

Letter No:- 08/N.B.F.C.-09/2019.....1113 /Fin.

Government of Bihar,

Finance Department

Resolution

Patna Date...11/07/2025

Bihar State Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Policy, 2025

1 Preamble

Recognizing that businesses have a crucial role in fostering sustainable and inclusive development, the Government of Bihar establishes this Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Policy. This policy seeks to harness the potential of the private sector to address the unique challenges and opportunities facing Bihar and contribute to the well-being of its people. Grounded in the Companies Act 2013 principles; this policy provides a supportive framework for companies to align their CSR initiatives with Bihar's developmental priorities. It encourages businesses to go beyond mere compliance and embrace CSR as a strategic tool for creating shared value and contributing to a prosperous and equitable Bihar. This aligns with the broader vision of Viksit Bihar@2047 and contributes to the envisioned goal of Viksit Bharat@2047.

The following core values guide this policy:

- **Social Justice:** Facilitate development benefits reach all sections of society, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable.
- **Sustainability:** Promoting environmental consciousness and responsible resource management for the well-being of future generations.

- **Inclusivity:** Fostering a sense of ownership and participation among all stakeholders, including local communities, in the development process.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Facilitate and guide the righteous utilization of CSR funds with clear supportive mechanisms.
- **Innovation:** Encouraging creative and impactful solutions to address social challenges and promote sustainable development.

This policy may be called Bihar State Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Policy, 2025. It shall extend to the whole of the State of Bihar and shall come into force immediately on its publication in the Official Gazette.

2 Vision

To be one of the leading states leveraging CSR funds contributing inclusive and sustainable development of the state.

3 Mission

To empower communities across Bihar and drive sustainable development by promoting responsible business practices and encouraging impactful CSR initiatives that improve livelihoods, enhance social well-being, protect the environment and all other facets of development for the benefit of present and future generations.

4 Policy Period

Bihar State Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) Policy, 2025 will be effective from the date of notification. The said date shall be considered as effective date of this policy from which its provisions shall come into force and shall be applicable for 5 years.

5 Definitions

- i. **“Policy”** shall mean Bihar State Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) Policy, 2025.
- ii. **Applicable Company”** shall mean a company that meets the criteria outlined in Section 135(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 and is thereby mandated to undertake CSR activities.
- iii. **“State”** shall mean Government of Bihar.
- iv. **“Bihar State CSR Portal”** shall mean a digital CSR platform to facilitate CSR in the State of Bihar.
- v. **“CSR”** shall mean Corporate Social Responsibility as described under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- vi. **“CSR Society”** shall mean a Bihar State Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Society registered entity under the Societies Registration Act 21, 1860, designated as the nodal agency for guiding, managing, and facilitating CSR initiatives and resources in the state of Bihar.
- vii. **“Department”** shall mean Government Department of Bihar.
- viii. **“CSR Funds”** shall mean amount that a company sets aside to spend on socially responsible activities, as mandated under Section 135 of the

Companies Act, 2013 or contributed voluntarily by companies and other stakeholders (other than companies) for undertaking CSR activities.

- ix. **"Donors"** shall refer to companies, individuals, or other entities that contribute financially to CSR projects or development initiatives under the Policy, either mandatorily under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, or on a voluntary basis.
- x. **"Implementing Agency"** as defined in Rule 4(1) of the Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014.
- xi. **"Priority Sectors"** refer to the key focus areas identified by the State for targeted initiatives and enhanced CSR funding, in accordance with the CSR framework outlined in the Companies Act, 2013
- xii. **"Approved projects"** shall mean projects approved by CSR Society for availing CSR funding.
- xiii. **"Other Entities"** shall mean entities other than companies & individuals.

6 Objectives of the Policy

- i. To encourage companies to actively contribute to the social and economic development of Bihar through CSR initiatives.
- ii. To guide that all CSR activities align with national and Bihar's developmental priorities, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- iii. Facilitate and guide the righteous utilization of CSR funds with clear supportive mechanisms.
- iv. To provide support for compliance with the existing act, guidelines and regulations as amended from time to time.

- v. To foster strong partnerships and collaborative relationships between companies, government agencies, academia, NGOs, and local communities.
- vi. To promote innovation and scalability in CSR initiatives to effectively address Bihar's pressing social and economic challenges.
- vii. To develop a framework to facilitate companies to make strategic investments through CSR in Bihar.
- viii. To leverage the strength of private sector to create employment and address specific problems related to economic development of Bihar.

