# File No. 11011/61/2025-Admn National Commission for Protection of Child Rights 5th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36-Janpath, New Delhi-110001

12th June, 2025

### Office Memorandum

Sub: Minutes of the  $64^{th}$  Statutory Meeting of the Commission held on 26.05.2025 at 12.00 noon in the Conference Room ( $5^{th}$  Floor) of NCPCR – regarding.

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the minutes of the  $64^{th}$  Statutory Meeting of the Commission held on  $26^{th}$  May. 2025 duly approved by the Chairperson, NCPCR, for information and necessary action.

(Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma) Member Secretary NCPCR

### Encl./As above:

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- Í. The Chairperson
- 2. Ms. Preeti Bharadwaj Dalal, Member (LRC)
- 3. Registrar
- 4. Principal Research & Technical Expert
- 5. Sr. Professional (JJ & LRC)
- 6. Sr. CL (Admin)/ Sr. CL (Legal)
- 7. STE (NE/J&K/Ladakh & ATC)
- 8. CL (Prog.) /CL (IT)
- 9. PS to Member Secretary
- 10. Minutes Register/Guard File.

Minutes of the 64th Statutory Meeting of the Commission held on 26th May, 2025 at 12.00 Noon in the Conference Room (5th Floor) of NCPCR, Chanderlok Building, Janpath, New Delhi

The 64<sup>th</sup> Statutory Meeting of the Commission was held on 26.05.2025 at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room (5th Floor) of National Commission of Protection of Child Rights, Chanderlok Building, Janpath, New Delhi. The following were present in the meeting:

- 1. Ms. Tripti Gurha, Chairperson
- 2. Dr. Divya Gupta, Member
- 3. Ms. Preeti Bharadwaj Dalai, Member
- 4. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Member Secretary

Meeting commenced with a welcome note. With the permission of the Chair. 3 additional Agenda Items & Action Taken Report (ATR) received from Member (LRC) and one additional Agenda Item of Legal Division were admitted for deliberation at the 64th Statutory Meeting of the Commission.

Confirmation of Minutes of the 63<sup>rd</sup> statutory Meeting of the Commission held on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 (Monday).

The Commission decided that the Minutes of the 63rd Statutory Meeting shall be treated as confirmed.

#### AGENDA ITEMS:

Agenda Item No.1: Items for information of the Commission -

Decision (1): The Commission was apprised about the activities undertaken during the period between last and current Statutory Meeting of the Commission. It included items of taking up matter with MWCD for allocation of office Space in CGO Complex for the Commission; Status of pendency of the Complaints; Budget Allocations and Expenditure overview; Report on Pariksha Parv (7.0); and Meeting on Prevention of Obesity among children through a brief presentation. The Commission noted the same. In addition, Member (Child Health) and Member (LRC) also apprised the Commission about activities undertaken by them in areas of childhood obesity, campaign to sensitize stakeholders to control child marriages etc. Chairperson, NCPCR also suggested that mechanism/ guidelines to check trafficking of infants in the hospitals should be revised.



### Agenda Item No.2: status of filling-up of Regular Posts-

**Decision (2)**: The Commission was constituted with a sanctioned post of 36, out of which 26 got "deemed abolished" due to non filing of these posts for over 5 years of duration. At present, 10 posts are live and 3 of these are filled. Applications for filling the posts of PPS and AD were called on deputation. Only 2 applications have been received against the 5 posts of PPS while no application has been received against one post of AD. Further, the post of PPS will again be circulated. It is felt that the recruitment rule of AD needs to be modified to attract applications.

The Commission was also informed that proposal for revival/recreation and rationalization of the deemed abolished posts shall be taken up with Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) through Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD).

The Commission approved the plan of action.

(Action: Administration Division)

### Agenda Item No. 3: Merger and closure of portals of NCPCR -

**Decision (3):** The Commission was informed that estimated project value would be around 40 lakhs instead of 30-35 lakhs mentioned in the agenda. Also, another round of discussions with NIC will be taken up before deciding the exact number of portals for merger and closure.

The Commission empowered the Chairperson to take final decision in this regard. Also, the Commission decided that an open tender may be floated through GEM to invite bids for carrying out the work of merger/closure of the various portals of the Commission. It was also decided that the bids should be called from the vendors who are empaneled with Ministry of electronics and Information Technology or its autonomous bodies/ PSU/ subordinate offices.

