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ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

NATIONAL COMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

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Foreword

Under the visionary leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, India has embarked on a multi-dimensional path of growth and achievement. His vision for inclusive development prioritizes the welfare and protection of millions of children across the country, focusing on their nutrition, education, and safety. Inspired by this vision, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has continued its dedicated efforts to make a difference in the lives of children, especially those in need of care and protection. Over the past year, the Commission has successfully expanded its reach across the nation and among diverse populations. I am proud to say that the NCPCR has been working tirelessly, fulfilling its duties with unwavering commitment to its role and responsibilities.

The Commission has received continuous support from the Government of India led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji. Also, regular guidance has been received from Ministry of WCD, Government of India, in various programs of NCPCR conducted in 2023-24, showing their commitment towards child protection and to the Commission. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development and her team in the Ministry.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the cooperation extended by the Members of the Commission during the year under review. Special thanks go to Mrs. Rupali Banerjee Singh, Member Secretary, for her diligent efforts in providing administrative support, enabling the execution of the Commission's decisions and fulfilling its statutory duties. The consultants have been the backbone and vital pillars of the Commission, consistently performing their roles with dedication. Their self-motivation and unwavering commitment to the welfare of children are deeply appreciated.

The Annual Report 2023-24 provides an overview of the Commission's wideranging efforts, initiatives, achievements, and vision on various issues concerning children's rights. I hope this report will be an informative resource for anyone interested in learning more about children's rights in the country and a source of inspiration for those who aspire to make a positive impact on the lives of our children.

Jai Hind!!

Sd/-(Priyank Kanoongo) Chairperson, NCPCR

ABBREVIATIONS

AIR All India Radio

All India Institute of Medical Sciences AIIMS

ACBTA Asian Cognitive Behavioral Therapies Association (ACBTA)

ASHA Accredited Social Health Activist

AWW Anganwadi Workers

Block Education Officers BEOs

Block Resource Centre Coordinators BRCCs Central Board of Secondary Education **CBSE**

CCIs Child Care Institutions CHC Community Health Center

CIWA Central Institute for Women in Agriculture **CPCR** Commissions for Protection of Child Rights

Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring **CPGRAMS**

System

Child Sexual Abuse **CSA**

CSAM Child Sexual Abuse Material **CWC** Child Welfare Committee

DARPG Department of Administrative Reforms and Public

Grievances

Deputy Commissioner of Police DCP District Child Protection Units **DCPUs** DCPO District Child Protection Officer

DIETs District Institutes of Education and Training

District Legal Services Authority DLSA **DSLSA** Delhi State Legal Services Authority **DSP** Deputy Superintendent of Police **ECCE** Early Childhood Care and Education

FAA First Appellate Authority

FCRA Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act

FIR First Information Report HOD Head of Department

ICAR Indian Council of Agricultural Research **ICDS** Integrated Child Development Scheme **ICPS** Integrated Child Protection Scheme

IHBAS Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences

IPC Indian Penal Code Jammu and Kashmir J&K

JJ Act Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act,

2015

KVS Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

MoS Minister of State

MWCD Ministry of Women and Child Development

NALSA National Legal Services Authority

NCERT National Council of Educational Research and Training NCPCR National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

NCRB National Crime Records Bureau

NCT National Capital Territory NER North Eastern Region

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

NHM National Health Mission
NVS Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti
PHC Primary Health Center
PIO Public Information Officer

POCSO Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Act), 2009 POSH Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Act),

2013

PTA Parent–Teacher Association

QRC Quick Response Cell

RBSK Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram RKSK Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram

RTE Right to Education (Act), 2009

RTI Right to Information

SCERT State Council of Educational Research and Training SCPCRs State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights

SCPS State Child Protection Society SJPU Special Juvenile Police Unit

SLP Special Leave Petition

SMCs School Management Committees SOP Standard Operating Procedure

SP Superintendent of Police

UNCRC United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child UNCRPD United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and & Cultural

Organization

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UTs Union Territories

INTRODUCTION

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was established in March 2007 as per a special provision provided under Article 15(3) of the Indian Constitution that states "Nothing in this article shall prevent the State (both Union and State Govt.) from making any special provision for women and children. The role of the Commission is to fulfill the Constitutional mandate of Article 39(f) that reads "That children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and moral and material abandonment."

The broad objective of the Commission, as provided under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, is to take cognizance and redress matters on violation of the rights of the child and to ensure that all laws, policies, programs and administrative mechanisms align with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India as well as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Subsequently, the scope of the Commission has also expanded to perform a monitoring role for the implementation of some of the notable acts relating to children, like the Right to Education Act, 2009 (under Section 31), the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (under Section 44) and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (under Section 109).

This report covers the period from 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024. The year under report functioned under the leadership of Chairperson, Shri Priyank Kanoongo. As administrative head- Ms. Rupali Banerjee Singh, Member Secretary, has been providing continuous administrative support to execute the decisions taken by the Commission and to carry out the functions and statutory roles of the NCPCR. The Commission has two Members- Smt. Preeti Bharadwaj Dalal- Member, Laws relating to Children; and Dr. Divya Gupta- Member, Child Health, Care, Welfare.

Over time, the Commission has established an identity and redefined itself by adopting a 360-degree approach and optimizing its full potential. In complete alignment with the core national interests, the Commission has undertaken some strategic interventions that have altered the course of history in child protection. The major activities undertaken by the Commission during 2023-24 are as follows-

- 1. The initiative of organizing Camps/Bench for grievance redressal entered its second phase in 2022-23 and was extended to the Districts with high tribal population along with Aspirational Districts. During the year under report (2023-24), 116 such Camps/Bench were organized.
- 2. Pariksha Parv 6.0 was celebrated this year with live sessions by dignitaries from various fields such as Ms. Maithili Thakur, Shri Sangram Singh, Ms. Swati Mishra, Swami Sarvalokanandaji Maharaj, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Prof. (Dr.) G. S. Bajpai.
- 3. For more effective monitoring, NCPCR developed a strategy to keep vigil on the issues pertaining to protection of children through various means of interventions including the use of information technology and digitalization of monitoring tools. At present, Commission has eight portals/applications functional for monitoring the implementation of various Acts and ensuring that children get what is rightfully theirs.
- 4. Continuing the initiative of ensuring that all children enjoy their right to education given by the Constitution, Commission has written to Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs to inquire into all Government Funded/Recognised Madrasas admitting non-Muslim children and conduct mapping of unmapped Madrasas.
- 5. Safety of children in cyber space has been a focus of Commission's activities. Cyber Safety experts shared their views and guided children in live streaming sessions for Pariksha Parv programme. Also, the awareness workshops conducted for stakeholders from Education Departments at State/District-level were also made aware about the need and importance of cyber safety for children.

CHAPTER 1 Pariksha Parv 6.0

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The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has been interacting with students since 2018 through *Pariksha pe Charcha* on range of issues related to examination, including nervousness, anxiety, concentration, peer pressure, parents' expectations, and the role of teachers. Taking a cue from Prime Minister's initiative and take his ideas to deal with exam stress among children in different parts of the country and living in diverse situations, NCPCR introduced Pariksha Parv- a platform a platform for students to talk about their concerns and anxieties, as well as interact, with renowned counsellors/psychologists, educationalists and eminent experts. This initiative aims at removing the stigma attached to counselling and promoting a positive perception. Thus, Pariksha Parv is an initiative inspired by Prime Minister's *Pariksha pe Charcha* and continuing its endeavour towards changing the outlook/perspective of children towards exams and making it a joyful activity, the NCPCR conducted Pariksha Parv 6.0 during 2023-24.

Academic stress among students may have several negative effects such as poor mental health, depression, declining academic performance etc. Besides, students are often driven to suicide due to bullying and negative influence. In the opinion of mental health experts, young people find it difficult to cope with failure in examinations and careers, and neither families nor other social institutions offer adequate support or solace. Exam stress affects most students in varying ways. School students experience high levels of stress due to various reasons, such as lack of preparation, style of their study, parental and peer pressure and lack of needed information. When stress is perceived negatively or becomes excessive, it leads to anxiety before and during examinations and ultimately, affects their academic achievement. It is important to manage this stress and find small ways of helping to eliminate the risk of a burnout.

Considering the seriousness of the nature of incidents of suicides due to examination anxiety, as noticed by the Commission and reported in the media from time to time, the NCPCR, a statutory body under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, had launched a campaign, #ParikshaParv, during the exam period. This campaign intended to change the outlook/perspective of children towards exams and motivate them during this time through expert advice.

The campaign entailed the following activities-

District and State level orientation cum sensitization programme

- Total 212 District-level and six State-level programmes are being planned covering different States/UTs.
- For training of resource persons, an orientation programme of around 100 experts was organized on 02.02.2024 in Delhi .

Live sessions with Experts and Radio spots

- 18 Live Streaming Sessions- were organized on topics related to examination pressure and stress and other child related issues wherein renowned persons/experts from the field of Mental Health, Motivational speakers/Educationist/Cyber law, experts, Yoga Gurus, founders of StartUps interacted with children, Parents and teachers. The sessions were streamed live on Social Media channels of NCPCR including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube and Doordarshan as well.
- **12 Radio spots** were broadcasted on Vividh Bharti (National), All India Radio for creating awareness on Pariksha Parv 6.0 with audio messages of Hon'ble Prime Minister's "Pariksha Pe Charcha, 2024 from 08th February to 8th March, 2024.
- **Quiz based on 'Exam Warriors'** An online quiz for children was organized through Commission's website. It contained multiple choice questions based on the chapters in the book- **Exam Warriors** (both editions). An e-certificate was generated at the end of the quiz.
- Use of Whatsapp API For Wider Reach- To reach out to all 15 lakh schools, the Commission disseminated the information about Pariksha Pe Charcha, 2024 and also shared excerpts from the programme through Whatsapp API to all stakeholders including District Education Officers, School Management Committees etc. To facilitate the process, a letter was sent to Principal Secretary (School Education) of all States/UTs seeking details of the following Officials on the Details Collection Form available at https://nod.ncpcrweb.in/
 - District Education Officer (DEOs);
 - Block Education Officers (BEOs);
 - Block Resource Centre Co-ordinators (BRCs);
 - Cluster Resource Centre Co-ordinators (CRCs);
 - Village Education Committees (VEC); and

- School Management Committees (SMCs)
- **Using social media for wider reach** The Commission included the Social Media platforms Meta and YouTube for carrying out awareness about the *Pariksha Pe Charcha* programme with an aim to achieve a wider reach of the programme and help more and more children to benefit from the Hon'ble Prime Minister's initiative. In this regard, a meeting with heads of Social Media Channels was organized on 11.01.2024 in association with MeiTy. Thereafter, separate meetings with social media influencers was also organized by Meta and YouTube.
- Audio-video messages from students on "Exam Warrior"- Working on children's Right to Participation the Commission and to involve more children in this program, audio-video messages of about 60 seconds were invited from the children/students of classes 5th to 12th with full parental consent and with complete regard to child physical as well as online safety. The children uploaded their messages through NCPCR website. In the message, children talked about their experiences during exams go-to routines for relaxation etc. and their point of view on Pariksha Pe Charcha Programme that how it aims to transform stress into success, enabling Exam Warriors to ace exams with a smile. Through display of these messages on National platform, we aimed to reach as many children of the country as possible so as to support them during exams and promote positive mental health through messages of fellow children/students. The participating children were issued certificate from the Commission. The Commission received around 6500 audio/video messages from all across the Country. For selected videos, children were invited to be a part of NCPCR's foundation day celebration held on 12.03.2024 at New Delhi.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF LIVESTREAMING SESSIONS



Sister BK Shivani

(Motivational Speaker and Spiritual Mentor) Session Dated: Feb 15, 2024 Session Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XU011WbUMGM&list=PLUrzzFRSk_ro VSrrC15SO9E55qTv2k0Ji

Sister BK Shivani is a Motivational Speaker and Spiritual Mentor. Since 2017 she is the Goodwill Ambassador of the World Psychiatric Association. Sister BK Shivani has also received the Woman of the Decade Achievers Award by HM Ladies League in 2014 and the Nari Shakti Award in March 2019.

Sister BK Shivani emphasized that stress should not be synonymous with exams. She defined stress as pressure divided by resilience, highlighting the importance of inner strength in managing exam pressures. She explained how stress has evolved over the years due to changing lifestyles and societal norms, leading to increased anxiety levels even among students. In the current context of post-Covid anxieties, she suggests focusing on increasing resilience to combat stress and anxiety. Sister BK Shivani encouraged students to adopt practices that promote calmness, not just on exam days, but as part of their routine. The speaker emphasized that maintaining physical and emotional well-being should be integrated into daily life, akin to caring for one's health. She stressed the importance of consistent habits like proper nutrition, sufficient sleep, exercise, and emotional fitness throughout the year, not just during stressful periods like exams. The rise in stress and health issues over the past 30 years is attributed to changes in emotional "diet," from positive sources like books and parental guidance to exposure to negative content through technology and media. This shift has affected not only mental and emotional health but also physical health and relationships. She advocated for being mindful of the emotional impact of consumed content, avoiding negativity, and fostering emotions like resilience, humility, love, and unity

instead. She cautioned the children against consuming media that promotes negative emotions such as stress, anger, jealousy, and competition, suggesting a focus on content that uplifts and nurtures emotional well-being.



Ms. Abhilipsa Panda

(Devotional Singer and Child Rights Ambassador with NCPCR)
Session Dated: Feb 12, 2024
Session Link:

 $\frac{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XlJO0UvDme8\&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVS}{rrCl5SO9E55qTv2k0Ji&index=2}$

Abhilipsa Panda, a renowned Indian vocalist, serves as a Child Rights Ambassador with NCPCR. She has earned accolades such as the Sur Josna National Award and holds a National Level Gold Medal in Karate, having attained the rank of Black Belt.

Abhilipsa began by welcoming everyone to the discussion and reflects on her return from last year. She shared how students approached her after the previous session, expressing gratitude for the exam tips they received, which helped alleviate their stress. She emphasized the importance of studies and education, highlighting the government's efforts to provide free education for all, even underprivileged children. Abhilipsa encouraged students to view themselves as warriors who persist through challenges. She discussed the prevalence of stress among students and distinguishes between healthy worry and detrimental stress. Abhilipsa advocated for eliminating stress from life, especially during exams, suggesting a focus on creative thinking over rote memorization. She shared practical advice for managing stress and excelling academically, including diversifying reading materials and maintaining a positive mindset. To devise answers through critical thinking rather than rote memorization is a habit worth cultivating. Not all subjects necessitate rote

learning; for instance, while literature and history may require memorizing dates, other subjects like geography may not. Therefore, fostering creative thinking is essential. In addition to regular studies, children should prioritize co-curricular activities to maintain a balanced lifestyle. Taking breaks and engaging in hobbies can alleviate mental clutter and foster happiness. She advised students to avoid rigid routines and instead adopt a flexible study schedule, starting with easier topics to build confidence before tackling more challenging ones.



Ms. Maithili Thakur

(Indian Folk Singer and Child Rights Ambassador with NCPCR)
Session Dated: Feb 8, 2024
Session Link:

 $\frac{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvnS2xbn0Ls\&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVSr}{rC15SO9E55qTv2k0Ji\&index=3}$

Maithili Thakur, an Indian vocalist known for her expertise in Indian classical and folk music, also serves as a Child Rights Ambassador with NCPCR. Maithili shared insights to alleviate exam-related stress among students. Reflecting on personal experiences, Maithili emphasized that life isn't solely determined by exam results. Stress management and coping mechanisms are discussed, highlighting the importance of individual interests beyond academics. Maithili addressed the pressure students face from societal expectations and parental aspirations. Communication and self-discovery are emphasized as crucial tools for navigating such pressures. Regarding academic interests, Maithili shared personal experiences with favorite and challenging subjects, advocating for a holistic approach to learning beyond textbooks. The discussion also delved into the influence of social media on students. Maithili acknowledges its pervasive presence and advises mindful consumption. Balancing technology use with personal well-being is

emphasized. She related to the struggle, suggesting open communication with parents while presenting balanced arguments. Drawing from personal experiences, Maithili highlighted the benefits of pursuing interests alongside academics. She recalled her journey into music, influenced by family and informal training. Balancing music with academics proved beneficial, serving as a source of inspiration and stress relief. Maithili emphasized the importance of recreational activities for students. Addressing performance anxiety, Maithili shared her journey of overcoming fears through repeated exposure and preparation, paralleling it to exam stress management. Lastly, she attributed motivation to familial support and a desire to positively impact others.



Shri Sangram Singh

(Indian Wrestler, Actor and Motivational Speaker)
Session Dated: Feb 16, 2024
Session Link:

 $\frac{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgflHJjQTeE\&list=PLUrzzFRSk\ roVSrr}{C15SO9E55qTv2k0Ji\&index=4}$

Shri Sangram Singh, a prominent figure known for his impact on the youth, both as a wrestler and a driven actor. Shri Sangram Singh addressed the pressing issue of academic stress among young students, particularly highlighting the alarming rate of suicides, notably in Kota. He emphasized the importance of nurturing children's talents and passions, urging parents not to impose their own aspirations on their children. Drawing from his own experiences of overcoming physical ailments and academic setbacks, Sangram Singh advocated for a balanced approach to education, encouraging students to pursue both academics and extracurricular activities. He concluded with a poignant message, reminding everyone of the individuality and potential within each child, irrespective of academic performance. He spoke about his past experiences and shared his views on various topics like self-belief, dreaming big, the importance of values, and the journey towards

success. He further stressed on the significance of being a good person, contributing to society, and instilling values in children. He highlighted examples like the Prime Minister's achievements and advocate for pursuing interests passionately, regardless of academic performance. The speaker encouraged perseverance in the face of failure, emphasizing the importance of willpower and determination. He advised embracing challenges and learning from setbacks, ultimately promoting a positive and resilient mindset. The speaker highlighted the significance of parental guidance in instilling values in children, asserting that character and integrity are essential for success.



Ms. Swati Mishra

(Indian Singer) Session Dated: Feb 19, 2024 Session Link:

 $\frac{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOK5Zq04cXY\&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVSr}{rC15SO9E55qTv2k0Ji\&index=5}$

Swati Mishra is a renowned singer who emphasized the importance of a supportive and stress-free home environment for children, especially during exams. Growing up, her family created a calm atmosphere without pressure, which helped her and her siblings focus on their studies without stress. As a result, she always felt free to laugh and enjoy life, even during exam time. Swati believes that a happy home leads to better outcomes for children, and she encourages parents to create a positive environment for their kids. Instead of putting pressure on them, parents should encourage children to pursue their interests and study subjects they enjoy. She encouraged kids to follow their dreams while also keeping up with their studies, as both are important. Ms. Swati also mentioned that pursuing one's interests can bring inspiration to others. She used social media to share her music, which helped her reach a larger audience. She suggests that kids should follow their passions while also considering how they can inspire others along the way. Ms. Swati shared

her experience with challenging school subjects, explaining that if one finds some topics difficult, it's okay to focus more on those you enjoy. When she struggled with chemistry, she put more effort into history, a subject she loved. It's better to excel in areas you enjoy while doing your best in others. Understanding our strengths and working to improve in other areas is key. Ms. Swati also touched upon the impact of social media on children. She suggested that parents should monitor their kids' screen time and set limits, focusing on quality rather than quantity. It's important for parents to guide and supervise without being too strict.



Shri Ashok Shrivastav

(Anchor)

Session Dated: Feb 21, 2023

Session Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-t04QSA-7s&list=PLUrzzFRSk-roVSrrCl5SO9E55qTv2k0Ji&index=6

Speaker Shri Ashok Shrivastav, a seasoned journalist, author, and TEDx speaker, delved into the intricate dynamics of the generation gap, a phenomenon that bridges the chasm between tradition and modernity, often fraught with misunderstanding and discord. He articulated the key to navigating this gap, stressing the importance of understanding oneself and harnessing one's strengths—a lesson drawn from his personal journey of grappling with academic challenges, where he learned that excellence lies not in conforming to conventional standards of success but in embracing one's unique abilities. Reflecting on his upbringing, Shri Shrivastav acknowledged the pivotal roles played by his father and teachers, whose guidance and encouragement instilled in him the resilience to persevere in the face of adversity. His formative years were marked by a relentless pursuit of knowledge, a quest fuelled by an unwavering belief in the permanence of learning—a belief that propelled him to create a newspaper for his colony, a

testament to his entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to community engagement. He advocated for the cultivation of individual strengths and the cultivation of a mindset that eschews the trappings of peer group competition, urging young minds to aspire to excel not in comparison to others but in alignment with their own capabilities. He praised the virtues of mastery in a chosen field, cautioning against the pitfalls of half-hearted pursuits and emphasizing the transformative power of a change in attitude. central to this discourse is the importance of fostering open lines of communication between parents and children, advocating for a supportive environment where pressure gives way to encouragement and understanding.



<u>Dr.GeetanjaliKumar</u> (Psychologist)



Dr. Jitendra Nagpal (Psychiatrist)

Session Dated: Feb 22, 2024 Session Link:

 $\frac{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlf_MByV80A\&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVSrr}{Cl5SO9E55qTv2k0Ji\&index=7}$

Dr. Jitendra Nagpal is a senior psychiatrist and mental health professional working at Sir Moolchand Hospital and is also associated Ministry of Education. Dr. Geetatnjali is a Life Skills Trainer, she is a parenting coach, is a motivational speaker and is also associated with CBSE.

Dr. Jitendra Nagpal began by acknowledging that exams can cause stress and anxiety, but it's important not to panic. He pointed out that a small level of anxiety is normal and can be beneficial as it prepares us to face challenges. However, if anxiety becomes overwhelming, causing sleepless nights or rapid heartbeats, it's crucial to share these feelings with parents, friends, or

teachers. Sharing helps to reduce anxiety and allows one to regain focus. Dr. Geetanjali's opening note emphasized that exams should be viewed as a celebration, as suggested by the Prime Minister. She advises students to build a friendly relationship with their books, not just to get good grades, but to learn and grow from the knowledge they gain. She echoed Dr. Nagpal's sentiment that a little anxiety can provide the extra push to study, but if it starts to hinder performance, it's essential to communicate with family and seek help from helplines or counselors. He advised parents on how to support their children during exams. He suggests that parents should manage their expectations and not project their dreams onto their children. Comparison with other children or pressure to achieve high marks can induce stress. Instead, parents should encourage their children and create a positive environment that celebrates their efforts. Dr. Nagpal and Dr. Geetanjali appealed to parents to be supportive and act as companions to their children, creating an environment where they feel valued and encouraged.



Shri Sanjeev Newar

(Data Scientist, Entrepreneur, Author & Vedas Expert()
Session Dated: Feb 28, 2024
Session Link:

 $\frac{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXBKWxvlgwE\&list=PLUrzzFRSk\ roVSr}{rC15SO9E55qTv2k0Ji\&index=8}$

Mr. Sanjeev Newar is a Prolific Writer, Speaker and his Entrepreneur's analytical skills are in evidence in his Writing. He founded the Seva Nyay Udyan Foundation to make top notch education accessible to Vulnerable Groups. His project, Veda Vigyan Vishwa Guru, combines science and personal development to cultivate exceptional talent.

Mr. Newar shared insights into his journey, emphasizing that he didn't have any formal coaching to prepare for the IIT entrance exam, relying instead on

self-learning. He mentioned that, in his time, coaching wasn't as common, and that the emphasis on formal preparation is a relatively recent trend, often adding undue stress on students. Regarding the increasing stress associated with coaching, Mr. Nivar highlighted the detrimental impact it can have on students, leading to excessive pressure and even cases of suicide. He suggests that true education should aim to empower students, allowing them to grow and evolve rather than burden them with unrealistic expectations. He offered practical advice on exam preparation, advocating for a balanced approach. He advises students not to overstudy and to take time to relax, suggesting a curfew on studying beyond a certain hour. He also encourages parents to support their children, not just by focusing on exam results but by encouraging their holistic development. Mr. Nivar also discussed the philosophy behind Veda, mentioning that it teaches us to think beyond immediate fears and stressors, embracing a broader perspective on life and personal growth. This aligns with his views on education, suggesting that it should not be limited to exams but focus on nurturing well-rounded individuals who can adapt to changing environments. The discussion included the importance of storytelling in education. Mr. Nivar lamented the decline of storytelling, emphasizing how it shapes values and fosters imagination. He recommended reducing screen time in favor of reading classic stories and literature that offer timeless wisdom.



Swami Sarvalokanandaji Maharaj

(Senior monk , Ramakrishna Mission, New Delhi) Session Dated: Feb 28, 2024 Session Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3A7Hmapuckw&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVS rrC15SO9E55qTv2k0Ji&index=9

Swami Sarvalokanandaji Maharaj acknowledged that exam stress is a common issue, often stemming from pressure and expectations placed on

children by parents and society. This pressure can lead to stress, anxiety, and even depression, which was rare in the past but has become increasingly common due to the nuclear family structure and other societal changes. Swamiji emphasized that children should not feel overly pressured to become doctors or engineers and should not have to carry the burden of their parents' expectations. He reflected on how family structure and parental attention play a crucial role in a child's mental health, noting that children in today's nuclear families may not receive enough affection or attention, contributing to their stress. He suggested that mindfulness practices, such as meditation and yoga, can help reduce stress among students. Swamiji advised students not to fear exams, as they are a part of life, and to focus on positive emotions that strengthen the mind. He encouraged a "sportsman spirit," where students approach exams with resilience and without attachment to the results. By adopting a selfless attitude and concentrating on their work, students can alleviate stress. Swamiji pointed out that much of the stress comes from unmet expectations and desires, leading to frustration and anger. He drew parallels to the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita and the concept of selfless action, suggesting that focusing too much on the outcome can lead to stress and depression. For teachers and educational institutions, Swamiji advised against applying excessive pressure to achieve high results, emphasizing that education should not be treated as a commodity. He encouraged schools to foster a supportive environment and help students cope with exam stress without causing additional pressure. Swamiji also discussed the importance of a healthy sleep schedule and suggests reducing mobile phone usage, which can contribute to stress and anxiety. He advised students to maintain a balanced approach to studying, avoiding last-minute cramming and focusing on consistent effort throughout the year.



Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji

(World famous spiritual leader and Founder of Art of Living Foundation)
Session Dated: Mar 1, 2024

Session Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zprFlViXSmY&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVSrr Cl5SO9E55qTv2k0Ji&index=10

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, emphasized that stress can be managed through recognizing the sources of strength within us, proper rest and nutrition, pranayama, and meditation. These techniques, according to him, help maintain energy levels and keep the mind cheerful, reducing stress caused by depleted energy. He pointed out that children often face pressure from various sources, such as school competitions, drama, dance, literature, and exams, leading to stress. Gurudev discussed how the atmosphere surrounding exams has changed. In the past, schools were stricter, with teachers sometimes using physical punishment. However, despite these changes, children still experience stress due to high expectations and a lack of focus. He noted that children today are often distracted by mobile phones, contributing to attention deficits and increasing stress levels. He recommended a digital detox to reduce mobile phone addiction and suggested techniques like meditation, deep breathing, and yoga to help students relax and improve memory. These practices can help students focus better and alleviate exam-related stress. Gurudev explained that when children are relaxed, their memory sharpens, enabling them to recall information more effectively during exams. Gurudev also addressed the pressure from parents and teachers to perform well in exams. He advised parents to strike a balance between pushing for good results and allowing children to enjoy the learning process without overwhelming them with pressure. He cautioned against overprotection, stating that it can prevent children from developing the resilience needed to Regarding exam handle challenges in life. preparation, recommended that students create a plan for their studies, take breaks, and use techniques like summarizing chapters and creating crosswords to improve memory. He also mentioned that students should maintain a balanced diet, avoiding heavy and fried foods, and incorporating light exercise or yoga into their routine to stay healthy. He highlighted that schools and parents should create a supportive environment that allows children to develop their unique talents without constant comparisons to others.



Dr. Dnyaneshwar Manohar Mulay

(Member, National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi) Session Dated: Mar 4, 2024 Session Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMQdZ_NG9po&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVS rrCl5SO9E55qTv2k0Ji&index=11

Mr. Dnyaneshwar Manohar Mulay, a member of the National Human Rights Commission, is a seasoned Indian diplomat who has served in over 90 countries during his foreign service career. He has held the position of ambassador and is also an accomplished writer.

Mr. Dnyaneshwar Manohar Mulay, suggested going out and engaging with nature, visiting parks, and reading books as effective ways to relieve stress. He emphasized the importance of not dwelling on stressful thoughts alone but rather seeking social interaction and enjoying simple pleasures like watching birds or flowers. Regarding exam stress, he highlighted that stress can occur at any stage of life, not just during exams. His advice to students included taking breaks, engaging in physical activities, and reading non-academic books to stay grounded and find joy in learning. On maintaining focus in a competitive environment, he recommended talking to friends, elders, and even children for advice and new perspectives. He reassured students that competition should not be a source of stress, as each individual has unique qualities that should be celebrated. Mr. Mulay also shared that academic success doesn't necessarily determine a person's future. He encouraged students to pursue their interests and embrace their unique talents. He noted that while education is important, there are many pathways to success, and students should choose subjects and careers that align with their passions. For students who feel pressured by parents to focus solely on academics, he suggested open communication to help parents understand that times have changed and there are diverse career opportunities available today. He also discussed creating a supportive study environment, acknowledging the challenges of studying in small or noisy spaces. He advised finding a local

library or quiet place, and emphasized the importance of connecting with nature to reduce stress and promote creativity. Overall, Mr. Mulay's message was about finding balance, staying positive, and embracing one's unique qualities to achieve success, while also appreciating the simple joys of life.



Prof. (Dr.) G. S. Bajpai

(Vice – Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi) Session Dated, Mar 6, 2024

Session Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otykkPgSfCo&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVSrr

C15SO9E55qTv2k0Ji&index=12

Professor Bajpai shared that a certain level of stress, known as "eustress," is normal and can actually be beneficial, providing a sense of dynamism to exam preparation. However, excessive stress can be detrimental and lead to negative outcomes. He emphasized the importance of preparation and having a clear understanding of exam formats, timetables, and resources to reduce stress. For students experiencing exam-related stress, he advised creating a balanced approach to study and lifestyle. This includes maintaining a structured routine, pursuing hobbies, exercising, and practicing relaxation techniques to maintain focus and reduce anxiety. Regarding parental pressure, he encouraged parents to set reasonable expectations and support their children's exam preparation without imposing undue stress. He suggested that parents engage in open communication with their children and allow them to express their feelings and concerns about exams. In terms of dealing with subjects that students find uninteresting, Professor Bajpai recommended exploring ways to make the subject more engaging, such as incorporating current events or unique perspectives into their studies. He also highlighted the importance of organization and creativity in answering exam questions, as this can set students apart and help them score better. On maintaining focus in a technology-driven world, Professor Bajpai noted that today's students face more distractions than previous generations. He advised

setting limits on screen time, staying physically active, and balancing study with recreational activities to maintain a healthy mindset. Regarding personal stress and motivation, Professor Bajpai shared that he, too, faces stressful situations but manages them by focusing on solving key problems and letting go of non-essential stressors. He highlighted that not every problem requires a solution and that sometimes it's best to move on from unnecessary worries. Overall, Professor Bajpai's advice to exam warriors centered on preparation, balance, open communication, and finding ways to stay positive and motivated despite the pressures and stress of exams.



Shri Shantanu Gupta

(Indian author and political analyst, Founder of The Ramayana School)
Session Dated: Mar 8, 2024
Session Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVxH9EwUlII&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVSrr C15SO9E55qTv2k0Ji&index=13

Mr. Shantanu Gupta spoke about his experience dealing with exam stress, mentioning that he experienced stress during his academic journey, which negatively impacted his performance. He shared his personal story of scoring lower in his 12th grade after achieving top marks in 10th grade, attributing the dip to stress and the pressure to meet expectations. This story highlighted the impact stress can have on performance and served as a lesson that stress, when unmanaged, can hinder success. He addressed questions from students and provided advice on staying focused, relaxed, and productive in a competitive environment. Sh. Gupta emphasized the importance of enjoying the learning process, finding balance, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. He suggested that students should study consistently throughout the year, get proper sleep, and exercise regularly. Additionally, he recommended developing a timetable to structure study sessions and manage stress effectively. For students struggling with interest in studies, he advised finding

engaging ways to learn, such as using videos or interactive materials, and emphasized the need to approach subjects with an open mind. He noted that discipline and routine are essential, but should not be rigid to the point of causing stress. In response to questions about balancing studies with interests like video games, he suggested setting limits on screen time and choosing non-violent games that encourage creativity and problem-solving. He encouraged students to explore their interests while keeping studies as a priority. To aspiring writers, the speaker shared his journey into writing, noting that consistent practice and self-expression are key to developing writing skills. He recommended maintaining a diary or writing regularly to hone the craft. Throughout the discussion, Sh. Gupta stressed that failure is a part of life and should not be feared. He encouraged students to approach exams as part of the learning process and not as a final judgment on their abilities.



Shri Atul Kothari

(National Secretary, Education Culture Upliftment Trust)
Session Dated: Mar 11, 2024
Session Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wxkaxPBMxA&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVS rrCl5SO9E55qTv2k0Ji&index=14

Atul Kothari, a well-known figure who has made significant contributions to the field of Indian languages and education. He is currently the National Secretary at Shiksha Sanskriti Uthan Trust He has received the prestigious Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya Award for his work and is also involved in academia as a Professor of Practice in Dharamshala.

Sh. Kothari began by recounting personal stories from his own academic journey. He recalled his experience as a student when the Indian education system underwent a major change from the 11th class to the 10th class being considered the board exam. Despite lacking interest in studies, he managed

to pass his exams by isolating himself from distractions and focusing on his studies. His experience taught him that despite initial setbacks or failures, one can find success with perseverance. He also mentioned the pressure of expectations, sharing a story about his college days when he felt unprepared for exams but decided to give them anyway, emphasizing that it's better to face challenges head-on rather than avoiding them. He shared an example of a student who was not interested in studies but excelled in sports, demonstrating that there are various paths to success, and education is just one of them. In his advice to students, he emphasized the importance of having a clear goal in life and planning to achieve it. He advised that students should not compete with others but focus on their personal progress. Sh. Kothari also spoke about turning challenges into opportunities, referencing his own experience of suffering from back pain, which led him to explore yoga and pranayama, ultimately finding it beneficial in managing stress. He encouraged students to incorporate regular exercise, yoga, and self-study into their routines, along with planning their days effectively. He mentioned the importance of maintaining a positive mindset and not letting stress dominate one's life, suggesting that yoga and self-study can be helpful in reducing stress.



Dr. Shahida Parveen Ganguly

(ACP, J&K Police and Awarded Police Medal by President for gallantry) Session Dated: Mar 13, 2024

Session Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-
i63QnEpcFo&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVSrrCl5SO9E55qTv2k0Ji&index=15

Dr. Ganguly shared her life experiences and insights with students, focusing on overcoming stress and challenges in both education and life. She spoke about her journey and the various obstacles she faced. Despite losing her father at a young age, she persevered, even when financial constraints made it difficult to continue her education. She emphasized that life is full of challenges, but with determination and focus, one can overcome them. Dr. Ganguly discussed her early struggles, including the difficulty of obtaining books and educational resources. She had to ask for help and often borrowed books from friends. Despite these setbacks, she chose a path in the police department, a career not traditionally associated with women, especially from her community. Her choice was met with resistance, but she pursued it with determination and became a role model for others. In her career, Dr. Ganguly faced many dangerous situations, including encounters with militants. She spoke about the importance of planning and staying calm under pressure. Her first encounter was unsuccessful due to poor planning, but she learned from the experience and continued to improve. To manage stress and maintain focus, Dr. Ganguly recommended finding strength in faith, maintaining a positive attitude, and staying connected with loved ones. She emphasized the importance of regular exercise and self-care to reduce stress. She also encouraged students to keep a balanced study schedule and not to let setbacks discourage them. Dr. Ganguly's story is an inspiration, showing that even in the face of adversity, one can succeed with perseverance and a positive mindset. Her message to students was clear: keep trying, don't be afraid of challenges, and find support in faith and family. She also reminded students to appreciate the support they have and to stay away from harmful habits that could derail their progress. Her journey is a testament to the power of resilience and the importance of setting and pursuing goals.