7 Applicability of the Policy

This CSR Policy shall be applicable to:

- a) All companies falling under the purview of Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, and the rules framed thereunder.
- b) Voluntary contributors, including companies (other than as mention in para 7(a), individuals and other entities, who choose to voluntary support developmental initiatives in the state under the policy.

The applicability of the policy can be extended to the following types of projects, depending on the nature of the government's involvement:

- i. **Government-led Projects:** This includes projects where the government is involved in at least one of the following activities: funding, implementation, review and monitoring, or operations. The project can be an existing government scheme, or a new project. *CSR funds may be used to undertake projects that complement or align with existing government schemes, thereby enhancing their*

effectiveness and reach, without directly contributing to government budgets.

- ii. **Company-led Projects:** This category encompasses projects where companies independently utilize their CSR funds without any government involvement in funding, implementation, review, monitoring, or operations.
- iii. **Collaborative Projects between various Stakeholders:** This category includes projects where companies may partner with various stakeholders, including developmental institutions (like NABARD, SIDBI etc.), NGOs, international NGOs, academia, community groups, or other organizations, to utilise their CSR funds. These projects leverage the expertise and resources of different stakeholders to maximize impact and address specific social development needs.
- iv. **Implementation agency-led Projects (Implementing Agency includes Societies, Trusts, Section-8 Companies, Statutory Bodies):** This category includes initiatives where the implementation agency autonomously implement CSR initiatives.

This broad applicability ensures that the Policy can cater to diverse projects and initiatives, fostering collaboration between the government and companies while also allowing for independent CSR projects led by companies.

8 Donors of CSR Funds/Sourcing

The sources of CSR funding as per existing legal framework include:

- i. **Company:** A company satisfying any of the following criteria during the immediately preceding financial year is required to comply with

CSR provisions specified under section 135(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014 made thereunder:

- An annual net worth of Rs. 500 crore or more
- An annual turnover of Rs. 1000 crore or more
- A net profit of Rs. 5 crore or more

These companies must spend 2% of their average net profit of the last three financial years on CSR activities.

- ii. Individuals & Other Entities:** Any individual or entity, other than companies, can **voluntarily contribute** to the development of the state and society through this policy. The state can also take the initiative to obtain funds from individuals through crowdfunding. The proposed CSR Portal will have a dedicated mechanism for facilitating registering such individuals.

9 Recipient of CSR Funds

The recipients of CSR funds in Bihar, while inclusive but not exhaustive, may include:

- i. Government Entities:** Relevant entities of the Government of Bihar engaged in implementing developmental and welfare programs as an implementing agency having CSR-1 certificates.
- ii. Bihar State Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Society:** CSR Society established for the collection, allocation and management of CSR funds towards approved activities as an implementing agency.
- iii. Implementing Agency:** Implementing Agency can receive CSR funds as per the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, provided it is

registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) through Form CSR-01.

10 Application of CSR Funds

The policy aims to provide clear guidance and support for the strategic and effective utilization of CSR funds in Bihar across the following projects:

- i. New Projects Fully Funded by CSR:** Companies may fully fund new CSR projects or schemes, either independently or in collaboration with implementing agencies as defined under the CSR Rules. Government entities may support such initiatives by facilitating activities including procurement, implementation, monitoring, or operations and maintenance (O&M), provided these activities are part of a project that qualifies as a CSR activity under Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013. The ownership of assets and execution must remain in compliance with CSR Rules and should not constitute a contribution to a government corpus.
- ii. New Projects Partially Funded by CSR:** Companies may partially fund new CSR projects or schemes, provided that the entire project—regardless of the funding source—qualifies as a CSR activity under Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013. The remaining project cost may be met by a government entity through sanctioned funds or by identifying and securing alternate sources of funding. However, the CSR contribution must be utilized in a transparent and accountable manner, and the company must ensure that its share of the project is implemented in accordance with the CSR Rules, including proper monitoring, reporting, and execution through eligible implementing agencies, if applicable.

