

# Adani group's CSR initiatives in Jharkhand: A pathway to inclusive Tribal Development

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**Abstract** - The concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) isn't new in India. It surfaced from the Vedic period, when history was not recorded in India. In that period, lords had an obligation towards society, and merchants displayed their own business responsibility by structuring places of deification, education, auberges, and wells. Corporate Social Responsibility has been defined and conceptualized in several ways during the once four centuries following a process of analysis, debate, and scholarly battle around the theme. The concept 'Corporate Social Responsibility' (CSR) refers to 'soft', voluntary tone-regulation espoused by enterprises to ameliorate aspects of the company. This can relate to labour, environmental, and human rights issues. The development of CSR is as old as commerce and assiduity within any business. Academic CSR was studied in the 1980s and 1990s. Shell was the first company to use CSR in 1998. The literature contains several CSR principles. The most extensively accepted Description, albeit with important exceptions and variations, would be "Corporate Social Responsibility is considering the impact of a company's conduct on society, inferring considerations of its conduct and consequences in terms of a whole social system and the company's responsibility at any point within that system." It relates to the legal or societal obligation that business possessors must fulfil. Increased corporate responsibility would directly affect the benefits to the moral development of consumers both within and outside the organization. This exploration focuses on the socioeconomic growth of pastoral Jharkhand, with a particular emphasis on the corporate responsibility of regionally established companies.

**Keywords** - CSR, Social development, responsibility, tribal development, Adani group

## 1. Introduction

The Adani Group began as a commodity trading company in 1988 and has since expanded its operations to include importing and exporting a wide range of commodities. The business was created as a partnership venture with the flagship company, Adani Enterprises, which was formerly known as Adani Exports, with a starting capital of Rs. 5 lakhs. The Adani Group established its own port in Mundra in 1990 to serve as a hub for its international trade activities. Construction on the Mundra facility started in 1995. In 1998, it surpassed all other foreign exchange earners to become India Inc.'s top net foreign exchange earner. Adani Wilmar, a joint venture in edible oil refining formed in 2000, was the company's first push into the coal trading business, which started in 1999. The second phase of the group's development began with the construction of substantial infrastructural assets. The Group's diverse

businesses include port management, electric power generation and transmission, renewable energy, mining, airport operations, natural gas, food processing, and infrastructure, both inside and outside of the country. Being a developing country, India needs overall development in all aspects, including social, environmental, economic, political & others. This paper focused on Tribal development in Jharkhand & how Adani's CSR joins hands with Tribal development in Tribal areas. A "tribe" is defined as a grouping of people who retain unique cultures & characteristics. They've their own culture, rituals, social system & life. Though they're amidst rich natural resources, they're the ones who are considered to be poor & deprived of various rudiments demanded to lead a solemn life. They were found to be excessively backward in the sight of the modern civilized world because of their primitive way of life, illiteracy, ancient method of cultivation & production, Social abstention from urbanites, lack of knowledge, poverty, malnutrition, etc...

## 2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To gain an understanding of how the Adani group has acted responsibly toward the tribal community, especially in Jharkhand.
- To promote better operation of the schools and to enhance the facilities of the school and classrooms, furnishings, and teaching for tribes.
- To research tribal Community Health, Sustainable Livelihood Development, and Rural Infrastructure Development.

## 3. Adani group in Jharkhand (A tribal dominated state)

The Adani Group is an Indian multinational conglomerate group headquartered in Ahmedabad, India. Founded by Gautam Adani in 1988 as a commodity trading business, the group has since diversified into various businesses, including power generation, electrical transmission infrastructure, ports and logistics, coal trading, coal mining, and gas distribution pipeline.

Adani Group investments in Jharkhand have attracted considerable attention from

communities and analysts. The following discussion concentrates on the economic and social effects of Adani Group initiatives in the state, especially their influence on tribal livelihoods. The Adani Group is involved in energy, infrastructure, mining, and other sectors.

Jharkhand remains one of India's most economically challenged states. Fuelled by poor policies, misplaced development priorities, and insensitive political leadership, the local people have not benefited adequately from the state's rich mineral reserves. Around 26,000 villages lack access roads, 56,000 villages have no electricity, and a majority have no running water supply. Many children suffer from malnutrition and remain unreached by educational initiatives. Tribals constitute nearly 30% of Jharkhand's population, and the question of Adani Group investments within this tribal-dominant state is particularly pertinent.