Dr. Jyoti Chauthaiwale (Scientist, Educationist and Social Worker)



Mr. Revant Himatsingka
(Health Educator
and Content Creator)

Session Dated: Mar 14, 2024

Session Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFC_zwSKx_Y&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVSr rCl5SO9E55qTv2k0Ji&index=16

These two distinguished personalities known for their contributions in education, science, and social work. They are recognized for spreading awareness through social media. During this session, they discussed stress related to exams and how to manage it effectively. Mr. Revant, mentioned that stress is inevitable when you are trying to achieve something significant. He emphasized that although stress can be uncomfortable, it also serves as motivation. The key is to stay mentally strong and maintain a positive outlook, knowing that stress is often part of the journey toward success. Dr. Jyoti advised that it's important to view stress as a motivating force and not to shy away from it. She noted that stress is a part of life and that it's through overcoming challenges that we learn and grow. She also highlighted the need for meditation and yoga as effective ways to manage stress. One of the key themes discussed was the impact of exam stress on academic performance and overall well-being. The educationist explained that stress often arises from high expectations from oneself, parents, and society. To reduce stress, she suggested focusing on one's strengths, communicating openly with family, and practicing time management. The guests also spoke about the importance of finding a supportive study environment, minimizing distractions, and setting boundaries with family members to ensure a conducive atmosphere for studying. Revant addressed the role of technology in contributing to stress and advised on managing screen time, emphasizing the importance of digital fasting. He recommended setting screen time limits and encouraging regular breaks from digital devices. The educationist also mentioned that one way to reduce stress is to focus on personal development and hobbies, which help to maintain a balanced lifestyle. Overall, the guests offered practical advice for students and parents on how to cope with exam stress. They encouraged students to focus on their own goals, maintain a positive attitude, and develop healthy habits that promote both academic success and overall well-being.



<u>Dr. Nishant Goyal</u> (MD, DPM, Professor)



<u>**Dr. Rajesh Sagar**</u> (Professor, AIIMS, New Delhi)

Session Dated: Mar 18, 2024 Session Link:

 $\frac{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc8BYodq3Sc\&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVSrr}{C15SO9E55qTv2k0Ji\&index=17}$

Dr. Rajesh Sagar emphasized that stress is a natural part of life, resulting from an imbalance between demands and available resources. While a certain level of stress can be motivating and help in achieving goals, excessive stress can lead to problems, including mental health issues like anxiety and depression. He noted that stress can manifest physically, causing issues like high blood pressure and heart problems. He advised recognizing stress early and seeking appropriate coping mechanisms. Dr. Sagar highlighted that effective communication and seeking help from trusted individuals, such as teachers, parents, or professionals, are crucial in managing stress. Dr. Nishant Goyal added that when faced with stress, it's vital to talk to someone trustworthy, like a friend, teacher, or mentor, who can listen without maintaining judgment. emphasized the importance of He communication with someone who can offer support and guidance. Dr. Goyal also outlined common signs of stress, including physical symptoms like sweating, heart palpitations, and emotional symptoms like fear and sadness. He encouraged students to recognize these symptoms early and seek support. Dr. Sagar pointed out that academic performance should not be the only focus, and students should develop other skills and interests. He recommended choosing subjects in which students have genuine interest rather than succumbing to external pressures. Dr. Goyal added that parents should understand their children's interests and not impose their own expectations, allowing the children to follow their passions. To manage stress, Dr. Sagar suggested lifestyle changes such as maintaining a balanced diet, staying

hydrated, and getting sufficient sleep. He discouraged unhealthy habits like smoking or excessive caffeine consumption. Breathing exercises and mindful meditation were recommended for relaxation.



Dr. Chinmay Pandya

(Pro Vice Chancellor, Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar, & Motivational Speaker)

Session Dated: Apr 5, 2024

Session Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgRI3qYpI88&list=PLUrzzFRSk_roVSrr Cl5SO9E55qTv2k0Ji&index=18

Dr. Chinmay Pandya, emphasized that students often struggle with anxiety because society has transformed what should be a time of joyful growth and learning into a high-stakes competition. The intense pressure from parents, teachers, and societal expectations can create an environment where students feel trapped in a cycle of meeting these high demands. This pressure can lead students to drastic measures just to cope with stress, overshadowing the joy of learning and exploration. In his experience, students need to build support systems and communicate their concerns with people they trust. This open dialogue is essential for reducing anxiety and sharing the burdens that come with academic pressure. The key is to understand that stress isn't always negative; it can be a driving force for personal growth if managed appropriately. By viewing stress as a stepping stone to a brighter future, students can embrace challenges with resilience and use them to build a better life. For those grappling with anxiety, he recommended exploring meditative practices like chanting the Gayatri mantra. These practices have a calming effect and can help students clear their minds, bringing a sense of tranquility. It's important for students to realize that they are not alone in their struggles; everyone, even the most successful individuals, faces challenges and setbacks. By recognizing this, students can approach their problems as opportunities for growth and learning. To manage stress and enhance study habits, he suggested students wake up early to study for 2-3

hours. This early morning time is optimal for focus and comprehension, allowing students to tackle the most difficult subjects when their minds are fresh. Before afternoon, students can shift to less intense tasks or relax, knowing they've already completed the bulk of their challenging work for the day. This routine helps maintain a balanced life, where academic success does not come at the cost of personal well-being.

OUTCOMES

The Pariksha Parv initiative has brought about a transformative wave across India, impacting thousands of students and educators alike. With its holistic approach to academic enhancement, this program has significantly benefited numerous students nationwide. By providing access to quality educational resources, tailored guidance, and mentoring support, Pariksha Parv has empowered students to excel in their studies and achieve their academic goals. Moreover, the initiative has not only focused on student development but has also recognized the pivotal role of educators in shaping young minds. Through targeted training sessions and workshops at the district level, Pariksha Parv has reached out to thousands of teachers, equipping them with the necessary tools and strategies to effectively mentor and guide their students. This collaborative effort between students and teachers has created a conducive learning environment where academic excellence is nurtured and celebrated. Furthermore, the impact of Pariksha Parv extends beyond just academic achievement, fostering a culture of continuous learning and growth among both students and educators. By fostering a sense of community and collaboration, this initiative has not only enriched the educational landscape but has also laid the foundation for a brighter and more promising future for generations to come. As we continue to witness the positive outcomes of Pariksha Parv, it serves as a testament to the power of collective action in driving meaningful change in the field of education.

CHAPTER 2 Camps/Benches in Districts with High Tribal Population and Aspirational Districts/Blocks

CHAPTER 2

Camps/Benches in Districts with High Tribal Population and Aspirational Districts/Blocks

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is committed to reach out to every last child in the country, through its various interventions, under the mandates provided under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005. In the year 2019–20, a strategy was devised to organize benches/camps of the Commission in aspirational districts, as identified by the NITI Aayog. The children and people in these districts are lagging behind in some of the key developmental parameters related to child development, such as education, health and nutrition. In this district-level exercise, the district administration as well as all stakeholder departments—school education. health, labour, women development, tribal affairs, social welfare, etc.—non-governmental organizations (NGOs), voluntary organizations, youth clubs, teachers and Anganwadi workers were involved and sensitized to take the message of the NCPCR bench to all the habitations and children in schools. The basic idea was to start a movement to bring all the issues and cases on child rights violation to the table of the NCPCR bench for their redressal, including giving on-spot solutions.

It is pertinent to mention that, as per Section 13(1)(j) of the CPCR Act, 2005, the Commission is mandated to enquire into complaints and take suo motu notice of matters relating to deprivation and violation of child rights; non-implementation of laws providing for protection and development of children; and non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or institutions aimed at mitigating hardships to and ensuring welfare of the children and to provide relief to such children or to take up the issues arising out of such matters with appropriate authorities. While inquiring into any matter referred to in the above-mentioned clause, the Commission shall have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, particularly with respect to the following matters:

- a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him under oath;
- b) discovery and production of any document; receiving evidence on affidavits;
- c) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office; and
- d) issuing summons for the examination of witnesses or documents.

In view of the identification of districts lagging behind in key parameters; it was decided to reach out to all these districts by the Commission to hear the grievances pertaining to rights of the children in those districts. Thus the NCPCR Bench or NCPCR Camp in Aspirational Districts and Blocks came into action in providing a platform for the children and communities to place their representations/ complaints, to provide on spot solution along with the district authorities and appropriate direction and follow-up for redressal of the complaints.

Envisaged and led by the Chairperson, the initiative's objectives and methodologies were discussed in the statutory meeting of the NCPCR which is the decision-making body of the Commission. The key methodology and strategies were: to give details of the bench plan to the district administration and ask for a nodal officer; video conference with the district administration to review the preparation; advance team visit to the district; meeting with the NGOs and civil society organizations; meeting with the district administration and the relevant departments; and sample field visits to the schools and institutions, followed by bench hearing by the Chairperson/Members of the Commission, along with district collector or designated officer.

From April 2023 to March 2024, 116 such Camps/benches have been organized to redress grievances of violation and deprivation of child rights. NCPCR has received around 47,000 grievances pertaining to various issues of violation and deprivation of child rights. With Commission's intervention birth certificates, caste certificates, disability certificate, Adhaar cards of children were made by the concerned department. Disabled children were linked with disability pension. Mapping of vulnerable families was done by constituting a committee comprising of Panchayat Sarpanch, Panchayat Secretary, Anganwadi workers and children. Vulnerable families, children who had lost their parents during covid-19 pandemic were linked with government scheme

Key Outcomes of the Benches/Camps

1. Mass awareness on rights of the child: NCPCR benches/camps set the standard and culture of a mass awareness campaign involving all the duty bearers, stakeholders, institutions and people in general, for a cause like rights of the child. All the duty bearers and stakeholders were sensitized that awareness generation is a part of their duty.

- 2. Convergence of all the departments: The Camps/Benches brought all the stakeholder departments together and set a convergent platform on rights of the child, breaking the silos amongst these departments. This inter-departmental convergent platform is one of the strategic outcomes through which any matter pertaining to the children can be sorted out in a coordinated way. A new culture of dealing with child-related issues has been set in motion in all the aspirational districts.
- 3. Redressal of complaints: A large number of complaints were redressed by the bench. In addition, awareness was created amongst people of the districts as to how and where to make a complaint pertaining to matters relating to child rights violation. Therefore, people now know the grievance redressal mechanism and how it functions. This will help them in case of any kind of violations of their rights.
- 4. Inspection of facilities for children, including health facilities, Anganwadi facilities, schools, CCIs, etc.: The bench and advance team also reviewed the facilities pertaining to children and as a result, many institutions have been created, facilities provided, corrective actions carried out and functioning improved.

Details of the Camps/Benches held from April 2023 to March 2024 are as follows-

S.N o	State/UT	District	Bench held at District level or Block level	Aspirational Blocks	Date of the Bench/camp
	West Bengal	Murshidaba d	District Level		13-05-2023
1.	West Bengal	Malda	District Level	 Harishchandrapur Chanchal Habibpur 	12-05-2023
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Anupur	Block Level	Pushprajgarh	26-05-2023
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Shahdol	Block Level	Pali 1 (Gohparu)	26-05-2023
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Dindori	Block Level at Bajag	1. Bajag 2. Karanjia 3.Mehndwani	27-05-2023
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	Disrict Level	MAVAI	28-05-2023
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh	Block Level	Tendukheda	29-05-2023

7.	Madhya Pradesh	Katni	Disrict Level at Katni	Reethi	30-05-2023
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Dhar	Block Level	Tirla	05-06-2023
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Alirajpur	Block Level	Kattiwada	07-06-2023
10	Madhya Pradesh	Shoepur	District level at Sheopur	Karahal, Sheopur, Vijaypur	08-06-2023
1:	Madhya Pradesh	Khargone	Block Level at Jhirnya	Bhagwanpura , Jhirnya	10-06-2023
12	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa	Block Level	Chhaigaonmakhan	12-06-2023
1;	Chhattisgarh	Kabirdham	Block Level	Bodla	15-06-2023
14	Ladakh	Leh	Block Level	RUPSHO	16-06-2023
15	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamun d	Block Level	Pithora	17-06-2023
16	Chhattisgarh	Gaurella - Pandera Marwahi	Block Level	Gaurella-2	19-06-2023
17	Chhattisgarh	Mohla - Manpur - A Chowki	Block Level	A: Chowki (AD)	19-06-2023
18	Chhattisgarh	Korba	Block Level	Korba, Podi Uproda	20-06-2023
19	Chhattisgarh	Sarguja	Block Level	Lakhanpur	21-06-2023
20	Chhattisgarh	Kanker	Block Level	Durgukondal, Koilebeda	21-06-2023
2:	Chhattisgarh	Koriya (HQ - Baikunthpu r)	Block Level	Lakhanpur	22-06-2023
21	Chhattisgarh	Koriya (HQ - Baikunthpu r)	Block Level	Pratappur	23-06-2023
23	Chhattisgarh	Kondagaon	Block Level	Makri	23-06-2023
24	Madhya Pradesh	Bhind	Block Level	Gohad	23-06-2023
25	Madhya Pradesh	Morena	Block Level	Pahadpur	23-06-2023
26	Chhattisgarh	Balrampur	Block Level	Shakargarh	24-06-2023
21	Madhya Pradesh	Shivpuri	Block Level	Kolaras, Pichore	24-06-2023
28	Madhya Pradesh	Chatarpur	Block Level	Buxwaha	26-06-2023
29	Madhya Pradesh	Panna	Block Level	Ajaygarh	27-06-2023
30	Rajasthan	Alwar	Block Level	Neemrana	03-07-2023
3:	Rajasthan	Bharatpur	Block Level	Weir Block	04-07-2023
32	Chhattisgarh	Bastar	Block Level	Tokapal	04-07-2023
33	Chhattisgarh	Dantewada	Block Level	Kuwakonda	04-07-2023

34	Chhattisgarh	Sukma	Block Level	Konta	05-07-2023
3!	Chhattisgarh	Bijapur	Block Level	Awapalli	05-07-2023
36	Rajasthan	Dausa	Block Level	Ramgarh Panchwara	05-07-2023
31	Rajasthan	Tonk	Block Level	Peeplu	06-07-2023
38	Odisha	Koraput	District Level at Laxmipur	Laxmipur, Lamtaput	07-07-2023
39	Odisha	Malkangiri	District Level	Chitrakonda, Khairaput, and Maithili	07-07-2023
4(Rajasthan	Pali	Block Level	Rani	12-07-2023
4:	Rajasthan	Jalore	Block Level	Ahore	13-07-2023
42	Rajasthan	Sirohi	Block Level	Aburoad	14-07-2023
4:	Rajasthan	Bikaner	Block Level	Kolayat	08-08-2023
44	Rajasthan	Chittorgarh	Block Level	Nimbhahera	08-08-2023
45	Rajasthan	Pratapgarh	Block Level	Peeplekhoont	09-08-2023
46	Rajasthan	Nagaur	Block Level	Jayel	10-08-2023
47	Tripura	North Tripura	Block Level	Dusda And Kanchanpur	13-08-2023
48	Rajasthan	Karauli	Block Level	Masalpur	21-08-2023
49	Rajasthan	Dholpur	Block Level	Baseri	22-08-2023
50	Rajasthan	Banswara	Block Level	Sajjangarh	23-08-2023
5:	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	Block Level	Shergarh	23-08-2023
52	Rajasthan	Dungarpur	Block Level	Jonthari	24-08-2023
5	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer	Block Level	Fathegarh	24-08-2023
54	Rajasthan	Bundi	Block Level	K.Patan	24-08-2023
5!	Rajasthan	Udaipur	Block Level	Kherwara	24-08-2023
56	Rajasthan	Barmer	Block Level	Ramsar	25-08-2023
57	Rajasthan	Rajsamand	Block Level	Bheem	25-08-2023
58	Rajasthan	Jhalawar	Block Level	Khanpur	26-08-2023
59	Rajasthan	Baran	Block Level	Kishanganj	28-08-2023
60	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Block Level	Zirapur	29-08-2023
6:	Rajasthan	Hanumanga rh	Block Level	Sangaria	05-09-2023
62	Madhya Pradesh	Seoni	District Level		10-09-2023
63	Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha	Block Level	Basoda	11-09-2023
64	Rajasthan	S. Madhopur	Block Level	Gangapur	30-09-2023
6	Madhya Pradesh	Niwari	Block Level	Prithvipur	03-10-2023

66	Madhya Pradesh	Tikamgarh	Block Level	Baldevgarh	04-10-2023
67	Madhya Pradesh	Ratlam	Block Level	Bajna	04-10-2023
68	Madhya Pradesh	Umaria	Block Level	Maanpur	06-10-2023
69	Uttar Pradesh	Rampur	Block Level	Saidnagar	06-10-2023
70	Tamilnadu	Tiruchrrapal li	Block Level	Thuraiyur	09-10-2023
7:	Tamilnadu	Thiruvanna malai	Block Level	Javvadhuhills	10-10-2023
72		Vellore	Block Level	K.V. Kuppam	11-10-2023
73	Tamilnadu	Perambalur	Block Level	Alathur	11-10-2023
74	Tamilnadu	Ariyalur	Block Level	Andimadam	12-10-2023
7	Tamilnadu	Kallakurichi	Block Level	Kalvarayan Hills	12-10-2023
76	Tamilnadu	Karur	Block Level	Thogaimala	12-10-2023
71	Tamilnadu	Ranipet	Block Level	Timri	12-10-2023
78	Tamilnadu	Villupuram	Block Level	Thiruvennainallur	13-10-2023
79	Tamilnadu	Sivaganga	Block Level	Thirupathur	14-10-2023
80	Tamilnadu	The Nilgiris	Block Level	Kothagiri	28-11-2023
8:	West Bengal	Birbhum	District Level	1- Khoyrasol 2-Mayureswar-1 3-Nanoor	04.12.2023
82	West Bengal	Bankura	District Level	1-Indpur 2-Khatra	06.12.2023
8	West Bengal	Purulia	District Level	1-Balrampur 2-Hura 3-Kashipur	08.12.2023
84		Jalaun	District Level	1. Jalaun 2. Rampura	19.12.2023
8!	Uttar Pradesh	Mahoba	Block Level	Kabrai	20.12.2023
86	Uttar Pradesh	Fatehpur	Block Level	Hathgaon	20.12.2023
81	West Bengal	South 24 Parganas	District Level	1-Magrahat-2 2-Maheshtala	20.12.2023
88	Uttar Pradesh	Banda	District Level	1. Baberu 2.Bisanda	21.12.2023
89	Uttar Pradesh	Kaushambi	District Level	1-Kaushambi 2-Manjhanpur	21.12.2023
90	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh	Block Level	Gangiri	21.12.2023
9:	Uttar Pradesh	Sambhal	District Level	1- Asmoli 2-Gunnaur	22.12.2023
92	Uttar Pradesh	Prayagraj	District Level	1-Bahariya 2-Koraon	22.12.2023
93	West Bengal	Paschim Medinipur	District Level	1-Keshiary 2-Salbani	22.12.2023

94	West Bengal	Dakshin Dinanjpur	Block Level	Kumarganj	29.12.2023
9!	West Bengal	Uttar Dinajpur	District Level	1-Chopra 2-Goalpokher-1 3-Goalpokher-2 4-Hemtabad 5-Islampur 6-Itahar	30.12.2023
96	Uttar Pradesh	Lalitpur	Block Level	Madawra	09.01.2024
	Uttar Pradesh	Budaun	District Level	1- Ambiyapur 2-Asafpur	23.01.2024
	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly	District Level	1-Baheri 2-Fatehganj 3-Richha (Dhamkoda)	24.01.2024
99	Madhya Pradesh	Raisen	District Level	Raisen	30-01-2024
1(Madhya Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Sultanpur	30-01-2024
10	Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Devnagar	31-01-2024
10	Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Bamhori	31-01-2024
10	Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Bareilly	01-02-2024
1(Madhya Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Devri	01-02-2024
10	Haryana	Palwal	Block Level	Hathin	05.02.2024
10	Madhya Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Goharganj	06-02-2024
10	Madhya Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Gadi	07-02-2024
10	Madhya Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Kharbi	07-02-2024
10	J	Nuh	District Level	(I) Nuh (Ii) Punhana	07.02.2024
1:	Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Sanchi	08-02-2024
1:	Madhya Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Deewan Ganj	08-02-2024
1:	Maharashtra	Nandurbar	District Level	(I) Akkalkuva (Ii) Akrani (Iii) Nawapur (Iv) Taloda	10.02.2024
1:	Madhya Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Begamganj	15-02-2024
1:	Madhya Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Siyar Mau	15-02-2024
1:	Madhya Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Udaipura	16-02-2024
116	Madhya Pradesh	Raisen	Block Level	Gairatganj	16-02-2024

CHAPTER 3 RIGHT TO EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN MADRASAS

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As per Section 31(1) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, popularly known as RTE Act, 2009 NCPCR is mandated to examine and review the safeguards for rights provided under the Act and recommend the measures for their effective implementation. To fulfil this mandate, it was important that the Commission looks in to identify children under different circumstances who are deprived of their fundamental right to education. One such category of children is those who belong to the minority community and who attend such institutions such as Madrasas that are outside the ambit of the RTE Act, 2009.

For getting a deeper understanding of the matter, NCPCR initiated a massive exercise of introspection on the status of elementary education of such children. In 2020-21, the Commission, for the first time, endeavoured to examine how the exemptions given to educational institutions under Article 15 (5) of the Constitution have affected education of children from minority communities in light of the fundamental right of children to elementary education under Article 21A. It is pertinent to note that Article 15(5) empowers the Government to form any policy for the upliftment of socially backward class, thus forming the basis of affirmative action in private unaided educational institutions in India. However, since RTE Act, 2009 has been made inapplicable to institutions with minority status and to the institutions imparting religious education, thus denying children of their fundamental right.

Among other findings of the study, the following two findings presented a picture where on one hand the Constitutions talks about fundamental right of all children to receive free and compulsory elementary; and on the other hand so many children are not devoid of their rights. Unfortunately, the number of these children is unknown.

i) **Enrolment in Madrasas-** Based on data from Census 2011 and UDISE, it has been estimated that more than one crore children are studying in these institutions. This number is not reflected in any data by the State Governments since Madrasas are largely unrecognized and even unmapped. Therefore, though children studying in unrecognised and unmapped Madrasas are technically out of school, but data-wise these children do not find place in out-of-school category as well and while

these children are being deprived of their fundamental right, they are not even being acknowledged by the States.

ii) Madrasas can primarily be categorized into three types- Recognized Madrasas; Unrecognized Madrasas; and Unmapped Madrasas.

Inquiry into all Government Funded/Recognised Madrasas admitting non-Muslim children and conduct mapping of unmapped Madrasas:

With the enactment of RTE Act, 2009, imparting fundamental education to every child in a recognized school has become mandatory, but the annual data by MoE suggests that there are a large number of children attending institutions that are not recognized. Even though these schools are unrecognized, the number of such schools and their enrollment is captured by the annual data presented by UDISE. Another category of institutions that reflect in the data are recognized and unrecognized Madrasas. As per UDISE+ 2020-21, there are 19613 recognized Madrasa and 4037 unrecognized Madrasas in the country.

What remains missing in any data source in the country is another category of institutions which enroll children in the name of education but neither these institutions, nor the children attending these institutions are reflected in any educational data, because of this children are deprived of their fundamental right to education. These are the unmapped Madrasas functional across States, accommodating an uncounted number of children. Since these institutions are unmapped, they remain unrecognized as well. These are mostly run by private religious sects. For instance, Darul-Uloom Deoband is one such organization that has several affiliated Madrasas across the country that are not necessarily mapped and recognized by the State. Consequently, what kind of curriculum is followed in these institutions; whether these institutions provide quality education or not; and the information on the environment these institutions provide to children also remains unknown. This is also evident in the numerous complaints that NCPCR receive regarding neglect, ill-treatment, corporal punishment and sexual abuse of children. Children attending all such institutions (unrecognised and/or unmapped madrasas) are treated as Out of School, even if they provide regular education.

Therefore, it is very important that mapping of all these unrecognised unmapped institutions needs to be urgently undertaken. This has also been

recommended by the CABE Sub-Committee to Devise Pathways for Reengaging Out of school children.

Taking a step towards this and ensure that all children are enrolled for formal education, the Commission sent a letter dated 08.12.2022 to Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs to take following action-

- a) Conduct a detailed inquiry of all Government Funded/Recognized Madrasas who are admitting non-Muslim children in the State/UT. The inquiry should include physical verification of children attending such Madrasas. Subsequent to the inquiry, admit all such children in schools for availing formal education.
- b) Undertake mapping of all unmapped Madrasas in the State/UT and admit all children into Schools for availing formal education with immediate effect.

Subsequently, reminder letters were send followed by summon notices to the States/UTs where requisite action was not taken by the State/UT.

CHAPTER 4 UNCOVERING THE MISUSE OF OPEN SCHOOL SYSTEM

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The Commission, under Section 13 (1) (j) of the CPCR Act, 2005, has taken cognizance of the complaint seeking immediate action against the open school being run by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind with support from National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). The Commission further examined the details and it has been found that Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has established Jamiat Open School on lines of NIOS for Madrasa students, enabling them to pursue 'mainstream' education. Dr. Shoaib Raza Khan, Assistant Director, NIOS has also been quoted saying that it is a path-breaking initiative and assured that NIOS is ready to extend all possible cooperation to Jamiat.

Regarding this a letter dated 13.03.2024 was sent to Chairperson, NIOS seeking their response on seven (7) specific points. The NIOS submitted a letter number 24-1-1-NIOS/SSS/Minority Cell/ dated 22.03.2024 in response to Commission's letter dated 13.03.2024. The same has been examined along with the MoU signed between NIOS and Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind and other supporting documents provided along with said letter. As per the reply submitted by NIOS, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) dated 06.01.2022 has been signed between National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and an NGO named Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind. After examining the MOU, it was found that nowhere in the document Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind is authorized to use the term 'Jamiat Open School'. Merely entering into an agreement with NIOS does not allow the NGO to propagate itself as an open school. No institution can function as a 'school/open school' unless it is recognized as a school under RTE Act, 2009 or respective State is Education Act or mandated to do under any Act/Law/Statute/Government Notification. Based on the information available, Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind is misusing the MoU signed with NIOS. Prima facie, it is an act of breach of the agreement and needs further inquiry under Section 405 and 415 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

It is important to mention here that Article 30 of the Constitution of India is the right of 'minority communities' to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice; and right of the 'institutions', thus established, against any kind of discrimination. Whereas Article 21A of the Constitution is the 'fundamental right' of all children in the age of 6-14 years. The Article had a universal applicability for which a Law was enacted- the RTE Act of 2009. Again,

as per Section 1(5) of the RTE Act, 2009 the Act is not applicable to Madrasas, Vedic Pathshalas and other institutions imparting religious education. However, it does not exclude children based on religion from enjoying their fundamental right to education.

As evident from the submission made by Jamiat Ulema -i-Hind to NIOS, the NGO is well aware that the RTE Act, 2009, meant for extending the fundamental right to children, is not applicable to Madrasas and thousands of Madrasas are connected with Jamiat Ulema -i-Hind and Jamiat helps them in establishing and managing their institutions. The Jamiat Ulema -i-Hind, knowingly, is depriving children from receiving formal elementary education by not facilitating them in attending school and rather just attend Madrasas, which do not provide elementary education. In its reply given to NIOS, Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind states that quality education is not in the fortune of crores of children. It seems that Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind is trying to assert that children in Madrasas are devoid of their fundamental right due to the Authorities responsible for implementation of the RTE Act, 2009.

Also, on one hand Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind states it is performing its duty in providing students from the margins of society who have lacked the opportunity to gain formal education with the opportunity to receive secondary level qualification, and on the other hand is knowingly keeping children away from getting quality elementary education in schools. What attempt has Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind made to enroll these children in mainstream education system that includes close to 15 lakh schools across the country? By not letting the children get elementary education as per the RTE Act, 2009, Madrasas connected with Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind are violating the Constitution and the Law, and the incorrect interpretation of the MoU signed with NIOS is providing them with an opportunity to legalize this violation of child rights in an organized manner.

Time and again, the Commission has highlighted that all those children who are not in formal schooling system are deprived of their fundamental right to elementary education including the entitlements such as Midday Meal, uniform, trained teachers etc. As per the Brochure of Jamiat Open School, "Out of courses offered by NIOS, the open basic education program with three levels, addresses the need of the madarsa students from standard-3 to standard-8, but it requires additional burden, resources and change in the curricula of the madarsas. Therefore, the most suitable option for madarsa student is its academic secondary course equivalent to class X.

The Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind UK highlights Jamiat Open School in India as one of the projects on its website (https://www.jamiatulama.co.uk/projects). Through

the same website, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind UK seeks donations (https://www.jamiatulama.co.uk/donations) in name of supporting Jamiat. It may also be noted that as per the website of Charity Commission for England and Wales, Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind UK Limited (Charity number: 1129245) also operates in Pakistan and Bangladesh. The details available at https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/4042518/what-who-how-where

As mentioned earlier, Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind is charging more money than the fees prescribed by NIOS from children in name of open school. As per the Brochure of Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind, from enrolment to appearance in exams the estimated cost per student is 10,000 Indian Rupees which is more than the fees structure given by NIOS. The additional money is said to be for bearing the costs of providing services, comfort and infrastructure to enable the students to qualify in the secondary level examination. Further, Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind also claims to be providing training through local teachers, teaching sessions and study material to the students and coordinates with study centers of the NIOS. As per the reply received from NIOS, no Madrsas or any institution of Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind has been notified as accredited study centre by NIOS. If so, what kind of training are they providing to the children? What is the study material provided by Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind especially when NIOS is already providing the necessary support through Study Centres, material and Personal Contact Programme (PCP)? It is also mentioned in the Brochure that a part of the donations received in Student's account goes as NIOS admission and exam fees and other as Jamiat Open School Tuition Fees. When NIOS is already providing the necessary support and academic assistance, why extra money is being charged from children whom they say are marginalized and underprivileged?

A list of 38 teachers and staff has been submitted and since 2021-22, more than 14,000 children have been admitted in NIOS by Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind. It is nowhere mentioned in the MoU that Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind will provide teachers and coordinators to the children. Also, most of the teachers and staff are not trained in pedagogy and are not required in the current open school system provided by NIOS. The NIOS offers a range of subjects to choose from for Secondary and Senior Secondary Courses. At Secondary Level, a student has to select from a list of 39 subjects including 19 languages and at Senior Secondary level, the choice has to be made from a set of 44 subjects including 13 languages. On the contrary, Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind restricts this choice by recommending the five subjects to 'madrasa' children. This does not align with NIOS's aim of catering to the needs of a heterogeneous group of learners. This needed to be seen as a violation of the MoU, where one of the roles of Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind is to facilitate

admission and develop publicity material by restricting the choice that is to be made by the students.

Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind is seeking foreign donations through a bank other than the State Bank of India. As per 17(1) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 inserted through the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020- Every person who has been granted certificate or prior permission under section 12 shall receive foreign contribution only in an account designated as "FCRA Account" by the bank, which shall be opened by him for the purpose of remittances of foreign contribution in such branch of the State Bank of India at New Delhi, as the Central Government may, by notification, specify in this behalf. A letter in this regard was also sent to the FCRA Wing, MHA.

CHAPTER 5 Digitalization of Monitoring Mechanism

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As India progresses towards building a comprehensive child protection ecosystem, it is important that all authorities and administrations including union, State and local authorities; District administrations; child protection mechanism at all levels; National and State Commissions; Civil Society Organizations work in unison to protect children and in taking quick decisions in the best interest of the children. For more effective monitoring, NCPCR developed a strategy to keep vigil on the issues pertaining to protection of children and worked relentlessly in mitigating hardships through various means of interventions including the use of information technology.

1. MASI- Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection:

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed an application- MASI – Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection- for real time monitoring of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection mechanism across the country. The effective and efficient functioning of the mechanism for inspection of Child Care Institutions provided under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and synchronous monitoring of the system is the rationale behind developing this comprehensive application. The app is linked to the monitoring Portal where the automatic reports will be generated. MASI enables unified inspections by Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), State Inspection Committees, District Inspection Committees, Members of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) as laid down under the JJ Act, 2015. MASI works as a single platform for inspections of all the CCIs across the country by any of the above stated authorities. Regular follow-ups before and after the completion of cycle of inspection. The complete reports of the inspected CCI's are automatically generated on the Portal as soon as the questionnaire is filled and submitted by the authority.

The Commission during the relevant period has conducted training of all stakeholders of all the Districts for all States/UT's.

2. Baal Swaraj Portal-COVID Care

NCPCR had devised an online portal Baal Swaraj to do real time monitoring of children in need of care and protection. Keeping in view of the second surge of COVID pandemic and the number of complaints being received for children who had become orphan by losing their parents to COVID, a link on the portal had been devised-COVID Care link. This issue of vulnerable children affected by COVID was also taken up by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SMWP (C) No. 4 of 2020 In Re. Contagion of Covid-19 virus in Children Homes and vide its orders dated 28.05.2021, 01.06.2021 and 07.06.2021, all States/UTs were directed to upload the data of children who had become orphan or lost either of the parent to COVID or otherwise on the Bal Swaraj Portal. In compliance to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the data of such children is being uploaded on the portal.

There are six stages in the portal which have to be filled by the District Child Protection Unit and State Child Protection Society.

- a) Stage1 asks for personal basic details of the child like name, age, address etc.
- b) Stage 2 asks for filling up the social investigation report of the child.
- c) Stage 3 is the form of individual child care plan wherein it becomes clear that where the child is being placed, recommendation of Child Welfare Committee, sponsorship benefits etc.
- d) Stage 4 has been given to upload the Child Welfare Committee order.
- e) Stage5, total 34 Government implemented schemes/ benefits have been listed out from which the DCPU can select the benefit of schemes being given to the child in this stage.
- f) Stage 6 is for uploading follow-up forms of children. Where the child has been recommended for follow-up, whether in child care institution or in non-institutional care, the follow-up is done by the person assigned by the Child Welfare Committee. So in this stage, if there are any follow-up forms filled by the officer conducting follow-ups of the child, then those forms have to be uploaded.

It is to be seen that as stated above, the six stages, enables the Commission to understand the social and financial status of the child and family and can assess if there are anv requirements/benefits/compliances to be done for the best interest of the child. The Commission can then report the matter to the appropriate authorities where such necessary requirements/benefits/compliances are required to be done. In addition to this, it also makes it able for the Commission to verify that whether the recommendations made in the individual care plan of the child are being adhered to or not and that most importantly the follow up of children as mandated under the JJ Act, 2015 and its Rules, 2016 is being done or not in a proper manner. For the relevant period, total registrations on Baal Swaraj- Covid Care are: 10572. Out of

these, 517 children are orphan; 10039 have single parent and 16 are abandoned.

