



## 1 / TOP STORY

Chief Justice of India at Palna



## 2 / SPOTLIGHT

"Sisters" Re-unite After 40 Years!  
Palna's daughter Megha: From  
Palna to Parenthood



## 3 / QUARTERLY UPDATES

Various



## 4 / WELL-WISHERS SPEAK

Some extracts from donors and  
well-wishers who have expressed  
their heartfelt sentiments.

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# DCCWConnect



## Chief Justice of India at Palna

We at DCCW were honoured to have the **Honourable Chief Justice of India Dr. D. Y. Chandrachud** visit Palna - our home for abandoned children - along with his family and friends, including Justice Yashwant Varma and his family. His wife Mrs Kalpana Das and their daughters Priyanka and Mahi have visited Palna earlier too and spent hours with the Palna children.

Justice Chandrachud was very moved meeting the little ones, especially the differently-abled children. He touched everyone's heart with the ease and informality with which he interacted with all the children. All the visitors spent a wonderful afternoon going around Palna, interacting with the children and sharing snacks with them. The children were delighted with their favourite, special home-made eats brought by the visitors, and even more when they received their individual gifts.

The afternoon also included informal discussions and conversations with the Executive Committee members, doctors and the staff of Palna. Adoption is a subject very close to the heart of the Honourable CJI and he shared his views with the team, and the changes in the laws that have been made over the years in India around adoption.

This is what he had to say about his visit to Palna:

*"Spending an afternoon at Palna is an uplifting and humbling experience. Children have that ability within, when they have none of the veneers of adulthood. My deep appreciation of the amazing work done here by everyone – from the Committee to the doctors and staff. Would look forward to coming again with Priyanka, Mahi and Kalpana."*



Justice & Mrs Chandrachud with DCCW team members

# Spotlight: Palna “Sisters” Re-unite After 40 Years!

Sita Therese Wilhelmsen (who had also featured in our April 2023 newsletter) is again in the news - literally! Close to four decades after leaving Palna to join her adoptive family in Norway, in May 2023 she reunited with Lene Dolly B. Langemyr, who had been at Palna at the same time as her! Their lives took them on different paths after they left Palna, only to converge once again many years later in a heartwarming twist of fate. A bond formed in their earliest years has now re-ignited.

Memories flooded their hearts as they reflected on the paths they had travelled, cherishing the bonds they unknowingly nurtured as children. They both feel that they have found their Palna sister. The story of their reunion has been featured in the Norwegian newspaper (L to R : Lene and Sita Therese)!

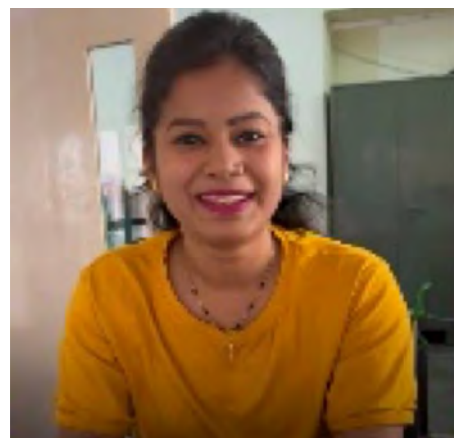
Sita Therese, who has just completed her Master's degree, spoke at her post-graduation celebration of how she has been motivated by her personal journey to establish a foundation aimed at helping and supporting the children of Palna. Instead of gifts, she requested everyone to contribute to the Palna home.

Sita Therese plans to visit Palna in January 2024 and we are looking forward to welcoming her home!

## Palna's daughter Megha: *From Palna to Parenthood*

**Megha Upadhyay**, a daughter of Palna, visited her first home along with her own little son! It was heartwarming to see Megha as a mother; she radiated love and care towards her baby boy. Megha shared with us that she credits Palna for everything she is today - for giving her a home, a family, and a fulfilling life. From the young girl who came to Palna decades ago, she has been part of a happy family first with her parents and now with her husband and son, and is also a successful businesswoman in her own right today.

We are immensely proud of Megha and her achievements. Her journey motivates us to continue our work and provide more children like her with a chance at a good life.



More life stories of Palna children have been collated in the book ***“The World of PALNA: A Refuge of Love and Hope”*** by Radhika Ramnath, which is available at online bookstores across the world (Amazon India), and at Palna.

**(All proceeds from the sale of the book come directly to Palna)**

## Quarterly Updates

### Vocational Training Programme

The valedictory function of the vocational training programme was a grand occasion across all centres. **252 students who had successfully completed the National Skill Development Council (NSDC) course** and cleared the exam with flying colours were awarded their certificates at functions organised by DCCW at each centre.