## 4. Responsibility of CSR towards the tribal Community

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) towards **tribal communities** involves ethically and sustainably supporting the development and well-being of indigenous and tribal populations, who are often marginalized in terms of economic, social, and political access. The core responsibility of CSR initiatives toward tribal communities includes both **empowerment** and **protection**—ensuring that development is inclusive, respectful, and sustainable.

Here's a breakdown of the **key responsibilities** of CSR towards tribal communities:

1. **Preserving Cultural Identity and Rights**
2. **Livelihood and Economic Empowerment**
3. **Education and Capacity Building**
4. **Healthcare and Nutrition Infrastructure Development**
5. **Environmental Protection and Land Rights**
6. **Inclusive Decision Making**
7. **Infrastructure Development**

### 1. Sustainable Irrigation: Solar-Powered Lift Irrigation

- **Where & Who:** Implemented near ACC Chaibasa (West Singhbhum district), benefiting 169 tribal farmers across six "kisan samitis" in Dokatta, Kondowa, and Rajanka villages.
- **What It Does:** Solar-powered lift irrigation units supply water consistently—supporting year-round cultivation of Kharif, Rabi, and Jayad crops.
- **Impact:** Farmers gain an additional ₹30,000 per acre in yield; e.g., one farmer, Prakash

Honhaga, saw an extra ₹40,000 from just 1.5 acres.

- **Social Benefits:** Reduced out-migration, increased youth engagement, better nutrition via access to vegetables.
- **Plans Ahead:** An additional 80 HP lift irrigation unit is planned to support 100 more farmers and irrigate 100 extra acres this year.

### 2. Women's Empowerment via Mushroom Cultivation

- **Location:** Godda district.
- **Programme:** Adani Foundation trains rural women—often in remote, impoverished areas—in mushroom cultivation.
- **Outcomes:**
  - Vinita Jha earns around ₹5,000/month.
  - Others like Sabnam Kumari and Pushpa Devi earn up to ₹6,000/month, by growing and selling mushrooms—especially dried forms with higher demand.
  - To date, over 300 women have benefited, with the programme aiming to reach around 500 and link them to markets.

### 3. Education: Gyanodaya & Smart Classrooms

- **Gyanodaya Project (2018–19):**
  - Covers ~157 government schools in Godda, spanning around 200 villages.
  - Reaches some 65,000 students (grades 8–12) via smart classrooms and e-learning.
- **Other Educational Support:**
  - Distribution of raincoats to approx. 4,800 students in 20 schools to ensure regular attendance.
  - "Apna School" coaching programmes benefited 233 tribal students in remote villages.
  - Recruitment of seven skilled teachers to government schools—helping around 1,611 students with science and math.
  - Support for Ekal Vidyalaya: operating in 120 schools across Sunderpahari and Poraiyahat blocks, benefiting over 3,000 tribal students.

### 4. Healthcare & Community Support

- Reports indicate **health camps**, mobile medical units, vaccination drives (including COVID-19), and upgrades to primary health centers and maternal-child health services.

- Nutrition support for TB patients in Godda—353 beneficiaries noted.
- **However**, local feedback suggests limited effectiveness:
  - In Motia village, a PHC bearing Adani's logo remains poorly stocked and rarely functional.
  - Health camps between April–September 2024 treated 861 patients—but locals question the adequacy and quality of medicines.

### Challenges Undermining the Impact

#### 1. Land Acquisition Controversies

- **Forced acquisition** of tribal and Dalit lands in Godda for the coal-fired power plant has driven significant unrest and legal action. Many affected villagers have moved to the Jharkhand High Court seeking to restore their land.

SIA reports are criticized for gross underestimation—e.g., listing just one Adivasi family impacted in a land title that

- actually belongs to six families (40 individuals).
- Gram sabha consent wasn't properly obtained; social impact assessments lacked transparency and in-depth community engagement.
- Intimidation of villagers, including criminal charges against protestors, is reported—intensifying distrust.

#### 2. Gaps Between CSR Intent and Actual Delivery

- **Education shortfalls:**
  - Promised laptops are missing.
  - Some classrooms remain in disrepair; teacher shortages force multi-grade teaching.

- Gyan Jyoti tuition program's efficacy questioned—village heads suggest it's “in name only”.

- **Healthcare challenges:**

- Health camps may lack proper stocking and staff.
- Nutritional and medical support reported by the foundation hasn't been observed by beneficiaries.