3. Baal Swaraj Portal-CISS

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has taken cognizance on the issue of children in street situation in SMWP (C) No.6/2021 In Re Children in Street Situations on 15.11.2021. The problems pertaining to the rescue and rehabilitation of children who are on the streets were taken up before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this case and many directions have been passed to the State Governments to take measures and steps for rescue and rehabilitation of children in street situations. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had observed that the Standard Operating Procedure for rescue and rehabilitation of children in street situations 2.0 formulated by NCPCR provides for steps and role of authorities while dealing with street children which are comprehensive in nature. The Hon'ble Court had thus directed the States/UTs to take steps in accordance with SOP 2.0 of NCPCR for rehabilitation of street children. The SOP 2.0 of NCPCR categorizes children in street situation as follows-

- i. Children living on the streets with their families.
- ii. Children stay on the streets in the day and are back home in the night with their families who reside in a nearby slum/hutments.
- iii. Children without support living on the streets alone.
- 2. This matter had been taken up for hearing before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the following directions have been given to the States/UTs for ensuring care and rehabilitation of children who are in street situations
 - i. The District Magistrates/ District Collectors are to take steps in accordance with SOP 2.0 that has been formulated by the NCPCR.
 - ii. The Secretary, Department of Women and Child Welfare of each State shall be the nodal officer to ensure that all the District Magistrates/ District Collectors take prompt action for implementation of SOP 2.0 formulated by the NCPCR.
 - iii. The process has to start with immediate action being taken by the authorities for identification of CiSS and thereafter, providing the required information to the NCPCR for the later stages as well.
 - iv. The State Governments/Union Territories are directed to promptly attend meetings that are held by the NCPCR and offer their

- suggestions, apart from voicing their concerns, if any, in implementation of the SOP 2.0.
- v. The State Governments/Union Territories are directed to formulate a policy for the rehabilitation of CiSS, with the guidance of the NCPCR. As NCPCR had formulated a model policy for rehabilitation of children in street situation.
- vi. The NCPCR has been directed to hold periodic meetings with the States/UTs to discuss upon the situation of street children in the respective States/UTs.
- vii. The State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Delhi are directed to communicate a copy of their final schemes to the NCPCR. The State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Delhi are further directed to implement the schemes that are formulated by them and take immediate steps for identifying and rehabilitating CiSS.
- viii. The State Governments/Union Territories are directed to implement the guidelines that were circulated by the NCPCR, by way of their compliance affidavit dated 17.02.2022, and take suitable steps for rescuing and rehabilitating CiSS. The suggestions of NCPCR would be in place till the States/UTs do not come up with their own policy.
- 3. NCPCR has also developed a Baal Swaraj-CiSS portal for online tracking and digital real time monitoring of children in street situation. The categorization of children in street situations has been done on the portal under the three broad heads as given in the SOP of NCPCR. The individual login accounts of all District Child Protection Units/officers and Principal Secretaries of Department of Women and Child Development/Social Welfare of all States/UTs was made, so that they can fill the required information at every stage of the portal. There are six stages in the portal which have to be filled by the District Child Protection Unit and State Child Protection Society.
 - i. Stage1 asks for personal basic details of the child like name, age, address etc.
 - ii. Stage 2 asks for filling up the social investigation report of the child.
 - iii. Stage 3 is the form of individual child care plan wherein it becomes clear that where the child is being placed, recommendation of Child Welfare Committee, sponsorship benefits etc.
 - iv. Stage 4 has been given to upload the Child Welfare Committee order.
 - v. In stage 5, total 34 Government implemented schemes/ benefits have been listed out from which the DCPU can

- select the benefit of schemes being given to the child in this stage.
- vi. Stage 6 is for uploading follow-up forms of children. Where the child has been recommended for follow-up, whether in child care institution or in non-institutional care, the follow-up is done by the person assigned by the Child Welfare Committee. So, in this stage, if there are any follow-up forms filled by the officer conducting follow-ups of the child, then those forms have to be uploaded.

For the relevant period, the total no. of registrations on the Baal Swaraj-CiSS is 3466

1.	Children living on the streets with their families	1558
2.	Children stay on the streets in the day and are back home in the night with their families who reside in a nearby slum/hutments	1736
3.	Children without support living on the streets alone	172

4. BAAL Swaraj - Citizen Login (Portal)

NCPCR on its Baal Swaraj Portal-CiSS has devised a link https://ncpcr.gov.in/baalswaraj/citizenlogin, through which individuals, academic institutions and Non- Government Organisations/Civil Society Organisations (hereinafter referred to as "NGOs/CSOs" respectively) having varied experience of working towards the cause of children in street situations (hereinafter referred to as "CiSS") could be involved at the ground level with the appropriate authorities for the identification and rehabilitation of CiSS. Through the link the organizations, institutions, individuals and professionals will be able to-

- a. Report information about a child in street situation. (A button is created **"Report a CiSS"** on the link)
- b. Register and provide information about the services which they are willing to give to help the child in street situation. (A button is created **"For providing help to CiSS"** on the link)
- 2. By the creation of this link on the Baal Swaraj Portal of NCPCR, any person/organization can now report a child in street situation through a simple process of providing information and can also provide the

following services for giving assistance to the authorities in suitable rehabilitation of children in street situation-

- i) Open Shelter
- ii) Counselling
- iii) Medical services
- iv) Sponsorship
- v) De-addiction services
- vi) Education services
- vii) Legal/Para-legal assistance
- viii) Volunteering services
- ix) Student volunteer
- x) Identification of hotspot
- xi) Identification of CiSS
- xii) Any other assistance
- 3. After the individual or the organization have submitted their information for providing services on this portal, the information will be shared in District Child Protection Officers account on the portal. The individual or the organization who has submitted their information will be given a registration id and the DCPO can then follow up with the said individual or organization for seeking their assistance in rehabilitation of CiSS. This will help in linking the persons/organizations interested in providing services for children in street situations to the concerned district authorities. The district authorities can then take their assistance in rescue and rehabilitation of the CiSS.
- 5. GHAR PORTAL OF NCPCR: The extent and scope of the NCPCR monitoring role has been significantly increased with respect to the implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Amendment Act, 2021 and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Amendment Rules, 2022. As per Rule 81 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Amendment Rules, 2022 (Transfer and Repatriation of Child), the role of the Commission has been elaborately defined. Since the implementation of the JJ Act, 2015 and its Rules, 2016, there were many challenges and gaps which came to the notice, especially hindering the process of rehabilitation of children. In an attempt to eliminate those challenges which are being faced by authorities in repatriation and to send the maximum number of children back to their native place with their families/relatives the

Commission has prepared Protocol for Restoration and Repatriation of children and GHAR (Go Home and Reunite) portal.

The portal has been developed to digitally monitor and track the restoration and repatriation of children according to the protocol.

The main features of this portal are as under:-

- a. Digital tracking and monitoring of children who are in the JJ system and have to be repatriated to another Country/State/District.
- b. Digital transfer of cases of children to the concerned JJB/CWC or SCPS of the State. It will help in speedy repatriation of children.
- c. Where there is a requirement of a translator/interpreter/expert, request will be made to the State where that language is spoken.
- d. CWCs can ensure proper restoration and rehabilitation of children by digitally monitoring the progress of the case of the child.
- e. A checklist format will be provided in the forms so that children who are stuck due to various reasons in a place or children who are not getting their entitled compensation or other monetary benefits can be identified.
- f. List of Government implemented schemes will be provided, so that at the time of restoration the CWCs can link the child with the schemes to strengthen the family and ensure that child remains with his/her family.

The Commission in compliance of its duties under the GHAR Portal Protocol has to submit a quarterly report to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India and hence to submit an appropriate report. In this connection, during 2023-24, Internal Committee meeting was held on 31.05.23, 29.08.2023, 19.10.2023, 30.11.2023 and 21.02.2024 to review and assess the progress that has been made since the inception of **of the portal**. Total nine summons were issued to Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of various States and one summon was issued to Chief Secretary of Karnataka.

Details of CNCP Children uploaded by States Government in the GHAR (Go Home And Reunite) Portal

Numb	Number of Children Repatriated by the Below States								
S.No.	States	No. of children	S.No.	States	No. of children				
1	Andhra Pradesh	112	19	Odisha	02				
2	Arunachal Pradesh	00	20	Punjab	01				

3	Assam	06	21	Rajasthan	37
4	Bihar	85	22	Sikkim	03
5	Chhattisgarh	64	23	Tamil Nadu	771
6	Goa	00	24	Telangana	185
7	Gujarat	01	25	Tripura	00
8	Haryana	04	26	Uttar Pradesh	67
9	Himachal Pradesh	00	27	Uttarakhand	00
10	Jharkhand	10	28	West Bengal	291
11	Karnataka	854	29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	01
12	Kerala	12	30	Chandigarh	10
13	Madhya Pradesh	148	31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	03
14	Maharashtra	351	32	Delhi	63
15	Manipur	00	33	Jammu & Kashmir	02
16	Meghalaya	00	34	Ladakh	03
17	Mizoram	00	35	Lakshadweep	00
18	Nagaland	00	36	Puducherry	00
Total	Total Number of Children			1	

Total 5536 entries have been filled by particular State out which 3086 children have been repatriated from 20th November 2022 to 31st March 2024.

Details of CICL Children uploaded by States Government in the GHAR (Go Home And Reunite) Portal

States	To be Transferred from										
Transferred to	Goa	Jharkhand	Karnataka	Maharashtra	Odisha	Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal			
Andhra	-	-	-	-	-	3	_	-			
Pradesh											
Assam	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-			
Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-			
Goa	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-			
Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-			
Karnataka	-	-	6	-	-	2	-	-			

Maharashtra	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-
Odisha	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-
Puducherry	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-
Telangana	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Uttar	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Pradesh								
Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Bangladesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Incomplete	-	1	-	-	-	8	3	9
Total	01	01	10	03	05	40	4	10

Total 74 entries have been filled by particular State out which no child has been repatriate/transfer.

6. Tracking Portal for Out of School Children

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has discussed upon the various issues related to children who have either dropped out of school or are likely to drop out of school and expressed its concerns towards the continuation of education of children during the COVID pandemic. In the last order dated 09.05.2022, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has given the following directions for ensuring continuation of education of children and identifying children who have dropped out of school

- i. The State Governments/Union Territories are directed to comply with the suggestions made by the NCPCR in its SOP dated 25.06.2021 and the recommendations made in the affidavit of NCPCR dated 07.05.2022.
- ii. The NCPCR is directed to have a web portal on which the information relating to the action taken by the State Governments/Union Territories for the continuance of the education of children is updated.
- iii. The State Governments/Union Territories may approach the NCPCR for any modification/clarification of the SOP.
- iv. The State Governments/Union Territories are directed to instruct the concerned authorities to ensure that migration certificates are issued to those children who are moving away from the place of their education.
- v. The State Governments/Union Territories shall appoint district-wise nodal officers, either from the Education Department or from the Women and Child Welfare Department, who in turn shall instruct Anganwadi workers, Asha workers, health workers etc. to personally inform those parents whose children have discontinued education

- about the recommendations made by the NCPCR and orders passed by the Court.
- vi. The nodal officer shall also take appropriate action to place the children back in the schools from which they have dropped out, so long as continuing in the same school is in the best interests of the relevant child.
- vii. The status report about the appointment of nodal officers and the action taken for ensuring the continuation of the education of children shall be filed by the State Governments/Union Territories within a period of 06 weeks from today. The said information shall also be furnished to the NCPCR.
- viii. Wide publicity shall be given by the State Governments/Union Territories to the suggestions made by the NCPCR as well as orders passed by the Court

Therefore, NCPCR to developed a web portal track and monitor children who are drop out and currently out of school so as to bring such children back in the main stream education system.

7. POCSO Tracking Portal:

The POCSO tracking portal was launched on July 17, 2022, by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India. The tracking portal was conceptualized in collaboration with the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). The purpose of the tracking portal is to monitor the implementation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act of 2012. It aims to track cases of child sex abuse victims in real time for compensation and facilitate services such as victim compensation and rehabilitation for their care and safety. This initiative is in line with the Commission's role of monitoring the implementation of the Act, as mentioned under Section 44 of the POCSO Act 2012. The POCSO tracking portal is a dedicated system that was realized to address the need for a centralized platform to monitor the implementation of the Act and provide services to POCSO victims.

8. NCPCR'S Management Information System (MIS) PORTAL-

NCPCR being a monitoring authority required data under various Acts in a Performa prescribed by NCPCR. To save financial, human and other resources in carrying out this process, NCPCR under Rule 17 (g) of NCPCR Rules, 2006, has initiated the process of collecting data/information through development of an online Management Information System Portal on various indicators. It

is a tool that indicates performance under various indicators that help comparing data from other sources. So far the portal is capturing data on lead indicators on implementation of Acts related to children including Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994, Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2016, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, Rights of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. In addition, provisions provided under some of the important schemes like Mid-Day Meals are also captured.

By the end of the financial year (2023-24) 88498 datasheets had been submitted and verified by the State authorities.

CHAPTER 6 INITIATIVES RELATED TO CHILD MARRIAGE

CHAPTER 6 INITIATIVES RELATED TO CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage constitutes a serious violation of children's rights, exposing them to heightened risks of violence, exploitation, and abuse. While affecting both genders, girls are disproportionately impacted. It involves the marriage of individuals under the age of 18, encompassing both formal and informal unions where minors cohabit as if married.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) was enacted with the explicit objective of combating child marriages and imposing severe penalties on those involved. Section 16 of the Act empowers the State Government to appoint Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs), tasked with preventing child marriages, gathering evidence for prosecution, and promoting awareness of its harmful effects.

INITIATIVE BY THE COMMISSION

The Commission as an initiative prevent occurrence of child marriage, particularly during significant event such as Akshay Tritiya, formally urged the Prinicpal Secretary of all State/UTs vide letter dated 11.03.2024 to issue directions to all District Magistrates (DM) or Collectors / CMPOs of all Districts of their respective State/UT to undertake following activities and send the District- wise report of action taken by CMPO to the Commission:

Activity 1: Undertake awareness programmes at Village Panchayat, Block, Urban/Ward, Zila Tehsil level.

Activity 2: Conduct meetings regarding awareness programmes on Child Marriage with Child Development Programme Officers (CDPO), Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPO), Anganwadi Workers (AWW), religious priests who may be responsible for performing marriages and service providers during marriage functions such as printing press, tent providers, managers of marriage halls, caterers, music bands and decorators etc.

Activity 3: Prepare a school wise list of children who are drop out, out of school and not attending school regularly.

- Prepare a school wise list of children absent from school without intimation to the Principal or Head Master of the school in accordance with Rule 2B (2) of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2017.
- This list was to be prepared by Education Department of the District and shared with the DM/CMPO of the District. DM/CMPO must identify children from these lists who can be at risk of child marriage. Family counselling and proper

inquiry of all such identified children must be ensured to prevent any possible child marriage.

VIRTUAL REVIEW MEETING

The Commission being an apex body in the field of Child rights and having its functions as mentioned in Section 13 (1) (a) of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005, conducted online review meetings with District officials as well Child Marriage Protection Officers (CMPOs) who has a dedicated role in respect of prevention of child marriages under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. In order to reach out to maximum Districts meetings were held online.

The Commission held 30 virtual meetings with 784 Districts of 36 States/UTs between 1st April and 23th April, 2024 to review the activities conducted by the authorities of each District of the State for prevention of child marriage. The participants of the meetings were:

- 1. Child Marriage Prohibition Officer (Not below the rank of ADM)
- 2. Head of Special Juvenile Police Units (Not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police/Assistant Commissioner of Police)
- 3. District Education Officer (DEO)
- 4. District Project Officer/ Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)
- 5. District Child Protection Officers-Integrated Child Protection Scheme/Mission Vatsalya
- 6. District Programme Coordinator- SamgraSiksha Abhiyan
- 7. Child Welfare Committee (CWC)
- 8. Labour officer

Data Received by the Commission

The Commission received data from nearly **596 Districts** spanning across **28 States and 8 Union Territories** on the Commission's child marriage portal (ncpcr.gov.in/childmarriage). For other States and Districts, it has been assumed that the activities have either not been undertaken or have been planned but are yet to be undertaken. Further, out of twenty-eight States and eight Union Territories, Goa and Ladakh have not provided information as per the format of NCPCR.

STATE WISE REPRESENTATION OF DATA RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION

Activity 1: Awareness Programme*

Acti	vity 1			
S No.	State	No. of Programme/Meeting	Participants	No. of Villages/Blocks Covered
1	Andhra Pradesh	37446	857012	13132
2	Arunachal Pradesh	338	16979	1070
3	Assam	2937	222468	7212
4	Bihar	13033	748946	10540
5	Chhattisgarh	3466	170971	3228
6	Gujarat	4628	342680	4716
7	Haryana	6181	371085	4624
8	Himachal Pradesh	15278	436954	8407
9	Jharkhand	12218	665936	13290
10	Karnataka	19789	879864	22628
11	Kerala	9241	148325	2644
12	Madhya Pradesh	20078	625221	27330
13	Maharashtra	15167	1860463	17896
14	Manipur	54	4838	121
15	Meghalaya	293	43788	461
16	Mizoram	76	3686	67
17	Nagaland	264	6420	387
18	Odisha	33276	660490	30755
19	Punjab	11089	359979	7393
20	Rajasthan	5129	367976	6094
21	Sikkim	44	3407	93
22	Tamil Nadu	16542	1460314	7064
23	Telangana	8004	222777	8233
24	Tripura	269	42501	300
25	Uttarakhand	7328	90216	3220

26	Uttar Pradesh	35377	1248394	40787
27	West Bengal	11912	170037	13773
28	Andaman and Nicobar Island	86	5437	40
29	Chandigarh	12	2150	2
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	28	4507	26
31	NCT of Delhi	1049	34003	239
32	Jammu and Kashmir	1872	138648	2237
33	Lakshadweep	16	324	16
34	Puducherry	5	210	12
Tota	al	292525	12217006	258037

Activity 2: Meeting of Officials/ Functionaries*

ACT	ACTIVITY 2				
S No.	State	No. of Programme/Meeting	Participant s	No. of Villages/Blo cks Covered	
1	Andhra Pradesh	21544	404776	22057	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	534	3007	1256	
3	Assam	2202	56855	3647	
4	Bihar	26277	236743	24735	
5	Chhattisgarh	11636	99631	7378	
6	Gujarat	4412	61038	5244	
7	Haryana	3561	507752	4266	
8	Himachal Pradesh	5921	86849	10670	
9	Jharkhand	41488	121460	12920	
10	Karnataka	41288	647340	40022	
11	Kerala	8447	54551	3009	

12	Madhya Pradesh	22064	290696	86504
13	Maharashtra	22164	900740	38962
14	Manipur	36	894	645
15	Meghalaya	336	4456	2023
16	Mizoram	121	2079	287
17	Nagaland	423	1317	750
18	Odisha	65611	499223	51539
19	Punjab	9938	138157	11242
20	Rajasthan	6119	86109	4262
21	Sikkim	25	303	65
22	Tamil Nadu	33777	718447	111976
	Telangana	12648	162948	14812
24	Tripura	219	4760	398
25	Uttarakhand	6459	34789	8977
26	Uttar Pradesh	73641	941640	52922
27	West Bengal	6790	54878	17976
28	Andaman and Nicobar Island	193	3098	50
29	Chandigarh	8	153	11
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	13	177	86
31	NCT of Delhi	339	3477	178
32	Jammu and Kashmir	1959	57402	3386
33	Lakshadweep	48	972	60
34	Puducherry	6	189	26
Tota	1	430247	6186906	542341

Activity 3: Identification of Vulnerable Children*

Activity 3				
S No.	State	Number of Children Identified	Number of Schools Mapped	No. of Villages/Blocks Covered
1	Andhra Pradesh	47754	12564	3386

2	Arunachal	70	1818	713
	Pradesh			
3	Assam	154907	29134	2719
4	Bihar	53717	21814	2638
5	Chhattisgarh	13248	24900	2910
6	Gujarat	25526	12645	3457
7	Haryana	8298	4233	144
8	Himachal Pradesh	2250	15572	801
9	Jharkhand	52062	21505	13478
10	Karnataka	7119	17779	3128
11	Kerala	2385	3299	271
12	Madhya Pradesh	99406	115437	19387
13	Maharashtra	3564	39144	8318
14	Manipur	3189	831	235
15	Meghalaya	4848	3710	88
16	Mizoram	1056	3294	654
17	Nagaland	970	1076	217
18	Odisha	11053	26415	19683
19	Punjab	10795	12525	4405
20	Rajasthan	44894	24857	1919
21	Sikkim	266	766	94
22	Tamil Nadu	38729	16004	1351
23	Telangana	9202	14101	7022
24	Tripura	2009	2013	166
25	Uttarakhand	1574	4798	287
26	Uttar Pradesh	501621	143350	181929
27	West Bengal	37984	40272	739
28	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0	159	0
29	Chandigarh	651	651	3
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	38	60	2
31	NCT of Delhi	9838	2171	145
32	Jammu and Kashmir	8133	13996	1865
33	Lakshadweep	0	96	20
34	Puducherry	29	19	12
3 1	Fuductierry	49	17	14

Total	1149023	616897	280289
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*Disclaimer: The number of blocks/villages in each district may vary according to number of programme in blocks/villages.

Upon analysing the data received by the Commission it was found that:

Activity 1- Awareness Programme: The data reveals that around 2,92,525 awareness programmes were conducted across nation where 1,22,17,006 people participated and 2,58,037 villages and blocks were covered.

Activity 2- Meeting with stakeholders: The data reveals that around 4,30,247 meetings with the Officials and Functionaries where 61,86,906 officials participated covering 5,42,341 blocks/villages across India.

Activity 3- Identification of Vulnerable Children: The data reveals that 2,80,289 blocks and villages mapped, 6,16,897 schools were identified to track the attendance of children who had been absent for 30 consecutive days without notice, as well as those who had dropped out and were no longer attending school. This effort resulted in the identification of a total of 11,49,023 such children across India.

EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

The Commission, to evaluate the effectiveness of the initiatives undertaken at the district, village, block, urban/ward, and zila parishad levels was of the view that it is essential to review the data of child marriage cases reported to NCRB.

Tabular representation of child marriage reports cases to NCRB from 2017 to 2022:

Year	No. of Cases
2017	395
2018	501
2019	523
2020	785
2021	1050
2022	1002

Based on the data published by the National Crime Records Bureau, the Commission is of the view that the increasing number of reported child marriage cases each year signifies a growing awareness of the detrimental effects of child marriage. While this trend is concerning, it also suggests a hopeful prospect for reducing child marriages in the future. Moreover, the data for 2022 indicates a total of 1002 reported child marriages in India, suggesting a potential decline in such cases. If this trend persists, it could profoundly benefit the lives of numerous children, promising a brighter future ahead.

CHAPTER 7 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW MEETINGS

CHAPTER 7 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW MEETINGS

NCPCR as per its mandate under section 13(1) of CPCR Act, 2005 hold interdepartmental review cum consultation on various issues of child rights of States/UTs with various concerned departments of the States/UTs. The main objective of these meetings is to review the present situation of implementation of laws related to children in States/UTs, and to discuss challenges, good practices and way forward for their effective implementation.

To organize the meeting with the states/UTs, a detailed exercise pertaining to indicators based on various child-related legislations was carried out. These indicators also included some of the key programmes and provisions provided under child protection. Accordingly, an agenda item with details of indicators was communicated to the Chief Secretaries and Chief Administrators of the states and UTs, respectively, for nominating nodal officers and supplying data and information as per prescribed formats meant for various departments. During the meeting, various aspects of the issues being faced by children were discussed and a state/UT-wise set of recommendations was identified.

NCPCR's core mandate as per CPCR Act, 2005 is to examine and review the implementation of the acts/laws/polices/schemes currently in place by: examining the safeguards for protection of child rights; identifying the gaps in the execution mechanisms; and addressing the challenges that are faced by both beneficiaries, that is, the children and those responsible for extending the benefits/entitlements, namely, the government authorities. Therefore, the NCPCR, with its mandate to review the laws, programmes and policies, has felt the need to adopt the strategy of organizing inter-departmental review meeting with the states. It is a comprehensive exercise involving all related departments in relation to children, wherein progress made by the state in implementing the programmes, the challenges faced, new initiatives taken and innovative programmes by the states are discussed.

The exercise also gives an opportunity to the State/UT to create a convergent platform for the development and protection of the children in the state. The Commission emphasizes upon an inter-departmental convergent platform in the state to address various issues faced by the children and to decide upon the different initiatives in a convergent manner. Moreover, this offers an

opportunity for data matching, information sharing, avoiding any duplicity in effort, finding gaps, taking appropriate decisions, etc. As children in the age group of 018 years constitute about 40 per cent of the population, a convergent platform to discuss their issues and challenges is of utmost importance.

The details of review meetings held in 2023-24 are as below-

S.No	Date of the Review meeting	State
1.	16.06.2023	Ladakh
2.	14.08.2023	Tripura
3.	25.09.2023	NCT of Delhi
4.	26.09.2023	Jharkhand
5.	27.10.2023	Maharashtra
6.	31.10.2023	Odisha
7.	15.12.2023	Uttar Pradesh
8.	20.12.2023	West Bengal
9.	26.12.2023	Chandigarh
10.	26.12.2023	Haryana
11.	27.12.2023	Punjab

Some of the key issues, common to many states/UTs that emerged during the review meetings are as follows:

- i. **Mapping of Madrasas**: Largely, there are three types of madrasas functioning in the states/UTs: recognized, unrecognized and unmapped. There is a need to conduct a survey and mapping exercise to bring to the notice of the authorities the kinds of madrasas in existence and the number of children enrolled in them. It is an important activity, which has to be carried out by the states/UTs. It will help to plan how to extend and ensure the right to free and compulsory education to children attending these madrasas.
- ii. Filling up of vacant posts of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Juvenile Justice Board (JJB)- As per the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 Child Welfare Committee and Juvenile Justice Board should be constituted in each district and vacant posts needs to be filled.
- iii. **Training of Child Welfare Committee** NCPCR as per its mandate has developed a 15 days training module for Child Welfare Committee as per the

provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. Training has to be carried out by the states/UTs.

- iv. **Compliance with the portal of NCPCR**: NCPCR has taken the step to monitor the implementation and progress made by the states on several important indicators under key legislations related to children. This is a first of its kind initiative of the Commission in the direction of evidence-based monitoring, with the involvement of state and district-level authorities. It is one of the important mechanisms to strengthen and streamline child protection process in the country. There is a need that the state departments comply with the data/information requirement for the portal.
- v. **Convergence amongst the departments/unmatched data**: The states/UTs need to establish convergence amongst all stakeholder departments for better coordination and implementation in respect to matters pertaining to child protection and development. It is required that there should be a platform at the state/UT level to hold meetings and sort out important matters.
- vi. Awareness, sensitization and training of officers on POCSO Act and other child rights matters: There is a need to create awareness, sensitization and training on POCSO and other child rights matter amongst the officers of various departments of the states/UTs.

The Inter-departmental review meeting on child protection issues with States/UTs has provided a platform to exchange views, information, practices, and knowledge in addressing the protection issues of children.

CHAPTER 8 SPECIAL REPORT ON CHILD PROTECTION IN THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL

CHAPTER 8 SPECIAL REPORT ON CHILD PROTECTION IN THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) is a statutory body constituted under Section 3 of the CPCR Act, 2005 to protect the rights of all children. The Commission is also mandated to monitor the implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012; Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015; and the Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

While fulfilling its responsibilities as laid down under the above stated Acts, the Commission comes across incidents involving violence against children that vary in nature and efforts are made to redress the matter with cooperation from the State and concerned District Administrations. However, in case of West Bengal, the State Administration have been neglecting the best interest of children and not acting as per their responsibilities under different child related Acts. The Commission has also noticed during the course of multiple enquires that the State and District Administration have been non-cooperative and rampantly disregarding the Laws.

Therefore, to highlight the deliberate mismanagement of delicate issues related to children which should otherwise be addressed in a more responsible and considerate manner, the Commission, as per section 16 sub-clause (1) of the CPCR Act, 2005 has prepared and submitted a Special Report on Child Protection in the State of West Bengal. Following points have been highlighted in the report--

a) Bombs have become fodder for a range of criminal activities, leaving in their wake a trail of tragedy. The Commission took cognizance of reports of bomb blast in the State covering incidents where around 40 children have been the victims of bomb blasts. During the inquiry the Commission not just came across mistakes, oversights and disregard of the legal procedures, it was also observed that on just important issue the State Government's cooperation with the Central agencies is negligible.

- b) Cognizance by the Commission on reports of children were being targeted and subjected to torture, inhuman and degrading treatment across the State since the conclusion of election polls in the State of West Bengal in 2021. 23 cases of post poll violence have been mentioned in the report.
- c) During the operations conducted by the Commission to rescue trafficked children it was found that several girls who were rescued were brought from West Bengal either to different State or different city within West Bengal. When West Bengal is witnessing so many cases of child trafficking, the Chief Minister herself is making insensitive statements about the girl child victims of sexual abuse which is violating the POCSO Act, 2012 passed by the Parliament.
- d) Similarly, exhibiting a callous approach towards border protection and ignoring danger for children, the State is not cooperating with the Central Agencies/Institutions in protecting our borders and children.
- e) The State is also violating the provisions of Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. West Bengal is running a parallel system of dealing with what are being called as 'destitute children' in the State. These institutions are called 'Cottage Homes' and are being run under the Cottage Scheme.
- f) Similarly, the State is not implementing Section 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education Act 2009 which focuses on giving underprivileged population access to education and including children from marginalised groups in private unaided schools. By not-implementing the said provisions, the State is depriving these children of their fundamental right.
- g) Both are Central Acts meant to extend the rights of children. The State Government that has a role in implementing the Act is not following the Law.
- h) Non-cooperation by the authorities with various Central Agencies/Institutions and misconduct against the undersigned by West Bengal Officials.

The Special Report on Child Protection in State of West Bengal has been laid down in both the Houses of Parliament i.e. in Rajya Sabha on 21.12.2023 and in Lok Sabha on 02.02.2024.

CHAPTER 9 JOINT ACTION PLAN FOR ELIMINATION OF DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE USE AMONGST CHILDREN AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

CHAPTER 9

JOINT ACTION PLAN FOR ELIMINATION OF DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE USE AMONGST CHILDREN AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Following the directions of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to prevent children from menace of drugs and substance abuse, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) with Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and concerned ministries has developed a Joint Action Plan on "Prevention of Drugs and Substance Abuse among Children and Illicit Trafficking" and released on 9th February, 2021. The Joint Action Plan - "एक युद्ध नशे के विष्द्ध"- was formulated to streamline and strategies the efforts made by various authorities, institutions, agencies to bring paradigm shifts in the direction of drugs and substance abuse prevention amongst the children in the country. Moreover, it is a framework to wean away children from drug abuse and to stop selling of drugs in surrounding areas of schools/educational and child care institutions through convergent actions in a time-bound manner. It also adopts some of the strategic interventions to prevent the reach of pharmaceutical drugs, substances and other forms of goods used as intoxicants by the children.

Joint Action Plan initially in first phase (2021-2022) was rolled out in 272 vulnerable districts identified by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. In phase II, Joint Action Plan was circulated to all the districts and District Magistrate/Collector of the district as empowered under 133 CrPc was asked to issue order to all the pharmacy/chemist shops selling schedule 'H' and schedule 'X' drugs for installation of CCTV cameras.

The Commission has virtually conducted review meetings on implementation of Joint Action Plan of all the districts in February and March, 2023 on the prescribed parameters. In 2023-2024 the progress report of implementation of Joint Action Plan on the given parameters is as below-

- i. Total **3,69,727** CCTV cameras have been installed on medical stores selling schedule X and schedule H drugs with orders of District Magistrate.
- ii. Orders issued by District Magistrate u/s 133 Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) to install CCTV cameras at medical stores selling Scheduled H & X drugs.
- iii. Total **873** cases have been registered u/s 77 & total **503** cases have been 78 of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children)Act, 2015.
- iv. Total **6,27,309** "Prahari Clubs" have been constitutes in schools. "Prahari Clubs" provides a platform for the school students to come together, meet, discuss and plan activities for their own development

- as well as that of the society to curb the menace of drugs and substance abuse.
- v. Action has been initiated in **3,68,778** matters u/s (6) of **The Cigarettes** and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution(COTPA) Act, 2003, which has the provision that, "No person shall sell, offer for sale, or permit sale of, cigarette or any other tobacco product (a) to or by any person who is under twenty-one years of age, and (b) "no tobacco products must be sold in an area within 100 yards (about 91 m) of any educational institution.

CHAPTER 10 VISIT TO DARUL ULOOM SAYEEDIYA YATEEMKHANA, BANGALORE

On the direction of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, an inspection was conducted in around 33 open shelters from 17.11.2023 to 19.11.2023 in the State of Karnataka by a team headed by the Chairperson of NCPCR and others. During the same inspection, it was brought to the knowledge of the Chairperson of NCPCR that, apart from these 33 open shelters, there were other institutions housing children and functioning as Children's Homes.

Therefore, based on the information received, it was decided to conduct an inspection at the Darul Uloom Sayeediya Yateemkhana, situated at 3rd Cross Rd, Sayeed Nagar, Kaval Byrasandra, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032, on 19.11.2023. During the visit, it was found that the Yateemkhana (an illegal orphanage) was operating under the name and style of an orphanage, housing around 200 children. It is pertinent to mention that the children were made to stay in derogatory conditions. Apart from the poor conditions, the following irregularities were found:

- The orphanage was not registered under the Juvenile Justice Act of 2015. The infrastructural requirements for accommodating such a large number of children were not fulfilled by the orphanage. There were only five rooms of approximately 100 square feet, and each room had four bunk beds for eight children. Sixteen children slept on bunk beds placed in the corridor. Around 150 children slept in two big halls used for prayer.
- The children were not sent to school, violating their fundamental right to education. No recreational facilities, such as play materials or television, were available at the orphanage.
- The conditions in which children were kept in the orphanage violated section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2005.

In this regard, while taking cognizance of the matter under Section 13(1)(j) of the CPCR Act, 2005, the Commission requested the Chief Secretary of Karnataka to ensure that an FIR be registered under Sections 42, 34, and 75 of the JJ Act, 2015, against the Head and Members of the Committee under which the orphanage was functioning, vide letter dated 20.11.2023.

A letter dated 20.11.2023 was also issued to the concerned District Collector to register the FIR and ensure the production of all children in the orphanage before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), as per Section 31 of the JJ Act, 2015, and to share details of the children and staff in the

orphanage. Since no response was received from the Karnataka authorities regarding the letter dated 20.11.2023, a summons notice dated 30.11.2023 was issued to the Chief Secretary to appear in person at the Office of the Commission on 04.12.2023.

Subsequently, based on the aforementioned observations/irregularities, the Commission was of the view that, since the Yateemkhana was affiliated with an organization, a similar situation might exist in other states. Therefore, the Commission also issued a letter dated 23.11.2023 to the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories, requesting them to investigate the status of Yateemkhanas to ascertain compliance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, ensuring their proper registration and adherence to all prescribed norms under this legislation. All States and Union Territories were asked to submit an action taken report, detailing the number of operational Yateemkhanas, their registration status, and the count of unregistered Yateemkhanas.

After issuing the letter to the Chief Secretary of the Government of Karnataka, it came to the notice of the Commission, through a media report, that an FIR had been lodged against the Chairperson of NCPCR under Sections 34, 447, 448, and 295A of the Indian Penal Code. Upon perusal of the FIR, it was found that the FIR had been lodged by one Mr. Ashraf Khan on November 21, 2023, at the Devarajeevanahalli Police Station in Bengaluru against the Chairperson of NCPCR. It appeared to be an afterthought, intended to cover up the irregularities, accusing the Chairperson of criminal trespassing and of outraging religious beliefs, punishable under Sections 34, 447, 448, and 295A of the Indian Penal Code.

CHAPTER 11 VATSAL BHARAT

CHAPTER 11 VATSAL BHARAT

"वत्सलभारत" 'Regional symposium on child protection child safety and child welfare' in Seven States/UTs of the Country.

Today, India with one of the largest children and youth population, boasts of having one of the most inclusive and stringent child protection mechanisms, globally. This journey towards building child friendly environment comprise of many conscious decisions and policies over the years. Several milestones have been achieved on way to realising a larger vision of creating an enabling environment for children to grow, develop and nurture their full potential. Amidst the continuing endeavour, it is also important to have a dialogue and reflect upon the achievements and the road ahead.

Therefore, on behalf of Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India, six One-day Symposiums "बत्सल भारत"- 'Regional Symposium on Child Protection Child Safety and Child Welfare' were conducted in different States/UTs of India. The programmes were regional events and were attended by representatives from Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), representatives from Child Care Institutions (CCIs), Members of Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC) and Anganwadi Workers from States as well as other States/UTs in the region. The Symposium was also graced by the presence of Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon'ble Minister Women and Child Development, Government of India.



The aim of the programme 'Vatsal Bharat' was to create awareness among the key stakeholders and duty bearers having different roles and responsibilities under the child related Laws. The details of the symposiums conducted are given below:

S.No.	States where	Other	Date	Number of
	the Symposium	mposium Institutions/States/		participants
	was conducted	UTs invited		
1.	New Delhi	Himachal Pradesh	02.07.2023	1899
		Uttar Pradesh		
		Haryana		
		Uttarakhand		
		Punjab		
		Chandigarh		
		Jammu & Kashmir		
		Ladakh		
2.	Bhopal, Madhya	Chhattisgarh	09.07.2023	1779
	Pradesh	Rajasthan		
3.	Mumbai	Gujarat		1772
	Maharashtra	Daman & Diu		
		Goa	22.07.2023	
		Pune		
4.	Ranchi,	Odisha	30.07.2023	953
	Jharkhand	West Bengal		
		Bihar		
		Andaman & Nicobar		
		Island		
5.	Guwahati,	Arunachal Pradesh		1107
	Assam	Meghalaya		
		Mizoram		
		Manipur	06.08.2023	
		Tripura		
		Sikkim		
		Nagaland		
6.	Varanasi, Uttar	All NGOs	08.08.2023	1900
	Pradesh			







CHAPTER 12 Activities under Divisions

CHAPTER 12 Activities under Divisions

EDUCATION

The NCPCR has been mandated under Section 31 of the RTE Act, 2009 to: (i) examine and review safeguards for rights provided under the Act and to recommend measures for their effective implementation; (ii) inquire into complaints relating to the child's right to free and compulsory education; and (iii) take necessary steps as provided under Section 15 of the CPCR Act, 2005.

