



Bhubaneswari OCP: Where Innovation Powers Production and Sustainability Shapes Growth

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In India's journey towards becoming a global economic powerhouse, **Bhubaneswari Opencast Project (OCP)** of **Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)** stands as a **Prime Example** of the harmonious integration of productivity, technology and sustainability. Located in the coal-rich Talcher Coalfield of Odisha, Bhubaneswari has steadily evolved into one of Coal India Limited's most advanced and productive opencast mines. Operating with a **peak rated capacity of 30 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA)**, the mine today supplies coal to major thermal power stations that illuminate millions of homes and energize industries across the country. More importantly, Bhubaneswari has demonstrated that large-scale coal production can progress hand in hand with environmental stewardship, technological innovation and community partnership.

Performance that Reflects Operational Excellence

Bhubaneswari's operational achievements reflect meticulous planning and consistent execution. During **FY 2025–26**, the mine produced **26.477 million tonnes of coal** against an Annual Action Plan target of **25 million tonnes**, achieving an impressive **105.98%** of its target. Since its inception, the project has produced an extraordinary **370.4 million tonnes of coal**, underscoring its enduring contribution to India's energy sector.

The momentum has continued into **FY 2026–27**, with the production target enhanced to **28 million tonnes**. The mine has already recorded **7.62 million tonnes of coal production during the first quarter**, reflecting strong operational preparedness and confidence in achieving the enhanced annual target.

Technology as a Competitive Advantage

At Bhubaneswari, technology is not merely an operational tool—it is a strategic advantage that enhances productivity while reducing environmental impact.

The project has distinguished itself by adopting **100% blast-free Surface Miner technology** for coal extraction, eliminating the need for drilling and blasting in coal seams. This advanced mining method has improved coal recovery, ensured consistent sizing of coal, minimized dust generation and significantly reduced noise and ground vibrations in surrounding areas. Controlled blasting is restricted only to overburden removal, where advanced electronic delay detonators ensure minimal environmental disturbance.

The mine has further strengthened operational efficiency through one of the country's most advanced coal evacuation systems. Covered conveyor networks integrated with **25 MTPA First Mile Connectivity (FMC) SILO infrastructure** enable more than **85% of coal dispatch through environmentally friendly rail transport**. Bhubaneswari is also home to **Coal India Limited's first Automatic Truck Loading System (ATLS)**, which has introduced greater speed, transparency and accuracy in truck loading while substantially reducing manual intervention.

Creating Growth through Community Partnership

The success of a large mining project is measured not only by production but also by its relationship with the communities that surround it. Bhubaneswari has consistently demonstrated that meaningful stakeholder engagement can become a powerful production enabler.

Beyond rehabilitation, the project has invested significantly in community infrastructure, including roads, community centres, educational facilities and livelihood support initiatives. Plantation drives, distribution of fruit-bearing and Sal saplings, environmental awareness programmes and other developmental initiatives have strengthened the bond between the project and neighbouring communities, reinforcing the principle that sustainable mining must create shared value.

Balancing Productivity with Responsibility

Bhubaneswari has established itself as a model for environmentally responsible mining. The project has implemented comprehensive environmental management measures, including continuous air quality monitoring, extensive dust suppression systems, wheel-washing facilities and systematic afforestation programmes supported by a dedicated **five-hectare Sal Nursery**. These initiatives have earned the project prestigious environmental recognitions, including a **Five-Star Rating** and the **Kalinga Environment Excellence Award**, affirming its commitment to ecological stewardship.

The project's operational excellence extends equally to safety and financial performance. Maintaining an outstanding **zero-fatality record for the last five consecutive years**, Bhubaneswari has earned top honours during the **Annual Mines Safety Fortnight**, reflecting its uncompromising commitment to workplace safety. Financially, the project continues to be one of MCL's strongest contributors, generating a **Profit Before Tax of ₹1792.60 crore during FY 2025-26**, further demonstrating that operational excellence and financial sustainability go hand in hand.

A Benchmark for the Future

Bhubaneswari OCP is far more than a high-capacity coal mine. It is a compelling example of how modern mining can successfully integrate production, technology, environmental responsibility and community development into a single, sustainable growth model. Every tonne of coal produced reflects scientific mine planning, every innovation strengthens operational efficiency, and every community initiative reinforces the project's social commitment.

As India's demand for reliable energy continues to rise, Bhubaneswari is well positioned to remain at the forefront of Coal India Limited's growth story. By consistently combining high productivity with technological leadership, responsible environmental practices and inclusive development, the project is setting new benchmarks for the future of sustainable coal mining and making a lasting contribution to the nation's energy security.

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