



सत्ये स्थितो धर्मः

A REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2025

**CHIEF MINISTER'S CHAIR PROFESSOR
CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS
NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA**



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ABBREVIATIONS

ANM: Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
BA-LLB: Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws
BBA-LLB: Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Laws
CCIs: Child Care Institutions
CCR: Centre for Child Rights
CiCL: Children in Conflict with Law
CIFF: Children's Investment Fund Foundation
CLCWPC: Community Level Child Welfare and Protection Committees
CM: Chief Minister
CMCP: Child Protection Mentorship Program
CNCP: Children in Need of Care and Protection
CNLU: Chanakya National Law University
CP: Child Protection
CRY: Child Rights and You
CWC: Child Welfare Committee
CWL: Centre for Women and Law
CYSO: Centre for Youth and Social Development
DCPO: District Child Protection Officer
DCPU: District Child Protection Unit
DV: Domestic Violence
EoI: Expression of Interest
FGD: Focus Group Discussion
GIET: Gandhi Institute for Education and Technology
HC: High Court
IAS: Indian Administrative Service
ICSSR: Indian Council for Social Science Research
IIMC: Indian Institute of Mass Communication
ICFJ: International Centre for Journalists
IJR: India Justice Report
ISBN: International Standard Book Number
ISCI: International Society for Child Indicators
ISSN: International Standard Serial Number
JJB: Juvenile Justice Board
JJC: Juvenile Justice Committee
KIIT: Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology
LLF: Language and Learning Foundation
LLM: Master of Laws
MSF: Médecins Sans Frontières
MSW: Masters in Social Work
NCPCR: National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NCRB: National Crime Records Bureau
NCW: National Commission for Women
NGO: Non-Government Organisation
NITI Ayog: National Institution for Transforming India Ayog
NLUO: National Law University Odisha

OSEPA: Odisha School Education Programme Authority
PECUC: People’s Cultural Centre
PFA: People For Action
PFEL: Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership
PhD: Doctor of Philosophy
PLVs: Para-Legal Volunteers
POCSO Act, 2012: Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
PSC: Public Service Commission
RTE: Right To Education
RTFN: Right To Food and Nutrition
SCPCR: State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
SHG: Self Help Group
SSEPD: Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disability
STARS: Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States
UK: United Kingdom
UN: United Nations
UNCRC: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UPR: Universal Periodic Review
USA: United States of America
VC: Vice Chancellor
VLCPC: Village Level Child Protection Committee
W&CD: Women and Child Development
WISCOMP: Women in Security Conflict Management and Peace

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document is a recap of the key initiatives and achievements of the Chief Minister's Chair Professor (CMCP) led Centre for Child Rights, National Law University Odisha for the year 2025 with the stewardship and support of the Vice Chancellor Prof Ved Kumari and Registrar Prof Rangin P Tripathy.

From sustained academic engagement, institutional strengthening, community led action and strategic collaborations along with intentional engagement with the Hon'ble Orissa High Court's Juvenile Justice Committee, Govt of Odisha's agencies i.e. the Women and Child Development Department, School and Mass Education Department, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Cuttack District Child Protection Officer, Cuttack Mayor, Municipal Commissioner, leading civil society champions like the Child Rights and You (CRY), Protsahan India Foundation, Terre Des Hommes etc, as well as global bodies like the UNICEF, UNWFP, former UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food etc.

The core achievement of this reporting period would be around six domains: i. academic impact, ii. judicial and legal engagement, iii. research and advocacy, iv. community-level child protection strengthening, v. national and global knowledge dissemination and vi. capacity building.

CCR has contributed significantly in advancing the academic and intellectual ecosystem around child rights in India. It re-launched the flagship journal after a Covid-induced five years' hiatus, **Journal on the Rights of the Child of National Law University Odisha** on its 10th anniversary on 12th April 2025. The Journal has a global editorial board and an eminently credentialed editorial advisory board and has obtained the e-ISSN number 3107-4030. The Journal was formally launched by Hon'ble Justice Savitri Ratho of the Orissa High Court (OHC) who is also the Chair of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Court. It is one of the rare six-monthly / bi-annual academic journal with strict editorial guidelines, plagiarism check, AI check, fact-check and rigorous blind peer review. The journal has been getting overwhelming submissions from India and the world and its re-launch and eISSN allocation has been widely reported by major credentialed media platforms like the Live Law, Bar and Bench, The Indian Express, Education Bytes, Judicial Quest, One World South Asia etc.

CCR won an **Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) to conduct an empirical research on Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and wellbeing of children in need of care and protection (CNCP) in Odisha**. The research is being led by the Vice Chancellor cum Patron-in-Chief Prof Ved Kumari. Literature review, team recruitment has been completed. Research tools have also been developed and finalized.

This period also saw CCR's sustained efforts in improving and deepening **the teaching and capacity building on child rights, child protection and determinant sectors:**

- i. Child Rights Course offered in the VII Semester in the BA-LLB and BBA-LLB programme of NLUO (one of the most subscribed course for the semester)
- ii. Food and Nutrition Justice Course offered in the X Semester in the BA-LLB and BBA-LLB programme of NLUO (one of the most subscribed course for the semester)

iii. Child Protection Mentorship Programme for frontline cadre in Odisha working in the child protection space in the state and non-state institutions in collaboration with UNICEF

CCR also intensified its **public education for building a child rights' temper via speaking engagements, legal commentaries and mainstream articles**. This has resulted in kick-starting crucial national and global conversations around the reform of child rights and protection systems, including but not limited to education, public finance, nutrition and expanding the remit of children's access to justice to include the economic social and cultural rights. This has also been re-inforced in the 2025 theme of Human Rights Day, "Our Everyday Essentials". Some of the major speaking engagements have been:

1. The Vice Chancellor cum Patron in Chief of CCR was one of the key plenary speakers in the 5th World Congress on Child Centred Justice and General Comment 27 at Madrid
2. The Chief Minister's Chair Professor (CMCP) was the resource person in the Orissa High Court's Juvenile Justice Committee consultation on "Addressing Violence against the Girl Child"
3. CMCP imparted training on POCSO to School and Mass Education cadre of Odisha in collaboration with the National Commission on Protection of Child Rights
4. CMCP delivered the commencement speech at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication Dhenkanal for the class of 2025-26 on the role of journalism in furthering human rights and justice and in a world in flux
5. Valedictory Address at Terre Des Hommes Germany's East Zone Partners' Meet on role of civil society in building development and diversity was delivered by the CMCP
6. CMCP spoke at the International Conference on Women's and Children's Rights organized by the Chanakya National Law University, Haryana Central University Rohtak and Law Mantra
7. CMCP chaired the conversation of eminent Odias in a fire-side chat and evening of felicitation on their vision for Odisha 2036 at the Odisha Vikash Conclave
8. CMCP delivered the key note address in the State level Consultation on Sustainable Gender Transformation in Education organised by Breakthrough

Some key events organized by the CCR in the year gone by for deepening the child rights discourse, knowledge dissemination, were:

- Organising the official side event of the 5th World Congress on Child Centred Justice in collaboration with CRY and TDH on June 3rd 2025. NLUO's Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Hon'ble Justice Madan B Lokur, Hon'ble Justice Savitri Ratho, Srimati Shubha Sarma (PS WCD), leaders from CRY, Protsahan India Foundation and CCR team and NLUO's faculty were part of the conversation
- Launching the Community Level Child Welfare and Protection Committee (CLCWPC) in NLUO's neighbouring marginalized communities i.e. Brajabeharipur, Baba Tilkanagar and Balmiki Nagar on May 5th 2025 as part of Project KUTUMB per the NITI Ayog and SDGs' mandate. Other than children, community members, NLUO faculty, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, the event was also graced by Cuttack Mayor and District Child Protection Officer

- CCR also led and supported the press coverage and reportage of NLUO's 12th convocation
- CCR organized the celebration of its 10th anniversary and relaunch of the flagship journal on 12th April 2025
- On 15th October 2025, CCR also organized the unveiling of the first edition of the indexed journal and a high-level conversation on the future of child rights, looking back and looking ahead
- On 18th July 2025 the Child Protection Mentorship Programme was launched in the presence dignitaries, CCR members (faculty and students) first batch mentees, resource persons and Vice Chancellor NLUO and the Hon'ble Justice Murahari Sri Raman, judge of Orissa High Court cum member of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Court.

Some leading think pieces by the CCR are leader Op-Eds on the Children's Day 2025 in Live Law and Bar and Bench

- [Nuances in the debate on the age of consent | Hindustan Times](#)
- [Children's Day 2025: The everyday violence against children we need to see](#)
- [Responding To Child Marriage Structurally](#)

Other key publications and initiatives in the year 2025 led by the students and guided by the CCR's members:

- Bi-monthly newsletter which provides a global scan of developments around child rights
- Generating content and managing the social media handles to increase public education and engagement in the LinkedIn and Instagram
- Students led CCR stall with games and photo booth on the occasion of the Republic Day 2025

Humans of CCR: The report also has the photographs, titles of all the team members (faculty, staff, students, advisors, Patron-in-Chief) who made all this possible in the year 2025.

Looking back and looking ahead:

The year 2025 effectively demonstrates CCR-NLUO's growth as an important hub for child rights scholarship and advocacy, capacity building and community-led transformation. The leadership of the CM's Chair Professor laid down a strong foundation of the Centre's role in Odisha's and the world's Juvenile Justice and Child Rights ecosystem while also positioning CCR as a national exemplar of inter-sectional research-policy-practice engagement.

Via several rigorous academic output, sustained dissemination and public education, strengthened community systems and intentional capacity-building, CMCP led CCR deepened and extended its mandate of promoting a world where every child matters.

As we step into the year 2026 and renew our commitment to every child everywhere, we welcome you to read this report, soak it in and walk with us through the year gone by as we prepare for the year ahead.

REPORT ON
ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHIEF MINISTER'S CHAIR PROFESSOR
CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS (CCR)
NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA (NLUO)
January – December 2025

A. NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA (NLUO), CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS (CCR) AND THE CHIEF MINISTER'S CHAIR PROFESSOR ON CHILD RIGHTS

A.1 About National Law University

National Law University Odisha (NLUO) has been set up by the Government of Odisha under the National Law University Odisha Act, 2008. It is located at Cuttack nestled in the lap of nature between the mighty Mahanadi and Kathajodi rivers. NLUO has over the years established itself as a Centre for Excellence in legal education, research and social outreach programs. At present NLUO has four (4) undergraduate programs, two (2) post-graduate programs, one (1) Ph.D program, numerous credit courses and nearly 200 courses taught in the programs mentioned above. At NLUO at any given point of time there are nearly 1000 students on the campus with nearly 200 graduating every year. NLUO has nearly 60 faculty members and administrative staff of nearly 100 members.

At NLUO delegated accountability is practiced in administrative decision making with the help of Student Council, autonomous student run mess and student representation on all disciplinary and academic committees. There are nearly 30 administrative committees which assist in managing the University in the most efficient and effective manner. NLUO maintains academic rigour in the form of extensive, comprehensive and ever-evolving/updating course curricula in line with suggestions from the industry leaders and alumni. There is tremendous emphasis on understanding the practical aspects of legal theory which is achieved through development and deployment of clinical legal education courses on Professional Ethics, Trial and Appellate Advocacy, Legal Aid etc. Research is carried out through 25 research centres and an equal number of student run committees with continuous research activities conducted by NLUO in varied areas such as Domestic Violence, Prison Administration, Tobacco Control, Child Rights and Child Protection etc. Many projects are undertaken by students either on their own volition or at the behest of the faculty members allowing for a wide range of projects and unique results.

NLUO is committed to embed social responsibility and commitment to justice amongst its students and that is via various regular and optional outreach programs undertaken by the institution making it mandatory for students to at least be part of one initiative so as to be able to appreciate the grass-roots, the lived experiences, difficulties and lack of access to resources faced by the lesser privileged members of the society.

NLUO encourages recreation too, as is reflected through the organization of various sporting, cultural and culinary festivals on the NLUO campus. NLUO creates an enabling environment ensuring all-round development of its students while allowing for ample

growth of its staff and faculty members in the professional sphere towards achieving the goal of becoming the Centre of Excellence in Eastern India, a one of its kind institution.

A.2 About the Centre for Child Rights and its foundation

Centre for Child Rights (CCR) is the specialized research and advocacy centre of the National Law University Odisha, Cuttack (NLUO). It is the oldest centre at the NLUO and the 2nd oldest centre on child rights in any National Law University in India. The Centre was founded on April 12, 2015, formally inaugurated by Hon'ble Justice Dipak Misra, former Chief Justice of India and the then Visitor, NLUO, in the presence of the Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice of Orissa High Court cum then Chancellor, NLUO, Hon'ble Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty, and Hon'ble Justice Sanju Panda, Judge – Orissa High Court and then Chairperson – Orissa High Court Committee on Juvenile Justice, Mr Saswat Mishra, IAS, then Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha and the then Vice Chancellor of NLUO Prof (Dr) Srikrishna Deva Rao. The Centre aims at building a rights temper amongst the children and the society, strengthening law and justice for children and child wellbeing by supporting and initiating research, policy advocacy and community action on children's issues. The Centre aims to provide integrated support and consultancy to different layers of institutional governance for protection and ensuring of child rights, child protection, understand and reform enabling and disabling factors to furthering child rights and the inter-sectionalities.

Headlined by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Ved Kumari, one of the foremost chroniclers of Juvenile Justice and everything Child Rights in the world, NLUO got its first ever Chair Professorship on Child Rights with a five-member staff team sanctioned by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha in 2023. This is led by the Chief Minister's Chair Professor. This is the only fully functional Chair Professorship on Child Rights in the universe of National Law Universities across India.

A.3 Recap of key initiatives of the Centre for Child Rights (2015-2024)

The CCR has focused on research, capacity-building training, orientation programs, and the development of resource materials in collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Committee of Hon'ble Orissa High Court, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MW&CD), Government of Odisha, Ministry of Labour, Government of Odisha, Unicef, Terre Des Hommes Lausanne and other organizations. These activities have been carried out under the leadership of the Director and Co-directors of the centre. Later the centre lead by the Chief Minister's Chair Professor (CMCP) which got established in January, 2024 in the centre, marking a new phase of expanded child rights work at NLUO.

The major activities undertaken by CCR during the period from **2015 to 2024** includes:

- **Hosting of 9th International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI) Conference (2024)**— a first ever international conference on the issue in Odisha (and India) involving 24 countries, reinforcing NLUO and Odisha’s global engagement in child rights
- **Facilitating internships and professional opportunities for students**, linking them with MSF, Land & Conflict Watch, Supreme Court, Vidhi Legal Centre, LAMP fellowship and Unicef
- Initiative for **re-launching the Centre’s flagship journal** right from forming the Editorial Board, Editorial Advisory Board, Call for Papers for the **Journal on the Rights of the Child of National Law University Odisha** to working on obtaining the e-ISSN for the Journal
- Curated and offered **Child Rights course (Optional course)** for senior class law students (7th Semester). CCR members engaged in **high-level consultations**, including:
 - Supreme Court JJC consultation on disability and children’s access to justice
 - UNICEF South Asia consultation on evidence synthesis for preconception nutrition
 - 5th World Congress on Children’s Access to Justice’ Scientific Committee Members’ meeting
- Launching of the student led bi-monthly newsletter to provide a scan of global developments on child rights and the
- Launching of the student led social media handles of CCR to increase public engagement and communication on every aspect of child rights
- **One-day Financial Literacy and Awareness Programme** for neighbouring communities to strengthen families in Project KUTUMB
- **Development of a comprehensive Vulnerability Mapping Tool** with child-friendly indicators, stress-tested by Prof Rita Ray. The tool was used for mapping the vulnerable children and at-risk families in the adopted communities
- **Conduction of community needs assessment, FGDs, transect walks, home visits, and child vulnerability mapping** across three KUTUMB communities— Brajabeharipur, Valmiki Nagar, Baba Tilkanagar for strengthening child protection system in these communities. **Create comprehensive baseline** of all the children in the communities to keep track of every child in the communities.
- **Consultation on the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021**, held in 2023
- **Awareness Programme on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989**, conducted for the students of The Kalinga English Medium School in 2022
- **Symposium on Legal Education and Policy Research on Child Rights**, organized in 2019

- **Training Program for Newly Appointed Chairpersons and Members of Child Welfare Committees in Odisha** and a **Judicial Colloquium on Juvenile Justice**, conducted in 2018
- **Sensitization Workshop on Human Rights Awareness**, organized for police personnel from the Human Rights Protection Cell of various districts in Odisha in 2017
- **Training of District-Level Officers of the Special Juvenile Police Units of Odisha**, focusing on understanding the law and policy framework on juvenile justice in alignment with the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and the model rules framed under the Act by the Government of India, conducted in 2016. Additional activities included **capacity-building workshops on the Roles and Accountability of Public Prosecutors in Ensuring Justice to Children** and a **Consultation Meeting on the Draft Model Rules 2016 for the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2016**
- **Orientation Programme on Child Rights and Juvenile Justice**, organized for district-level officials, non-judicial members of Juvenile Justice Boards in Odisha, and Legal cum Probation Officers, conducted in 2015

Research and Publications:

- A book entitled ***Kaleidoscope of Children: Issues through the Lens of the Youth*** (2024) (ISBN – 978-81-982431-3-3) emerged from the classroom assignment of building empathy amongst students to see underprivileged / marginalised children, their plight and using the vantage of law to resolve the issues. It was project of seeing and applying the legal vantage while building solidarity
- **MediaScan**, the first ever research project on analysing ***children in news*** using the UN PressWise lens and the AK Asthana judgement to make budding legal professionals media literate and demand better standards of journalism on issues of child rights. The sector lead papers setting the reporting standards i.e. Times of India, Indian Express and The Hindu, were researched as part of this
- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) “Fun Books” Explainer Series**, providing, fun, accessible explanation of various rights of children enshrined in the UNCRC via simple language, pictorials, story-telling, quiz and games, targeted at legally non-literate populace to increase awareness of child rights
- The CCR conducted a research study to assess the status of the implementation of the ***Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, in Odisha, pendency of juvenile cases in Odisha, practice of preliminary assessment as part of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015***, sponsored by UNICEF project 'Effective Implementation of Children’s Laws in Odisha.'
- Conducted research project titled 'Exploring Changing Dynamics of Children’s Laws in India in the Post-Liberalization Era' undertaken with the support of the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi

- **Social mapping study of migrant workers in Odisha** was conducted with the support of the Labour Department, Government of Odisha
- The **Journal on the Rights of the Child** was published by the Centre during the period from 2015 to 2023. This included:
 - **Volume-I, Issue 1 (2016)**
 - **Volume-II, Issue 1 (2017)**
 - **Volume-V, Issue 1 (2020)**

In addition to the Journal, other publications by the CCR, during the period include:

- A booklet on the **Role of District Administration in Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking.**
- A booklet on **Frequently Asked Questions on the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.**
- **Information Education Communication (IEC) materials in Odia** on child rights and government schemes for awareness in low-income settlements.