In furtherance of its mandate under the RTE Act, 2009 and the functions assigned to it under Sections 13 and 14 of the CPCR Act, 2005, the NCPCR has undertaken a series of initiatives, including redressing complaints, conducting inquiries, undertaking policy interventions and programme and research initiatives. The Commission organized consultations in 2023-24, at national, regional, state and district level, with the aim of better implementation of RTE Act, 2009 to address issues concerning education policy in India.

District level Workshops on Awareness of Different Stakeholders regarding Section 17 of RTE Act, 2009 and Guidelines on Eliminating Corporal punishment in Schools

Children are subject to corporal punishment in schools; institutions meant for care and protection of children such as hostels, orphanages, ashramshalas and even in the family settings. As per section 1 (24) of the JJ Act, 2015 corporal punishment means the subjecting of a child by any person to physical punishment that involves the deliberates infliction of pain as retribution for an offence, or for the purpose of disciplining or reforming the child. As per section 17 of the RTE Act, 2009 corporal punishment and mental harassment are prohibited. The Commission as per its mandate u/s 13 of the CPCR Act, 2005 has organized sensitization awareness workshops for Principals, Head Masters of (Government and Private) Schools, DEO, DIETs etc.

S. No.	Activity Name	State	Date
1		South Goa, Goa	28.08.2023
2		Dehradun,	01.09.2023
		Uttarakhand	

3		Guntur, Andhra	08.09.2023
		Pradesh	
4		Medak, Telangana	09.09.2023
5	District level Workshops on	Karimnagar,	12.09.2023
	Awareness of Different	Telangana	
6	Stakeholders regarding	Udupi, Karnataka	13.09.2023
7	Section 17 of RTE Act 2009	Mysore,Karnataka	15.09.2023
8	and guidelines on eliminating	Cuttack,Odisha	16.09.2023
9	Corporal punishment in	Howra, West Bengal	21.09.2023
10	Schools	Hooghly, West Bengal	23.09.2023
11		Ajmer, Rajasthan	26.09.2023
12		Kota, Rajasthan	27.09.2023
13		Ranchi Jharkhand	29.09.2023
14		Jamshedpur	04.10.2023
		Jharkhand	
15		Koderma Jharkhand	07.10.2023
16		Thane Maharashtra	11.10.2023
17		Panchkula Haryana	16.10.203
18		Ratnagiri	17.10.2023
		Maharashtra	
19		Ambala Haryana	18.10.2023
20		Jammu, J & K	20.10.2023
21		Solan, Himachal	4.11.2023
		Pradesh	
22		Nahan, Himachal	06.11.2023
		Pradesh	
23		Gwalior, Madhya	20.12.2023
		Pradesh	
24		Raisen, Madhya	23.12.2023
		Pradesh	

District-level Workshops on Sensitization on Comprehensive Manual for Safety and Security of Children in schools including Cyber Safety.

In order to streamline the efforts for ensuring safety and security of children in schools, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) u/s 13 (1) (a) examined and compiled different guidelines and formed a comprehensive manual titled Manual on Safety and Security of Children in Schools. The Manual includes guidelines on different components of school safety namely, infrastructure; health and hygiene; psychosocial aspects; roles and responsibilities of teachers. It also includes monitoring mechanism

specifying the responsibilities of School Management Committees (SMCs)/Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs), Students, School Management, Block and District Education Officers, District Collector/Magistrate. The Commission, u/s 13 (h) of the CPCR Act, 2005, has organized various sensitization workshops and orientation programmes on NCPCR's manual on safety and security of children in schools for various stakeholders with special focus on cyber safety in schools in the aspirational Districts.

S. No.	Activity Name	State	Date
1		Nuh Haryana	19.10.2023
2		Moga, Punjab	03.11.2023
3		Haridwar,	04.11.2023
		Uttrakhand	
4		Chandauli, Uttar	06.11.2023
		Pradesh	
5	District level Workshops on	Uddham Singh	07.11.2023
	Sensitization on	Nagar, Uttrakhand	
	Comprehensive Manual for		
6	Safety and Security of	Chitrakoot, Uttar	09.11.2023
	Children in schools including	Pradesh	
7	Cyber Safety.	Malda, West Bengal	17.11.2023
8		Murshidabad, West	21.11.2023
		Bengal	
9		Sitamarhi, Bihar	22.11.2023
10		Begusarai, Bihar	24.11.2023
11		Ramgarh,Jharkhand	28.11.2023
12		Gaya, Bihar	29.11.2023
13		Bokaro, Jharkhand	30.11.2023
14		Khunti, Jharkhand	02.12.2023
15		Osmanabad,	04.12.2023
		Maharashtra	
16		Rajnandgaon,	06.12.2023
		Chhattisgarh	
17		Mahasammund,	08.12.2023
		Chhattisgarh	
18		Sirohi, Rajasthan	09.12.2023
19		Dholpur, Rajasthan	12.12.2023
20		Karauli, Rajasthan	14.12.2023
21		Jaisalmer, Rajasthan	15.12.2023
22		Vishakhapatnam,	16.12.2023
		Andhra Pradesh	

23	Chhatarpur, Madhya	19.12.2023
	Pradesh	
24	Khandwa, Madhya	20.12.203
	Pradesh	
25	Vidisha, Madhya	22.12.2023
	Pradesh	

Review and Consultation for Preventing drop outs from schools and reengaging out of school children

The Census 2011 data has revealed that 8.4 crore children (age group of 5-17 years) don't go to school at all. The Commission is of the view that emphasis must be laid on understanding and strengthening the preventive strategies in this regard. All the programmes, policies and related interventions of the Government should be in consonance with prevention of Out of School Children which could be a first step towards combating the problem of school drop outs, non-enrolment, and low attendance. Considering the gravity of the issue, Commission organised review and consultation programmes on the topic of preventing drop outs from schools and reengaging out of school children in various States of India.

S. No.	Activity Name	State	Date
1		Punjab	27.12.2023
2	Review and Consultation for	Tamil Nadu	05.01.2024
3	Preventing drop outs from	Karnataka	09.01.2024
4	schools and re-engaging out	Jharkhand	13.01.2024
5	of school children.	Tripura	18.01.2024
6		Assam	19.01.2024

Workshops on the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for implementing Section 12 (1) (c) of the RTE Act, 2009

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has been mandated under Section 31 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 to examine and review the safeguards of the rights provided under the Act and to recommend measures for its effective implementation. The RTE Act, 2009 is anchored in the belief that the values of equality, social Justice and democracy and the creation of a just and humane society can be achieved only through provision of inclusive elementary education to all. To make education inclusive, the RTE Act, 2009 defined the responsibility of private schools for including children from

backward and disadvantaged sections of society for bringing parity and equality of opportunity for all children to again quality education. Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, 2009 that mandates minimum 25% reservation for children from economically and socially weaker sections in private unaided non-minority schools is a step forward to provide opportunity for children from diverse social and economic backgrounds to study together in a universal environment. In view of the importance of this significant provision of the Act, Commission has organised workshops on the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for implementing Section 12 (1) (c) of the RTE Act, 2009.



S. No.	Activity Name	State	Date
1		Punjab	26.12.2023
2	Workshops on the Standard	Kerala	20.01.2024
3	Operating Procedure (SoP) for implementing Section 12 (1) (c) of the RTE Act, 2009	Goa	31.01.2024

One-Day Consultation program on "Mental Well-being of School Going Children in India" at Thane, Maharashtra

Mental health and well-being is attributed to the integral component of health that underpins our individual and collective abilities to make decisions, build relationships and shape the world we live in. Mental health is a basic human right which is crucial to personal, community and socio-economic development. Owing to the growing contemporary world, the changes brings lots of challenges leading to issues of disorders, psychosocial disabilities as well as other mental states associated with significant distress, impairment in functioning and lower levels of mental

well-being. Such concerns of mental health have also been witnessed among children. The National Education Policy 2020 highlights the importance of mental well-being of children and attempts to address this issue among children by the introduction of well-trained social workers, counsellors, and community involvement into the schooling system. As there is a perceptive increase in challenges related to psycho-social wellbeing of children. Given the need to foster emotional and behavioural safety climate in schools, a one-day consultation program on "Mental Well-being of School Going Children in India" was organized on December 11, 2023 at Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, Keshav Srushti, Utthan Village, Bhayander, Thane, Maharashtra.

CHILD HEALTH, CARE AND WELFARE

Child health, care and welfare are the cornerstones on which a positive childhood is built up. Health and nutrition services have thus been the largest interventions in India that have yielded positive results in improving health and nutrition indicators of children in this country. These services have penetrated into every habitation in the country. Moreover, the ICDS is the largest service delivery scheme for children in the age group of 0–6 years in the world. NCPCR has been playing a role, as provided under Section 13 of the CPCR Act, 2005, in assuring the services to the children through its complaint redressal mechanism, conducting spot inquiries on incidences of violation of the health rights of the children, taking suo moto cognizance, organizing events to promote health services, creating awareness, etc.

Rashtriya Poshan Maah, 2023

To celebrate **Rashtriya Poshan Maah**, 2023 and to spread awareness regarding the prevalence of malnutrition among children and how to combat the same, the Commission had requested all the SCPCRs to celebrate Poshan Maah and organise activities to spread awareness on health and nutrition of children.



NCPCR organised a **One Day Sensitization Program** in Gairatganj, an aspirational block of Raisen District, Madhya Pradesh on 21st September, 2023 on the occasion of celebrating "Rashtriya Poshan Maah", 2023. The objective of the programme was to create awareness on the "Important aspects of Health and Nutrition of Children." An exhibition showcasing the nutritious food given to children in Aanganwadi centres was also the part of the programme.

Exhibition was inaugurated by Hon'ble Health Madhya Pradesh Chairperson, Minister, and NCPCR. The program was graced by Hon'ble Health Minister, Madhya Pradesh and Chairperson, NCPCR. To sensitise the participants from Aanganwadi centres, ASHA workers, a session on health and nutrition of children, Millets in meals was delivered by Dr. A.K.Singh, Professor and Head of Neonatology, AIIMS, Jodhpur, Dr. Stuti **Sharma**, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics, Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur, and Dr. Mridula Devi, Director, Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (ICAR-CIWA), Bhubaneshwar, Odisha. The participants for the program consisted of representatives from ICPS, Anganwadi workers, Asha Workers, representatives of RBSK/RKSK and Medical Staff of PHCs/CHCs. The collective district officials by the and representatives made it a successful program.

National Consultative Meeting on "Millets in Meals" at NCPCR, New Delhi



On the occasion of celebrating "Rashtriya Poshan Maah" 2023 a National consultative meeting was held on 27.09.2023 on the subject 'Millets in meals' in NCPCR. The consultation on "Millets in Meals" aimed to bring together key stakeholders, including government officials, nutrition experts, agricultural experts, educators, and civil society organizations, to discuss and strategize the integration of millets into the Mid-Day Meal program, and Aanganwadis. This initiative seeks to promote sustainable nutrition, food security, and the well-being of school children, while also supporting small-scale millet farmers. The consultation on "Millets in Meals" seeks to pave the way for a more nutritious, sustainable, and inclusive Meal program. By leveraging the potential of millets, we aim to improve the health and well-being of school children, support local farmers, and contribute to a more resilient and food-secure future. Various officials from the concerned ministries and agriculture universities attended the meeting and had an in-depth discussion.

Consultative Meeting on "SAY NO TO JUNK FOOD"



On the occasion of celebrating "National Food Day" 2023, a Consultative Meeting to discuss the strategy for a campaign on 'Healthy Eating' targeting school children was conducted by the Commission on 20th October, 2023.

The "SAY NO TO JUNK FOOD" meeting aimed to bring together various stakeholders, including health experts, policymakers, educators, and the food industry, to discuss and strategize ways to reduce the consumption of junk food and promote healthier dietary choices among the population.

Action Taken by NCPCR in high percentage of sugar and other harmful content in energy drinks-

NCPCR under section (13)(1)(j) of CPCR Act has taken cognizance of the media reports regarding some of the health powder drinks claimed as energy drinks containing with high percentage of sugar and other harmful content for health of children viz- Bournvita, an energy drink for children. It was observed by the Commission that the product manufactured by Mondelez company is misleading the customers through its labeling, packing, display and advertisement as fails to acknowledge the correct information regarding its content. A letter was sent to FSSAI on 19.04.2023. An Action Taken report was received from FSSAI informing the Commission that cognizance and

action has been taken in the matter and notice has been issued to 32 companies for seeking scientific justification.

As per the response received from Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) vide their letter No-STD/SP-08/Ministry/FSSAI/2022F, the word "HEALTH DRINK" is not defined under FSS Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made there under. Further, Bournvita has obtained a license under Proprietary Food wherein the Food Business Operator (FBO) has to declare the nearest food product category name on the label of the food and accordingly FBO has declared Bournvita a cereal based beverage mix. NCPCR under section (14) of CPCR Act, 2005 has issued notice/summon to Mondelez India Food Pvt Ltd in the matter. Furthermore, it was submitted by Mondelez during personal appearance before the Commission that Bournvita is not a "health drink.

The Commission after its inquiry under section 14 of CPCR Act, 2005, concluded that there is no "Health Drink" defined under FSS Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations as submitted by FSSAI and Mondelez India Food Pvt Ltd .

In view, NCPCR under section (15) of CPCR Act, 2005 recommended to department of Consumer Affairs of all States/UTs that, "no drink, beverages including Bournvita and other similar products should be sold under the category of "health drink" in stores/shops in any State/UT. Letter was also issued to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Meeting on Sickle Cell Anaemia-

To discuss and gain insights on data collection, screening, and treatment strategies of sickle cell anaemia, a meeting was conducted on 10th January, 2024 in the NCPCR office. Meeting was attended by Member, Child Health, NCPCR, representatives from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Tribal Affairs. During the meeting, the Commission emphasized the need for coordinated action to address sickle cell anaemia. NCPCR highlighted the importance of data collection, screening and working methodology.

CHILD PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY



(Sensitizing Action on -Mental Health
Vulnerability through Emotional Development and
nvedana Necessary Acceptance)

Understanding the gravity of providing proper psychological intervention and counselling to children to ensure their overall well-being and development and providing psychological first-aid and emotional support to children, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) launched Tele-Counselling for children through SAMVEDNA - Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance (a Toll-Free Helpline launched to provide psychosocial mental support for Children affected during COVID 19 Pandemic) on 19th September, 2020. The Tele-counselling is being provided through a network of qualified Experts/Counsellors/Psychologists.

SAMVEDNA tele counselling service was initiated by the Commission to provide psychological support to children to address their stress, anxiety, fear and other issues during the Pandemic and later was extended for children experiencing unsettling feelings during examination period such as-anxiety, stress or any other overwhelming feeling. This service is available on a toll-free No: 1800-121-2830 from Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. This service is exclusively for children who are willing to talk and are in need of counselling. When a child/ caretaker/Parent dials SAMVEDNA 1800-121-2830, they get to speak to a professional counsellor in a safe environment.

SAMVEDNA has received 65 calls from April, 2023 to March, 2024.

Supportive Action with Holistic Approach to Build Resilience among the children of Armed Martyrs (SAHARA)

SAHARA- "Supportive, Action with, Holistic, Approach to build, Resilience among the children of, Armed Forces Personnel" was initiated as a toll free tele counselling and web link for providing emotional support, psychosocial first aid and counselling for children of BSF personnel, who laid down their lives in life of their duty. SAHARA was launched on 19th February 2021 at BSF Headquarters. SAHARA was launched by DG, BSF and Chairperson, NCPCR. The initiative was launched to provide support and guidance to the children of the martry's. SAHARA aims at strengthening the accessibility of psychological and socio-emotion support for the children of martyrs in Military, Paramilitary and Special Forces in India.

Objectives

• To assess the existing situation for the children of the martyrs and establish a desk at NCPCR to ensure counselling through available facilities and redress the other related issues pertaining to education, health, etc. as per their constitution rights and entitlements secured under various laws

- To conduct motivational talk, group counselling, initiation of creating support groups and related psychosocial aid accessible to the children of the martyrs.
- To extend additional support related to child right issue in accordance with the CPCR Act, 2005.

Total number of calls received on the Tele-Counselling (1800-1-236-236) from April, 2023 to March, 2024 are **57**.

NCPCR's intervention in matter of suicides by students of coaching centers of Kota, Rajasthan

In the matter of suicides by students of coaching institutes of Kota, Rajasthan, Hon'ble High Court, Rajasthan High Court ordered dated 25.05.2023 directed National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to formulate guidelines aimed at providing effective psychological interventions and techniques for certified counselors to assist children coping with stress and other psychological issues. On directions of Hon'ble High Court, Rajasthan, NCPCR conducted a meeting on hybrid mode on 21.06.2023 with experts from the field of mental health and other mental health institutions to collectively come up with effective solutions and recommendations for formulating a manual with guidelines for the students, teachers and other staff members in order to prevent the suicide and improve the psychological well-being of the students. Further in second round of meeting, draft guidelines were discussed, and discussions were held for planning training programs for the staff and other administration workers, allocation of resources, establish monitoring mechanisms, and foster collaboration among stakeholders. The aim was to ensure a coordinated and effective response to support students' mental wellbeing and academic success. Draft guidelines were also uploaded on the NCPCR website for comments and further recommendations. The purpose of these guidelines is to offer a structured approach to address the mental health challenges faced by students in coaching institutions. The guidelines have been submitted for further directions of Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan.

8th ASIAN Trauma Conclave with special focus on Women and Child well being and Congress on "Cognitive Behavioural Therapies across Illness & Health: Advances, Challenges & Way Forward"-

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi supported by NCPCR has organized 8th Asian Trauma Conclave under the theme of "Cognitive Behavioural Therapies (CBT) across Illness & Health: Advances, Challenges &

Way Forward" with special focus on Women and Child Wellbeing from 28th February to 2nd March, 2024.

Aims and Objective-

- i. To provide a common platform to all the stakeholders to participate in a comprehensive synthesis of research, service provision, and clinical practice in the field of Trauma Psychology in Asian countries.
- ii. To provide a platform to Researchers, Clinicians, Academicians, Healthcare Service Providers, Non Government and Government agencies, Child care organisations and students to share their experiences in psychological trauma affected children/adolescents.
- iii. To provide an opportunity to develop networking and professional association for bi/multi lateral research/training and collaboration.

Chairperson, NCPCR was the Chief Guest for inaugural of the Congress along with Director, AIIMS, Member Health, Niti Aayog and other dignitaries of ACBTA. The Chairperson, NCPCR highlighted the importance of providing counselling support to children and specially children who have experienced sexual abuse and urged the dignitaries of AIIMS to extend their help in helping children deal with the trauma and overwhelming feelings experienced by them during these uncertain situations.

Research Study on "Validation and Standardization of Indicators/ Markers of Penetrative CSA in Children's Draw-A-Person-Test (DAPT)"

The "Draw a Person" test, also known as the Human Figure Drawing Test, is a projective



psychological assessment tool used to gain insights into an individual's personality, emotions, and cognitive functioning.

Keeping the Commission's mandate in focus, NCPCR has commissioned this research study with Department of Psychiatry, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi to understand the graphic indicators associated with the drawings of children as an effort to establish commonalities and differences in obtaining sexual abuse indicators across children with and without sexual abuse. The validity and reliability of the draw a person test was measured based on the signs used by clinicians to identify sexual abuse. So, to assess the reliability and validity a sample of 300 students (100 CSA and 200 non-CSA) from children care institutions in Delhi, Gurgaon, Alwar,

and Rewari was collected, excluding those with intellectual disabilities or chronic illnesses were involved in the study. The Assessment tools used by the clinicians included the Draw-a-person Test (DAPT), MSCSA-62, CPSS, and CITES-13.

The specific objectives of the study were to:

- ➤ Identify the graphics indicators of penetrative sexual abuse that are generally considered by clinicians and make a comprehensive list of the same.
- ➤ Compare the graphic indicators associated with the drawings of children in an effort to establish commonalities and differences in obtaining sexual abuse indicators across children with and without sexual abuse.
- ➤ Establish their liability and validity of the clinical indicators for CSA in DAPT.

The study revealed that a higher proportion of females were found among those who experienced abuse. Drawing analysis highlighted two major findings:

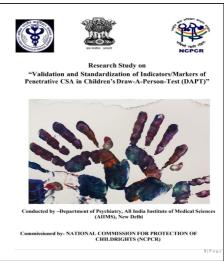
- Elongated objects and stick figures were identified as possible indicators of sexual abuse by art therapists, and distortion of figures was associated with poor adjustment under stress in children with abuse experiences.
- Additionally, transparency of clothing was observed more frequently in drawings of children who experienced abuse, possibly reflecting anxiety or dependency issues.

The study suggests 19 broad indicators of penetrative sexual abuse in children's drawings, emphasizing the need for culture-specific research in India. These indicators include disproportionate body parts, thin necks, hand and finger omissions, emphasized waistlines, transparency of clothing, elongated legs, female children drawing male figures, and contextual elements like fences or ground lines. Multiple indicators in a child's drawing may warrant clinical evaluation for sexual abuse, pending confirmation of any mental or behavioral disorders.

Recommendations-

Target Professionals: Psychologists/Social-Workers/Professionals working with children.

1) Instruction for conducting DAPT test: Take a plain white A-4 sheet, pencil, and eraser. Ask the child to draw a human figure. If child the child asks



boy/girl or child/adult, big/small etc. tell him/her anything you want to draw but draw a human being or a human figure. Tell the child that this is not a drawing test or test of your drawing skills, so feel free to draw any human figure.

- 2) There are 8 indicators and if multiple (at least any 5 out of these 8 indicators) indicators are there in the child's drawing (in absence of any mental and behavioural disorder/disability e.g intellectual disability or suspected low intelligence), then the child should be suspected for CSA.
- 3) If the child is above 5 years inappropriate touch can be explored and then should be clinically evaluated for sexual abuse.
- 4) DAPT test can also be repeated on other days to see the pattern in child's drawing and then if the indicators remain in all drawings, then CSA should be suspected.

Research Study Report is available on NCPCR's website. Link for the research study report is -

https://ncpcr.gov.in/uploads/171163099866056a96477d9_reserach_study-on-validation-and-standardization-of-indicators-of-csa-in-childrens-dapt.pdf

LAWS RELATING TO CHILDREN

Consultation programs organized by the Commission (2023-2024)

Sr. No.	Date	Remarks
a)	21.11.2023	A Consultative meeting was conducted by NCPCR
		about the draft model guidelines pertaining to
		section 39 of the Protection of Children from
		Sexual Offenses (POCSO) act. Representatives
		from the Department of Women and Child
		Development (DWCD) actively engaged in the
		meeting, providing invaluable insights and
		contributions.
b)	30.11.2023	A Consultative meeting was conducted by NCPCR
		about the draft model guidelines pertaining to
		section 39 of the Protection of Children from
		Sexual Offenses (POCSO) act. Diverse non-
		governmental organizations (NGOs) and
		stakeholders enthusiastically engaged in the
		meeting, contributing significant insights and
		suggestions.

2. Spot Inquiries done by the Commission:

S.No	Date	Place	Remarks
a)	07.03.2023	Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh	NCPCR Team conducted a visit to Sampoorna Nagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh in a case involving the suicide of a 17-year-old girl after the uploading of objectionable videos/pictures on Instagram.
b)	09.06.2023.	Dungarpur, Rajasthan.	NCPCR team visited in a case of sexual assault involving sixminor girls in Dungarpur, Rajasthan.
c)	05.02.2024	Latur, Maharashtra	NCPCR team visited in a case of sexual assault of a minor girl at Latur, Maharashtra.

a) NCPCR team visited in a case of sexual assault involving six minor girls in Dungarpur, Rajasthan on 9th June 2023.

The Commission, in accordance with section 13(1) (j) of the CPCR Act, 2005, initiated an investigation based on a complaint received through a newspaper article on May 31, 2023. The article reported the arrest of a government school principal, Ramesh Chandra Katara, for allegedly sexually exploiting six minor girls in Dungarpur district, Rajasthan. The complaint was filed by a parent of a 12-year-old girl. Upon taking cognizance of the matter, the Honorable Chairperson directed the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to conduct an on-ground inquiry. On June 9, 2023, a two-member team consisting of Ms. Anu Chaudhary (Registrar-NCPCR) and a consultant visited Dungarpur, Rajasthan to gather preliminary information about the incident, the actions taken, the assistance provided to the children, and the progress of the inquiry. During their visit, the NCPCR team met with the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), the Protection Officer of the District Child Protection Unit (PO-DCPU), and other officials. They discussed the incident and informed the DCPO about a planned meeting with all relevant district administrative stakeholders to discuss necessary actions for the safety of the children and related matters. The NCPCR team also visited the families of the victims and had conversations with them. The parents confirmed that they have been receiving support from the police during this difficult time. They also informed the team that the accused individual is

currently in custody and under arrest. In addition, the NCPCR has issued a notice to the Superintendent of Police, requesting a copy of the First Information Report (FIR) and other related documents for further investigation.

b) NCPCR team visited in a case of sexual assault of a minor girl at Latur, Maharashtra.

The Commission under 13(1)(j) of CPCR Act, 2005 took suo-moto cognizance in the matter of sexual assault of a minor girl in Latur of Maharashtra.

- 1. A NCPCR team headed by Registrar, NCPCR visited Latur, Maharashtra on 5th February, 2024 for the purpose of conducting fact-finding in the matter.
- 2. During the visit, the NCPCR team interacted with District Collector, Superintendent of Police, Investigating Officer, Child Welfare Committee, District Child Protection Unit, officials from Social Welfare department and other district officials at Latur District.
- 3. During the visit, the NCPCR team interacted with victim's family at Walandi, Latur, Maharashtra.
- 4. The NCPCR team came to know that the incident took place from 15th to 19th of January. The accused in the matter is well known to the victim and her family; he used to live on front of the victim's family. Further the accused used to take the minor with him on his motorcycle to a nearby place called 'Falat' (which is accused's uncle house) where he committed sexual assault (oral sex).
- 5. In the course of five days the victim minor was subjected to sexual assault for five times, for four days at 'Falat' and once at the house of accused. After which the minor refused to go with the accused. Later, upon such refusal and crying by the minor on seeing the accused, her mother came to know about the incident.

c) NCPCR Team conducted a visit to Sampoorna Nagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh in a case involving the suicide of a 17-year-old girl after the uploading of objectionable videos/pictures on Instagram.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR, herein referred to as the Commission) received this case based on the information available through news reports. The Commission expressed deep concern regarding the tragic incident involving the suicide of a 17- year-old minor girl subsequent to the uploading of objectionable videos/pictures on Instagram in Lakhimpur Khiri District, Uttar Pradesh. Under section 13(1) (j) of the CPCR Act 2005, the Commission deemed it necessary to inquire the matter firsthand

to ascertain the actual situation and realities surrounding this case. Hence, a team comprising two members, led by Ms. Preeti Bharadwaj Dalal (Member, NCPCR), accompanied by Mr. Sandeep Chaudhary (Consultant-LRC), visited Sampoorna Nagar in Lakhimpur Khiri District, Uttar Pradesh, with the objective of gathering firsthand information and verifying the facts surrounding the incident. Fact finding was done to understand the status of the ongoing investigation, evaluate the responses of all the relevant authorities and officials involved in handling the incident, and observe any significant developments in the case, with a particular focus on understanding the situation from the victim's perspective.

Lapses Observed During Inquiry:

- a) The police have exhibited a delay in registering the FIR, initially showing reluctance in responding to the deceased's family complaint.
- b) The district seems to lack adequate policing and safety measures for young girls, given the alleged existence of numerous other missing cases involving girls. There remains a lack of explanation regarding these missing or untraced girls.

JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION) OF CHILDREN

Meeting to find out ways to curb the cases of death of minor due to attack by stray dogs on 21.03.2024

The Commission came across various cases where the dogs attacked children, and the worst situation arose when such attacks were the cause of death and severe diseases like rabies. Stray dogs and bites have been long-standing issues, especially in densely populated urban areas. To address the issue and in view of its sensitivity, where the rights of children and dogs may be affected at any step, the Commission, under the directions of the Chairperson, NCPCR, decided to hold a meeting with other ministries to find ways to curb the issue in the best possible manner.

Therefore, the Commission held a meeting on 21.03.2024, headed by the Chairperson, NCPCR, in the presence of the Member Secretary, NCPCR, Members, NCPCR, and representatives from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Law and Legislative Affairs, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying. The meeting commenced with the introduction and opening remarks from the Chairperson, who threw light on the recent incidents of children being attacked by stray dogs, emphasising the immediate need to address the concerning rise in stray dog attacks and

bites, particularly concerning child safety and the protection of children's right, as mandated by existing legal frameworks.

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying convened a comprehensive discussion to address the complex challenges surrounding stray dog management and animal welfare. These challenges were acknowledged as significant obstacles to effectively implementing the protective measures. The Ministry emphasised that rather than introducing new regulations, the consensus was to focus on adapting and refining the current legal framework to address the evolving needs of the situation better.

Furthermore, a critical concern was raised during the meeting: the lack of accurate data regarding the number of stray dogs, particularly in rural areas. Furthermore, there was a recognition that simply removing dogs from streets without a comprehensive plan could inadvertently exacerbate the problem by creating a vacuum that might be filled by more dangerous animals.

The ongoing Animal Birth Control (ABC) campaign, aimed at sterilising stray dogs, was highlighted as a crucial initiative. However, challenges such as inaccurate counting and the movement of dogs from rural to urban areas complicate the effectiveness of this program. The meeting emphasised the importance of refining the ABC campaign to ensure accurate data collection and address the migration patterns of stray dogs. The amount of money for sterilising a dog is approximately 1100 rupees, and over Rs 10 lakhs is the budget for this campaign per year.

Additionally, there were suggestions to enhance community involvement in managing stray dog populations, including educating the public on dog behaviour and promoting responsible pet ownership. Practical measures such as establishing designated feeding stations away from crowded areas and addressing the shortage of veterinarians through expanded educational opportunities were proposed. Furthermore, developing a centralised portal for tracking and managing stray dog populations was discussed as a potential solution to improve data management and coordination efforts.

The discussion further delved into enforcing prohibitions regarding the ownership of certain dog breeds, with a steadfast focus on shielding children from potential harm posed by aggressive breeds. Robust compliance mechanisms were advocated to prevent instances of dangerous canines threatening children. It was decided that the Commission shall hold a further meeting to raise the issue in the presence of MoHUA, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Environment,

the Ministry of Forest, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, the Panchayati Raj, NCERT, animal-related NGOs, and child-related NGOs to find ways to curb the issue.

Closing Remarks

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all attendees to work collaboratively towards finding sustainable solutions to mitigate the stray dog menace and related issues, focusing on the well-being of both humans and animals in the community. Stakeholders, government agencies, non-governmental organisations, and community leaders collaborate to implement practical solutions. These solutions should encompass a range of strategies, including targeted educational campaigns, community outreach programs, enhanced animal control measures, and improved access to healthcare services for victims. Overall, the meeting underscored the need for a holistic and collaborative approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges of stray dog management and animal welfare. By leveraging existing resources, refining policies, and fostering community engagement, effective solutions can be developed to ensure the well-being of both humans and animals in society.

Inspection Of Open Shelter Homes Of Karnataka

In pursuance of directions of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) constituted teams for inspection of 33 NGO-run Open Shelters in Karnataka State. For undertaking inspection of Open Shelter Homes established under Section 43 of JJ Act, 2015 and Rule 22 of JJ Model Rules in various district of Karnataka four teams were constituted. During the visit, the teams identified certain irregularities and lapses in the provided list of shelter homes and made the following recommendations:

- a) FIRs has been registered on the spot at the time of visit for following Open Shelters namely- Rewards Open Shelter, Integrated Development Organization Open Shelter, Viswa Bharthi Gramin Abivridi Mahilavikas.
- b) Registration of FIRs Recommended for the Open Shelters namely-Goutam Gramin Swamseva Abhivrudhi Samste Open Shelter, Don Bosco Charitable Society, Shri Guddad Sidrameshwara, Shikshana Samsthe, Sneha Open Shelter, Sahara Open Shelter, Shree Siddeshwar Vidya Peeta, BOSCO Yuvakendra Open Shelter.
- c) CLOSURE RECOMMENDED for following Open Shelters namely-Rewards Open Shelter, CURDS Open Shelter, Prachodana Open

- Shelter, Yashaswani Education Women Welfare Society, Shrushti, Shri Danamma Devi Mahila Mandali. Darideepa Panchalinga Education Trust. Vinay Vivekananda, Rural Development Society Open Shelter, Surabhee Open Shelter, Siddheswara Rural Development Society respectively.
- d) It was observed that the victims under the POCSO are residing in Open Shelters for long term. Whereas as per JJ Act they are to be placed in CCIs only if deemed necessary for long term placement and this should be based CWC order.
- e) DCPO and CWC lack awareness and sensitivity regarding the provisions of the JJ Act, as evidenced by their improper placement of the victim under the POCSO Act for long term in Open Shelter.
- f) In some Open Shelters, it was observed that children are residing without the required CWC order, which constitutes a violation of Section 18 of the JJ Act, 2015.
- g) The fairness of SCPS is questionable, given that these shelter Homes lack even basic facilities, and some of them do not possess valid registrations.
- h) The staff at some of the Open Shelters lacked training and a basic understanding of the JJ Act and Rules.
- i) The children residing in some of the shelter Homes are not enrolled in schools or even provided with distance education or vocational courses, constituting a violation of JJ Act, 2015, and Section 3 of the RTE Act, 2009.
- j) Some Open Shelters lacked proper logistics and infrastructure, posing a safety concern and also in violation to JJ Act, 2015.