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(Action: IT Division)

Agenda Item No.6: Annual Report on Analysis of NICU/PICU and SNCU (Agenda item No-1 in 63rd Statutory Meeting of the Commission –

**Decision (6):** The Commission was informed that in 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting, it was approved that inspection of Health Care facilities for new born and children shall be inspected and review meetings with State Health Departments shall be conducted. In that regard, it was proposed that a format for inspection will be developed by NCPCR with the support of medical experts and shall be circulated to SCPCRs for carrying out the inspections and hold State level review meetings with State Health departments.

The Commission decided that above format for inspection be developed and circulated to SCPCRs for further necessary action in terms of inspection and review.

Agenda Item No.7: Annual Work plan of Activities to be undertaken in Child Health shall be put separately -

**Decision (7):** The Commission has noted that the suggestions points mentioned under Sub-para (i) and (iii) have already been discussed above or taken note. With respect to suggestion given under Sub-para (ii); it was felt by the Commission that the contents/veracity of the material proposed to be incorporated in the Pocket Booklet may first be carefully verified and may, thereafter, be got approved by the Commission/MWCD, if required. Regarding item (iv), the Chairperson may approve the SOP for handling and processing of complaints.

### Agenda Item No.8: Agenda Items of 62nd Statutory Meeting -

**Decision (8):** In 63<sup>rd</sup> Statutory Meeting of Commission; it was decided that since the Minutes of 62<sup>nd</sup> Statutory Meeting were not circulated, its agendalitems could not be discussed in the 53rd Statutory Meeting and, therefore, the agendalitems from 62nd Statutory Meeting would be taken up in the forthcoming 64<sup>th</sup> Statutory Meeting of the Commission. Accordingly, the Commission has taken up the Agendalitems of 62<sup>nd</sup> Statutory Meeting which were circulated as **Annexure-II** with Meeting Notice. The Decisions taken by the Commission:

I. **Education Division** - Agenda Item No.1 approved for follow- up and progress report be submitted on monthly basis. It was apprised to the Commission that Ministry of Education has allocated budget in BE for year 2025-26 for carrying out the study mentioned under the Item no. 2. The Commission instructed that the same should be undertaken. Item no. 3 should be dropped as Ministry of Education has not approved the Item while deciding the BE 2025-26. Item no. 4 should be undertaken. Ministry of

### Agenda Item No. 4 -Proposal for initiation of NCPCR's Helpline

**Decision (4):** The Commission was informed that NCPCR, at present, is operating numerous telephone lines/online tools to provide access to the stakeholders especially children for redressal of the grievances relating to the functions entrusted to the Commission u/s 13 of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act , 2005. Therefore, it was proposed that NCPCR may start a toll free helpline called "NCPCR Helpline" to provide guidance and support telephonically to a caller on any matter/issue pertaining to violation of child rights. This could be a 4 (four) digit easy to remember number or 10 (ten) digit number. The existing tele-counseling services could be linked/ subsumed through aforementioned helpline number.

The proposal was deliberated in the meeting and an 'in-principle' approval was given by the Commission.

(Action: IT Division)

Agenda Item No. 5: Empanelment of Agencies for (a) Conducting Research Studies; (b) Event Management and Creatives; (c) Social Media & Publicity.

**Decision (5):** The Commission decided that NCPCR should empanel agencies which can carry out event management, publicity for generating awareness, developing the communication material etc.

The Commission also instructed that for carrying out research and impact studies, reputed research agencies may be empaneled.

Social Media has become very important for every organization, more so for the organization like NCPCR which requires spreading of awareness about various initiatives and schemes and continuous dissemination of information about child rights. Therefore, an agency for managing the social media should also be hired.

The process of empanelment may be carried out through GEM or outside (if required).

(Action: Research Institutions - PRTE (Edu.), Event Management Company/Agency - STE (NER/ATC), Social Media, Consultant (Media)]

Education has allocated fund under item no. 5, therefore, the activities, mentioned under items 5 should be undertaken.

- II. **Child Labor Division** As per Item No. 6, a campaign related to Child Labor, Trafficking and CiSS will be undertaken from1st June, 2025 for 15 days in each subsequent quarter. A letter from the Chairperson will be sent to the Chief Secretary of the states/UTs in this regard. Item No.7 requires more deliberation at the level of officials of NCPCR before bringing it for the decision at the Commission level.
- iii. **Child Health and Child Psychology Division** It was observed that Agenda Items No.8 and 9 have already been deliberated in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Commission. Report pertaining to item No. 10 should be put up for perusal of the Commission. Item No.11 was only for information. As it is not relevant at this point of time, hence it was dropped.
- iv. **NER/J&K/Ladakh & Anti Trafficking Cell** The Commission desired that status report on Items No.12 may be placed. Time for activities under Item No.13 may be extended till 31<sup>st</sup> September. Time table for Item No.15 may be submitted for approval of Member secretary. Member (LRC) has conveyed that she has already expressed her concerns with reference to Agenda Item No.14 for creation of Establishment of Anti-trafficking Cell (ATC) in NCPCR.
- v. **Legal Cell** It was observed that Agenda Items No.16 to 18, which have become irrelevant at this point of time, were decided to be dropped.

