Sankala
Foundation

Annual Report 2022-23

Sankala
Foundation

Annual Report 2022-23

Table of Content

Executive Summary

The Sankala Foundation presents its first annual report for the year 2022–23, highlighting the commitment to contribute in achieving SDGs and eliminate poverty, address climate change issues, promote sustainability and resilience, thus improving the quality of life especially of vulnerable groups. Amidst the recurring natural calamities, the urgency of collective action to address climate change has become more palpable than ever.

In line with our dedication, we introduce our motto- 'Voice for a Sustainable Planet' reflecting our commitment. We are also delighted to announce the establishment of the Sankala Centre for Climate and Sustainability. This centre is dedicated to advancing education, research, training, outreach, advice, and advocacy in the domain of climate and sustainability. Our commitment to collaboration extends across governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, scientific communities, domain experts and youth, who share our objectives.

The essence of our mission is driven by the purpose to promote ideas, policies, and scientific solutions that effect meaningful societal change. Our annual report proudly showcases our logo, a visual embodiment of our core values and purpose, intricately intertwining the term 'Sankala' with a representation of the globe. This symbolism signifies the convergence of diverse elements such as knowledge, ideas, cultures, science, technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Just as these elements harmonize, our global community must also unite to drive collective action toward sustainability and a more promising future. The globe serves as a reminder that our mission; transcends borders, aiming for a common goal beyond differences.

In the spirit of progress and innovation, we formed 12 new verticals that will form the core of the Sankala Foundation's work. Each vertical has been meticulously planned to make a profound impact on the planet and its inhabitants. The areas include climate change; water, sanitation & hygiene; public health; air and environment; clean energy; urban renewal; biological diversity; disaster management; sustainable development; innovation & entrepreneurship; science & technology; education, communication & outreach.

To steer these ambitious initiatives with wisdom and foresight, we are in the process of assembling a dynamic advisory board. Comprising visionaries, experts, and thought leaders from various fields, our advisory board will provide strategic guidance, innovative insights, and a wealth of experience to ensure the success of our endeavours. Their collective wisdom will serve as a compass, guiding us through uncharted territories and inspiring innovation.

Recognizing the potential of the younger generation to drive transformative change, we are building the dedicated team of young climate and sustainability leaders. This team will be at the forefront of our initiatives, infusing fresh perspectives, creative thinking, and a passion for change. By empowering these emerging young leaders, we are sowing the seeds of a more sustainable future and fostering a legacy of impact.

Furthermore, the Sankala Foundation is set to work in the areas of knowledge building, policy inputs, advocacy, documentation and awareness generation. Snakala Foundation is focussing on building the capacity of youth through internship and volunteers programmes as they have the highest stake in the future of planet earth. These undertakings catalyze a call to action, rallying individuals and organizations to unite in the pursuit of a sustainable future. This report is a testament to our aspirations and unwavering commitment to build the knowledge and its sharing to promote resilience, conservation and sustainability for a better planet earth.

Sankala Foundation

1. About Sankala

The Sankala Foundation is a non-profit organisation registered in 2022 under Section (8) of the Companies Act, 2013 of India. Our primary focus is on strengthening the knowledge base and promoting dialogue among various stakeholders to foster initiatives that contribute to the sustainability of Planet Earth. We are particularly committed to mitigating the effects of climate change and environmental disasters, with a particular emphasis on protecting vulnerable communities.

To achieve our goals, the centre actively engages in research and promotes knowledge-based advocacy. We strive to contribute to developing sustainable policies and practices and foster partnerships with both governments and its parastatal organizations at different levels and non-government organisations, the scientific community and domain experts that share similar objectives at the local, national, and international levels.

Through its activities, the Sankala Foundation aims to create a collaborative environment where various stakeholders can forge partnerships and work together to achieve common goals addressing the pressing challenges of climate change and sustainability. Our ultimate objective is to make a positive and lasting impact on the well-being of our planet and the communities that depend on it.

Values and belief: 'Sankala', a Hindi word that embodies the concept of 'the coming together of all elemental units as one,' is the guiding force behind our foundation. This principle is anchored in the Aristotelian philosophy that emphasises the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. It provides us with a solid foundation for harness the synergy of ideas, energy, and knowledge in our efforts to contribute to a climate & disaster-resilient, and sustainable planet.

By embracing this belief of 'Sankala', we recognise the power of collaboration and the interrelation of various elements and stakeholders. We believe that by uniting diverse resources, perspectives and efforts, one can create a more harmonious, and transformative impact to address the emerging challenges.

2. Goals and aim

- to set up and manage 'Centre for Climate and Sustainability', to carry out education, research, training, outreach and advocacy in the field of water, air, clean energy, climate change, biodiversity, environment, disaster management, mobility, urban renewal, sanitation & public health, innovations & entrepreneurship, and science & technology;

- to contribute to improving the quality of life of people in general and the disadvantaged and marginalised sections of society in particular by contributing to policy-making and better resource management to eliminate poverty;

- to build a knowledge base and skills to enable various stakeholders to take steps to ensure environmental sustainability, reduce environmental disasters and mitigate the effects of climate change and disasters, especially on vulnerable communities; and

- promote knowledge-based advocacy and develop practices, engage with and foster partnerships with various government and non-government organisations working with similar objectives at local, national, and international levels.

3. Sankala Centre for Climate and Sustainability

The Sankala Centre for Climate and Sustainability (SCCS), established and managed by the foundation, is dedicated to advancing education, research, training, outreach, advice, and advocacy in the field of climate and sustainability. The Centre is committed to collaborate with the government and its parastatal organisations at all levels, non-governmental organisations, scientific communities, and domain experts that share similar goals. These collaborations extend to the local, national, and international levels to bring synergy. At the heart of the Centre's ethos is a resolve to contribute towards improving the quality of life of people, especially disadvantaged and marginalised communities. Through evidence-based policy making and sustainable resource management, we aim to design and support programmes that help eradicate poverty and build inclusive societies.

4. Vision

The Centre envisions a green and sustainable planet by contributing to the building of a climate and disaster–resilient and poverty–free world.

5. Mission

The Centre is dedicated to carrying out research, scientific studies, and develop ideas and policy frameworks for knowledge-based advocacy. The Centre is committed to designing and providing innovative and scientific solutions to emerging challenges related to climate change, poverty, and resource depletion, and also promoting renewability and sustainability. By nurturing partnerships with different stakeholders, the centre aims to promote public policies and best practices for a green transformation on planet Earth.

6. Areas of work

i.) Climate Change

The planet's average surface temperature has risen about 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit (0.9 degrees Celsius) since the late 19th century. In the recently released world bank report, climate change could push more than 100 million people into extreme poverty by 2030 by disrupting agriculture and fueling the spread of diseases. India is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. By 2020, pressure on India's water, air, soil, and forests is expected to become the highest in the world. In response to this, India has initiated the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) outlining policies and missions focusing on various sectors, including solar energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable agriculture. Similarly, the National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) finances clean energy initiatives and research through levies on coal production. India has made commitments under the Paris Agreement, pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and expand non-fossil fuel power capacity. Additionally, India has launched the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to promote solar energy adoption globally and has implemented stringent Bharat Stage (BS) emission norms to combat air pollution.

