

SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL INSIGHTS

CSR | ESG | SUSTAINABILITY



IN THIS EDITION:

KEY NEWS ON CSR, ESG & SUSTAINABILITY

SYNOPSIS OF MONITORING & EVALUATION WORKSHOP

Key Learnings

Speaker's Byte

ABOUT NATIONAL CSR NETWORK



Ms. Meena Raghunathan
Editor, Sustainable Social Insights

**Former Executive Director,
GMR Varalakshmi Foundation**



Ms. Shivika
Compiler & Designer,
Sustainable Social Insights

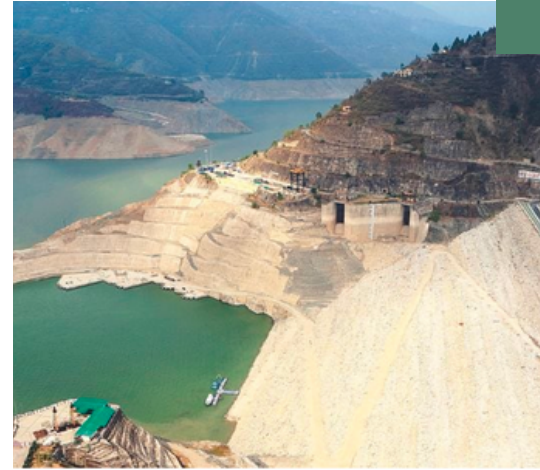
National CSR Network



KEY NEWS ON CSR, ESG & SUSTAINABILITY

EXPLAINER-HOW CLIMATE CHANGE FUELS EXTREME HEAT WORLDWIDE.

Climate change, driven by fossil fuel combustion, is causing more frequent and severe heat waves. Since the Industrial Revolution, global temperatures have risen by nearly 1.3 degrees Celsius. Projections indicate a potential 2.7-degree rise by 2100, necessitating urgent emission cuts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.



STEWARDSHIP LEADERSHIP MAY BE THE FORMULA FOR ORGANISATIONS TO HAVE HOLISTIC ESG PRACTICES.

In today's corporate sector, genuine sustainability and ESG practices are crucial at the leadership level. ESG greenwashing, where companies falsely portray themselves as responsible, is a significant challenge. Leaders must integrate true ESG considerations into core strategies, prioritizing adaptability, digital literacy, ethical leadership, and visionary stewardship to create positive impacts for stakeholders, society, and the environment.

GUEST POST: THREE WAYS AI CAN TRANSFORM ESG REPORTING.

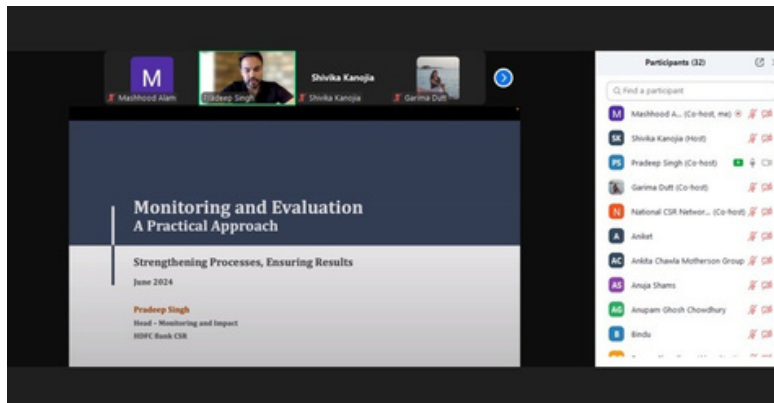
In ESG reporting, AI streamlines data collection and analysis, reducing errors and manual effort. Predictive analytics help forecast sustainability outcomes, mitigate risks, and enhance strategic planning for robust reporting.

INSIDE THE NEW INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON SUSTAINABILITY ASSURANCE REPORTING.

The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) will issue the International Standard on Sustainability Assurance (ISSA) 5000 later this year to ensure consistent sustainability reporting assurance. This standard enhances compliance, stakeholder confidence, data reliability, and trust. It will serve as a global baseline, applicable to various reporting frameworks like IFRS S1, IFRS S2, and the Global Reporting Initiative, covering all sustainability topics. ISSA 5000 is designed for both professional and non-professional assurance practitioners, offering guidance for limited and reasonable assurance engagements, thereby reinforcing credible sustainability reporting.

