agencies, carefully curated to ensure diversity of experience and peer exchange at a national scale.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

The following subtopics represent the integrated academic and applied scope of the **IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme**.

They are broad thematic anchors designed to balance global benchmarks, national priorities, and practical implementation.

Content is periodically updated to align with emerging ESG regulations and disclosure frameworks.

Module 1

Strategic ESG Leadership

- Evolving corporate purpose, fiduciary duty, and ethical stewardship in the ESG era.
- Board accountability, stakeholder engagement, and integration of ESG into long-term strategy.
- Global frameworks and benchmarks: SEBI BRSR Core, ISSB, CSRD, TCFD, and SBTi.
- ESG leadership case studies from India's top listed companies.

Module 2

Environmental Protection and Rejuvenation

- Environmental regulation, compliance systems, and policy frameworks.
- Climate change mitigation, resource efficiency, and circular economy practices.
- Pollution control, biodiversity conservation, and natural capital management.
- Environmental reporting, assurance, and community preparedness.

Module 3

Social Engagement and Responsibility

- Human rights, labour ethics, and value-chain responsibility.
- CSR and community development as tools for inclusive growth.
- Workforce well-being, DEI integration, and social impact measurement.
- Stakeholder engagement and communication for social performance.

Module 4

Governance and Ethical Oversight

- Corporate governance codes, transparency, and board composition.
- Risk oversight, audit integrity, and anti-corruption mechanisms.
- Role of regulators (MCA, SEBI, NFRA, IBBI) in ESG-linked governance.
- Governance reform and accountability case studies.



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Module 5

NGRBC and Materiality

- Framework and principles of the National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct.
- Mapping linkages between NGRBC, BRSR Core, and global disclosure standards.
- Stakeholder mapping and materiality assessment methodologies.
- Translating NGRBC into actionable corporate policies and disclosures.

Module 6

Capstone Project and IICA Leadership Summit

- Application of programme learnings through an organisation-specific ESG project.
- Integration of ESG frameworks into strategic, operational, and disclosure design.
- Leadership presentation before a national jury of regulators and investors.
- Publication and knowledge-sharing through the IICA ESG Leadership Summit.

Module 7

ESG Evaluation and Reporting

- Key ESG reporting frameworks: BRSR Core, ISSB, CSRD, TCFD, and GRI.
- Data architecture, performance indicators, and comparability across industries.
- External assurance, verification, and investor interpretation.
- Benchmarking of Indian corporate disclosures and best practices.

Module 8

ESG Investing and Sustainable Finance

- ESG investing trends, indices, and rating methodologies.
- Green and sustainability-linked financing instruments.
- Climate and blended finance models for transition projects.
- Linking ESG metrics with financial risk, valuation, and investor relations.

Module 9

ESG Strategy and Transition Planning

- Developing sectoral transition and net-zero pathways.
- Climate scenario analysis, risk assessment, and Just Transition design.
- Policy alignment with India's NDCs and global transition targets.
- Monitoring progress through KPIs and performance dashboards.

Module 10

Social Capital and Human Governance

- Human governance and workforce nutrition frameworks.
- Gender equity, inclusion, and well-being as performance drivers.
- Value-chain equity, supplier due diligence, and community partnership.
- Measuring human capital outcomes through ESG-linked indicators.



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Module 11

Data, AI, and ESG Analytics

- Building digital systems for ESG data collection and assurance.
- AI, machine learning, and blockchain applications in ESG reporting.
- Predictive analytics for environmental and governance risks.
- Data ethics, transparency, and real-time performance monitoring.

Module 12

ESG Engagement and Communication

- Integrated reporting, investor relations, and leadership communication.
- ESG storytelling, media engagement, and reputation management.
- Designing purpose-driven narratives for board and stakeholder alignment.
- Communicating climate, social, and governance impact with credibility.

Module 13

Corporate Case Studies and Way Forward

- National and global ESG leadership journeys and sectoral examples.
- Comparative analysis of disclosure and governance innovation.
- Strategic foresight for ESG-linked competitiveness in India.
- Replicable models for corporate transition and reform.

Note:

This curriculum is dynamic and periodically revised by the School of Business Environment (IICA) to reflect the Indian as well as global policy priorities and the evolving global ESG ecosystem

Building on the success and learnings from four accomplished batches of the IICA ESG Professional Programme, each comprising senior delegates from India's leading corporate houses, the ESG Leadership Certification represents the next evolution in IICA's executive learning architecture.