Sankala foundation recognizes the urgency of limiting the effects of climate change, acknowledging the pressing need to curb greenhouse gas emissions, conserve forest and natural resources, and adopt sustainable practices. The Centre seeks to inform, educate, and inspire action across communities, institutions, and governments through its initiatives. The focus is on promoting climate-friendly policies, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) norms and targeted programs. By engaging with policymakers and providing evidence-based recommendations, the Centre aims to influence

the adoption of regulations and measures that actively support environmental sustainability.

Best practices serve as beacons of success, offering tangible examples of how individuals, organisations, and communities can contribute to sustainable development. The Centre's efforts to promote and disseminate best practices provide actionable insights to be adopted on a wider scale and accelerate the transition towards a more sustainable future.

ii.) Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

Around the world, water drives people. An abundance of it draws people, builds up communities and business, and creates life. A lack of it drives people away, prevents communities and businesses from flourishing, and chokes off life before it can begin. Over 8,27,000 people in low and middle-income countries die because of inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene each year, representing 60% of total diarrheal deaths. Of these, 4,32,000 people die because of poor sanitation.

In India, nearly one billion people live in one of the country's 665,000 villages. Around 40 per cent of this population still cannot access safely managed drinking water. That's approximately 400 million people without proper access to a vital resource. Through empowering women with leadership roles in Pani Samitis, leveraging digital advancements to monitor water supply, and creating awareness campaigns, India has been carving a path towards a healthier, more sustainable future.

In 2019, the government of India started the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide adequate, safe and reliable drinking water to all rural households in India by 2024, through the installation of functional household tap connections. The Jal Jeevan Mission aims to ensure that no one is left behind by making sure that it leaves each village with 100 per cent coverage.

Similarly, the government started Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in 2014 to address the sanitation crisis. SBM's emphasis on efficient solid and liquid waste management has not only transformed India's sanitation landscape but has also had a direct impact on public health. The improved disposal and treatment of waste has significantly reduced the contamination of water sources, leading to a decrease in waterborne diseases, including diarrheal infections. This has resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of deaths caused by diarrhea, particularly among infants and young children who are most vulnerable to such diseases.

The campaign's efforts to nudge people towards adopting cleaner habits have been particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the world grappled with the virus, individuals and communities across India sought ways to protect themselves by adhering to practices such as frequent handwashing, maintaining personal hygiene, and practicing social distancing – all principles that SBM had instilled in the public consciousness.

Sankala places strong emphasis on sustainable water management practices by advocating for efficient water use, minimizing wastage, use of IoT devices, documentation of case studies and best practices. We also engage in research to identify innovative sanitation solutions, including eco-friendly technologies and sustainable practices that can be applied to improve sanitation in different settings. Collaborating with local communities and authorities, the centre aims to develop and implement water governance and sanitation policies nationally.

iii.) Public Health

WHO envisages highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right of every human being. In alignment with global efforts, India is also committed to ensuring universal access to healthcare for all.

The government's dedication to achieving universal health coverage is evident through flagship initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat PM-Jan Arogya Yojana, which extends medical care access to millions of impoverished families, and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, harnessing health technology for evidence-based decision-making and the digitization of health records. Recognized as the world's pharmacy, endeavours to enhance the availability of quality generic medicines via the PM Bharatiya Jan Pariyojana and AMRIT pharmacies have significantly benefited citizens. Simultaneously, the promotion of alternative therapies like Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy has witnessed increased adoption, both within India and on a global scale.

By advocating for policies that prioritise equitable healthcare distribution, Sankala aims to bridge gaps in healthcare accessibility, particularly in underserved areas through digital healthcare. Drawing from lessons learned from Covid-19, the centre develops strategies and recommendations for effective pandemic response. This includes advocating for robust healthcare infrastructure, supply chain resilience, information dissemination, and coordination among stakeholders during times of crisis. By collaborating with healthcare professionals, communities, and policymakers, the centre contributes to a healthier and more resilient society with a commitment to safeguarding the well-being of all.

iv.) Air & Environment

WHO data show that almost all of the global population (99%) breathe air that exceeds WHO guideline limits and contains high levels of pollutants, with low- and middle-income countries suffering from the highest exposures. The burning of fossil fuels and wildfires exacerbated by climate change have created what some experts describe as the biggest danger to global public health. Addressing this complex issue requires sustained global cooperation and a commitment to cleaner energy sources, emissions reduction, and sustainable practices to ensure a healthier and more sustainable future for all. The Paris Agreement, a landmark accord adopted by nearly 200 countries, exemplifies this commitment by emphasizing the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, the Sustainable Development Goals set forth by the United Nations outline targets for improving air quality and reducing the detrimental effects of pollution on human health.

The declines in PM 2.5 levels over the past years in India are encouraging in light of the National Clean Air Progamme (NCAP) goals, which aim to reduce PM 2.5 pollution substantially by 2024, but also highlight the importance of air pollution issues outside of urban settings. Rural areas have experienced stronger reductions in PM 2.5 levels compared to urban areas. This is attributable to the progress made under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

India's air pollution monitoring network is still limited but quickly growing, and there is a growing need for satellite data in tracking air pollution trends. It provides comprehensive insights into pollution patterns and their sources, enabling a better understanding of air quality in both rural and urban areas. This information is

vital for designing targeted interventions and implementing effective mitigation strategies. In pursuit of sustainable development, Sankala promotes the adoption of technologies and makes evidence-based recommendations to shape policies that curb pollution, reduce emissions, and ensure responsible land use.

Environmental stewardship is a core value that the centre seeks to instill in communities, organisations, and individuals. By advocating for eco-friendly manufacturing practices, resource efficiency, and waste reduction, the centre minimises industries' environmental footprint. Simultaneously, we encourage individuals to make conscious choices in their consumption habits, fostering a mindful and responsible consumption culture. We research and advocate for integrating renewable energy sources, clean technologies, and innovative solutions that mitigate pollution, conserve resources, and reduce environmental degradation.

v.) Clean Energy

Climate change is an existential threat that has the potential to change the course of human history for the worse. Fossil fuels are the traditional energy sources that constitute the largest contributors to climate change. They account for over 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions and approximately 90% of all carbon dioxide emissions. International collaborations, like the International Solar Alliance and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), serve as catalysts for knowledge-sharing and technology transfer, fostering innovative solutions to tackle the energy and environmental crises.

India is the world's third-largest energy consuming country. On a per capita basis, India's energy use and emissions are less than half the world average. A significant transformation towards clean energy is evident, with renewables consti-

tuting a substantial 41.3% of the total installed power capacity. This shift is underscored by the remarkable contributions of various sources, including 63.3 GW from solar energy, 41.9 GW from wind power, and 10.2 GW from biomass, among others. India is pioneering a new model of economic development to avoid the carbon-intensive approaches and provide a blueprint for other developing economies for clean energy transition.

The centre actively contributes to curbing environmental degradation linked to conventional energy sources through active advocacy for increased adoption of renewable energy technologies. Additionally, the centre is a catalyst for innovation in the energy sector, supporting pioneering technologies that enhance energy production, distribution, and consumption efficiency.

