



# Chhonna Hai Aasman.....

FEBRUARY 2014



*A monthly newsletter from Prayas JAC Society*

## A personnel message:

*This newsletter is the first of a monthly series that will bring snippets from your work. The work that brought change in lives of the children, communities, women and youth across nine states through our intervention and your effort. Prayas JAC Society will come out with newsletter every month which will have reports on policy level changes related to our thematic areas, impact through our programs etc. This newsletter will go out to every single well wisher of Prayas, Donors, Volunteers and Partners. Let's unite to bring change together.....*

*-Vishwajeet Ghoshal Joint Secretary & Director Projects*

# Railway stations to get child protection panels

Stations are a major hub of human trafficking

Devesh K. Pandey

**NEW DELHI:** Known to be major transit points for human trafficking, railway stations will soon get Child Protection Committees (CPCs), as per the standard operating procedure developed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

The committees are being instituted in compliance with a Delhi High Court directive on safeguarding child rights.

The procedure mandates a provision for CPCs, comprising a station manager, superintendent or master, representatives from the Government Railway Police and the Railway Protection Force, a ticket inspector and a section engineer.

"The CPCs at every major railway station will be responsible and authorised to set and ensure the mechanism for care and protection of children at and around railway stations. It will function as a nodal and apex body for provision of all child protection issues at the railway station-level," said a recent note of the Railway Board.

Instructions have also been issued to establish children assistance centres at railway stations, with a pre-defined provision for food, temporary shelter, clothing, toilet facilities, first-aid and medicines for the children in need.

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The scene at a platform in New Delhi railway station — FILE PHOTO: MONICA TIWARI

fare Committee (CWC). The centre may be managed with the help of non-government organisations.

The Committee, which will be required to hold monthly review meetings, has been made responsible for the upkeep of the assistance centres, arranging emergency support, maintaining emergency contact numbers of stakeholders, monitoring child protection systems, maintaining records of the children and displaying advocacy messages.

It will also coordinate with the CWC and the Juvenile Justice Board, besides ensuring pro-active vigilance on potential child abusers loitering about the stations.

The responsibilities of ticket-checkers have also been outlined; they are to keep a close watch on potential child abusers/traffickers and alert the security personnel accordingly.

The station's Assistant Manager (Commercial) will be appointed the nodal officer on behalf of the Chairman of the Railway Board.

Railway officials, as part of the unit, will undergo training on issues of child rights and protection.

Several non-government organisations working with victims of child abuse and trafficking have welcomed the initiative, stating that it would help check crimes against minors.

"The Old Delhi, New Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin and, now, the Anand Vihar railway stations are vital transit points used by child traffickers," said Rishi Kant of NGO Shakti Vahini.

He added: "The children are trafficked into the city from Bihar, Assam, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for various purposes, including bonded labour in factories and embroidery units. Minor girls are also pushed into prostitution and taken to Punjab and Haryana for forced marriages. The setting up of the Child Protection Committees at railway stations will help curb forced migration and consequent abuse of children."

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### **Revised Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) Announced:**

The Government of India - Ministry of Women and Child announced the new revised guidelines for the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). This announcement strengthens India's Commitment on Child Rights

'Child Protection' is about protecting children from or against any perceived or real danger or risk to their life, their personhood and childhood. It is about reducing their vulnerability to any kind of harm and protecting them in harmful situations. It is about ensuring that no child falls out of the social security and safety net and, those who do, receive necessary care, protection and support so as to bring them back into the safety net. While protection is a right of every child, some children are more vulnerable than others and need special attention. The Government recognizes these children as 'children in difficult circumstances', characterized by their specific social, economic and geo-political situations. In addition to providing a safe environment for these children, it is imperative to ensure that all other children also remain

protected. This is because Child protection is integrally linked to every other right of the child.

Failure to ensure children's right to protection adversely affects all other rights of the child. Thus, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cannot be achieved unless child protection is an integral part of programs, strategies and plans for their achievement. Failure to protect children from issues such as violence in schools, child labour, harmful traditional practices, child marriage, child abuse, the absence of parental care and commercial sexual exploitation among others, means failure in fulfilling both the Constitutional and International commitments towards children.

The National Charter for Children, 2003 adopted on 9th February 2004, underlined the intent to secure for every child its inherent right to be a child and enjoy a healthy and happy childhood, to address the root causes that negate the healthy growth and development of children, and to awaken the conscience of the community in the wider societal context to protect children from all forms of abuse, while strengthening the family, society and the Nation.

To affirm the Government's commitment to the rights based approach in addressing the continuing and emerging challenges in the situation of children, the Government of India drafted the National Policy for Children, 2013, and reiterates its commitment to safeguard, inform, include, support and empower all children within its territory and jurisdiction, both in their individual situation and as a national asset. The State is committed to take affirmative measures – legislative, policy or otherwise – to promote and safeguard the right of all children to live and grow with equity, dignity, security and freedom, especially those marginalised or disadvantaged; to ensure that all children have equal opportunities; and that no custom, tradition, cultural or religious practice is allowed to violate or restrict or prevent children from enjoying their rights.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, (MWCD) extends its commitment of the XI plan for creating a solid foundation for a protective environment for 40 per cent of India's vulnerable children who are experiencing difficult circumstances, by continuing the centrally sponsored Scheme - the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) in XII plan. The Scheme, since its launch in 2009, in partnership with the State Governments/UT Administrations, has strengthened prevention of child rights violation; enhanced infrastructure for protection services; provided financial support for implementation of the Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Act, 2000; increased access to a wider range and better quality of services; increased investment in child protection and is continuously drawing focus on the right of children to be safe.

The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) has significantly contributed to the realization of Government/State responsibility for creating a system that will efficiently and effectively protect children. Based on cardinal principles of "protection of child rights" and "best interest of the child", ICPS is achieving its objectives to contribute to the improvements in the well being of children in difficult circumstances, as well as to the reduction of vulnerabilities to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children from their families.

## **Chasing my Dreams: NITIN**



### ***NITIN: On the path towards progress***

*Nitin, a bright and intelligent boy, had been found by the team of Child Line Prayas on the tracks of Nizammuddin Railway Station. He was found in shambles condition and heavily under the influence of drugs and cigarettes. Slowly and gradually he started opening up after consistent counselling session by the professional counsellors. His father remarried after the death of his mother after a prolonged illness. When he initially brought to home, Nitin was very disturbed and confused boy, speaking only his regional language. Now he is one of the most focused, well-behaved children at home. Earlier, he was shy and spoke hesitatingly, but now he speaks and turned out to be a good orator. He greets everyone with smile and takes up certain responsibilities as well such as looking after the needs of the younger one. He is doing extremely well in his studies and always secures more than 90% marks in all his subjects. He is presently studying in class XI. Currently, going under specialized training under a talented choreographer. His excited dialogues, pearly white teeth and enchanting smile leave you mesmerized. We at Prayas feel proud to have him in our midst and we are confident that he is on the road to success.*

*Prayas JAC Society works to bring change in the lives of the children, women individuals and for vulnerable communities. Our Team of 643 people in nine states/UT's through its 242 centres, 22 Homes and in hundred of slums and villages across India dedicated to bring change in their lives.....*