VISITS TO CCIs

S. No.	Location	Visit/ Inspection	Date/ Month	
		Observation Home for Boys		
		Special Home for Boys	10 th and	
1.	Chandigarh	Observation Home for Girls	11 th April,	
		Special Adoption Agency	2023	
		Snehalaya for Girls		
		Observation Home for Boys		
		Special Home for Boys	18 th and	
2.	Jaipur	Observation Home for girls	19 th of	
		(Balika Grah) (CNCP)	April, 2023	
		Special Adoption agency		
		Observation Home for Girls		
3.	Aim on	Observation Home for Boys	20 th April,	
3.	Ajmer	Special Adoption Agency for Boys	2023	
		and Girls		
		Observation Home for Boys	OOth April	
4.	Dausa	Special Adoption Agency for boys	20 th April, 2023	
		and girls		
5.	Chikballapur	Rewards Open Shelter		
6.	Bengaluru Rural	Sarvodaya Service Society		
0.	Deligaturu Kurai	Open Shelter		
7.	Bengaluru Rural	Sparsha Trust Open Shelter		
8.	Bengaluru Rural	Sneha Bharathi Education		
0	Deligaturu Kurar	Society		
9.	Bengaluru Rural	CURDS Open Shelter		
10.	Hasan	Prachodana Open Shelter		
11	Kalaburagi	Integrated Development		
11.	Raiaburagi	Organization Open Shelter		
12	Kalaburagi	Viswa Seva Mission Open		
14	Raiabaragi	Shelter		
13	Kalaburagi	ViswaBharthi Gramin Abivridi		
10.		Mahilavikas		
		Goutam Gramin Swamseva		
14.	Kalaburagi	Abhivrudhi Samste Open		
		Shelter, Chincholi		
15	Belgavi	Yashaswani Education Women		
10.	2018411	Welfare Society		

16	Belgavi	Shrushti
17.	Vijaypura (Bijapur)	Aishwarya Mahila Samsthe
18.	Vijaypura (Bijapur)	Vijayalakshmi Education &
		Welfare Society
19.	Vijaypura (Bijapur)	Shree Siddeshwar Vidya Peeta
20.	Vijaypura (Bijapur)	Shri Danamma Devi Mahila
20.	vijaypara (Dijapar)	Mandali
21.	Davanagere	Don Bosco Charitable Society
22.	Dozonogere	Darideepa Panchalinga
44.	Davanagere	Education Trust
23.	Davanagere	Vivekananda
04	Bengaluru Rural	Shri Guddad Sidrameshwara,
44.	Deligalulu Kulai	Shikshana Samsthe
		Shri Mallikarjun Grameena
25.	Bagalkot	Abhirudhi Kala Yuva Sangha
		Open Shelter
26.	Dharwad	Darshan Open Shelter
27.	Dharwad	Sneha Open Shelter
28.	Haveri	Shree Shakti Open Shelter
29.	Haveri	Sahara Open Shelter
20	Harrani	Vinay Rural Development Society
30.	Haveri	Open Shelter
31.	Shivamogga	Surabhee Open Shelter
20	01.:	Siddheswara Rural Development
32.	Shivamogga	Society
22	D 1 III	BOSCO Yuvakendra Open
33.	Bengaluru Urban	Shelter
34.	Bengaluru Urban	YMCA Open Shelter
	Bengaluru Urban	Sparsha Trust Open Shelter
	Bengaluru Urban	Vidyaranya Open Shelter
37.	Bengaluru Urban	Paraspara Trust Open Shelter
		<u> </u>

CHAPTER 13 ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

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Child labour in any form is detrimental to the physical, mental and cognitive growth and development of the child. The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 addresses this social concern and prohibits the engagement of children who have not completed 14 years of age in any employment, and of adolescent children in hazardous occupations, and regulates the conditions of work where employment of adolescents is permitted. Further, Sections 22, 23 and 27 of the Factories Act 1948 prohibit employment of children in certain situations in factories. Then, the Beedi and Cigar Workers Act, 1966 strictly prohibits the employment of children in said industry. Plantation Labour Act, 1951, under Section 25, regulates the conditions of work for children in plantation industry. Also, the Domestic Workers (Registration, Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2008 prohibits employment of a child as domestic worker or for any such incidental or ancillary work under Section 14. Thus, as mandated under Sections 13 and 14 of the CPCR Act, 2005, the NCPCR has been dealing with cases of complaints pertaining to child labour, or children in distress, and taking initiatives to address the issues of child labour through different approaches.

Rescue Operations in Delhi establishments

Conducted rescue operation of the minors employed/ engaged as child labourers in various parts of Delhi in collaboration with Sahyog care for you from 17.04.2023 onwards. Total 75 children were rescued and FIRs have been lodged.

Initiative of NCPCR for elimination of Rag picking by children and initiating the process of their rehabilitation

Rag-picking constitutes an economic activity with significant financial implications for plastic recycling. The Commission has been aware of multiple engagements revealing that children in urban areas are selling their gathered plastic waste to intermediaries at low rates, primarily for household provisions. The Commission emphasizes the paramount concern of a promising future for children and families involved in rag-picking, recommending the establishment of cooperatives to ensure fair and just payment in line with market value for waste materials.

In pursuit of this objective, the Commission has conducted meetings with diverse stakeholders, including the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL),

State and District authorities, NGOs, Cooperative Experts, and Experts in Recyclers in Delhi and Mumbai. These meetings were held through virtual platform on 11.02.2023, 29.04.2023, 22.09.2023, 18.12.2023, and in physical settings, convened in the Commission's office in Delhi on 27.04.2023 and 14.09.2023, as well as in Mumbai, Maharashtra, on 17.05.2023. Additionally, this initiative led to its first establishment of Bhopal Rag Pickers Cooperative Society, on January, 2024. As a result, an MoU was signed between the Sarthak Foundation and the recyclers, as well as different NGOs (like- Sarthak Foundation and Pashupati Groups), on 13th of March, 2024.





Rescue Operation 1st June 2023-30th June

NCPCR celebrated Elimination of child Labour month in the honour of World Day Against Child Labour by conducting rescue operation in 20 states 145 districts and 145 places all over India as part of the " of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" in different Districts starting from 1st -30th June 2023. Particularly focusing on the areas of Railway Stations / Railway Road (within 1 km radius) This rescue operation provided an occasion for unified commitment and action to address the issue of child and bonded labour through convergent action by all the authorities, departments, and stakeholders. Stakeholders involved in the rescue operation were, SDM/ADM, CWC, Labour Inspector, DCPO, DPO, SJPU, Childline, DLSA, Task Force Officers, Volunteers (NCCA, ISS), NGOs, RPF. Virtual meeting on 03.11.2023 with North Zone, 06.11.2023 with South Zone,07.11.2023 with East Zone, 08.11.2023 with North East Zone, 09.11.2023 with North West Zone regarding pan-India rescue operation.

Outcome of the rescue operation- Around 2150 children were rescued from 145 places all over India, 258 FIRs were registered and 149 Challan were issued. Compensation and back wages are under process.



Letter to Principal Secretaries of Labour Department of all States

On 7th August 2023, a letter was issued Principal Secretaries of Labour Department, along with Department of Revenue and Mines regarding request for providing district -wise details list of brick kiln through the link (https://brickkiln.ncpcrweb.in).

Letter to Principal Secretaries of WCD/Social Welfare of all States

On 19.09.2023 letter issued Principle Secretaries of Department of WCD/Social Welfare of all States /UTs, along with CP SCPCR regarding Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti from 2nd October to 10th October 2023, across the country regarding rescue and rehabilitation of Children in Street Situation (CISS).

Rescue Operation from 20th November -10th December 2023

Under its mandate, the Commission has been conducting various activities towards elimination of Child and Adolescent labour such as rescue operations, programs, research and fact -finding studies etc. taking their efforts forward NCPCR has organized a pan-India month long rescue campaign from 20th Nov-10th Dec, 2023 across the Country.

The campaign focussed on rescuing children and adolescent engaged in labour from different child labour prone areas in the Districts including small and big establishment such as factories, dhabas, industries, hotels, shops, organized and unorganized sector such as mines, brickkilns, construction sites. Moreover, rehabilitation of children will be ensured as per the **Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.**

- > Around 1464 Children and Adolescents were rescued
- ➤ Back wages released to 274 children
- ➤ Compensation under Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order in case of M.C. Mehta vs State Of Tamil Nadu And Others, 1996 were released to 100 children
- Compensation under Bonded Labour Act were released to 52 children.

January 2024- Rescue Operation in Metro Stations of Delhi, NCR

In compliance to the directions passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held periodic meetings with States/UTs were held to discuss issues pertaining to the Children in Street Situations and also directed them to conduct rescue operations of identified hotspot in their area. Under its mandate, the Commission has noticed that number of children are in Street Situation and are engaged /involved in activities like child labour, child begging etc. in the vicinity of metro Stations in Delhi, NCR (Noida). Total 30 children were rescued and six FIRs has been lodged.



Campaign for Children in Street Situation (CiSS)

NCPCR u/13 (1) of CPCR Act, 2005 undertook the work for plight of Children in Street Situation (CISS) on the occasion of Republic Day 2024 and conducted rescue operations of identified hotspots in States/UTs from $12^{\rm th}$ January (Swami Vivekananda Jayanti) 2024 to $31^{\rm st}$ January 2024.

CHAPTER 14 Child Sexual Abuse Matters (CSAM)

CHAPTER 14 Child Sexual Abuse Matters (CSAM)

The CSAM program, initiated by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), is aimed at proactively targeting online sexual content involving children and safeguarding their rights. In line with this initiative, the NCPCR has issued a notice to YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook, expressing concern over the availability of such content on their platforms. In response, representatives from these social media platforms have met with the chairperson of the NCPCR to discuss strategies for identifying and reporting such content, as required by Section 19 of the POCSO Act. This proactive engagement demonstrates the commitment of these platforms to collaborate with law enforcement authorities in combating the dissemination of illegal and harmful content related to children. The collaboration between the NCPCR and the social media platforms exemplifies a proactive approach to addressing the issue of online sexual abuse and upholding the legal provisions outlined in the POCSO Act.

Achievement

Through the diligent work of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), FIR has been lodged in two states against a social media channel and its proprietor. The filing of these complaints was carried out in accordance with the directives issued by the NCPCR and pertains to the dissemination of videos that depict potentially inappropriate actions involving mothers and sons. The NCPCR has been actively taking measures against individuals who upload content related to child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and the platforms that facilitate the hosting of such objectionable material.

S.No	States	FIR Number	Dated
1.	Maharashtra	01/24	11.01.2024
2.	Bihar	01/24	17.01.2024

POCSO E Box:

Total Cases/ Complaints of Child Sexual Abuse received through POCSO E -Box:

Cases of child sexual abuse were also addressed through POCSO E Box. During April 2023– March 2024, a total number of 9299 hits were received on the POCSO E Box and total number of 203 complaints were registered which

were received through POCSO E Box. All received cases were given prompt attention and reports were sought from concerned authorities of State/UTs. The month wise status is shown below:

Total no. of complaints received through POCSO E-box during 01-04-2023 to 31-03-2024

Total no. of hits received on POCSO E-box - 9540 Total no. of complaints covered under POCSO Act 2012 – 203

Sr. No.	Month	Total no. of Hits received through E-box			Total no. of complaints covered under POCSO Act 2012, received through POCSO E-Box	
		Calls	E-Button	Email	Total	
1	Apr 2023	0	693	0	693	11
2	May 2023	0	735	0	735	7
3	Jun 2023	0	697	0	697	25
4	Jul 2023	48	521	0	569	47
5	Aug 2023	102	938	0	1040	13
6	Sep 2023	66	1155	0	1221	15
7	Oct 2023	05	708	0	713	17
8	Nov 2023	07	450	06	463	23
9	Dec 2023	07	878	0	885	14
10	Jan 2024	0	649	0	649	3
11	Feb 2024	0	1588	0	1588	11
12	Mar 2024	0	287	0	287	17
	Total	235	9299	06	9540	203

CHAPTER 15 LEGAL INTERVENTIONS AND SPECIAL ENQUIRIES

CHAPTER 15 LEGAL INTERVENTIONS AND SPECIAL ENQUIRIES

1. Inquiry by NCPCR in the case of rape and murder of a seventeen-yearold minor girl in a District of West Bengal

The Commission under Section 13(1) (j) of CPCR Act, 2005 took cognizance of a complaint dated 21.04.2023 wherein it was informed that a seventeen-yearold minor girl was gang raped and murdered in a district of West Bengal. During the inquiry, it was observed that there were numerous discrepancies and procedural lapses on the part of investigating authorities. Further, the police had not even registered a missing complaint; instead when the family members of the victim protested demanding a CBI inquiry, the police Lathi charged and threw tear gas at the protestors which included children. Further, the police took the victim's body from the family members and brutally dragged the girl's body on the streets in an inhumane manner without even making sure that the body is fully covered with clothes. During the interaction with the doctor, who examined the minor victim girl, it was observed that the post-mortem was done by 3 male doctors and not even a single female doctor was present at the time of autopsy. Moreover, the doctor did not even carry a copy of the autopsy report with him. Furthermore, the statement of the family members had not been recorded by the police and the death of the victim was declared as suicide without even evaluating and considering all the facts in the situation. Therefore, it was recommended to the Chief Secretary of West Bengal that the investigation of the case may be transferred to a Central Agency preferably CBI for a fair and impartial investigation as well as speedy trial of the case. It was also recommended that stringent action be taken against the Police official/authorities who had failed to conduct a proper and fair investigation as per the Provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and Rules 2020 and fabricated a fallacious story of "Suicide".

2. Inquiry by NCPCR in the matter of sexual harassment of minor girls by the headmaster of a School in Uttar Pradesh

The Commission under Section 13(1) (j) of CPCR Act, 2005 took cognizance of a complaint dated 25.11.23 in the matter of sexual harassment of minor girls by the head master of a School in Uttar Pradesh. A team of NCPCR officials, headed by Member, NCPCR visited Uttar Pradesh on 25th November, 2023 for the purpose of conducting a fact-finding in the said matter. It was informed

that the school's headmaster, who also served as a science teacher, deliberately called out the minor victim girls to his office under the pretext of having their assignments checked and thereafter, sexually harassed them. Further, the headmaster used to bribe the minor girls and warn them about the repercussions of disclosing his acts. Furthermore, statements of 15 minor victims were recorded by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in the presence of NCPCR team wherein they had affirmed that they were sexually harassed by the school's headmaster. Therefore, it was recommended to the Education Department to incorporate a dedicated POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) session into the student's Curriculum Module at the School for the staff members and students to receive regular training on child sexual abuse awareness, prevention strategies, and mandatory reporting procedures. It was further recommended to establish safe and accessible channels for reporting incidents of sexual harassment without fear of retaliation or judgment and to have clear and comprehensive policies against sexual harassment that define unacceptable behaviour and provide information on available support resources.

3. Inquiry by NCPCR regarding "17 year-old girl suicide case after uploading objectionable videos/ pictures on Instagram"

The Commission under Section 13(1) (j) of CPCR Act, 2005 took suo-moto cognizance of a newspaper report, highlighting the tragic suicide of a 17-yearold minor girl from Uttar Pradesh. During the Inquiry, the mother of the deceased revealed that the accused sexually assaulted her daughter and disseminated a nude and objectionable video of her on various social media platforms. During the Inquiry, it was observed that victim was blackmailed by the accused for the purpose of love jihad, pressurized to convert her religion, beaten and threatened to be killed by the accused and his family. Further, it was observed that the victim was discovered hanging from a ceiling fan in her home. Furthermore, it was informed that the family, residing on the first floor, was a tenant who had been harassing the family for 8-9 months, claiming ownership of the shop due to a short circuit. Moreover, it was informed by neighbours and community members that minor girls have been involved in love affairs, with many never returning home. Families avoid legal complaints due to societal concerns and fear of dishonour. Nearby villages are also known for their notorious criminal history and may be infiltrated by the same community near the Indo-Nepal border. Therefore, it was recommended that close vigilance should be ensured to prevent future incidents and appropriate pathways should be devised to ensure quality education, skilling girls, repatriation, and reintegration of such minor girls. Further, immediate registration of FIRs concerning other missing girls was recommended and

submission of a status report detailing the progress on cases was requested from the State.

4. Inquiry by NCPCR regarding gang rape of a 6th-class minor girl in a School in West Bengal

The Commission under Section 13(1) (j) of CPCR Act, 2005 took cognizance of a complaint of a gang rape of a 6th class minor girl in a School in West Bengal on 18.03.2023. The incident was witnessed by a classmate and involved three accused persons, two of whom gang-raped the victim and one also videographed the crime. The NCPCR team visited the school to conduct a thorough fact-finding, interacting with the victim's family and investigating officers. They found numerous discrepancies and procedural lapses in the investigation. During the inquiry, it was observed that the Commission's team was interrupted by the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WCBPCR) Chairperson who was conducting interviews with media and putting the victim's identity in jeopardy. Further, the doctor confirmed that the victim's examination was conducted after her mother's consent, and no marks or semen samples were found. However, through the investigation, it came to light that three accused persons were present on the day of the incident. Moreover, it was observed during the process of fact-finding IO failed to follow the basic procedures/requirements such as wearing gloves and collecting of forensic evidences from the place of incident and it was informed by the victim and her mother that the whole incident of gang rape was videographed through mobile phone by one of the accused. Therefore, it was recommended to the Chief Secretary, West Bengal to offer interim compensation for victim girl's rehabilitation through District Magistrate of the concerned district and to transfer the victim and witnesses to free boarding schools for protection. It was also recommended to provide them the benefits from MGNREGA and National Livelihood Mission for employment and income generation. Further, it was recommended to appoint Child Welfare Officers (CWC) in all districts and to establish One Stop Centres in West Bengal for children's best interest.

5. Inquiry by NCPCR regarding rape of minor girl in West Bengal

The Commission took suo-moto notice of a report about a 15-year-old girl in West Bengal, who was sexually assaulted and killed by a 21-year-old man. The accused was a drug addict, married twice, and had a child. A team of officials headed by Member Secretary, NCPCR conducted a fact-finding visit to West Bengal, to identify procedural lapses in the investigation and police negligence. The NCPCR team visited the concerned Police Station, but the Investigating Officer failed to appear or meet officials, indicating callous

behaviour. Further, it was also observed that the CCTV footage showed the victim and her friend walking past the City Centre Mall, after which she was seen sitting behind the accused on his bicycle, however due to lack of CCTV cameras, the exact location where the girl was taken remained unknown. Furthermore, it was also observed that the investigating officer had not checked the victim's call records or mobile details, as she did not have her own phone. Moreover, the police also failed to record statements from the victim's family members or investigate the social media accounts of the minor victim. The investigating agency also failed to include provisions under the POCSO Act in the initial registered FIR. Therefore, it was recommended to the Chief Secretary, West Bengal to provide necessary counselling, compensation and assistance to the parents and family members of the deceased girl and to issue necessary directions to take action against all such persons/shopkeepers who keep or sell illicit drugs/contraband drugs to any minor or major nearby school premises or otherwise. Further, it was recommended to the office of the DGP to take disciplinary action against the District Police Officials for not following the due process of investigation and conducting a fair investigation and to increase police patrolling to ensure safety of minors around schools. It was also recommended that steps should be taken to ensure sensitization of locals, minors, school authorities regarding safety of minors and drug abuse.

6. Inquiry Regarding Misconduct Against Chairperson, NCPCR, by the Officials of West Bengal during the Fact Finding Process in Kolkata-Security Breach thereof.

The Commission took suo motu cognizance of a complaint received through web news report of Republicworld.com on 27th March, 2023 titled "Minor Girl Murdered in Kolkata's Tiljala, wherein a chaotic scene was witnessed on the Kolkata's Tiljala area after the body of a seven year old minor girl was murdered, found at a neighbour's house". During initial inquiry, it has come to the notice of the Commission through the said report that the Police officials arrested the accused who allegedly killed the girl in the name of human sacrifice. It also came to the notice of the Commission that after the incident came to light, many angry protestors in large numbers including the members of victim girl's family, took to the streets on Monday i.e. on 27th March, 2023 and blocked several roads, Bandel Railway gate and caused disruption on the Southern Railway branch of Sealdah. As a result, around 20 trains were affected due to the blockade. The angry protestors had also blocked the public transport near the Picnic Garden-Howrah route.

Attempt to stop the visit of NCPCR's enquiry team- A team of NCPCR, headed by Chairperson, NCPCR, accompanied by Member Secretary and two Consultants reached Tiljala, Kolkata on 31.03.2023 at about 03:15 p.m for the purpose of conducting a thorough fact finding. The information of this was given to the State Government on 28.03.2023, seeking their assistance to make arrangements for Liaison officer, security, logistic arrangement and further arrange meetings/interactions with the victim parents, Investigating Officers, and the doctor who conducted the autopsy of the victim girl. However, no information with regard to the same was conveyed to the Commission till the night of 30.03.2023. In the meanwhile, the Commission has come across an information that there might be a strong possibility of security breach during the visit of NCPCR, and the fact finding process of the NCPCR might also be obstructed/interrupted. Accordingly, the same was conveyed to Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, DGP West Bengal, and Union Home Secretary vide Commission's letter dated, 30.03.2023. It was only after the matter brought to the notice of the Union Home Secretary, the details of Liaison Officer and other details were made available to the Commission only through WhatsApp message and no formal communication was given by the Government of West Bengal, although no details of security arrangements for the visit were shared with the Commission.

Criminal conspiracy and recording the proceedings without permission-During the fact-finding, it came to the notice of the Commission, that that two cameras (Camera 1 was a body-cam placed on a table and Camera 2 was a webcam connected to a Wi-Fi with no storage in the room) were covertly put on a predetermined angle within the officer-in charge's room with the intention of illegally monitoring and intercepting the Commission's factfinding process. The recording was being done without the Commission's knowledge or agreement, and when confronted with the situation and questioned about it, the Officer-in-charge said that "the same has been done with the order of the superior officers." It is pertinent to mention that the recording and a subsequent sharing of the information poses a bigger question on the intention of the West Bengal police. Moreover, it is impossible to rule out any motives for manipulating the victims or even jeopardising the Commission's report. The presence of two cameras, wherein the body-cam placed at a specified angle was being monitored elsewhere and the second camera having no immediate storage in the room was transmitted to a third party is a matter of Cyber Forensic Investigation.

It is to be highlighted that, the conduct of the West Bengal Police was pre planned/arranged and all the requisite motive to record and transmit the information to a 3rd party was premeditated. Therefore, a criminal conspiracy

between several officials of West Bengal Police to record and disclose the information without the consent or an agreement with an intention of causing wrongful loss by interfering into the fact finding process violates Section 72 and 72A of IT Act, 2000 r/w Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. Also, recording and transmitting the process of NCPCR fact-finding process in which the victim girl's family was also a part, the identity of the victim girl's family may have been compromised which amounts to the violation of the Judgment passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Nipun Saxena vs UOI, 2019 and also the provisions of Section 228A of IPC, 1860, Section 23 of POCSO Act, 2012 and Section 74 of JJ Act, 2015.

Manhandling and physical assault of Chairperson, NCPCR, Shri Priyank Kanoongo strongly objected on observing the placement of the cameras. Reacting upon the same, the SHO told the Chairperson that the recording of process of NCPCR fact-finding was being done on the directions of the superior authorities. Thereafter, the Chairperson insisted that the camera should be handed over to the superior authority of West Bengal Police. While the Chairperson NCPCR was moving out from the room, Biswak Mukherjee, SHO along with 6-7 Police Personnel blocked the passage by closing the door to confine and restrain the movement of the Chairperson and further manhandled/physically assaulted the Chairperson in Tiljala Police station. The Chairperson was also threatened to life by the SHO on the pretext not to handover the camera to the superior authorities.

Chairperson NCPCR somehow managed to move out from the Police Station and reached the Hotel. Subsequently, Senior Police officers of the rank of Joint CP and DCP, West Bengal Police came to meet the Chairperson NCPCR and requested to pardon the errant Police Officials for their misconduct. Chairperson then requested the Police Officers to record his statement and lodge an FIR in the said incident and to also ensure that the illegal recording shall not be misused. In response the Police Officers replied that action could only be taken after obtaining the directions from their superior authorities. Subsequently, after 15-20 minutes, the DCP again turned up and recorded the written statement of Chairperson NCPCR, based on which an FIR was registered in PS Tiljala.

After receiving a copy of the FIR, the Commission determined that all applicable Sections were not invoked in this matter and Section 72 and 72A of IT Act, 2000 r/w Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Sections 186, 187, 189, and 357 of the IPC, 1860 and other relevant provisions of law were not included in the FIR. Also, the disciplinary action against the errant Police Officer, SHO Tiljala, is not equivalent to the serious misconduct committed. Further, transferring the SHO, PS, Tiljala to the Training Academy

is merely a formality and is not in accordance with a fair and just procedure of law.

CHAPTER 16 NORTH EAST CELL

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North East India is one of the most important regions of our country comprising of eight States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. The North-eastern region of the country has complex geo-socio-political issues posing unique challenges w.r.t its terrain and other complexities unique to each of 8 NE States. North East India is also considered as gateway to South East Asia and is being looked upon as a growth engine of country in existing times. The 8 States of NER shares its porous international boundaries with neighbouring countries viz. China, Nepal, Bangladesh, Tibet, Bhutan, Burma and Myanmar, making it a strategic area of focus for the Government of India. Majority of the population in the NER has Tribal inhabitants in its States and the region generally has been considered to be a backward enclave in a progressing economy and one of the most challenging regions of the country to manage.

In recent years, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, concerted efforts have been made by the Union Government of India to bridge this gap between various States of NER with the mainland India to create an environment of inclusion, growth and development on all fronts. The region has been accorded top priority for development under the prime minister's agenda of transforming India. The Prime Minister has laid special emphasis on the North Eastern Region in his priority for the country and has envisaged a vision for NER as "India's North East, India's Pride". North East Region, due to its strategic geo-socio politico placement, offers tremendous opportunities for the country to become its growth engine. The Government of India is looking to develop NER as a Gateway to South East Asia under the Prime Minister's Act East Policy.

The New India is growing rapidly over the past decade and has seen strong improvements on development indicators. The nation is standing at a juncture wherein plan for a promising future, building on its achievements and ensuring the demographic dividend being harnessed to its complete potential warrants crucial importance. As a truly young nation, developing our human capital has become critically important to sustain and alleviate our current growth curve.

Children being the citizens of India as per the rights conferred to them by the Constitution of India, play a vital role in overall progress of the nation.

Investing in children becomes a strong entry point for inclusive growth and breaking inter-generational cycles of exclusion, lack of access, poverty and deprivation in a region like NER. It is imperative that as much as the nation focuses on investing on its children, the more it becomes future ready with an efficient, healthy and promising workforce who would eventually add on the strength and prosperity of the country.

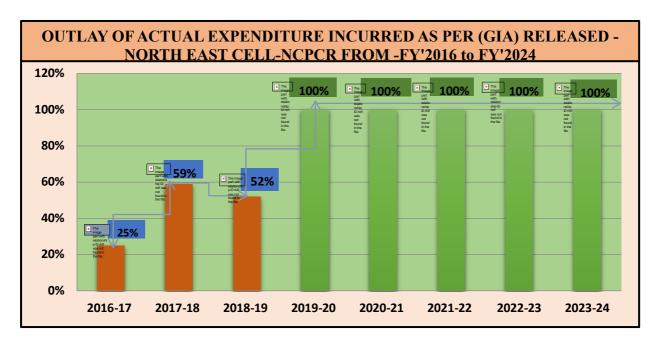
To enable a strong, prolific and future ready children and youth, multipronged approaches are required instead of initiating action in silos. The protective mesh for mitigation of inadequacies in children of NER requires to be fostered by focusing on domains of child health, child education, child psychology and sociology, juvenile justice systems, children in labour situations and other laws and legislations relating to children.

Also, in consonance with the norms of the Government of India, the Commission has been year-marking 10% of its total budget for undertaking activities in the NER year on year. Historically, since the inception of this Commission, the focus on NER was felt important; however, the Commission was able to make nascent intervention by making few visits, dealing with certain grievances and handful of programmatic activities. Over the years, especially since 2016-17 onwards dealing with children of NER has become a serious business case for the Commission.

The Commission has progressed from merely a good to do space to making strategic fruitful initiatives in NER. The activities under the various themes of the Commission have grown multi-fold. There an exponential rise in the structured efforts put in by this Commission. An example of which could be, earlier in 2013-14 the approved budget for NER was 51.4 lakhs. However, since last 4 financial years, the Commission has been making 100% utilisation of the budget in each financial year. The approved GIA has increased from 51.4 Lakhs to now 2.5 crore in FY 2023-24 which is almost 250% increase. The year on year spend of NER is as follows:

The Commission has been persistently taking initiatives at the grass root level with grass root organisations of NER by organizing periodic sensitization workshops, seminars, conventions, review meetings, research initiatives on various thematic aspects of child rights and child protection. The North East Cell of the Commission through its District and State level initiatives has reached out to its stakeholders including children inhabiting in remote areas, border areas, displaced and inaccessible tribal sects, natural and man-made disaster prone areas, and minority communities etc. of NER.

Sl. No.	Funds sanctioned	Funds allocated	Funds utilized	Percentage of Fund utilized
	in Lakhs	in Lakhs	in Lakhs	in Lakhs
2016-17	190	95	23.34	25%
2017-18	190	143.69	84.15	59%
2018-19	180	135	70.05	52%
2019-20	117	117	116.86	100%
2020-21	117	55.91	55.91	100%
2021-22	170	95.66	95.66	100%
2022-23	208	2.08	2.08	100%
2023-24	250	2.50	2.50	100%



In the Financial Year 2023-24 following activities have been undertaken by the North East Cell of the Commission viz:

Seven Days State Level Residential Orientation-cum-Sensitization Workshops on Training Of Chairpersons and Members Of Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) of Various Districts in State of Assam As mandated under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, the State Government by notification in the Official Gazette, shall constitute Child Welfare Committees

(CWC) for every district to exercise the powers and discharge the duties conferred on children in need of care and protection (CNCP).

CWC is a primary body for addressing the issues related to children in need of care and protection (CNCP). It is also mandatory to form a CWC under the JJ Act, 2015 in every district of



the State. CWC acts as facilitators for all child welfare related activities in the

district. The Committee plays the role of a watchdog at the district level and ensures that standards of care are maintained in all Child Care Institutions any incident of exploitation and abuse are addressed by CWC.

As per Rule 91 of the J.J. Model Rules 2016 (as amended in 2021), one of the functions of NCPCR is to develop training module for stakeholders under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. Further, as per Rule 89 (5),



The said programme was intended to improve the personal, social, methodological and technical skills as required under the JJ Act 2015, JJ Rules

2016, subsequent amendments in Act and Rules, Mission Vatsalya and the Adoption Regulations. The programme also aimed to the CWC members and help the Chairperson-to be equipped with knowledge and skills and function as a competent authority to take important decisions in a timely manner and in the best interest of the child.



Following four days residential training workshops for the Chairpersons and Members of CWCs in various States of NER viz:

S.	State	District	Activity Date
No.			
1.	Meghalaya	Shillong	19 to 23 June 2023
2.	Sikkim	Gangtok	23 to 29 June 2023
3.	Nagaland	Kohima	19 to 25 June 2023
4.	Tripura	Agartala	23 to 29 June 2023

One Day "State Level Sensitization, Orientation-cum-Consultation Workshop on Digital Portals of NCPCR

As per the as per the mandate of the Commission under Section 13(1) of the CPCR Act, 2005, and as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India under SMWP(C) of 4/2020 and SMWP (C) of 6/2021dated 09/05/2021, the Commission has developed various digital portals to ensure timely, efficient and seamless monitoring and tracking of various data related to violations and deprivation of child rights. In this regard, the Commission has developed the following Portals viz:

.

The digitized mechanism of collecting the information can be successful only when there is a proper understanding amongst the stakeholders who responsible for feeding the information on-ground. The information from analysed/reports generated from these portals, from time to time, are submitted to Hon'ble Courts, Central Ministries and other higher forums as and when required. The information filled, reflects the performance/compliance and status of State/District etc.



To sensitize the stakeholders regarding the usage of the portals and apps mentioned above, the Commission held a "One Day State Level Sensitization, Orientation-cum-consultation Workshop on the Digital Portals of NCPCR with the concerned stakeholders in the following States viz;

S.	State	District	Activity Date
No.			
1.	Meghalaya	Shillong	26.06.2023
2.	Nagaland	Kohima	23.06.2023
3.	Tripura	Agartala	29.06.2023
4.	Sikkim	Gangtok	18.03.2024

One Day Convention on Child Rights For Territorial/ Autonomus/ Development Council Under The Sixth Schedule Of The Constitution Of India In Assam And Tripura

In the North-Eastern Region, apart from the Councils that come under the Sixth Schedule, Autonomous District Councils and Developmental Councils are also present in the State of Manipur and Assam. A sizeable number of children inhabit in the tribal areas under the administrative control of these Councils. Provisions have been made thereby conferring special status with specific powers to Autonomous, District Councils for administration of Tribal region of NER. Regional, Territorial, Autonomous District and Developmental Councils of NER can play a vital role to ensure the rights of children in connection with their health and nutrition, protection against abuse, sexual offences, torture, trauma, maltreatment, neglect, street situations, labour situations, child trafficking and any/all violations and deprivations pertaining to the rights of children.



In order to ensure effective monitoring of various aspects related to child rights and child protection issues, the Commission has established a dedicated North East Cell. As per the mandate of NCPCR under Section 13 (l) (h) of the CPCR Act 2005, the NE Cell, NCPCR had organised a one day "Regional Level Orientation cum Consultation workshop of Autonomous/ Territorial Council of North East Region (NER) on Child Rights in Guwahati, Assam" in joint collaboration with Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR) and State Child Protection Society (SCPS), Assam at Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati on the 29th June 2022. Territorial/Autonomous/ Development District Councils of Mizoram, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura (including Chief Executive Members) of Northern Region States were invited for Regional level consultation.

More than 100 representatives of Territorial/Autonomous/ Development District Councils of Mizoram, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura, officials from Assam State Child Protection Society and Assam SCPCR participated in the said workshop.

S.	State	Name of Council	District	Activity Date
No.				
1.	Tripu	Tripura Tribal Areas	Khumulwng	14-08-2023
	ra	Autonomous		
		District Council		



One Day "State Level Workshop on Handling POCSO Cases For Prosecutors And Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPUs) / Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPO) in Nagaland

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 has been implemented as a gender-neutral special law regulating the sexual offences against children. This Act provides for protection of children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography with due regard for safeguarding the interest and wellbeing of children at every stage of judicial process, incorporating child-friendly procedures for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and trial of offences and provision for establishment of Special Courts for speedy trial of such offences.

Moreover, the issues of non-reporting of child sexual offences, long delays in



disposal of sexual abuse cases and the absence of strict punitive punishment for offences committed against children were addressed through the implementation of this Act. A provision under this Act makes reporting of child sexual offences as mandatory and provides for timelines for each and every authority/stakeholder that needs to be followed for speedy disposal of cases. Though, a decade long implementation of the law since its enactment shows there are still issues being faced by authorities in understanding of the various

provisions and building capacity for support services. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, as provided under Section 44 (1) of the POCSO Act, 2012 & Rule 12 of the POCSO Rules 2020 has been playing the role of monitoring body in respect to the implementation of the Act.



One Day State and District Level Workshops on Cyber Safety And Security of Children in Schools and Elimination of Corporal Punishment in Schools

A one-day State level workshops on Cyber Safety and Security of Children in Schools and Elimination of Corporal Punishment in Schools in various Districts of NER was organized in technical collaboration with State Commission for Protection of Child Rights as per the Table below:

S. No.	State	District	Date
1.	Assam	Nagaon	05.03.2024
2.	Assam	Morigaon	06.03.2024

3.	Assam	Biswanath	23.02.2024
4.	Assam	Lakhimpur	26.02.2024
5.	Assam	Udalguri	04.03.2024
6.	Assam	Darrang	05.03.2024
7.	Assam	Baksa	23.02.2024
8.	Assam	Charaideo	28.02.2024
9.	Assam	Sivasagar	27.02.2024
10.	Sassams	Nalbari	22.02.2024
11.	Assam	Barpeta	23.02.2024
12.	Assam	Goalpara	26.02.2024
13.	Assam	Kamrup - Metropolitan	26.02.2024
14.	Assam	Chirang	06.03.2024
15.	Assam	Dibrugarh	26.02.2024
16.	Assam	Dima Hasao	02.03.2024
17.	Assam	Hojai	29.02.2024
18.	Assam	Karbi Anglong	04.03.2024
19.	Assam	Sonitpur	22.02.2024
20.	Assam	Kamrup - Rural	19.02.2024
21.	Assam	Karimganj	07.03.2024
22.	Tripura	Dhalai	29.02.2024
23.	Tripura	Gomati	05.03.2024
24.	Tripura	Khowai	04.03.2024
25.	Tripura	North Tripura	06.03.2024
26.	Tripura	Sipahijhala	02.03.2024
27.	Tripura	South Tripura	06.03.2024
28.	Tripura	Unakoti	28.02.2024
29.	Tripura	West Tripura	01.03.2024
30.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	11.03.2024

31.	Assam	Guwahati	11.03.2024
32.	Nagaland	Kohima	11.03.2024
33.	Assam	Nalbari	11.03.2024

Sensitization Workshops on Dealing with Exam Stress Amongst Children During Pariksha Parv 6.0 Campaign Of NCPCR

Inspired by Hon'ble Prime Minister's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', the Commission

celebrates 'Pariksha Parv' every year to celebrate exams along with children. The main objective of the programme is to support children in overcoming the stress related to exams, and discussing steps to mitigate anxiety and examination pressure. Moreover, Pariksha Parv intends to change the outlook of children, parents and teachers towards exam stress and overcome their anxiety before exam results.

One of the activities being organized under the Pariksha Parv 6.0 campaign is the District-level



sensitization-cum-orientation programmes covering different States and different districts within a State. The programme is intended to sensitize parents and teachers through School Management Committees (SMCs), and Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs).

During this programme session on different issues related to exams stress among children will be discussed by the Expert (resource person) nominated by the Commission in consultation with TCPCR.