Sankala's methodology is deeply rooted in collaboration, the sharing of knowledge, and educational outreach. With active engagement involving governments, industries, researchers, and communities, the centre strives to propel the widespread adoption of renewable energy, nurturing solar, wind, and biomass projects that fuel sustainable growth.

vi.) Urban Renewal

The United Nations projects that by 2050, nearly 68% of the global population will reside in cities and towns. Urban renewal efforts are particularly crucial in rapidly urbanizing regions such as Asia and Africa. For example, Asia is home to some of the world's fastest-growing megacities, including Tokyo, Delhi, Shanghai, and Mumbai. In Africa, cities like Lagos, Kinshasa, and Cairo have experienced dramatic population growth in recent years. However, urban renewal is not just confined to large metropolises. Smaller towns and cities across the world are also undergoing transformation through renewal projects.

Urban renewal in India, especially concerning the environment, has become an essential aspect of sustainable urban development in recent years. The introduction of the Smart Cities Mission marked a significant turning point in urban renewal, ushering in reforms to encourage improved economic standards, smart governance, climate-sensitive sustainable environments, vibrant public spaces, digital access, and health and hygiene. To address the acute housing shortage in urban areas and promote inclusive urbanization, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) has been instrumental in providing safe and decent housing for economically weaker sections.

Serving as a focal point for cultivating and advancing exemplary approaches in urban renewal, Sankala conducts research, collaborates with urban planners and policymakers, and gathers insights to identify and propagate strategies that uphold social inclusivity, economic vibrancy, and environmental sustainability within urban areas. The centre champions streamlined services like waste management, transportation, water supply, and sanitation. By optimising the efficiency of these services, the centre contributes to elevating the quality of life for urban dwellers while concurrently mitigating the ecological footprint.

vii.) Biological Diversity

One of the cornerstones of biodiversity is species richness which is the sheer number of different species present in a given area. Across the world, tropical rainforests, for instance, are renowned for their extraordinary species richness, harbouring a vast array of plant and animal life. The Amazon Rainforest alone is estimated to host around 390 billion individual trees, representing roughly 16,000 different species. Similarly, coral reefs, the bustling underwater metropolises, are hotspots of marine biodiversity, supporting around a quarter of all marine species

Yet nature is in crisis. One million of the world's estimated 8 million species of plants and animals are threatened with extinction. Meanwhile, ecosystem degradation is affecting the well-being of 40 per cent of the global population. Habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, overexploitation, and the introduction of invasive species are among the primary drivers pushing many species towards extinction.

The thriving wildlife within India is deeply intertwined with flourishing ecosystems. India stands as a shining example of dedicated biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration on the global stage. Despite occupying a mere 2.4% of the Earth's land area, India's commitment to preserving its rich natural heritage has resulted in an impressive 8% contribution to global biodiversity. However, these achievements are not limited to individual species. They are indicative of a larger ethos that encompasses the preservation and restoration of entire ecosystems.

Sankala is acutely aware of the pressing need for ecosystem restoration in light of human-induced damage. It actively promotes the restoration of equilibrium within ecosystems. Forest ecosystems serve as key carbon sinks and are integral to climate resilience. The centre advocates for measures to increase forest cover, combat deforestation, and promote sustainable forestry practices. By expanding forested areas, the centre contributes to carbon sequestration, reduces climate-related risks, and supports biodiversity conservation.

The centre's efforts in conserving biological diversity have a direct impact on reducing the vulnerability of ecosystems and communities to the effects of climate change. Biodiverse ecosystems are more resilient and adaptable to changing conditions, which helps mitigate the adverse effects of temperature rise, extreme weather events, and habitat disruptions. Through

these concerted efforts, the centre contributes to the sustainable coexistence of diverse life forms and preserving a habitable planet for present and future generations.

viii.) Disaster Management

The world is witnessing an alarming surge in extreme weather events, reshaping lives and landscapes. Over the first two decades of the 21st century, more than 11,000 such incidents have been recorded, exacting a toll of nearly 475,000 lives lost and causing economic devastation surpassing $2.56 trillion. These events are not only a statistical anomaly but an urgent call to action.

India's seismic zone map reveals that a significant portion of the country's land area, about 59 per cent, falls under regions exposed to moderate to severe seismic hazards. This means that a substantial proportion of the population is at risk from potential earthquakes, which can cause widespread devastation.

At Sankala, we understand the importance of being prepared for disasters before they occur. The Centre operates on both micro and macro levels. At the micro level, it collaborates with local communities to design disaster response plans tailored to specific regions and conditions. At the macro level, it engages with governmental bodies, NGOs, and international organisations to establish comprehensive policies and frameworks that guide disaster management efforts at a larger scale.

The Centre's activities extend beyond immediate disaster response. It aids in designing social and economic development programmes that mitigate disaster risks. This involves promoting sustainable land-use practices, resilient infrastructure, and environmentally sound policies that reduce vulnerability to disasters and enhance overall resilience.

The Centre studies historical data, analyzing disaster patterns, understanding the causes and impacts of different types of disasters (natural or human-induced), and identifying vulnerable regions and populations. This information forms the foundation for evidence-based decision-making and effective disaster management strategies.

ix.) Sustainable Development

In an increasingly interconnected world, the concept of sustainable development recognizes that the challenges we face – from climate change and resource depletion to poverty and inequality – are not isolated concerns confined within national boundaries. Rather, they are intricate threads woven into the fabric of our shared planet, where actions taken in one part of the world can reverberate across continents. Therefore, addressing these challenges demands a global perspective, cooperation among nations, and a commitment to common goals.

Throughout its history, Indian communities have practiced principles of conservation, harmony with nature, and balanced living. India's commitment to sustainable development is evident in its policy framework, with the adoption of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It reflects India's dedication to addressing climate change, promoting social equity, ensuring economic growth, and conserving natural resources.

In line with the overarching aims of sustainable development goals, Sankala collectively contributes to the betterment of society. Education is central in this strategy, recognizing its role as a catalyst for social mobility and economic growth.

Parallel to education, skill development initiatives have been deployed to enhance employability and foster self-sufficiency among the population.

By empowering individuals with relevant skills, Sankala seeks to facilitate economic opportunities, enabling them to secure stable livelihoods and improve their quality of life. Entrepreneurship also features prominently as a means of fostering innovation and creating job opportunities, thereby bolstering the economy and reducing unemployment rates.

A key strategy the centre pursues is the advancement of circular economy principles. By developing innovative recycling technologies and processes, the Foundation contributes to creating closed-loop systems where materials are continuously repurposed. Central to the Foundation's efforts is the development of alternate green materials. These materials are characterised by their minimal environmental footprint, from production to disposal. Researchers at the Foundation work diligently to engineer materials that replace conventional, resource-intensive options while maintaining or enhancing performance.

Through the convergence of scientific inquiry and technological advancement, Sankala aims to leave an indelible mark on the journey toward sustainability.

x.) Innovation & Entrepreneurship

India has a demographic advantage of having a young population, with a median age of 29 years. This youthful population is a valuable resource that can be harnessed to drive sustainable ideas and innovations for the nation's development. Sankala recognizes this potential and is actively working to nurture the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit among the youth.

The centre lays strong focus on green innovations and entrepreneurship. This aligns with the growing global emphasis on environmental sustainability and the need for creative solutions to combat climate change and other ecological challenges. The Centre aims to foster an ecosystem that encourages explicitly and supports the development of green enterprises, which are businesses that prioritise environmentally friendly practices and solutions.