Agenda item No.9: Revamp of the POCSO e-Box mechanism (Portal, Mobile and Email) for enhanced redressal of POCSO related Grievances

**Decision (9)** - Member (LRC) has suggested certain functional modifications in the present version of POCSO e-Box to address the existing inconsistencies and take measures to spread awareness about POCSO e-Box among students in Schools affiliated to State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and State Education Boards (SEBs). She has also suggested disseminating the information about POCSO e-Box mandatorily in all NCERT textbooks for classes below Class-VI as well as textbooks published by all SCERTs and SEBs.

The Commission has noted that since exercise for merger and revamping of portals/websites is already proposed to be undertaken; issue relating to enrichment of POCSO e-Box may be taken up during/post merger/closure of NCPCR portals. Also, proposal of engaging a professional Media/Social media



agency has been approved by the Commission; the exhaustive campaign for dissemination of awareness and information could be launched in a systematic and planned manner. However, existing efforts and activities/measures may continue to be taken with concerned stakeholders for dissemination for POCSO related awareness/information.

### Agenda item No.10: Engagement of additional staff in LRC

**Decision (10)** - Member (LRC) requested to depute additional staff/manpower in LRC Division owing to substantial increase in the volume of work and scope of activities undertaken by the Division. The Commission noted the same.

It was also discussed during the meeting that new consultant policy needs to be adopted as desired by Ministry. The Commission decided to undertake activities of adopting the new consultant policy.

## Agenda item No.11: Monitoring of appointment of support Persons in States/UTs-

**Decision (11) -** Member (LRC) proposed that Commission may, in the light of monitoring role assigned to it u/s 44 of POCSO Act, may convene regular Review Meetings with an objective of assessing and compiling data regarding appointment and functioning of the Support Persons across States and Union Territories (UTs) to ensure that the role of Support Persons is implemented effectively and in accordance with the intent of the law and Hon'ble Supreme Court directions.

The Commission deliberated on the matter and decided that the Commission should restrict its monitoring role on outcomes only and not the procedural aspects required to be complied by the State Governments.

# Agenda Item No.12: Pertaining to payment of fee to Advocates/Senior Advocates engaged for Court Matters -

**Decision (12)** - Legal Cell of Commission stated that the Commission receive a large number of cases from the Supreme Court, the High Courts and various District Courts across India. In order to ensure efficient representation on behalf of Commission before respective judicial forum; the Commission is required to engage Counsels who may/may not be empanelled with Department of Legal Affairs (DoLA). In such cases, generally the Commission follows Ministry of Law & justice, D/o Legal Affairs guidelines for engagement of Counsels to represent NCPCR. However, in certain cases; Senior Advocates or Additional Solicitor General (ASG) or Solicitor General (SG) may have to be engaged who normally charges fee beyond limits laid down by DoLA. In such cases; Chairperson, NCPCR should



be empowered to decide terms and conditions of engagement including fee to be paid to such Counsels.

The proposal was deliberated in the meeting of the Commission and it was decided that Chairperson, NCPCR is empowered to engage suitable Counsel/(s) depending on the merit of the matter involved in the case and decide terms and conditions of engagement including fee to be paid to Counsel on case to case basis.

**Decision:** Decision on Action taken Report(ATR) on Agenda items No. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, & 16 of 63<sup>rd</sup> SMC, submitted by Member (LRC) are attached as **Annexure**.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



ATR No.	Agenda No. of 63 <sup>rd</sup> SMC	Decision
1	Agenda Item No. 8 - Annual Review Meetings with District Level Stakeholders on Prohibition of child Marriage and Awareness Creation	
	<b>Action Taken</b> - As proposed, district-level review meetings were conducted across the country between 07.04 2025 and 29.04.2025 to evaluate and	
	reinforce ongoing efforts towards the prevention of child marriages. Approximately 2,000 officials participated in these meetings, including District Magistrates (DMs), Additional District Magistrates (ADMs), Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs), District Education Officers (DEOs), and other key stakeholders.	
	In alignment with the national vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, the primary objectives of these meetings were to promote interdepartmental coordination, enhance public awareness, and assess the implementation of legal and administrative measures under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006. Stakeholders were briefed on key provisions of the PCMA, specifically under Section 13, which pertains to the issuance of injunctions to prohibit child marriages.	
	Furthermore, the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP)	



developed by the Commission was disseminated among participants to ensure uniformity in enforcement and procedural clarity. All stakeholders were also invited to take a formal pledge, reaffirming their commitment to the elimination of child marriage.

