



CASE STUDY · CSR INITIATIVE

Project Swavalamban: Certifying India's **Invisible Mechanics**

600 two-wheeler technicians — skilled by years at the roadside garage, but invisible to the formal economy — earned national certification, tools and insurance. Funded by Exide Industries Limited, executed by Mukesh Himatsingka Foundation.

AUG 2025 - FEB 2026

6 STATES

₹35 LAKH CSR GRANT

600

TECHNICIANS CERTIFIED

600

TOOL KITS DISTRIBUTED

6

STATES COVERED

100%

GRANT UTILIZED

THE CHALLENGE

Skilled hands, but no paper to prove it

In every Indian town, they keep the two-wheelers running — mechanics at local repair workshops, roadside garages and independent service units. Years of daily work have made them genuinely skilled. But without a single formal certificate, the doors of authorized service centres and branded workshops stay closed to them.

Project Swavalamban was built on a simple idea: **recognise the skill that already exists**. Rather than training beginners, the programme identified working technicians, upgraded their knowledge to industry standards, and gave their experience a nationally recognised name — the **NCVET Certificate**.



WHAT EVERY PARTICIPANT RECEIVED



Professional Tool Kit



Training T-Shirt



Accidental Insurance



Participation Certificate



NCVET Certification*

*Awarded to candidates who successfully cleared the final skill assessment.

INSIDE THE PROGRAMME

From the inauguration dais to the workshop floor

Training combined classroom theory with real machines under the guidance of Master Trainers — and closed with tool kits in hand and certificates on the wall. Technicians were also introduced to Exide's **SAMRAT Scheme**, opening a continuing channel of support beyond the project.

Two-Wheeler Engine Repair

Electrical System Troubleshooting

Routine Servicing & Maintenance

Workshop Safety Practices

Professional Tool Handling



Project inauguration



Partners on one platform



Classroom sessions



Theory meets practice



Tool kit distribution



Certificate distribution

Six states. One standard.

TECHNICIANS CERTIFIED BY LOCATION



Total: 600 technicians across West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Gujarat & Maharashtra

BUDGET UTILIZATION



Every rupee of the approved CSR grant was received and fully deployed — zero unutilized funds.

01

Mobilization & Enrolment

Field visits to local workshops, roadside garages and independent repair units; awareness sessions and one-on-one outreach.

02

Training & Practical Sessions

Master Trainers delivered theory + hands-on practice covering BS-VI technology, engine systems, batteries and sensors.

03

Skill Assessment

Standardized assessment of every participant to formally evaluate existing and newly built competencies.

04

Certification & Completion

Joint Participation Certificates for all; NCVET Certificates for those who cleared the assessment.

BEST PRACTICES THAT MADE IT WORK

Recognition of prior skills · Hands-on practical training · Tool kits to support self-employment · Formal NCVET certification · Flexible schedules for working technicians · Continuous monitoring and follow-up

Two mechanics, two new road maps



Souvik Adhikary
North 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Years at a neighbourhood repair shop made Souvik genuinely good with motorcycles and scooters — but with no certificate, authorized service centres wouldn't look at him.

Through Swavalamban's structured training and assessment, Souvik earned his NCVET Certificate — formal recognition of skills he had built the hard way.

- ▶ Can now apply at authorized & branded service centres
- ▶ Greater trust and credibility among customers
- ▶ Higher earning potential and livelihood stability



Shubho Bag
Kolkata, West Bengal

Shubho joined a local garage after Class 10, when financial constraints ended his studies. He learned by watching senior mechanics — skill without certification, work without a career path.

The training added standardized repair techniques, safety practices and professional work methods to his experience — capped by the NCVET Certificate.

- ▶ Confident in handling advanced repair work
- ▶ Equipped with professional safety practices
- ▶ Planning to open his **own two-wheeler repair shop**

600 certificates. 600 tool kits. One formal identity.

Project Swavalamban proved that India's informal-sector mechanics don't need to be retrained — they need to be recognised. The road ahead: expanding certification to more operational areas, advanced technical programmes, entrepreneurship support, and employment linkages with automobile service centres.

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