In this direction, the centre offers incubation and acceleration programmes tailored for aspiring green entrepreneurs. These programmes would provide mentorship, resources, and networking opportunities to help startups refine their ideas, develop business plans, and bring eco-friendly products and services to market. The centre will also play a role in advocating for policies that promote sustainability and create a conducive environment for green enterprises to thrive.

By highlighting successful green enterprises and their positive impact, the centre inspires others to follow suit.

xi.) Science & Technology

The evolution of science and technology has fostered unprecedented global collaboration. Today, scientists, researchers, and innovators from diverse corners of the world work together seamlessly, transcending geographical boundaries. Collaborative initiatives such as CERN in Europe, the International Space Station, and international research consortiums are prime examples of this interconnectedness.

The global penetration of the internet, mobile technology, and the rise of digital platforms have bridged gaps, democratized information, and transformed industries. The global tech giants like Apple, Google, and Amazon have a pervasive influence on the way we live and interact.

India too has emerged as a global research and development hub, with world-class institutions, research centers, and laboratories. India's innovation ecosystem is thriving, with a growing number of start-ups and tech entrepreneurs.

Indian innovators are contributing to global solutions in areas like fintech, healthcare, and agriculture.

At the Sankala, the pursuit of sustainability is underpinned by a strong commitment to research, technological innovation, and the development of solutions that tackle pressing challenges related to climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation.

The Science & Technology arm of the Sankala Foundation is acutely attuned to the rapidly evolving landscape of environmental challenges. We support climate tech startups and innovators through an accelerator program, facilitating their growth with mentorship, resources, and funding. In rural communities, we are establishing innovation hubs to impart technological skills and promote sustainable agricultural practices, renewable energy adoption, and water conservation. From the escalating impacts of climate change to the critical issue of depleting natural resources, the Foundation recognizes that novel solutions are essential. Researchers and technologists within the Foundation's ecosystem collaborate closely to identify these emerging challenges and design innovative and impactful interventions.

xii.) Education, Communication & Outreach

Effective communication transcends borders, fostering mutual understanding and unity. The internet, social media, and instant messaging platforms have revolutionized global communication, connecting individuals, communities, and organizations across the world.

At the heart of the Sankala Foundation's mission lies a deep commitment to education, communication, and outreach. This pillar is a crucial bridge connecting knowledge, action, and impact, ultimately working towards a more sustainable and resilient world.

From grassroots communities to academic institutions and professional sectors, Sankala facilitates designing and implementing programmes that equip individuals with the tools they need to make informed and sustainable decisions. Workshops, seminars, and hands-on training initiatives are key to disseminating practical knowledge.

Education extends beyond imparting information—it also involves advocating for informed action. Sankala engages in knowledge-based public advocacy to influence policies, practices, and behaviours that drive sustainability. We leverage research findings, expert insights, and compelling narratives to advocate for environmentally responsible policies and practices at local and national levels.

In an era of information overload, Sankala serves as a trusted source of reliable resources on sustainability and climate change. We curate and disseminate accurate, science-based information through various channels, including online platforms, publications, and educational materials. By offering easily accessible resources, Sankala empowers individuals to make educated decisions that contribute to positive environmental change.

7. Activities undertaken during FY 2022-23

i.) Charting horizons: Vision and Mission

In a chapter that echoes the promise of progress and the resonance of purpose, we unveiled the vision and mission of Sankala. As we set our sights on the future, these guiding principles illuminate our path towards a world that harmonises humanity and nature, resilience, and equity.

Our new vision is a beacon of hope and aspiration. It envisions a world that thrives in harmony with nature, where resilience against climate challenges and disasters coexists with the eradication of poverty. With this vision, we set our sights on contributing to creating a planet where sustainability is not just a goal but a tangible reality.

Complementing our visionary outlook is a mission that encapsulates our purpose-driven approach. We are devoted to pursuing knowledge, research, and innovative ideas that will serve as cornerstones for informed advocacy. Our mission encompasses designing and delivering solutions that confront the complex web of climate change, poverty, and resource depletion. But we continue beyond solutions; we are committed to fostering renewability and sustainability, ensuring a holistic approach that can stand the test of time.

ii.) Crafting a visual identity: Logo

In a year marked by growth and renewal, Sankala introduced its new logo. This meticulously crafted emblem stands as a powerful representation of our journey, values, and aspirations. It encapsulates the essence of our evolving identity and purpose, ushering in a new era of meaningful impact.

The logo incorporates the Bodhi leaf as a symbol of progress towards a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable world. The connection between the axil of the Bodhi leaf and the ring of blue plants and network grids represents two essential aspects:

a) the intimate relationship and inter-connectedness between knowledge, sustainability, and life forms on Earth; and

b) disseminating and networking knowledge and wisdom with the rest of the world, emphasising the importance of spreading information and insights to drive positive change.

It therefore reflects the need for collaboration and cooperation on a global scale to tackle issues effectively.

The word 'Sankala' in the logo and its union with the globe represent the concept of 'Sankalan' or aggregation. It signifies the coming together of knowledge, ideas, cultures, science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. This reflects the association of all these elements in driving the global community towards sustainability and a better future for all.

iii.) Policy Incubation Studio

In our unyielding pursuit of innovation and impact, Sankala has taken a significant step forward by establishing a Policy Incubation Studio. This dynamic space is a nexus for fostering policy innovation, where ideas are nurtured, collaborations are kindled, and a sustainable future is shaped. It's not merely a concept but a dynamic reality that encompasses the following:

a.) **The Sankala Internship programme:** The Sankala Internship programme is designed to engage with and provide opportunities to

young minds. It ranges from 8 weeks to 12 months and is a boot camp for policy and practice enthusiasts. It is meant for potential researchers interested in public policy and governance by providing them with practical know-how to work at the intersection of government, public policy making, private sectors, innovation & entrepreneurship, and society at large. The course designing and knowledge dissemination is done by domain experts with national and international repute and in policy making experience.

b.) **The Sankala volunteers programme**: The Sankala Volunteers Programme offers an opportunity to work with the Centre in ongoing programmes, campaign, and events. Volunteers collaborate with the Sankala team and contribute to various programmes of the Centre. The volunteers gain valuable knowledge and develop skills through working with the centre and interacting with various stakeholders. This programme is particularly relevant for public-spirited individuals looking for opportunities to contribute to the Centre's activities to make their life more meaningful.

c.) **The Sankala experts corner:** The Centre serves as a platform that brings together domain experts from India and abroad to share their insights, experiences and wisdom and help generate new ideas and policy framework across various fields. It employs a framework that harnesses the collective expertise of such experts, all working towards the common goal of shaping a sustainable world. The Centre actively encourages eminent people, domain experts, scientists and professionals to contribute to its work. By sharing their knowledge, insights and experiences, experts help develop ideas and policy frameworks that can make a difference and an impact for a better future.

iv.) Policy Seminars

The Sankala Centre for Climate and Sustainability conducted three policy seminars of one day each during the FY 2022-23 to explore potential project areas in various domains, which included discussion, deliberation and culmination of ideas and knowledge sharing as follows:

a) **Theme: Advancing Net Zero efforts and ESG Goals**

Agenda: Exploring strategies to achieve net-zero emissions and enhance Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices.