Where the earlier batches laid the foundation for ESG competency, this new edition elevates the experience to strategic mastery and leadership readiness.

The pedagogy is designed around experiential, policy-connected, and impact-oriented learning, blending the best of academic insight, corporate practice, and peer engagement.



For Registration:

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LEARNING DESIGN

Blended Learning Format

The programme combines live online sessions with in-person immersion at IICA, enabling executives to balance leadership roles with continuous learning. All sessions are hosted on Blackboard Ultra, IICA's state-of-the-art e-LMS platform.

Expert-Led Masterclasses

Each module is delivered through interactive live sessions and dialogues led by global ESG faculty, senior policymakers, and corporate leaders who have shaped India's ESG and sustainability frameworks.

Case-Based Learning

Participants engage with real-world ESG case clinics featuring India's top 100 listed companies analysing disclosures, materiality maps, and strategy transitions across sectors.

Peer Exchange & Networking

With a cohort of senior executives from diverse industries, the programme serves as a national ESG leadership forum for cross-sectoral learning, benchmarking, and collaboration.

Mentored Capstone Project

Each delegate undertakes a live organisational ESG challenge, guided by IICA mentors and evaluated by an expert jury. This ensures that knowledge gained translates into measurable business outcomes.

In-Person Leadership Summit

The journey culminates in the IICA ESG Leadership Summit at the Gurugram campus an exclusive conclave where participants present their capstone projects, interact with regulators and investors, and join India's ESG leadership community.



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ESTEEMED FACULTY

The IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme brings together a multidisciplinary faculty of policy thinkers, corporate pioneers, and ESG specialists who have consistently contributed to India's responsible business landscape.

Each expert is mapped to the programme's thematic modules ensuring conceptual depth, policy literacy, and practice-driven insight at every stage.



Shri. Gyaneshwar Singh
Director General & CEO, IICA



Dr. Garima Dadhich
Associate Professor & Head
School of Business Environment, IICA



Mr. R Mukundan
CEO, TATA Chemicals



Dr. Inderjeet Singh
Partner-ESG, Climate Change
Sustainability Practice in
Financial Advisory
Deloitte India



Dr. Stuart L. Hart
Professor Emeritus
Cornell University



Mr. Shankar Venkateswaran
Adjunct Faculty, IICA
Founding Partner,
SustainAbility India



Mr. Vimal Bhattar
DGM, SEBI



Dr. Aditya Gupta
COO, Supply Chain
Management Centre,
IIM Bangalore



Mr. Santosh Jayaram
Global Head of Sustainability
HCL Tech



**Mr. Kanchinadham
Parvatheesam**
Chief Risk & Compliance Officer and
Company Secretary, TATA Steel



Mr. Bharat Wakhlu
Founder
The Wakhlu Advisory
Former Resident Director
Tata Group



Mr. Mukund Rajan
Chairperson
ECube Investment Advisors



Mr. Bose Varghese
Senior Partner (ESG)
Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas



Mr. Gagan Sidhu
Director
CEEW Centre for Energy Finance



Dr. Tata Raghu
Associate Professor
XLRI Jamshedpur



Ms. Bharti Birla
Enterprise Development
Specialist
International Labour
Organization (ILO)



Ms. Namita Vikas
Founder & Managing Director
AuctusESG



Dr. Cary Krosinsky
Lecturer, Yale University



Mr. R R Rashmi
Senior Fellow, TERI
Frm. Chief Secretary, Manipur & Frm.
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Dr. Suranjali Tandon
Associate Professor
National Institute of Public
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Mr. Pankaj Bhatia
Global Director
World Resource Institute
(WRI) and Director, GHG
Protocol



Dr. Vibha Dhawan
Director General, TERI



Mr. Souvik Bhattacharjya
Director, Resource Efficiency &
Governance, TERI



Ms. Geetanjali Master
Public Private Partnerships
specialist, UNICEF India

Panel of Evaluators:

Senior partners and directors from AuctusESG, CAM, NIPFP, CEEW, and IICA's Advisory Board, assessing live corporate ESG strategies for innovation, disclosure maturity, and leadership impact.