To successfully conduct these sensitization-cum-orientation programmes and to ensure that more and more number of children benefit from these programmes, NCPCR in collaboration with State Commission is for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) and District Administration of Aspirational Districts and Districts having Blocks having high Tribal population, organised

workshops on "Dealing with Exam stress amongst children during Pariksha Parv 6.0 Campaign.



52 such programmes were organized in the following districts of following States viz:

S. NO.	DATE	STATE	DISTRICT
1	26.02.2024	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	PAPUM PARE
2	27.02.2024	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	NAMSAI
3	28.02.2024	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	LONGDING
4		ASSAM	GUWAHATI
5	07.03.2024	ASSAM	BAKSA
6	05.03.2024	ASSAM	DARRANG
7	06.03.2024	ASSAM	MORIGAON
8	26.02.2024	ASSAM	TAMULPUR
9	27.02.2024	ASSAM	UDALGURI
10	06.03.2024	ASSAM	CHIRANG
11	01.03.2024	ASSAM	HOJAI
12	27.02.2024	ASSAM	JORHAT
13	28.02.2024	ASSAM	MAJULI
14	26.02.2024	ASSAM	GOLAGHAT
15	29.02.2024	ASSAM	DHEMAJI
16	01.03.2024	ASSAM	NORTH LAKHIMPUR
17	04.03.2024	ASSAM	SONITPUR
18	04.03.2024	ASSAM	BISWANATH
19	27.02.2024	ASSAM	TINSUKIA

S. NO.	DATE	STATE	DISTRICT
20	29.02.2024	ASSAM	CHARAIDEO
21	04.03.2024	ASSAM	KOKRAJHAR
22	27.02.2024	ASSAM	DIBRUGARH
23	26.02.2024	ASSAM	DHUBRI
24	26.02.2024	ASSAM	GOALPARA
25	26.02.2024	ASSAM	KAMRUP METRO
26	08.03.2024	ASSAM	CACHAR
27	06.03.2024	ASSAM	HAILAKANDI
28	07.03.2027	ASSAM	KARIMGANJ
29	29.02.2024	ASSAM	SIVASAGAR
30	05.03.2024	ASSAM	DIMA HASAO
31	05.03.2024	ASSAM	KARBIANGLONG
32	23.02.2024	ASSAM	BARPETA
33	05.03.2024	ASSAM	NAGAON
34	02.03.2024	ASSAM	WEST KARBIANGLONG
35	29.02.2024	MANIPUR	IMPHAL WEST
36	28.02.2024	MANIPUR	IMPHAL EAST
37	26.02.2024	MANIPUR	KAKCHING
38	22.02.2024	MANIPUR	BISHNUPUR
39	27.02.2024	MANIPUR	THOUBAL
40	23.02.2024	MIZORAM	MAMIT
41	22.02.2024	MIZORAM	AIZWAL
42	23.02.2024	MIZORAM	KOLASIB
43	24.02.2024	MIZORAM	CHAMPAI
44	24.02.2024	MIZORAM	SERCHHIP
46	28.02.2024	NAGALAND	WOKHA
47	01.03.2024	MEGHALAYA	RIBHOI
48	05.03.2024	SIKKIM	WEST DISTRICT
49	05.03.2024	TRIPURA	KHOWAI
50	02.03.2024	TRIPURA	SIPAHIJALA
51	01.03.2024	TRIPURA	WEST TRIPURA
52	05.03.2024	TRIPURA	GOMATI

VISITS OF COMMISSION IN NER:

A. VISIT TO TRIPURA

On 15th August 2023, the Chairperson, NCPCR along with Member Secretary, Senior Technical Expert, North East Cell, Senior Technical Expert,

Health and Psychology, Consultant, Laws Relating to Children and consultant, POCSO Division of NCPCR visited Government Higher Secondary School, Narsinghgarh, a school situated in the bordering village of West Tripura which is also a bordering village under 'Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)'. Chairperson and Members of Tripura State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TCPCR), Secretary and Director, Department of Social Welfare, Government of Tripura, ADC, West Tripura District, Officers of Police Department, West Tripura, Aanganwadi Workers, West Tripura, District Education Officer and DCPO, West Tripura were also present for the said meeting.

The Chairperson of NCPCR hosted the Independence Day flag in the said school and subsequently held a meeting with all the stakeholders present. The Chairperson NCPCR and Tripura SCPCR addressed the stakeholders and discussed about certain pertinent issues related to Child Trafficking, Child Education, Corporal Punishment in School, Safety and Security of Children in Schools, Child Health and Nutrition, Mid Day Meal, Children in Street situations, related aspects.

The Chairperson responded to queries, concerns of the stakeholders in the said meeting in presence of the officers of the State Government of Tripura.

ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM वत्सलभारत" 'REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CHILD PROTECTION CHILD SAFETY AND CHILD WELFARE' ON 12TH AUGUST 2023 (SATURDAY) AT KALASHETRA KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI ASSAM.

On behalf of Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government

of India, NCPCR is organizing a one-"वत्सलभारत" day Symposium 'Regional Symposium on Child Protection Child Safety and Child Welfare' 12th August 2023 on (Saturday) at Kalashetra Khanapara, Guwahati Assam. The programme was a regional event and was attended by representatives from Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (11Bs), District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), representatives from Child Care



Institutions (CCIs) and Anganwadi Workers from across the 8 States of North Eastern Region. The Symposium was graced by the Hon'ble Chairperson and Member Secretary, NCPCR along with senior officials from the presence of Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon'ble Minister Women and Child Development, Government of India.

Following duty bearers were invited for the said regional symposium viz;-

- i) Child Welfare Committees (CWCs),
- ii) Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs),
- iii) District Child Protection Units (DCPUs),
- iv) Superintendent/ In-charge and any other representative from the Child Care Institutions (CCIs)
- v) Village Child Protection Committees Ward Child Protection Committees/Anganwadi Workers/Anganwadi Supervisors.

Inter-Departmental Review on Child Rights of Tripura held on 14th August 2023.

An Inter-Departmental review meeting cum consultation to assess the implementation status of legislations on Child Rights, orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, NCPCR Guidelines, Schemes, and Services pertaining to the protection of child rights within the state of Tripura was convened on August 14, 2023, at 3:00 PM in Hall No-4, Pragna Bhavan, Agartala.

The said Review said meeting was chaired by Shri. Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson, NCPCR, and graced by the esteemed presence of Smt. Jayanti Debbarma, Chairperson, State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TCPCR), Smt. Rupali Banerjee Singh, Member Secretary, NCPCR, Smt. Sharmila Choudhary. Among the participants were delegates from NCPCR, Members of TCPCR, Secretaries, and Heads of Departments representing various government entities of Tripura.





The proceedings of the meeting commenced with the felicitation of the Chairperson, NCPCR, Chairperson, TCPCR, followed by a Welcome Speech delivered by the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare & Social Education, Tripura. There upon, a brief presentation on the basis of compiled report of all the departments on the pointers given by the Commission was made by Department of Social Welfare & Social Education, Tripura. Throughout the course of the review cum consultation, the Hon'ble Chairperson, NCPCR, offered a series of recommendations to different Departments.

Two-Day Regional Convention for the North-Eastern States on the Available Millets In The Northeast Region of India And Their Benefits in Nutrition, Mid-Day Meals (MDM), Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) And Take Home Rations (THR) At CAU, Imphal

As per the available information, approximately 3.3 million children in India are malnourished and 1.7 million of them have severe acute malnutrition. The nutritional indicators in several Indian states are poor: 42 per cent of children in Bihar, 42 per cent in Uttar Pradesh, 39 per cent in Jharkhand and 46 per cent in Meghalaya are stunted, according to the National Family Health Survey, 2019-



21. Malnutrition in childhood perpetuates the cycle of poverty and ill-health, reduces productivity, and slows economic growth. The extraordinary efforts of Government of India resulted in the announcement of year 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYM). India being the largest producer of millets in the world has the responsibility of making millets popular and increasing

awareness among the masses. Millets have long been a staple of the regional diet because of their durability and high nutritional value. At present, few varieties of small millets are sporadically grown by the tribal farmers and consumed in parts of Assam and adjoining the North-Eastern states (Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Sikkim) in limited quantity.

With these facts in view, NCPCR in collaboration with College of Agriculture, Central Agricultural University, Imphal organized a "Regional Convention of North Eastern States on the Available Millets in North Eastern Region of Bharat and its Benefit in Nutrition, MDM, Aanganwadis and Take Home Raashan" with following broad themes on March 4th and 5th, 2024 at College of Agriculture, Central Agricultural, University, Imphal Imphal, Manipur

VISIT TO TRIPURA

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situated in the bordering village of West Tripura which is also a bordering village under 'Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)'.

Chairperson and Members of Tripura State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TCPCR), Secretary and Director, Department of Social Welfare, Government of Tripura, ADC,



West Tripura District, Officers of Police Department, West Tripura, Aanganwadi Workers, West Tripura, District Education Officer and DCPO, West Tripura were also present for the said meeting. The Chairperson of NCPCR hosted the Independence Day flag in the said school and subsequently held a meeting with all the stakeholders present. The Chairperson NCPCR and

Tripura SCPCR addressed the stakeholders and discussed about certain pertinent issues related to Child Trafficking, Child Education, Corporal Punishment in School, Safety and Security of Children in Schools, Child Health and Nutrition, Mid-Day Meal, Children in Street situations, related aspects. The Chairperson responded to queries, concerns of the stakeholders in the said meeting in presence of the officers of the State Government of Tripura.

CHAPTER 17 JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH CELL

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Dedicated Special Cell for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

The NCPCR U/s 13 (1) of CPCR Act, 2005 (an Act passed through Parliament of India) is mandated to protect, promote and defend the rights of children in the country. The Commission is also mandated to monitor the special Acts meant for children, such as RTE Act, 2009, POCSO Act, 2012 and JJ Act, 2015.

After abrogation of Article 370, the following Acts are in-force in Jammu & Kashmir:

- CPCR Act, 2005;
- JJ Act,2015;
- POCSO Act, 2012;
- RTE Act,2009;
- Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994;
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006; and other child-related acts

The Commission, in its 39th Statutory Meeting held on 27 August 2019, decided to create a dedicated cell for J&K and Ladakh, which has been constituted vide order dated 11 December 2019 and is now functional. The objectives of the cell are to coordinate inter- departmental consultative-cumreview meetings on rights of children with concerned officials of both the UTs from different departments/ministries and to monitor the redressal of grievances in the Commission received from these UTs.

Initiatives of the Commission in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

- Creation of Online Facility (E-button) for the Children of J&K and Ladakh-
- The Commission has created a dedicated, child-friendly bilingual online portal to register grievances. The portal is active and has been functioning from 7 January, 2020.
- The link of this special portal is available on the home page:http://www.ebaalnidan.nic.in/JKL/registercomplaint.aspx
- In FY' 2022-23, the Commission undertook sensitization of Chairpersons and Members of CWC on salient provisions of various Child Rights

legislations and Acts and sensitization on undertaking real time monitoring of CCIs through MASI App in all the districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

• Has undertaken inspections of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in 20 Districts of Jammu and Kashmir region. So far 82 inspections of CCIs have been completed and reports of the same have been generated on the MASI App of the Commission.

CHAPTER 18 GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

CHAPTER 18 GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

Redressal of grievances pertaining to violation of the rights of children is one of the core functions provided under the CPCR Act, 2005. As per Section 13(1) of the CPCR Act, 2005, the Commission is to inquire into complaints and take *suo-motu* notice of matters relating to: deprivation and violation of child rights; non-implementation of laws providing for the protection and development of children; and non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardship and ensuring welfare of the children. Also, in order to provide relief to such children, the NCPCR is required to take up the issues arising out of such matters with appropriate authorities. Thus, keeping all this in view, the mandates on redressal of grievances, a to reach out to children of the last mile.

Children, as the future citizens of the country, are the builders of the nation. Thus, it is the responsibility of the nation to provide a safe and conducive environment to the children for their holistic development. However, according to the media reports and data recorded in NCRB, cases of crime against children/child rights violation have been increasing expeditiously, which is horrifying and a threat to the future of our country. The Commission receives complaints through post, in person, email, E-BaalNidan and POCSO e-box. The complaints are also forwarded by a Ministry/Department or registered in Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System(CPGRAMS). The Commission has a dedicated system for the effective redressal of these grievances.

During the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, the Commission took cognizance of 46417 complaints. All the complaints have been processed. However, during this period, reports have been received from the State/District Authorities in 7508 complaints, including for the pending complaints from the previous years.

State-wise Data of Grievances, 2023-24 (receipt and redressal of complaints)

S.	States	Pending	Fresh	Total	Closed	Pending
No.		as on 01-	received		during	as on
		04-2023	during		April 2023	01-04-
			April 2023		- March	2024
			- March		2024	
			2024			
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	16	2	18	9	9
2	Andhra Pradesh	672	92	764	140	624
3	Arunachal	22	3	25	2	23
	Pradesh					
4	Assam	331	2222	2553	394	2159
5	Bihar	898	283	1181	404	777
6	Chandigarh	42	15	57	0	57
7	Chhattisgarh	232	6045	6277	964	5313
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	1	1	0	1
9	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	1096	1019	2115	271	1844
11	Goa	86	7	93	29	64
12	Gujarat	671	982	1653	33	1620
13	Haryana	416	436	852	87	765
14	Himachal Pradesh	41	8	49	5	44
15	Jammu & Kashmir	30	23	53	15	38
16	Jharkhand	808	160	968	135	833
17	Karnataka	878	776	1654	143	1511
18	Kerala	737	69	806	105	701
19	Ladakh	0	65	65	1	64
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	977	15595	16572	1922	14650
22	Maharashtra	815	212	1027	241	786
23	Manipur	229	1	230	41	189
24	Meghalaya	74	2	76	19	57
25	Mizoram	32	0	32	7	25
26	Nagaland	92	1	93	20	73
27	Orissa	1328	607	1935	513	1422

28	Puducherry	22	3	25	3	22
29	Punjab	292	86	378	40	338
30	Rajasthan	662	8295	8957	490	8467
31	Sikkim	30	0	30	7	23
32	Tamil Nadu	601	3412	4013	179	3834
33	Telangana	837	160	997	221	776
34	Tripura	86	591	677	7	670
35	Uttar Pradesh	3714	3772	7486	798	6688
36	Uttarakhand	312	70	382	49	333
37	West Bengal	554	1383	1937	208	1729
	Others	38	19	57	6	51
Tot	al	17671	46417	64088	7508	56580

	Subject-wise summary of complaints (2023-24)						
Heads		Pending as on 01- 04-2023	Fresh received during April 2023- March 2024	Total	Closed during April 2023- March 2024	Pending as on 01-04- 2024	
		1	2	(1+2) 3	4	(3-4) 5	
1	Education	2694	3305	5999	587	5412	
2	Child Health, care, welfare or child development	2311	15558	17869	3371	14498	
3(i)	JJ or care of neglected or marginalized children or children with disabilities	2795	24293	27088	1554	25534	
3 (ii)	Social Audit/ Legal Cell	4087	118	4205	809	3396	
4	Elimination of Child labour or children in distress	2193	916	3109	813	2296	
5	Child psychology or sociology	35	140	175	26	149	
6	POCSO and laws related to children	3496	2087	5583	348	5235	
7	NE States (Other than POCSO matters)	60	0	60	0	60	
	Total	17671	46417	64088	7508	56580	

Mechanisms for Redressal of Grievances

Some distinctive mechanisms introduced by NCPCR for redressal of grievances are given below.

1. E-BaalNidan

E-BaalNidan, developed in 2015, is an online Complaint Management System of the NCPCR. It is an online portal with the Web www.ebaalnidan.nic.in, wherein any person can register a complaint and get a complaint registration number. Through this number, the progress of redressal of the complaint can be tracked. The registration form is prepared in a way that all the aspects of a complaint can be enumerated and details can be provided. The details that are included are the date of incidence, place, the victims, the authority, the nature and category of complaint, what action was initiated, etc. The home page of the NCPCR website provides the link to login to the E-BaalNidan site and the user has to create a login ID and password. This option is being used mostly by the NGOs and concerned citizens who seriously pursue the matter with the Commission. The complaints registered are electronically forwarded to the concerned consultant to deal with the matter, and thereafter they are processed and dealt like any other complaint. The progress is updated online so that the action taken report and the progress of the case can be viewed by the complainant.

2. CP GRAMS

Public Grievances Redressal is one of the flagship initiatives for the reformation in general public. Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System or CPGRAMS is a web-based application which facilitates Ministries/departments/organizations to receive, forward and monitor grievances. The grievances are received from various sources, like nodal organizations, namely, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances(DARPG), Directorate of Public Grievances(Cabinet Secretariat), President Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, Department of Pension, etc. Under the Public Grievance Mechanism, any citizen of India can raise his/her problems, grievances or pleas to the Central Government and State Government Ministries and Departments. The NCPCR is one of the listed statutory bodies receiving grievances directly or forwarded by the MWCD or the office of the Prime Minister.

3. POCSO E-Box

The POCSO e-box is an easy and direct medium for reporting any case of sexual assault under POCSO Act, 2012. The POCSO e- box was launched in August 2016 by the Commission as an additional facility to enable the children to lodge complaints directly to NCPCR, particularly in cases of sexual abuse. It is displayed prominently on the home page of NCPCR website, where the user has to simply press a button named POCSO e-box, which will navigate to a page asking picture options. User has to simply select at least one picture option, fill a simple form and click on submit button to register the complaint. After this, an acknowledgment is received about the complaint being registered along with a complaint number.

During April 2023– March 2024, a total number of **9540** hits were received on the POCSO e-Box including hits through calls, e-button and email and total number of 203 complaints were registered which were received through POCSO E Box. All received cases were given prompt attention and reports were sought from concerned authorities of State/UTs. The month wise status is shown below:

Tota	al no. of con	nplaints 1	received t	hrough P	OCSO E-b	ox during 01-04-2023	
to 3	1-03-2024						
Tota	Total no. of hits received on POCSO E-box 9540						
Tota	al no. of co	203					
201	2						
Sr.	Months	Total n	o of Hits	received	through	Total no of	
No		E-box				complaint covered	
		Calls	E- Button	Email	Total	under POCSO Act 2012 ,received through POCSO E- Box	
1	Apr 2023	0	693	0	693	11	
2	May	0	735	0	735	7	
	2023						
3	Jun 2023	0	697	0	697	25	
4	Jul 2023	48	521	0	569	47	
5	Aug 2023	102	938	0	1040	13	
6	Sep 2023	66	1155	0	1221	15	
7	Oct 2023	05	708	0	713	17	
8	Nov 2023	07	450	06	463	23	
9	Dec 2023	07	878	0	885	14	
10	Jan 2024	0	649	0	649	3	
11	Feb 2024	0	1588	0	1588	11	
12	Mar 2024	0	287	0	287	17	
	Total	235	9299	06	9540	203	

4. Quick Response Cell (QRC)

A Quick Response Cell (QRC) was constituted by NCPCR in year 2018 to take quick and prompt action in the matters which requires urgent intervention of the Commission to save children involved in situations of distress, such as child labour and others. In order to quickly respond in such rescue operations, protocols were laid down in the Commission. There were cases registered, and rescue operations conducted, under QRC in respect to complaints/grievances/situations that required urgent attention. During the period under report, the Commission rescued 119 children in 49 rescue operations. The State-wise details are given in the following table-

5. Mediation Cell

The Hon'ble Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), vide its order No. 31/59/2016-CW-I dated 27 July 2018, in accordance with the power conferred to the Government of India under Section 33(1) of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, constituted a "Mediation Cell" in National Commission for Protection of Child Rights(NCPCR). This was created to resolve the cases of children who were taken away by one of the spouses, without the permission of the other spouse, due to marital discord or domestic violence from oversees countries to India, or vice versa, and for preparing a Parental Plan taking into account the best interest of the child. The Cell is actively mediating on cases involving NRI parents.

CHAPTER 19 COURT CASES AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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The role of administration is to ensure efficient and optimum performance of all the divisions and departments at various levels of an organization, as well as coordinate with all in order to facilitate the activities in the best possible way. In the context of NCPCR, administration also looks into the procedures for Transaction of Business by the Commission taking the responsibility of the affairs of the Commission and its day to day management. Accordingly, the administrative wing of the NCPCR has provided support for all the activities geared towards achieving the mandate of the Commission. In the financial year 2023-24, the administration was headed by the Member Secretary with the support of the Registrar, Consultants in the areas of legal matter, administration and coordination along with a team of support staff. While Registrar looked after the grievance redressal, Consultants and support staff placed with the administration supported the smooth functioning of the NCPCR, ensuring that the Commission was able to deliver its mandated duties more effectively. Some of the notable works of the administration are highlighted below:

1. Use of Official Language (Rajbhasha)

During 2023-24, the Commission celebrated Hindi Diwas and Hindi Pakhwara. Hindi Diwas is celebrated on 14th September in the country because on this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India has adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of India. Assistant Director of Commission participated in the Hindi Diwas program (14th-15th September, 2023) organized by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs in Pune. NCPCR also observed Hindi Diwas on 16th September, 2023. The messages of Hon'ble Home Minister and Hon'ble Minister of Women & Child Development were read amongst the staff. Hindi Pakhwara (fortnight) was celebrated in NCPCR from 16th September to 30th September, 2023 wherein various activities to promulgate Hindi Language was carried out in the Commission through competitions like Hindi notewriting, Hindi essay, and Hindi dictation (for MTS employees).. The employees of the Commission participated in these events with great enthusiasm. The winning participants were awarded cash prizes and certificates.

Hindi Workshop- Quarterly workshops were organized to orient the officers and staff of the Commission to work in Hindi instead of depending upon translation. During the Workshop, officials and staff were given practical training to prepare drafts of Letters in Hindi. The participants of the workshop were also given information about official Language Policy of the Government of India.

Meeting of the Official Implementation Committee- Quarterly meetings of the official Language Implementation Committee of NCPCR were held to implement various Constitutional and legal provisions of Official Language Act, 1963 and Rules framed thereunder.

2. Information under Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005

The NCPCR has a Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) and First Appellate Authority (FAA) under the RTI Act, 2005. In the year 2023-24, NCPCR had received a total number of 406 applications under the RTI Act, through online and offline mode plus transfer cases.

Status of RTI Applications of 2023-24

Applications under RTI Act Received in 2023-24	Applications rejected in 2023-24	RTI applications disposed of in 2023-24	RTI Reply Given in next financial year (after 31 st March, 2024)
406	45	346	15

Status of RTI Appeals of 2023-24

RTI Appeals received in 2023-24	Appeals disposed of in 2023-24	Appeals which were disposed of in next financial year (after 31st March, 2024)
51	48	03

3. Statutory Meetings

Under Section 10 of the CPCR Act, 2005 and Rule 18 (1) of the NCPCR Rules, 2006, the Commission is mandated to meet regularly at its office at such time as the Chairperson thinks fit, but three months shall not intervene between its last and the next meeting.

These Meetings are called Statutory Meetings where all important decisions of the Commission take place. During the year under report, the Commission conducted 4 Statutory Meetings on 30th June, 2023 (55th Statutory Meeting), 6th September, 2023 (56th Statutory Meeting), 1st December, 2023 (57th Statutory Meeting) and 29th February, 2023 (58th Statutory Meeting) under

the Chairpersonship of Chairperson, NCPCR. The Minutes of these Meetings were prepared and circulated to all concerned. These Minutes are also available at https://ncpcr.gov.in/statutory-meetings.

4. Sexual Harassment Committee

In pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's guidelines and norms to provide a complaint mechanism for prevention of sexual harassment of women at workplace, NCPCR vide its Order No. C-32011/01/2012-Coord/96941 had constituted a Complaints Committee consisting of five members to hear the complaints of women employees posted in NCPCR and take appropriate action on such complaints. The Committee was reconstituted vide Orders of even number dated 16.03.2022, 28.04.2023 and 27.07.2023 One case has been reported to the Committee on which an inquiry for the alleged offence is ongoing.

5. Representations in Court

The salient details of important representations undertaken by the Commission in Courts during 2023-24 are mentioned below:

1. S.M.W.P (C) No. 04 of 2020In Re Children in Need of Care and Protection Due to Loss of Parents During COVID-19, before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

The Hon'ble Supreme Court took suo-moto cognizance in light of the COVID-19 which was sweeping the country for children who had lost both or either of their parents due to COVID or otherwise since April 2020. The Hon'ble Supreme Court is closely monitoring the care, protection and rehabilitation of such children and ensuring that their rights are protected.

The following developments took place in the matter:

• On 28.05.21, the Amicus Curiae had filed an application seeking directions in respect of children who were adversely affected due to the current Covid pandemic by losing either one or both the parents and the increased instances of child trafficking, especially of the girl child. The Commission had informed that its "BalSwaraj" portal is operational, after which the district authorities were directed by the Hon'ble Court to upload the information of children who have lost either of the parents or both the parents to COVID or otherwise post March 2020. The Hon'ble Court directed the district authorities to upload the said information on the portal of NCPCR before 29.05.2021. The district authorities were further directed to

- immediately take charge of such children and attend to their basic needs without waiting for any further orders from the Hon'ble Court.
- On 01.06.2021, the Commission filed its affidavit in which the available data of children as uploaded on the portal by the district authorities was submitted. The learned Amicus Curiae requested the Hon'ble Court to direct the State Governments/ Union Territories to appoint a Nodal Officer at the level of Secretaries, Joint Secretaries of the concerned districts who would interact with him and provide all the necessary information relating to identification of orphans/CNCP's (Children in Need of Care and Protection) along with the steps taken for alleviating the pain and sufferings of the children.
- On 07.06.2021, the Hon'ble Court permitted the learned Amicus Curiae to have a dialogue with Nodal Officers to be appointed by the State Governments to ascertain the information relating to the implementation of the schemes announced by the Union of India and the State Governments/Union Territories favoring orphans and Children in Need of Care and Protection. The Amicus Curiae submitted various suggestions before the Hon'ble Court regarding the identification of children and immediate reliefs to the affected children.
- On 27.07.2021. directions were issued to the State Governments/Union Territories to identify children who have become orphans or lost a parent after March, 2020 either due to COVID-19 or otherwise and upload the data on the 'BalSwaraj' Portal. The learned Amicus Curiae focused on two issues during the hearing. The first was related to the identification of the children who have become orphans or lost a parent after March, 2020 and steps taken for their welfare and rehabilitation; and the second pertained to their education. The District Magistrates were directed to issue necessary instructions to the District Child Protection Officers to take assistance of the Police, Child line, civil society organizations, Gram Panchayats, Anganwadi and ASHA Network for identification of affected children. All the State Governments and Union Territories were directed to file a status report before 23.08.2021, giving particulars of the number of children who have become orphans or have lost either parent after March, 2020, the number of children who have been produced before the Child Welfare Committees and the particulars of the children who have been provided with the benefits of the schemes announced by the respective State Governments. On the issue of education, the Hon'ble Court directed the State Governments to ensure that orphans are permitted to

continue in the same schools at least for this academic year, be it private schools or Government schools. If there are difficulties, they may be accommodated under the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. The State Governments were also asked to furnish information on the number of such students studying in private and Government schools and the mechanisms implemented to permit them to continue studying in their respective schools.

- On 26.08.2021, the learned Additional Solicitor General submitted that the education of eligible children up to 18 years of age is sought to be provided for under the PM CARES For Children -Empowerment of COVID Affected Children. According to the said scheme, beneficiaries were to be given admission in the nearest KendriyaVidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar. On admission of the child in a private school, fees as per the RTE norms would be given from the PM CARES fund. The Governments/Union Territories had filed their responses pursuant to the order dated 27.07.2021. Directions were given for completion of inquiries by the Child Welfare Committees and continuation of education of children who have become orphans or who have lost an earning parent during COVID.
- On 09.05.2022, the Hon'ble Court issued certain directions to the NCPCR that the District Education Officers (DEOs) of the district should do the mapping of such children who have been absent from his/her school for 30 consecutive working days, children of 6-14 years of age should be considered out of school if he/she has never been enrolled in an elementary school or if after enrolment has been absent from school without prior intimation for a period of 30 days or more, children who has never been enrolled in school (as defined in Section 2(n) of RTE Act, 2009) for formal education should also fall under the category of out of school, children once enrolled into formal system of education/school, if does not complete 8 years of compulsory elementary education, should be treated as an out of school child, all children above the age of 14 years, who do not fall under the purview of RTE Act, 2009 but have had to drop out of school due to financial constraints during the COVID pandemic, District Education Officers and District Child Protection Officers should identify various reasons responsible for children being out of school, in case of death of one or both parents of child and/or the earning member of the family and/or the parents/guardians have lost their livelihood and the child is studying in private school, the expenditure on elementary education of such children in the same

school may be borne by the appropriate Government under Section 12(1) (c) of the RTE Act, 2009 and for this purpose, the child along with guardian/any member of the family where the child is studying shall approach the District Magistrate and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of the district, the children who have lost both or single parent or parents/guardians who have lost their livelihood can get their income certificate made through the district authorities. The District Child Protection Officers shall provide assistance to such children in procuring the income certificate. All categories of schools entrusted with the responsibility under Section 12(1) of the RTE Act, 2009 whether aided, unaided or private schools shall implement the provision of Section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act, 2009 and try to include children who have lost their both or either of the parent after April 2020, every school including schools having minority institution status and all residential schools shall also follow the procedure and ensure that no such child is forced to leave the school in any manner against the child's choice and due to nonpayment of fees, for the classes above VIII (which is generally beyond RTE application), where children have lost one or both parents of the child and/or the earning member of the family and the child is studying in private school, the State Government shall devise guidelines for the schools and/or issue necessary directions and/or devise a policy for reimbursing the expenditure on education of these children, District Child Protection Officers through the individual child care plan of the child can assess and examine the educational needs of the child. The data of children who need financial assistance for education can be forwarded to the District Education Officers. The District Education Officers can then provide these children with scholarships (as per their eligibility) and/or provide financial aid through donors, NGOs/CSOs etc.

- On 06.01.2023, the Hon'ble Court directed the NCPCR to initially verify the data from at least six States as to whether the order is being implemented and whether the benefit has been conferred to the children who have lost either of their parent or both the parents during the Covid period and submit a report to the Court.
- On 16.03.2024 an Application for Directions was filed by the Commission in the instant matter wherein the following directions were sought against the State of Karnataka where an illegal orphanage E-Rahmat-ul-Banat was running in Bengaluru:
 - "(a) Direct the Respondent State of Karnataka to produce all minor girls living in the said illegal orphanage before the Child Welfare

- Committee; and to take further action as per Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection), 2015 and corresponding Rules, 2016.
- (b)Direct the Respondent State of Karnataka to issue necessary directions to provide counselling from a specialized medical institution, preferably National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) and thereafter, enroll all girls in school.
- (c)Pass any such other order or orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit in the facts and circumstances of the case."

That on 19.03.2024, the Hon'ble Supreme Court was pleased to issue the directions to respondent state of Karnataka to present all underage girls residing in the aforementioned unauthorized orphanage before the Child Welfare Committee, and to proceed according to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act of 2015 and its associated Rules of 2016 and issue appropriate directives for offering counseling services from a specialized medical facility, preferably the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (NIMHANS), followed by the enrolment of all girls in educational institutions. The State of Karnataka was also directed to file its report by the next date of hearing with regard to the above directions.

2. S.M.W.P (C) No. 6/2021InRe Children in Street Situations before the Hon'ble Supreme Court

On 26.10.2021, in respect of the recording of evidence of child witnesses through video conferencing, the learned Amicus Curiae submitted a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The learned Amicus Curiae submitted a note on rehabilitation of street children. He had referred to a Standard Operating Procedure for Care and Protection of Children in Street Situations prepared by the Commission in the year 2020 (NCPCR SOP). In the said document, NCPCR relied upon the National Plan of Action for Children, 2016 and the functions given under Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 to highlight the need for rehabilitation of Children in Street Situations (CiSS). The NCPCR suggested in the SOP that teams can be constituted by statutory bodies like SCPCRs and the district child protection mechanism for conducting survey or adopting other means to collect information/data on Children in Street Situations and carry out rescue operations within the ecosystem created by the JJ Act. NCPCR was directed to submit a status report to the Court on the steps taken by the State

- Governments/Union Territories and the statutory bodies under the JJ Act regarding the implementation of the SOP.
- On 15.11.2021, NCPCR filed its compliance affidavit bringing to the notice of the Hon'ble Court SOP 2.0 prepared to strengthen the processes and interventions regarding CiSS. The Hon'ble Court was informed that the SOP 2.0 had been circulated to the State Governments/ Union Territories. The Hon'ble Court was informed that 'Save the Children' mapped about two lakh children in the cities of Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Chandauli and Prayagraj in the State of Uttar Pradesh; Pune and Nashik in the State of Maharashtra; Kolkata and Howrah in the State of West Bengal; and Delhi, whose rights to protection, education, health, water, sanitation and welfare have not been addressed so far. The Hon'ble Court was also informed that the NCPCR has identified 51 religious institutions to rescue and rehabilitate children found on streets, from child beggary and child labour. The Commission further informed that a new link 'CiSS' has been developed on the Baal Swaraj Portal of NCPCR for the purpose of receiving data of CiSS from all the State Governments/ Union Territories to track their rescue and rehabilitation. The Hon'ble Court directed the District Magistrates/ District Collectors to take steps in accordance with SOP 2.0 that was formulated by the NCPCR. The Secretary, Department of Women and Child Welfare of each State was directed to be the nodal officer to ensure that all the District Magistrates / District Collectors took prompt action for implementation of SOP 2.0 formulated by the NCPCR. The District Magistrates/ District Collectors were also directed to ascertain the educational status of those children who were eligible for the benefits under the PM Cares Fund and expeditiously consider the applications of those children who did not receive approval and forward the same to the Government of India.
- On 29.11.2021, the Hon'ble Court was informed by the learned counsel appearing for the State of Chhattisgarh that the 'Chhattisgarh MahtariDular Scheme-2021' was being implemented for children who have lost either or both parents after March, 2020. The learned Amicus Curiae submitted that the State of Haryana had announced the 'MukhyaMantriBalSevaYojana' to provide certain benefits to children who had lost both parents/surviving parent/legal, guardian/adoptive parent and had become orphans due to Covid-19. According to the said scheme, a child would be entitled to payment of Rs.2,000/- per month under the Central Sponsorship Scheme and an additional amount of Rs.500/- per month. Additional financial assistance of Rs.12,000/- per annum

was to be provided to extended family/guardian for educational purposes of the child. The Hon'ble Court directed the District Magistrates to review the status of each child who was identified for receipt of benefits under the 'PM Cares for Children Scheme' in respect of their education. The District Magistrates were further directed to ensure that the education of the children whose cases were sent for approval to the Central Government was not disrupted. In respect of those children who had become orphans or who had lost either of their parents and were not covered by the 'PM Cares for Children Scheme, the authorities from the education department of the State Governments/Union Territories were directed to address the concern of discontinuation of education of such children. If the children were studying in Government schools, they should be permitted to continue without payment of any fee and in respect of those children who were studying in private schools, the district educational authorities were directed to ensure, in consultation with the private schools, that the children continued in their respective schools without any further financial stress.

- On 13.12.2021, an affidavit was filed by the Commission bringing to the notice of the Hon'ble Court that it had conducted meetings with the concerned authorities for implementation of SOP 2.0 in relation to Children in Street Situations ("CiSS"). On 02.12.2021, 03.12.2021 and 06.12.2021, 28 States/Union Territories had participated in the meetings with NCPCR and provided information relating to the identification of children in street situations. Data provided by the State Governments/Union Territories in respect of rescue and rehabilitation of CiSS was placed on record. The Hon'ble Court directed State Governments/Union Territories to take immediate action for identifying children in street situations without any delay. The Hon'ble Court directed NCPCR to file a status report and the State Governments/Union Territories had to file a status report about the steps taken for rescuing and rehabilitating the children in street situations. In the meanwhile, the District Magistrates were directed to upload the relevant information, not restricted to Stage I, but also the information relating to the other stages.
- On 17.01.2022, NCPCR filed status report about the information uploaded by the State Governments/Union Territories bringing to the notice of the Hon'ble Court that meetings were held with the authorities of the State Governments/Union Territories on 5th, 6th and 7th January, 2022 to discuss the steps to be taken for implementation of the SOP 2.0 in relation to Children in Street Situations. The data of CiSS which was uploaded on the Baal

Swaraj- CiSS portal till 11.01.2022 had shown that only 9945 CiSS were identified till then. Whereas, a rough estimate of CiSS, according to the NCPCR, was around 15 lakhs. The Hon'ble Court directed all the District Magistrates to involve the SJPUs, District Legal Services Authorities and voluntary organizations in identification and rehabilitation of CiSS and to upload the information pertaining to all stages on the Baal Swaraj – CiSS portal of the NCPCR.

