Grant Thornton | 90 in Bharat and beyond

LearninGT™ Will | Knowledge | Action

Independent Director Certification Programme

Building board leaders for a resilient, ethical and future-ready Bharat

The boardroom has changed. Has director readiness kept pace?

Independent directors today are expected to do far more than fulfil their statutory responsibilities. They play a pivotal role in assessing business strategy, overseeing risk, strengthening governance and building long-term stakeholder trust. They are increasingly required to:

- Exercise independent judgement amidst uncertainty
- Challenge management constructively
- Navigate heightened regulatory scrutiny
- Understand cyber, artificial intelligence (AI), Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and evolving stakeholder expectations
- Protect organisational reputation in times of crisis

Expectations from boards have never been higher. Whether you are an aspiring or an existing independent director, a senior executive preparing for board roles or a governance professional seeking structured boardroom exposure, success today requires practical boardroom readiness, not just theoretical understanding.



About the programme

Independent Director Certification Programme

The Independent Director Certification Programme by LearninGT, Grant Thornton Bharat, is a comprehensive and practitioner-led programme designed to prepare leaders for the challenges of today's boardrooms.

The programme blends:

- Governance expertise
- Regulatory knowledge
- Strategic oversight capabilities
- Boardroom behavioural skills
- Practical simulations and peer learning

Participants gain exposure to contemporary governance challenges while learning directly from experienced board advisors, independent directors, regulators, governance specialists and industry leaders.

Learning outcomes

After completing the programme, participants will be able to:



Develop a clear understanding of board responsibilities, independence requirements and the factors that drive effective committee functioning.



Gain a deeper understanding of the Companies Act, 2013, SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015, the Digital Personal Data Protection framework, Labour Codes and emerging enforcement priorities.



Learn to challenge constructively, apply fiduciary responsibilities with rigour and uphold transparent and accountable oversight.



Build the ability to interpret financial information, assess enterprise risks, oversee cyber and digital governance and embed ESG considerations into board decision-making.



Improve the quality of board deliberations through stronger decision-making, succession planning, stakeholder engagement and board evaluation practices.

Programme coverage

Governance and board effectiveness

- Corporate governance and stewardship
- Roles and responsibilities of independent directors
- Strategy and performance oversight
- Boardroom communication and executive presence
- Family business governance
- Emotional intelligence for board effectiveness
- Conflict management and consensus building at board level

Risk, legal, compliance and finance

- Financial acumen for directors
- Corporate law, prevention of insider trading and governance reforms
- Strategic listening and powerful questioning
- Cognitive biases and decision-making at the board level
- Reputation management and personal brand for independent directors

Emerging priorities

- Investor relations and capital markets stewardship
- Crisis communication
- ESG, sustainability and responsible business
- Cybersecurity, data protection and AI governance

Note: This programme does not cover preparation for the mandatory IICA assessment. Participants must register for and complete the assessment separately.

Beyond the classroom

- Curated networking opportunities
- Capstone project
- Boardroom simulation exercises
- Expert talks
- Peer learning with senior leaders
- Faculty interactions
- Alumni engagement opportunities

What makes this programme different?

Designed by practitioners, for practitioners

- Faculty comprising active board advisors and industry leaders
- Focus on real boardroom situations rather than regulations
- Integrated coverage of governance, leadership and behavioural effectiveness
- Exposure to emerging board priorities including AI, cyber and ESG
- Boardroom simulation and capstone project
- Networking with senior executives, board members and fellow aspiring directors
- Learn from real case studies and governance failures
- Hybrid learning format balancing flexibility and engagement
- Instructor-led training with preparatory reads, assignments and assessments
- Interactive workshops, classroom immersions, boardroom simulations and capstone project

Who should attend?



Senior leadership including chief executive officers (CEOs), chief financial officers (CFOs), chief human resource officers (CHROs), company secretaries and legal heads



Members of board committees such as Audit, Risk, Corporate Social Responsibility, Nomination and Remuneration, ESG



Professionals in legal, finance, governance, risk and compliance functions



Professionals aspiring to take on board or directorship roles



Promoters and family business leaders looking to strengthen board practices and governance frameworks



Existing independent directors seeking structured upskilling

Learning together with India's senior leaders

The cohort brings together accomplished professionals from diverse sectors and leadership roles, including:

- CEOs
- Business unit heads
- Chief technology officers (CTOs)
- Talent and capability leaders
- Chief information officers (CIOs)
- Governance professionals
- CHROs

Meet the experts



Richard Rekhy
Vice Chairman
Grant Thornton Bharat

A distinguished business leader and board advisor with extensive experience in corporate governance, strategic leadership and driving boardroom excellence. With over four decades of experience in consulting and professional services, he has served on the boards of corporates, educational institutions and non-profit organisations. He is also a mentor to start-ups and a respected speaker on governance, leadership and business transformation.



