



Chhattisgarh's EMRS to Receive Rs. 10 Crore Boost from CIL

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** has partnered with **Coal India Ltd (CIL)** to support 68 [Eklavya Model Residential Schools\(EMRS\)](#) in Chhattisgarh, aiming to improve education for tribal students.

Key Points

About the Partnership

▪ About:

- CIL will support 68 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in Chhattisgarh, benefiting over 28,000 tribal students.
- A total of Rs 10 crores has been sanctioned under CIL's [Corporate Social Responsibility \(CSR\)](#) initiatives.
- This initiative aligns with the Government's efforts under the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#), which focuses on equitable and inclusive educational opportunities for all sections of society.
- This comprehensive intervention seeks to:
 - Bridge educational gaps.
 - Foster career readiness and an **entrepreneurial** mindset.
 - Empower tribal youth with the necessary tools to succeed in today's [digital economy](#).
 - Create a **modern and innovative** learning environment in EMRS.

▪ Key Interventions:

- **Promotion of Digital Education:** Establishment of computer labs and purchase of around 3200 computers and 300 tablets for students.
- **Health and Hygiene for Girl Students:** Installation of approximately 1200 **sanitary napkin vending machines** and 1200 incinerators in schools and hostels.
- **Comprehensive Mentorship for Students:** Structured **mentorship programs** to guide students academically and personally.
- **Residential Entrepreneurial Boot Camps:** Organizing **boot camps** at prestigious institutes like IITs, IIMs, and NITs to develop an entrepreneurial mindset.

- **Implementation:** The project will be carried out through the [National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation \(NSTFDC\)](#), a section 8 company under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

About Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

- **About:** EMRS is a **flagship initiative** launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in 1998 to provide **free, quality residential education** to [Scheduled Tribe \(ST\)](#) students from Class VI to XII in remote and tribal-dominated areas.
- **Objective:** To bridge the educational gap between tribal and non-tribal populations by offering **CBSE-based instruction integrated** with holistic development, including sports, culture, and skill training.

- **Revamp & Expansion:** The scheme was **revamped in 2018-19** to expand coverage.
 - EMRSs are now to be established in blocks with more than 50% ST population and with at least 20,000 tribal persons with a **target of 728 schools by 2026**.
- **Governance:** EMRSs are implemented and managed by the [National Education Society for Tribal Students \(NESTS\)](#), an autonomous body under MoTA.
- **Key Features:**
 - Co-educational, **fully residential schools** modeled on Navodaya Vidyalayas with a tribal focus.
 - Follow the CBSE curriculum and provide free education along with all basic amenities.
 - Infrastructure includes classrooms, labs, hostels, staff quarters, playgrounds, and cultural activity spaces.
 - Each school has a capacity of 480 students with gender parity.
 - Up to 10% seats may be allotted to non-ST students.
 - **20% reservation** under sports quota for meritorious ST students in athletics and games.
- **Other Initiatives for Tribal Education**
 - [Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship \(RGNF\)](#)
 - [Vocational Training Centres](#)
 - [National Overseas Scholarship Scheme](#)
 - [Post-Matric Scholarships](#)

Coal India Limited

- Coal India Limited (CIL), a state-owned coal mining corporation established in November 1975, is a [Maharatna company](#).
 - It is the **world's largest coal producer**, contributing 80% to India's total domestic coal production.
 - It operates **Asia's largest opencast coal mine** at **Gevra** in South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL).

Corporate Social Responsibility

- **About:** [Corporate Social Responsibility \(CSR\)](#) 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.
- **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 of 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.