



Press release

Tata Power in partnership with CII foundation provides unhindered solar powered electricity and clean drinking water in Government Schools in Saharsa

DM inaugurates RO and Solar plant of three Government schools for clean and safe water

12th October, Saharsa (Bihar)

CII Foundation handed over two solar and RO plants to government schools of Saharsa impacting 3500 students. This school based social development infrastructure project supported by Tata Power Community Development Trust (TPCDT) was initiated in January 2017. The project covers three government schools in Saharsa aiming at solar power enabled electricity set-up and RO system to provide schools with unhindered electricity and clean water.

For over a year now, CII Foundation has been working in schools of Saharsa (Saharsa Shiksha Initiative), to help improve and strengthen the school facilities. CII Foundation with the support of TPCDT constructed toilet blocks for both girls and boys across 14 Government Schools. This also included a year-long behaviour change campaign in 12 schools to help the students inculcate proper hygiene habits. To help sustain the efforts, CII Foundation has set up an operations and maintenance mechanism involving the school staff and students so that the toilets are clean and well-maintained. The efforts also included renovation of mid-day meal kitchens in the schools.

As part of the Saharsa Shiksha Initiative, the CII Foundation introduced e-literacy among 5400 students in 14 Government schools by providing laptops, internet connectivity and computer training.

As a culmination of the Saharsa Shiksha Initiative, a program was organized at the Government District School where **the District Magistrate Saharsa, Mr. Vinod Singh Gunjyal** unveiled the Solar and RO plant. The DM appreciated CII Foundation and Tata Power Community Development Trust and Powerlinks Transmission for this social initiative for government schools. Mr. Gunjyal added that more such kind of initiatives and support are required for other blocks of Saharsa.

Mr S N Sharan, Member, CII Member and Director Desi power said, CII has been committed towards development and shall continue to do so. Efforts will be taken to replicate and expand the program in other locations as well.

Mr Sadhan Bhagat, Group Head O&M - Purnea , Powerlinks Transmission Ltd congratulated CII Foundation for successful implementation of projects and stressed that facilities provided needs to be maintained. He thanked the District Administration, the District Magistrate, Education Department and the DIO for the encouragement, involvement and extending support to the Program and requested their support to maintain and sustain the efforts.

Mr Om Prakash, District Education Officer (DEO), Saharsa, while thanking CII Foundation, Tata Power Community Development Trust and Powerlinks Transmission, said, "We need similar infrastructure support in more government schools which could be done through companies' CSR and we would offer our complete support to such projects.'

Over the past one year the Saharsa Shiksha Initiative by CII Foundation initiative, has directly impacted approximately **9600 students in the district.**