SYNOPSIS

Workshop On Advance Techniques of Monitoring & Evaluation



The National CSR Network completed the Workshop titled "Advance Techniques in Monitoring & Evaluation for the Social Sector". The workshop, held virtually from June 19th to June 21st, 2024, witnessed the active participation of 27 professionals, corporates, and industry experts from esteemed organizations such as the IIFL Foundation, Resonance Global, Walmart, DRI Rotors International and Rohan Builders, among others.

This workshop equipped social sector professionals with advanced M&E techniques and methodologies. Participants enhanced their skills in designing and implementing effective M&E frameworks, data collection, analysis, and utilization of findings for informed decision-making. They engaged in interactive sessions, peer learning, and case studies, all facilitated by experienced M&E specialists. This workshop elevated participants' ability to drive their organization's impact. Here are some of the key sessions and speakers who shared their insights:

- **Introduction to Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)** by Ms. Garima Dutt President CSR, YES Bank & CEO, YES Foundation
- **The Power of M&E - Importance and overview of M&E frameworks** by Ms. Runa Pathak, Lead CSR, Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd.
- **Mastering Data Collection - Quantitative and qualitative data collection methods** by Dr. Abhishek Lakhtakia Chief Executive Officer, Adani Foundation
- **Designing M&E Plans by building a logic model framework** by Mr. Pradeep Singh, Head M&E, HDFC Bank
- **Crafting SMART Indicators** by Mr. Prabhakar Das CGM, Power Finance Corporation Ltd.
- **Building Your Program's Roadmap with theory of change (ToC)** by Dr. Bhakta Bandhu Dash, Head CSR, Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.
- **Data Management & Analysis for Impact** by Mr. Saurabh Sharma, Head CSR, Hyundai Motor India Ltd.

SPEAKERS



Inaugural Address

Mr. P Dwarakanath
Former Chairman,
GSK Consumer Healthcare, India



Program Director

Ms. Garima Dutt
President, CSR - YES BANK &
CEO - YES Foundation



Ms. Runa Pathak
Lead CSR,
Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd.



Dr. Abhishek Lakhtakia
Chief Executive Officer,
Adani Foundation



Mr. Pradeep Singh
Head M&E,
HDFC Bank



Mr. Prabhakar Das
CGM,
Power Finance Corporation Ltd



Dr. Bhakta Bandhu Dash
Head CSR,
Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.



Mr. Saurabh Sharma
Head CSR,
Hyundai Motor India Ltd.

KEY LEARNINGS

- To excel as a CSR professional, it is not the title that defines success, but the passion and dedication one brings to the role. An effective CSR professional must embrace the PREEST. (*PREEST stands for: Political Issues, Regulatory Aspects, Environmental Concerns, Economic Inequality, Social Aspects, Technological Impacts*)
- By embracing the PREEST framework, CSR professionals can holistically address the multifaceted issues impacting people and communities globally, driving meaningful and sustainable change. Networking with like-minded individuals is crucial to address pressing issues and achieve sustainable outcomes.
- Ensure quality control and accountability through unbiased evaluations, maintaining high standards and transparency.
- Essential for real-time data collection, analysis, and reporting, aiding informed decision-making and robust data management.
- Share insights and best practices to enhance knowledge and contribute to project scalability.
- Adopt frameworks like Log Frame Matrix (LFM), GRI, Third Party Audit, Impact Assessment, and SROI for successful CSR projects.
- Emphasize tracking key information, conducting periodic monitoring, and implementing post-implementation evaluations.
- Regular capacity building and a robust feedback mechanism are vital for continuous improvement and maximizing results.
- Use both quantitative and qualitative methods to address CSR challenges by focusing on outcomes and impact.
- Concurrent monitoring is crucial, with baseline and endline assessments alone being insufficient.
- Involve stakeholders in planning and baseline surveys to measure outcomes effectively.
- Use AI and other technological tools to enhance M&E processes and stay updated with advancements.
- Develop strategic plans (quarterly, annual, long-term) to measure activities, outputs, outcomes, and set key performance indicators.
- Apply logical models for streamlined project planning and implementation, ensuring alignment with donor focus areas.
- Craft SMART indicators for project evaluation to identify gaps, establish verification mechanisms, and ensure periodic assessments.
- Utilize ToC for strategic planning, decision-making, and evaluation, describing how change occurs within a given context.
- Systematically collect, organize, analyze, and utilize data to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of social programs, using tools like Excel, Google Sheets, and MySQL databases.



