AKANKSHA: AN INTEGRATED ONLINE PLATFORM FOR SDG AND CSR ALIGNMENT

In a nutshell: : IT platform that brings together the stakeholders of the CSR ecosystem.

Nodal agency: Department of Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics, Government of Karnataka in partnership with UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC), Karnataka

The Government of India, through the Companies Act, 2013, made corporate social responsibility (CSR) mandatory for certain class of companies. India is the first country in the world to make CSR initiatives compulsory.

In this context, the Government of Karnataka, in partnership with UNDP has launched the Akanksha web platform for creating synergies between the various stakeholders involved in CSR activities in the State of Karnataka, enabling stakeholders to align their CSR goals with Karnataka's SDG priorities.

Features

By bringing together the government, the donors and the implementing agencies on a common platform, Akanksha helps in the following ways:

- Specific government departments can broadcast their intent in wanting to solve certain issues in-line with SDGs and solicit CSR financial support and technical expertise from NGOs or other implementing agencies

- Identification, facilitation and mobilization of resources available with the Central & State PSUs, national and international donor organizations and private sector as part their CSR commitments.

- Providing a platform for NGOs to access the available proposed projects and show intent in implementing them

- Automate the matchmaking of most suitable funding and implementing agencies using artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithm.

- Hassel-free departmental approvals and simple MoU signing process.

Impact

- Enhanced support to the government departments and district officials in achieving priority SDG indicators and focus areas.

- Provide DCs/ CEOs an overview of CSR activities in the districts.

- Provide an overview to State government on the requirement and nature of CSR spending.

- Various stakeholders should be able to report on progress of the projects undertaken. This will help the sponsors in evaluating the projects and witness the impact achieved through their spending.

- This ensures accountability and transparency of the government and CSR spending.

- Akanksha focuses on ease of doing business, as there is no need for any paper movement or physical contact with respective department officials to get necessary clearances or approvals.

As of April 2022, around ₹288 crores have been committed by as many as 233 registered donors. 23 projects spreading across the SDGs spectrum have been completed, with 74 more in progress. The portal has 456 registered NGOs, who have shown interest in implementing the projects.

Virtual launch of Akanksha portal