- iii. **Complementary Funding:** CSR funds may be used to undertake projects that complement or align with existing government schemes, thereby enhancing their effectiveness and reach, without directly contributing to government budgets.
- iv. **Maintenance of Projects:** CSR funds may be utilized for the operations and maintenance (O&M) of existing or newly established projects, provided the maintenance activity itself qualifies as a CSR activity under Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013. Such funding must be directly linked to a project initiated or supported by the company as part of its CSR obligation and should not constitute a general contribution to government functions or infrastructure. The company must ensure that the maintenance is executed in compliance with CSR Rules, including proper monitoring, documentation, and disclosure.
- v. **Adoption for Holistic Development:** Companies may adopt government schools, hospitals, villages, or other institutions to undertake their holistic development, provided the activities undertaken fall within the scope of Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013. The development initiatives may include interventions in areas such as education, healthcare, sanitation, livelihood, infrastructure, and environmental sustainability. Each activity must qualify as a permissible CSR activity, and the company must ensure implementation through eligible modes, proper monitoring, and transparent reporting as per CSR Rules. The adoption must not amount to a general funding of government responsibilities or assets without defined outcomes.

- vi. Technical Assistance and Human Resource Support:** Companies may support new or existing government projects by providing technical assistance and deploying dedicated human resources, provided such support is directly linked to a project or activity that qualifies as a CSR activity under Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013. The assistance must be structured to ensure that the contribution—whether in the form of skilled manpower, expert consultancy, or technical know-how—results in measurable outcomes within the scope of CSR. Such support must be implemented in compliance with CSR Rules, and the costs incurred (e.g., salaries of deployed staff, consultancy fees) may be treated as CSR expenditure only to the extent they are exclusively used for the CSR purpose and properly documented.
- vii. Miscellaneous Support:** Companies may undertake diverse projects or extend support to initiatives not specifically covered in the above categories, provided that each activity falls within the purview of Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013. Each activity must be clearly defined, measurable, and implemented in compliance with CSR Rules, including through eligible implementation partners, with proper monitoring, reporting, and documentation to ensure transparency and impact assessment.

Companies may specify the sectors, beneficiaries, geographical areas and other preferences for the utilization of CSR funds in alignment and compliance with respective of provisions of CSR in the Companies Act 2013, CSR Guidelines and other mandates issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India to ensure alignment with the developmental priorities of the Bihar.

11 Institutional Framework

A supportive governance structure is being established to ensure the effective implementation of the Policy. This framework aims to facilitate the seamless execution of CSR initiatives, promote transparency, and drive impactful outcomes. The key components of this institutional framework include:

11.1 Bihar State Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Society:

The CSR Society will be a legal entity registered under the “Societies Registration Act, 1860. The CSR Society will have a governing body chaired by Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar and comprising government officials to oversee functions of the CSR society. CSR Society will primarily serve the roles of a facilitator, approver, or implementer of CSR projects.

11.1.1 The constitution of the governing body the “Bihar State Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Society” is as below:

SN	Designation	Occupation
1.	Chairperson	Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar
2.	Vice-Chairperson	Development Commissioner, Government of Bihar
3.	Member Secretary	Principal Secretary, Finance Department
4.	Member	Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary
4.1.	Member	Health Department
4.2.	Member	Education Department
4.3.	Member	Social Welfare Department
4.4.	Member	Road Construction Department
4.5.	Member	Rural Works Department
4.6.	Member	Planning and Development Department

4.7.	Member	Water Resources Department
4.8.	Member	Public Health Engineering Department
4.9.	Member	Industries Department
4.10	Member	Urban Development & Housing Department
4.11	Member	Agriculture Department
4.12	Member	Rural Development Department
4.13	Member	Art, Culture & Youth Department
4.14	Member	Building Construction Department
4.15	Member	Energy Department
4.16	Member	Tourism Department
4.17	Member	Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department
4.18	Member	Animal & Fisheries Resources Department
4.19	Member	Commercial Tax Department
4.20	Member	SC and ST Welfare Department
4.21	Member	Labour Resources Department

11.1.2 The Executive Committee will be headed by Principal Secretary, Finance Department and will include some of selected officers (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary) of governing body members.

11.1.3 The Member Secretary of Executive Committee will be Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the CSR Society and will be nominated by the Principal Secretary of the Finance Department, with the stipulation that the nominee should hold a rank not below that of Special Secretary.

11.2 Objective of the Bihar State Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Society

- a) Bringing in, adequate clarity on CSR Regime.
- b) Facilitate the development of rules, guidelines, and frameworks, as and when required, to strengthen the CSR ecosystem in the State.
- c) Creation and Channelizing of CSR Fund with contribution from eligible CSR Donors such as Govt. PSUs, Companies, Individuals, etc.

and utilization of the CSR Fund towards the CSR activities, as per the provisions of the New Companies Act, 2013 and The Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014 through a sustainable supportive mechanism.