A.4 The Chief Minister’s Chair Professor on Child Rights

The Chief Minister’s Chair Professor on Child Rights, leading the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at the National Law University Odisha (NLUO), is the first ever Chair Professor on Child Rights amongst any Law or non-Law University in India. It has been effected by the efforts of **Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of NLUO, Prof Ved Kumari**, one of the foremost chroniclers of Juvenile Justice and Child Rights in the world. She is also the Patron-in-chief of the CCR at the NLUO.

While the CCR is the oldest research centre at the NLUO, like other NLUs hosted CCRs, it was limited to juvenile justice mandate only. Prof Ved Kumari recognised the importance of having a centre dedicated to the comprehensive agenda of child rights, from the concept of childhood, child well-being, child rights (child participation, civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights), inequalities and externalities that affect children’s life chances and how children and their issues affect the society and how society engages with such discourse. The mainstream discourse and children, their parents, educators, society’s stake and engagement in the same, bore an important stake for Prof. Ved Kumari too.

And this vision shaped the Chief Minister’s Chair Professor for Child Rights. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha sanctioned the Chair Professor in June 2023. It was a first of its kind too, that unlike just sanctioning the single Chair Professor, the Hon’ble Odisha Chief Minister sanctioned the Chair Professor, two senior researchers, one office assistant and one support staff. The Chair Professor on Child Rights has a sanctioned strength of five and currently has four members.

The Chair Professor joined office on 10th January 2024. **Prof Biraj Swain is the Chief Minister’s Chair Professor of Child Rights cum Director - Centre for Child Rights.** Prof Swain is a senior global development expert with over 25 years of experience in India, South Asia, East Africa

and the world. She is trained in Sociology from Delhi School of Economics, English Journalism from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Post Graduate Diploma in Human Rights Law from the National Law University India, University and an alum of the Indian School of Business' Women Leadership Programme. She is a fellow of the Women in Security Conflict Management and Peace, WISCOMP (2002), Oxfam International's Campaign Advocacy and Fellow Programme, Oxford (2011-12), International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ), Washington DC (2017-18) and Kalam Institute of Health Technology (2018-19). She is a credentialed author published across academic and high impact journalistic platforms.

Some of her works are #ChildhoodMatters (a multi-media series on everything child rights) funded by ICFJ Washington DC-CIFF and Tata Trusts, co-creating and co-authoring "Nourishing the Indian Tribal" an indexed UNICEF publication that shaped UNICEF's programming on nutrition with the indigenous population. She has also co-created and co-edited the high impact publication "Standing on the threshold: Food Justice in India" published by Wiley Blackwell and created the multi-media explainer series 'Global Summits: Where are we going?' on the global goals and global development summits and their impact. She is extensively published in credentialed publications, both academic and journalistic. She has held key leadership roles in several prominent organizations such as Nutrition International, Kailash Satryathi Children's Foundation, GCAP, Oxfam, WaterAid, CARE etc and has been a visiting faculty, given public lectures at the UN University Tokyo, SLU Uppsala, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Jindal Global Law University and Pondicherry Central University (amongst others). She has curated and currently teaches two Courses to the 7th and 10th semester of the BA-LLB and BBA-LLB programmes at the NLUO, to build child rights temper (and perspective on determinant sectors) and pro-justice world view (food and nutrition justice temper): **i. Child Rights and ii. Food and Nutrition Justice.**

The Centre for Child Rights led by the Chief Minister's Chair Professor, has the primary objective of speaking to the current living realities of the children and addressing the pressing challenges that are faced in the way of achieving meaningful childhoods and increasing life chances to live and thrive and better implement the enabling laws, from UNCRC, RTE Act, 2009 to JJ (C & P) Act, 2015 and everything in between, including the public finance angle to children's rights.

The CM's Chair Professor on Child Rights team includes the following members:

1. Prof. Biraj Swain - Chief Minister's Chair Professor, Centre for Child Rights
2. Dr. Swagatika Samal – Researcher at Centre for Child Rights, PhD in Social Work with over two decades' experience in teaching, research in credentialed institutes and projects
3. Dr. Pradipta Kumar Sarangi – Researcher at Centre for Child Rights, PhD in Economics with over two decades' experience in Education Sector at supervisory and management levels and credentialed publications
4. Mr. Amulya Kumar Swain- Office Assistant at Centre for Child Rights, comes with over one decade of experience in District Child Protection Office and is a tax and financial planning expert by training

Additionally, the Centre for Child Rights includes:

1. Mr. Ankit Kumar Keshri, UNICEF Consultant to the NLUO-CCR, pursuing PhD at TISS with about a decade's work in foster care and alternative care
2. Mr M Vijay Bhaskar, Co-Director - CCR cum Assistant Professor in Law
3. Ms Akanksha Yadav, Co-Director - CCR cum Assistant Professor in Law
4. Mr. T S Swaraj, Member - CCR and PhD Research Scholar, NLUO and practising Advocate at Orissa High Court

Evolution of the Vision, Mission, and Objectives of the CCR post establishment of the CM's Chair Professor

• **Vision:**

To build a child rights' temper, ensure rights, justice to the children anywhere and everywhere (irrespective of caste, class, creed, race, economic status) and promote effective implementation of children's laws and governance in the State of Odisha, forge national and global collaborations, research and understand enabling and disabling externalities and inter-sectionalities and recommend/support reforms. The Centre will endeavour to create pro-children discourse and mechanisms and promotion of child rights practices.

• **Mission:**

To support and strengthen child rights discourse, child protection structures by leveraging knowledge change and policy reforms at various levels of institutional governance to make child rights access a reality, juvenile justice system more accountable, efficient and effective for protecting and promoting child rights.

• **Objectives:**

The objectives of the centre are dynamic, and evolving in a dynamic world. Currently the objectives of the CM's Chair Professor led CCR are:

- Build and foreground a strong child rights perspective among practising and budding legal professionals, the state, and society at large
- Undertake capacity-building initiatives on child protection, juvenile justice for Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) cadre, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) cadre and members of the judiciary as and when sought by the State and the Hon'ble Odisha High Court's Juvenile Justice Committee
- Scope and actively write research grant proposals and undertake research on data and operationalization gaps, evidence generation and reforms around everything "child rights"
- Curate specialized courses on Child Rights and determinant sectors and offer them to students of different law programs in National Law University Odisha and to other relevant cohorts, platforms and other collaboratives

- Knowledge creation: refereed academic papers, research with empirical data and evidence, public facing products
- The centre will act as collaborator, evaluator, and the “eyes and ears” of the state for empirical research, evidence generation and advisory support on reforms as and when sought by the Juvenile Justice Committee of Hon’ble Odisha High Court, the State, and independently, such as (but not limited to): Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, and Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 etc
- Promote public discourse around child rights through op-eds, public education, advocacy, special lectures, guest talks and knowledge products such as explainers, regularly publishing and continuing our internationally indexed, double-blind peer-reviewed academic journal, newsletter, social media platforms etc
- Build media literacy amongst budding and practicing legal professionals to demand responsible journalism on children, while simultaneously strengthening the capacity of journalists to deliver ethical and important reporting on children and their issues using relevant judgements, media and Presswise guidelines
- Publish the bi-annual Journal of CCR- **Journal on the Rights of the Child of National Law University Odisha**, an internationally indexed, double-blind peer-reviewed journal with a distinguished editorial board and advisory panel, read widely by scholars and practitioners across the world.
- Foster international collaborations, including conferences, consultations, and academic exchanges, in order to advance the global and national child rights discourse and undertake real-time assessments of emerging issues
- Leverage the Centre’s core strengths in the domains of child protection, child rights, right to education, right to nutrition, health, and community-based model building. This includes direct interventions, longitudinal action research, and the development of proof-of-concept best practices in child rights and child protection

USP of CMCP and how it makes CCR of NLUO unique from other CCRs and other Centres

- **Expansion of remit and definitions:** The CM’s Chair Professor has expanded the remit of the centre from merely “juvenile justice” to comprehensive child rights, and child wellbeing with focus on inter-sectionalities
- **Inter-disciplinary and diverse POV (Point on View):** Diverse disciplines of Sociology, Social Work, Economics, Journalism and Political Science and diverse sectoral experience is now integrating with law to foreground and optimise the child rights’ discourse, policy, practice and law

- **Deepening citizens action and state responsiveness to establish Child-Friendly Communities:** KUTUMB, the flagship outreach programme of NLUO dedicated to creating active citizens and effective State, is also focussing on building child friendly communities and habitats, as per the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) commitment and NITI Ayog mandates. The CM's Chair Professor team brought the interdisciplinary expertise of Social Work, Sociology, Economics, Public Administration and Citizens' Action to deepen the intervention and make child-friendly communities a reality
- **Fit-for-purpose, innovative courses being curated with expanded mandate, praxis and lexis focus, experiential learning, industry-ready skills and career growth prospects:** The courses curated i.e. *Child Rights Course* has evolved into a comprehensive agenda of the child rights and child well-being and determinants and not just on Juvenile Justice, as it is practiced in most of the Universities (law and non-law). Similarly, the *Food and Nutrition Justice Course* is first of its kind in any legal university of India. These papers are now offered at senior classes i.e. 7th Semester and 10th semester respectively. These papers focus on praxis and lexis and on career growth with experiential learning. *Additionally, a mentorship programme has been curated and launched (will hopefully be regularised) to build the child protection capacities of early career professionals in the state on everything child protection comprehensively*
- **Deepening engagements with existent and new stakeholders (State and non-state actors):** Historically the Juvenile Justice Committee and the Women and Child Development Department has been the only nodal of the child rights centres and child rights practitioners, but this Chair Professorship has started deepening engagement with the Women and Child Development Department (W&CD), School & Mass Education Department (SME), Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disability (SSEPD) and International NGOs dedicated to child rights and well-being (Child rights and You – CRY, Terre Des Hommes, Protsahan India Foundation, India Justice Report, Breakthrough, ChildFund International), UN agencies (UNICEF and UN World Food Programme) etc
- **Furthering child rights' agenda through expansion of stakeholders:** Now the stakeholders are not just the usual Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees, but everyone including parents, schools, media, JJBs, CWCs, State and its instruments represented through bureaucrats, protection officers and other officials, Judges, academics and researchers
- **Public education and shaping the discourse:** The CM's Chair Professor is attempting to shape the discourse, build public awareness via media engagement like Opinion pieces, think pieces, awareness programming etc
- **Building media literacy and demanding better journalism on children's issues:** Building capacities of budding law and justice professionals to demand and consume better journalism around children, their rights and well-being and the determinant sectors
- **Creating a range of knowledge products and aggressively working to make them accessible to one and all:**

- Non-fiction, text-book co-authored by faculty and students which is an outcome of a classroom project focussed on seeing and empathy and building resolution via legal lens
- Funbooks i.e. an explainer series on UNCRC article for non-law literate children and adults
- Scanning the media for “children in news” using the Unicef-Presswise lens and the AK Asthana judgement
- Starting the first ever newsletter of the centre
- Reviving the flagship Journal on the Rights of the Child of National Law University Odisha etc
- Making every publication open source, digital and amplifying them through social media handles to outreach and access
- **Foraying into new areas examination/recruitment of apt personnel in the child protection space:** Via recruitment paper setting for the Public Service Commission’s exams for the Bihar CWC and JJB cadre
- **The CM’s Chair Professor team is an inherently diverse team with diverse disciplinary trainings and diverse worldview to further the agenda of child rights**

B. NEW RULES, NEW ROLES AND DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

B.1 ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT/ COURSES OFFERED BY CCR:

CM’s Chair Professor, CCR has deepened the agenda of child rights and child wellbeing by offering two important courses i.e., Child Rights Course and Food and Nutrition Justice Course.

- **The Child Rights Course (Optional Paper):** The Child Rights Course (Optional Paper) offered by the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at National Law University Odisha (NLUO) is a comprehensive program designed for fourth-year law (7th semester) students. This course represents a conscious shift from a traditional focus on juvenile justice to a broader examination of child rights, encompassing various dimensions such as child well-being, protection, and the intersectionality of factors affecting children's lives.
- **The Food and Nutrition Justice Course (Optional Paper):** The Food and Nutrition Justice Course (Optional Paper) offered by the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at National Law University Odisha (NLUO) is a comprehensive program designed for fifth-year (10th semester) law students.

The course details are given below:

B.1.1 THE CHILD RIGHTS COURSE

The Child Rights Course is designed to bring a conscious shift from just Juvenile Justice Programme to “Child Rights” programme (including conceptual underpinnings, child well-being, child rights, their determinant sectors’ inter-sectionality, child protection, juvenile justice and landmark care and protection laws) among the learners. It comprises of Theoretical foundations of child, childhood, child rights, well-being and protection, Child well-being, why it matters, Evolution of child rights discourse, International Frameworks: treaties and conventions, Status of Children in India: An overview, Child Rights in Indian Constitution and National Legal Frameworks and Child Protection Laws in India, Access to Justice of children, Children in Conflict with Law, Children in Need of Care and Protection,

Media Literacy and discerning “children in news”, and Experiential Learning from Child Rights Champions on Advocacy and Practical Action.

The course helps the students to build an understanding on the foundational concepts i.e. children, childhood, child rights, protection and well-being; analyze the theoretical, philosophical underpinnings determining child rights and laws relating to children; 3. examine the status of children in India and the world; evaluate the legal frameworks, policies and programmes aimed at securing the rights to children; enable the students to undertake doctrinal and empirical research relating to children’s issues, build a rights temper amongst students on children as rights holders and state and other stake-holders as duty-bearers; build capacity to discern “children in news media” and consume/demand/shape better media; build perspective on various forms of violations and take insights from child rights’ champions and their work to translate the lexis to praxis.

The Child Rights Course Module:

Module I: Conceptual Understanding of Child, Childhood, Child Welfare

Module II: Unpacking Child Well-being

Module III: Evolution of child rights discourse, International Frameworks: treaties and conventions

Module IV: Status of Children in India

Module V: Child Rights in Indian Constitution and National Legal Frameworks with focus on Child Protection Laws

Module VI: Access to Justice of children with special focus on CNCP and CICL

Module VII: Children and the News Media

Module VIII: Advocating Child Rights

B.1.1.1 Invited special lectures by experts for the Child Rights Course students:

- Invited Special Lecture on “20 years of reporting children in news - prospects, challenges and reflections” by **Ambika Pandit** on 1.09.2025
- Invited Special Lecture on “Ethics of Public Interest Journalism: Lessons in Human Rights and Child Rights” by **Pamela Phillipose**, Ombudsperson – The Wire on 18.09.2025
- Invited Special Lecture on “Essentiality of Nutrition and Choosing a Career in Child Rights” by **Sourav Bhattacharjee**, Nutrition Specialist, Unicef Odisha Field Office, on 25-09-2025
- Invited Special Lecture on “Evolving Landscape of Child Rights and a Life dedicated to Child Rights” by **Prof Enakshi Ganguly** in conversation with **Prof Biraj Swain**, CM’s Chair Professor cum Director, CCR-NLUO on 15.10.2025

B.1.2 FOOD AND NUTRITION JUSTICE COURSE

The Food and Nutrition Justice Course takes a conscious choice against neutrality, it is not just about building the knowledge of laws, institutional frameworks and safeguards, but it is about shining a light on the efforts and struggles it took to achieve Right To Food and Nutrition (RTFN): on the streets, in the courts, around the negotiating tables to establish the RTFN and the centrality of RTFN to the Right to Life and the inter-disciplinary perspective and solidarities needed to preserve and further it. The inter-connection of childhood, child rights, cognitive development and life chances to RTFN is also key, and the entry point of the course. The course adopts Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Transparency, Human Dignity, Empowerment and Rule of Law (PANTHER) principles to Food and Nutrition Rights and Jurisprudence teaching.

The course enhances knowledge and ability/capacity of the students on jurisprudence, laws, policies and safeguards on food and nutrition; to undertake projects on making the RTFN justiciable in sub-national, national, regional and global contexts; to conduct doctrinal and empirical research on RTFN; increased perspective and to provide advisory to state actors, nonstate actors and regulatory institutions on building safeguards to protect and promote RTFN w.r.t competing corporate interests; to shape and contribute to the policy and practice of the food and nutrition sector where PANTHER principles of equity and justice are foregrounded

The Food and Nutrition Justice Course Module:

Module I: Food and nutrition justice: Unpacking the concept (AvailabilityAdequacy-Access trifecta)

Module II: Right to Food and Nutrition in Indian Constitution, laws and programmes

Module III: Landmark Cases: WP 196/2001, Kishan Pattanayak Vs State of Odisha : WP 12847/1985

Module IV: Right to Food and Nutrition around the World

Module V: International Architecture for food justice

Module VI: Making sense of poverty line-hunger line, indices and measurements

Module VII: Emerging legislation and access landscape

Module VIII: Advocating Food Justice

B.1.2.1 Invited special lectures by experts for the Food and Nutrition Justice Course students:

- Invited Special online appearance and conversation with Food & Nutrition Justice students by **Shri P Sainath** (Magsaysay Award winner, a public intellectual, renowned journalist and global agriculture expert) on “The Crises in Agriculture” after screening of the movie “Nero’s Guests” on 13.01.2025
- Invited Special Lecture on "Conflict of interest, private sector conduct to influence food and nutrition sector and the safeguards needed" delivered by **Dr. Arun Gupta** (Public

health specialist, founder of BPNI, founder of IBFAN) on 17.03.2025 for Food & Nutrition Justice students and CCR students

- Invited Special Lecture on “Addressing Agrarian Crisis: With new lens and new Commitment” delivered by **Shri Devinder Sharma** (A public intellectual, an award-winning Indian journalist, food and trade policy analyst, member - Hon'ble SC constituted high powered 5-member committee on addressing agrarian crisis in Punjab and Haryana) on 24.03.2025 for Food & Nutrition Justice students and CCR students
- Invited Special Lecture on "Food and Nutrition Justice from the Lens of World Food Programme " delivered by **Shri M Kumaran** (Policy Officer World Food Programme) on 25.03.2025 for Food & Nutrition Justice students and CCR students
- Invited Special Lecture on "Insights from Right to Food Campaign in Indian" delivered by **Shri Biraj Patnaik** (former Principal Adviser to the Commissioners of the Indian Supreme Court in the Right to food case, Co-founder of Mitandin – Community health worker training programme, Executive Director of National Foundation of India) on 26.03.2025 for Food & Nutrition Justice students and CCR students.
- Invited Special Lecture on “Agrarian crisis and food justice” delivered by **P Sainath** (Magsaysay Award winner, Public Intellectual, Renowned Journalist and Global Agri Expert) on 27.03.2025

Both the courses have been **oversubscribed** by the students this year. For the Child Rights Course, **120** students registered and **116** students appeared the examination along with the clinical assignments, whereas for the Food and Nutrition Justice Course, **118** students registered and **116** students appeared the examination along with the clinical assignments. Per the Bar Council of India guidelines, at a given time for a course, only a batch of maximum 60 students can form a section and due to oversubscription of the courses, the courses were offered to two sections of around 60 students each in these two semesters, making it around 240 students of the university.

