# India CSR Fund Disclosure – Standard and Poor's South Asia Services Private Limited



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#### 1. About Us

Standard & Poor's South Asia Services Private Limited (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") is interalia engaged in the business of rendering support services to S&PGlobal Inc., USA, who are in the business of providing investment insights, analysis and data to investment and commercial banks, institutional investors, wealth managers, investment advisors, corporations and universities around the world, through financial data research & data analytics. The Company collects / extracts financial data from 50,000 + public & private companies across the world with the support of in-house built technology tools.

It is recognized that integrating social, environmental and ethical responsibilities into the governance of businesses ensures long term success, competitiveness and sustainability and hence, since its inception, the Company has been driving towards fulfilling its corporate social responsibility and the same has been an integral part of the way the Company has been doing its business.

The Company is committed to uphold the highest standards of Corporate Social Responsibility (hereinafter referred to as 'CSR') and aims at making CSR a key business process for enriching society and driving sustainable economic growth and also aims at supplementing the role of the Government of Indiain enhancing the welfare measures in the society.

We give back to our communities and create value for society by focusing on our CSR efforts in areas where we can have the most impact: Creating an Inclusive Economy, Bridging the Global Skills Gap, and Promoting a Sustainable Environment.

## 2. CSR Policy

<u>Objectives Of the Policy</u> - In the aforesaid backdrop, the CSR policy of the Company is broadly framed, and the main objectives of the CSR policy of the Company are as follows:

- 1. To lay down guidelines to make CSR a key business process for the sustainable development of society;
- 2. To make a positive contribution to society through high impact, sustainable programs;
- 3. To directly/indirectly undertake projects/programs/activities which will enhance the quality of life and economic well-being of society at large;
- 4. To provide opportunities for its employees, customers and partners to contribute to these efforts through volunteering;
- 5. To build partnerships and promote innovation through incubation of ideas and technology to address societal needs.

<u>Focus Areas</u> - The Company has broadly identified the following focus areas for the fulfillment of its CSR initiatives:

#### 1. Hunger, Poverty and Health:

- Eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition by providing agro-based livelihoods, promoting agricultural development in association with certain government agencies;
- Promoting health care including preventive healthcare and sanitation by conducting Health and Sanitation Development programs, medical camps, blood donation camps, programs on HIV, AIDS, etc.;
- Provision for food, clothing, nutrition supplement, etc. for the poor, children and other deprived sections of the society;

- Providing safe and potable drinking water and hygienic sanitation by construction of check dams, embankments, ponds, links, channels, wells and water storage tanks;
- Making contributions to various national funds, like poverty eradication fund Swach Bharat Kosh set up by the Central Government for promotion of sanitation, blood transfusion council, illness assistance fund and such other funds.

#### 2. Education:

- Promoting education by construction and running of schools and libraries;
- Augmenting and supporting infrastructure in educational institutions;
- Stressing special education and employment enhancing vocational skills especially among children, women, the elderly, and the disabled by establishing vocational training and special education institutes;
- Providing financial assistance and scholarships for higher education to needy and meritorious students;
- Conducting livelihood enhancement projects, skill development projects and entrepreneurship programs;
- Conducting programs and developing educational material and methodologies for making adults functionally literate, supporting and promoting co-curricular activities, etc.

#### 3. Gender Equality and Senior Citizens:

- Setting up homes and hostels for women and orphans;
- Promoting self-help groups amongst women for undertaking income generating activities;
- Setting up old age homes, day care centers and other such facilities for senior citizens.
- Measures for reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically underprivileged groups.

#### 4. Environmental Sustainability:

- Ensuring environmental sustainability and ecological balance by horticulture plantation, agro-farm forestry, afforestation, projects on non-conventional energy (biogas), recharging ground water levels and notified agricultural extension projects;
- Protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agro forestry, conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air and water by animal husbandry programs, forest conservation projects, water resource management and soil conservation, promoting micro-irrigation etc.
- Conserving biodiversity and supporting research, awareness and advocacy on issues related to biodiversity;
- Promoting awareness about environmental issues.

#### 5. Art and Culture:

- Protection of national heritage, art and culture including restoration of buildings and sites of historical importance and works of art; setting up public libraries; promotion and development of traditional arts and handicrafts;
- Making contributions to the National Cultural Fund.

#### 6. Armed Forces:

- Various measures/programs/activities for the benefit of the armed forces, war widows and their dependents;
- Making contributions to the Army Central Welfare Fund, the Indian Naval Benevolent Fund, the Air Force Central Welfare Fund.

#### 7. Rural Sports:

 Promoting rural sports, nationally recognised sports, paralympic sports and Olympic sports and making contributions to the National Sports Fund.

- Constructing sports infrastructure and setting up and running academies and sports training centers;
- Organizing sports tournaments and coaching camps for rural community and supporting sportspersons to participate in state, national and international events and offering scholarships and sports equipment to deserving sportspersons.

#### 8. Contributions and Funds:

- Contributions or funds provided to technology incubators located within academic institutions which are approved by the Central Government.
- Contribution to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund or any other fund set up by the Central Government for socio-economic development and relief and welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other underprivileged classes, minorities and women.

#### 9. Rural Development Projects:

 Rural infrastructure projects and agriculture development programs and projects.

#### 10. Other Initiatives:

• To undertake other needs-based initiatives in compliance with Schedule VII of the Act.

#### **Exclusions From Corporate Social Responsibility**

The following activities shall not form part of the CSR activities of the Company:

- The activities undertaken in pursuance of normal course of business of the Company.
- CSR projects/programs or activities that are exclusively for the benefit of the employees of the Company and their families.