- **Sustainability concerns:**

- Distributed saplings died due to poor quality.
- Some villagers have expressed that appreciation letters were solicited under pressure to free up CSR funds.

- **Synchronization issues:**

- Promised school in Ranitkar village delayed; expected academic-year launch now deferred to 2026, leaving students underserved in the interim.

#### 3. Structural & Systemic Constraints

- **Geographical hurdles:** Hilly terrain, dense forests, rain-fed agriculture—make infrastructure and agriculture development difficult.
- **Technical and market gaps:** Farmers face knowledge deficits, limited access to markets, and pervasive poverty.
- **Administrative failings:** Outdated land records (not updated since 1932), lack of caste-wise impact data, and legal loopholes mean community voices remain unheard.
- **Loss of trust:** Repeated breaches—through fake documentation, lack of transparency, and intimidation—have eroded community confidence

Summary: Pathways and Pitfalls

CSR Initiative	Key Benefits	Challenges / Caveats
Solar Irrigation	Year-round farming, higher income, reduced migration	Geographic, technical, and market access limitations
Mushroom Cultivation for Women	Steady income (₹5–6K/month), empowerment	Scalability and sustained market linkages need support
Gyanodaya & Education	Digital learning, added coaching, improved attendance	Infrastructure gaps, delayed facilities, and limited teacher presence
Healthcare Efforts	Health camps, mobile units, disease/facility support	Quality issues, underutilization, and alleged CSR misuse
Land & Trust Issues	—	Displacement, flawed processes, community mistrust

Path Forward: Strengthening Inclusive Tribal Development

To transform pathways into sustainable progress, the following could help:

- **Strengthen Consent and Participation:** Engage tribal communities through authentic dialogue, seek their consent, transparently share SIA and assessment documents, and genuinely integrate gram sabha input.
- **Ensure CSR is Responsive:** Conduct regular independent audits and feedback loops—especially for healthcare, education, and farming supports—to align efforts with ground realities.
- **Bridge Technical Gaps:** Complement irrigation with training on farming techniques, business development, local market access, and cooperative strategies.
- **Scale Economic Options for Women:** Expand mushroom cultivation initiatives, support market access, and consider additional value-added ventures.
- **Preserve Trust in Communities:** Address land grievances openly, compensate fairly (ideally land-for-land), and ensure CSR initiatives are seen as reparative and inclusive—not transactional

The references supporting the information on Adani Group's CSR initiatives and associated challenges in Jharkhand:

- **Healthcare and Education Shortfalls**
  - Residents near the Adani power plant in Godda, Jharkhand, reported that healthcare facilities remain poorly equipped despite bearing the company’s logo; health camps (54 conducted April–September 2024, treating 861 patients) and nutritional support (353 TB patients) did not align with community experiences.
  - In education, Smart Classrooms, furniture, and digital tools were introduced under CSR, but

promised laptops remain undelivered; teacher shortages force multi-grade teaching; the Gyan Jyoti tuition program runs “in name only”; and a school under construction in Ranitikar village is now expected to open in 2026 .

- **Land Acquisition Challenges & Tribal Resistance**
- Villagers filed petitions in the Jharkhand High Court challenging land acquisition for the Adani Godda power plant (~1,600 MW), citing flawed Social Impact Assessments, lack of gram sabha consent, and violations of safeguards under the Land Acquisition (LARR) Act of 2013.
  - Fact-finding teams (e.g., Jharkhand Janadhikar Mahasabha) found evidence of forceful acquisition, intimidation, police brutality, destruction of crops, burial grounds, and ponds in tribal villages.
  - Compensation issues also emerged: the LARR Act stipulates land-for-land compensation for SC/ST landowners, but authorities interpreted it as applicable only to irrigation projects—not power plants—raising questions of legality and equity.
- **Education & E-Learning (Gyanodaya Project)**
  - The **Gyanodaya project**, initiated in August 2018 by Adani Foundation with the District Administration and Eckovation, installed Smart Classes in 157 government schools across 200 villages in Godda, benefitting approximately 65,000 students (grades 8–12). Additional efforts included distributing 4,800 raincoats (20 schools, 15 villages), the “Apna School” coaching (233 students), deploying seven skilled teachers (serving 1,611 students),