This means the cadre of legal professionals passing out of National Law University Odisha, are now equipped with child rights and determinant lens with perspective and empathy. They are not just officers of law but enablers of justice. The CMCP is also pro-actively engaging in public education, discourse shaping, to put child rights at the centre of public narrative.

B.2 Child Protection Mentorship Programme (CPMP)

The CCR and UNICEF in collaboration offered a Child Protection Mentorship Program (CPMP), aimed to build a capacitated frontline cadre of child protection practitioners in Odisha. Conceived as an online professional development program, it was designed specifically for early and mid-career development professionals working in the State of Odisha who seek to build a career in the child protection sector.

The program was curated in consultation with external experts in child protection, in-house experts from the NLUO-CCR and some participants. Emphasis was on ensuring that the program was practice-oriented rather than theoretical. The program’s design was co-led by Mr. Ankit Kumar Keshri, UNICEF-supported Consultant with CCR-NLUO and Dr. Rashmi Rekha Baug, Assistant Professor of Law and Co- Director, Centre for Women and Law, and Director, Centre

for Poverty and Access to Justice, NLUO. Together they provided essential academic support, critical inputs, and logistical arrangements.

A transparent and merit-based selection process was adopted for the program. The selection was based on a combination of factors with equal weightage i.e. Odia-speaking, young development professionals from the social sector, working in government child protection system, possessing a Masters in Social Work (MSW) degree and minimum of two years of professional experience in the social development sector.

Out of a total 225 applicants, 100 were selected based on the above combination of criteria. Average age of the first cohort is 35 years, and women mentees comprise 46%, 76% postgraduates, 54% with an MSW, average work experience being 8 years of professional experience and 5 years in child protection, 72% affiliated with NGOs, and 40% working in rural areas.

The inaugural event for CPMP was conducted in a hybrid mode on 18 July 2025. The inaugural event featured distinguished dignitaries from the judiciary, academia, civil society, and UNICEF. Prof Biraj Swain, Chief Minister's Chair Professor and Director of CCR, delivered the opening remarks, followed by Prof Ved Kumari, Vice Chancellor, NLUO, who emphasised the role of academic institutions in advancing child protection. Key addresses were delivered by Hon'ble Justice Murahari Sri Raman, member of the Orissa High Court's Juvenile Justice Committee, Mr Jagadananda, Founding-Mentor of Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD), Ms Vijayalakshmi Arora, of UNICEF National Child Protection System Strengthening team, Mr Manna Biswas, UNICEF Odisha Child Protection lead and Mr Sujit Mahapatra of Bakul Foundation.

A Valedictory Program has been scheduled for January 2026 to formally conclude the CPMP. During the event, completion and participation certificates will be awarded to participants. The event is expected to be graced by key stake-holders and decision makers in the child protection sector of Odisha, NLUO, CCR and UNICEF.

The mentorship program included five comprehensive modules with 32 online learning sessions from July to December. Each session duration was 60 minutes, divided into a structured format of 30 minutes of expert input followed by 30 minutes of discussion. The medium of instruction for all sessions was multilingual, i.e. English, Hindi, and Odia.

The CPMP Course Module:

Module I Child Protection: An Overview

Module II: Using Key Theoretical Insights to Child Protection Practice

Module III: Child Protection Laws and Its Application

Module IV: Policies and Schemes on Child Protection

Module V: Working with Children: Key Tools and Skills

B.2.1 Invited special lectures by experts:

- Mr. Sonykuty George, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Hyderabad
- Mr. Govind Beniwal, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF Madhya Pradesh

- Mr. Ghasiram Panda, Child Protection Consultant, UNICEF Odisha
- Ms. Katyayani Anand, Child Protection Consultant with UNICEF supporting the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha
- Mr. Anant Kumar Asthana, Eminent Jurist and Child Rights & Criminal Lawyer, Delhi High Court
- Ms. Swagata Raha, Director, Research and Co-Director, Restorative Practices at Enfold Proactive Health Trust
- Dr. Kalpana Purushothaman, Trauma-informed Counseling Psychologist, Author, and Child Rights Advocate
- Ms. Nimisha Srivastava, Executive Director of Counsel to Secure Justice
- Mr. Pritikant Panda, Programme Manager, Child Protection & Officer-in-Charge, Odisha State Child Protection Society (OSCPS)
- Ms. Bharti Ali, Development Professional and Social Activist
- Mr. Akshaya Kumar Nayak, OPS, Deputy Superintendent of Police Instructor, Cyber Crime Investigation & Forensics, Biju Pattnaik State Police Academy (BPSPA), Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Mr. Sujit Mahapatra, Secretary, Bakul Foundation

From NLUO, Prof Ved Kumari, Ankit K Keshri and Dr Rashmi Rekha Baug took multiple sessions.

C. RESEARCH

C.1 THE JOURNAL ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILD OF NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA (E-ISSN: 3107-4030)

The *Journal on the Rights of the Child of National Law University Odisha* (e-ISSN: 3107-4030), is the flagship journal of Centre for Child Rights (CCR) – National Law University Odisha (NLUO) initiated in the year 2016. Since inception up to 2020, the journal was published in print form and this year the centre relaunched it in April 2025 after a post pandemic hiatus. It is a biannual publication published under the aegis of the Registrar, National Law University Odisha.

The CM's Chair Professor team curated the editorial board, associate editors and the editorial advisory board with credentialed experts:

- **Patron in Chief & Editor in Chief:** Prof. Ved Kumari, Vice-Chancellor, NLUO
- **Patron and Publisher:** Prof. Rangin Pallav Tripathy, Registrar, NLUO
- **Editor:** Prof. Biraj Swain, Chief Minister's Chair Professor cum Director, CCR-NLUO
- **Editorial Board:**
 - Prof Ved Kumari (Editor-in-Chief), Vice Chancellor, National Law University Odisha

- Prof Biraj Swain (Editor), Chief Minister's Chair Professor cum Director, Centre for Child Rights - National Law University Odisha
 - Prof Ravinder Barn, Professor of Social Policy, Head of Law and Criminology Department, Royal Holloway, University of London
 - Dr Frederick de Moll, Professor of Educational Science, Faculty of Education Science, Bielefeld University, Germany
 - Dr Damanjit Sandhu, Professor and Head, Department of Psychology, Punjabi University Patiala
 - Dr Asha Bajpai, (Former) Founder Dean and Professor, School of Law, Tata Institute of Social Sciences
 - Dr. Kalpana Purushothaman, Adjunct Faculty, Indian Institute of Psychology and Research, Bangalore
- **Editorial Advisory Board:**
- Hon'ble Justice Madan B Lokur, Chairperson – United Nation's Internal justice Council, Former Judge of Supreme Court of India and Former Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India
 - Hon'ble Justice Geeta Mittal, Former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court
 - Prof Bernd-Deiter Meier, Director, Criminal Justice Institute, University of Hannover, Germany
 - Prof Christopher Birbeck, Professor of Criminology, Salford University, Manchester, UK
 - Prof Bhabani Prasad Panda, Director, School of Law, KIIT, & Former Vice Chancellor, Maharashtra National Law University
- **Associate Editors:**
- Dr. Swagatika Samal, Researcher, CCR-NLUO
 - Dr. Pradipta Kumar Sarangi, Researcher, CCR-NLUO
 - Mr. Ankit Kumar Keshri, UNICEF Consultant, CCR-NLUO
 - Dr. Rashmi Rekha Baug. Asst. Professor, NLUO
 - Dr. Shubhanginee Singh, Asst. Professor, NLUO
- **Student Editor:** Ms Madhulika Tripathy
- The CM's Chair Professor team set the guidelines for submission and the terms and topics of acceptance and created the brochure
- Broadcast / amplified the brochure advertising the journal and the call for submissions across LawOctopus and LiveLaw and multiple national and global credentialed legal and social science research platforms
- The 1st Editorial Advisory Board meeting (online) for the Journal held on 12.03.2025 in the presence of Hon'ble Justice Gita Mittal, Prof Ved Kumari, and Prof Biraj Swain and the Associate Editors of the Journal made presentations on accepted papers/articles followed by discussion on selection of high-quality papers/opinion pieces for the 10th Anniversary edition of the Journal

C.1.1 The April 2025 Issue of the Journal

The inaugural edition of the journal with 10 original research papers, 1 infographic fact sheet, 1 case commentary and 2 opinion pieces, came on 12th April, 2025 when Centre for Child Rights – National Law University Odisha turned 10. This issue included original writings by practicing academics, researchers, advocates and students covering issues of Juvenile’s right to bail, childhood obesity, right to education, social and economic justice for school going children, Juvenile Delinquency, rights of refugee children, visitation rights of parents, best interest of child in custody disputes, safeguarding digital childhood, NCRB numbers on CiCL in Odisha, Romeo-Juliet laws, DNA testing of children born in rape cases, and children’s contractual rights in the realm of sports and television.



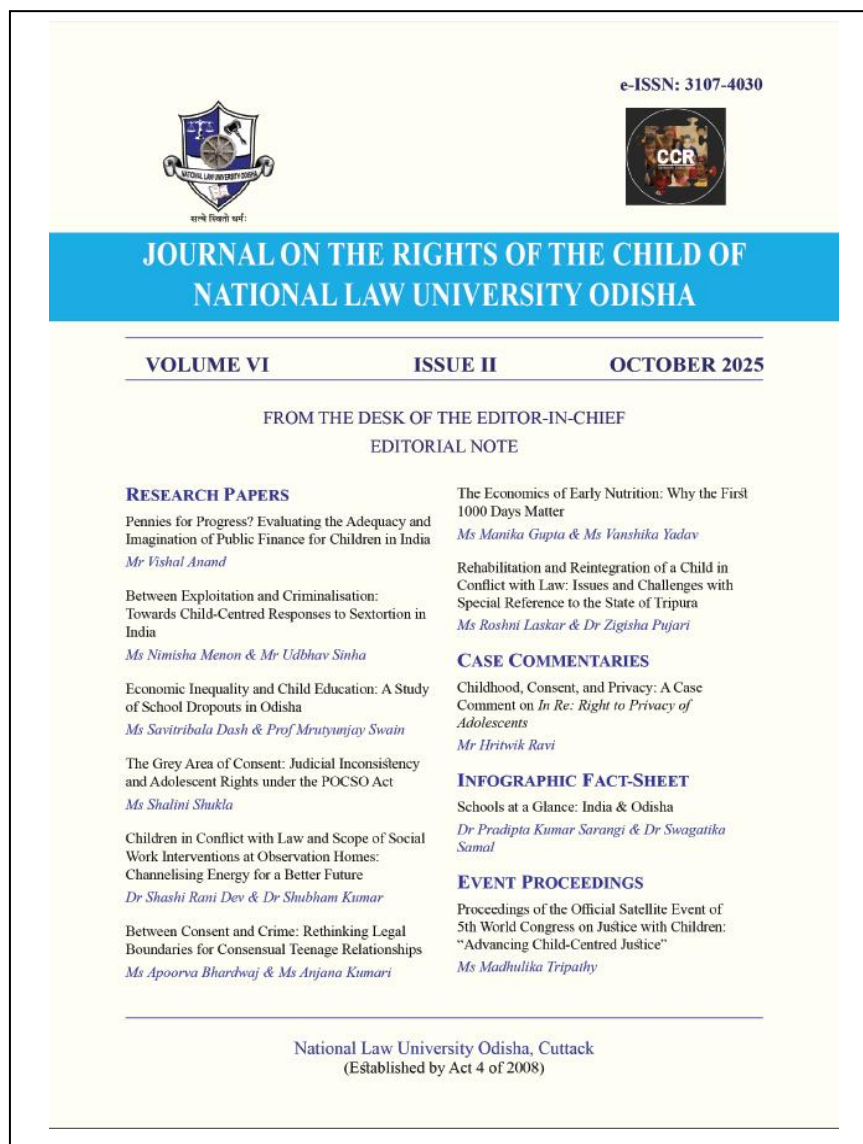
Link to access the journal (whole journal in pdf): [Journal on the Rights of the Child of National Law University Odisha- Vol-VI, Issue 1, April 2025](#)

Link to access the journal on its dedicated webpage: <https://nluo.ac.in/journal-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>

C.1.2 The October 2025 Issue of the Journal

The October issue of the journal which is the first issue post e-ISSN of the journal with 8 original research papers, 1 infographic fact sheet, 1 case commentary and the 5th World

Congress Satellite Event proceedings, has come on 15th October 2025 in a special launch programme held by the centre on the day. This issue included contributions from practicing academics, researchers, advocates and students covering issues of public finance, education, nutrition, consent, role of social work in rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with law, decriminalizing young love, digital safety of children and advancing child-centred justice.



Link to access the journal (whole journal in pdf):
<https://nluo.ac.in/storage/2025/10/Cover-page.pdf>

Link to access the journal on its dedicated webpage: <https://nluo.ac.in/journal-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>

C.1.3 High-Profile Double-Blind Peer Review process of the accepted papers/articles for the journal:

The Journal on the Rights of the Child of National Law University Odisha is distinguished by a rigorous double-blind peer review system which includes former high-level judges (e.g., former justices of higher courts), renowned academics and seasoned child-rights practitioners and a robust editorial management structure, designed to ensure the highest standards of scholarly integrity and relevance. Manuscripts submitted to the journal are anonymised for both authors and reviewers, evaluated purely on the basis of scholarly merit, originality and relevance, followed by two rounds of review and editorial screening. Furthermore, before any accepted paper is published, it must pass strict plagiarism and AI-use screening via Turnitin, with only submissions showing minimal similarity (up to 10 %) being considered. The final selection and editorial decisions are overseen by an eminent Editorial Board, which again have eminent intellectuals from India, London and Germany thereby integrating judicial wisdom, academic rigor, and ground-level child-rights experience in the vetting process. This layered review and editorial filtering position the Journal as a credible, interdisciplinary platform for pro-child-rights research, policy analysis and practice-based scholarship.

C.1.4 e-ISSN of the Journal on the Rights of the Child of National Law University Odisha:

Below is the formal communication/ confirmation email received from ISSN national agency regarding the e-ISSN.



After months long efforts and follow-up starting with the application for ISSN for the flagship journal, the journal got internationally indexed with the **e-ISSN number: 3107-4030** (Online) on 29th July, 2025. The journal has been indexed as a double-blind peer reviewed open access journal.

A dedicated webpage for the journal (<https://nluo.ac.in/journal-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>) has been developed and maintained on the University website featuring the following components in line with the ISSN application Guidelines:

- About the journal
- Aims and Scope
- Editorial Board
- Peer Review Process
- Plagiarism Policy
- Submission Guidelines and Instructions to Authors
- Archives and
- Contact Us.

C.2 The ICSSR - Minor Research Project grant on “Childcare Institutions and Well-being of Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP): An Empirical Study in Odisha”

The Centre for Child Rights (CCR), NLUO was awarded a grant of 10 lakh under the minor research project by the ICSSR. The title of the study is Childcare Institutions and Well-being of Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP): An Empirical Study in Odisha. The project is led by Prof. Ved Kumari as the Principal Investigator, with Mr. Ankit Kumar Keshri serving as the Research Officer. Till date, CCR has successfully completed the preparatory phase. During this phase, CCR carried out the recruitment of the research team, ensuring the selection of qualified and competent personnel to support the study’s objectives. Dr Swagatika Samal and Dr Pradipta Sarangi (Researchers in the Chief Minister’s Chair Professor team of CCR-NLUO) contributed to the short-listing of the candidates for the interview for recruitment. Mr Amulya Swain, Office Assistant, supported all the administrative work and paper trail of the ICSSR project. Mr Manna Biswas of UNICEF was a key contributor in the recruitment of the field research team, Research Associate and Research Assistant. This included 1 Research Associate, 1 Research Assistant and 6 Field Investigators. To begin, 1 Research Associate and 1 Research Assistant have been appointed. The Centre also led and guided the research team in the development of research tools and protocols, ensuring that the instruments were methodologically sound, ethically compliant, and aligned with the study’s objectives. In addition, the Centre oversaw the translation of research tools into Odia, enhancing accessibility and contextual relevance for participants. CCR coordinated closely with NLUO administration, the Women and Child Development (WCD) Department, and the Office of the Minister for WCD to secure necessary approvals and facilitate access to the field, ensuring that all administrative and operational processes were in place prior to the start of data collection. Mr. Ankit Kumar Keshri, UNICEF-supported Consultant with CCR-NLUO and the Research Officer of the project, was instrumental in driving these activities. He provided strategic guidance, technical expertise, and hands-on support throughout the process, ensuring that the study’s preparatory phase was completed efficiently, systematically, and in line with high standards of research and ethical practice. This groundwork has laid a strong foundation for the smooth implementation of the research study.

C.3 Shaping the public discourse: Media engagement and public education:

1. Leader Op-Ed in Hindustan Times: Ganguly, E. (2025, November 30). Nuances in the debate on the Age of Consent. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/opinion/nuances-in-the-debate-on-the-age-of-consent-101764511642571.html>
2. Leader Op-Ed in LiveLaw: Swain, B., Poddar K. & Choudhary, J. (2025, November 14). Responding to Child Marriage Structurally. <https://www.livelaw.in/articles/responding-to-child-marriage-structurally-in-india-309890?fromIpLogin=87947.93718730271>
3. Leader Op-Ed in Bar and Bench: Swain, B., Mishra A. S. & Choudhary, J. (2025, November 14). Children’s Day 2025: The everyday violence against children we need to see. <https://www.barandbench.com/columns/the-everyday-violence-against-children-we-need-to-see>

C.4 Events:

C.4.1 10th Anniversary Celebration of Centre for Child Rights and Re-launch of the Flagship Journal of the Centre:

On 12th April, 2025 the Centre for Child Rights - NLUO turned 10 and the *Journal on the Rights of the Child of National Law University Odisha*, the flagship academic publication of the Centre was re-launched on the day, marking a decade of committed scholarship, public service, and systemic engagement on child rights. **Hon’ble Justice Savitri Ratho**, Judge of the Orissa High Court and Chair of its Juvenile Justice Committee opened the celebrations by reminding the audience that justice for children must be “felt in their lives - not just inscribed in our laws.”

