



CCL's Transformation Since 2014: From Higher Coal Production to Modern Mining, Sustainable Evacuation and Inclusive Development

Central Coalfields Limited's journey reflects a decade of expansion in production capacity, mechanisation, rail connectivity, technology adoption, renewable energy, financial strength and community development

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The Indian coal sector has undergone a significant transformation since 2014, driven by policy reforms, improved project clearances, infrastructure development, technology adoption, greater mechanisation and a sharper focus on efficiency and energy security. Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited operating in the coalfields of Jharkhand, has emerged as an important example of this transformation.

The scale of CCL's operational transformation is reflected most clearly in its coal production. From **50.0 Million Tonnes (MT) in FY 2013-14**, CCL increased its production to **87.5 MT in FY 2024-25**, the highest-ever production in the history of the company. Thus, over the period since 2013-14, CCL increased its production by nearly 75%. A major feature of CCL's transformation has been the creation of additional mining capacity through new and expansion projects. Mega mines such as **Amrapali (35 MTY)**, **Magadh (51 MTY)**, **Chandragupta OCP (15 MTY)** and **Kotre Basantpur Pachmo (5 MTY)** have been developed during this period. Capacities of existing mines such as **Karo, Konar and North Urimari** etc. have also been expanded. Several more new mines and expansion projects are in the pipeline and are expected to further augment CCL's production capacity in the coming years.

The transportation of incremental coal to its consumers through sustainable and efficient modes has been another major challenge. The transformation of CCL is therefore equally visible in the area of coal evacuation and logistics. Recognising that higher production must be supported by efficient evacuation infrastructure, the company has progressively invested in railway connectivity, Coal Handling Plants (CHPs), silos, rapid loading systems and First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects.

The **Tori-Shivpur rail corridor**, one of the most critical railway links for the North Karanpura coalfields, has been progressively strengthened. The three-line railway corridor has the capacity to transport around **100 MT of coal per annum**. To make coal transportation more sustainable and efficient, CCL is establishing CHPs and FMC projects. The **7.5 MTY North Urimari CHP** has already been commissioned. Major CHP projects under development include **Konar (5 MTY)**, **KDH-Purnadih (7.5 MTY)**, **Amrapali (25 MTY)**, **Karo (7 MTY)** and **Magadh (51 MTY)**. These systems are designed to reduce dependence on road transportation, improve loading efficiency and facilitate direct rail evacuation.

Coking coal is critical for India's steel sector, which continues to depend significantly on import. Recognising the strategic importance of import substitution, CCL has given a major thrust to increasing the availability of quality domestic washed coking coal, thereby contributing to foreign-exchange savings. The company is developing **five new coking coal washeries with an aggregate capacity of 14.50 million tonnes per year (MTY)**. Significant progress has been made in advancing these projects.

CCL is also embracing emerging technologies to transform the way its operations are monitored and managed. In line with the growing adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the company has established an **AI-enabled Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)** to strengthen security, surveillance and operational oversight across its command areas. The centre integrates modern technologies to facilitate real-time monitoring and more effective decision-making.

Another important dimension of CCL's transformation is its increasing emphasis on renewable energy and energy conservation. CCL currently has **over 32 MW of installed solar capacity**, including three ground-mounted projects with a combined capacity of **29 MW**. A mega **100 MW** solar power project is coming up in Giridih district along with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). These initiatives will increase the share of renewable energy in the company's energy mix, reduce emissions and support its broader Net Zero commitment.

CCL is also making mining more sustainable through the adoption of modern and environment-friendly technologies. The company has adopted **blast-free technologies such as surface miners and continuous miners**, along with scientific restoration of overburden dumps, rainwater harvesting, plantation and mine reclamation measures. From **zero production through surface miners and continuous miners before 2014**, their share has now increased to **nearly 70%**. CCL is also utilising surplus mine water for the benefit of local communities, thereby converting a mining-related resource into an important instrument of community development.

CCL's transformation has also been accompanied by a substantial strengthening of its financial position. Profit After Tax (PAT) increased from ₹808 crore in FY 2017-18 to ₹4,035 crore in FY 2024-25, while net worth increased from ₹3,816 crore to ₹16,464 crore during the same period.

The social dimension of CCL's transformation is perhaps most visible through its CSR initiatives. CSR expenditure has evolved from programmes largely focused on basic infrastructure, drinking water, healthcare and education to larger, long-term interventions aimed at creating sustainable social assets and opportunities. In **FY 2025-26**, CCL reported total CSR expenditure of approximately **₹86 crore**, against a CSR target of about ₹74 crore.

Among CCL's most distinctive CSR initiatives is **CCL Ke Lal & CCL Ki Laadli**. The flagship programme provides talented students from underprivileged backgrounds with free residential schooling and engineering entrance coaching, with **40 students—20 boys and 20 girls—selected every year**. The programme has enabled students from rural and mining-affected communities to pursue higher education at premier institutions such as **IITs, NITs** and other leading engineering institutions.

Similarly, the **Sports Academy at Khelgaon, Ranchi**, established through a partnership between CCL and the Government of Jharkhand, has emerged as another flagship intervention. Established using the infrastructure created for the **34th National Games**, the academy is operated through the Jharkhand State Sports Promotion Society. Over the years, it has provided structured opportunities in sports, along with education and life-skills support, to young athletes. Athletes from the academy are bringing national as well as international medals. This initiative has won National CSR award twice.

Today, CCL is therefore much more than a coal-producing organisation. Its transformation since 2014 represents a transition towards higher production, greater productivity, expanded mining capacity, mechanised coal evacuation, stronger rail connectivity, renewable-energy adoption, improved

environmental management, financial strengthening and a broader social-development role.

CCL's journey demonstrates that the transformation of a coal company cannot be measured merely in million tonnes of production. The increase from around 50 MT to 87.5 MT is only one part of the story. The larger transformation lies in creating new mining capacity, building modern evacuation infrastructure, integrating CHPs and rail systems, adopting renewable energy, improving productivity and environmental management, and investing in communities through initiatives such as CCL Ke Lal & CCL Ki Laadli and the Khelgaon Sports Academy.

As India continues to pursue energy security alongside economic growth and environmental responsibility, CCL's experience since 2014 illustrates how a traditional mining enterprise can progressively transform itself into a modern, technology-enabled, infrastructure-oriented and socially responsive organisation, while continuing to play a vital role in meeting the country's energy requirements.

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