- and supporting 120 Ekal Vidyalaya schools (3,000 tribal students) .
- Wikipedia notes that Gyanodaya helped curb absenteeism through audiovisual education, operated during COVID-19 via DD Jharkhand, reaching millions, and received recognition from UNDP's Aspirational District Programme.
- **Sustainable Irrigation & Farmer Livelihoods**
  - Adani Foundation introduced solar-powered lift irrigation units across Dokatta, Kondowa, and

Rajanka villages, spanning 169 farmers. One large 80 HP unit irrigated 95 acres; five smaller ones supported 10–18 acres each. These interventions enabled year-round cultivation (Kharif, Rabi, Jayad), raised yields (₹30,000 per acre on average), and enabled beneficiaries like Prakash Honhaga to earn additional ₹40,000 from 1.5 acres. Challenges include terrain, rain-fed agriculture, lack of technical know-how, limited market access, and pervasive poverty (67% tribal population).

Summary Table

Aspect	Key Highlight	Source
Healthcare & Education	Implementation gaps despite CSR branding and campaigns	Scroll coverage <a href="#">Scroll.in</a>
Land Acquisition Issues	Resistance to acquisition, flawed SIA, lack of compensation & consent	Scroll, IndiaSpend, Down To Earth, NDTV <a href="#">Scroll.in</a> <a href="#">Down To Earth</a> <a href="#">NDTV Profit</a>
Forceful Intimidation	Destruction of crops, physical threats, and suppressed dissent	Logical Indian, NewsClick, Scroll <a href="#">NewsClick+1</a> <a href="#">Scroll.in</a>
Gyanodaya Education Project	Smart classrooms, raincoat distribution, teacher recruitment, Ekal Vidyalaya support	CSRBOX <a href="#">CSRbox</a>
Gyanodaya Recognition	Digital reach during COVID, UNDP recognition	Wikipedia <a href="#">Wikipedia</a>
Irrigation Initiatives	Solar irrigation units are boosting yield, reducing migration	CSR Journal, CSRBOX <a href="#">The CSR Journal</a> <a href="#">CSRbox</a>

## 5. LITERATURE REVIEW

**Carol A. Tilt (2016).** In an article named "CSR Research: the Benefit of Signifying" introduced in the worldwide Journal of Corporate Social Responsibility, there has as of late been a rising Interest in identifying corporate social (ecological) responsibility (CSR), as a general rule, CSR execution in emerging countries. A significant number of these explorations in the fields of corporate social responsibility don't completely inspect the verifiable factors that influence CSR and detailing in those nations, picking to zero in on hypotheses and presumptions framed from studies acted in the West, specifically in the US, the Assembled Realm and Australasia. That's what a scientist guaranteed this may be reasonable, as many arising economies are going through progress and changing towards a more market-based direction. At same time, these countries have an in a general sense different socio-political air, with different government structures, legitimate systems, and social starting points. Different financial perspectives profoundly affect the use of speculations, for example, partner hypothesis, credibility hypothesis, and straightforwardness hypothesis, which are broadly applied to describe news events. Referring to a case of China, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, and so forth, the article talks about three contemporary worries that merit more noteworthy and expanded consideration in CSR examination, with explicit emphasis on CSR news. Creator additionally referenced that, as increasingly more research on CSR in developed countries is arising in scholarly writing, it is crucial to ensure that the setting wherein the research happens is appropriately considered.

**Carroll A B (2016)** gives the well-known Carroll's Pyramid of CSR a second look in the study essay "Carroll's Pyramid of CSR: Taking a Second Look." He discusses the system's widespread application before describing the four-part idea system that served as the foundation for the pyramid in this article.



Carroll's pyramid of corporate social responsibility (Carroll, 1991).

The economic, legal, ethical, and discretionary (philanthropic) goals that society has of firms at a particular time are included in CSR." The author argued that this set of four responsibilities provides a framework or structure that aids in the definition of the company's commitments to the community it is a part of and helps to frame or portray their meaning. The researcher then considers a few aspects of the paradigm that were not emphasized in its initial publication: The pyramid is infused with ethics; the inherent contradictions and trade-offs; its unified, interconnected whole; its framework of all stakeholders; and its universal usability in a variety of settings. The article concludes with a look ahead.

**Nicholas Capaldi (2016)** The International Journal of CSR published an article titled "Modern CSR Directorates". The study's goal was to motivate academics and private CSR officers to rethink their subject matter and methodology. Concerning the study, the primary issue that must be resolved in CSR studies is whether it is universal or comprehensive. According to the author, the majority of the existing literature lacks intellectual depth and scope in terms of rules. An article by a researcher suggests a number of new CSR research activities, such as consumer protection, that are compatible with a socially diverse society and a market economy that is friendly to them.