Faculty Ethos:

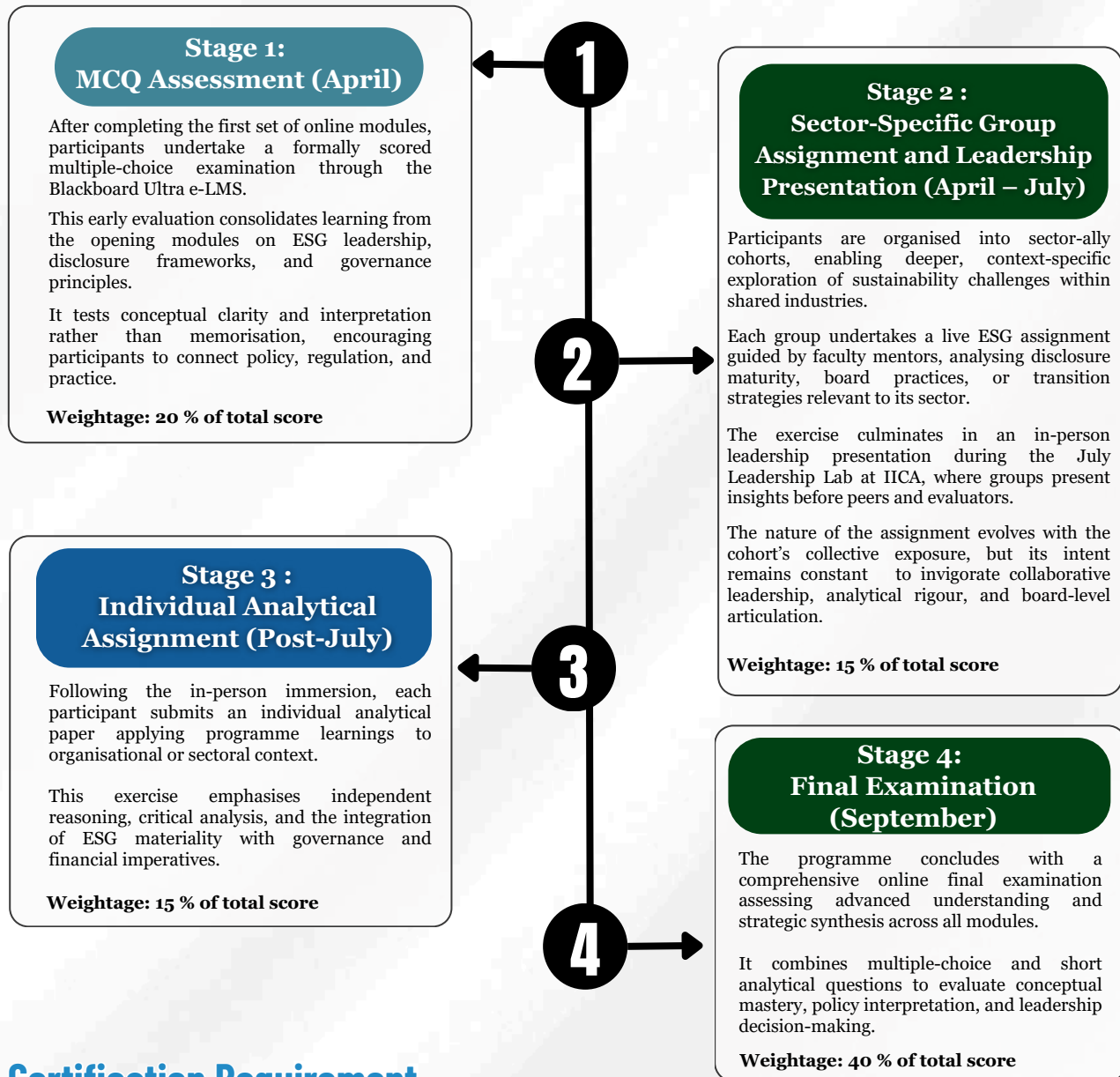
This faculty ensemble represents the intellectual backbone of India's ESG transformation, combining policy knowledge, market realism, and leadership experience to prepare executives for the future of responsible enterprise.



ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

The IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme follows a multi-stage, practice-driven evaluation structure that measures knowledge acquisition, strategic judgment, and leadership application.