Question by Shawan Ali, What are the other ways of collecting authentic information related intangible benefits?

Answer by Ms. Garima Dutt, President, CSR - YES BANK & CEO - YES Foundation

We need to ask lot of cross questions and probe during FGD (focused group discussion) and while conducting structured and unstructured interview to get the authentic and credible result from the respondents.

Question by Dr. Md Mashood Alam, In what ways can the data and insights gained from M&E activities influence decision-making and policy formulation?



Answer by Ms. Ms. Runa Pathak , Lead CSR, Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd.

Data and insights from M&E activities provide evidence-based feedback that guides effective decision-making and informs policy formulation, ensuring that interventions are both impactful and resource-efficient.

Networking can help achieve any goal, but changing your mindset is crucial to truly reaching your full potential.

- P Dwarakanath

Testimonials

Thank you for organizing such wonderful sessions.

The speakers shared their experiences which was very useful.

The spacing of the sessions over 3 days was also very apt as we were not overloaded with information. I could internalize each session making this workshop more effective.

I personally felt the session of Mr Pradeep of HDFC was more engaging and was able to make the connect easily.

On the whole, the sessions were insightful, effective and practical.

Thank you once again

Vidhya Gopalakrishnan
Lead, Program Delivery
Shradha Maanu Foundation, Chennai



SPEAKERS' BYTE



Ms. Garima Dutt
President CSR, YES Bank &
CEO, YES Foundation

Session 1: Introduction to Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)

- External assessments in M&E ensure quality control and accountability by providing unbiased evaluations, helping organizations maintain high standards and transparency.
- Technology is essential in M&E for real-time data collection, analysis, and reporting, which are crucial for informed decision-making and robust data management.
- M&E fosters cross-learning among CSR professionals by sharing insights and best practices, enhancing knowledge, and contributing to project scalability.



Ms. Runa Pathak
Lead - CSR,
Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd.

Session 2: The Power of M&E - Importance and overview of M&E frameworks

- When discussing M&E, we need to adopt a comprehensive process to achieve maximum outcomes. An effective M&E framework plays a significant role in the successful implementation of CSR projects.
- When implementing any project, it is equally essential to emphasize tracking key information, conducting periodic monitoring, and implementing a post-implementation evaluation system. Tailoring performance indicators to the specific project is also crucial.
- Widely used M&E frameworks include the Log Frame Matrix (LFM), GRI, Third Party Audit, Impact Assessment, and SROI.
- Regular capacity building and a robust feedback mechanism are important to maximize results and ensure continuous improvement.
- Lastly, sharing best practices is essential. These should encompass strategies that yield long-term impacts, mid-term outcomes, and short-term outputs to ensure sustained and comprehensive benefits.



Dr. Abhishek Lakhtakia
CEO,
Adani Foundation

Session 3: Mastering Data Collection - Quantitative and qualitative data collection methods

- Address CSR challenges by emphasizing outcomes and impact; present data to the program director.
- Systematic and continuous M&E processes aid project decisions.
- Baseline and endline assessments alone are insufficient; concurrent M&E is crucial.
- Baselines measure outcomes; involving stakeholders in planning is a key.
- Baseline survey challenges: lack of data, MIS perceptions, conflicts of interest, data capture issues.
- Reference data is vital for reporting program success.
- Build positive perception of MIS within the program.
- Embrace technology (like AI) for effective M&E; CSR professionals need to stay updated.
- Disseminate authentic information programmatically to stakeholders.