- On 21.02.2022, NCPCR submitted in the Hon'ble Court that the information that was directed to be given by the State Governments/Union Territories relating to the rescue and rehabilitation of CiSS was not being provided by them. Till then, information relating to only 17,914 CiSS was provided when the rough estimate of CiSS in the country was to the tune of 15 to 20 lakh. The Hon'ble Court directed NCPCR to conduct periodical reviews, preferably once a month, to monitor the implementation of the suggestions that were made in addition to SOP 2.0 for Care and Protection of Children in Street Situations.
- On 28.03.2022, NCPCR had stated in its affidavit dated 24.03.2022, that the State Governments/Union Territories had informed that formulation of policy consequent upon the recommendations made by the NCPCR was under process and would be completed by second week of April, 2022. The Commission had also given particulars of Children in Street Situations (CiSS) who have been identified and the steps taken by various State Governments/Union Territories for rehabilitation of children. The Hon'ble Court directed State Governments/Union Territories to assess the gaps pointed out by the Commission in its affidavit, in the measures so far adopted and to act on the recommendations made by it.
- On 19.09.2022, the Hon'ble Court directed all the State Governments/Union Territories and High Courts to submit their response, if any, to the three notes for certain direction submitted by the learned Amicus Curiae.
- On 06.01.2023, the Hon'ble Court directed the NCPCR to verify initially the data from at least six States as to whether the order is being implemented and whether the benefit has been conferred to the children who have lost either of their parent or both the parents during the Covid period and submit a report to the Court.

No further directions have been passed in this matter so far.

3. W.P. (C) No. 884 of 2019 Ms. XXXX and Ors. v. UOI before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

A Petition was filed by the commercial sexual exploitation, prostitution, physical and mental torture of the petitioners (minor children) and vehement violation of their Fundamental Rights enshrined under Articles 21 and 23 of the Indian Constitution and provisions of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. As per the petitioners, they were trafficked as young girls from West Bengal, Nepal and Bangladesh and were illegally detained and forced into prostitution. The perpetrators who trafficked the petitioners operated in the infamous Sonagachi red light area of Kolkata inside residential buildings owned by the Respondent property owners.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- The matter was listed on 27.09.2021 but was adjourned by the Hon'ble Court.
- On 05.04.2023 the learned senior counsel for the petitioners Ms. Anitha Shenoy produced a draft guideline for damages claimable from the owners of the property used for commercial sexual exploitation of minors and requested the Hon'ble Court for appropriate guidelines be formulated by the Union Government to compensate the victims of trafficking under the said 1956 Act. The Union of India and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) prayed for time to obtain instruction on the draft guidelines submitted to the Court through Doc. No. 67342 of 2023, from the concerned authorities. Accordingly, the respondents were granted six weeks' time to consider the proposed guidelines.
- On 29.01.2024 the learned senior counsel for the petitioners Ms. Anitha Shenoy assisting the Court submits that a group of lawyers are actively working for a solution on the above issues and the Central Government should also engage with this group, at the time of formulation of Scheme/ Policy. Learned AAG does not oppose the suggestion from the senior counsel but she submits that since consultation with the State Governments, Union Territories and other authorities is required for the purpose, she prays for sufficient time for appropriate consideration of the inputs from the stakeholders (including the group suggested by Ms. Shenoy), at the Government level. Accordingly as prayed for, the matter was adjourned by sixteen weeks.

Thereafter, no further directions have been passed in this matter so far.

4. W.P. (C) No. 737 of 2020 The Child Rights Trust & Anr. v. UOI &Ors. before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

A Writ Petition was filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India in public interest for enforcement of fundamental rights of migrant workers under Article 14, 19, 21, 21A, 39, 45 and 47 of the Constitution of India in the wake of and as an aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant extended lockdown.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 13.04.2021, the Hon'ble Court directed all the States/UTs to file their respective reply affidavits wherein they shall state the number of migrant children present in their respective States/UTs and also the conditions of such children.
- On 01.05.2023, the Hon'ble Court directed the Union of India and States/Union Territories which have not responded to the petition to file their counter affidavit dealing with the issues which have been raised by the petitioner within six weeks.
- On 22.09.2023, Ms Aishwarya Bhati, Additional Solicitor General states that the counter affidavit shall be filed within a period of two weeks by the Union of India.

No further directions have been passed in this matter so far.

5. W.P. (C) No. 568 of 2021 Arun Mukherjee &Ors. v. Chief Secretary, State of West Bengal &Ors. before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

A Writ Petition was filed by the petitioners who were being aggrieved by the post electoral violence in Bengal from 02.05.2021 causing bombing, murder, gang rape, outraging modesty of women, arson, kidnapping, loot, vandalism and destruction of public property, which had led to widespread fear and terror in the minds of ordinary residents of the state forcing them to leave their homes.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 25.05.2021, the Hon'ble Court passed an order impleading NCPCR as a respondent in the matter. After that, all orders were passed either adjourning the matter or for issuanceof notices for appearance to the impleaded parties.
- On 28.09.2021, learned counsel for the petitioners were permitted to serve the respondents through dasti.

 So farno further directions have been passed in the said matter.

6. W.P. (C) No. 634 of 2021 VinayVinayak Joshi v. Union of India before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The petitioner had filed a Writ Petition for being aggrieved by the notification of MHA extending the date of compliance of specific

provisions of FCR (Amendment) Act, 2020. The MHA had given the NGOs and individuals holding FCRA license to open the bank account in the designated branch of State Bank of India at New Delhi latest by 30.06.2021 instead of the deadline of 31.03.2021. MHA had also validated the licenses of these NGOs till September, 2021.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 09.11.2021, the Hon'ble Court concluded the arguments and reserved the judgment.
- The Hon'ble Court adjudicated that the amended provisions vide the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020, namely, Sections 7, 12(1A), 12A and 17 of the 2010 Act are *intra vires* the Constitution and the Principal Act, for the reasons noted by the Hon'ble Court and Section 12A is permitting the key functionaries/office bearers of the applicant (associations/NGOs) who are Indian nationals, to produce Indian Passport for the purpose of their identification which shall be regarded as substantial compliance of the mandate in Section 12A concerning identification.
- On 08.04.2022, the Hon'ble Court declare that the amended provisions vide the 2020 Act, namely, Sections 7, 12(1A), 12A and 17 of the 2010 Act are intra vires the Constitution and the Principal Act, for the reasons noted hitherto. As regards Section 12A, we have read down the said provision and construed it as permitting the key functionaries/office bearers of the applicant (associations/NGOs) who are Indian nationals, to produce Indian Passport for the purpose of their identification. That shall be regarded as substantial compliance of the mandate in Section 12A concerning identification.

So far, no further directions have been passed in this matter.

7. W.P. (Crl.) No. 274 of 2020 Santosh VishwanathShinde&Anr. v. Union of India &Ors. before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The present Writ Petition was filed seeking interim relief/ directions filed under Article 32 of the Indian Constitution in public interest. The Writ Petition sought, inter alia, a writ of mandamus or a writ/direction of a similar nature directing the Respondents that during the Covid- 19 pandemic, the recording evidence of child victims/witnesses of human trafficking across the country, including statements under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, be ordinarily undertaken via video-conferencing from a government facility within the local jurisdiction of the residence of such children. The matter was filed for issuance of a direction to record the evidence of child victims/ witnesses of human trafficking through video conferencing from a government facility within

the local jurisdiction of the residence of the child victim/ witness concerned.

• The matter was filed for issuance of a direction to record the evidence of child victims/witnesses of human trafficking through video conferencing from a government facility within the local jurisdiction of the residence of the child victim/witness concerned. The matter had been tagged with Re- Contagion of Covid-19 Virus in Children Protection Homes Suo-Moto W.P. (C) No. 04 of 2020.

The following developments took place in the matter:

• The Hon'ble Court carefully examined the draft SOP which contained minute details about the steps to be taken for recording the testimony of child witnesses at Remote Points. It was also observed that there was no objection taken by any High Court to the SOP being put in practice immediately. The Hon'ble Court directed that the SOP shall be followed in all criminal trials where child witnesses, not residing near Court Points, were examined and not physically present in the courts where the trial was conducted. The Hon'ble Court also directed the RPCs to ensure that child-friendly practices were adopted during the examination of the witnesses.

So far, no further directions have been passed in this matter.

8. W.P. (C) No. 4663 of 2021 PiyushChhabra v. State &Ors. before Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

A Delhi based Advocate had come up with a PIL under Article 226 of the Indian Constitution, highlighting various incidence depicting the plight of helpless and poor children exploited and being used as tools for begging on the streets, busy markets and other crowded areas in Delhi which is directly in violation of the child rights. As per the advocate, these vulnerable children on streets of Delhi are exploited and their constitutional rights are violated for the gains of few.

• The respondents named in the petition included the State of N.C.T of Delhi, Ministry of Women and Child Development of Government of N.C.T of Delhi, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Commissioner of Police of Delhi Police, National Human Rights Commission and Child Welfare Committee of New Delhi. The Advocate had mentioned in his petition that the exploitation of children was openly visible at traffic signals and junctions of the Capital where children in the age group of 0-8 years are used in the sale of goods and begging. The petitioner argued that such children living on the streets put at risk of mental and physical dangers. The children are exposed to risks of traffic accident,

adverse weather conditions and diseases like dengue, malaria and even the coronavirus. The Advocate has prayed for immediate orders for the protection of children living on the streets. Necessary orders to identify the individuals responsible for using children for begging and for rehabilitation of the children were also prayed for.

The following developments took place in the matter:

• The Hon'ble Court issued notices to the respondents in this case on various hearings till date and has sought their counter affidavits. The Commission had filed its counter affidavit. So far, no further developments have been made in the said matter.

9. W.P. (C) No. 4236 of 2021 Khushi Rainbow Home for the Girls through CO Center v. NCPCR, and W.P. (C) No. 4288 of 2021 UmeedAman Home for Boys through CO Center v. NCPCR before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi

The petitioners which are the CCIs functional in South Delhi had come up to challenge the Inspection Reports of the Commission and the Show-Cause notice dated 21.01.2021 issued by the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, Delhi Government based on the report of the Commission under Section 15(i) read with Section 13(1)(j) of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. The said report and the consequent show-cause notice stated the violations which were found by the Commission during the inspection of two homes.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- The matters were listed, and the Commission had filed its affidavits as well with regard to the procedure that was followed by it while carrying out the inspections. Thereafter, the two homes were asked to file their rejoinders.
- On 11.10.2022 the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner prayed was adjourned. That the matter were listed on 02.03.2023, 04.09.2023, 06.09.2023 however, the same was adjourned by the Hon'ble Court.

10. Centre for Equity Studies /s Govt of NCT of Delhi through SHO, EOW & Anr." W.P.(CRL) 401/2022

The present Criminal Writ Petition has been filed underthe provisions of Article 226 of the Constitution of India read with Section 482 of Criminal Procedure Code for quashing of FIR No. 0041dated 18/02/2021 registered at The Economic Offences Wing, New Delhi for the offences punishable under Sections 406, 409, 420 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. Through the

said petition, the petitioner has alleged that the NCPCR has made mala fide allegations against the two children homes of the NGO. Further, the petitioner has also alleged that its name in the FIR registered by the EOW, and the summons issued to the petitioner by the Income Tax department is consequent to the directions given by NCPCR. The petitioner in the petition has also stated that the validity and intent of the inspection report of NCPCR is challenged and sub-judice before the Hon'ble Court in W.P. 4288/2021 Ummeed Aman Ghar for Boys v. NCPCR and Ors. and W.P 4236/2021 Khushi Rainbow Home for Girls v. NCPCR and Ors.

A Status Report pertaining to the financial irregularities has been filed by the Economic offences Wing. The present matter is currently pending.

11. W.P. (C) No. 8210 of 2021 Makarand Suresh Mhadlekar v. Rahul Gandhi &Ors. before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court.

A Writ Petition was filed for issuance of appropriate writ, order or direction to NCPCR and Twitter for taking appropriate legal action against a Member of Parliament for disclosing sensitive information about a rape victim and her family members by publishing a photograph of her parents on his Twitter handle. As per the petitioner, the said conduct was in violation of Section 74 of the JJ Act, 2015 and Section 23 (2) of the POCSO Act, 2012, both of which mandates that the identity of a child victim of a crime shall not be disclosed.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 11.08.2021, it was submitted before the Hon'ble Court that the twitter account of the MP, had been blocked by Twitter as the tweet in question was against the Policy of Twitter. The Commission was also made a respondent in the said case and was issued a notice. The petitioner had disputed the said submission and since thereafter, the matter has been put on adjournment(s) for further arguments.
- Mr. Saransh Jain, learned counsel appearing on behalf of Respondent No. 4 sought time to file counter affidavit. Further the matter was Listed for 30.11.2021.
- The petitioner's Counsel sought an adjournment because she has been recently engaged in the said matter. Thereafter, the matter was adjourned for 07.12.2022.
- On 24.03.2023, the Learned Counsel for Respondent No. 2 sought an adjournment for six weeks to file a reply. Thereafter, the matter was adjourned for 27.07.2023. Since none of the parties had filed their counter affidavit, the matter was adjourned for 23.22.2023.

- On 23.22.2023, the Hon'ble Court directed the Petitioner to file fresh memo of parties due to change in the name of Responded No 4. The matter was thereafter listed on 21.12.2023.
- On 21.12.2023, Delhi Police was permitted to file a detailed status report in sealed cover. The matter was thereafter adjourned for 4 weeks and was listed again on 24.01. 2024.
- On 24.01.2024, since the Hon'ble Court on perusal of the all the pleadings filed by the parties and the status report filed by the Delhi Police was of the opinion that all the prayers were satisfied the said petition was disposed off.

12. W.P. (C) No. 5927 of 2021 Yasmin Kataria Minor Through Natural Guardian namely ShaluKataria& Anr. v. State of NCT of Delhi &Ors. before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court

A Writ Petition was filed seeking expeditious implementation of various schemes as floated by respondents including but not limited to The Union, GNCTD, NCPCR etc. for providing compensation/ex gratia amount and other benefits to families with children, where the sole bread earner has expired on account of lack of supply of oxygen during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The petition was filed through the mother, being the natural guardian for the petitioners.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On various occasions, adjournments were sought, citing reasons for filing affidavits and counter affidavits.
- On 23.03.22, the Hon'ble Court observed that the Union as well as GNCTD had placed their position with respect to the issues raised in the petition. The fact that appropriate policy measures for the rehabilitation of children who had lost parents during the COVID pandemic has been duly formulated and adopted was not disputed. The sole issue which now survives in the matter is regarding the continuance of the education of the petitioner with the respondent Institution. The counsel representing the Institution was requested to obtain instructions with respect to the prayers sought in the writ petition.
- The Learned Counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner submitted that copy of the counter affidavits filed on behalf of respondent nos.1 to 6 has not been received and the same shall be supplied. Further, four weeks' time granted to file a rejoinder.
 - So far no further developments have been made in the said matter.

13. W.P. (C) No. 2558 of 2021 Yatharatha Foundation v. The Union of India &Ors. before Hon'ble Delhi High Court

A Writ Petition was filed regarding illegal adoption which are prevailing and pervading in India. The issues being faced by the prospective adoptive parents under the present adoption laws were highlighted in the petition.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- The court had issued notices and given time for the filing of counter affidavits.
- Reply was filed by the Respondents. Learned Counsel for GNCTD stated that the Government needs some further time to ensure that the children are rehabilitated and illegal adoption comes to an end and prayed that four weeks' time may be granted to submit some concrete proposal/steps in the matter. Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights was directed to file a fresh Status Report in respect of the number of matters in which they have taken action.

No further developments have been made in the said matter.

14. W.P. (Crl.) No. 1489 of 2021 Yasmin v. State (NCT of Delhi) before Hon'ble Delhi High Court.

The Petitioner had come before the Delhi High Court to locate the whereabouts of the missing child (petitioner's nephew). The Hon'ble Court had impleaded NCPCR in this matter through the order dated 03.03.2022 citing the monitoring role played by NCPCR under the JJ Act, 2015.

The following developments took place in the matter:

On 03.03.2022, the Hon'ble Court took note that the Police Station MayurVihar, Phase-I has been unable to locate or produce the minor. Therefore, in view of the mandate of Sub-Rule 5 of Rule 92 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules 2016, the investigation of the case was transferred to the Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU), East District to be supervised by the DCP concerned who was asked to file a status report as well. It was emphasized by the Hon'ble Court that the said report shall elaborate the steps taken by the AHTU, East District to locate and recover the missing minor. The AHTU was further directed to intensify efforts to locate and produce the missing minor child at the earliest. It was observed by the Hon'ble Court that the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights constituted under Section 3 or the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights constituted under Section 17, as the case may be, have been mandated vide Section 109 of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 to monitor the implementation of the provisions of the said Act as may be prescribed.

- Therefore, in this light, court mentioned that requisite steps shall be taken by the Commission to ensure compliance of Rule 92 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules 2016.
- The status report dated 03.07.2023 made by Ms.AmruthaGuguloth, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, East District, Delhi, was discussed and perused. The Learned Standing Counsel (Criminal) appearing on behalf of the Delhi Police prayed and was granted more time intensify efforts to locate, recover and produce Master 'S', the missing minor nephew of the petitioner. Further, Delhi Police was asked to file a further status report, elaborating therein the steps taken by them.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

15. W.P. (Crl) No. 1429 of 2020 Mohammad Zubair v. State of GNCT &Ors. before the High Court of Delhi.

• On 07.08.2020, the Commission had received a complaint against a person named Mohammed Zubair for giving online threats and repeatedly stalking a minor girl on Twitter. Even his followers had started posting indecent and disgraceful comments on the minor girl's pictures. Thereafter, an FIR was also registered against Mohammed Zubair. He had then approached the Hon'ble Court to stop any criminal action form being taken against him and to further take criminal action against the respondents including the Commission.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 10.02.2022, the new Standing counsel who was appointed had sought the copy of paper book which was permitted by the Hon'ble Court to be supplied within two days to him. Apart from that, the complainant had sought time to file reply affidavit and time of four weeks was granted by the Hon'ble Court, thereby also providing three weeks thereafter for the filing of rejoinder affidavit.
- The State confirmed that since no criminality was found on the petitioner's part, the petitioner's name was not been included in charge sheet dated 31.10.2022 filed in the matter. The court discussed regarding the action taken by the State in relation to the evidently offensive tweets made by respondent No. 3/Jagdish Singh, which may amount to 'hate speech', which tweets were the genesis of the matter.
- Mr. Sanjeev Bhandari, learned ASC appearing for the State sought further time to file a status report setting-out the steps that the State has taken against respondent No. 3 in that behalf. Further, it was also by the learned ASC that is its bounden duty, the State shall take action to effectuate the directions of the Supreme Court, in accordance with law.

- The Court asked that the Status report shall be filed within 06 week's time.
- On 03.04.2024, Status report in terms of order dated 26.05.2023 has been filed. Copy of the same be supplied to respondent no.2 and 3 as well as the petitioner.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

16. W. P. (C) No. 99 of 2016 Suo-Motu v. State of Rajasthan &Ors. before the Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan at Jaipur.

• The Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan at Jaipurhad taken suomoto cognizance on account of incidents relating to suicide committed by students at Kota due to depression and frustration. During the course of the case, it was found necessary to enact a legislation for controlling and regulating the coaching institutes for reducing the level of stress amongst the students so as to contain the number of suicides taking place in the State in general and in Kota in particular. For this, a committee was formulated. It was also directed that the Committee should take into account the report of NCPCR and also consider their views after inviting them for specific meetings.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 02.02.2021, it was submitted that the draft legislation was prepared, and an adjournment was sought on the ground that some more time was required till its finalization. On 06.07.2021, the Court directed to share the copy of the draft legislation with the Committee which was constituted. The suggestions of the Committee were also directed to be taken into consideration while finalizing the draft. The draft legislation was directed to be finalized expeditiously, in any case, within two months. After that, on various hearings, only adjournments were sought.
- The present Writ Petition (C) No. 99/2016 titled Suo moto vs. State of Rajasthan and Ors., which is pending before the Hon'ble Division Bench of High Court of Judicature for Rajasthan was pleased to passed an order dated 25.05.2023, directing the Commission to formulate a set of guidelines incorporating some effective psychological interventions and techniques that can be utilised by certified counsellors and help children studying in the coaching institutes to cope with stress and psychological issues that the child might face.
- Subsequently, the Commission in compliance with the aforementioned order of the Hon'ble High Court, the Commission formed a committee and thereafter organized a meeting through hybrid mode on 21.06.2023,

1500 hours wherein independent mental health at practitioners/experts, mental health experts from various institutes, and NGOs were called upon to discuss the said issue further to formulate the said guidelines. During the aforementioned meeting, effective solutions, and recommendations for preventing suicide and improving the psychological well-being of students were received from various experts from the field of mental health and other mental health institutions. However it is pertinent to mention here that the Commission along with the Committee members is in the process of framing the guidelines and the same is in the process of being finalized.

• No further developments have been made in the said matter.

17. WP. (C) No. 391 of 2020 Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Gautam v. State of Rajasthan &Ors. before the Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan at Jaipur.

• The petitioner had filed the petition on behalf of the families who had lost their infants due to callous approach of the administration and lack of basic medical facilities in Kota, Rajasthan.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 05.01.2022, the Hon'ble Court was informed by the Additional Advocate General that in compliance of the Order of the Court, a committee had already been constituted which is holding an enquiry into the matter. It was therefore requested that more time be granted to complete the enquiry and submit the report.
- On 04.03.2022, a compliance report which was submitted by the Committee was taken on record and the Hon'ble Court granted 4 weeks' time to the petitioner and respondents to submit their comments on the report.
- The Court observed that the as per the report of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the infrastructure and other facilities in the hospital are quite up to the mark and no further action is required to be taken.
- Accordingly, the Court is of the opinion that the purpose of filing this
 Public Interest Litigation has been sub served and as such, the
 petitioner was directed to be consigned to the record and the
 respondents to ensure proper working of the hospital.

18. S.B. W.P. (C) No. 5071 of 2021 Bhartiya Jan SewaPratisthan through its Secretary v. State of Rajasthan &Ors. before the Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan at Jaipur.

• A registered Trust under the name of Bhartiya Jan SewaPratisthan was the petitioner. The petitioner runs a school- BhartiyaVidyaNiketan for

providing school education to economically and socially weak children. It also provides them with residential facilities run by it. 29 students were studying in the school run by the Trust at the institution of this petition. The petitioner had stated that before admitting the children in the hostel, they always took an affidavit stating the consent and free will of the guardian. The petitioner had challenged the applicability of the JJ Act, 2000 (which is not in implementation anymore) on its institutions.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 13.05.2021, notice for appearance was issued by the Hon'ble High Court to the respondents.
- On 07.07.2021, the Court observed that despite video calling, counsel for the petitioner failed to join the proceedings.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

19. DB (C) W.P. (PIL) No. 8163 of 2020 Shailesh Nath Singh v. State of Rajasthan &Ors.before the Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan at Jaipur.

 A Writ Petition was filed in which the Commission was a party as Respondent No. 4, and the Writ had brought up the issue of incapability of people to pay the deferred and applicable school fees of Petitioner's wards in unaided non-governmental schools due to COVID pandemic.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- Only adjournments were sought between April, 2021 to March, 2022. The NCPCR filed its affidavit in the matter.
- The Learned counsel for respondent no.4 sought time to file reply in the matter.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

20. S.M. PIL No. 2 of 2020 Registrar Judicial v. Union of India before the Hon'ble Bombay High Court, Bench at Aurangabad.

• The Hon'ble Court had taken suo moto cognizance on the report filed by the Registry in respect of the visit by the President, DLSA, Jalna to "Shishu Vihar Gruh" and "Bal Vihar Gruh" under a previous PIL. This time, the Hon'ble Court had taken up the matter to direct the respondents to report the compliances of directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in the PILs earlier.

The following developments took place in the matter:

• On 20.08.2021, the Hon'ble Court observed that stern steps need to be taken against Maharashtra State Commissioner for Persons with

Disability including issuance of warrant to secure his presence before the Court as he was not co-operating and giving the instructions about the compliances to the officer of the Court. The Hon'ble Court further directed the Maharashtra State Commissioner for Persons with Disability to give proper instructions to the learned A.G.P. within a period of two weeks, with a warning that the court will be constrained to issue non-bailable warrant against him otherwise. The Hon'ble Court also directed the learned A.G.P. to take instructions from the concerned law enforcement machinery regarding the Crime No. 577 of 2020 and whether the investigation has been conducted from the point of view of financial illegalities and irregularities. The further progress in the investigation qua the Crime No. 585 of 2020 be also placed on record. The learned A.G.P. was further directed to take instructions as to why a particular inmate was still with Maharashtra Marwadi Charitable Foundation and was not transferred to another recognized Child Welfare Home.

- On 07.10.2021, the Hon'ble Court held that the State could not consider the present matter as an adversarial litigation. The State, its officers were expected to be sensitive to the conditions in which the inmates in the Shishugruhas and Balgruhaswere required to reside. The Court further held that the officers concerned were expected to take the matter with all seriousness and place the information on record as sought.
- On 15.03.2022, the Amicus Curiae undertook to prepare a synopsis to indicate stages of the case from time to time, and also regarding whether the directions issued by the Court were complied with or not. Synopsis was directed to be filed within a period of two weeks.
- The Court stated that as per the criminal investigation is concerned, the Civil Application No.9707/2022, it is appropriate to convert this PIL into a Suo Moto Criminal PIL and the Civil Application be converted into a Criminal Application and direct the registry to place the same before the learned Division Bench assigned with criminal PILs in the coming weeks.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

21. W.P. (C) No. 5874 of 2021 AvanindranathBartaria v. CBI & Ors. before the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur.

• The Petitioners filed a Writ Petition indicating their discontent due to the unsatisfactory investigation carried out by the Madhya Pradesh Police Department in investigation of unnatural death of the 8-year-old daughter of the Petitioners under suspicious circumstances after returning from the school.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- Affidavit on behalf of NCPCR was filed.
- On 22.06.2021, Notice of Appearance was issued to CBI.
- On 12.08.2021, Notice of Appearance was issued to Respondent No. 6. The state prayed for two weeks' time to file the reply.
- The Court stated that let the report of the action taken and report of investigation be brought on record by the concerned Police Officials. If the Action taken and report of investigation in the matter is not taken on record then the Police Commissioner, Bhopal may remain personally present before this Court on the next date of hearing.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

22. W.P. No. 12117 of 2021 Ayyalasomayajula Sai Santosh v. State of Madhya Pradesh & Ors. before the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur.

• The petitioner came up with concerns regarding the statements made in the annual report of Persecution Relief- NGO stating that the said statementswere false, baseless and contrary to the rights guaranteed to every citizen of the country by the Indian Constitution.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 16.07.2021, the Hon'ble Court adjourned the matter with directions to the parties to file the needful documents.
- On 29.03.2022, the Hon'ble Court was of the view that the petitioner was entitled to file a criminal complaint against the respondents if he so desired. The Court observed that it was not necessary to direct the others to file FIR against the concerned respondent. The petitioner was very well entitled to do it under law. There existed no prohibition for him to register a complaint by himself. Hence, the writ petition was disposed of.

23. CWP No. 8459 of 2020 Rajiv Kumar & Ors. v. State of Punjab & Ors. before the Hon'ble High court of Punjab & Haryana at Chandigarh.

• The petitioners had approached the Hon'ble Court against the non-compliance to various provisions under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The Commission was impleaded as respondent in this matter.

The following developments took place in the matter:

• The matter was listed but was adjourned by the Hon'ble Court with directions to the parties to file the needful documents.

- On 30.03.2022, the matter was first adjourned due to non-filing of process feeby the respondent No.5. Thereafter the matter was adjourned in the interest of justice. On 12.01.2023, the matter was listed but was adjourned to 20.07.2023 by the Hon'ble Court on account of heavy cause list.
- On 20.07.2023 the present Writ Petition has been dismissed.

24. W.P. (C) No. 113547 of 2019 Arpita Association Society a Society Registered under Karnataka v. UOI & Ors. before the Hon'ble Karnataka High Court (Dharwad Bench)

• The writ petition was filed before the Hon'ble Court, wherein the Commission was impleaded as a respondent. The issue involved in the matter pertains to the alleged fact that NCPCR had directed an inquiry against the Petitioner on the basis of wholly false complaint lodged by the Respondent No.8 (Shri Pa Ya Ganesh) without inquiring into the matter or affording an opportunity to the petitioner to be heard. Further, the Respondent No. 7 had ordered the Petitioner to reinstate the wards of Respondent No.8, who have failed to pay the fee for three full academic years on the basis of the said order of NCPCR and by misinterpreting it.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 27.01.2022, the Commission submitted that as the significant impugned orders were by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the follow up action were by the authorities, the Commission would not be a necessary party and the proceedings as against the Commission could be dropped. The Court observed that this submission could also be considered at the time of final disposal and the other learned counsel for the parties submitted that the petition could be disposed of on the next date of hearing.
- On 03.02.2022, the Hon'ble Court observed that the question for consideration in the case was-Whether a private institution which does not receive any government aid can be directed to continue the admission of the students even when the parents of the children, for reasons, have not paid the fees prescribed by the institution continuously for certain years. The petitioner, a private institution, had inter alia impugned the order of the Block Education Officer's direction to readmit the Respondent No. 8's children who had been discharged. The petitioner contended that neither the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights had issued any such directions. However, the proceedings before the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights were

misread to give such directions and therefore, the Block Education Officer had issued the impugned directions. It was made imperative for the parent, the Respondent No. 8, to place on record the details of educational institutions where the children were pursuing studies for the last three years on the next date. The learned Additional Government Advocate was directed to place on record the policy of the State, if any was there, to ensure that the children's education was not disrupted, for reasons as in the present case or otherwise, during COVID-19 pandemic.

- On 24.02.2022, the Respondent No. 8 submitted that his children were pursuing their education in government school and the respondent was not in favour of prosecuting his grievance any further. Therefore, the petition could be allowed to set aside. The Hon'ble Court allowed it with the observation that the impugned orders will have to yield.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

25. W.P. (C) No. 20655 of 2019 Council for the Indian School of Certificate Examinations v. Union of India & Ors. before the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa.

 The present petition was filed by the Council for the Indian School of Certificate Examination against NCPCR's order directing all the school affiliated to the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination restricting them from prescribing any syllabus or textbook outside what has been prescribed by the academic authority under Section 29 of RTE Act, 2009.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 26.07.2021, the Hon'ble Court adjourned the matter.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

26. W.P. (C) No. 9607 of 2019 SafwamulBasar Mondal & Ors. v. Council for India School Certificate Examination & Ors. before the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta.

• The present Writ Petition was filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta by the petitioners (all minors), against the forceful and illegal transfer of petitioners by the Calcutta Boy's School, Kolkata and the resultant humiliation, depression and negation of fundamental right of petitioners guaranteed under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution. As per the petitioners, 18.12.2018 was the last working day at Calcutta Boy's School before Christmas Holidays when students of Class VIII- C including the petitioners in spirit of joy, got involved in non-disciplinary acts, resulting in damaging some old furniture of the classroom.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- The matter was listed but was adjourned by the Hon'ble High Court.
- On 13.09.2021, Advocate on record of the writ petitioner was directed to serve fresh notice upon the respondents and file affidavit-of-service on the adjourned date. On 13.06.2022, Affidavit-of-service filed was filed in court was taken on record. The writ petitioner was aggrieved by a transfer certificate issued by the School on 28th March, 2019. It appeared from the record that three years had passed and the petitioners have all taken admission in other Schools.
- Further, the instant writ petition was disposed of without any order on 13.06.2022. The petitioners and their parents shall exercise more discretion in their conduct in the future.

27. PIL No. 29 of 2021 Abhijit Sarmah v. Union of India before the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court.

• This petition was filed in regard to the incident of post- election riots in West Bengal and inhuman brutality subjected to children in the state.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 01.06.2021, PIL 29/2021 and PIL 30/2021 were tagged as per the directions of the Hon'ble Court since in both these petitions, the issue was raisedwith regard to internally displaced person (IDP) who had been forced to flee from the State of West Bengal to Assam pursuant to the alleged violence post West Bengal Assembly Election. The Hon'ble Court held that the State of Assam would be at liberty to file its objections as to the maintainability of the petitions itself, inasmuch as, if State of West Bengal was a necessary party and in case it was a dispute between the State of Assam and State of West Bengal, then this Court might not have jurisdiction to decide the matter, as the matter would then be for exclusive jurisdiction of the Apex Court, under Article 131 of the Constitution of India.
- Thereafter, the matter was listed but adjourned by the Hon'ble Court with directions to the parties to file response and the needful documents in this matter.
- On 20.01.2022, the Hon'ble Court gave four weeks' time to the respondents for filing detailed affidavit.
- On 07.03.2022, the matter was adjourned. Thereafter on 18.04.2022, the matter was further adjourned because the learned counsel for petitioner sought adjournment for two weeks through mention memo. Furthermore, the matter was adjourned again to enable Mr. R. Dhar, learned Additional Senior Government Advocate, Assam to file the status report showing the present position. On 02.02.2023, the PIL was

closed as the petitioner did not wanted further to proceed with the same petition.

28. WPA (P) No. 9 of 2020 Arijit Adhikary v. State of West Bengal & Ors. before the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta.

• The writ petition is in relation to custodial death of a minor boy while he was in police custody. The teenage boy was apprehended by the Mollarpur Police for committing theft and was kept in a police station. While in the police station, the boy hanged himself in the bathroom. The Hon'ble Court, therefore, took suo-motu cognizance of this incident to inquire into the steps leading to the arrest of the boy and the investigation undertaken into the boy's death while in police custody.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- The matter was listed but was adjourned by the Hon'ble Court with directions to the respondents to file the needful documents.
- On 21.12.2021, affidavit was filed on behalf of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.
- On, 19.04.2023, it was submitted by the learned advocate appearing for the petitioner that in page 10 paragraph 16 of the judgment and order dated 4th April, 2023, the year of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act has been mentioned as '2017', whereas it should be '2015'. The said inadvertent mistake be corrected.
- Further, it was directed that the said corrected order shall also be communicated to the learned Registrar (L & OM) in terms of the directions issued earlier.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

29. W.P. (C) No. 2133 of 2014 Timpany Senior Secondary School v. The Government of Andhra Pradesh before the Hon'ble Andhra Pradesh High Court.

• The present writ petition was filed by Timpany Senior Secondary School, wherein it had prayed to issue a writ in nature of mandamus, declaring the action of Respondent No.2 in issuing proceedings in Rc. No. Spl/DEO/VSP/2014, dated 18.07.2014, as illegal, without jurisdiction and contrary to the principles of natural justice.

The following developments took place in the matter:

• On 26.10.2022, the learned counsel for petitioner filed a memo before the Registry seeking permission of the Hon'ble Court to withdraw the writ petition. Permission for withdrawal was granted by the Hon'ble Court. Accordingly, the writ petition was dismissed as withdrawn.

• No further developments have been made in the said matter.

30. W.P. (C) No. 14272 of 2019 Minor Kanika Issac v. NCPCR before the Hon'ble Madras High Court.

The minor petitioner was born out of wedlock. However, due to the unbearable torture and harassment inflicted by the father of the minor petitioner, the mother of the minor petitioner filed a Divorce Petition before the Family Court at Port Blair and an order was passed directing the 4threspondent to pay Rs. 20,000/- per month for the minor petitioner and her mother. Petitioner's mother filed another application for enhancement of monthly maintenance and the same was decreed ex-parte on 14.06.2018. Tamil Nadu State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TNSCPCR) conducted an enquiry and passed an order dated 12.11.2018, directing the 4th respondent to pay monthly maintenance of Rs. 35,000/- per month to the minor petitioner. However, the 4th respondent did not comply with the order of the TNSCPCR. The petitioner submitted a representation to NCPCR on 20.04.2019 seeking to direct the 2nd respondent (TNCPCR) to take appropriate action against the 4th respondent under Section 15 of the CPCR Act, 2005 but no further action was taken. Thereafter, the minor petitioner approached the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Madras for justice.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 02.11.2021, the Hon'ble Court directed the father of the minor to pay the arrears of maintenance as ordered by the TNSCPCR, within a period of three weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of the Court's order and also to continue to pay the monthly maintenance on or before 5th of every English calendar month. It was further held that if the father failed to comply with the said direction, the NCPCR and TNSCPCR could take action under section 15 of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. Consequently, the respondents shall also initiate garnishee proceedings against the Executive Officer, Panchayath Samiti, Ferrargunj Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands for recovery of the amount. Matter was accordingly dismissed by the Hon'ble Court.
- The case was disposed of vide order dated 02.11.2021.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

31. W.P. (C) No. 24882 of 2012 Jambeswar Naik v. State and Ors. before the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa.