• Any contribution directly/indirectly to political party or any funds directed towards political parties or political causes.

#### 3. CSR Board and Committee Members

The CSR Committee has been formulated by the Board of Directors of the Company pursuant to the provisions of Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 ('the Act').

**Members:** The Members of the CSR Committee shall consist of the following members:

- Mr. Venkateswara Rao Sunkara
- Mr. Abhishek Tomar

#### Responsibilities of the CSR Committee:

- Formulate and recommend to the Board, a CSR Policy in compliance with Section 135 of the Act;
- Identify the activities to be undertaken as per Schedule VII of the Act;
- Institute a transparent monitoring mechanism for implementation of the CSR projects.
- Recommend the amount of CSR expenditure to be incurred on the earmarked CSR activities.
- Monitor the implementation of the CSR Policy by the Operating committee from time to time.
- To give preference to the local area or areas around it where it operates, for spending the amount earmarked for CSR activities.
- Such other functions as the Board may deem fit.

The CSR Committee shall from time-to-time report to the Board of Directors of the company and work under the supervision and directions of the Board of Directors of the company.

#### Responsibilities of the Operating Committee:

- Implementation of the CSR Policy from time to time.
- Such other functions as the CSR Committee may assign it from time to time.

#### Frequency of Meetings:

The CSR Committee shall meet at least once in a quarter or as agreed otherwise by all the members of CSR Committee. Members of the CSR Committee can agree upon mutually regarded time and place for said meetings. Quorum for the meeting shall be two. The Members of the Committee may participate in the meeting either in person or through video conferencing or other audio-visual means. Other Members of the Senior Management may attend the CSR Committee Meetings as may be appropriate, subject to the approval of the CSR Committee. Minutes of the CSR Committee shall be placed before the Board for noting.

#### Implementation:

The Company's CSR programs/projects shall be implemented:

- 1. Directly, or through a registered trust, society or company established by the Company or its holding, subsidiary or associate company under section 8 of the Act, or
- 2. Any other foundations, trusts, institutions or a company registered under section 8 of the Act (or registered under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956) or any other form of entity with a track record of at least three years in carrying out activities in related areas.
- 3. In collaboration with other companies or institutions for undertaking projects or programs for CSR activities.

#### **CSR Budget:**

1. Expenditure: The CSR Committee shall endeavor to spend at least 2% of the average net profit during the preceding three financial years on CSR activities as enumerated above. The

Committee will recommend the annual budgeted expenditure project wise to the Board for its consideration and approval.

- 2. Failure: In case the Company fails to spend the above targeted amount in that particular financial year, the Committee shall submit a report in writing to the Board of Directors specifying the reasons for not spending the amount which in turn shall be reported by the Board of Directors in their Directors' Report for that particular Financial Year.
- 3. **Surplus:** Surplus arising out of the CSR initiatives shall not form part of the business profits of the Company and it will be channelized into the CSR corpus that will be used in development of the CSR projects and activities.
- 4. **Approving Authority:** Approving authority for the CSR amount to be spent would be any one Director or the Managing Director of the Company after due recommendation of the CSR Committee and approval of the Board of Directors of the Company.

#### **Monitoring:**

The CSR Committee, driven by a dedicated team, will be responsible for the monitoring of CSR policy and activities and report to the Board from time to time. The CSR Committee will play a significant role in ensuring that the CSR policy is embedded across the Company's operations and its CSR initiatives are in line with this Policy.

The CSR Committee will be responsible for monitoring the approved projects and fund disbursements for such projects. The CSR Committee will put in place a transparent monitoring and reporting mechanism for ensuring effective implementation of projects, programs and activities proposed to be undertaken by the Company. Such monitoring will include visits, meetings and progress/status reporting by the project teams.

To measure the impact of the work done, a social satisfaction survey may be carried out by the CSR Committee from time to time.

#### **Policy Review:**

The CSR Committee reviews its CSR Policy from time to time based on the changing needs and aspirations of the target beneficiaries and make sustainable modifications and suitable changes as may be required and submit the same for the approval of the Board.

#### Compliance With Companies Act, 2013:

The CSR policy of the Company conforms to Section 135 of the Act and the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014 on the provisions of CSR spelt out by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

#### 4. Our Social Commitment

Below are the projects undertaken through Standard and Poor's South Asia Services Private Limited.

CSR Activities for the FY 2020–21: As the pandemic hit hard across the world, we stepped up to the challenge, supporting our local community and working to mitigate the far-reaching effects of COVID-19. We are committed to continuing our efforts.

The year had a considerable amount of uncertainty with the virulent outbreak of COVID-19, followed by stricter lockdowns, bringing economic activities to a standstill. Despite the odds, much could be achieved in the year:

We supported the families of Chinchpada Navi Mumbai via a wash program through a partnership with Samhita, Collective Good Foundation (CGF) and Shelter Associates. Under this program we built 110 household toilets, conducted 30 sanitation awareness activities and educated women and adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene and usage of cloth pads through 12 workshops.

#### CSR Activities for the FY 2021-22:

• For the urban underserved community in India, a section that depends upon shared toilets, the risk of contracting COVID-19 is much higher. As part of an ongoing project, we are working with Samhita and Collective Good Foundation (CGF) to provide individual household toilets to another community of Digha ward, Navi Mumbai via a wash program to facilitate the construction of 49 household toilets, conduct 4 workshops with women and adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene and organize 15 community mobilization activities around the importance of sanitation.