



Corporate Social Responsibility in Coal India Limited: A Journey from Community Welfare to Inclusive Growth

Coal India Limited's CSR Expenditure Rises to Nearly Rs. 1,000 Crore Annually

CIL Spends Rs. 7,276 Crore on CSR Against Statutory Requirement of Rs. 5,795 Crore During FY 2014-15 to FY 2025-26

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For a company whose operations touch some of the most resource-poor and tribal-dominated districts of India, the idea of giving back to the community is not new to Coal India Limited (CIL). Long before the Companies Act, 2013 made Corporate Social Responsibility a legal obligation for corporate India, CIL and its subsidiaries were already engaged in welfare activities in and around their mining areas under the Community Development (CD) Policy, 2005.

Under this earlier CD regime, subsidiaries supported villages within an **8 km radius** of mining operations through drinking water facilities, health camps, and small infrastructure works — meaningful interventions that fostered harmony with peripheral communities. In the three years leading up to the Act (FY 2011-12 to 2013-14), CIL's consolidated CD spend varied from **Rs. 82 cr. (FY 2011-12)** to **Rs. 409 cr. (FY 2013-14)**. The work being done was genuine and appreciated on the ground; what it lacked was a consistent, institutionalised framework to sustain and scale it year on year.

The Companies Act, 2013 and Section 135 changed this fundamentally. Companies were now required to spend a statutorily defined share of their average net profits on CSR, guided by Schedule VII themes and monitored by a Board-level CSR Committee. CIL built on this with its own policy architecture: at least 80% of annual CSR expenditure within a **25 km radius** of mines and establishments, prioritising Project Affected Areas, with the balance for state and national initiatives. As a natural consequence of this local-area focus, **more than 90% of CIL's CSR expenditure** continues to be incurred within coal-bearing states — keeping the benefit anchored where the impact of mining is felt most directly.

The results are visible in the numbers. CIL has not merely met its statutory obligation — it has exceeded it consistently, year after year. Cumulatively, from FY 2014-15 to FY 2025-26, CIL has spent **Rs. 7,276 crore** against a statutory requirement of **Rs. 5,795 crore**. What is more striking is the trajectory within this: annual expenditure, once closer to Rs. 500 cr., the yearly outlay now touches **almost Rs. 1,000 crore** — placing CIL among the largest corporate CSR spenders in the country.

This growth in scale has been matched by a growth in purpose, with CIL's CSR converging deliberately with national missions. It was the number one CPSE contributor to the Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan, completing over 50,000 toilets in government schools; it was among the earliest major contributors to the PM-CARES Fund and ran an extensive COVID-19 relief programme, from dedicated hospitals in Odisha and Chhattisgarh to oxygen plants under “Mission Praana Vayu.” Flagship interventions have given the programme a distinct identity of its own — the **NIRMAN** scheme rewarding **more than 1,300** UPSC aspirants from mining districts, the **Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana** enabling **more than 1,000** life-saving bone marrow transplants, **Nanha Sa Dil** screening **over 2 lakh children** and curing **over 1,700** of congenital heart disease, and the **Scholarship Schemes** with the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India reaching over 2,500 children. This has been matched by major healthcare and education infrastructure such as a **500-bed medical college and hospital at Angul** and a **cardiac care centre at Jharsuguda**, together worth Rs. 596 crore, now serve as tertiary-care hubs for their respective regions, while **Digital Vidya** has commissioned over 2,300 smart classrooms and 500 ICT/STEM labs in government schools, alongside a 5,000-seater state library under construction in Ranchi.

The reach extends well beyond health and education. Skilling and livelihood programmes — including Project PRAGATI, tribal women's poultry support, and plastic engineering and multi-skill training — have benefited **more than 48,000 people over the last four financial years** alone. The **Khelgaon Sports Academy**, run in partnership with the Government of Jharkhand, has produced over **1,800 medals**, including **15 at the international level**; and landmark public-interest works — from the centenary building at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad to the illumination of Kolkata's Howrah Bridge — have carried CIL's CSR footprint into premier institutions and national landmarks alike.

Taken together, these efforts have touched an estimated **3.56 crore lives, directly and indirectly** — with vulnerable groups including SC/ST communities, persons with disabilities, and women forming a significant share of the beneficiaries. This work has also meaningfully advanced India's own SDG commitments — health (SDG-3), education (SDG-4), gender equality (SDG-5), clean water and sanitation (SDG-6), and poverty alleviation (SDG-1).

None of this has happened by accident. CIL's CSR is governed by a structured output-outcome methodology — Annual Action Plans shaped by community needs, MoUs with defined deliverables and timelines, phase-wise fund release tied to milestones and Utilisation Certificates, and Impact Assessment Guidelines that make third-party evaluation mandatory for larger projects, layered atop internal, statutory, and CAG audit oversight. This architecture is now being strengthened at a sectoral level: on **8th September**, the **Ministry of Coal became the first Ministry of the Government of India to launch a sector-wide CSR framework**, aimed at bringing greater consistency, convergence, and accountability to CSR efforts across the coal PSUs.

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