Date: December 24, 2022

Summary: This policy seminar began by acknowledging the profound connection between air and Indian culture, symbolizing the harmony between human life and nature. However, rampant pollution and heedless exploitation have compromised air quality, necessitating urgent action. In India, the national policy to achieve 'breathable air for all' has guided the pursuit of alternative pathways inspired by traditional wisdom and smart interventions. Initiatives encompassing alternative fuels, clean cooking projects, and green hydrogen gained momentum.

The seminar acknowledged key initiatives such as the Ujjwala Yojana, National Clean Air Programme, FAME 1 & 2, and Bharat Stage emission standards, all contributing to India carbon emission control and reduction. The integration of the Smart Mobility Project with urban clean air campaigns emerged as a strategic move to curb vehicular emissions and greenhouse gases.

In alignment with the Paris Agreement and the COP26 pledge, India's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 was highlighted. This commitment is intricately interwoven with existing policy frameworks tailored to accommo-

date India's unique pace of urbanization and industrialization. The seminar highlighted the domestic manufacturing sector's alignment with this national vision, as it actively integrates carbon considerations and develops indigenous carbon trading markets.

Future activities:

I. Emission Reduction Innovations: Collaborative projects promoting technological solutions to mitigate emissions, focusing on sustainable energy sources and low-carbon technologies.

ii. Air Quality Monitoring: Initiatives to develop and deploy advanced air quality monitoring systems, fostering informed decision-making and citizen engagement.

iii. Urban Clean Air Campaigns: Collaborative efforts with urban authorities to drive public awareness and participation in improving air quality through clean mobility and sustainable practices.

iv. ESG Integration: Projects facilitating ESG integration in corporate practices, supporting businesses in aligning with sustainable standards and reporting.

v. Carbon Trading Advocacy: Collaborative initiatives to advocate for and establish effective carbon trading mechanisms, contributing to India's net-zero aspirations.

The seminar concluded with a call for collective efforts to align policies, technological innovations, and citizen participation, forging a path towards net-zero emissions while nurturing sustainable development and ESG practices.

b) **Theme: Advancing Climate Change Effects and Building resilience**

Agenda: Exploring the complex impacts of climate change and strategies for building resilience in the face of its challenges.

Date: January 9, 2023

Summary: The policy seminar on 'Climate Change Effects and Resilience Building' provided insights into the intricate web of factors driving climate change and its far-reaching effects. Excessive greenhouse gas emissions, primarily from human activities, contribute to global temperature shifts, altering weather patterns and causing diverse impacts across sectors.

The seminar highlighted the intertwined relationship between temperature shifts and their impacts on Earth's surface and oceans. Altered weather patterns, extreme events, and sea level rise were outlined as consequences of climate change. Shifts in temperature and precipitation patterns disrupt ecosystems, threaten biodiversity, and challenge agriculture and food security. Rising ocean temperatures endanger marine ecosystems, impacting livelihoods dependent on them.

Global efforts, exemplified by initiatives like the Paris Agreement, were acknowledged for aiming to mitigate climate change's effects. Transitioning to renewable energy, carbon capture, reforestation, and innovative technologies constitute key strategies. Communities are enhancing resilience through climate-resilient infrastructure, early warning systems, and collaborative campaigns to drive sustainable behaviors.

India's specific challenges were highlighted, including changing weather patterns, heatwaves, and coastal vulnerabilities. The seminar underscored India's commitment to proactive policies and initiatives. The National Action Plan on Climate Change, the International Solar Alliance, and sustainable urban planning efforts were noted. Shifts in production, consumption cycles, and renewable energy adoption were outlined as part of India's strategy.

Future activities

i.) Climate Adaptation Workshops: Collaborative workshops focusing on climate adaptation strategies for vulnerable communities, enhancing resilience and minimizing climate impacts.

ii.) Renewable Energy Advocacy: Initiatives to promote renewable energy adoption and facilitate community engagement for sustainable energy practices.

iii.) Climate-Resilient Agriculture: Projects supporting climate-smart agriculture techniques, such as drought-resistant crops and efficient irrigation, to bolster food security.

iv.) Ecosystem Restoration: Collaborations for ecosystem restoration and afforestation initiatives, aiming to enhance biodiversity and sequester carbon.

v.) Urban Resilience Planning: Advocacy for sustainable urban planning practices, emphasizing climate-resilient infrastructure and green spaces.

vi.) Disaster Preparedness Campaigns: Public awareness campaigns on disaster preparedness and early warning systems, empowering communities to respond effectively to climate-induced risks.

vii.) Climate Education Programs: Development of educational initiatives promoting climate awareness and fostering sustainable behaviors at local levels.

The seminar concluded by emphasizing the urgent need for collective efforts to combat climate change's impacts and build resilience. Sankala Foundation's commitment to advancing climate resilience strategies, advocating for sustainable policies, and empowering communities to confront climate challenges was reaffirmed. Through collaborative endeavors, innovative solutions, and advocacy, the Foundation aims to contribute to India's journey toward a more resilient and sustainable future.

c) Theme: Sustainable Future: Potential Areas and Challenges

Agenda: Exploring the intersection of water, energy, air, sanitation, health, and education within the context of sustainable development, and identifying areas for transformative projects.

Date: February 6, 2023

Summary: The policy seminar on 'Water, Energy, Air, Sanitation, Health, and Education for Sustainable Development' delved into the multifaceted dimensions of sustainable development and the interconnections between critical sectors. It emphasized the delicate balance between economic progress, social inclusivity, and environmental preservation.

The seminar highlighted the global need for comprehensive and collaborative approaches to achieve sustainable development. It emphasized that the three pillars of sustainability - economic growth, social equity, and environmental stewardship - are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. Promoting inclusive economic progress and transitioning to renewable energy sources are integral in mitigating climate change

and fostering sustainable growth. Equitable access to quality education, health services, and sanitation is essential for empowering individuals and ensuring holistic development.

India's unique challenges and opportunities in its pursuit of sustainable development were explored. The country's rich cultural heritage and traditional practices were acknowledged for laying the foundation for sustainable development values. India's commitment to policies like the National Action Plan on Climate Change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were recognized as steps towards addressing climate change, promoting equity, and conserving resources.

India's journey towards sustainable development, intertwined with its economic growth, social equity, and environmental preservation goals, was highlighted. Initiatives such as the Clean India Campaign, universal health coverage through Ayushman Bharat, and the electrification of villages were noted as milestones in sanitation, health, and clean energy adoption.

Future activities

i.) Water Access and Sanitation: Projects to ensure equitable access to clean water and sanitation, focusing on rural and marginalized communities, aligning with SDG 6.

ii.) Renewable Energy Adoption: Initiatives promoting renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, to mitigate environmental degradation and combat climate change.

iii.) Climate-Resilient Infrastructure: Projects focusing on climate-resilient infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events and minimize their impacts.

iv.) Health and Education Empowerment: Initiatives targeting health and education

empowerment, particularly in marginalized communities, to ensure access to quality services and opportunities.

v.) Youth Engagement: Programs to engage youth in sustainable development initiatives, fostering a sense of responsibility and leadership for a sustainable future.

vi.) Innovation in Agriculture: Research and projects promoting innovative and sustainable agricultural practices, enhancing food security and reducing environmental impact.

vii.) Data Analysis for Evidence-Based Actions: Utilizing data analysis to inform evidence-based actions, monitor progress, and guide future sustainable development strategies.

viii.) Community Education and Awareness: Community-based workshops, education campaigns, and awareness programs to promote informed decisions about sustainability, renewable energy, and responsible consumption.