Mr. Pradeep Singh
Head M&E,
HDFC Bank

Session 4: Designing M&E Plans by building a logic model framework

- Develop strategic action plans (quarterly, annually, long-term) to measure activities, outputs, outcomes, identify gaps, and set key performance indicators.
- Effective M&E requires: creating ToC, applying logical models, defining indicators, data collection, analysis, presenting data to stakeholders, and applying insights.
- Measure impact using baseline, endline, and geographic data.
- Use Logic Model Framework for streamlined project planning and implementation.
- Capacity building of organization is essential, especially in remote areas.
- Align proposals with donor focus areas to avoid rejection.



Mr. Prabhakar Das
CGM,
Power Finance Corporation Ltd

Session 5: Crafting SMART Indicators

- Use SMART indicators for project evaluation.
- Indicators vary by project type.
- Establish strong verification mechanisms for data accuracy.
- Ensure indicators are achievable, measurable, and periodically assessed.
- Crafting SMART indicators helps identify project gaps.

SPEAKERS' BYTE



Dr. Bhakta Bandhu Dash
Head CSR,
Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.

Session 6: Building Your Program's Roadmap with theory of change (ToC)

- The Theory of Change (ToC) is a measurable description of a social change initiative, serving as the foundation for strategic planning, ongoing decision-making, and evaluation.
- Components of ToC include context and inputs, activities and outputs, outcomes, and impact.
- Steps in developing a ToC involve identifying the desired change, mapping the theory of change, and conducting validation and iteration.
- ToC is crucial for developing clarity and focus, ensuring alignment, maintaining accountability, and promoting continuous learning and adaptation throughout program design.
- It encourages a more strategic and evidence-based approach to program development.
- ToC provides a framework for selecting indicators and measuring progress toward outcomes and impacts during the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process.

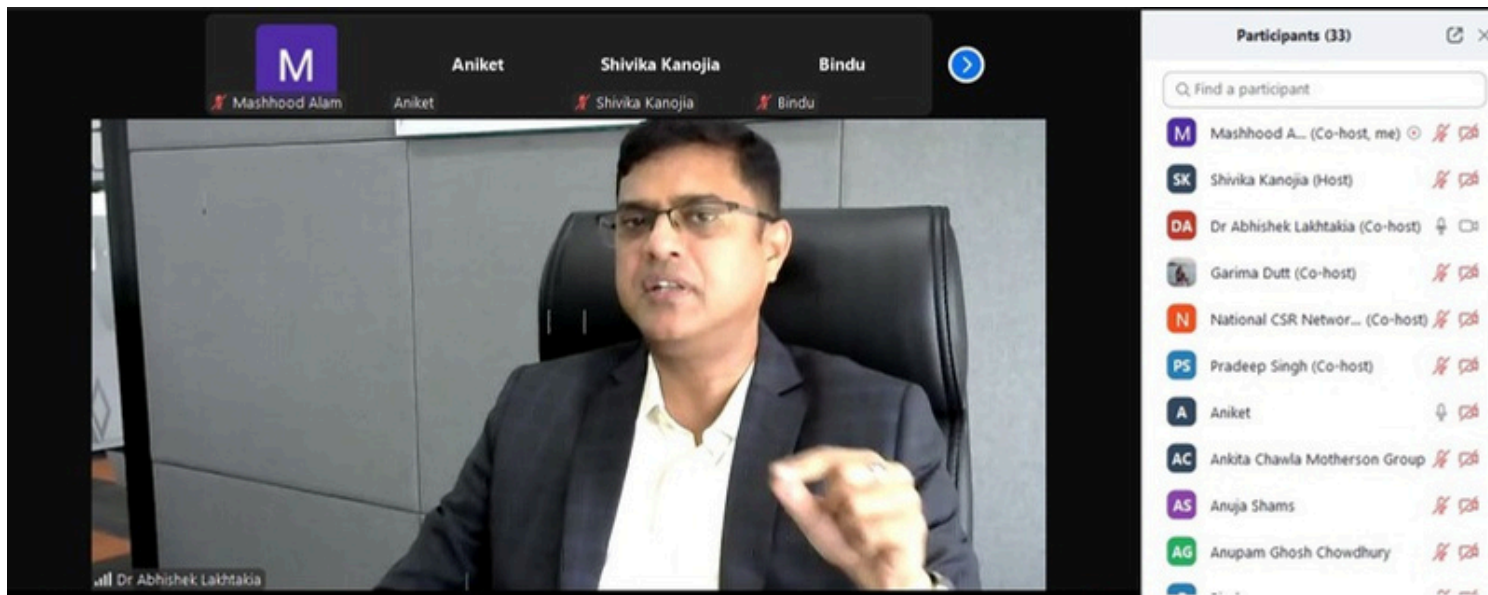



Mr. Saurabh Sharma
Head CSR,
Hyundai Motor India Ltd.