Each phase has been intentionally sequenced to sustain engagement and progressively deepen ESG proficiency across the six-month journey from March to September.



Certification Requirement

Delegates achieving a minimum aggregate of 50 % across all components will be conferred the “IICA Certified ESG Professional-Impact Leader” credential under the seal of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

Outstanding performers receive special recognition during the IICA ESG Leadership Summit or Annual National Association of Impact Leader Summit.

This structured assessment journey mirrors the evolution of a modern leader, from conceptual grounding to collaborative synthesis and independent strategic thought. By programme completion, participants emerge as board-ready ESG leaders, capable of converting sustainability vision into measurable enterprise value.



CERTIFICATION & POST-PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

The IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme culminates in the award of a credential that signifies excellence, authority, and readiness to lead India's corporate sustainability transformation.

It represents more than academic completion, it is a leadership endorsement by the apex institution under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, recognising the participant's ability to integrate ESG principles into strategy, governance, and enterprise value creation.



Certification

Upon successful completion of all modules, assignments, and examinations, participants are conferred the title:

"IICA Certified ESG Professional-Impact Leader"

Awarded by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India

Each certificate bears the official seal of IICA and is digitally verifiable, enabling participants to display their credential on professional and regulatory platforms, including BRSR, corporate disclosures, and international sustainability networks.

This certification is a mark of leadership competence and professional credibility, acknowledged across corporate, consulting, and institutional domains.

Professional Recognition & Alumni Network

Graduates automatically become part of IICA's National Association of Impact Leaders (NAIL), a dedicated network of certified professionals, senior ESG practitioners, and policy influencers.

Through NAIL, alumni gain access to:

- Continuous learning forums and exclusive relevant IICA Roundtables, workshops and flagship National Conferences.
- Invitations to advisory committees, consultations, and working groups on sustainability, BRSR Core, and responsible business conduct.
- Visibility in IICA's NAIL Platform, showcasing outstanding capstone projects and research outputs.
- Mentorship and collaborative opportunities through IICA's Centre for Responsible Business Advisory (CRBA).



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Visit us at: <https://iica.nic.in/esgcsr/>

Career & Institutional Outcomes

The certification prepares Delegates to:

- Lead ESG strategy within listed and large enterprises as Chief Sustainability Officers or ESG Heads.
- Advise boards, investors, and regulators on disclosure, climate risk, and governance transitions.
- Integrate ESG into finance, assurance, and communication functions, enhancing transparency and investor confidence.
- Serve on advisory and oversight committees for sustainability reporting, climate transition planning, and ethical business conduct.

Graduates of IICA's earlier ESG programmes now hold senior positions across sectors, from energy and manufacturing to IT, banking, and consulting, exemplifying the Institute's enduring legacy in shaping India's responsible business leadership.

Institutional Legacy

With four successful batches of ESG-certified professionals already trained, this Leadership Edition extends the IICA lineage, shifting the emphasis from compliance to visionary ESG stewardship.

Each graduate becomes part of an expanding community of professionals entrusted with advancing India's ESG and responsible business agenda at both organisational and policy levels.

The certification is not an end but a beginning, a gateway into a lifelong association with the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs and India's evolving ESG leadership ecosystem.

It signifies trust, credibility, and transformation, values that define the very ethos of IICA and the future of corporate India.



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POST-CERTIFICATION ENGAGEMENT & OPPORTUNITIES

Graduating from the IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme marks the beginning of a continuous professional journey.

The Institute views each certified leader as an ambassador of responsible business transformation, extending IICA's mission of building governance excellence and sustainability leadership across India's corporate landscape.

This post-certification engagement framework ensures that the association between participants and IICA continues well beyond the classroom, through collaboration, visibility, and lifelong learning.

1. Alumni Integration through the National Association of Impact Leaders (NAIL)

All certified participants become members of NAIL, IICA's premier alumni and practitioner network.

NAIL serves as a bridge between business, policy, and academia, enabling alumni to:

- Participate in exclusive ESG dialogues, policy consultations, and sectoral workshops hosted by IICA and its partners.
- Receive updates on evolving ESG frameworks, regulatory changes, and global disclosure standards.
- Contribute as resource persons, mentors, or case collaborators in subsequent batches.
- Access networking platforms with fellow ESG leaders, investors, and policy experts.