Reflecting on the Centre’s journey since its inauguration in 2015, Justice Ratho lauded CCR as a rare academic institution that offers thought and practice leadership in child rights. “The CCR is not just complementary to the judiciary’s work - it is constitutive of the child protection ecosystem,” she said. She credited Vice Chancellor Prof Ved Kumari for charting a new institutional path in child rights law. She noted that establishing the Chief Minister’s Chair Professorship in 2023 was a watershed moment that institutionalized child rights as a rigorous legal and interdisciplinary inquiry domain.

Justice Ratho also drew attention to CCR’s pedagogical innovation, especially the high student demand for the elective courses “Child Rights and Determinant Sectors” and “Food and Nutrition Justice,” noting that “legal theory, when not rooted in lived experience, risks becoming sterile.” She praised the KUTUMB initiative as a standout example of praxis, where CCR supports children’s participation and agency in shaping their communities. “Children are not passive recipients of protection—they are active rights-holders and agents of change,” she affirmed, grounding her statement in Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and India’s SDG commitments.

Sharing insights from her judicial career, Justice Ratho spoke candidly about the gulf between legislative intent and implementation, particularly in the application of the Juvenile Justice Act and POCSO Act. “Despite progressive laws, marginalized children—tribal, Dalit, migrant, differently abled—still face structural neglect and exclusion. The

pandemic only deepened these fissures,” she observed. She called for urgent reinforcement of child-sensitive procedures, trauma-informed counseling, and holistic policy frameworks that reflect the best interests of the child. She concluded with a powerful call: “Let us ensure that no child is invisible, voiceless, or without recourse.”

The 10th anniversary edition of the *Journal on the Rights of the Child of NLUO* features 14 original contributions from across the country, including work on juvenile bail jurisprudence, adoption law, refugee children’s rights, influencer economy ethics, and childhood nutrition. It also includes an NCRB data re-analysis and an infographic fact sheet that distills evidence into actionable insight.

Prof Biraj Swain, Chief Minister’s Chair Professor and Director of CCR, opened the program by framing CCR’s mission in unapologetically bold terms: “We are here not just to mark a date, but to recommit to our mandate—justice, equity, and dignity for every child, everywhere.” She honored the unwavering support of Vice Chancellor Prof Ved Kumari, whom she called “our Amazonian backbone,” and spotlighted the students whose research, outreach, and editorial work have kept the Centre vibrant and engaged.

Prof Ved Kumari, in her address, placed the focus on children in conflict with the law, reminding the audience that they are rights-bearing individuals, not societal outliers. She praised the growth of the Centre under Prof Swain’s leadership and celebrated the student community’s sustained engagement. In particular, she underscored the significance of KUTUMB in linking child rights with the broader terrain of family and community well-being. “Even after I demit office,” she said, “my interest in the Centre’s journey will remain steadfast.”

Mr. Sourav Bhattacharjee, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF, revisited CCR’s founding partnership with UNICEF in 2014. “What was missing then was not law but a space for knowledge, research, and capacity-building,” he said. “NLU Odisha filled that gap.” Outlining a bold vision for CCR’s next chapter, he projected it as a “centre of gravity for child protection knowledge and action” across Odisha and South Asia—one that provides technical expertise, trains a new cadre of professionals, and leads research on critical issues like migration, trafficking, climate change, and online safety.

The event also saw a major institutional announcement: the formalization of a long-term partnership between CCR and Child Rights and You (CRY). Mr. Subhendu Bhattacharjee, CRY’s Policy and Knowledge Exchange Director, announced CRY’s funding support for three grassroots-linked initiatives: student volunteerism, media legal training, and district-level legal aid centers. “This partnership is not about financials—it is about shared vision, praxis, and justice,” he said. “The cases these students take up today will become the case laws of tomorrow.”

Dr. Rashmi Rekha Baug, Asst. Professor in law & Co-Director of CCR, delivered the vote of thanks. She acknowledged the foundational contributions of former Vice Chancellor Prof Srikrishna Deva Rao, the steady backing of Registrar Prof Rangin P. Tripathy, and the unwavering diligence of student editor Madhulika Tripathy. She reaffirmed the Centre’s gratitude to contributors, editorial advisors, civil society partners, and the media. “May our scholarship shape future reforms, and may no child ever be beyond the reach of justice,” she said.

The celebration also unveiled the April–May 2025 edition of CCR’s bi-monthly newsletter. It acknowledged CCR’s international reach, primarily through hosting the 9th International

Society for Child Indicators (ISCI) Conference in 2024, which brought together over 24 countries and established Odisha as a global child rights discourse hub.

As the event drew close, Prof Swain offered a resonant final thought: “Justice for children cannot remain an idea. It must become a delivered right. We are here to make that happen—not just in Odisha, not just in India, but anywhere and everywhere.”

C.4.2 Unveiling of First e-ISSNed Issue of the Flagship Journal

The Centre released the latest issue of the Journal on the Rights of the Child of National Law University Odisha on the 15th October 2025 in a programme entitled “**Unveiling of the First Issue of CCR’s Flagship Journal Post Indexation**” on the day. The journal was unveiled by Hon’ble Justice Savitri Ratho, Chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC) of the Hon’ble Orissa High Court. Marking a significant milestone, this is the first ever edition of the journal to be internationally indexed and assigned an e-ISSN number 3107-4030, underscoring the CCR and the journal’s commitment to global standards of academic excellence.

Delivering the Presidential address, Hon’ble Justice Ratho emphasized the integral role of academic contributions in building robust child rights frameworks. She opened with quoting JFK quote, “Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future. She shed light on the constitutional provisions on child rights, the series of legislations but also reminded everyone that child rights, child protection and welfare is not just a law and order or judicial issue, it is a shared responsibility and everyone needs to step up. She shared the relaunch of the Orissa HC’s JJC’s digital newsletter Sishu Suraksha and invited everyone to read it too. She concluded with the Nelson Mandale quote, exhorting everyone present to make it their talisman, “There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way it treats it children.”

The unveiling event was graced by Prof Ved Kumari, Vice Chancellor NLUO cum Patron-in-Chief of the CCR, Prof Enakshi Ganguly, Honorary Professor at NLUO and Executive Director of the Housing and Land Rights Network, Prof Biraj Swain, Chief Minister’s Chair Professor cum Director of CCR and Mr M Vijay Bhaskar, Assistant Professor of Law and Co-Director of CCR, Centre for Tribal Studies & Pro Bono Club along with faculty, staff, and students of NLUO.

Ms. Pooja Marwaha, Chief Executive Officer of Child Rights and You (CRY) and her team member Mr Subhendu Bhattacharjee, Director-Policy, Research, Advocacy and Documentation joined digitally along with other colleagues. Among the attendees were NLUO Dean of Research and Internationalization Centre, Prof Sheela Rai, and over 150 students studying the Child Rights course or working in the student committee of CCR.

This first ISSNed edition of the journal has 11 original submissions in the categories of papers, case commentaries, infographics and Conference Proceedings written by practicing academics, researchers, advocates and students covering issues of public finance, education, nutrition, consent, role of social work in rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with law, decriminalizing young love, digital safety of children and advancing child-centred justice. This edition of the journal is published with generous support from the CRY, marking their continuous collaboration with CCR-NLUO and reaffirming their shared commitment to advancing child rights through academic discourse.

Prof Biraj Swain while delivering her opening remarks emphasized on the rigorous academic processes including high-level blind peer review, fact-checking, plagiarism checking and AI verification that has been followed to ensure the quality and ethical standards of the journal. She mentioned about the multi-member team of Associate Editors—Dr Swagatika Samal, Dr Pradipta Kumar Sarangi, Mr Ankit Kumar Keshri, Dr Rashmi Rakha Baug, Dr Shubhanginee Singh and student editor Ms Madhulika Tripathy—who have worked intensely to ensure all the checks and compliances before selecting the final list of the submissions for publication.

Further she appreciated the list of Who's Who as editorial advisory board consisting Hon'ble Justice Madan B Lokur, Chairperson, United Nations Internal Justice Council & Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Justice Gita Mittal, Former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Prof. Bernd-Deiter Meier, Director, Criminal Justice Institute, University of Hannover, Germany, Prof. Christopher Birbeck, Professor of Criminology, Salford University, Manchester, UK and Prof. Bhabani P Panda, Director, School of Law, KIIT & Former Vice Chancellor, Maharashtra National Law University.

She added, the Editorial Board is headlined by Prof Ved Kumari who is also the Editor-in-Chief. Other members constitute Prof Biraj Swain, the Editor, Prof Ravinder Barn, Professor of Social Policy and Head of Law and Criminology Department, Royal Holloway, University of London, Dr Frederick de Moll, Professor of Educational Science, Faculty of Education Science, Bielefeld University, Germany, Dr Damanjit Sandhu, Professor and Head, Department of Psychology, Punjabi University Patiala, Dr Asha Bajpai, (Former) Founder Dean and Professor, School of Law, Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Dr Kalpana Purushothaman, Adjunct Faculty, Indian Institute of Psychology and Research Bangalore.

Both the editorial advisory board and editorial board have together ensured that the journal adheres to the highest academic standards and inter-disciplinary lens of child rights.

The journal is committed to expand the remit of child rights beyond juvenile justice and POCSO and welcomes scholars, academics, practitioners, policy makers and members of the judiciary to engage with contemporary issues that impact children's rights and wellbeing. Emphasizing this, Prof Kumari emphasized the need to bridge gaps between research, policy, and practice to build an inclusive framework that understands and addresses the needs and rights of children.

Prof Ganguly highlighted the strategic advantage of CCR being housed within an university. She noted that this setting provides an ideal environment to generate innovative research outputs, contribute to governmental efforts, influence policy development concerning children, and engage as a knowledge partner with the State and the Hon'ble HC's Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC).

Ms Marwaha highlighted the urgent need to put child rights at the center of every policy and public conversation. She reiterated that the journal will not only showcase rigorous research but also bring to the forefront lived realities of real children and real people—both of which are essential for driving effective policy, programme and advocacy.

The other core members of CCR contributing the achievements of CCR and the journal are, Ms Akanksha Yadav, Co-Director of CCR, Mr Amulya Kumar Swain, Admin Assistant at CCR and research scholar Mr T S Swaraj. CCR has one of the most vibrant and engaged student committees and the student members constitute Abhinandan, Amit Samal, Sushant,

Akshat Prakash, Raginee Panda, Ashwani Rai, Subhadra Satpathy, Tanisha Som, and Prayas Das, headlined by Kashish Rathore and Jyotirmay Choudhary. The student members also curate and create a bi-monthly newsletter which is a global and local scan of key developments in child rights. They also curate and run the social media handles of CCR on LinkedIn and Instagram where they make everyday explainers on UNCRC articles and other rights and provisions of children for everyday people. The 6th edition of the Newsletter for the months of October-November 2025 was also launched at the event by Hon'ble Justice Ratho, the dignitaries, the faculty and student members of CCR.

C.5 Additional flagship events of the Centre:

C.5.1 Launch and Orientation of Community Level Child Welfare and Protection Committees in Cuttack urban settlements of Brajbehariapur, Balmiki Nagar and Baba Tilkanagar:

In a significant step towards strengthening grassroots child protection mechanisms, CCR-NLUO, in collaboration with its flagship community engagement initiative Project KUTUMB, successfully conducted the launch cum orientation program for *Community Level Child Welfare and Protection Committees (CLCWPCs)* on May 5, 2025, at Brajbehariapur (Talasahi), Cuttack. The CLCWPCs were launched in the presence of the Mayor of Cuttack Municipality, Shri Subhas Chandra Singh, District Child Protection Officer, Smt. Pragati Mohanty, Corporator of Ward No 3, Shri Pradeep Kumar Rout and NLUO Vice Chancellor Professor Ved Kumari. Project KUTUMB is led by Dr Akshay Verma from NLUO and Dr Swagatika Samal from NLUO CCR and supported by Mr Durbadala Mantry, Mr Kanishka, Mr Vijay Bhaskar, Dr Pradipta Sarangi, Mr Amulya Swain, Mr Ankit Kumar Keshri and Prof Biraj Swain NLUO.

The orientation program was part of NLUO's commitment to creating Child-Friendly Communities, and it marks a milestone in Project KUTUMB's mission to foster safer environments for vulnerable and at-risk children. The event aimed to formally establish the CLCWPCs for the neighbouring settlements and to sensitize and train its members—comprising key stakeholders such as local youth groups, Self Help Groups (SHGs), school teachers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), parents and caregivers, community leaders, elected representatives - on their roles and responsibilities in ensuring children's rights, protection and overall well-being.

The initiative aligns with the objectives of the Mission Vatsalya mandate of Government of India, which advocates for decentralized and community-led mechanisms to protect children in need of care and protection. Through a combination of awareness-building, capacity enhancement, needs assessment, and vulnerability mapping, Project KUTUMB, aims to establish sustainable, locally lead child protection systems with long-term impact.

CLCWPC serves as the grassroots mechanisms for monitoring child rights violations, responding to abuse or exploitation and promoting children's safety through community participation. The CLCWPCs with their members and mandates were launched at the event. This is in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which India is a signatory to, and it marks the 10th anniversary of SDGs this year.

During the orientation program, members of the newly formed CLCWPCs were introduced to key child protection issues prevalent in their settlement, about children's rights, existing legal safeguards and services, reporting mechanisms and the responsibilities expected of

them as community protectors which include identifying at-risk children, ensuring access to government welfare schemes, reporting violations and fostering a child-sensitive environment.

Shri Subash Chandra Singh, Mayor of Cuttack Municipal Corporation, underscored the municipality's commitment and support for child rights initiatives. Commending the efforts of the community members, NLUO and Project KUTUMB, he said: "In spite of the progressive laws, courts and institutions, there are so many children missing, trafficked. This needs the commitment of the state, citizens and the society to reintegrate children back to their family. The state of the child is the metric of the society and its imagination of the future. Not a single child should drop out of education. No child should be harnessed into child labour because of the poverty of the family members. No settlements/habitats should have liquor shops. Excise duty from liquor should never compete with child welfare. That is not a trade-off we can afford. Every child in conflict with law is a child whose rights have been violated, a child whose need for care and protection has been neglected, hence child protection is of immense importance."

Mr Pradeep Kumar Rout, Corporator of Ward No 3, expressed appreciation for the initiative. He committed his own leadership for the issue of child protection and acknowledged the collaboration and leadership of NLUO and pledged to work closely with the community members, CLCWPC members and NLUO to transform the Ward No 3 into a child friendly community.

The participation of local leaders highlighted the growing recognition of child protection as an essential component of development and as a shared responsibility. The presence of Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), ASHA and Anganwadi workers, school staff, and Self-Help Group (SHG) members added strength to the diverse, community-rooted approach envisioned by Project KUTUMB. The community members of Brajabecharipur (Tala Sahi) voluntarily contributed infrastructural and electrical accessories as a mark of their ownership and commitment to child protection.

Regular review meetings, refresher training programs, linkages with Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) and District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), and feedback mechanisms have been planned to ensure the CLCWPCs remains active and effective foregrounding children, their voice, agency, safety and progress.

In this context, the Vice-Chancellor of NLUO, Prof Ved Kumari, who conceptualised Project KUTUMB, noted that substantive progress in child protection is possible only when there is consistent collaboration between community and the state instruments and children have a voice and agency in shaping their own and their community's futures. She further added, "It is the responsibility of premier educational institutions to contribute to the life and aspirations of the society, especially the neighbourhoods around them. NLUO is not just an institution to churn out legal professionals, NLUO is also committed to the agenda of justice and enabling the under-privileged children and communities in the neighbourhood for better lives and life-chances, is a core ambition of KUTUMB and NLUO. Children need to be listened to, not just be made members in planning committees pro forma. The inter-generational dialogue, the conversations between children and the elders need to happen meaningfully."

The CLCWPC will be the first port of call, the platform for community and the state child protection machinery, ensuring timely reporting, service delivery and grievance redressal.

Highlighting the importance of this critical link in safeguarding children from adverse experiences, Pragati Mohanty, the District Child Protection Officer, Cuttack said, it is as much the responsibility of the parents, society and the elected representatives.

Towards this goal, as the CLCWPC begins functioning in the settlements of Brajabeharipur, Valmiki Nagar and Baba Tilkanagar. NLUO's CCR and Project KUTUMB will continue to provide technical and institutional support, enabling members to make their communities child friendly where every child is protected and thrives.

C.5.2 Hosting Official Satellite Event of 5th World Congress on Justice with Children:

The Centre for Child Rights - National Law University Odisha (NLUO) and Child Rights and You (CRY) organised a **high-level panel discussion on “Advancing Child-Centred Justice”** on 3rd June 2025 at NLUO, Cuttack. It was an official satellite event of the recently concluded **5th World Congress on Justice with Children**, with participants and speakers from around the world. The World Congress took place in Madrid from 2nd to 4th June. In a first, to deepen the conversations and reforms, the 5th World Congress also allowed official satellite events in different parts of the world which had to sync with the dates and agenda of the Congress. The hosts and topics were selected through an intensely competitive process.

The theme of the 5th World Congress was **“Advancing Child-Centred Justice: Preventing and Responding to Violence Affecting Children in Justice Systems.”** The aim of this year's Congress was to highlight entrenched systemic issues and create an inclusive, rehabilitative justice system for the children.

The satellite event was a global hybrid event, dedicated to further the discourse on child-centred justice. This year, the spotlight was the General Comment 27 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. General Comment 27 guides states and their instruments on implementing the rights of children in the context of access to justice and effective remedies. This event was to further unpack and interpret why and how to make children's access to justice a lived reality.

The event was attended by a distinguished panel of eminent practitioners with credentialed work in child rights, justice systems, and public administration. The panel included Hon'ble Justice Madan Bhimarao Lokur, **Chairperson of the United Nations' Internal Justice Council and former Judge of the Supreme Court of India**; Hon'ble Justice Savitri Ratho, **Judge of the Orissa High Court and the Chair of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Orissa High Court**; Smt. Shubha Sarma, IAS, **the Principal Secretary of the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha**; Prof. Ved Kumari, **Vice Chancellor, NLUO and Patron-in-Chief, Centre for Child Rights**; Ms. Sonal Kapoor, **Founder-CEO of Protsahan India Foundation**; Prof Rangin Pallav Tripathy, **Professor of Law cum Registrar of NLUO** and Mr. Subhendu Bhattacharjee, **Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange, CRY**.

The panel discussion was moderated by **Prof. Biraj Swain, Chief Minister's Chair Professor and Director, Centre for Child Rights – NLUO**. The panel deliberated on various aspects of children's access to justice in the legal systems and in their everyday lives.

Prof Rangin Pallav Tripathy, Registrar, NLUO highlighted the fact that such periodic Congresses raised the concern about the plight of children around the world, the progress

necessary and the back-slides in gains still happening. He called on everyone to imagine a day when such Congress would not be needed because every child will be afforded their due to achieve their best potential.

