Issues and Concerns - Learning's from Northern Conclave JAIPUR
Following companies made presentations on CSR activities

1. AAI
2. CWC
3. EIL
4. FAGMIL
5. FCI
6. Hindustan Salts
7. IRCON
8. IOCL
9. NSIC
10. NFC
11. NFL
12. NTPC
13. National Seeds
14. PFC
15. REIL
16. STC
17. WAPCOS
18. GAIL
Why is Baseline Survey necessary for creating infrastructure under CSR?

Response– The decision rests with the CPSE. Basically, Baseline Survey is recommended as it benefits the communities and CPSEs should do all that is required for benefitting the community.

Can donations to temples considered to be as CSR?

Response– Donations are not part of CSR. Guidelines mention that the CSR activities are to be in a project mode.

Can sports and culture be under the purview of CSR?

Response– There is a thin line between branding and activities undertaken under CSR. Sports and culture related to CSR can be included under CSR or even 5% of the CSR budget. Promotion of sports and culture will be under the purview of CSR as it will be undertaken as capacity building and will be sustainable. Therefore, sponsoring a cultural or sports event will not be CSR.
DPE Guidelines – Issues discussed and responses

- In the Annexure in the DPE Guidelines, Preparedness for Disaster Management and providing flood relief aid is given. Will this come under CSR?
  Response– Yes, this will come under CSR and a proper structure within the company for this is necessary.

- How can CPSEs converge with state authorities? Is Baseline survey necessary for such projects?
  Response– CPSEs need to check first whether they have the needed capacities to take up the project; does it have social benefits? Baseline survey is needed to understand this. Management needs to decide if laying asbestos for a sports stadium will benefit the company. The benefit is not direct to the profits but benefits to the Triple Bottom Line – to the ‘People’.

- Is the NCSR Hub a regulatory body or a facilitator?
  Response– NCSR Hub is a facilitator. It is to get a nation wide compilation of data in one place and map out for knowledge sharing. It is also important to have all the data in a public domain.
DPE Guidelines – Issues discussed and responses

- Can CPSEs do projects as a joint venture?
  Response – The Hub and DPE encourage joint projects. It is also important and beneficial for CPSEs who have small budgets to take up CSR projects as a joint venture. There is a need for CPSEs to synergize their expertise.

- How can CPSEs register with the Hub?
  Response – The registration template for CPSEs is up on the Hub website.

- If the performance of the agencies empanelled with hub is not satisfactory will the Hub update the CPSEs about the same?
  Response – The Hub has a robust empanelment process and the CPSEs will be informed about the performance of implementing agencies. The Hub currently is getting the agencies in place and are working towards a transparent, accountable approach.
According to RAC Guidelines, how will the financial institutions earmark expenditure in sustainable development?
Response - Refer to the RAC Guidelines for sustainable development

Considering the uphill task involved in CSR, should SCOPE not come in the loop?
Response - SCOPE has been invited for conclaves and will be attending some conclaves and SCOPE is in the loop.

Is it mandatory to have 5 projects under CSR?
Response - For smaller CPSEs, DPE would be reviewing the CSR Template for the same.

Can CPSES rate implementing agencies?
Response - After the process of empanelment, the next step would be rating the agencies based on their performance in implementation.
Issues discussed and responses - DPE Guidelines

- According to Clause 8.8, what should be the process of evaluation? Can the evaluation be done on a periodic basis?
  Response: It is important to have concurrent evaluation to look at mid-course corrections. Monitoring and concurrent evaluation should go hand in hand and should be done on a regular basis.

- Is evaluation done by a third party?
  Response: Evaluation is always done by a third party. Monitoring is internally done by the CPSEs.

- For small scale projects can the baseline survey be exempt?
  Response: This decision depends on the management of the CPSEs if they can justify the need of the project.

- Cap of 10–15 lakhs can be given on projects given by State Govt?
  Response: Cap is not possible as activities such as disaster management may require more CSR expenditure.
DPE Guidelines – Issues discussed and responses

1) NMDC shared that it is focussed on providing benefit directly to the community and not through the State Govt.

2) R&R Policy – Multi-specialty hospital is run by CPSE.

Response for Point 2 – What is mandated by law is not CSR.

While defining what is CSR, can we also define what is NOT CSR? Also, the Guidelines are unclear as to what is meant by duplication of State/ Central govt. schemes is not CSR?

Response – For instance, there is a Govt. Higher Secondary School and you built one more school nearby when there is no need for the same, it is duplication of Govt. scheme and cannot be counted as a CSR activity.

Is non-statutory support to contract workers under CSR?

Response – CSR is for people who are not the company’s contract workers/ labourers. CSR should be done for people in the community who can benefit from such interventions.