These have engagements demonstrated measurable outcomes. Notably, field visits conducted States of in the Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh revealed significant have а increase in the registration of FIRs and the issuance of injunctions under the PCMA within a span of 15 days. This positive development reflects heightened awareness, improved inter-agency coordination, strengthening of the preventive framework at the district level.

It is further proposed that a detailed Report 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Review Meeting on PCMA and outcomes shall be prepared and for approval and submitted 3<sup>rd</sup> publishing along with the Report during the forthcoming statutory meeting.

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Agenda Item No. 9 - Preparation of Comprehensive Training Modules for Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs)

Agenda Item No.10- Proposal for Training Modules for Child Marriage Prohibition Officers

NCPCR may first confirm from NIPCCID that requisite training material is available or not. If not available, NCPCR may develop training material in consultation with NIPCCID, The training of stakeholders, if required may be done through NIPCCID only.

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#### (CMPOs) -

Action Taken - As proposed under the aforesaid agenda items, Commission undertook the and preliminary assessment specific established that no tailored training modules capacity building of child marriage prohibition officers (CMPOs) are presently available even with the Institute of Public National Child Cooperation and Development (NIPCCD).

In light of the above, a literature survey is presently undertaken, with a particular focus on the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court from time to time in matters pertaining to child marriage. Based on findings, the consultation meetings with relevant stakeholders will be convened. Thereafter, a structured training module aimed at the capacity building of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) shall through developed appropriate external agency.

It is pertinent to note that, as per Sustainable Development Goal 5.3, the practice of child marriage is recognized as a harmful tradition that infringes upon the rights of children and adversely affects their health, education, and overall wellbeing. In this regard, it is significant to take concerted legal and policy measures to eliminate the practice of child marriage in all its forms by the year 2030.

We are encouraged to inform that

significant awareness has been generated regarding the provisions and objectives of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, through the conduct of Annual Review Meetings. During course of State-level visits, it has been observed that kev stakeholders, including Child Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Units, Police, and other relevant authorities, demonstrated clear understanding of the Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) issued by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) concerning the effective implementation of the PCMA. Furthermore, it is heartening to observe that stakeholders actively engaging with the Commission's initiatives such as the Child Marriage Pledge etc.

Agenda Item No.11- Conduct a comprehensive in-house study on the quality, discrepancies and consistency of Medico-Legal Reports (MLRs) in sexual abuse cases of minors.

Action Taken – In light of various discrepancies observed in Medico-Legal Reports (MLRs) concerning POCSO victims, the Commission further proposes to undertake a comprehensive study to gain a holistic understanding of existing practices. Given that the Commission can, at present, offer only a broad overview, and the

The Commission was agreeable to the proposal, However, suggested that any communication should be channelized through Member Secretary being the Secretariat Nodal point of the Commission.

proposed study shall be conducted in association with, and with the technical assistance of, a recognized Medical College or University. The findings of this study are intended to support the Commission's ongoing efforts toward proposing amendments to the POCSO Act.

Presently, a literature survey is underway with respect to the proforma employed by medical practitioners in the conduct of Medico-Legal Cases (MLCs) involving POCSO victims. During recent visits to the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh, this issue was deliberated in detail during review meetings held with relevant stakeholders. The interactions revealed a pressing for need standardization medico-legal documentation and reporting,

Pursuant to these deliberations, it was resolved that the Commission shall approach the premier Medical Science Institutes such as Forensic Science Laboratory (FSLs, and the relevant Ministries to revisit and revise the existing MLC formats used by medical professionals in cases falling under the purview of the POCSO. Act.

Further, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) shall also be requested to assist the Commission in formulating comprehensive medico-legal

guidelines. This collaboration shall the development include circulation of a uniform MLR format be adopted nationwide medical experts, thereby ensuring consistency, accuracy, and childsensitive documentation.

A draft communication invoking the powers under Section 13(1)(g) of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, read with Section 44 of the POCSO Act, 2012, has been prepared to this effect and is proposed to be issued In addition, shortly. Commission is in the process of organizing a consultative meeting with relevant Ministries and key stakeholders to deliberate further on the matter and facilitate the structured implementation of the proposed reforms.

