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# LISTED COMPANIES' CSR SPEND TOPS ₹100 BN IN 2017-18



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growth rate in Corporate Social Responsibility spends is higher than in the previous year (7.63%). An analysis of figures from PRIME Database showed that education topped the list of spends by category, that intermediaries are playing an important role in disbursement of funds, and that the biggest recipients of funds ironically were relatively rich states. SACHIN P MAMPATTA writes

# Listed companies' CSR spend tops ₹100 billion in FY18

Indian companies' charitable spends rose for the third year in a row in 2017-18 to ₹100 billion. The 10.71 per cent growth rate in corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending is higher than that in the previous year (7.63 per cent).

An analysis of figures from PRIME Database showed education topped the list of spends by category, which intermediaries are playing an important role in dispersal of funds, and that the biggest recipients of funds ironically were relatively rich states.

The analysis is based on an examination of 1,627 National Stock Exchange companies who have filed their annual reports. There were 1,080 firms left after eliminating ineligible firms and ones where data was not available. The total amount spent is up more than 50 per cent over the ₹64.61 billion in 2014-15, the earliest year for which data is available (see chart 1).

Spending on education and vocation skills accounted for ₹38.31 billion. This was the biggest category where firms spent money. Spends for helping with hunger, poverty and health care was second at ₹24.85 billion. Environmental sustainability came in third with



**CSR expenditure** (chart 3)

Rank	Company	(₹ bn)
1	RIL	7.5
2	ONGC	5.0
3	TCS	4.0
4	HDFC Bank	3.7
5	IOC	3.3
6	Infosys	3.1
7	ITC	2.9
8	NTPC	2.4
9	Tata Steel	2.3
10	Wipro	1.9

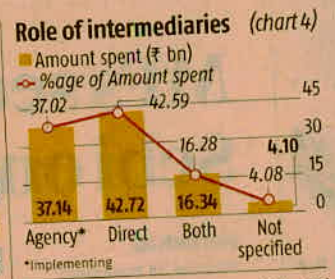
Note: Years other than an April-March financial year have been adjusted on a pro-rata basis. (Chart 2). There could be an overlap among different schedules for the same activity. (Chart 4) Spends divided equally between direct and implementing agency for all companies where break up between the two is not given. (Chart 5) Amount spent in states has been equally divided. If no data is given, then the amount has been equally distributed. Source: PRIME Database Group

**Areas where the firms spent money** (chart 2)

	2016-17 (₹ bn)	2017-18 (₹ bn)
Schedule VII		
Education and vocation skills	33.99	38.31
Hunger, poverty and health care	23.98	24.85
Environmental sustainability	9.51	11.82
Rural development	11.12	10.56
National heritage	2.45	4.14
Reducing inequalities	2.48	2.46
Sports	2.02	2.26
PM's Relief Fund	0.72	1.72
Admin expenses	1.42	1.57
Community development/ social welfare/ child welfare	0.91	1.02
Armed force veterans	0.73	0.53
Slum development	0.45	0.38
Technology incubators	0.44	0.38
Others	0.40	0.31

th spends of ₹11.82 billion (see chart 2). These allocations remained constant over the last year, said Pranav Haldea, managing director of PRIME

Database Group. The Prime Minister's Relief Fund saw allocations more than double, rising to ₹1.72 billion. However, allocations to two key government



**Statewise funds** (chart 5)

State	Amount received '17-18 (₹ bn)
Maharashtra	8.26
Gujarat	6.10
Rajasthan	4.86
Tamil Nadu	4.58
Delhi	4.09
Madhya Pradesh	3.86
West Bengal	3.83
Andhra Pradesh	3.81
Uttar Pradesh	3.80
Jammu & Kashmir	2.20

programmes saw a dip. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan allocations were down 10 per cent to ₹5.2 billion while money towards cleaning the Ganga saw a

47 per cent fall to ₹0.8 billion. Oil and gas major Reliance Industries topped the CSR list. Its total expenditure was ₹7.5 billion. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation came in second at ₹5 billion. Tata Consultancy Services was third with spends of ₹4 billion. There were two public sector, and three private firms in the top five list (see chart 3).

Intermediation played a vital role in disbursal of funds. An implementation agency was involved in over half (53.3 per cent) of the spends. This included where spending happened only through an implementation agency alone and where it was done in partnership with the company. Companies spent only 42.59 per cent of the money directly. (see chart 4). This may also be because of the lack of institutional preparedness at many companies. The PRIME data also showed that almost half of listed companies did not have a CSR committee as required by regulations. Interestingly, the relatively well-off states seemed to attract a lot of the spends. Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Delhi dominated in terms of money received. States like Bihar remained out of the top 10 list (see chart 5).

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