Through NAIL, IICA nurtures a national fraternity of certified sustainability professionals influencing disclosure reform, climate strategy, and responsible investment practices.

2. Advisory & Collaborative Pathways

High-performing alumni are invited to collaborate with IICA's School of Business Environment (SBE) and the Centre for Responsible Business Advisory (CRBA) on policy research, capacity building, and sectoral pilot projects. These engagements may include:

- Serving as industry representatives in ESG advisory committees.
- Contributing to research studies, discussion papers, or consultation notes on emerging themes such as Just Transition, supply chain ESG, and sustainable finance.
- Supporting the design of sector-specific NGRBC toolkits and BRSR Core adoption frameworks.

Such opportunities position alumni as thought partners in national ESG discourse, connecting their professional expertise with IICA's institutional mandate.



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3. Visibility & Professional Recognition

Capstone projects and exceptional assignments are featured in the IICA Newsletter, shared with ministries, regulators, and industry bodies.

Certified professionals are also profiled through IICA's official communications, conferences, and roundtables, enhancing their visibility as ESG influencers and governance advocates.

4. Lifelong Association with IICA

Graduates retain privileged access to IICA's ecosystem through:

- Invitations to flagship events such as the National Conference on Responsible Business Conduct (NCRBC) and National CSR Day (NCCSR).
- Opportunities to contribute to training design, mentoring, and institutional collaborations.
- A digital alumni dashboard providing access to learning resources, networking updates, and research calls.

The post-certification journey ensures that every graduate remains connected, informed, and engaged, not as an individual alumnus but as part of India's collective ESG leadership movement.

Through this sustained partnership, IICA transforms certification into a community of practice, empowering professionals to lead, innovate, and influence the future of sustainable enterprise.



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INVESTMENT VALUE

The IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme represents a strategic investment in executive leadership and institutional credibility. Priced at ₹2,10,000 + GST, the certification delivers policy access, global pedagogy, and national recognition unmatched by conventional sustainability courses.

This investment is not merely in a learning experience it is an investment in leadership positioning, regulatory literacy, and long-term professional capital.

1. Institutional Advantage

Delivered by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the programme offers direct alignment with India's ESG policy ecosystem.

Participants gain:

- Unparalleled exposure to the nation's governance and sustainability frameworks.
- Access to faculty and policymakers shaping BRSR, CSR, and corporate governance reforms.
- Association with the Government of India's apex think-and-do tank for corporate affairs.

This official institutional backing transforms the certification into a nationally endorsed leadership credential.

2. Premium Learning Experience

The programme combines six months of guided executive immersion with high-touch mentorship, peer networking, and in-person leadership sessions.

Participants engage directly with:

- Global ESG thought leaders from Yale, Cornell, and leading Indian think tanks.
- Policy specialists, board members, and sustainability officers driving real ESG transformation.
- Sector-aligned groups, ensuring peer learning is relevant and practical.

The outcome is a strategic and immersive journey rather than a technical training module.

3. Professional ROI

Graduates gain measurable professional advantage through:

- Recognition as an IICA Certified ESG Leader, an endorsement of strategic competence in responsible business governance.
- Inclusion in IICA's National Association of Impact Leaders (NAIL), expanding professional visibility and influence.
- Eligibility to participate in IICA advisory projects, consultations, and national ESG research initiatives.
- Enhanced career mobility and credibility for board advisory, sustainability governance, and assurance roles.



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4. Organisational ROI

For sponsoring organisations, the programme delivers:

- Immediate value through employee projects that feed directly into corporate ESG strategy or disclosure improvements.
- Strengthened internal governance and compliance through globally benchmarked insights.
- Long-term brand and investor confidence, driven by leadership trained in sustainability accountability.

5. Enduring Value

Programme Fee

The ₹2.1 lakh investment yields multi-layered returns strategic, reputational, and relational. Participants graduate as part of IICA's extended ecosystem of ESG experts who continue to shape India's sustainability discourse, regulatory design, and boardroom strategy.

This is not a course fee, it is a leadership investment in credibility, influence, and nation-building.

Every rupee contributes to building India's ESG future, led by professionals who understand that responsibility is not compliance, it is strategy.



