

Dipka OC: Powering India's Growth through Scale, Efficiency and Sustainable Mining

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Dipka OCP of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) stands out as one of the most vivid reflections of the remarkable transformation of India's coal mining sector. From producing barely 1 million tonne of coal in 1992, Dipka OC has evolved into one of the largest coal-producing complexes in the country, recording an all-time high production of 37.5 million tonnes and despatch of 39.43 million tonnes during FY 2025-26. With the recent enhancement of Environmental Clearance to 40 MTPA and a well-defined roadmap towards 60 MTPA, Dipka OC today stands as a strategic national asset, combining scale, efficiency and sustainability in equal measure.

A Strong Start to FY 2026-27

Building upon last year's record performance, Dipka OC has begun the current financial year with equally impressive momentum.

Up to 25 July 2026, the mine has produced 12.66 million tonnes of coal, achieving 104% of the progressive production target. Even more encouraging is the 30.5% year-on-year growth in coal production compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, reflecting substantial improvement in mine productivity and equipment utilisation. Coal dispatch has been equally robust, touching 13.87 million tonnes, exceeding the progressive target by achieving 109%, thereby ensuring uninterrupted fuel supply to thermal power stations and industrial consumers.

The seamless synchronization between coal production and despatch demonstrates Dipka's operational maturity, where mining, transportation and logistics function as an integrated value chain rather than as isolated activities.



Creating Value Beyond Production

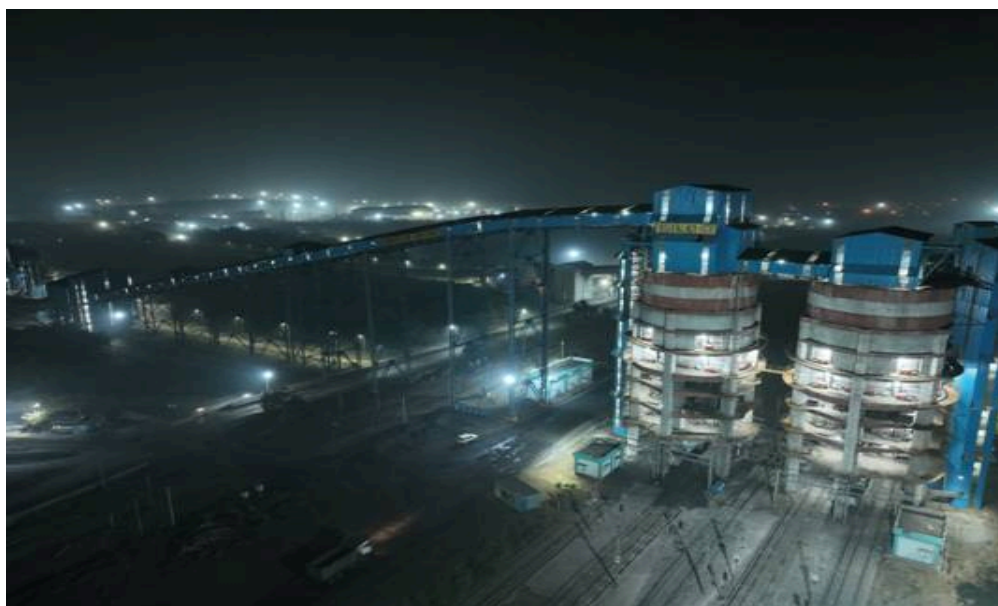
While production remains the principal indicator of mining performance, Dipka's success is equally reflected in its financial contribution.

During FY 2025-26, the mine generated an overall profit of ₹3,230.91 crore, making it one of the strongest profit centres within SECL. Profitability has improved not merely because of higher production but also due to better cost management and enhanced operational efficiency. With profit per tonne increasing to ₹827, the mine has demonstrated that large-scale production can be achieved without proportionate escalation in operating costs. These financial outcomes underline Dipka's growing contribution to Coal India Limited's overall profitability.

Strengthening the Foundation for Future Growth

Behind Dipka's impressive production performance lies a series of strategic initiatives that have strengthened the mine's long-term production capability. Among these, land acquisition and rehabilitation have emerged as the most significant enablers for sustained capacity expansion.

Following the successful possession of Malgaon village, the Area has made substantial progress towards rehabilitation and resettlement of Hardi Bazar, one of the largest and most complex R&R initiatives in the region. Rather than viewing rehabilitation merely as a statutory obligation, Dipka has adopted a development-oriented approach by initiating development of a well-planned rehabilitation township equipped with essential civic infrastructure, including roads, schools, healthcare facilities, community amenities and public utilities. This participative and transparent approach has facilitated progressive land availability for mining while strengthening stakeholder confidence and social acceptance of the project.



Infrastructure that Supports High Production

Large-scale mining demands equally robust evacuation infrastructure. Dipka possesses one of the most diversified coal evacuation systems in Coal India Limited, comprising MGR-connected silos, First Mile Connectivity (FMC) silos, railway loading facilities and road transport systems. This integrated network provides operational flexibility and enables uninterrupted dispatch to major consumers, including NTPC Sipat and several thermal power stations across western and central India. Efficient evacuation has ensured that increasing production is promptly translated into higher consumer supplies without creating stock accumulation at the pithead.

Technology Driving Productivity

Dipka's remarkable production journey has been powered by sustained investment in technology and modernization.

The mine has progressively upgraded its mining systems with 42-cubic metre electric rope shovels, high-capacity surface miners, long in-pit belt conveyor systems, advanced silo loading facilities, drone-based mine monitoring and digital mine management platforms. These technologies have significantly improved equipment productivity, optimized mine planning, reduced operational delays and strengthened monitoring of mining activities. As production volumes continue to grow, technology remains one of the strongest differentiators enabling Dipka to maintain high operational efficiency.

Responsible Mining for Sustainable Growth

Dipka has demonstrated that high production and environmental stewardship can progress together.

The Area has implemented an array of initiatives including Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems (CAAQMS), fog cannon-based dust suppression, wheel washing systems, plantation drives, deployment of electric vehicles and plastic waste recycling facilities. These measures have substantially strengthened environmental management while improving the overall sustainability of mining operations. Digital environmental monitoring through integrated online platforms has further enhanced regulatory compliance and operational transparency.

At the same time, systematic rehabilitation and development of modern resettlement infrastructure have enabled timely land availability for future mining while maintaining constructive engagement with project-affected families. This balanced approach has significantly strengthened the long-term production outlook of the Area.

Looking Beyond 40 Million Tonnes

The recent enhancement of Environmental Clearance to 40 MTPA represents not the culmination but the beginning of Dipka's next growth phase. With progressive land acquisition, ongoing rehabilitation, infrastructure augmentation and a clear vision for expansion to 60 MTPA, the mine possesses all the essential ingredients for sustained high performance.

Dipka's journey is a compelling example of how scientific mine planning, technological innovation, financial discipline and responsible mining can collectively create a world-class mining operation. As one of Coal India Limited's flagship producing mines, Dipka continues to set new benchmarks in production, profitability, operational efficiency and environmental responsibility while making an ever-growing contribution to India's energy security.

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