Deepankar Sanwalka
Partner and National Consulting Leader
Grant Thornton Bharat

A seasoned business leader and governance expert with experience in risk advisory, forensic investigations and enterprise transformation across leading global firms. With over 32 years of leadership experience, he has built and led advisory practices across risk, digital transformation, and regulatory consulting. He is recognised for pioneering forensic services in India and driving business transformation through innovation and governance.



Devesh Uniyal
Partner and Tax & Finance Consulting Leader
Grant Thornton Bharat

Devesh is a partner with over 23 years of experience, leading the Compliance and Outsourcing practice and finance and accounting operations. His expertise spans statutory and tax audits, Indian GAAP, back-office transformation, shared services and performance management. He also leads outsourcing initiatives across Asia-Pacific and contributes to Grant Thornton International's global outsourcing network. He has extensive experience in delivering technical training on audit and accounting matters.



Karan Marwah
Partner and CFO Advisory Leader
Grant Thornton Bharat

A strategic business and governance specialist with extensive experience in board advisory, corporate restructuring and business transformation. With over 30 years of experience, he advises organisations on finance transformation, corporate governance and capital markets readiness. He has guided leading corporates and boards on IPO readiness, financial reporting and governance practices that strengthen transparency and stakeholder confidence.



Meenakshi Sharma
Partner, CFO Advisory
Grant Thornton Bharat

A seasoned governance professional specialising in board advisory, corporate compliance and embedding best-in-class governance frameworks across organisations. With over 23 years of experience in capital markets and ESG, she has advised organisations on governance and investor relations. She is a leading faculty member for independent director and corporate governance programmes and has delivered training programmes for various marquee companies.



Kaushal Kishore

Chartered Accountant
Walker Chandiok & Co LLP

Kaushal brings over 32 years of experience across audit, advisory, risk management and regulatory functions. A fellow Member of the ICAI, he has advised leading domestic and multinational organisations on audit, governance, listing, risk and regulatory matters. He has held senior leadership roles including Audit Partner, National Risk Management Partner and Head of Regulatory, and has also contributed to key initiatives with SEBI, RBI, MCA, ICAI and industry bodies.



Shashank Saini

Partner, Deals Lifecycle
Grant Thornton Bharat

Shashank is a partner in the Deals Consulting practice at Grant Thornton Bharat, with over 18 years of experience in operations, technology and transaction advisory. He specialises in due diligence, carve-outs, post-merger integration, business transformation and digital strategy across manufacturing, oil and gas, financial services and technology. He has led complex global engagements across India, the US, the UK, Middle East and North Africa, Africa and Japan, helping organisations navigate transactions, business separations and technology-led transformation.



Pallavi Joshi Bakhru

Partner and Family Office Leader
Grant Thornton Bharat

A distinguished legal and governance professional with deep expertise in corporate law, regulatory frameworks and boardroom compliance. With over 30 years of experience, she advises businesses on corporate tax, regulatory matters and strategic business structuring. A recognised thought leader and regular speaker at leading industry forums, she brings extensive boardroom and cross-border advisory experience.



Gauri Shah
Associate Partner, Family Office
Grant Thornton Bharat

A seasoned tax and regulatory advisor known for guiding businesses and boards through complex compliance and governance landscapes. With over 22 years of experience, she specialises in succession planning, governance and regulatory advisory for businesses and promoter families. She also serves as an Independent Director and Audit Chair, bringing valuable boardroom and governance expertise.



Akhil Chandna
Partner and Global People Solutions Leader
Grant Thornton Bharat

Akhil leads the firm's Global Mobility Services practice and brings over 15 years of experience in business tax and regulatory advisory. He specialises in expatriate and cross-border taxation, international assignments, tax equalisation, treaty benefits and employee compensation matters. He has advised leading organisations across industries on complex global mobility and social security matters, including representation before Indian tax authorities.



Ankit Jhamb
Chief Learning Officer
Grant Thornton Bharat

Ankit is the Chief Learning Officer at Grant Thornton Bharat, bringing 20 years of experience in HR, people transformation and organisational capability building. His expertise spans learning and development, talent acquisition, leadership development, performance management, employee engagement, wellbeing and diversity, equity and inclusion. He partners with leadership to drive business growth, build capabilities at scale, foster psychological safety and create future-ready, high-performing and inclusive workplace cultures.