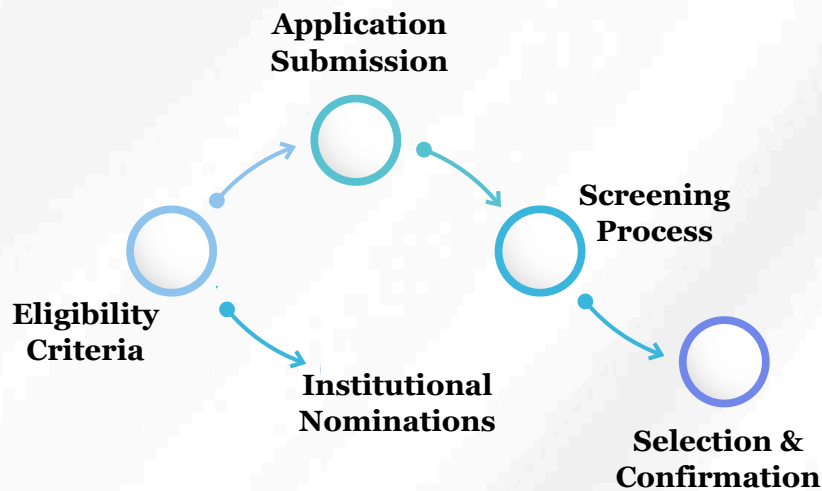
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SELECTION PROCEDURE

Admission to the IICA Certified ESG Leadership Programme follows a selective and merit-based process, ensuring that each cohort comprises professionals with demonstrated leadership potential, sectoral expertise, and commitment to advancing ESG and responsible business practices within their organisations.

Given the programme's national and institutional stature, only a limited number of participants are admitted through a structured review process conducted by the School of Business Environment (SBE) at IICA.



1. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must possess:

- Minimum 5 years of professional experience, preferably at mid-to-senior managerial or leadership levels.
- Demonstrated engagement with one or more of the following domains:
 - ESG, CSR, or Sustainability Management
 - Corporate Governance, Finance, or Legal Compliance
 - Environmental Policy, Risk, or Operations Management
 - Investment, Consulting, or Assurance Services
- A graduate degree or equivalent professional qualification. Candidates with advanced degrees (LL.M., MBA, Ph.D., CA, CFA, etc.) or relevant certifications are preferred

2. Application Submission

Prospective candidates must submit:

- A completed online application form available on the programme portal:
<https://iica.nic.in/esgcsr>

Corporate nominations are accepted through official communication from the HR or ESG departments of sponsoring organisations.



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3. Screening Process

Applications are screened by the Programme Secretariat at IICA based on:

- Relevance of current professional role to the ESG domain.
- Evidence of leadership orientation and commitment to sustainable business transformation.

Shortlisted candidates may be invited for a telephonic or virtual interaction with the Programme Committee to assess readiness, expectations, and peer-learning fit.

4. Selection & Confirmation

Selected participants receive a formal Letter of Admission from IICA, containing details on programme commencement, fee payment, and orientation schedule.

Admission is confirmed upon receipt of:

- Programme fee payment (₹2,10,000 + GST) either in full or first installment.
- Submission of commitment form confirming participation for the full six-month duration.

5. Institutional Nominations

Organisations may nominate executives directly through their HR or Corporate Affairs departments. Institutional nominations are prioritised for:

- Listed companies and large enterprises engaged in ESG disclosure and sustainability strategy.
- Regulatory and policy institutions, public sector undertakings, and consulting/advisory firms supporting ESG integration.

The selection procedure is designed to curate a diverse yet cohesive learning cohort of professionals representing India's most progressive corporations, financial institutions, and policy bodies.

This ensures a classroom rich in experience, dialogue, and collaboration creating the ideal ecosystem for ESG leadership development at scale.



For Registration:

Visit us at: <https://ica.nic.in/esgcsr/>

TESTIMONIALS



Archita Bhattacharyya

Air Water India Private Limited , Head – Human Resources, Corporate Communication & Admin



The ESG Impact Leader Program at IICA was a wonderful learning journey. It broke down complex ESG concepts into simple, practical insights that I could immediately connect with my work. The sessions were interactive, the faculty brought great real-world perspectives, and the peer group learning was just as valuable. I came away not just with knowledge, but with confidence to take meaningful steps on sustainability in my own role.