The seminar concluded by emphasizing the importance of integrating sustainability principles into policies, practices, and daily lives. Sankala Foundation's commitment to holistic sustainable development, encompassing water, energy, air, sanitation, health, and education, was reaffirmed. Through collaborative partnerships, innovative solutions, and focused advocacy, the Foundation aims to contribute significantly to India's sustainable development journey, ensuring a balanced and prosperous future for all.

v.)   Roundtable discussions

The Roundtable discussions held on various policy issues and challenges in collaboration with sector experts and Sankala team are mentioned below.

a) Theme: Jal Jeevan Mission: Safe piped water to all: Opportunities and challenges

Agenda: To discuss various issues concerning access and delivery of drinking water at national and global level

Date: October 22, 2022

Summary: The roundtable deliberated on the urgency of ensuring universal access to clean drinking water, recognizing its pivotal role in achieving sustainable development and prosperity. Globally, over 2 billion people face water scarcity challenges, with India being no exception, where more than 163 million lack access to safe water. Government initiatives like Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan were lauded for addressing this crisis. The discourse encompassed formidable challenges, encompassing water pollution, uneven distribution, and the exacerbating effects of climate change.

The theme 'Drinking Water for All' emphasized the interconnectedness of water access with contemporary source resources, economic and social challenges. Government policies were acknowledged as steps towards change, and various models were considered to underscore regional challenges and solutions, like water contamination, groundwater, unequal distribution, and climate change-induced droughts challenge water security. Urbanization was marked as the chief concern causing resources shortage across the global south, and contamination affects both urban and rural areas.

The roundtable centered on the imperative of providing universal access to clean drinking water, aligning with sustainable development goals. Sankala's pivotal role in fostering networks and connections to improve WASH sensitivity and community engagement was highlighted, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts and technological solutions.

Sankala shall strive to study and designing models of sustainable water resource management in India by underscoring collaborative strategies. The session concluded by outlining a strategic roadmap for the forthcoming year - establishing synergistic partnerships, initiating pilot projects, and forging scalable models. This comprehensive approach endeavors to combat immediate water crises and build a sustainable water-secure future.

b) Theme: Clean Energy: Challenges and Opportunities

Agenda: Exploring the dynamics of clean energy adoption amidst challenges and opportunities.

Date: November 7, 2022

Summary: The roundtable discussions on 'Clean Energy Challenges and Opportunities' engaged with the imperative of transitioning to clean energy sources, recognizing their pivotal role in achieving sustainable development and fostering a resilient future. Globally, escalating energy demands, and environmental concerns set the stage for urgent action.

Both international and national policies were acknowledged for their role in shaping the clean energy landscape. The discourse encompassed multifaceted challenges, including technological barriers, infrastructural adaptations, and geopolitical implications.

The clean energy theme was interwoven with economic growth, environmental conservation, and energy security. Robust discussions unpacked diverse models addressing regional nuances, encapsulating issues like energy storage, grid integration, and socio-economic transitions.

Central to the discussions was the recognition of Sankala's pivotal role in knowledge dissemina-

tion, community engagement, and advocacy. The discourse underscored the importance of collaborative efforts, technological innovations, and awareness campaigns in accelerating the adoption of clean energy solutions.

Sankala's vision includes in-depth exploration of sustainable energy models in India, encompassing collaborative strategies with government bodies, industries, and communities. The session culminated in a strategic outline for the coming year, with a focus on forging synergistic partnerships, initiating pilot projects, and creating scalable models. This comprehensive approach endeavors to address immediate energy challenges and lay a robust foundation for a sustainable energy future.

c) Theme: Sanitation and Waste Management: From Tradition to Innovation

Agenda: Exploring the multi-faceted significance of sanitation and waste management in modern times.

Date: November 20, 2022

Summary: The roundtable on 'Sanitation and Waste Management' delved into these issues' profound historical and contemporary importance, drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's vision of sanitation's intrinsic connection to India's social fabric. Gandhi's foresight established sanitation as not just an imperative for public health but as a cornerstone for societal equality.

Recognizing sanitation as a societal priority, the discussions embraced its relevance to India's development goals. The session emphasized the integration of sanitation and waste management with the fabric of governance and broader societal aspirations. The key role of sanitation, particularly in achieving many developmental milestones, such as groundwater rejuvenation through Open Defecation Free (ODF) initiatives, was highlighted.

The Swachh Bharat Mission's holistic approach was a focal point, contributing to India's ODF status and instituting efficient solid waste collection and management systems. The convergence of technology and tradition in sanitation solutions, including innovative sewage treatment methods, urban waste recycling, e-waste, and medical waste management, was examined.

The government's dedication to building a self-sustaining waste management ecosystem, transforming waste management into a lucrative endeavor and positioning India as a global recycling hub was underlined. Eradication of manual scavenging and the formidable challenge of curbing excessive waste generation in consumerist societies also emerged as significant focus areas.

The roundtable spotlighted the intrinsic link between ancient wisdom, contemporary policies, and technology-driven solutions to address sanitation and waste management challenges. Emphasis was placed on nurturing a societal mindset that champions cleanliness and responsible waste management as integral components of national development.

The dialogue advanced a forward-looking agenda that strives to position India at the forefront of waste management innovation and sustainability. The comprehensive approach seeks to embed cleanliness, waste reduction, and scientific waste management as guiding principles in India's developmental trajectory.

d) Theme: Public Healthcare and Technology: Nurturing Holistic Well-Being

Agenda: Exploring the synergy between traditional wellness practices, modern healthcare initiatives, and technology.

Date: December 3, 2022

Summary: The roundtable on 'Public Healthcare and Technology' delved into the harmonious integration of traditional wellness practices, contemporary healthcare strategies, and transformative technology solutions. The session commenced by highlighting India's rich heritage of wellness, emphasizing the cultural significance of practices like yoga, meditation, and Ayurveda that resonate across generations.

The discourse revolved around the holistic approach that defines Indian wellness traditions, emphasizing the equilibrium between mind, body, and spirit. The significance of traditional foods, community living, and the Ayurvedic system in nurturing physical and emotional health was underlined. These practices emerge as anchors in a world grappling with climate change, pollution, and uncertainties.

Acknowledging India's historical healthcare legacy with notable physicians like Dhanvantari and Charaka, recent years have shifted towards preventive, promotive, palliative, and rehabilitative healthcare models. Efforts such as POSHAN Abhiyan for addressing malnutrition and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan for hygiene have augmented the preventive healthcare framework. The establishment of the Ministry of AYUSH has ushered in a new era of holistic wellness.

The pandemic reaffirmed the importance of robust healthcare infrastructure, as India's preparedness and global leadership in vaccine development shone. Affordable and accessible healthcare have been focal points, exemplified by initiatives like Ayushman Bharat and Jan Aushadhi Kendras. Technology's transformative role, from the National Digital Health Mission to AI-driven surveillance tools, was a prevailing theme.