Session 7: Data Management & Analysis for Impact

- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) are indispensable for the successful management of programs in the social sector.
- M&E contributes significantly to the overall effectiveness of social interventions.
- Data management in the social sector involves the systematic collection, organization, analysis, and utilization of data to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of social programs and services.
- Various tools are employed in the social sector to manage data effectively, such as Excel, Google Sheets, MySQL databases, etc. These tools assist with data collection, storage, analysis, visualization, and reporting.

GLIMPSES





The Commitment and Reporting around CSR has strengthened in last 5 years with companies structuring their budget for better outcome

1. Reporting	2. Self-Implementation	3. In-house Expertise	4. Steady Rise
Increased CSR reporting	Implementation by self	Enhanced commitment	Higher risk appetite

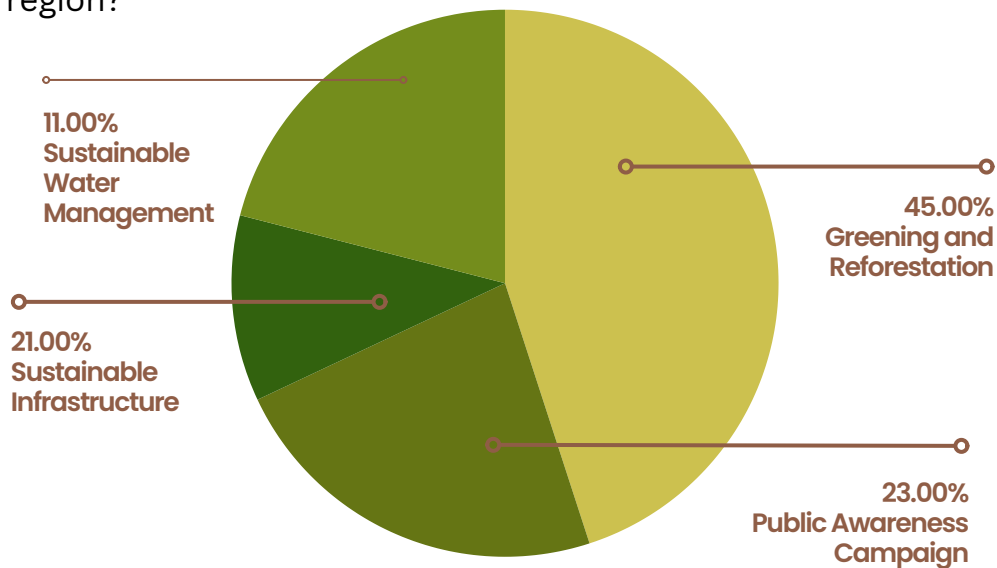
Components of Theory of Change

- Context and Inputs:**
 - Contextual Analysis: Understanding the socio-cultural, socio-economic, and political context in which the intervention will take place.
 - Inputs: Resources, activities, and strategies that will be employed to bring about change.
- Activities and Outputs:**
 - Activities: Specific actions undertaken within the program.
 - Outputs: Immediate outcome or results of these activities.
- Outcomes:**
 - Immediate Outcomes: Immediate changes or effects that result from program activities and outputs.
 - Intermediate Outcomes: Medium-term changes that occur as a result of short-term outcomes.
 - Remote Outcomes: Ultimate desired changes or impacts expected from achieving intermediate outcomes.
- Impact:**
 - Impact: Long-term, broader effects on the target population or system as a whole.

A SURVEY

CSR Policy Solutions for Climate-Induced Heat-wave in Delhi-NCR

Amidst the unprecedented climate-induced heat-wave, it is crucial for CSR initiatives to take a leading role in addressing this pressing issue. The National CSR Network conducted an opinion poll posing the question: Which policy solution should CSR prioritize to address and mitigate the impact of these severe climate conditions across India, with a specific focus on the Delhi-NCR region?