Ayushi Vineet Dhabalia

Apex Group, Senior Associate – ESG Content Editor and Reviewer and Senior ESG analyst

The IICA ESG Impact Leader Programme offered a valuable opportunity to deepen my understanding of sustainability and responsible governance. The sessions were well-structured, combining global ESG standards with practical insights tailored to the Indian context. I appreciated the diversity of perspectives from policy experts to industry leaders which helped clarify how ESG principles can be applied across sectors. The programme encouraged critical thinking and provided tools to assess environmental and social risks more effectively. It also helped me reflect on how governance practices can be strengthened to support long-term value creation. The in-person session added another layer of learning, offering practical examples and thoughtful discussions. Overall, the experience has enhanced my ability to engage with ESG issues in a more strategic and informed way. I would recommend it to professionals looking to build a solid foundation in ESG and contribute meaningfully to their organization's sustainability journey.



For Registration:

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TESTIMONIALS



Dr. Venkat Raman Govindula

Techno Serve and WASSAN, Senior Consultant



I had the privilege of undergoing the IICA Certified ESG Impact Leader Course, and it has been a highly enriching learning experience. The well-structured curriculum, comprising in-depth masterclasses and interactive sessions, provided valuable insights that are both industry-relevant and forward-looking. The project work designed by IICA offered a unique real-time learning opportunity, enabling me coming from a sustainable agriculture background to better understand the dynamics of the corporate world and the intricacies of ESG reporting. The course has significantly enhanced my perspective, equipping me with the right principles, frameworks, and tools to bridge ESG practices with the sustainable agriculture sector, a field of increasing importance in recent years. I strongly recommend this program to professionals across diverse sectors who aspire to align their work with global sustainability standards and lead with impact.



Jigarkumar Rameshbhai Patel

Abellon Clean Energy Limited, EHS Manager

The ESG IICA Program is unlike anything I've encountered before. No one else in the world is delivering ESG education with this level of depth, clarity, and real-world relevance. It goes far beyond theory this program transforms mindsets, sharpens leadership, and provides a clear, actionable framework for creating sustainable impact. The insights I gained here are simply unparalleled. A must for anyone serious about ESG.



Mahendra Singh Karakoti

Schneider Electric India, Director Security



The ESG course conducted by IICA is an exceptional learning experience, offering comprehensive and practical insights into sustainability principles and reporting frameworks. The well-structured content, interactive workshop, and relevant case studies enriched my understanding and confidence to lead ESG initiatives effectively. The expert trainers delivered the material with clarity and engagement, making complex concepts accessible and actionable. This course has equipped me with the knowledge and tools to drive meaningful ESG integration.



For Registration:

Visit us at: <https://iica.nic.in/esgcsr/>

TESTIMONIALS



Manisha Rakhecha

Rakhecha & Co, Partner

There are various courses available in the market for ESG and Carbon. I was recommended this course by one of my mentors who is a faculty at IICA. It was really a life changing decision after taking this course. This opened various avenues and gave practical projects and workings and also gave us an opportunity to meet our peers in the relevant fields. Superb course, superb platform and amazing faculty. In all a combined package.



Pankaj Kumar Jha

Deputy General Manager, State Bank of India

Having served in Public Sector Bank I had gained knowledge in most of the areas of banking barring a few specialised ones. My expectations from this course was to sharpen my existing skills and knowledge with new and fresh ideas which could be implemented/practiced back home. The six months' course having curated contents delivered by industry and domain experts equipped me to translate the theory into practice and be not only a driver but a Champion of Change.



Rajesh Vaidya

Silox India Private Limited,
CHRO & Head Sustainability

Enrolling for the ESG Professional Impact Leader Course of one of the best decisions I had made in my professional journey. Thanks to the thoughtful pedagogy, highly competent faculty and friendly administration, I am much confident and resourceful now to contribute to the ESG cause.



Ms. Sushmita Ghatak

MD & CEO ICRA Analytics Ltd

ESG is a multi-disciplinary subject and witnesses the participation of multiple entities like policy makers and regulators, body corporates, rating agencies, lenders and investors, assurance providers, technology vendors and many others. It is to the credit of SOBE, IICA that the Certified ESG Professional program provided a 360-degree view of the topic with experts drawn in from different domains and functions to walk us through the nuances of ESG framework and practices. The course material provided in the form of self-paced content was very well designed and drafted with deep insights into the ESG ecosystem. With ESG becoming a key initiative for most entities, highly recommend this course to fellow ESG / ESG-aspiring professionals!



