

[Home » Companies](#)

Last Published: Sat, Jan 09 2016. 12 10 AM IST

## Azim Premji tops India philanthropy listing: Hurun

Premji contributed about 80% of the total donations made by 36 Indian philanthropists who together gave away nearly Rs.35,000 crore

Arundhati Ramanathan

[Sign Up](#)

Azim Premji's donation helped improve the average size of donation to Rs.900 crore from Rs.300 crore in last year's list. But the number of philanthropists itself fell to 36 from 50 in 2014, said the Hurun report. Photo: Bloomberg

**Bengaluru:** Wipro Ltd chairman Azim Hashim Premji, unsurprisingly, was ranked the most generous Indian for the third year in a row on the Hurun India Philanthropy List 2015 released on Friday.

Premji, in fact, contributed about 80% of total donations made by 36 Indian philanthropists who together gave away nearly Rs.35,000 crore.

Premji, 70, donated Rs.27,514 crore for education through the eponymous Azim Premji Foundation, more than twice the amount he gave in 2014. The foundation works in eight states and has more than 350,000 schools.

China-based Hurun, a leading luxury-lifestyle publisher targeting billionaires, studied 300 rich Indian entrepreneurs and identified those who gave over Rs.10 crore to charity. Hurun compiled the list on the basis of cash and cash equivalents they pledged in the 12 months from 1 November 2014 to 31 October 2015.

The donations also included a share of the corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending of companies in which an individual has a significant stake; this was calculated as a percentage of CSR spending equivalent to the size of an individual's holding in the company.

Premji's donation helped improve the average size of donation to Rs.900 crore from Rs.300 crore in last year's list. But the number of philanthropists itself fell to 36 from 50 in 2014, said the report.

According to Charities Aid Foundation UK, as per the World Giving Index, India came down in the rankings from 93 in 2013 to 106 in 2014, demonstrating an overall reduction in Indian philanthropy.

“From our perspective, we are seeing more people coming forward to give. But in 2015, what could have made a dent is the CSR rule. It could have made people pause and think about their giving and understand the implications of the rule,” said Neera Nundy, co-founder of Dasra, a philanthropic organization that advises people on how to give strategically.

## TOP 10 PHILANTHROPISTS OF 2015

The Hurun India Philanthropy List 2015 saw 36 philanthropists give more than 10 crore. Education remains the most favoured philanthropic cause, accounting for 84% of donations.

● Rank ■ Donation in ₹ crore



1↔

**Azim Premji**  
■ 27,514



2↑

**Nandan and Rohini Nilekani**  
■ 2,404



3↑

**N.R. Narayana Murthy**  
■ 1,322



4↑

**K. Dinesh and family**  
■ 1,238



5↔

**Shiv Nadar**  
■ 535



6↓

**Mukesh Ambani**  
■ 345



7↑

**Sunny Varkey and family**  
■ 326



8↓

**Ronnie Screwvala**  
■ 158



9↑

**Rahul Bajaj and family**  
■ 139



10↑

**Pallonji Mistry**  
■ 96

↑ Increase in Rankings ↔ Retained Ranking  
↓ Down compared with last year

Source: Hurun India Philanthropy List 2015

CSR rules took effect in 2014, mandating that companies with a net worth of Rs.500 crore or revenue of Rs.1,000 crore or net profit of Rs.5 crore should spend 2% of their average profit in the last three years on social development-related activities.

Infosys Ltd's co-founder Nandan Nilekani and his wife Rohini Nilekani donated Rs.2,404 crore, primarily towards the causes of urban governance, public policy and education, making them the second most generous.

N.R. Narayana Murthy, another Infosys founder, ranked third, giving away Rs.1,322 crore during the year. In fact, six of the 36 philanthropists were from Infosys; their contribution totalled Rs.5,051 crore.

“Infosys was not just a company, but an attempt to create something bigger than all of us. I think the values we had are being reflected in this,” said Rohini Nilekani.