Based on the quantitative data collected through National CSR Network opinion poll on LinkedIn and reflected in the abovementioned graph, the following policy solutions that CSR should prioritize to address and mitigate the impact of unprecedented human-induced heat wave in Delhi-NCR in particular and in India in general:

- Greening and reforestation, which received the highest priority with 45% support through survey. This approach focuses on increasing green cover, planting trees, and restoring forests to reduce urban heat islands and improve air quality.
- Following this, public awareness campaigns, with 23% support, are crucial for educating the public about the dangers of heat-wave and protective measures, thereby enhancing community resilience capacity to adapt and deal with heat-wave.
- Sustainable infrastructure, which received 21% respondents' support, involves designing buildings and urban areas to be more heat-resilient through the use of reflective materials, green roofs, and increased shaded areas.
- Lastly, sustainable water management, though the least prioritized at 11%, remains important for mitigating heat-wave effects through practices like rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation systems, and water recycling. By integrating these solutions, CSR can effectively combat the adverse impacts of heat-wave in the region.

By adopting a holistic approach that prioritizes greening, public awareness, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable water management, CSR initiatives can effectively mitigate the impact of climate-induced heat-wave. This integrated strategy is essential for building a more heat resilient and sustainable future for India, especially in the Delhi-NCR region.

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

National CSR Network invites organizations to become its member strengthen the prevalent social ecosystem in India. The following benefits would accrue to the members:

Networking Opportunities:

NCN provides a platform for organisations to network with industry peers, government officials, and other stakeholders. This could lead to new business opportunities, partnerships, and collaborations.

Knowledge and Expertise:

NCN membership gives access to the latest industry research, trends, and best practices. This helps organisations to stay informed about market developments, technological advancements, and regulatory changes.

Professional Development:

NCN regularly organises training programs, certifications, workshops, and conferences. These resources help employees enhance their skills and knowledge, leading to a more competent and competitive workforce.

Advocacy and Influence:

Being part of the NCN allows organisations to have a voice in industry advocacy efforts and standards that impact their businesses.

Credibility and Reputation:

NCN membership gives a signal to clients, partners, and competitors that the organisation is committed to maintaining high industry standards and staying abreast of industry developments.

Resource Sharing:

Organisations can benefit from shared resources such as industry reports, benchmarking data.

Recruitment and Talent Acquisition:

NCN is planning to have job boards and career services, providing a valuable resource for recruiting top talent. It would also showcase the organisation as a desirable employer committed to professional development.

Compliance and Standards:

Through NCN's strong Advisory Board, members have access to best advice.

Community and Support:

NCN membership offers a sense of community and support, providing a forum for discussing common challenges, solutions, and innovations within a domain.

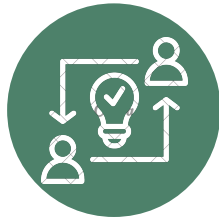
**Become a part of National CSR Network through Subscription @ Rs. 45,000 + 18% GST
(Annually for Corporates) and @ 30,000 + 18 % GST Annually for NGOs
Avail Additional Benefits worth Rs.1,40,499**

***For any Question & Query, write at:
shivika@nationalcsrnetwork.in***

ABOUT US



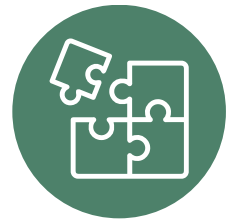
Section 8 Company



Industry led & managed organization governed by a strong Advisory Council



Interactive platform for CSR Stakeholders



Insights & Solutions to address pain points



THE AAA APPROACH

- ADVISORY:** CSRStrategy, Capacity Building, Professional Development, Influence and Advocacy, Knowledge and Expertise, Recognition and Awards
- ALLIANCE:** Networking Opportunities, Collaboration and Innovation Government, Access to Resources and Information, Resource Sharing
- AMPLIFY:** Best Practices, Brand Building, Showcasing Work, Recruitment and Talent Acquisition Community and Support

For suggestions and feedback, Connect with us :



info@nationalcsrnetwork.in



www.nationalcsrnetwork.in



+91 9717314507