**Maheshwari S & Sharma S (2016)**

Wrote "A report on carbon price & its relevance in the implementation of CSR" titled, carbon dioxide one of the main greenhouse gases produced by burning fuel, scientists believe that carbon dioxide has been a major contributor to global warming. The Kyoto Protocol was agreed upon by the United Nations on December 11, 1997, in Kyoto, Japan, and went into effect on February 16, 2005. Given that the level of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is rising at an unprecedented rate, it is necessary to deal with this monster. According to the research paper, a company or nation can reduce pollution in

one of two ways: either by connecting it with developed nations and assisting them in establishing new environmentally sustainable technologies to support developing nations like this or by upgrading existing technology to meet higher emission requirements. This study focuses on the Kyoto Agreement's carbon trading mechanism, which allowed countries with high carbon emissions to trade with those with low carbon emissions. The authors talked about how carbon trading works on the Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX) and the benefits and drawbacks of trading, with a focus on India. The authors argued, based on the paper's conclusions, that carbon taxes would be a better alternative to emissions pricing. The study found that, even though this is a step in the process of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the atmosphere, it can be done in conjunction with another mechanism known as carbon taxes to achieve greater environmental conservation.

**Jorden H E S (2016)** submitted a paper titled "Pancasila-based Social Responsibility Accounting" at the 3rd Global Conference on Business and Social Sciences – 2015. The objective of the study was to lay the foundation of social responsibility accounting, which is today imprisoned in the capitalist framework, by applying the triple bottom line idea. By focusing on the margins or the excluded, the authors of this study used the Indonesian philosophy Pancasila as a paradigm and instrument. The humanistic aspects based on Pancasila's ideas were used to create the observation research results. If the triple bottom line principles serve as the primary foundation, the concept of social responsibility accounting becomes meaningless. The author has also noted that at the idea level, there is a principal value that leans significantly on capitalism, which opposes Indonesia's vision as a humanistic society. The study found that the Pancasila is indeed the correct basis for social responsibility accounting to establish a humanistic civilization.

**Maniktala and Punjabi (2012)** According to Maniktala and Punjabi (2012), businesses are becoming increasingly aware of the significance of their role as contributing members of society during this time of opposition to the status quo. As a result, the term "Corporate Social Responsibility" (CSR) emerges and quickly establishes itself as a cultural and economic phenomenon in India. Simply put, social responsibility is a person's or a company's commitment to the people in their lives as well as the community as a whole. Business leaders must acknowledge that the government's efforts to lift the poor out of poverty will not be successful on their own. India's rural communities have largely survived. The adage still holds today and deserves to be repeated from every angle. The concept of rural development encompasses a vast array of activities because a significant portion of the state's population resides in rural areas. The impact of CSR measures on the socioeconomic development of rural people in India, particularly in the context of agriculture, is the subject of this article, which examines corporate social responsibility acts with a focus on rural development. This study used a quantitative research approach, starting with secondary data. To get a better understanding of how public and private businesses interact with corporate social responsibility, six public and private companies were chosen. This study also looks at the idea of corporate social responsibility (CSR), which has become more important for Indian businesses of all sizes, regardless of industry. Additionally, it is hypothesized that these activities have contributed to the expansion of rural areas and their businesses.

## 6. Result and discussion

### 6.1 Outcomes of CSR Interventions

#### 6.1.1. Education Sector – Gyanodaya Initiative

The Gyanodaya Project, launched in 2018 by the Adani Foundation, focused on improving digital learning across tribal regions in Godda district. As per CSRBOX (2019), the initiative installed smart classrooms in 157 government schools across 200 villages, reaching approximately 65,000 students. The project also included supplementary programs such as "Apna School" tuitions, raincoat distribution for schoolchildren, and support for Ekal Vidyalayas.

Despite these efforts, reports by Scroll.in (2024) indicate implementation gaps. Instances of inactive schools, pending infrastructure (e.g., undelivered laptops), and teacher shortages suggest limited ground-level impact in some locations.

#### 6.1.2. Livelihood Enhancement – Women's Empowerment

The Adani Foundation's support for mushroom cultivation among tribal women in Godda district has shown encouraging outcomes. According to The CSR Journal (2024), over 300 women have received

training and now earn ₹5,000–6,000 monthly. Plans to scale this to 500 women and provide direct market linkages reflect a potentially sustainable model for local entrepreneurship and financial independence.