Health's profound impact on personal, familial, and societal well-being was underscored. The roundtable emphasized that a robust citizenry underpins a healthy planet, aligning with the aspiration of 'one earth-one health'. The dialogue concluded with a vision to unite traditional wisdom, modern healthcare approaches, and innovative technology to create a comprehensive healthcare ecosystem. This holistic approach seeks to elevate individual well-being, foster societal resilience, and contribute to a healthier planet for present and future generations.

e) Theme: Transforming Agricultural Practices: Nurturing Resilience and Prosperity

Agenda: Exploring comprehensive strategies for enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Date: December 18, 2022

Summary: The roundtable discussions on 'Transforming Agricultural Practices' centered on India's agrarian backbone, acknowledging its immense potential to uplift millions. Despite arid regions, India's historical agrarian economy underpins the need for an enhanced, climate-resilient agricultural sector. The session commenced with a reflection on the role of agricultural innovation in elevating rural livelihoods.

The discourse narrated the transformative journey of Gujarat, a region once plagued by dust storms and recurrent droughts. Gujarat's path-breaking initiatives in soil testing, organic farming, cooperative milk production, and livestock well-being emerged as national

prototypes. These pioneering efforts catalyzed a shift from agrarian challenges to opportunities.

Gujarat's multi-pronged strategy, encompassing soil health cards, organic farming, drip irrigation, and farmer-producer organizations, underscored its emergence as an agricultural model. The state's remarkable achievements, from record-breaking potato cultivation in Banaskantha to quality pomegranates in South Gujarat, resonated as examples for the nation.

In the face of consecutive droughts in 2014-15 and 2015-16, India's agriculture remained resilient, stabilizing supply and inflation. The Gujarat model's influence led to renaming the Ministry of Agriculture as the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, emphasizing the direct empowerment of farmers. Initiatives such as 'Beej Se Leke Bazaar Tak' and MSP-driven produce procurement fortified this vision.

The national discourse recognized food security as integral to climate adaptation strategies. Thus, schemes targeting crop and livestock insurance, agricultural loans, and fodder banks were launched. The overarching goal is to foster community ownership of food ecosystems while ensuring future readiness and sustainability. The narrative expanded to promote methane and biogas production, horticulture, and innovation for resilient blue economies.

The roundtable highlighted the convergence of traditional wisdom, innovation, and technology to steer India's agricultural transformation. This holistic approach aspires to render agriculture climate-resilient, farmer-centric, and forward-looking. By nurturing sustainable food systems, India envisions a future where communities thrive, ecosystems prosper, and food security remains unwavering.

f)   Theme: Biodiversity Preservation and Conservation Efforts

Agenda: Exploring strategies for conserving biodiversity while fostering sustainable development.

Date: January 2, 2023

Summary: The roundtable discussions on 'Biodiversity Preservation' embarked on a journey into the transformative impact of nature's elements, echoing the deep-rooted connection between mankind and the wilderness. The formative days spent in jungles and pristine landscapes, including recent visits to the Bandipur Tiger Reserve, shaped a profound appreciation for nature's treasures.

India's concerted efforts towards bolstering its green assets and preserving biodiversity formed the crux of the dialogue. Beyond being mere carbon sinks, forests emerged as founts of ecological wealth, impacting the environment and numerous communities' livelihoods.

The discourse highlighted India's impressive strides in increasing forest cover, wetland areas, wildlife species, and carbon stocks within forests. The Forest Survey of India reported a notable 1540 sq km increment in forest cover from 2019 to 2021.

The interplay between economy and ecology underscored the conservation drive. The proliferation of biodiversity hotspots, wildlife corridors, sanctuaries, wetlands, mangroves, and national parks underscored a harmonious coexistence between humans and the natural world. A remarkable resurgence of diverse species, from Asiatic lions, tigers, and elephants to rhinos, leopards, and whale sharks, testified to these efforts.

Urban areas too embraced the call for biodiversity preservation, with designated parks preserving wetlands, distinctive flora, and fauna. A keen focus on restoring and safeguarding herbal, medicinal, and therapeutic plants further highlighted India's holistic approach.

Pioneering initiatives, such as reintroducing cheetahs after a 70-year absence, resonated as monumental steps towards ecological restoration. Establishing the International Big Cats Alliance showcased India's commitment to global collaboration for wildlife protection, fostering an exchange of best practices and internationalizing the cause.

The discourse concluded by celebrating the intrinsic link between human well-being and a biodiverse planet. India's journey toward harmonious coexistence reaffirmed the imperative of preserving nature's legacy for future generations. The roundtable underlined that preserving biodiversity is not only a conservation endeavor but an investment in the planet's vitality and the sustainability of all life forms.

g) Theme: Circular Economy and Practices: Fostering Sustainability and Innovation

Agenda: Exploring transformative strategies for fostering a circular economy and sustainable consumption patterns.

Date: February 4, 2023

Summary: The roundtable discussions on 'Circular Economy and Practices' addressed the pressing issue of thoughtless consumption prevalent in the modern world, highlighting its detrimental impact on the environment, resources, and waste generation. The dialogue commenced by reflecting on the shift from sustainable practices of reuse and recycling ingrained in traditional Indian lifestyles to the contemporary culture of consumption.

The discourse emphasized that the concept of sustainability was deeply ingrained in historical practices, where what is termed as fashion today was essentially merging different cloth pieces under the banner of resourcefulness.

Mission LiFE, based on these values, emerged as a formidable strategy. It redefines waste as an opportunity rather than a challenge, harnessing social networks to reshape societal norms regarding climate. Mission LiFE seeks to unite a global network of "Pro-Planet People," dedicated to adopting and advocating environmentally conscious lifestyles, thus creating a self-sustaining ecosystem that propagates eco-friendly behavior.

The National Hydrogen Mission, embodying India's aspiration to transition from fossil-fuel-based energy to renewable sources, was spotlighted. While the circular economy concept in India is in its infancy, it has attracted investments of US$ 1.8 billion between 2016-2021. Technological strides and digital advancements emerged as catalysts, facilitating policy implementation and encouraging the adoption of circular economy principles.

The discourse delved into the burgeoning potential in smart agriculture, waste management, environment, and natural resources, signifying India's fertile ground for circular economy innovations. India's approach, focused on sustainable long-term growth, shuns the quick-fix governance model, fostering a paradigm shift in waste management practices.

The dialogue concluded with a call for collective action, emphasizing that the transition to a circular economy is not merely a shift in economic models but a societal transformation. The roundtable underscored the urgency of harmonizing convenience with sustainability, reimagining consumption, and nurturing a

circular economy that aligns prosperity with environmental well-being.

h) Rethinking Urban Space for Sustainable living

Agenda: Exploring approaches to urban planning for sustainable living and equitable growth.

Date: February 21, 2023

Summary: The roundtable discussions on 'Rethinking Urban Space for Sustainability' delved into India's historical reverence for symbiotic coexistence with nature while embracing contemporary urbanization challenges. The discourse commenced by revisiting the traditional wisdom that birthed sustainable neighborhoods and ecosystems, fostering an inclusive and nature-integrated urban lifestyle.

India's urban spaces, originally designed to embody decongestion, natural elements, and communal living, faced the pressures of rapid post-independence urbanization. The narrative highlighted the pivotal role of sustainable urban planning in harmonizing urban growth and human development.

The discourse spotlighted initiatives such as the Sabarmati River Rejuvenation and Riverfront Development Project, City Forests Everywhere, and the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) as components of the Gujarat model. These efforts aimed to drive sectoral growth alongside enhancing human development, encompassing school infrastructure, healthy neighborhoods, skill development, and employment opportunities. The pursuit of ease of living emerged as a key metric for regional progress.