The Nilekanis support over a dozen non-governmental organizations and in 2015 they took up two new projects. The couple set up a social venture called EkStep to address learning challenges in primary education using technology. In addition, Rohini Nilekani, along with Premji, pledged to fund and support Independent and Public Spirited Media Trust to fund independent media outfits that provide socially relevant content.

“These are multiple-year commitments and will see a significant focus from us in the coming years,” said Rohini Nilekani.

Murthy’s son Rohan Murty emerged as the youngest giver among the 36, donating Rs.35 crore. He founded the Murty Classical Library of India, which aims to make available the great literary works of India from the past two millennia.

The contribution by Reliance Industries Ltd’s chairman Mukesh Ambani, who topped the Hurun India Rich list 2015, dropped. He gave Rs.345 crore in 2015 towards healthcare, down from Rs.603 crore in the year ago.

Nita Ambani, wife of Mukesh Ambani, figured at the 32nd place in the list. Her contribution was pegged at Rs.12 crore and is under social development, which includes multiple causes including rural development and sanitation.

Unlike most philanthropists who have been grouped with family, Nita and Mukesh Ambani have been ranked separately because they support different causes. Similarly Rohan Murty’s efforts differ from that of his parents, and hence he is listed separately, explained Anas Rahman Junaid, business head, Hurun Report India.

“Despite weak corporate earnings in 2015 compared to last year, the increasing speed of wealth creation seems to promise a bright future for Indian philanthropy”, added Junaid.

Non-resident Indian businessman Ravi Pillai was one of the philanthropists who supported a distinct cause. He spent Rs.13 crore for conducting mass weddings, creating a whole new category called wedding philanthropy. In 2014, he supported healthcare.

Mumbai and Bengaluru had the most number of philanthropists; 19 of the 36 philanthropists were from these two cities. And Bengaluru accounted for over 90% of the money that was donated by the 36; both Wipro and Infosys are based in the city.

Education continued to be the top cause espoused by Indian philanthropists, with about 50% of people supporting it.

Philanthropists are looking to take education beyond just providing access to schools and looking at different layers of education like skills and job creation, said Nundy of Dasra.

**First Published: Sat, Jan 09 2016. 12 00 AM IST**

TOPICS:

[AZIM PREMJI](#)

[HURUN](#)

[PHILANTHROPY](#)

[RICHEST INDIANS](#)

[NANDAN NILEKANI](#)

## You May Like

Sponsored Links by Taboola

### 10 Best Dating Sites for Singles in Bangalore

Online Dating Services | Search Links

### Inviting Applications for XLRI's Financial Accounting & Auditing Course

XLRI Executive Online Certification

### '10 Days' Hair Oil – Powerful Plus – 10 Days Hair Oil

10 Days Hair Oil

### Hotel Prices You're Not Allowed to See.

Save70.com

### Get loan offers based on your CIBIL score!

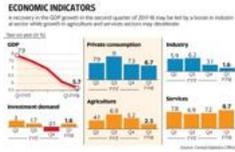
CIBIL India

### Get 75 Lac Pension Plan & secure your future in Just Rs 526/Month. Know More

PolicyX.com

[EDITOR'S PICKS »](#)

Get Notifications



### GST may cloud GDP data for September quarter



### Govt may delay implementation of N.K. Singh's FRBM report



### GES 2017: Modi woos global investors, pitches Make in India

Share

Home

Companies

Opinion

Industry

Politics

Consumer

Sitemap

DesiMartini

Mint Apps

Shine

Hindustantimes

Syndication

Lounge

Multimedia

Money

Science

Education

Sports

Brand Stories

Livehindustan

Subscribe

Specials

Technology

Mint on Sunday

Contact Us

About Us

Advertising

Subscribe to our Newsletter



Privacy Policy

Terms of Use

Mint Code

RSS

Copyright © 2017 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved