



# Education Programs for Tribal Youth in Chhattisgarh

## Why in News?

NMDC Limited, India's largest iron ore producer, has announced two significant [Corporate Social Responsibility \(CSR\) initiatives](#) aimed at empowering tribal youth in Chhattisgarh through fully sponsored education programs.

- These programs, '**Balika Shiksha Yojana**' and the '**Medical Technology Program**', focus on providing educational opportunities to tribal youth and underprivileged students from the region.

## Key Points

- **Balika Shiksha Yojana:**
  - NMDC is offering **fully funded nursing education to tribal girls** from Bastar, Dantewada, Sukma, Kondagaon, Bijapur, and Narayanpur districts.
  - It aims to fully sponsor nursing education at prestigious institutions, investing approximately Rs 12-15 lakh per student.
  - Applicants must belong to the [Scheduled Tribe \(ST\) community](#).
- **About Medical Technology Program:**
  - In partnership with Apollo University, Chittoor, NMDC is offering a fully sponsored B.Sc. programs in **Allied Health Sciences** for ST students from Dantewada and Bastar.
  - The program includes 90 seats (60% reserved for girls, 40% for boys) in the specialised courses.
  - Each selected student will receive sponsorship worth Rs 12-15 lakh, covering all academic and living expenses.

## Educational Schemes for Tribals

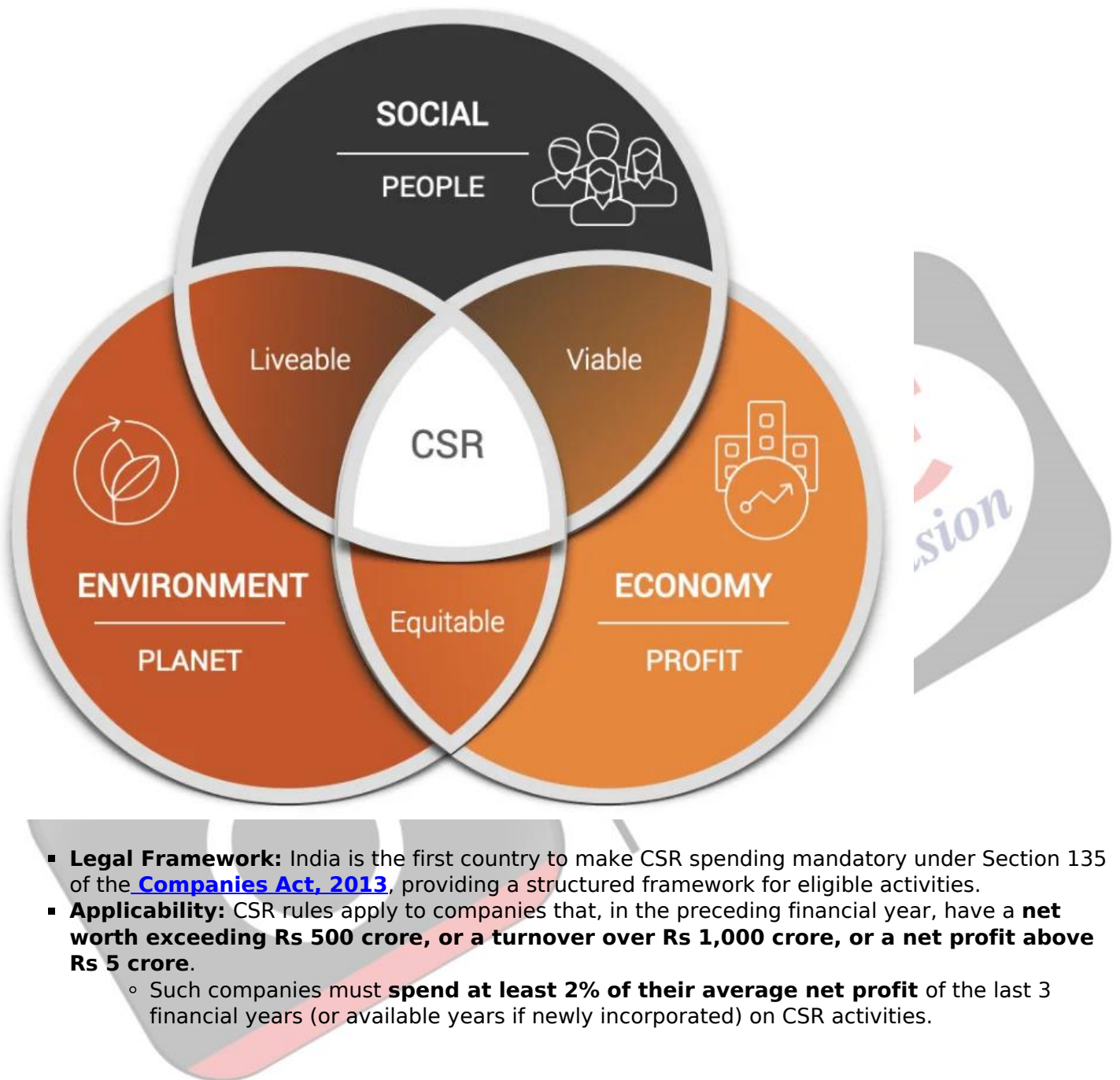
- **Scheme for the Establishment of Ashram Schools:**
  - The centrally sponsored scheme supports the **construction of Ashram Schools** for tribal boys and girls, particularly in **extremism-affected tribal sub-plan areas**.
- **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):**
  - Provides quality education for tribal children in remote areas, with 740 schools sanctioned.
- **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN):**
  - Focuses on health, education, and livelihoods for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

## Tribes in Chhattisgarh

- There are a total of **42 tribes in Chhattisgarh**, principal among them being the [Gond tribe](#).
- Besides, a large population of **Kanwar, Brinjhwar, Bhaina, Bhatra, Uraon, Munda, Kamar, Halba, Baiga, Sanwra, Korwa, Bharia, Nageshia, Manghwar, Kharia and Dhanwar** tribe are also found in the State.

## Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- **About:** CSR refers to a company's responsibility towards society and the environment.
  - It is a **self-regulating model that ensures businesses remain accountable for their impact** on economic, social, and environmental well-being.
  - By adopting CSR, companies become more aware of their broader role in sustainable development.



- **Legal Framework:** India is the first country to make CSR spending mandatory under Section 135 of the [Companies Act, 2013](#), providing a structured framework for eligible activities.
- **Applicability:** CSR rules apply to companies that, in the preceding financial year, have a **net worth exceeding Rs 500 crore, or a turnover over Rs 1,000 crore, or a net profit above Rs 5 crore**.
  - Such companies must **spend at least 2% of their average net profit** of the last 3 financial years (or available years if newly incorporated) on CSR activities.