Justice Madan Lokur, Chairperson of the United Nations' Internal Justice Council and former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, emphasised the need for meaningful access to justice for children—as victims, as accused, and as those in need of care and protection, in all their avatars. He highlighted the underreporting of violence against children, the alarming backlog in inquiries, and the re-victimisation faced by survivors during the trial due to systemic delays and inadequate support systems. He called for urgent social audits of the child protection commissions, children's court, political will, and a move towards restorative justice. "Children in conflict with the law or in need of support from the justice system must be treated with empathy," he said. "However, the system needs a social audit as well as the performance audit of schemes through three stages: awareness, implementation, and audit," he further underlined.

Justice Savitri Ratho, Judge of the Orissa High Court, stressed that access must be transformative, not merely physical. She underscored the need for trauma-informed processes and regular monitoring under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, especially for marginalized children. "Justice is not a privilege to be earned; it is a promise to be kept for every child," she affirmed.

Shrimati Shubha Sarma, IAS, Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development, Odisha, shared the state's commitment through schemes like Subhadra, Ashirbaad and Advika. She highlighted trauma-informed care, kinship adoption, and inclusive rehabilitation as central to reducing incarceration and ensuring dignity for every child. "Timely execution of justice could help children come back to normal life," she said and added that "Odisha was taking bold steps toward the implementation of restorative justice."

Sonal Kapoor, Founder-CEO of Protsahan India Foundation, emphasised that every child's testimony emerges through a nervous situation deeply shaped by trauma, and stressed the importance of understanding child neurobiology as she educated the house on how trauma impacts memory, behaviour, and a child's ability to cope with legal processes. She also emphasized that there is no child protection without social protection.

Subhendu Bhattacharjee, Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange, CRY, said that access to justice for CRY in courtroom and beyond. Unpacking justice for children per CRY, he said that every child should have access to essential services – education, health, nutrition, and protection. "It is the right to be heard, to be safe, to grow up with dignity and equity, and to be treated fairly when in contact with institutions of the state.", he concluded.

Prof. Ved Kumari, Vice Chancellor, NLUO and Patron-in-Chief, CCR, advocated for a broad, child-centred definition of justice. She reiterated GC 27's redefinition of access to justice to include not only courts but also administrative justice, economic-social and cultural rights. She also highlighted that the availability of services was not coterminous with accessibility, and the metric that mattered more was accessibility. She also spoke about the need for better financing and better / more sensitive human resources to enable and ensure children's access to justice, especially at the last mile. Comparing India's performance on various child-related indicators with other South Asian countries, she concluded that more than money, it is the intention that mattered i.e. the intention to

foreground the best interests of children in planning and programming exercises for the country.

The **World Congress on Justice with Children** is a global platform that convenes every five years to further the policy, practice and discourse on child-centred justice. It comprises of institutions and individuals championing the cause of children's access to justice and child rights, i.e. the United Nations' nodal agencies like UNICEF, UNODC etc, global, regional and national civil society organisations like Terre Des Hommes, Penal Reforms International etc, academics, members of the judiciary around the world and national governments and most importantly the children and youth, who are at the centre of this global conversation.

C.5.3 Launching the CP Mentorship Programme for capacity building of frontline child protection cadre in Odisha

The Child Protection Mentorship Program (CPMP), offered by the Centre for Child Rights (CCR), National Law University Odisha, in collaboration with UNICEF, is for early career professionals with a focus on experiential learning from the experts and practitioners.

The programme is intended to create a pool of qualified, skilled and sensitive human resources for spearheading the effective implementation of child-focused schemes, programs and policies in the State of Odisha. This year-long program, offered in a hybrid mode, blends online and in-person training to ensure flexibility and accessibility. Fifty participants will be selected from a pool of professionals such as counsellors, case workers, social workers and support persons as members of Child Help Line, Juvenile Justice Boards, Child Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Units and Special Juvenile Police Units. The program will equip participants with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills to understand child protection frameworks, address complex child rights issues, and contribute meaningfully to system strengthening. Upon completion, they will demonstrate enhanced capacity to engage with vulnerable children, advocate for their rights, and implement policies effectively in their respective domains.

In a major stride toward strengthening child protection systems in the state, the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at the National Law University Odisha (NLUO), supported by UNICEF, **launched the Child Protection Mentorship Program on 18th July 2025** at NLUO, Cuttack.

Designed as a professional development initiative, the program aims to empower a new generation of child protection practitioners by equipping them with critical knowledge, practical tools, and ethical grounding necessary to respond to complex challenges facing children across the state.

The program aims to build a cadre of child protection practitioners who can support government schemes, strengthen NGO interventions, work with statutory bodies such as the Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees, and serve as watchdogs of child rights within their communities. Through structured learning, mentoring, assignments, and peer engagement, the CPMP envisions fostering reflective practitioners capable of critical analysis and compassionate action. The initiative aligns with India's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and supports national goals of building a competent and accountable child protection workforce, especially in high-risk and underserved geographies.

The CPMP is a response to the felt and expressed need of CP practitioners and the juvenile justice leaders in the sector. The course co-leads are Mr Ankit K Keshri, Unicef supported technical consultant with NLUO-CCR and Dr Rashmi Rekha Baug, Assistant Prof of Law and Co-Director of the NLUO-CCR. The course curation was led by Mr Keshri. And the mentees were selected with a combination of eligibility criteria, through an open and transparent process and commitment to Odisha and child protection were key criteria.

The inaugural event, held in a hybrid format, witnessed the participation of eminent dignitaries from the judiciary, academia and civil society, as well as development professionals from various parts of Odisha, with 100 selected mentees forming the first cohort of the program. The valedictory address was delivered by **Hon'ble Justice Murahari Sri Raman, Judge of the Orissa High Court and Member of the Juvenile Justice Committee - Odisha High Court**. The event graced **Mr Jagadananda, Mentor and Co-Founder of the Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD); Ms Vijayalakshmi Arora, Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF New Delhi; Mr Manna Biswas, Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF Odisha; Mr. Sujit Mahapatra, Secretary of the Bakul Foundation**. Eminent mentors such as **A K Asthana, lawyer and child rights activist; Bharti Ali, former Executive Director of HAQ Centre for Child Rights; Nimisha Srivastava, Executive Director and Founder of Counsel to Secure Justice; Swagata Raha, Co-Director – Restorative Practices, Enfold India and Co-Founder of Enfold Health Trust; Govind Beniwal, Child Protection Specialist from Unicef; Ghasiram Panda, Child Protection Specialist, Unicef Odisha** also joined digitally.

Prof Biraj Swain, Chief Minister's Chair Professor and Director, CCR-NLUO delivered the opening remarks. Following this, **Prof. Ved Kumari**, Vice Chancellor of NLUO and Patron-in-chief of CCR delivered the welcome address where she reinforced the role of academic institutions as changemakers in the social justice landscape. She spoke about the interdisciplinary nature of child protection work and commended CCR's initiative to bridge the knowledge-practice gap through a mentorship model. She said – Children and adolescents often take risks not because they're defiant, but because their brains are still developing. With limited capacity to assess long-term consequences, continuous hormonal changes, what emerges is a 'bulletproof' mindset. They chase thrill, feel invincible, and remain less afraid of outcomes they barely understand.

Ms Vijayalakshmi Arora spoke on the importance of building the social service workforce. She contextualized the mentorship programme within a national and global push for professionalising child protection cadre and emphasized the role of training, mentoring, and reflective practice in building sustainable impact.

Drawing from decades of community engagement and building and strengthening civil society engagement, **Mr Jagadananda**, spoke on Odisha's development trajectory and the essential role civil society had played, from humanitarian crisis and rebuilding, to planning for long-term development, to building civic capacity on Right to Information and Food Security and state capacity to respond. He also emphasised the centrality of investing in youth, young adults, adolescents, children for demographic dividends and society's development. He called for investments in leadership development and urged participants to remain grounded in community realities and shared pragmatic inputs on 1-0-1 of working with the state systems.

Mr Sujit Mahapatra shared on the importance of art and creative works in trauma healing, therapy and building confidence amongst children. He spoke on *From Art to Heart: Working with Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances*.

Mr Manna Biswas provided an overview of the CPMP and presented the objectives, framework, and expected outcomes of the Program. Designed for Odisha-based professionals with a commitment to children of Odisha, it combines expert sessions, interactive discussions on topics such as child rights law, trauma-informed care, juvenile justice, ethical reporting, and crisis intervention. Participation is free, limited to 100 seats, and aims to ensure focused mentoring. Mr. Biswas highlighted the program's inclusivity and the provision of completion certificates based on active engagement and consistent participation.

Following this, Mr. Ankit K Keshri introduced the mentors and mentees, setting expectations for the collaborative journey ahead. He explained how the mentorship model aims to foster ongoing support, guidance, and reflective practice, enabling mentees to translate knowledge into action. He encouraged participants to see this as a collective learning ecosystem and urged them to take ownership of their development. He shared that 225 applicants registered from amongst whom 100 were selected through a fair and transparent process which was communicated to each one of the applicants.

This was followed by an open house discussion for the mentees moderated by Dr Swagatika Samal, Researcher in the Chief Minister's Chair Professor team, Dr Pradipta K Sarangi, Researcher in the Chief Minister's Chair Professor team and Mr Ankit K Keshri. Some of the points raised by the mentees are:

- The skill to build rapport with adolescents as sometimes it becomes difficult for the mentees to communicate and understand them while working with them
- In case of mentally challenged children, how to seek full support from the non-supportive parents for better and timely treatment of such children
- Awareness on child protection programmes and schemes being rendered by the government especially to the police/railway police personnel as duty bearers etc.

Hon'ble Justice Murahari Sri Raman delivered the valedictory address. He emphasized the critical role of the CPMP in strengthening the capacity of frontline child protection actors in Odisha. Highlighting the unique vulnerabilities children face due to systemic neglect and social challenges, he commended the programme's restorative justice approach, community engagement, and legal grounding. Justice Raman called for shifting from institutional care to preventive, rights-based interventions and praised NLUO's KUTUMB initiative and the Centre for Child Rights' leadership in driving community-based protection. He urged mentees to act with compassion, vigilance, and accountability to uphold children's dignity and rights. "Let Odisha lead the way. Let us become the state where child protection is not a scattered mandate but a shared value" - he stated and expressed hope that the CPMP would create a ripple effect, strengthening Odisha's child protection landscape from the grassroots upwards.

A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Pradipta Kumar Sarangi, and Dr. Swagatika Samal. The event marked the formal commencement of the four-month online mentorship program, which will unfold through 32 curated sessions delivered by experts in the fields of law, social work, child psychology, policy advocacy, and community engagement.

C.6 Project KUTUMB: CCR's contribution in transforming three adjacent urban settlements of NLUO into Child Friendly Communities and Habitats

A flagship programme of NLUO, 'Project KUTUMB' was initiated on August 2, 2022. The Project KUTUMB envisions to create a safe and nurturing environment for every child in the adopted communities by empowering the communities to actively engage in protecting vulnerable children, and strengthening the capacity of children, families, and local institutions to lead child-friendly initiatives there. Through collaboration with village bodies, caregivers, and government authorities, the project aims to establish sustainable child protection systems and committees, ensuring long-term well-being and development in alignment with Mission Vatsalya.

Project KUTUMB is supported by the CCR and other centres of the University who have jointly ventured to transform the three adopted villages nearby into **child-friendly communities**. To accomplish the vision of the project, the CM's Chair Professor, CCR-NLUO have undertaken the following activities/projects in the settlements during 2025.

- Initiated a pilot project to **strengthen government systems from the ward level and map vulnerable children and at-risk families** through a historic child protection and prevention model
- Conducted the **community needs assessment and child vulnerability mapping** of the communities by administering the **vulnerability mapping tool** (improved on the Aide-et-Action tool), **including child-friendly community indicators on the Kobo Collect platform** and earlier conducted interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGD), Transect Walks and Home Visits
- Drafted and finalized the **Need Assessment and Social Mapping Report** of the three adopted communities
- Conducted Baseline Survey and Prepared a comprehensive Baseline on Child Friendly Community using govt. data and field data for every single NITI Ayog indicator in three KUTUMB communities - Brajbehariapur, Valmiki Nagar and Baba Tilkanagar.
- The CCR has co-initiated **child-specific interventions** for the identified vulnerable children and at-risk families based on child vulnerability mapping
- The CCR has identified all the physically challenged children of the KUTUMB communities and making their detailed plan of intervention. In collaboration with Legal Aid Clinic, CCR-NLUO is facilitating all the identified children and parents with disability, be recorded, acquire disability certificate and be linked to their entitlements in various programmes run by the Govt of Odisha and the SSEPD (Social Security Empowerment and Persons with Disability) Department
- Encouraged and facilitated the communities to establish Community Level Child Welfare and Protection Committees (CLCWPC), launched the CLCWPCs in the three adopted communities and conducted orientation of the unanimously selected CLCWPC members from time to time on their duties and responsibilities etc.
- CCR-NLUO is also guiding the CLCWPCs' monthly meetings regularly, by strengthening the committees, ensuring members' active participation, and guiding activities of the committees to intervene on Child-specific intervention plan in collaboration with the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), Cuttack. In so doing

the committees have already approached the DCPO on unique issues of 13 children to link up them with the existing child welfare programmes of the government and doing the follow-up too.

- The CCR-NLUO in collaboration with Legal Aid Clinic, NLUO has identified the children not having the Aadhar Card, contacted the Aadhar Centre at the Collectorate to enquire about the application process, talked to and oriented the parents of the children to submit the required documents for applying for the Aadhar card of the children. In so doing, the centre has already processed the Aadhar card application by seeking support of the District Authority of Cuttack.
- To bridge the infrastructural gaps in the Anganwadi Centres of Balmikinagar and Baba Tilkanagar, the Centre has sought support from the Commissioner, Cuttack Municipal Corporation and made visits and placed request letters to the Slum Development Officer, CMC and the Child Development Project Officer of ICDS, City -II, Cuttack.

C.7 Speaking Engagements/ Resource Person/Chairing Sessions by the Chief Minister's Chair Professor on Child Rights:

- CM's Chair Professor delivered the Keynote Address being the Guest of Honour, in the **International Women's Day Programme**, organised by Gandhi Institute for Education and Technology (GIET), Khordha on 8 March 2025
- CM's Chair Professor delivered the Inaugural Session Commencement Speech to the fresh batch of **Journalism and Corporate Communication Students of Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) Denkanal** on 6 August 2025
- CM's Chair Professor Co-chaired two technical session on **"Animal Rights Consultation"** 5 September 2025
- CM's Chair Professor served as the Key Resource Person at the **State Level Juvenile Justice Consultation** on "Safeguarding the Girl Child: Towards a Safer and Enabling Environment for Her in India - Reflections on Progress, Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward," and delivered a session on "Key Policy Recommendations for Developing an Effective Preventive and Response Mechanism to Address Violence Against Children and Child Marriage" on 13 September 2025
- CM's Chair Professor addressed the Valedictory Session as Guest of Honour at the **State Consultation on "Sustaining Gender Transformation in Education: Content and Pedagogical Approaches,"** organized by Breakthrough on 16th September 2025.
- CM's Chair Professor delivered the Inaugural Session as Guest of Honour at the **Two-Day International Seminar on "Protection of Women and Children's Rights,"** jointly organised by Law Mantra Trust, Chanakya National Law University (CNLU) Patna and the Department of Law, Central University of Haryana on 19 September 2025
- CM's Chair Professor chaired the session titled "NFSA at 12 – A Legal and Policy Overview" at the Two-Day National Workshop on **"12 Years of the National Food Security Act, 2013: Reflections on Implementation, Exclusion, and the Future of Food**

Rights,” organized by the Centre for Tribal Studies and the Right to Food Campaign at NLUO on 20 September 2025.

- CM’s Chair Professor, along with a team member from the Centre for Child Rights, served as Resource Persons on the salient features of **the POCSO Act, 2012, for Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) with a focus on the Domestic Violence Act (DV Act)**, in a programme organized at NLUO on 23 September 2025
- CM’s Chair Professor delivered the Keynote Address at the **Eastern Zone Partners’ Capacity Building Workshop** on “Role of Civil Society in Strengthening Diversity and Development,” organized by Terre des Hommes Germany at Konark, Odisha on 4th November 2025.
- CM’s Chair Professor co-chaired the technical session on **“Strengthening Tobacco Control Laws in India: From Policy to Practice,”** jointly organised by National Law University Odisha, National Law University Tripura, and Vital Strategies (New Delhi) on 14 November 2025
- CM’s Chair Professor served as a Resource Person at the **NPCR Conference** on “Key Child Rights Issues: Education, Mental Health, Juvenile Justice and POCSO Act,” on the theme “Juvenile Justice, POCSO, and Child Safety: Legal Framework and Social Responsibility,” held on 20th November 2025.
- CM’s Chair Professor moderated a **special Fireside Chat and Celebration Evening** with eminent Odias and felicitation of Joe Madiath, Dr Sruti Mohapatra, Jatin Das, Hon’ble Justice Ananga Patnaik, Ananta Mohapatra, Adwaita Gadanayak and Dr Rajesh Tandon at the **Odisha Vikash Conclave 2025** organised at Hotel Mayfair, Bhubaneswar on 26 November 2025.

C.8 Resource Mobilization Efforts:

Following are the research proposals submitted to various apex bodies seeking research grants:

C.8.1 Proposal to Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD), Government of Odisha

In its 2024 consultation, the Juvenile Justice Committee of Orissa High Court emphasized the need to strengthen State measures for the inclusion, protection, and empowerment of children with disabilities who come in contact with the Juvenile Justice System, including children in need of care and protection, children in conflict with law, and survivors of sexual abuse. In response to this recommendation, the Centre for Child Rights, NLUO conceptualized a research project titled “Children with Disabilities and the Juvenile Justice System: An Empirical Study in Odisha” and, along with a tentative budget, submitted a proposal to the Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Odisha, on 31 January 2025. The proposed study aims to examine the functioning of the existing Juvenile Justice system in relation to children with disabilities and to identify systemic gaps and persistent challenges. The research seeks to generate actionable, evidence-based insights to strengthen policies and practices. The findings are expected to support targeted interventions by key stakeholders to empower children with disabilities and promote a more inclusive society.

