

## Corporate social responsibility in the Indian mining industry

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CSR is the buzz word in today's dynamics of social change. The mineral industry is particularly amenable to changes in the social modes for providing increasing levels of supports toward corporate social responsibility. The importance of being socially responsible is recognized throughout the world and the Government of India framed its CSR Policy through an Act, 2013.

The concept of 'CSR' has been the focus of many deliberations at different forums over the past several years, particularly in the Indian mineral industry. And in true business sense, it captures all values and criteria for measuring a company's contribution to social development. The Indian public sector mining companies like Coal India adopted CSR as a strategic tool for sustainable growth. To Coal India, CSR means not only investment of funds for social activity but also integration of business processes with social processes. Its subsidiary companies, especially Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd, are spending sizeable funds toward CSR activities; NLC India is among the ones whose approach is harnessing energy and spreading smiles. NMDC Limited spends a minimum of 2% of its profit in CSR activities; has been at the forefront of the biggest CSR spenders among CPSEs. During 2012-13 the company's expenditure was Rs.101.10, its CSR expenditures rose to Rs.210.09 crores in 2015-16. Ambuja Cements, in the private sector, is recognized as pioneer in social activities and was awarded several times with prizes. Tata Steel has much to contribute in nurturing communities through mainstreaming primary education under its CSR programme. In terms of geographical distribution, the top 10 States to spend CSR fund during 2015-16 are Maharashtra (Rs.986.00[15%]), West Bengal (Rs.571.00[8.7%]), Andhra Pradesh (Rs.417.00[6.3%]), Gujarat (Rs.343.00[5.2%]), Rajasthan (Rs.342.00[5.2%]), Karnataka (Rs.337.00[5.1%]), Tamil Nadu (Rs.319.00[4.8%]), Telengana (Rs.292.00[4.4%]), Madhya Pradesh (Rs.265.00[4%]), Odisha (Rs.291.00[4.4%]) while Maharashtra, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh together spent one-fourth of India's total CSR fund.

The *Journal of Mines, Metals & Fuels* seeks to highlight through this special issue the concept that an enterprise is accountable for its impact on all relevant stakeholders and discharge its continued commitment by business to behave fairly and responsibly thereby contributing to economic development, quality of life of the workforce and their families and the local communities. Hopefully, the special issue of the Journal will set a benchmark in Indian mining industry's track record and the gaps to be bridged in the area of CSR.

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