• The petition was filed by the fathers of two innocent young children who died in tragic circumstances in an Anganwadi Centre operating in the premises of a Government School in Angul District on 07.09.2021.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 30.09.2021, the Hon'ble Court held that the death of two little children was entirely avoidable and would not have occurred if barricades had been erected around the excavated pits. According to the Hon'ble Court, a clear case was made out for grant of compensation for violation of the constitutional right to life of the two young children resulting in their needless deaths at a very young age. Keeping in view all the facts and circumstances, the Court directed that a sum of Rs.10,00,000/-(ten lakhs) was to be paid to each of the Petitioners for the deaths of their two little children in the capacity as their respective fathers. The amount had to be paid by the District Administration within a period of four weeks from the order and compliance affidavits were to be filed in the Court on or before 1st November, 2021. If there was non-compliance with this direction, the Hon'ble Court directed that the Registry would list this matter before the Hon'ble Court for appropriate orders.
- On 01.11.2021, a report of the Collector and District Magistrate, Angul dated 29th October 2021 addressed to the Advocate General confirming the disbursal of the amount as directed by the Court in the judgment was placed on record. No further direction was given by the Hon'ble Court.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

32. W.P. No. 13405 of 2021 Ku. Pari Rajoriya v. State of Madhya Pradesh before the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Gwalior.

• The said petition was filed on behalf of a minor who was 03 years old and belonged to Schedule Cast in Madhya Pradesh. Petitioner had submitted an online application before the State Government for admission in capacity of schedule caste as per guidelines of the State Government on 08.07.2021 and provided documents as per the requirement. The State Government portal assigned and confirmed the admission of the petitioner in Gwalior Glory School on 16.07.2021. When the petitioner went to complete the formalities in the school, the administration of the school refused admission.

The following developments took place in the matter:

• On 31.07.2021, the Hon'ble Court issued notice to the respondents.

- On 10.11.2021, the learned counsel for the State submitted that it did not give recognition to any school which was for Class I or II but only to those schools which were atleast from Class I to Class V, so that child could avail the benefit of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.
- On 18.11.2021, the Hon'ble Court directed the State to file additional affidavit in view of submissions made in rejoinder specifying the position whether the petitioner could be given admission in the current session in a school which came under the purview of Right to Education Act, 2009, and if not, then whether the minor could be given admission in LKG from next academic session so that she could continue her education.
- On 06.01.2022, on directions of the Hon'ble Court, parties tried to explore the possibility for settlement with an aim to ensure that child's education in no way got jeopardized. A consensus was arrived at amongst the parties that the Writ Petition could be disposed of as withdrawn with liberty to petitioner to apply afresh for Class-I no sooner she attained the age of five years in schools as defined under Section 2(n) of the Act of 2009. The OIC had submitted that all possible assistance should be provided to the petitioner for admission and the writ petition stood disposed of.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

33. W.P. No. 25356 of 2018 Rajlakshmi Foundation v. State of M.P. & Ors. before the Hon'ble Madhya Pradesh High Court

• The petitioner namely RajlakshmiFoundation had filed the petition in the nature of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) highlighting the inaction of the Child Welfare Committee in protecting and restoring the basic rights of children under the provisions of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 especially under section 2(14) of the JJ Act. According to the petitioner, the CWC was not properly exercising its power in granting visitation rights to the children who are in need of care and protection as defined under section 2(14) of the JJ Act with the non-custodial parent thereby violating the fundamental right of the child under the Article 21 of the Constitution of India

The following developments took place in the matter:

- The matter was listed but was adjourned by the Hon'ble Court.
- On 03.02.2022, the Hon'ble Court observed that the present petition was virtually seeking that the order passed by the Apex Court in writ petition no. 6163/2016 (Priya Yadav's case) be not implemented and that amounts to setting aside the said order. The coordinate Division

Bench of this court had already declined to interfere with the order, therefore, the Hon'ble Court could not again examine the validity of the judgment and set it aside. In the aforesaid case of Priya Yadav after considering all the provisions of law especially JJ Act, Family Court Act, Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956, it was held that the CWC cannot act as a Family Court in respect of custody of the child. The power lied with the Family Court under the statutes therefore, this petition was found to be nothing but a misuse of the process of law. Accordingly, the Writ Petition was dismissed with a cost of Rs 10,000.00 to be borne by the Petitioner.

34. Crl. Appeal No. 950/2022 Barun Chandra Thakur v. Master Bholu&Anr before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

- The Hon'ble Supreme Court in "Barun Chandra Thakur Vs. Master Bholu&Anr", had passed a judgment dated 13.07.2022 wherein it was observed that the task of Preliminary Assessment which is to be conducted under Section 15 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 is a delicate task which requires expertise and has its own implications as regard to the trial of the case.
- Further, it was also noted by the Hon'ble Court that it is appropriate that specific guidelines in this regard are put in place. The Central Government, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights were directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to consider issuing guidelines or directions which may assist and facilitate the Board in making the Preliminary Assessment under Section 15 of the JJ Act, 2015.
- The Commission after thoughtful considerations and efforts finalized the Guidelines for Conducting Preliminary Assessment under Section 15 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Further, the Commission have also duly analysed and studied the recommendations and suggestions received from different States, SCPCR's and Experts and accordingly incorporated the same, as deemed appropriate. It is pertinent to note that the Commission has drafted and incorporated the suggestions to the limit of keeping it within the purview of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

35. SLP (Crl.) No. 2023 NCPCR v. Javed & Ors. before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

• The Special Leave Petition had been filed by the Petitioner challenging the final judgement and order dated 30.09.2022 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana in CRWP No. 7426/2022 wherein

the Hon'ble High Court allowed the Writ Petition and issue a writ of habeas corpus and with a direction to the in-charge, Ashiana, Sector 16, Panchkula to have over the custody of detenue.

- It was pleaded by the Petitioner that the Respondent No. 2 who is a minor, had allegedly entered into marriage with Respondent No. 1 who is 26 years of age under Muslim rituals. The Hon'ble High Court had not taken this fact into consideration while issuing the writ of Habeas Corpus. Therefore, making the impugned order not sustainable in the eyes of the law.
- The petitioner being NCPCR was given the responsibility u/s 44 of the POCSO Act, 2012 to monitor the implementation of the provisions of the act.
 - The petitioner sought indulgence of the Hon'ble Court to settle the issue of legality of marriage of 16 years of age and applicability of POCSO Act to prohibit child from sexual abuse for every child below the age of 18 years old shall be applicable in the matter.
- The Petitioner also sought leave to Appeal the Impugned Judgment dated 30.09.2022 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh in Criminal Writ Petition No.7426/2022.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

36. SLP (Crl) No. 010036/2022 NCPCR v. Gulam Deen and Anr. before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

This present Special Leave Petition has been filed by the Petitioner challenging the final judgement and order dated 30.09.2022 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana in CRWP No. 7426/2022 wherein the Hon'ble High Courtallowed the Writ Petition and issue a writ of habeas corpus and with a direction to the in-charge, Ashiana, Sector 16, Panchkula to have over the custody of detenue who is Respondent No. 2 in the instant Petition to the Respondent No. 1. It was pleaded by the Petitioner that the Petitioner was not part of the proceeding before the High Court and stands aggrieved by the impugned order. It was also pleaded by the Petitioner that the Respondent No. 2 herein is a minor, only a little over 16 years of age has allegedly entered into marriage with Respondent No. 1 who is 26 years of age under Muslim rituals. The Hon'ble High Court has not taken this fact into consideration while issuing the writ of Habeas Corpus. Therefore, the impugned order is not sustainable in the eyes of the law. Further, the Petitioner herein, NCPCR is also given the responsibility u/s 44 of the POCSO Act, 2012 to monitor the implementation of the provisions of the act.

- The petitioner sought indulgence of the Hon'ble Court to settle the issue of legality of marriage of 16 years of age and applicability of POCSO Act to prohibit child sexual abuse for every child below 18 years of age and it being a special legislation overrides personal law and should be applicable in the present case.
- On 06.02.2023, permission to file the Special Leave Petitions was granted.
- No further developments have been made in the said matter.

37. W.P. No. 13109 of 2023, Ganga Jamuna Welfare Society v. State of Madhya Pradesh and Ors. before the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Principal Seat at Jabalpur.

A Writ Petition was filed by Ganga Jamuna Higher Secondary School, Damoh challenging the 'Suspension Order' passed by Collector, Damoh and District Project Coordinator, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh suspending the recognition of the School. The said Suspension Order was passed following a complaint against the School being involved in taking funds from foreign companies and indulging in unlawful Islamic practices where students were enforced to adopt Islamic Practices including mandatorily wearing Hijab, reciting Islamic Prayers, using Urdu as first language etc.

The following developments took place in the matter:

- On 31.05.2023, the Commission received a complaint against Ganga Jamuna School, Futera, Damoh pertaining to the School's involvement in unlawful Islamic practices including mandatorily wearing Hijab, reciting Islamic Prayers, using Urdu as first language etc.
- On 02.06.2023, the Commission sent a letter to District Magistrate, Damoh and Superintendent of Police, Damoh requesting to lodge an FIR against the school for such forceful Islamic Practices and wrongful depiction of Indian Map as a logo.
- Following such complaint, on 05.06.2023, Divisional Joint Director of Public Relations suspended the Recognition granted to the School and issued a Show Cause Notice to the School visà-vis issue of recognition.
- On 06.06.2023, the School submitted its Representation in reply to the show cause notice before the authorities.
- On 13.06.2023, the School filed the present writ Petition seeking grant of writ in nature of Certiorari to quash the aforementioned

Suspension order and writ in nature of Mandamus to direct the respondents to conduct an impartial enquiry based on the Principles of Natural Justice vis-à-vis the issue of recognition.

- On 01.07.2023, the Hon'ble High Court disposed off the matter after observing that the school has already filed its reply to the suspension order, which is pending consideration before the authorities and accordingly, the authorities may be directed to consider and take further action in accordance with law.
- The said matter has been dismissed and disposed off.

38. W.P. (C) 427/2022 titled Bachpan Bachao Andolan v. Union of India & Ors. before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India at New Delhi.

The present Writ Petition has been filed by an NGO, Bachpan Bachao Andolan in the public interest seeking enforcement of fundamental rights of children who are subjected to sexual exploitation and abuse. The present writ petition, arose from the strife caused to an individual victim in her painstaking struggle for justice while navigating the police, investigation stage, and court processes, for the prosecution of an offence under the POCSO Act. The petitioner seeks to ensure the safety and well-being of the children and achieve the objectives of the POCSO Act, 2012. The petitioner has raised various concerns regarding the ineffective implementation and misinterpretation of the provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012 because of which interests of large number of child sexual abuse victims are being jeopardised. **The following developments took place in the matter:**

of India.

On 19.09.2022, this petition was tagged along with Writ Petition (C) No. 1156 of 2021 titled as We the Women of India v. UOI & Ors. to be heard by a bench headed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice

- On 18.08.2023, the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an order directing the Commission to frame guidelines with respect to Support Persons U/s 39 of POCSO Act, 2012 relating to the educational qualifications and/or training required of a support person, and parameters to identify the eligible institutions or NGOs in the state, which can be accredited to depute qualified support persons.
- On 06.10.2023, the Commission filed a Status report before the Hon'ble Supreme Court vis-à-vis compliance of the order dated 18.08.2023.

- On 6.122023, the Commission filed a Status report before the Hon'ble Supreme Court vis-à-vis the status of formulating the Model Guidelines with respect to Support Persons U/s 39 of POCSO Act, 2012 in all the States and UT's.
- The matter is still pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

39. SLP (Crl.) 16122/2023 titled Ajay Lall v. The State of Madhya Pradesh before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

The present SLP has been filed by the Petitioner challenging the order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh which upheld the validity of the Order dated 23.09.2023 passed by the Ld. Second additional Session Judge, Special Judge, POCSO Act, 2012 dismissing the Application of the Petitioner filed under Section 227 of the Cr.P.C. from SC No. 27/23 arising out of FIR No. 729/22 dated 13.11.2022 registered at Damoh, MP. On 05.01.2024, the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an order directing a Stay on the proceedings in the trial before the Ld. Second Additional Sessions Judge, Special Judge till the matter is taken up by the Hon'ble Supreme Court for final disposal. The matter is currently pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

40. SLP (Crl.) 830/2024 titled Rajkamal David Lall v. State of Madhya Pradesh before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

The present petition has been preferred by the petitioner challenging the validity of FIR dated 13.11.2022 bearing Crime no. 729/2022 and subsequent filing of the charge-sheet dated 17.07.2023 registered at Police Station, Damoh, for offences punishable under section 370 of IPC, 42 & 75 of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Section 3 & 5 of the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2021 and Section 186 of IPC, which have been made out pursuant to a written complaint filed by the Chairperson, NCPCR after inspection of CCI's in Damoh District, Madhya Pradesh. The matter was tagged with SLP (Crl.) 16122/2023 titled Ajay Lall v. The State of Madhya Pradesh and is currently pending.

41. SLP (Crl.) 61-62/2024 titled Sheela Lall v. The State of Madhya Pradesh before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

The present Special Leave Petition has been filed by the Petitioners against the final order dated 20.11.2023, passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur in Criminal Revision Nos. 4658 and 4657 of 2023 in the case title Sheela Lall vs. State of MP & Shanti Lall vs. State of MP. In the order,

the Hon'ble High Court upheld the order passed by the Ld. Second Additional Sessions Judge, Special Judge on 23.09.2023 in SC No. 27/2023, which dismissed the Applications filed by the Petitioners under Section 227 of the Cr.P.C. seeking discharge from the FIR No. 729/22. The matter was tagged with SLP (Crl.) 16122/2023 titled Ajay Lall v. The State of Madhya Pradesh and is currently pending.

CHAPTER 20 GUIDELINES

CHAPTER 20 GUIDELINES

1. Guidelines For Child and Adolescent Participation in the Entertainment Industry And Any Commercial Entertainment Activity

The Commission had issued the guidelines titled "Guidelines to Regulate Child Participation in the Entertainment Industry" in 2011 to regulate the participation of children in the entertainment industry. Keeping in view the new amendments and implementation of child related laws, the Commission had constituted a committee with eminent members from Entertainment Industry and officials of the concerned Ministries. After discussions and deliberations held in the meetings of the committee, new draft guidelines for regulation of child participation in the entertainment industry or any commercial entertainment activity has been prepared. The features of the new draft guidelines are as follows-

- i. It is a comprehensive document which incorporates all provisions of law in force for protection of child rights and provisions implemented in the Child Labour Act and its Rules which pertain to participation of children in the media industry.
- ii. It includes and regulates both kinds of content published on the entertainment and social media platforms- content which is created and published by media production houses and content which is self-created or created under the guidance/supervision of family member/guardian for generating income.
- iii. The social media platforms, OTT platforms and any other production house involved in production of content with children will be covered under these guidelines.
- iv. The use of children by news and informative media and advertisements will also be regulated by these guidelines.
- v. It provides for a robust and comprehensive mechanism of reporting an offence and resolution of grievances.
- vi. These guidelines incorporate the various provisions of law which provide for punishments for offences committed against children.
- vii. Role of NCPCR and SCPCR, at the national level and state level respectively, is of prime importance for monitoring the

implementation of child rights. These guidelines incorporate the same as well.

The guidelines are available at https://ncpcr.gov.in/uploads/16844053596465fc6f115d1_guidelines-for-child-and-adolescent-participation.pdf

2. Model Guidelines with Respect to Support Persons under section 39 of POCSO Act, 2012

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case titled "We the Women of India vs. Union of India & Ors. Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) 1156/2021 and in Writ Petition No.427 of 2022 titled Bachpan Bachao Andolan vs. Union of India" had passed an order dated 09.10.2023 wherein the Hon'ble Court was please to direct the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to formulate Model Guidelines with respect to Support Persons under Section 39 of the POCSO Act, 2012 in consultation with the State Governments and Government of the Union Territories. Vide the said order, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India opinionated that the need for support person should not be left to the discretion of the parents; in all cases, the option of availability of support person and right to claim the assistance of such support person should be made known to the victim's parents. Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has also opinionated that every State has an obligation to provide support persons to POCSO victims which cannot be made optional unless there are good reasons recorded by the CWC in its order, the familiarity of support persons is mandatory. Therefore, the Commission in light of the directions passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, have framed guidelines as to include the essential components and basic mechanism involved for engaging of a support person as mandated under Section 39 of the POCSO Act, 2012 so as to address the ambiguity in understanding of the process and steps to be followed for engaging the same. Further, the said guidelines also puts in place a key framework for a uniform educational standard, duration of engagement of a support person, guidelines remuneration etc. The are https://ncpcr.gov.in/uploads/172422913166c5a60bbfda7_final-guidelineson-section-39-of-pocso-act-2012-dated-18032024-1-33.pdf

3. Guidelines for Conducting Preliminary Assessment under Section 15 of the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, 2015

The Hon'ble Supreme Court on 13.07.2022 passed a judgement in Barun Chandra Thakur vs. Master Bholu & Anr. Crl. Appeal No. 950/2022, wherein the Hon'ble Court, examined the proceedings arising out of preliminary

assessment made under Section 15 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (JJ Act), 2015. Through the said judgement, the Hon'ble Court indicated that the task of preliminary assessment under Section 15 of the JJ Act, 2015 is a delicate task which requires expertise and has its own implications with regard to the trial of the case. The Central Government, NCPCR and SCPCRs have been directed by the Hon'ble Court to consider formulating guidelines for the procedure to be adopted by the authorities while conducting the assessment under Section 15 of the JJ Act, 2015. In view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) had developed guidelines describing the key procedures that will enable the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) to conduct the preliminary assessment in consonance with the guiding principles and other provisions of the Act. These said guidelines have been formulated in a manner so as to not limit the experts by providing or suggesting any kind of specific assessment tool. Further, these guidelines have been cautiously framed as to include the essential components and basic mechanism involved in preliminary assessment to address the ambiguity in understanding of the process and steps to be followed. The guidelines are available at

https://ncpcr.gov.in/uploads/16813797786437d1c2bea2a_guidelines-for-conducting-preliminary-assessment.pdf

CHAPTER 21 RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER 21 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendation for appointment of Child Welfare Police Officer by order of Police Headquarters of State/ Union Territories"

32-The Commission issued а letter vide Letter No.-308/2022/NCPCR/Misc/LC/254238 to the Director General of Police of All States and Union Territories regarding recommendation for appointment of Child Welfare Police Officer by order of Police Headquarters of State/ Union Territories. This recommendation was made by the Commission accordance to the provision of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015, as laid down under Section 107(1) and Section 107(2) which states that each police station in India shall have at least one officer designated as a Child Welfare Police Officer (CWPO), who should not be below the level of assistant sub-inspector and Special Juvenile Police Units be formed in each district and city, led by a police officer with at least the rank of Deputy Superintendent. These units should also contain CWPOs and two experienced child welfare social workers, one of whom should be a woman. Their major responsibility is to coordinate police functions involving children. Further, the Commission also raised its concern pertaining to not all police stations having designated CWPOs, and neither all districts in India having Special Juvenile Police Units. Further, in the Commission also raised concerns regarding places where CWPOs were designated, local Station House Officers dealt with the case without consulting with Special Juvenile Police Units and due to lack of coordination and specialized officials, conducting investigations or inquiries involving minor victims or perpetrators was seen to be difficult. Therefore, to address these issues, the National Commission for the Protection of Children's Rights recommended to the Police Headquarters to issue orders appointing at least one CWPO to each police station and establishing Special Juvenile Police Units in each district or union region which would ensure that there was always compliance and accountability. It was also recommended that CWPOs must report to their respective Special Juvenile Police Units, and their contact information must be publicly displayed at all police stations in accordance to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2016.

2. Regarding Mandatory reporting of a child found separated from guardian

The Commission in exercise of its powers mandated under section 13 of the CPCR Act, the vide Letter No.32-375/2022/NCPCR/Misc/LC/DD774 dated 07.12.2023 issued recommendation to the offices of the Principal Secretaries of All States/UT's to issue necessary directions to all the District Chief Medical and Health Officers or any other Administrative/Regulatory officer as per their State's Administrative Structure in all the districts of their State regarding mandatory reporting of children if found separated from guardian and to further organize sensitization programmes for matters pertaining to illegal adoption in all government hospitals, private hospitals, nursing homes, maternity homes, primary health care centres, community health centres, ASHA workers, auxiliary nurse and midwives and any other health professional in accordance to the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. The Commission in furtherance of the same, also recommended that Childline number 1098 and Local Child Welfare Committee details and contact number shall also be displayed at all visible areas of all hospitals, nursing homes and maternity homes for insuring awareness and to safeguard children.

3. Abandonment of Bore Wells and Drilled Wells and Safety Norms

The National Commission for the Protection of Children's Rights in furtherance of its mandate under CPCR Act, 2005 issued a letter on 08.12.2023 vide Letter No F.No.32-526/2023/NCPCR/MISC/LC/2069 to the Chief Secretaries of all States/ UT's regarding increase in incidents pertaining to small children falling into abandoned bore wells, etc. and keeping in mind the safety and security of the minor children, the Commission, deemed it necessary to circulate the aforesaid guidelines for ensuring effective implementation of the same. The Commission, in addition to the afore-stated guidelines also advised all States/UT's to take appropriate measures for safely removal of children trapped in borewell, tube well etc. through effective use of "Borewell Robot Rescue System" which has also been adopted as a technique by NDRF in their Standard Operating Procedure on Borewell Incident Response issued by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

4. States to ensure free blood transfusion to thalassemia patients

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) took cognizance of a matter of Madhya Pradesh wherein a father faced challenges in getting blood transfusion done for his three year old son suffering from thalassemia at a hospital in Raisen District of Madhya Pradesh. The Commission vide its letter 08.02.2024 has asked all States and Union territories to issue circulars to hospitals to provide blood transfusion therapy to such patients free of cost and step-up compliance with the health ministry

guidelines on treatment. As per circular of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI, in June, 2023. "it is mandatory for all blood centers to provide blood/blood components free of cost to patients of Thalassemia.

5. Recommendation on Schools subjecting children to corporal punishment and discrimination during festivals

Over the years, it has been observed by the Commission through various news reports that children are subject to harassment and discrimination by the school teachers and other staff on account of celebration of festivals. It has been noticed that schools do not allow children to wear rakhi or tilak or mehandi in schools during the festival of Raksha Bandhan and subject them to harassment, both physical and mental. It may be noted that corporal punishment is prohibited in schools under Section 17 of the RTE Act, 2009. Therefore, the Commission issued a recommendation vide letter dated 30.08.2023 to Principal Secretaries of School Education Department of all States/UTs to issue necessary directions to the concerned authorities and ensure that schools do not observe any such practice that may expose children to corporal punishment or discrimination.

CHAPTER 22 AUDIT REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT STATEMENT

Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), New Delhi for the year ended 31 March 2024

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of the National Commission for Protection of Child Right (NCPCR), New Delhi as at 31 March 2024, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended on that date under Section 19(2) of the Comptroller & Auditor General's (Duties, Powers & Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 read with Section 29 (2) of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. These financial statements are the responsibility of the NCPCR's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

- 2. This Separate Audit Report contains the comments of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) on the accounting treatment only with regard to classification, conformity with the best accounting practices, accounting standards and disclosure norms, etc. Audit observations on financial transactions with regard to compliance with the Laws, Rules & Regulations (Propriety and Regularity) and efficiency-cum-performance aspects, etc., if any, are reported through Inspection Reports/CAG's Audit Reports separately.
- 3. We have conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidences supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.
- 4. Based on our audit, we report that:
- (i) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- (ii) The Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account dealt with by this report have been drawn up in the Uniform Format of Accounts as prescribed by the Ministry of Finance.
- (iii) In our opinion, proper books of accounts and other relevant records have been maintained by the NCPCR as required under Section 29 (1) of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, in so far as it appears from our examination of such books except Expenditure Control Register and Medical Claim Register.
- (iv) We further report that:

A. General

A.1 Format of Schedule-8 is not in compliance with the Uniform Format of Accounts as prescribed by M/o Finance viz. Gross Block, Depreciation and Net Block. Net balance were taken as opening balance which is depreciated value of the assets instead of original value that is to be reflected in the gross block. In absence of gross block, book value of assets could not be reflected in accounts.

A.2 Advances of Rs. 23.14 lakh pertaining to the period 2007-08 to 2023-24 were pending for adjustment as on 31 March 2024. The long pending advances lying unadjusted need to be reviewed and settled. Doubtful amounts if any should be stated and provision should be shown as reduction there-from. This was also pointed out in previous year's report but not corrective action has been taken by NCPCR.

A.3 Receipts and Payments Account has not been prepared from cash book or ledger instead from the Income & Expenditure A/c. Previous provisions are added and current year provisions are deducted from each head viz. Establishment Expenses' and 'Office & Other Administration Expenses'. However, as per Uniform Format of Accounts, R & P Account should be prepared from cash book/ledger balance/Trial balance.

B. Grants-in-aid

During the year 2023-24, NCPCR had received Rs. 41.19 crore as Grants-in- Aid from the M/o Women and Child Development and M/o Education (Rs. 35.19 crore and Rs. 6.00 crore respectively) and unspent balance of previous year amounting to Rs. 0.64 crore was also available. NCPCR had internal receipt amounting to Rs. 0.20 crore. Out of total fund available of Rs. 42.03 crore, NCPCR utilized Rs. 41.46 crore leaving unutilized balance of Rs. 0.57 crore as on 31.03.2024.

C. Management Letter

Deficiencies, which have not been included in the Audit Report, have been brought to the notice of the NCPCR through a management letter issued separately for remedial/corrective action.

- v. Subject to our observations in the preceding paragraphs, we report that the Balance sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipt & Payment Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the book of accounts.
- vi. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanation given to us, the said financial statements read together with the Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts, and subject to the significant matters stated above and other matters mentioned in

Annexure to this Audit Report give a true and fair view in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in India:

- (a) In so far as it relates to the Balance Sheet of the state of affairs of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) as at 31 March, 2024 and
- (b) In so far as, it relates to Income and Expenditure Account of the deficit for the year ended on that date.

For and on behalf of C& AG of India

(Rajiv Kumar Pandey)
Director of Audit (CE), New Delhi

Place: New Delhi Date: 23.10.2024

Annexure

1. Adequacy of internal audit system

Internal Audit of NCPCR, New Delhi was last conducted by internal audit wing of the Ministry of Women and Child Development in August 2022 for the period April 2015 to March 2022.

2. Adequacy of internal control system

The internal control system of NCPCR was not adequate due to:

- (a) Fixed assets/stores amounting to Rs. 4.72 lakh were missing/not traceable since 2013. However, no action was initiated during the last 9-10 years whether to recoverable or write off the value of assets.
- (b) Stale Cheque amounting to Rs.6000 was pending for settlement since 2017-18.
- (c) Advance register was not properly maintained viz. some entries made not made and total amount of settlement bill submitted by State Commission PCR were not entered.
- (c) Advances were pending for as long as 2007-08. Despite being pointed out in previous year's report remedial action was not taken.

3. System of physical verification of Assets

Physical verification of Fixed Assets and books was conducted up to 2023-24 and assets costing Rs. 4.72 lakh were not traceable since 2013.

4. System of physical verification of inventory

Physical verification of Library, Stationery and Consumables were conducted up to 2023-24 and no major deficiency was found.

5. Regularity in payment of statutory dues

As per accounts, no payments in respect of statutory dues were outstanding for more than six months as on 31.03.2024.

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

5th Floor, Chanderlok Building 36, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

CORPUS/CAPITAL FUND AND LIABILITIES	C-1 1 1		(Amount in Rs
SOM GOVERNMENT OND AND LIABILITIES	Schedule	Current Year	Previous Yea
CORPUS/CAPTIAL FUND			
RESERVES AND SURPLUS	1	(28,93,029.41)	(55,51,165.38
EARMARKED/ENDOWMENT FUNDS	2	-	2
	3	(55,24,805.08)	3,37,465.22
SECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	4		
UNSECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	5		
PEFERRED CREDIT LIABILITIES	6		
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	7	3,96,99,194.21	3,55,37,320.93
			1-2,17,020.9
TOTAL		3,12,81,359.72	3,03,23,620.77
			0,03,43,020.77
\SSETS			
PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUI[PMENT	8	1,20,66,372.61	1,08,06,703.78
NVESTMENTS - FROM EARMARKED FUNDS	9		1,00,00,703.78
NVESTMENTS - OTHERS	10		
URRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.	11	1,92,14,987.11	105 17 017 00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE		1,72,14,707.11	1,95,16,916.99
to the extent not written off or adjusted)			
TOTAL		3,12,81,359.72	0.02.00.600
		3,12,01,337.72	3,03,23,620.77
IGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24	W. C.	
AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		

1.0

रूपाली बनर्जी सिंह / Rupali Banerjee Singh सदस्य सचिव / Member Secretary राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग National Commission for Protection of Child Rights महिला एवं बाल विकास पंत्रालय Ministry of Women & Child Development भारत सरकार नई दिल्ली / Govt of India, Naw Delhi

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2024

(Amount in K	(5.)
Previous Ye	ar

INCOME	Schedule	Current Year	Previous Year
INCOME	Ceneduic	Cultur 10th	110110110 1011
Income from Sales / Services	12	-	T.
Grants / Subsidies	13	41,18,49,826.00	27,31,99,986.00
Fees/ Subcriptions	14	-	
Income from Investments (Income on Invest			
from earmarked Funds transferred to Funds)	15		
Income from Royalty, Publication etc.	16		
Interest Earned	17		-
Other Income	18	1,56,259.00	2,36,542.00
Increase/(decrease) in stock of Finished goods			
and works-in-progress	19	-	
TOTAL (A)		41,20,06,085.00	27,34,36,528.00
EXPENDITURE			
Establishment Expenses	20	3,03,74,871.00	2,37,10,975.00
Office & Other Administrative Expenses etc.	21	38,15,68,992.16	24,40,05,927.15
Expenditure on Grants, Subsidies etc.	22	-	-
Interest	23	-	
Depreciation (Net Total at the year-end)			
(Corresponding to Schedule 8)		32,04,356.17	25,48,370.16
Payment/Adjustment related to earlier years			30,51,440.00
TOTAL (B)		41,51,48,219.33	27,33,16,712.31
Balance being excess of Income/(Expenses) over Expenditure/Income (A-B)		(31,42,134.33)	1,19,815.69
Transfer to Special Reserve (Specity each)		(61/12/20 3.00)	
Transfer to / from General Reserve			
BALANCE BEING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) CARRIED TO CORPUS / CAPITAL FUND		(31,42,134.33)	1,19,815.69
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24		59
AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		

रूपाओं बनजों सिंह / Rupal Baratiee Singn स्पान योगा सिह / Rusal Bararies Singh स्पान सिहा / We have Saute us; भारता Summission for Froterior of Child Rights महिला एवं पाल विकास समाल्य Ministry of Women & Child Development साह राजार महिली / Govt of India New Deibi

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2024

28,84,50,663.79	41,67,49,025.62	TOTAL	28,84,50,663.79	41,67,49,025.62	10.00
			•		Receipts from State Cheque
				1	
and the second s					NC TON
61.22.015.19	56,70,597.91	(iii) Savings accounts	36,63,391,00	1,69,190.00	Advances Recovered
12,300.00	12,300.00	(ii) In deposit accounts	-	1	(VII) Other Reciepts
	-	(i) In current accounts	-	1	
•		b) Bank Balances:-	•	ı	ZC Z RIL
•	-	a) Cash in hand (Including Imprest)			(VI) Amount Borrowed:
٠		(VIII) Closing Balances:	1		beartly Deposit Retund
		RTE		,	Constitution of State Representative
1,49,119.65	1,82,471.15	g) Dept of school Edu & Literacy			Sile of fixed Assets
51,87,359.00		Excess Grant Received - To be Refund		31,119.00	Alba c neverbis
5,03,954.00		Other Payable-Interest Earned Retunded			second relation (transfer to the second
	24,69,705.00	L'AO WCD Account		2,100,00	
1		oundry Creditors	00.000.±7.11	107.30 C	Tally Manual Man
10,89,550.00	21,48,417.00	Security Money refunded		12.71.71.00	Sub-tille Manual Property of William Sub-
		L'ayment for Stale Cheque	00.086,0	5,492.00	South of the second sec
		(VII) Other Payments (Specify):	l	2,888,00	Seminary and the Colombia
		(VI) Finance Charges (Interest):	1,967.00	00.47671	DAMES AND ASSESSED.
ı				-	(5) valer (acome (apricity):
1		e) To Security Deposit			
1	1	d) Recovered & paid to parent office			
1,99,940.00	2,33,228.00	c) To others	-		m) Italis, Advances etc
-	P	b) To the State Government	3,49,161.92	2,41,121.43	The Posits
,	-	a) To the Government of India			(18) Interest Received:
đ	1	(V) Loans & Advances:	-		
,					
•	,	b) Exp. On Capital Work-in-progress			
30,01,177.00	44,64,025.00	a) Purchase of Fixed Assets			The state of the s
	,	Capital Work-in-Progress:			The second secon
		11 A) Experience on rixed Assets &			
,		(IV) Expanditure on Final Aprata 8			b) Care tunes (0th Investment)
1		n) Carrot Cart Fands (myesunches-ories)			i) Farmarked/Endow Tunds
		h) Ont of Our Bands (Introduced Allers	1		(III) licome on investments from:
		1) Out of Farmarked /Endoument funds			1)Process againt Received - To be Refinial
		(III) Invoctments and denocit made		-	3)NHTA(Grant for Kokrajilaar & Chirang)
			-	-	II) From Naxal Management Division
		HAMILIAN OF STREET, ST	•	-	3 From other sources (Unicet India)
		Grant Refund to Covernment of India	- 1	•	b) I rom State Covernment.
		MIIA(Grant for Kokraihar & Chirang)	27,55,03,000,00	40,84,89,780.00	Tort apital & Revenue Expenses
		Naxal Management Division		-	11 From Government of India:
		(Unicef India)			[1] Carants Received:
		Out of Earmarked / Endowment funds	•	-	
		for various projects:			Adustroent of previous year advance
		(II) Payments made against funds	77,40,513,87	61,22,015,19	m) avangs accounts
00.470,01,12	17,04,020,00	The second of the second of the second	8	12,300,00	u) hi desposit accounts
21 10 00	VO 553 V7 D1	d) TDS & Other payable amount of last year	•	-	i) he remet accounts (unspent bal.)
24,72,02,000,90	00,720,00,720,00	C) Exponse on Grant & Subsidios atc	-		Fank Balances
20.00,00,000	36 94 30 647 56	b)Office & Other Administration Exponent		4	the and the hand (including imprest)
227 70 77 70	3 01 73 107 00	a) listablishment Expenses			
Previous Year	Current Year	(I) Expenses:	a i chiona i cai		I) Opening Balances:
(Amount in Rs.)	_	7	Danilous Vans	Current Vear	RIC FIPTS

रूपाली बनप्से सिंह / Rupali Banerjee Singh सदस्य सचिव / Member Secretary राष्ट्रीय बात अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग National Commission for Protection of Child Rights महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्राहम मंत्राहमा आहेता एवं वाल विकास के Child Development भारत सरकार, नई विल्ही / Govt, of India New Delha



National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

5th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi-110001 Ph No: 011-23478200, 011-23478212, Fax: 011-23731584 Website:www.ncpcr.gov.in For Complaint: ebaalnidan.nic.in