Dinesh Anand
Partner and ESG & Consulting Leader
Grant Thornton Bharat

A veteran risk advisory professional with deep experience in enterprise risk management, internal controls and governance frameworks. With over 28 years of experience, he advises organisations on forensic investigations, internal audit, crisis management and strategic risk. He has supported leading multinational companies and Indian conglomerates in strengthening governance and managing complex business risks.



Jaspreet Singh
Partner and Cyber Advisory Leader
Grant Thornton Bharat

Jaspreet brings 22+ years of consulting experience in technology, transformation, and cybersecurity. He has led cybersecurity, GRC, and IT strategy engagements for Fortune 500 companies and advised boards on cybersecurity governance. As an Engagement Partner, he has managed marquee clients and large-scale IT advisory engagements across India, Sri Lanka, the Middle East, Europe, and Africa. He has also led teams of 50+ professionals across diverse industries, particularly telecom and technology.



Samir Malik
Partner, CFO Advisory
Grant Thornton Bharat

Samir brings 16 years of experience, working with clients across sectors, with extensive expertise in financial reporting and accounting standards. He has led and supported multiple GAAP conversion engagements, including Indian GAAP to Ind AS, IFRS and US GAAP, as well as German and Japanese GAAP to IFRS and Indian GAAP. He has also played a key role in developing and deploying financial reporting tools and brings significant experience in delivering client training on international accounting standards.



Anurag Aman
Partner, Human Capital Consulting
Grant Thornton Bharat

Anurag brings 25+ years of experience in organisation design, leadership effectiveness, performance, and talent strategy. He has advised promoters, CEOs, CXOs, boards, and investors across diverse industries, including manufacturing, financial services, healthcare, and technology. He has extensive experience in family business governance, succession planning, and organisational transformation, working with leading groups such as Jindal Stainless, Emami, Trident, and Vedanta. He is also a speaker, author, and educator at premier management institutions, contributing to leadership and human capital development.



Subir Moitra
Senior Advisor, Market Ecosystem
Grant Thornton Bharat

A seasoned branding and communications leader with extensive expertise in corporate reputation, strategic communications and stakeholder engagement. With over 30 years of experience across diverse industries, he has led communications for global organisations and driven award-winning thought leadership initiatives. A recognised expert in crisis communications, he is also a respected speaker and industry thought leader.

Collectively bringing decades of experience across:

- Corporate governance
- Capital markets
- ESG
- Risk management
- Crisis management
- Family business governance
- Forensics
- Board advisory
- Leadership development

Programme details

Duration
40+ hours of hybrid training

Schedule
Starts on
5 December 2026

Fees
INR 2,40,000
+ GST

For further information, please contact:



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Admission process

1. **Apply**
Submit application and professional profile

2. **Review**
Assessment of applications based on experience and programme fit

3. **Interaction**
Dedicated discussions to evaluate programme suitability with shortlisted applicants

4. **Enrol**
Receive admission confirmation and onboarding details

What participants are saying

The perspectives and experiences everyone brought to the discussion really elevated the quality of the conversation. It's great to be part of such an accomplished and diverse cohort.

Head - People (Talent and Capability), Telecommunications and Digital Services

A well-structured and engaging learning format. Truly inspiring to formally upskill for a boardroom journey ahead.

CEO,
Automotive and Manufacturing

A heartfelt thanks for creating such an engaging and insightful learning experience. Looking forward to meaningful conversations and continued interaction.

CIO and Group IT Head,
Consumer Products and Beverage Manufacturing

It was fascinating to be in the company of such an experienced group of leaders. Looking forward to future sessions.

President, Marketing,
Glass Packaging and Industrial Manufacturing

LearninGT

LearninGT is Grant Thornton Bharat's upskilling service offering. We aim to empower individuals with the most sought-after skills for thriving in today's evolving professional landscape. By leveraging the expertise of industry-leading professionals and innovative teaching methodologies, we help participants acquire the proper knowledge and skills to drive success

45,000+
professionals trained

12,90,000+
training hours

400+
batches

300+
corporate training sessions conducted

Why Grant Thornton Bharat?

- **Ranked No.1** in training and development in India among accounting firms: Universum 2017
- Globally accepted training methodology
- Customised and cost-effective solutions with post-training support
- Access to a network of international firms in **150+ countries with 80,000+ people**
- Among the largest fully-integrated assurance, tax and advisory firms in India

We are Shaping Vibrant Bharat

A member of Grant Thornton International Ltd., Grant Thornton Bharat is at the forefront of helping reshape the values in the profession. We are helping shape various industry ecosystems through our work across Assurance, Tax, Risk, Transactions, Technology and Consulting, and are going beyond to shape a more **#VibrantBharat.**

Our offices in India

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● Dehradun ● Gandhinagar ● Goa ● Gurugram ● Guwahati ● Hyderabad
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