With immense pride DCCW bid farewell to the girls. Many had already qualified for jobs even before the official certificate was handed over to them.





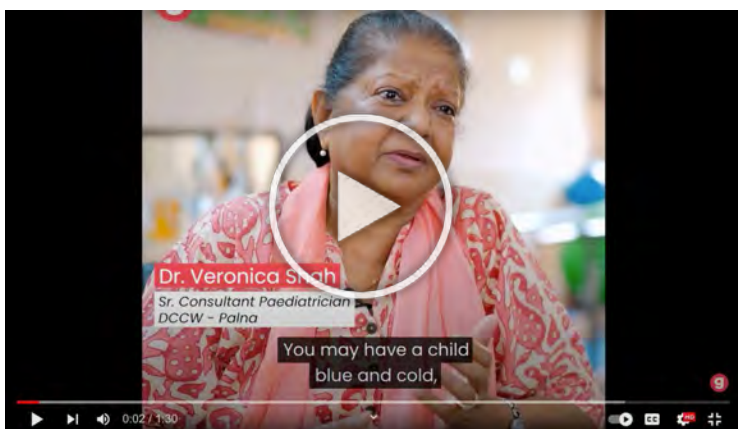
**Educational Sponsorship Programme** saw the disbursement of stipend and stationery to 510 students. Counselling sessions were held for students in Classes VIII to XII. 55 students attended the sessions and took back fruitful advice which will help them in choosing an appropriate career path.



**Janakpuri Centre Renovation:** Since our flagship Janakpuri centre had to be closed in March due to the state of disrepair of the building, we have had to rent an alternative premises in the neighbourhood to run all our programmes, and minimise the impact of the disruption on our beneficiaries. The full structural investigation of the building has been completed and the conclusion is that it makes financial sense to rebuild the centre completely, as the cost of attempting to retrofit it is very high. This is the biggest setback we have had both operationally and financially since DCCW was established in 1952, and we will need assistance from all our well-wishers towards getting this accomplished.

**Bal Chetna:** The first unit of Bal Chetna - our rehabilitation program for special needs children – that was re-started post-Covid in January 2023 at Janakpuri, is now running to full capacity despite the disruption caused by having to shift premises in between. The programme is already making a difference in the lives of the beneficiaries and their families.

**GiveIndia campaign featuring Palna:** Our partner GiveIndia is currently running a campaign to collect funds for NGOs caring for orphaned and abandoned children. These beautiful videos shot at Palna which are a part of their campaign, feature the Palna paediatric consultant Dr Veronica Shah and DCCW Director Dr Sandhya Bhalla. Click to watch them!



**Felicitating “Pillars of DCCW”:** An organisation is blessed to have long-serving, dedicated staff. DCCW had the honour of felicitating two of our most senior team leaders, Ms Loraine Campos (Asst Director, Palna) and Mr Sanjay Kumar Mishra (Asst Director, Programs) for having served the Council in furthering its mission for the last 35 and 30 years respectively, with great dedication and commitment! The entire DCCW team salutes them and takes them as role models, emulating them in their work.



## Well-Wishers Speak

As always, your messages of support mean a lot to us!

**Aruna Gulechha:** *Thanks for giving me an opportunity to serve people in need. Keep up the good work!!*

**Brendan Mullarkey, U.S. Embassy:** *Thank you so much for hosting us in your beautiful home. The work you do is inspiring and the children are precious. Thank you for all that you do.*

**Rishiba Gupta:** *Grateful for the work you do! God bless all the children.*

**Namita Aurora:** *God bless you for all the work you are undertaking.*

**Nazima Razick, U.S. Embassy:** *It is such noble work you are all doing here. It is truly God's work. The children seem so happy and well taken care of. God bless.*

**Abhishek Sobti:** *Please keep doing the good work. Love to all kids.*

**Aarti Markandaya:** *Great work being done by you.*

**Rekha Khosla:** *You are doing excellent work in providing a home for abandoned children and others.*

**Brayley T Campbell:** *Thank you for doing great work.*

**Anant Garg:** *Thanks for all the hard work that you do for society.*



# P hoto Gallery



*Visit of Honourable Chief Justice of India to Palna*



*Pillars of DCCW*



*Bal Chetna*



*Activities at centres*

All donations to Delhi Council for Child Welfare get tax exemption under Section 80G of the Income tax act of India. [CLICK](#) the button below to donate.



Delhi Council for Child Welfare (DCCW) is a Registered NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), established in 1952 to care for children who had been displaced during the riots that took place after the partition of India. Since its inception over 50 years ago, DCCW has grown, its services expanding and diversifying to keep pace with the changing needs of Delhi's less fortunate children. Today, DCCW provides a range of services for underprivileged children living in and around Delhi.



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