- d) Develop a shelf of projects aligned with state development priorities and Schedule-VII of the Companies Act. Facilitate CSR Stakeholders to list selected projects on the state's CSR portal.
- e) Facilitate effective CSR implementation as a nodal and implementing agency, guiding companies to design initiatives aligned with state priorities. Provide access to the pre-identified "Shelf of Projects" for streamlined execution.
- f) Encourage innovative and sustainable CSR practices to address complex social, economic, and environmental challenges and core focus areas.
- g) Facilitate partnerships between companies, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to achieve common development goals.
- h) Recognize and award CSR Donors and implementing agencies for exceptional CSR contributions.
- i) To ensure formation of district level CSR committee/Advisory Board and to monitor, guide them on subject matters sent for guidance.

12 Bihar State CSR Portal

To ensure convergence of stakeholder interests, transparency, and seamless information flow, a dedicated CSR Portal namely Bihar CSR Portal will be developed and made operational by Finance Department, Government of Bihar.

Key features of the Bihar State CSR Portal is as follows:

- Hosting of all approved projects

- Onboarding of Donors, Implementation Agencies & Government Departments/Agencies.
- Facilitate CSR Events
- Information on CSR Cell
- Management Information System
- Hosting of various documents, knowledge bank

13 Stakeholders & Responsibilities

The following roles and responsibilities of stakeholders shall be considered under this policy.

13.1 Donor

- Onboarding on portal as Donor.
- CSR Funding Support, identify focus sectors, listing of projects, selection of projects from shelf of project, map implementation partners.
- Ensure transparency by utilizing the reporting framework on the CSR portal.

13.2. Implementation Agency

- Onboarding on portal as Implementation Agency.
- Listing of projects under Shelf of Project.
- Stakeholder communication through CSR Portal.
- Facilitate execution of CSR projects as per donor guidelines and ensures community participation.
- Ensure transparency by utilizing the reporting framework on the CSR portal.

13.3. Government Entities

- Onboarding on portal as Government Entities
- Creation of shelf of projects align with state priorities on portal.

- Perform role of facilitator for CSR Society, Donor & Implementing Agencies to perform CSR activities in the State in a smooth manner.
- Support stakeholder coordination, facilitate progress, and promote transparency via digital tools.
- Ensure transparency by utilizing the reporting framework on the CSR portal.

13.4 Bihar State Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Society

CSR Society will primarily serve the roles of a facilitator, approver, implementer of CSR projects and activities in the state of Bihar as per the provision of New Companies Act, 2013 & The Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014.

14 Creation of Shelf of Projects

Under this policy, CSR projects may be proposed using the prescribed format available on the portal by companies eligible under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, implementing agencies, government entities, and the designated CSR Society. Aligned department and CSR Society will facilitate hosting of selected projects on the CSR portal under the “Shelf of Projects” section, available for CSR investment. CSR Society will facilitate mapping of donor and implementing agency for execution of CSR projects.

15 Implementation Framework

15.1 Phase 1: Foundation Building

The CSR Society shall be established with a clearly defined mandate, encompassing a robust governance structure and comprehensive standard operating procedures (SOPs). This CSR Society shall be responsible for

overseeing and facilitating all CSR activities within the state. **To achieve this, the following steps shall be undertaken:**

- i. A user-friendly online CSR Portal as mentioned in para 12 above shall be developed to serve as a centralized hub for information dissemination, user, project registration and reporting, and stakeholder communication.
- ii. Capacity building programs shall be conducted by CSR Society for government officials, company representatives, and NGOs to raise awareness and foster a deeper understanding of the policy framework and best practices.

15.2 Phase 2: Operationalization and Outreach

This phase shall focus on operationalizing the CSR framework and expanding its reach across the state. **The following actions shall be undertaken:**

- i. All stakeholders falling under the purview of this policy may be registered on the CSR portal. Adequate training and support shall be provided to these stakeholders on effective use of portal.
- ii. Comprehensive database shall be developed to maintain records of all registered stakeholders on portal. These databases shall capture key information such as contact details, CSR budgets, areas of expertise, and relevant experience.
- iii. Robust mechanisms for managing CSR funds provided to CSR Society shall be established, encompassing dedicated accounts, transparent disbursement processes, and financial systems.

