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Thought of the month

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Project Spotlight: Shiksha Udaan

Transforming Zilla Parishad Schools, Empowering Tribal Children



Strugence Benevolent Foundation (SBF) is seeking strategic CSR partnerships for Shiksha Udaan, an education infrastructure initiative focused on the renovation, redevelopment and upgradation of Zilla Parishad schools in Dahanu Taluka, Palghar, Maharashtra.

The initiative aims to create safe, inclusive and child-friendly learning environments for children from rural and tribal communities. The proposed interventions include improving school infrastructure, upgrading classrooms, strengthening sanitation and drinking-water facilities, enhancing electrical infrastructure, developing sports facilities and introducing sustainable solutions such as solar energy.

SBF invites corporates, CSR foundations and philanthropic institutions to collaborate in strengthening government school infrastructure and creating meaningful, long-term educational opportunities for underserved communities.

For collaboration and partnership opportunity

aditya.Shinkar@Strugence.com

dalwinder.singh@strugence.com

“India’s \$6.5 Trillion Net-Zero Funding Gap Puts Climate Disclosure in Focus”

India requires an estimated **USD 22.7 trillion by 2070** to achieve its net-zero target, with a **USD 6.5 trillion funding gap**. International capital could contribute up to **42%** of the requirement.

The article highlights the need for **credible, data-driven climate disclosures** to attract global investment. Businesses and CSR leaders must strengthen transparency around **environmental impact, climate risks, and transition plans** to build investor confidence



“CSR Committee threshold — ₹50 lakh → ₹1 crore”

The proposed **Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026** seeks to raise the CSR Committee threshold from **₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore** in annual CSR obligations. Companies with CSR obligations below ₹1 crore would be able to have their **Board of Directors oversee CSR activities directly**, reducing compliance requirements for mid-sized companies.



“10% CSR funds through ZCZP instruments”

The MCA now permits companies to allocate up to **10% of their annual CSR expenditure** to **Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) instruments** issued by eligible Not-for-Profit Organisations through recognised Social Stock Exchanges. This provides a **structured and transparent channel for directing CSR funds towards social-impact projects**.



“BPCL to spend Rs 69.21 crore on Varanasi parks, food hubs and heritage routes”

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) committed **₹69.21 crore** through two CSR MoUs to redevelop **119 public parks**, create modern food-street hubs at **Sarnath and Maidagin**, and improve key heritage routes in Varanasi. The projects include walking paths, open gyms, solar lighting, sanitation and heritage-sensitive infrastructure



“BPCL to provide Free bus service for students in Anaimalai, Topslip”

BPCL supported a **₹44 lakh CSR initiative** providing **free daily bus services** for nearly **100 students** from remote and forest areas of **Anaimalai and Topslip, Coimbatore**. Two buses will operate on designated routes, helping students access schools safely and regularly



“Aries Agro CSR to Reach 2,000 Students and 145 Persons with Disabilities”

Aries Agro launched CSR initiatives reaching **2,000+ rural students**, **55 visually impaired individuals** and **90 upper-limb amputees**. The programmes include digital and STEM education, AI-powered smart glasses, electronic prosthetic hands, physiotherapy and counselling



“Bisleri International Partners SBI to Drive Responsible Plastic Waste Management Under its 'Bottles for Change' Initiative”

Bisleri International and State Bank of India (SBI) partnered under **Bottles for Change** to promote responsible plastic waste management. The initiative includes employee awareness and training, collection of used plastic from SBI offices and its channelisation for recycling, supporting India's circular-economy goals.





Driving CSR Impact in India: Building Stronger and Sustainable Communities Insights from Ashish Aggarwal – Chief Administrative Officer & Head of Corporate Responsibility, Cummins India

Source: India CSR | Interview by Rusen Kumar

Key Takeaway

1) Environmental Sustainability & Water Conservation

Cummins India has undertaken watershed development, water conservation and renewable energy initiatives. Its reported projects include water conservation of over 800 million gallons and the desilting of a 1.2 km stretch near Khadakwasla Dam, Pune.

2) Women Empowerment & Livelihood Development

Through programmes such as EmpowHer and Project Sakhi, Cummins India supports women's entrepreneurship, financial inclusion and access to government welfare schemes. The interview reports more than 700 women impacted through over 70 self-help groups.

3) Education & Skill Development

Cummins' programmes include scholarships, engineering education for women and technical vocational training. The Nurturing Brilliance Scholarship Programme has benefited more than 1,140 students, according to the interview.

4) Community Ownership & Employee Participation

The company emphasises local stakeholder collaboration, capacity building, knowledge transfer and employee volunteering through its "Every Employee Every Community" programme.

Why this matters

Sustainable CSR requires more than short-term interventions. The interview highlights the importance of community participation, measurable outcomes, capacity building and long-term ownership to help social and environmental projects continue beyond initial support.

This approach provides a relevant reference for organisations working towards sustainable community development.

Please find the link for the above interview – <https://indiacsr.in/tag/ashish-aggarwal/>