The roundtable underlined the significance of holistic living, livelihood, and equal growth opportunities, epitomized by schemes like PMAY and AMRUT. Sustainable livelihoods, intertwined with the fabric of Indian life through cottage industries, handicrafts, and agriculture, were highlighted.

Urban regeneration projects emerged as pathways to affordable housing, modern infrastructure, quality healthcare, education, and workspaces. Cluster development, pollution delimitation, and urban forests were central themes in creating hygienic, sustainable urban environments.

The discourse embraced the design principles of Smart Cities, embodying sustainable infrastructure, waste management, solar energy, rainwater harvesting, and electric public transportation. These innovations exemplified the integration of technology with sustainability for a prosperous and eco-friendly urban future.

The roundtable concluded by envisioning urban spaces that transcend as centers of innovation, fostering human well-being, ecological harmony, and inclusive prosperity. The discourse highlighted the necessity of urban planning to holistically address the needs of the present while ensuring a resilient and sustainable foundation for generations to come.

vi.) Pioneering impact: Sankala's field projects

In the exciting inception year of Sankala, our dedication to fostering meaningful change takes centre stage. As we lay the foundation for a journey of positive impact, we unveil a series of field projects that resonate with our core values and drive towards a more sustainable world. Alongside the identification of key verticals, these projects stand as pillars of transformation, encapsulating our commitment to driving change on both local and global scales.

Our journey began by meticulously identifying the core verticals that align with our vision for a

harmonious planet. These verticals encompass critical domains such as water management, health, air quality, clean energy, and biodiversity conservation. Each vertical has been chosen to address the pressing challenges of our time, reflecting our dedication to holistic and impactful solutions.

In sync with our identified verticals, we are excited to introduce a series of field projects that form the bedrock of our tangible impact:

a) Digital Healthcare to underserved areas

Our foray into digital health initiatives aims to leverage technology for equitable access to healthcare solutions. By innovating in the intersection of health and technology, we aspire to improve healthcare delivery, promote preventive measures, and ensure better health outcomes for communities. The Sankala team's objective is to deeply comprehend the applicability, potential obstacles, and avenues within the e-Sanjeevani and tele-medicine model in India. This endeavour is undertaken with the guidance and mentorship of esteemed senior health professionals in the country. This partnership fosters a collaborative environment that encourages the exchange of knowledge, proficiency, and resources, thus facilitating a space where both public and private sector stakeholders collaborate harmoniously to stimulate digital health innovation and cultivate sustainable solutions. Sankala Foundation is also committed to forming partnerships with organizations to bridge gaps in healthcare accessibility, quality, and affordability. A digital healthcare delivery model is pivotal in this pursuit. By seamlessly integrating digital technologies and inventive solutions, such a model can significantly improve patient outcomes, empower healthcare providers, and enhance overall healthcare system efficiency. This harmonizes with the overarching vision of establishing a healthcare ecosystem centered around the patient, and interconnected in its design making healthcare accessible, high-quality, and technologically advanced.

b) Assured clean tap water supply to all

Crafting narratives on success stories is another identified interest of Sankala. We aim to underscore the transformative impact of providing clean and accessible water to communities, promoting hygiene, and improving the overall quality of life for those who need it the most through stories and case studies.

Sankala Foundation aims to build a partnership to address one of the world's most pressing challenges: access to clean drinking water in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For executing impactful projects through channelizing joint resources, knowledge, and skills, we believe that collaboration aids in implementing scalable solutions that ensure access to safe drinking water for communities that need it most. Partnerships also aims to transcend boundaries to impart a shared vision for bringing out best practices in the field of water and its governance.

c) Wildlife conservation

While the Royal Bengal tiger, the greater one-horned rhinoceros, and the Asian elephant take center stage as India's flagship species, the nation's incredible biodiversity extends far beyond these iconic animals. India boasts an astonishing diversity of wildlife, including 423 mammal species, 1,233 bird species, 526 reptile species, 342 amphibian species, 3,022 fish species, and over 80,000 invertebrate species, among many others. This vibrant diversity underscores the profound richness of India's ecosystems, showcasing the nation's role as a global biodiversity hotspot. Amidst this incredible array of species, each with its unique role in the intricate web of life, Sankala Foundation is

dedicated to safeguarding and celebrating the entirety of India's natural heritage. Our initiatives focus on protecting and restoring natural habitats, safeguarding endangered species, and fostering a deeper understanding of our intricate relationship with the natural world. We believe that partnerships and collaborations are crucial to share knowledge, sustain our planet's biodiversity, engage communities, and nurture nature.

8. Advisory board roundup

Within the scope of Institutional Development, the past year saw the convening of the Board of Directors meetings at Sankala Foundation. These gatherings functioned as pivotal occasions where invaluable guidance, profound insights, and clear directives were provided. They served as dynamic platforms, orchestrating essential decision-making processes, harmonizing diverse viewpoints in the pursuit of propelling the organization's mission.

During these deliberative assemblies, a range of crucial subjects, spanning from long-term vision alignment to immediate operational enhancements, was meticulously examined. The synergy of minds among our esteemed board members culminated in the formulation of robust strate-gies, effectively harnessing emerging prospects while proactively navigating potential risks. This forum fostered an atmosphere of candid discourse, cultivating an environment conducive to the exploration and refinement of innovative concepts, consequently resulting in judicious resolutions.

Beyond their substantive contributions, the board meetings acted as the linchpin fortifying the unity within our advisory cadre. Collaboration among experts from diverse sectors and backgrounds extended beyond the confines of the boardroom, giving rise to networking prospects and partnerships that seamlessly propelled our objectives. Moreover, the insights garnered from these sessions naturally permeated throughout the very fabric of our organization, offering guidance to our teams and infusing our operations with a harmonious sense of purpose.

In effect, these congregations stand as a testament not only to the unwavering commitment of our board members but also to their role as architects of our developmental trajectory. Through these collective endeavors, we coalesced into a unified front that unswervingly advanced our mission, harnessing a rich spectrum of expertise and perspectives to propel us forward.

9. Annex – Registration certificate

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Central Registration Centre

Certificate of Incorporation

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) of section 7 and sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) and rule 18 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]

I hereby certify that SANKALA FOUNDATION is incorporated on this Eleventh day of October Two thousand twenty-two under the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) and that the company is limited by shares.

The Corporate Identity Number of the company is U85300DL2022NPL405686.

The Permanent Account Number (PAN) of the company is **ABJCS5481J**   *

The Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number (TAN) of the company is **DELS97079D**   *

Given under my hand at Manesar this Eleventh day of October Two thousand twenty-two .

DS MINISTRY OF
CORPORATE AFFAIRS 10

Digital Signature Certificate
Mrs. Amarpreet Kaur

For and on behalf of the Jurisdictional Registrar of Companies
Registrar of Companies
Central Registration Centre

Disclaimer: This certificate only evidences incorporation of the company on the basis of documents and declarations of the applicant(s). This certificate is neither a license nor permission to conduct business or solicit deposits or funds from public. Permission of sector regulator is necessary wherever required. Registration status and other details of the company can be verified on www.mca.gov.in

Mailing Address as per record available in Registrar of Companies office:

SANKALA FOUNDATION

C-68 S/F East of Kailash, NewDelhi, South Delhi, Delhi, India, 110065

Note:

sankala