15.3 Phase 3: Support Project Implementation and Monitoring

This phase shall focus on supporting and monitoring the implementation of CSR projects across the state. **The following activities shall be undertaken:**

- i. The CSR Society shall provide technical support to companies, implementing agencies and government departments and other related stakeholders to facilitate innovative CSR activities. This support shall include guidance on project design, technology adoption, and impact assessment.
- ii. Tools and resources shall be made available to assist companies in aligning their projects with the state's priority areas, developing detailed project plans, and effectively managing project implementation.
- iii. A robust facilitation and evaluation system shall be put in place by CSR Society to track the progress and impact of CSR projects.

15.4 Phase 4: Scaling Up and Continuous Improvement

This phase shall focus on scaling up the impact of CSR initiatives and ensuring continuous improvement of the CSR framework in Bihar. The following measures shall be undertaken:

- i. Effective mechanisms for identifying and tracking CSR beneficiaries shall be developed to ensure precise targeting and maximize the reach and impact of CSR initiatives.
- ii. A comprehensive communication strategy shall be implemented to raise public awareness about CSR initiatives, disseminate success stories, and promote best practices.


- iii. A plan shall be formulated for recruiting, training, and developing skilled personnel for the Bihar State CSR Society.
- iv. The Bihar State CSR Society shall organize regular events, including seminars, conferences, and workshops, to facilitate knowledge sharing, networking and collaboration among stakeholders.

16 Protection of action taken in good faith

- i. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against CSR Society, or any official involved in the implementation of this policy in respect of anything which is done or intended to be done in good faith under this policy or in pursuance of any order, executive instruction or direction made or given there under.
- ii. No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against CSR Society, or any official involved in the implementation of this policy for a damage caused or likely to be caused by anything which is done or intended to be done in good faith under this policy or in pursuance of any order, executive instruction or direction made or given there under.
- iii. The works which are being done under Bihar State Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Policy, 2025 will be considered as covered under Bihar State Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Policy, 2025.
- iv. In case of any discrepancy in the meaning and interpretation of the translated version of this policy, the English language version shall be binding in all respect and shall prevail.
- v. This policy shall be implemented by the Finance Department, Government of Bihar.

- vi. To achieve the goals and objectives of this policy, detailed guidelines shall be issued by the Finance Department, Government of Bihar.
- vii. This policy shall come into effect from the date of issue of the policy in Bihar Gazette notification and shall remain in operation till 5 years from the date of such notification.
- viii. The Finance Department shall have powers to review, amend, or modify any provisions of this policy and issue notifications regarding such modifications as required.
- ix. The proposal has been approved by the State Cabinet in the form of Item Number 15 on 08.07.2025.

By the order of the Governor of Bihar


(Anand Kishor)
Principal Secretary
Finance Department, Bihar, Patna

Memo No:- 08/N.B.F.C.-09/2019.....1113 /Fin, Patna Date.....11/07/2025

Copy to :- The Superintendent, State Printing Press, Gulzarbagh, Patna to publish in the special edition of Bihar Gazette. It is requested to make 200 copies of the published gazette resolution and make it available to the Finance Department."


Principal Secretary

Memo No:- 08/N.B.F.C.-09/2019.....1113 /Fin, Patna Date.....11/07/2025

Copy to :- Principal Secretary of Chief Minister, Bihar/OSD to Chief Secretary, Bihar Patna/P.S.S to Development Commissioners, Bihar, Patna for Information.


Principal Secretary

Memo No:- 08/N.B.F.C.-09/2019.....1113 /Fin, Patna Date.....11/07/2025

Copy to :- All Additional Chief Secretary / All Principal Secretary / All Secretary / All Heads of Departments, Bihar, Patna for information and necessary action.


Principal Secretary

Memo No:- 08/N.B.F.C.-09/2019.....1113 /Fin, Patna Date.....11/07/2025

Copy to :- All Divisional Commissioners/All District Magistrate, Bihar, Patna for information and necessary action.


Principal Secretary

Memo No:- 08/N.B.F.C.-09/2019.....1113 /Fin, Patna Date.....11/07/2025

Copy to :- IT Manager, Finance Department, Bihar, Patna for uploading the copy of the resolution on the Departmental Website.


Principal Secretary