C.8.2 Expression of Interest to Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA)

Expression of Interest in response to the call for the “**Third-Party Evaluation of Non-State Actors under the STARS Scheme**” submitted to the State Project Director, Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA), under the School and Mass Education Department, Government of Odisha by Dr. Pradipta Kumar Sarangi and Dr. Swagatika Samal. OSEPA, Bhubaneswar, is implementing the centrally sponsored scheme supported by the World Bank, titled - Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) in Odisha. The programme collaborates with a diverse group of organizations such as Lend-A-Hand India (LAH), Akshara Foundation, Breakthrough Trust, The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) South Asia at the Institute for Financial Management and Research, Sight Savers (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, India), IndusInd Bank Limited, Learning Links Foundation, Unacademy, Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership (PFEL), Language and Learning Foundation (LLF), People for Action (PFA), and Central Square Foundation. Each of these organizations brings its specialized expertise to strengthen the State’s educational landscape, addressing critical issues such as student dropouts and improving learning achievement levels. This evaluation study seeks to bridge important gaps in understanding the effectiveness of convergence with these ten Non-State Actors in the implementation of the STARS Scheme in Odisha. As the study proposal was invited through an open financial bidding process, the lowest financial bidder (L1) was selected for the award, and therefore CCR could not undertake the research study.

C.9 Organisations/ Department (Judicial, Government Office, NGO, INGO) visited / engaged with

- CM’s Chair Professor, along with the Centre for Child Rights team, held discussions with Dr Avijeet Bhadra, Manager – Programme Implementation (Odisha), and Dr Pradeep Kumar Mishra, Head – Programme Implementation Unit, Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children), to discuss key insights and explore future collaborations on educational initiatives for children on 28 July 2025
- CM’s Chair Professor and the Centre for Child Rights team interacted with Nelson Dev Partner Manager, Hitesh Kumar Dasbhaya, Transform Schools, People for Action, to share insights and explore future avenues for collaboration on children’s education initiatives on 14 November 2025
- CM’s Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights, along with Prof. Enakshi Ganguly (Honorary Professor, NLUO), held courtesy meetings with Ms. Anya Das, IAS, Deputy Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha; Ranjan Mohanty, Secretary, People’s Cultural Centre (PECUC), Bhubaneswar; Ms. Ananya Das, IAS, State Project Director, OSEPA, Department of School & Mass Education, Government of Odisha; and Ms. Aswasthy Sivadas Das, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha. During these meetings, knowledge products were shared, the Journal of CCR was presented, and the Programme Planning for 2026 was discussed to strengthen interventions for child rights on 16–17 November 2025.
- CM’s Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights, along with Prof. Enakshi Ganguly (Honorary Professor, NLUO), held a courtesy meeting with Hon’ble Justice Savitri

Ratho, Judge of the Orissa High Court and Chairperson, JJC; Hon'ble Justice A. K. Mohapatra, Judge of the Orissa High Court and Member, JJC; Hon'ble Justice S. S. Raman, Judge of the Orissa High Court and Member, JJC; and Hon'ble Justice S. K. Panigrahi, Judge of the Orissa High Court. Presented the Journal of CCR, and shared the ongoing activities and intervention of CCR on 17 November 2025.

- CM's Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights held a meeting with the CEO and the team of CRY (Child Rights and You) to share the journal and discuss Programme Planning for 2026, focusing on aligning strategic priorities, strengthening interventions for child rights, and enhancing collaborative efforts for effective implementation in the upcoming year, on 18 November 2025.
- CM's Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights presented the Journal of CCR and held a meeting with Shri S. N. Sahu to discuss key insights and ongoing activities of CCR on 18 November 2025.
- CM's Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights presented the Journal of CCR and held meetings with key representatives of Tata Trusts, including Dr. Bobby Abrol, Ms. Jyotsna, and Dr. Sujeet Ranjan, to discuss key insights and explore future collaborative opportunities on 19 November 2025.
- CM's Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights presented the Journal of CCR to Ms. Sonal Kapoor, CEO of Protsahan India Foundation, and held a discussion on future collaborative opportunities on 20 November 2025.
- CM's Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights presented the Journal of CCR to Dr. Vani Sethi, Senior Nutrition Specialist (Girls & Women's Nutrition), UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, and discussed key insights along with potential avenues for future collaboration on 21 November 2025.
- CM's Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights presented the Journal of CCR to Ms. Divya Mukund, Program Advisor – India Girls First, and discussed key insights along with potential avenues for future collaboration on 21 November 2025.
- CM's Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights presented the Journal of CCR to Dr. Shrabanti Sen, Programme Director, and her team at ChildFund International, and discussed key insights along with potential avenues for future collaboration on 21 November 2025.
- CM's Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights presented the Journal of CCR to Ms. Moutushi Sengupta, Senior Advisor, AVPN (Asian Venture Philanthropy Network), and discussed strategic insights along with prospects for future collaboration on 22 November 2025.
- CM's Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights presented the Journal of CCR to Ms. Yamini Mishra, Country Director, MacArthur Foundation, and held discussions on key strategic insights and potential avenues for collaboration on 24 November 2025.
- CM's Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights presented the Journal of CCR to Mr. Biraj Patnaik, Executive Director, National Foundation for India, and discussed key strategic insights along with ongoing and planned activities of the Centre for Child Rights on 24 November 2025.

- CM's Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights attended the re-launch of the India Justice Report (IJR) on Juvenile Justice and Children in Conflict with the Law, and presented the Journal to Hon'ble Justice Madan Lokur, Ms. Maja Daruwala (Chief Editor, IJR), and Mr. Valay Singh (Lead, IJR) on 24 November 2025.
- CM's Chair Professor Centre for Child Rights attended the re-launch of the India Justice Report (IJR) on Juvenile Justice and Children in Conflict with the Law, and presented the Journal of CCR to Hon'ble Justice Madan Lokur, Ms. Maja Daruwala (Chief Editor, IJR), and Mr. Valay Singh (Lead, IJR) on 24 November 2025.

C.10 Guided Student Activities

A 10-member student body was recruited out of 33 applicants to form the CCR Students' Body through a very open and inclusive process where every applicant student was interviewed. The student activities are guided by the CM's Chair Professor team in their time-to-time engagements.

C.10.1 CCR Stall with Games and a Photo Booth during Republic Day and 3rd Annual State Level Flower Show:

On 25th and 26th January 2025, the National law University Odisha (NLUO) organised the 3rd Annual State Level Flower Show held in the NLUO campus. This event showcased exquisite floral arrangements, including potted plants, cut flowers, and unique cacti. The event highlighted the university's commitment to fostering beauty and innovation. Paired with the Zaika food fest, offering diverse cuisines, and engaging competitions like Rangoli making and painting, the show creates a lively and welcoming atmosphere. Attracting visitors from all walks of life across Cuttack, this remarkable event reflected the university's dedication to inclusivity, cultural enrichment, and its role as a hub of creativity and excellence. The Centre of Child Rights (CCR) put up a stall in the event consisting of free activities which attracted visitors, including children from nearby schools and KUTUMB communities. The primary objectives of the event were to promote the Centre for Child Rights, NLUO & spread the concept of child rights and its awareness by having direct and fun community involvement. It established connections with the visitors and strived to expand the social media presence of the Centre. Activities such as games and photo booths were reflective of popular methods of child rights awareness, such as interactive play to educate about rights in a fun manner and effectively led to positive relations and the focus on the role of CCR in child protection efforts.

The CCR stall included various fun and interaction games like the glass throw game which was one of the games where children and adults had to knock down the pyramid of paper glasses to win exciting prizes; a column game where the participants had to use their sharp memory power and a bit of calculation to find out two hiding coins out of nine columns in three attempts. Then comes the ring throw game which involves throwing rings on prizes kept on a table 4-6 feet away from the participants and taking as many prizes as possible in 5 attempts. These games attracted children of schools in the areas, their parents, nearby residents of the area, NLUO students, faculty, the then present chancellor of university Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arindam Sinha (Chief Justice of Orissa High Court) and the vice chancellor Prof. (Dr) Ved Kumari. There was a photo/selfie booth made by the student members of the centre with a theme of "NLUO Cineplex by Centre for Child Rights" with props that were handcrafted to be used in photoshoots. It was a great attraction, and the Chancellor, the

Vice Chancellor, and others took photographs capturing their memory and the event also included face painting which was done with natural skin friendly water colours, which became the centre of attraction among the children. The stall also covered the accomplishments of CCR through research, policy work and community programs to make the visitors aware of the child rights activities.

Glimpse of the CCR Stall



All the children were awarded prizes regardless of whether they won or lost. The winning prizes included Uncle Chips, Kurkure, chocolates, chocolate cakes, biscuits, Chocopie, and other snacks that are popular and loved by children. This prize pool not only made kids happy and energetic but motivated adults to bag prizes too. The event was attended by guests such as the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor with school children, parents, residents, faculty and students.

C.10.2 Social Media Content and Management:

The Centre for Child Rights (CCR) maintains an active presence on social media platforms, specifically LinkedIn and Instagram. Both social media handles are currently managed by a

designated student member of the Centre under the guidance of the core faculty. All content, including posts and reels, is entirely created and curated by the student members of the Centre. These platforms serve as important communication and outreach tools for CCR. They are regularly utilized for the dissemination of educational material on child rights, including awareness posts and informative content based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The content published is highly specialized, concentrating on legal and developmental frameworks relevant to child welfare. In addition, the handles are used to publicize and circulate information regarding various activities, programmes, events, and initiatives undertaken or supported by the Centre. The primary content pillars are designed for educational purposes.

UNCRC Explainer Series	Educational posts and Reels dedicated to breaking down and explaining articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in an easily digestible format.
Child Rights News & Analysis	Sharing and providing context on recent legal judgments, important policy changes, and current affairs related to child rights at both the national and international levels.
General Awareness Information	Informational content and infographics aimed at increasing fundamental public knowledge and widespread awareness of core child rights issues.
Centre Promotion & Updates	Updates on CCR events, activities, publications, student accomplishments, and calls for participation (e.g., event registrations, competition announcements).

Till date, the CCR’s Instagram handle has published approximately 45 posts and has witnessed a steady increase in its follower base, currently reaching nearly 400 followers. Similarly, the CCR’s LinkedIn handle has published nearly 35 posts and has close to 200 followers. Through these platforms, CCR aims to enhance public awareness, engage with students and stakeholders, and promote advocacy and education on child rights in a consistent and accessible manner.

Instagram link- CCR_NLUO

<https://www.instagram.com/centreforchildrightsnluo/profilecard/?igsh=M2ZobHZyNGI5em15>

LinkedIn link-CCR_NLUO

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ccr-nluo-88a27b338>

C.10.3 E-Newsletter (Bi-monthly)

Glimpse of the Social Media Posts by the Students' Body

Centre For Child Rights, NLUO · 1st
 Official page of Centre for Child Rights, National Law U...
 1d · 🌐

"Every child marriage is one too many, a dream crushed, a life potential unfulfilled."... more

5

Like Comment Repost Send

Centre For Child Rights, NLUO
 179 followers
 Following

Posts Comments Videos Images Doc

Apprentice Lawyer
 9,856 followers
 4mo · 🌐

The **Centre for Child Rights, NLUO (CCR)** at the **National Law University, Odisha (NLUO)** supported by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (**UNICEF**... more

97 1 repost

Like Comment Repost Send

← **centreforchildrightsniu** 🌐

Centre for Child Rights, NLUO
 46 posts 379 followers 10 following

Official page of Centre for Child Rights, National Law University Odisha
 This page is created and managed by the student body of CCR - NLUO.

Following Message +

← **centreforchildrightsniu** 🌐

Centre for Child Rights, NLUO
 46 posts 379 followers 10 following

Official page of Centre for Child Rights, National Law University Odisha
 This page is created and managed by the student body of CCR - NLUO.

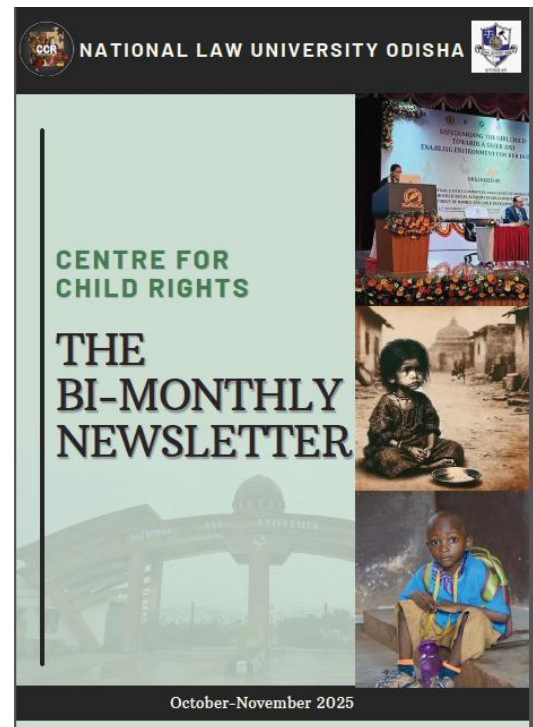
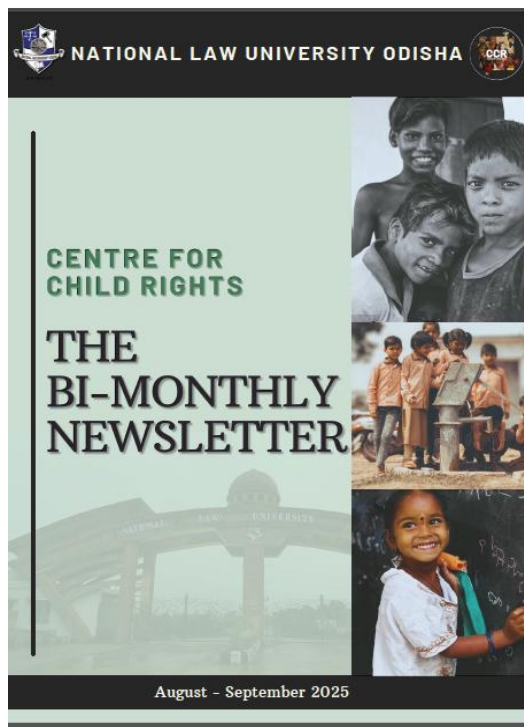
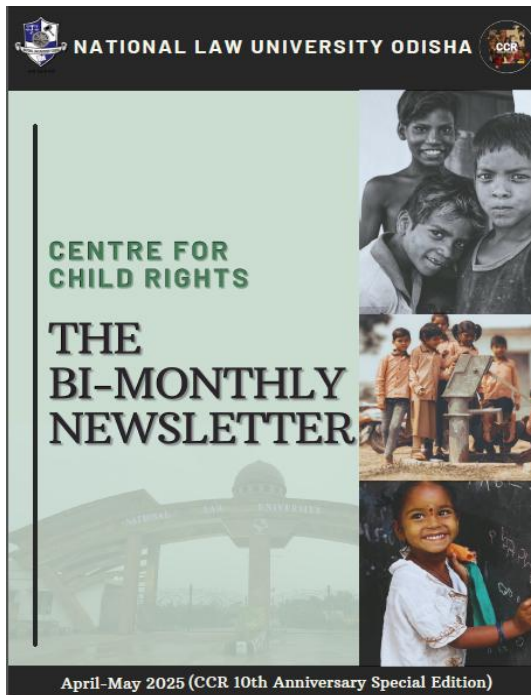
Following Message +

The Centre for Child Rights also publishes a student-led and student-edited bi-monthly newsletter for sharing critical insights into ongoing research, advocacy, and outreach initiatives regarding issues concerning children. This knowledge product presents a comprehensive overview of recent legal and policy updates, landmark judgements, international dialogues on child protection, and significant national and international observances dedicated to children’s welfare. The newsletter aims to serve as an informative resource for members of the legal fraternity and other stakeholders to stay updated on contemporary developments in child-related issues. By fostering informed discourse and encouraging constructive engagement, the Centre for Child Rights seeks to strengthen collective awareness and action toward ensuring that the rights of every child are recognized, protected, and upheld.

The first ever Newsletter of the Centre has been led and prepared by the student members of CCR and launched on 10th December, 2024 (**World Human Rights Day**). Subsequently, there have been 6 editions of the newsletter published and following are the links to the E-newsletter published so far:

1. [CCR’s Bi-monthly Newsletter, December 2024 – January, 2025](#)
2. [CCR’s Bi-monthly Newsletter, February - March, 2025](#)
3. [CCR’s Bi-monthly Newsletter, April - May, 2025](#)
4. [CCR’s Bi-monthly Newsletter, June - July, 2025](#)
5. [CCR’s Bi-monthly Newsletter, August – September, 2025](#)
6. [CCR’s Bi-monthly Newsletter, October - November, 2025](#)





C.11 Additional academic contribution of the CM's Chair Professor

- The CM's Chair Professor CCR-NLUO is also member of the Academic Council and Governing Council of the National Law University Odisha
- The CM's Chair Professor is also supervising a PhD scholar in delivering her assignments being Teaching Assistant

- The CM’s Chair Professor contributed significantly to the 12th Convocation of NLUO being the Convener - Media Committee, by hosting Pre-Convocation Press Meet on 12 September, 2025 and then wider coverage of it in 24 news items in prominent national and regional print and electronic media such as Bar and Bench, LiveLaw, Ommcom News, The New Indian Express, The Samaj, The Sambad, The Dharitee etc.
- Dr Swagatika Samal and Dr Pradipta K Sarangi attended the session on “Gender and Climate Resilience in Odisha: Pathways to inclusive and Sustainable Development” as part of Odisha Vikash Conclave 2025 at Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD) Bhubaneswar on 27 November 2025.
- The CM’s Chair Professor team participated in the **Three Days Faculty Rejuvenation Bonanza 2025 at National Law University Odisha** from 22nd May to 24th May, 2025.
- The CM’s Chair Professor team participated in the **Five Days Faculty Development Programme at National Law University Odisha on Teaching and Research in AI dominated Ecosystem- Challenges and Opportunities** from 3rd December to 9th December, 2025.
- The **CM’s Chair Professor team also provided internships** to:
 - Ms Adyasha Shyam, National Law University, Delhi
 - Ms Cisil B Maria, Xavier Law School, XIM University, Bhubaneswar
 - Mr Divas Upadhyay, National Law University, Delhi
 - Ms Shree Sudha, Law Student of Alliance University, Bangalore
- Prepared leaflets on rights of the children and various child welfare schemes in Odia for generating awareness among community people

C.12 CCR in Media:

In 2025 the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at National Law University Odisha emerged as a prominent voice in both academic and public media: it marked its 10th anniversary by relaunching the *Journal on the Rights of the Child* as an open-access, double-blind peer-reviewed publication—drawing attention across campus and law-media platforms. The Centre’s grassroots outreach and advocacy received coverage when CCR helped launch Community-Level Child Protection Committees in Cuttack, underscoring its focus on local capacity-building. Mid-year, CCR’s collaboration with partners to inaugurate a Child Protection Mentorship Program for early and mid-career professionals further amplified its profile in sectoral media and newsletters. Finally, unveiling first issue of CCR’s flagship journal post indexation—picked up by legal education outlets—showcased CCR’s twin emphasis on rigorous scholarship and practical reform, making 2025 a year of renewed visibility and influence.