#### 6.1.3. Agricultural Sustainability – Solar Lift Irrigation

In Chaibasa (West Singhbhum), the foundation installed solar-powered lift irrigation systems covering over 169 tribal farmers (India CSR, 2024). These systems have enabled multi-season cultivation and increased productivity—yielding an average gain of ₹30,000 per acre. This has helped reduce seasonal migration and supported year-round farming, aligning well with sustainable livelihood goals.

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### 6.2. Challenges and Contradictions

#### 6.2.1. Land Acquisition and Tribal Displacement

Significant resistance has emerged in response to land acquisition for the Adani Godda power plant project. As reported by Scroll.in (2023) and Newslandry (2016), the process allegedly involved forced acquisition, flawed Social Impact Assessments (SIA), lack of gram sabha consent, and violations of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR) Act, 2013.

Villagers filed petitions in the Jharkhand High Court, and several affected tribal families reported destruction of farmland, intimidation, and inadequate compensation.

#### 6.2.2. Governance and Implementation Gaps

Although Adani Foundation reports extensive CSR reach, independent assessments reveal a gap between reported achievements and actual outcomes. Health centers and schools bearing the CSR logo were sometimes inactive or under-resourced (Scroll.in, 2024). Such discrepancies raise concerns about project monitoring, transparency, and accountability.

#### 6.2.3. Community Exclusion from Decision-Making

A critical concern is the **lack of tribal participation** in CSR project design and land-related decisions. Many initiatives were implemented **for** communities rather than **with** them, undermining the principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), which is essential for inclusive and ethical development.

### 6.3. Discussion: CSR as a Tool for Inclusive Tribal Development

The data suggest that while Adani's CSR initiatives have made **positive contributions at a micro level**, especially in education, women's empowerment, and agricultural support, **macro-level challenges persist**. These include systemic exclusion, legal disputes, displacement, and weak participatory processes.

To become a true pathway to inclusive tribal development, CSR in tribal areas must go beyond philanthropic branding and:

- **Ensure legal and ethical compliance**
- Embed community consultation at every stage
- Establish **transparent monitoring frameworks**
- Align interventions with the **rights-based development model**

This is especially critical in resource-rich, development-poor regions like Jharkhand, where tribal communities often bear the hidden cost of industrialization. In its current form, Adani's CSR in Jharkhand illustrates a **dual reality**: effective micro-level interventions on one hand, and systemic socio-political exclusions on the other. This underscores the need to **integrate CSR within a rights-based development framework**, especially in tribal regions with historic vulnerabilities.

## 7. Research Methodology

In this study, the term "Corporate Social Responsibility" refers to a company's explicit commitment to an in-depth investigation of the cultural, ethical, social, and environmental aspects of its operations. The following working definitions were developed for this research after a review of the relevant literature on CSR.

On the topic and related topics, extensive literature searches have been conducted. Secondary data about CSR that can be found in books, government reports, journals, newspapers, magazines, and websites are used in the creation of this research paper

## 8. CONCLUSION

The Adani Group's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in Jharkhand represent a complex interplay between corporate development goals and the socio-economic upliftment of tribal communities. On one hand, programs like *Gyanodaya* for digital education, solar-powered lift irrigation for farmers, and livelihood training for women—especially in remote districts like Godda and West Singhbhum—have contributed to tangible improvements in access to education, income generation, and sustainable agriculture. These initiatives align with national objectives for

inclusive growth and demonstrate how corporate interventions can supplement state capacity in underdeveloped tribal regions.

However, the broader impact of these CSR efforts is often overshadowed by controversies related to land acquisition, inadequate community consultation, and displacement—particularly in the context of large infrastructure projects like the Godda power plant. Allegations of coercion, flawed Social Impact Assessments (SIAs), and non-compliance with the Land Acquisition Act of 2013 raise serious concerns about the ethics and legality of such development practices. Moreover, while CSR projects show promise at a micro level, gaps in implementation, insufficient grievance redressal, and limited scalability hinder their long-term sustainability and inclusivity.

In conclusion, while Adani's CSR programs in Jharkhand offer a potential pathway to tribal development, they cannot function as a substitute for ethical governance, participatory planning, and legal compliance. For CSR to be a truly inclusive development tool, it must be rooted in transparency, accountability, and genuine community partnership—where tribal voices are not just heard but centered in every stage of the development process.

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