TESTIMONIALS



Mr. Ashok Sethi

Chairman, Tata Consulting Engineers Ltd.



The "IICA Certified ESG Professional – Impact Leader Programme," organised by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), represents a pioneering educational initiative meticulously crafted to address the critical questions surrounding Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) impacts on the planet, businesses, society, and individuals. This comprehensive program, led by a diverse group of global experts, business leaders, thought leaders, and research scholars, stands out for its interactive, clear, informative, and thought-provoking delivery, employing storytelling to enhance the learning experience.

The program spans eight modules, each delving into different aspects of ESG, including foundational concepts, the significance of environmental, social, and governance factors, risk management, strategic integration into business practices, governance structures, materiality assessment, and reporting standards in both Indian and global contexts (highlighting frameworks such as NGRBC, BRSR, UNPRI, UNGC, GRI, SASB, TCFD, CDP, SBTi, and IR). The curriculum also emphasises peer benchmarking, sustainable finance, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring a holistic and in-depth understanding of ESG principles and their application. Practical assignments on materiality mapping and strategising for real companies, alongside MCQ-based assessments, further augment the learning process, enabling participants to apply concepts in real-world scenarios effectively. The program not only equips professionals with the knowledge to navigate the evolving ESG landscape but also positions them as impact leaders capable of guiding organisations towards sustainable and responsible business practices. Participation in this program is highly beneficial for those seeking to stay abreast of the latest trends and requirements in the domain of sustainability, ensuring they are well-prepared for the future direction of global business practices.



Mr. Debashish Satpathy

President (Automotive Aftermarket), Schaeffler India Ltd.

When some of our colleagues were searching for appropriate course to expand knowledge on ESG, I came across this IICA Certification course. Once enrolled and onboarded, we could easily see the deep thoughts and planning that must gone to create such enriching course content. The organisation and execution of the program was superb. The mix of on-line sessions, offline session, master classes by experts, practice tests and projects were just in right mix. Overall it was just awesome and worth every penny spent. Kudos to organising team who executed this project perfectly!



TESTIMONIALS



CA Padmaja Parange

Director, CNK & Associates LLP

This program has been a transformative experience, not only for my professional growth but also for my understanding and commitment to sustainable and responsible business practices. The comprehensive curriculum of the ESG program provided me with in-depth knowledge about the critical aspects of environmental impact, social responsibility, and corporate governance. One of the standout features of the program was the diverse and knowledgeable faculty. The instructors were experts in their respective fields and were able to convey complex concepts in an accessible manner. The inclusion of interactive workshops and group projects facilitated collaborative learning, allowing me to exchange ideas with peers, gain diverse perspectives and build networking. Further, the program's commitment to staying current with industry trends and global developments was evident. I am confident that the knowledge and skills acquired during this ESG program will greatly contribute to my ability to drive positive change in the society. In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse the ESG program to professionals seeking to enhance their understanding of sustainable business practices. This program is a valuable investment for anyone looking to make a meaningful impact on their organization and contribute to a more sustainable and responsible global business community.



Mr. Sridhar L

Head-Sustainability

Bengaluru Airport Authority, Bengaluru



The depth of knowledge and practical insights I gained throughout the IICA Certified ESG Professional-Impact Leader programme has truly elevated my understanding of ESG principles and their integration into business strategy. The curriculum is meticulously designed to cover all facets of ESG, from stakeholder engagement to measurement and reporting, equipping participants with invaluable tools and frameworks for driving sustainable impact within their organizations. What sets this program apart is not just the theoretical knowledge imparted but also the emphasis on practical application and real-world case studies, which allowed me to immediately apply what I learned in my professional endeavours. I highly recommend this programme to anyone looking to become a catalyst for positive change and drive sustainable growth in their organization.



Contact & Programme Coordination Details

For further information, clarifications, or institutional nominations, interested participants may contact the programme office at the School of Business Environment (SBE), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA).

The IICA functions as the national hub for research, capacity building, and executive education in ESG, CSR, responsible business conduct, and corporate sustainability, operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

Programme Coordination

Programme Director



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Programme Portal and Application

Application forms, schedule details, and announcements are available on:

<https://iica.nic.in/esgcsr>



For Registration:

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