Following are the exclusive list of media platforms where CCR got its visibility. The details is placed in **Annexure - 3**:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| ▪ Bar and Bench | ▪ Judicial Quest |
| ▪ LiveLaw | ▪ World Watch |
| ▪ OmmComNews | ▪ The Dharitree |
| ▪ OneWorld South Asia | ▪ The Samaj |
| ▪ World Watch | ▪ The Sambad |
| ▪ The New Indian Express | ▪ Bhokila Peta |
| ▪ DeccanHerald | ▪ Utkala Khabar |
| ▪ The Education Bytes | ▪ Sahara Times |

D. FUTURE PLANS OF CM'S CHAIR PROFESSOR

- Build and strengthen on the current initiatives
- Research and consultation on disabled children in conflict with law and the CCIs' preparedness to house such children with special needs, care for them, skill them and re-integrate them into society
- Serve as the resource centre of excellence to the High Court – Juvenile Justice Committee
- Design and implement longitudinal studies on (i) Right to Education implementation and compliance of EWS and SMC provisions (ii) NFSA (especially children and their nutrition entitlements for cognitive development) implementation amongst the indigenous' populations
- Draft reports in line with the State of the World's Children
- Track and encourage Child Rights' Enabling environment
- UPR / UN CRC reporting: Official and shadow reporting
- Multi-media explainer series
- Media analyses and engagement to influence state of child rights' journalism
- Extensive knowledge management i.e. research dissemination & advocacy
- Conceptualise, build consensus and set up a desk for National Institution of Juvenile Justice Administration with special focus on probation of child offenders, their skilling and re-integration into society

CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS
CHIEF MINISTER'S CHAIR PROFESSOR

THE TEAM



Professor Ved Kumari
(Vice-Chancellor, NLUO)
Patron-in-Chief, Centre for Child Rights



Professor Biraj Swain
Chief Minister's Chair Professor cum
Director, Centre for Child Rights, NLUO



Dr Swagatika Samal
Researcher, CCR
CMCP Team Member



Dr Pradipta Kumar Sarangi
Researcher, CCR
CMCP Team Member



Mr Amulya Kumar Swain
Office Assistant, CCR
CMCP Team Member



Mr Ankit Kumar Keshri
UNICEF Consultant
Centre for Child Rights



Mr M Vijay Bhaskar
Asst. Prof. of Law, NLUO,
Co-Director, CCR, NLUO



Ms Akanksha Yadav
Asst. Prof. of Law, NLUO
Co-Director, CCR, NLUO

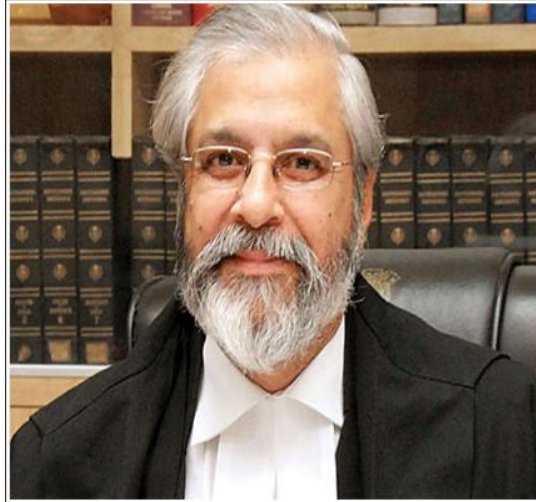


Mr T S Swaraj
Phd Research Scholar, NLUO cum
Advocate, Orissa High Court
Member, CCR, NLUO

THE ADVISORY BOARD, CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS-NLUO

The Advisory Board members of CCR-NLUO are -

Global



Hon'ble Mr Justice Madan Bhimarao Lokur
Chairperson, United Nations Internal Justice Council &
Former Judge of Supreme Court of India

International



Prof Michele Burman, Professor of
Criminology (Sociology), Glasgow



Prof Christopher Birbeck,
Professor of Criminology, Salford
University, Manchester, UK



Prof Bernd-Dieter Meier, Director,
Criminal Justice Institute, University
of Hannover, Germany



Judge Rupa Seawright Goswami
Judge, Superior Court of Los
Angeles County, California USA

National



Justice Gita Mittal
Former Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir High Court

CCR STUDENTS' TEAM MEMBERS



Suraj Kumar Mishra
Advisor



Kashish Rathore
Convenor



Jyotirmaya Choudhary
Co-Convenor



Akshat Prakash
Secretary



Ashwani Kumar Rai
Joint Secretary



Sushant Kumar Mishra
Digital Lead



Abhinandan

Research and Documentation Lead



Subhadra Satpathy

Research and Documentation Co-Lead



Amit Samal

Editor



Shehnaz N. Chowdhury

Co-Editor

**CHIEF MINISTER'S CHAIR PROFESSOR
DURING JANUARY-DECEMBER 2025 THROUGH VISUALS**



Photograph 1: Hon'ble Justice Savitri Ratho sharing her valuable insights on the occasion of 10th Anniversary of CCR



Photograph 2: Dignitaries during the observation of the 10th Anniversary of CCR



Photograph 3: Launching of the flagship journal of CCR on the remarkable 10th Anniversary of CCR



Photograph 4: Launching of the flagship journal of CCR on 10th Anniversary



Photograph 5: The launching of the bi-monthly newsletter of April-May, 2025



Photograph 6: Hon'ble Justice Savitri Ratho congratulating the team for the journal publication on the auspicious occasion of the 10th Anniversary of CCR



Photograph 7: Dignitaries and participants at the 10th Anniversary celebration of CCR



Photograph 8: Shri S. Singh, Mayor - Cuttack addressing the CLCWPC members and participants in the Child Protection Committees Launching event at Brajbehariapur



Photograph 9: Convenor - CLCWPC, Brajbehariapur receiving supportive materials from Prof Ved Kumari and Ms Pragati Mohanty, DCPO in the Programme



Photograph 10: Ensuring enrolment of dropout student in school in NLUO's adopted communities



Photograph 11: Hon'ble Justice Madan B Lokur sharing valuable insights on the issue on child rights in the Official Satellite Event of 5th World Congress on Justice with Children



Photograph 12: Hon'ble Justice Savitri Ratho sharing her views at the Official Satellite Event of 5th World Congress on Justice with Children



Photograph 13: Smt. Shubha Sarma, IAS speaking at the Official Satellite Event of 5th World Congress on Justice with Children



Photograph 14: Prof Biraj Swain setting the agenda and moderating the Official Satellite Event of 5th World Congress on Justice with Children



Photograph 15: Prof Rangin Pallav Tripathy giving the welcome address in the Official Satellite Event of 5th World Congress on Justice with Children