No.12 Item Agenda Preparation of **Awareness** for Nationwide Materials Programs on the POCSO Act | Media agency is proposed to be and CSAM for Schools -

- The Hon'ble Action Taken Supreme Court, through various orders and directions issued from time to time, has emphasized the need for widespread awareness generation on the POCSO Act, 2012, and Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

In furtherance of these directions, presently Commission is the comprehensive undertaking а literature survey to assess the availability and adequacy of IEC materials in this domain. It is The proposal was agreeable. However, it was also noted that a dedicated Media/Social engaged for awareness including on dissemination POCSO and CSAM.

observed that specific IEC material on CSAM is presently unavailable, even with institutional repositories such as the NIPCCD.

In light of this the gap, Commission is planning to convene a consultation meeting with CSOs actively engaged in the field of child protection, with the objective of obtaining relevant IEC content and exploring existing secondary resources that may be leveraged. A formal proposal in this regard is currently under preparation and be shared shortly consideration and necessarv action.

Agenda Item No.13 - (i) Proposal for Training Modules for Support Persons under the POCSO Act.

Action Taken - As proposed under the aforesaid agenda items, the Commission while conducting regular visits and state meetings has observed the appointments of support persons has been initiated by almost all the States and UTs in compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions. However, it has been observed the experience or educational qualification is not adequate to dea! with the child victims.

Further, the Commission undertook a preliminary study and established that no specific training modules tailored for support persons are available with the NIPCCD.

In light of the above, a literature

NCPCR may first confirm from NIPCCID that requisite training material is available or not. If not available, NCPCR may develop training material in consultation with NIPCCID. The training of stakeholders, if required may be done through NIPCCID only.

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survey is being conducted, with a particular focus on the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court from time to time and NCPCR guidelines. Based on the findings, the formulation of a structured training module for is under Support Persons either to consideration. prepared in-house or through an appropriate external agency.

Further, during its review visits to five States and Union Territories, the Commission has observed significant lapses and irregularities in the appointment of Support Persons under the POCSO Act. appointments Specifically, the made frequently been without due regard to the requisite qualifications, experience, understanding of the provisions and objectives of the POCSO Act.

In view of the above, there exists a pressing and immediate need to initiate structured capacity-building programmes for all appointed Support Persons.

Agenda Item No.14 - Recommend amendment/s in Laws relating to Children (especially POCSO Act) regarding waiver of privileges or immunity to diplomats and foreign nationals in crimes against children

Artion Taken - The Division has initiated and undertaken the requisite preparatory exercise for formulating recommendations concerning the waiver of

Noted by the Commission

diplomatic immunities accorded to foreign nationals in cases involving criminal offences, with particular emphasis on crimes committed against children.

part of this exercise, Division under section 13 (1) (f) of CPCR Act, 2005 has conducted an extensive literature review undertaken in-depth legal research, drawing upon a wide range of authoritative sources, including legal textbooks. commentaries, and other scholarly references. In addition, relevant international treaties, conventions, and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been examined to evaluate the prevailing legal frameworks and bilateral understandings governing the issue of diplomatic immunity. The Division has also analyzed pertinent judicial pronouncements delivered by Indian courts, alongside comparative jurisprudence from foreign jurisdictions, to understand how similar matters nave interpreted and adjudicated internationally.

The matter remains under active consideration. Further research and interdepartmental consultations are currently being undertaken to ensure a holistic and legally sound approach to the issue, in consonance with applicable legal principles and the paramount consideration of the best interests of the child.

Further, there exists a pressing to convene consultative meetings with relevant Ministries, institutions, academic international think tanks. Such consultations would enable the Commission to comprehensively assess the existing challenges, draw upon global best practices, and develop informed, evidencebased recommendations. These deliberations shall also serve as a platform to identify legislative and procedural gaps, and to propose appropriate amendments to the existing legal framework, with a view to strengthening the implementation of the POCSO Act. The proposal was agreed. IT Agenda Item No.15 - Proposal 8 Division shall be directed to get for a Dedicated Email ID for the same done. to Children Relating Laws Division. Action Taken - The matter was discussed with the IT Division of the Commission, which informed that, due to certain technical constraints and the requirement of specific approvals from NIC, the delayed. been has matter However, the process for obtaining the requisite approvals has since been initiated, and upon receipt of necessary clearances, the dedicated email ID for the LRC shall be duly created. Agenda Item No.16 - Proposal Noted by the Commission. 9 Legal Subscription to Law Case and Journals

Databases-

Action Taken - As proposed, the matter was duly discussed and reviewed with the library of the Commission. Pursuant to this, a note seeking approval for the required subscription has been initiated. At the current stage, the financial implications of the proposed subscription are under discussion with the Library and the Accounts Section.

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