

PRESS RELEASE
DELHI COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

06 August, 2022

Subject: Release of the second issue of the DCPCR's Journal "Children First- Journal on Children's Lives"

New Delhi

After the massive success of the first issue of DCPCR's journal "*Children First-Journal on Children's Lives*", the second issue was released by Hon'ble Justice B.V. Nagarathna, Supreme Court of India and Guest of Honour Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Manish Sisodia on Saturday, August 6, at a Delhi Govt School.

The second issue of the journal expands its focus on varied issues of children and their rights, under the impact of COVID-19. The theme of the second issue is "Disrupted Childhood, Disrupted Education".

Authors of pieces published in the journal come from reputed institutions such as King's College, London University of Leeds, University of York, IITs, JawaharLal Nehru University, Delhi University, Ambedkar University, Azim Premji University, and Christ University, Bangalore.

Different renowned NGOs have also made submissions. The primary ones include Centre for Policy Research, Teach for All, PRS Legislative Research, Pratham Education Foundation, and Teach For India.

Eminent people have written for this issue of journal and they include Dr. Jean Dreze (Development Economist), Wendy Copp (CEO, Teach For All), Dr. Rukmini Banerji (CEO, Pratham Foundation) and Avani Kapoor (Director, Accountability Initiative, Centre for Policy Research) among others.

The published pieces cover several aspects of children's lives ranging from catastrophic consequences of prolonged school closures, and impact of COVID-19 on lifestyle behaviour to struggles of street children and children with special needs.

Different parts of the country have been covered in different researches published in the journal making it national in character. Submissions have been received from as many as twenty states, covering lives of children from Himachal Pradesh to Karnataka, to National Capital Region to Tamil Nadu, and from Uttar Pradesh to Jharkhand. Not only this, the Journal also features ten paintings and nine articles written by the children, from Kashmir to Kolkata, to Pondicherry.

Apart from this the Commission received 3000 entries of paintings and write ups from children all across the country of which nearly 20 features in the journal.

Releasing the journal, Justice B.V. Nagarathna appreciated the efforts of DCPCR for highlighting the issues of children significantly and giving a chance to children to speak about their experiences of society. She gave the keynote address on "Justice for Children" and said, "As India marks 75th year of its independence we need to make a roadmap to galvanize an agenda for justice for children. Status of society is reflected in the status meted out to each child"

Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Manish Sisodia congratulated DCPCR for its different activities and addressed the audience on the topic "'Reimagine India for Children". He said, *"We need to get our children to dream big, and then trust their dream. ."*

The launch event featured two panel discussions on the themes "Strengthening Social Protection for Children" and "Moving On: Pandemic & Beyond".

The first panel discussion had Dr. P. Thiaga Rajan (Finance Minister, Tamil Nadu), and Ms. Rushda Mujeed, (India Head, BvLF) as panelists.

The second panel discussion had Ms. Atishi (MLA, Delhi), Ms. Uma Mahadevan (Additional Chief Secretary (Rural Development+Panchayati Raj), Govt of Karnataka), Ms. Geeta Goel (Country Director, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation), and Dr. Rukmini Banerji, CEO, Pratham as panelists. The session was moderated by Ms. Yamini Aiyar (President, Centre for Policy Research).

The event witnessed a rich audience ranging from many sitting judicial officers, IAS/DANICS officers, Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Boards & District Child Protection Units, Academics & Professors, Think-tanks & NGOs, and several people from legal backgrounds.

The event was anchored by Delhi Govt school teacher and a class IX student Shilu Mishra.