

Independent Director Certification Programme

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

About the programme

Independent Directors today are expected to contribute far beyond attending board meetings and reviewing compliance matters. They are increasingly called upon to exercise independent judgment, offer constructive challenge and demonstrate financial acumen, risk awareness, technological understanding and stakeholder sensitivity in real time.

- For new Independent Directors, this requires entering the boardroom with practical preparedness, not merely theoretical understanding.
- For experienced Independent Directors, it calls for ongoing upskilling to remain effective amid evolving challenges across regulation, cyber risk, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG), capital markets, Artificial Intelligence (AI), data privacy, fraud, stakeholder activism and reputational risk.

LearninGT by Grant Thornton Bharat is pleased to offer its Independent Director Certification Programme to equip current and aspiring Independent Directors with the capabilities, practical insights and boardroom confidence needed to lead with integrity and effectiveness in the current evolving business and regulatory landscape.



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 DPDP framework, Labour Codes and emerging enforcement priorities.



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



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



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

Who should attend?



Senior leadership including Chief Executive Officers (CXOs), 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

Programme coverage

Governance foundations

- Corporate governance and stewardship
- Role of independent directors
- Strategy and performance oversight
- Boardroom communication and executive presence
- Family business governance
- Emotional intelligence (EQ) for board effectiveness
- Regulatory expectations for Directors and Boardroom behavior
- 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
- ESG, sustainability and responsible business
- Cognitive biases and decision-making at the board level
- Cybersecurity, data protection, AI governance
- Reputation management and personal brand for independent directors

Emerging priorities

- Investor Relations (IR) and capital markets stewardship
- Crisis communication

Beyond the Classroom



Networking event



Capstone project

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

Meet our expert faculty

Our faculty comprises experienced board members, industry leaders, governance specialists and subject-matter experts who bring deep, real-world perspectives to every session.



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 nearly three decades of 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.



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.



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.



Priyanka Gulati

Partner, Market Ecosystem
Grant Thornton Bharat

An accomplished governance and leadership expert with extensive board experience, recognised for fostering collaboration and driving people-focused organisational impact. With over 20 years of experience in HR consulting, she specialises in leadership development, organisation design and performance management. She serves as an Independent Director on the boards of multiple leading organisations and brings extensive experience in leadership development and boardroom effectiveness.



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.



Gaganpreet Singh Puri

Partner, Crisis & Resilience and Dispute Advisory Leader,
Grant Thornton Bharat

A leading forensic and risk advisory expert with extensive experience in governance, regulatory matters and complex investigations. With over 26 years of experience across 30 countries, he advises boards, senior leaders and regulators on forensic, disputes and risk consulting. He has successfully guided organisations through high-profile regulatory and investigative matters involving leading Indian and global regulatory authorities.



Ajith Thambi

Partner, CFO Advisory
Grant Thornton Bharat

A governance and board advisory professional focused on strengthening director capabilities, board effectiveness and strategic oversight. With over 15 years of experience in financial reporting and advisory, he has led complex IFRS, Ind AS and US GAAP transformation projects. He also brings extensive expertise in IPO readiness and financial reporting transformation for leading organisations.



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.

Programme details



Duration

40+ hours of
hybrid training



Schedule

Starts
**in September
2026**



Fees

INR 2,40,000
+ GST

For more queries, please contact:



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Programme deliverables

- 40+ hours of training with weekend sessions
- Hybrid delivery model with online live and classroom immersions
- Networking with leaders from Grant Thornton Bharat
- Designed by practitioners for practitioners
- Instructor-led training with preparatory reads , assignments and assessments
- Boardroom simulation capstone project
- Fortnightly expert talks
- Curated networking opportunities
- Programme Completion Certificate awarded to participants who successfully fulfil programme requirements

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

For further information, please contact:



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