Problem Statement -

Maximization of socio-economic impact and Socio-Economic Return on Investment (SROI) through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs of corporates, in the backdrop of the CSR mandate.

Context -

The Companies Act 2013, enacted on 29 August 2013 on accord of Hon'ble President's assent, is a historic milestone, as it has introduced several provisions that have changed the way Indian corporates do business. A few such noticeable provisions are in regards to reporting on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). CSR, which has largely been voluntary contribution by corporates, has now been included in the law. Section-135 of the Companies Act, 2013 has proven to be a game changer, taking CSR from being a peripheral activity to a core activity with board level liability and impact on the company's bottom-line.

Section-135 has mandated companies qualifying certain criteria to spend 2% of their average net profit from previous three consecutive financial years into CSR initiatives. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has also established certain reporting guidelines and possible areas of intervention for carrying out CSR programs. Thus, efficient methods to leverage this CSR capital to generate maximum impact need to be put together.

We need the participants to come up with a process flow or framework for companies to adopt that will result in maximization of beneficiary outreach and delivery of expected impact on ground. The process flow should include systems and processes that need to be setup, mechanisms of engagement with all relevant stakeholders – NGOs, consultants, Government, etc., and the reporting mechanism.