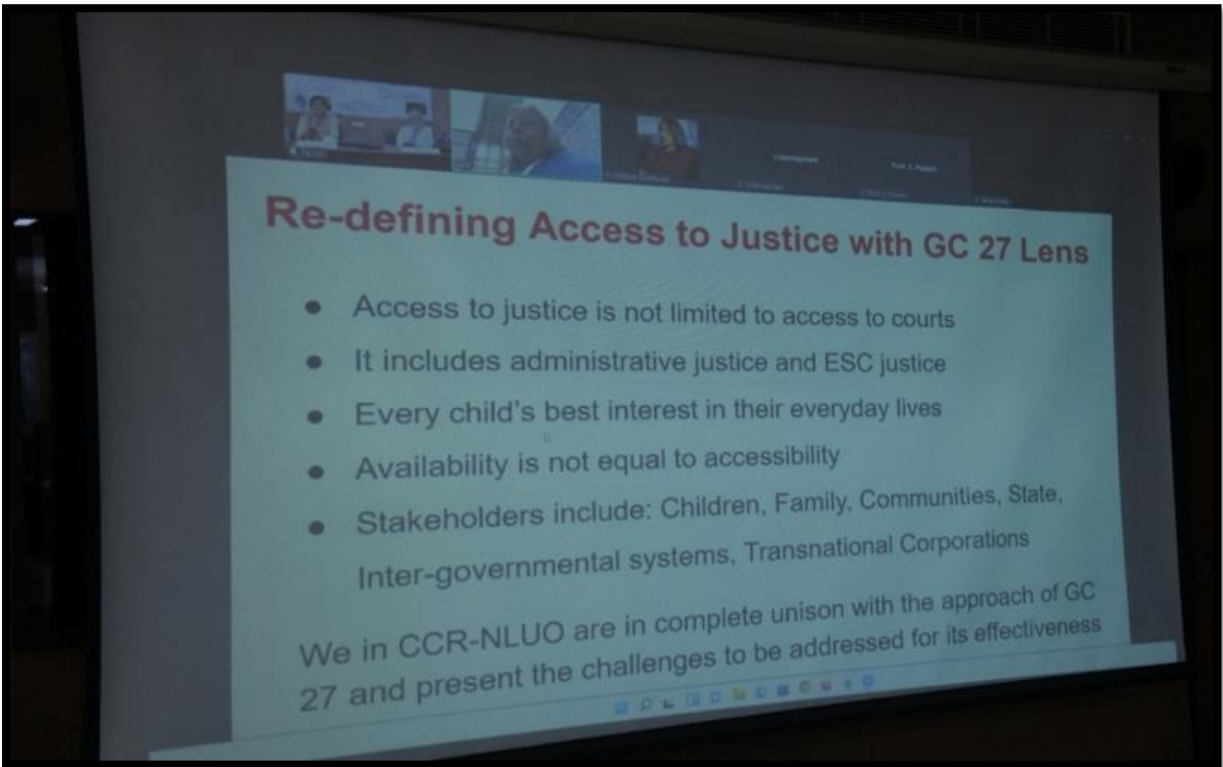
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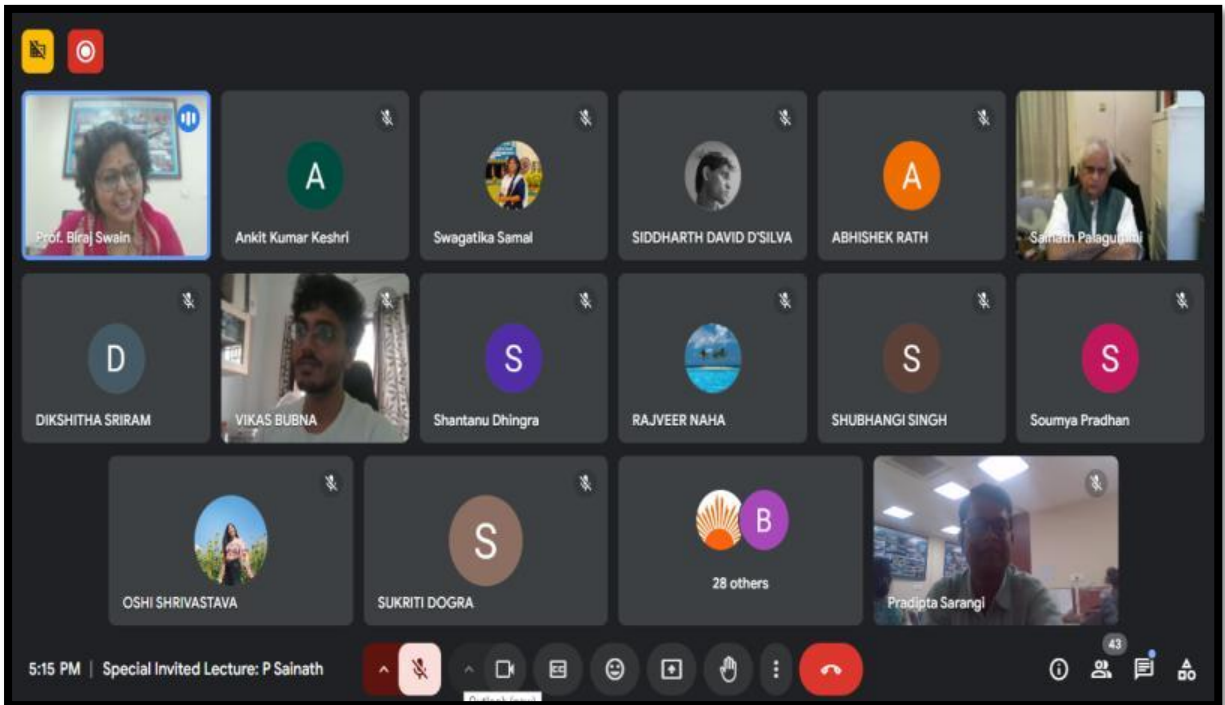
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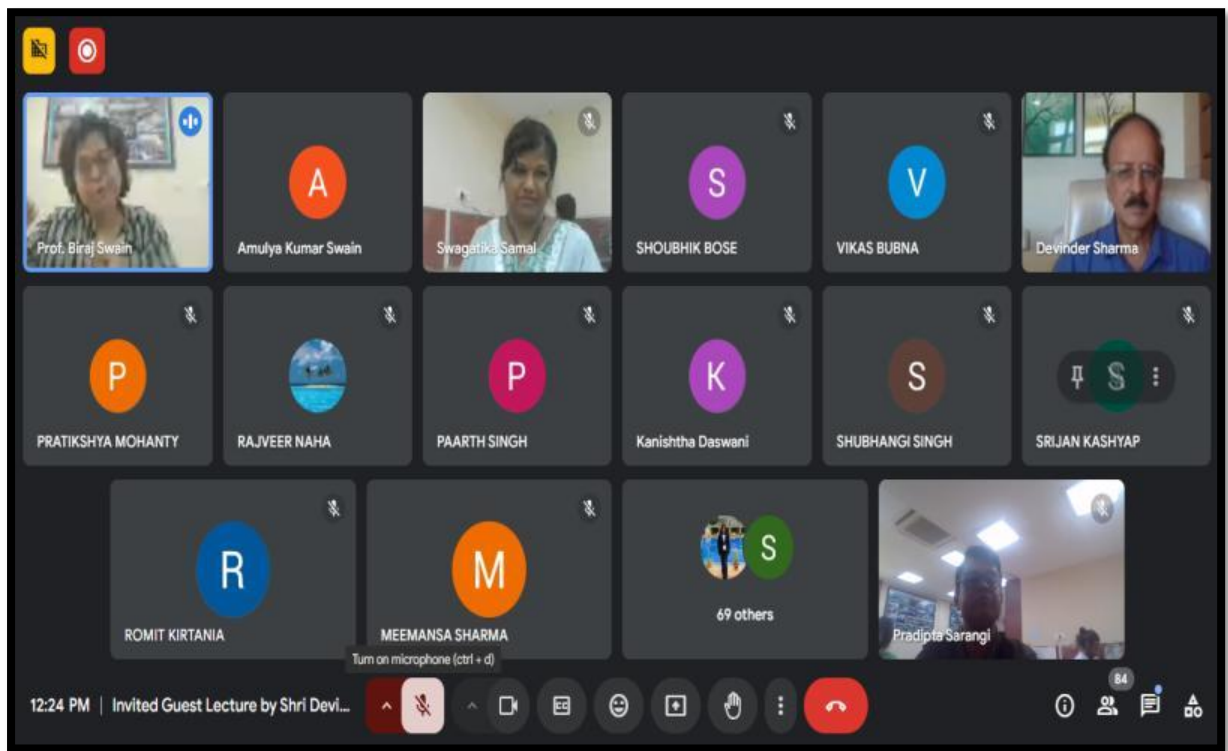
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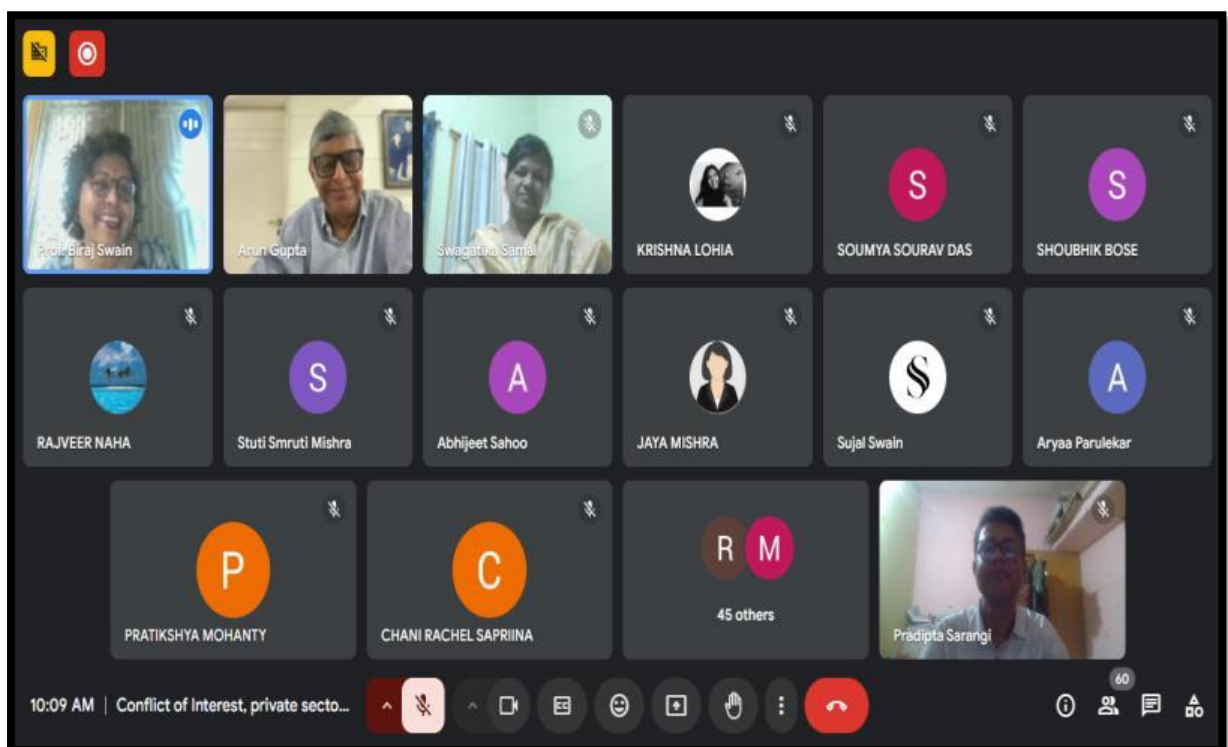
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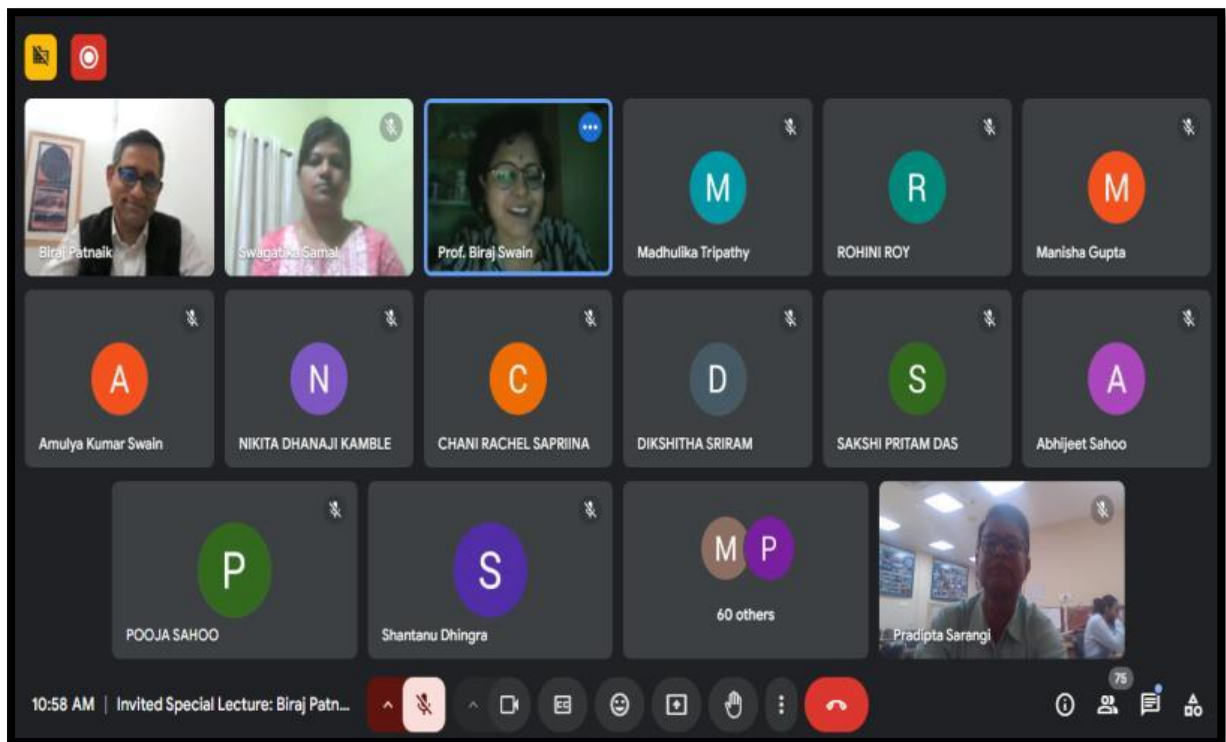
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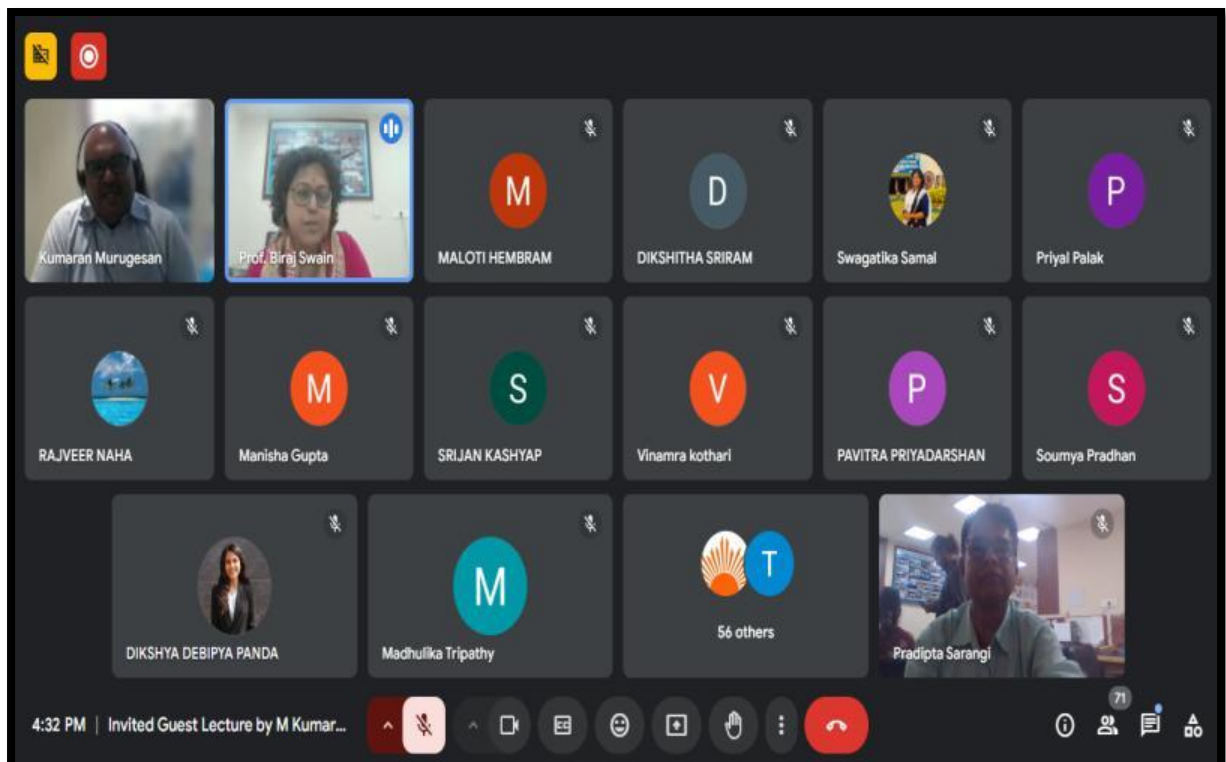
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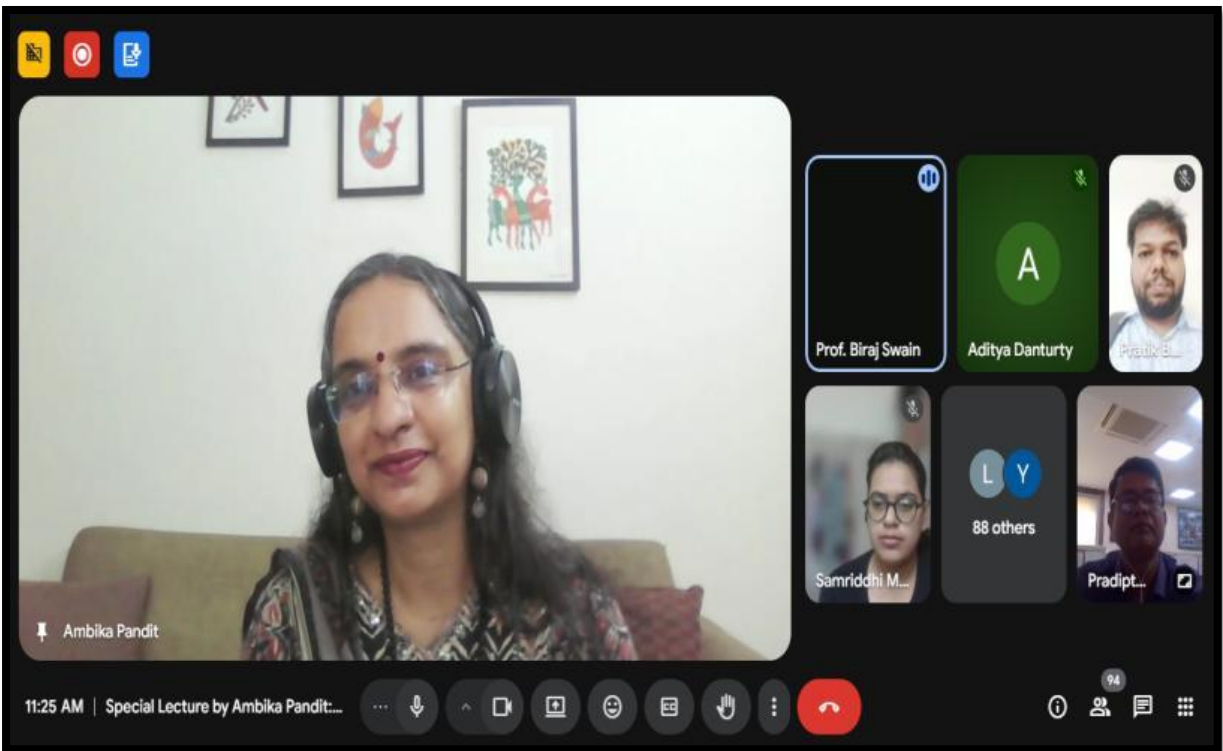
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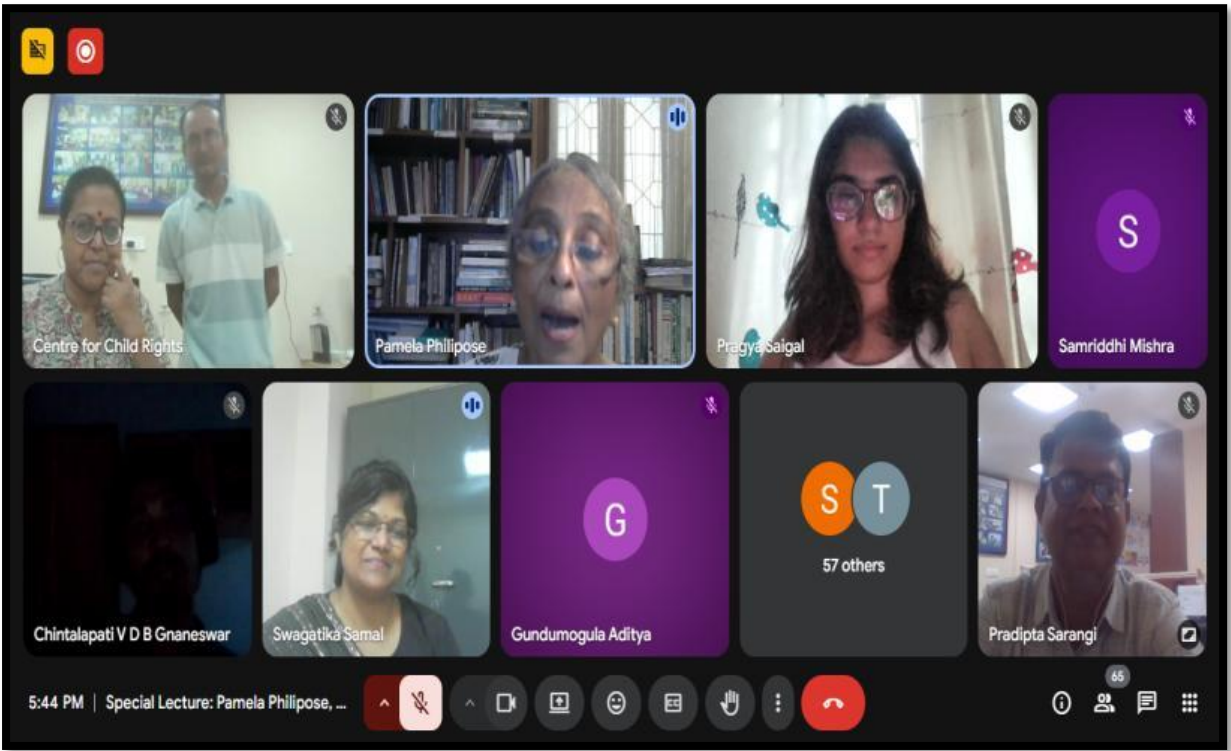
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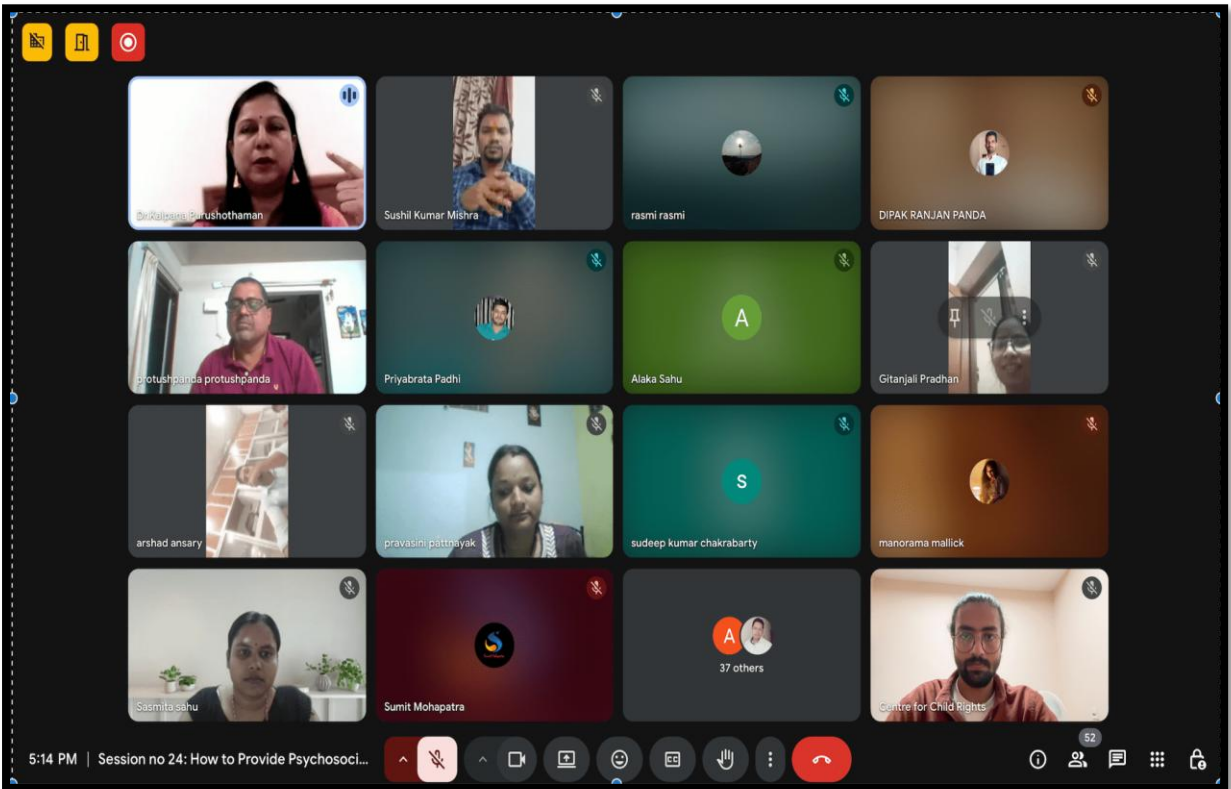
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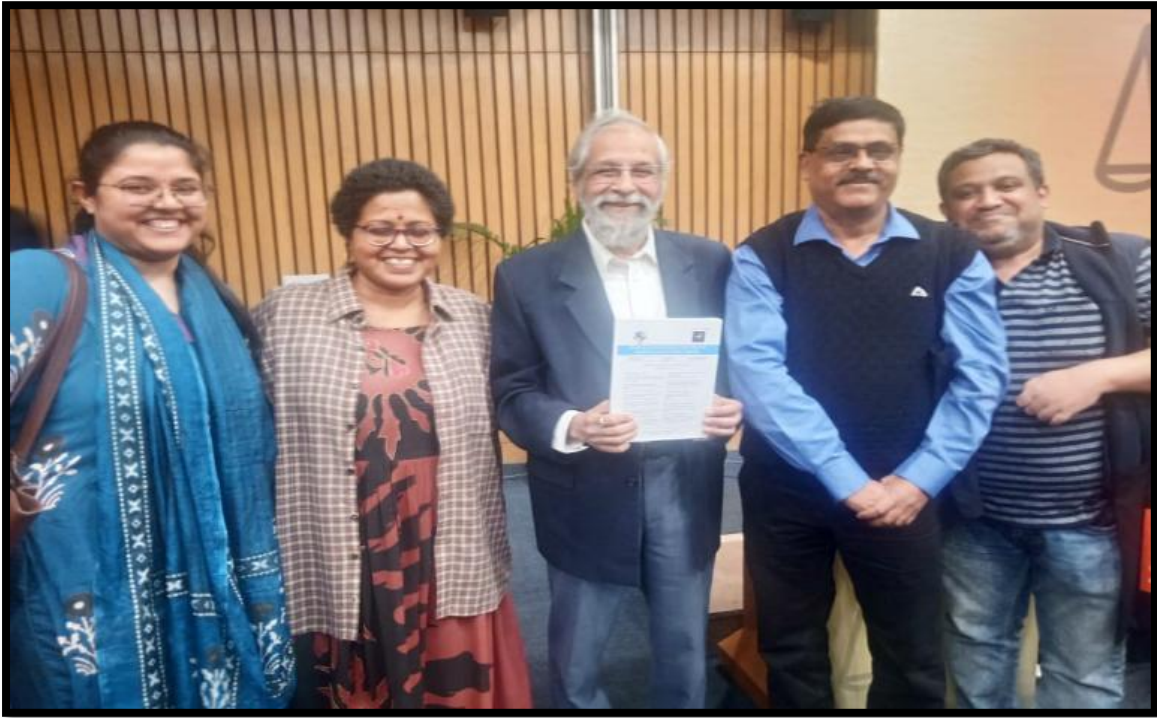
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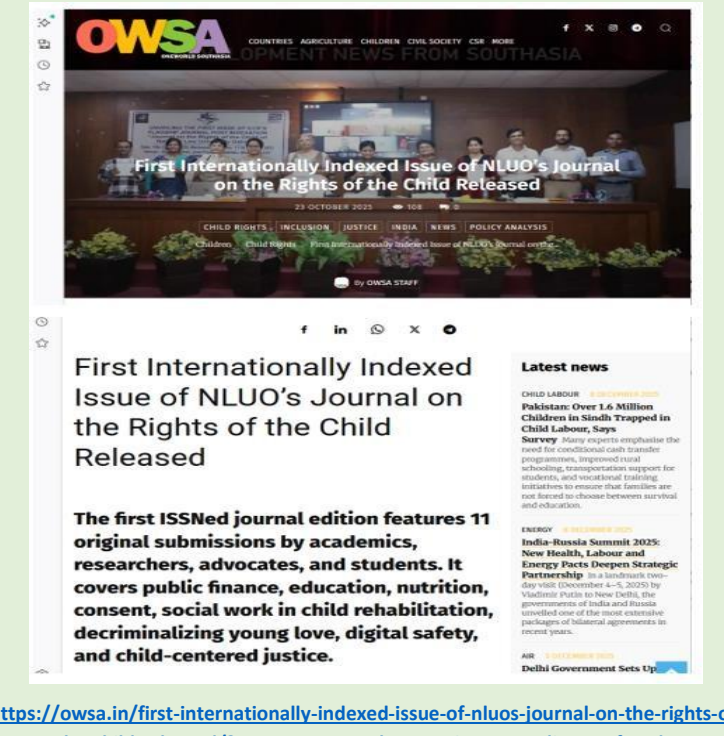


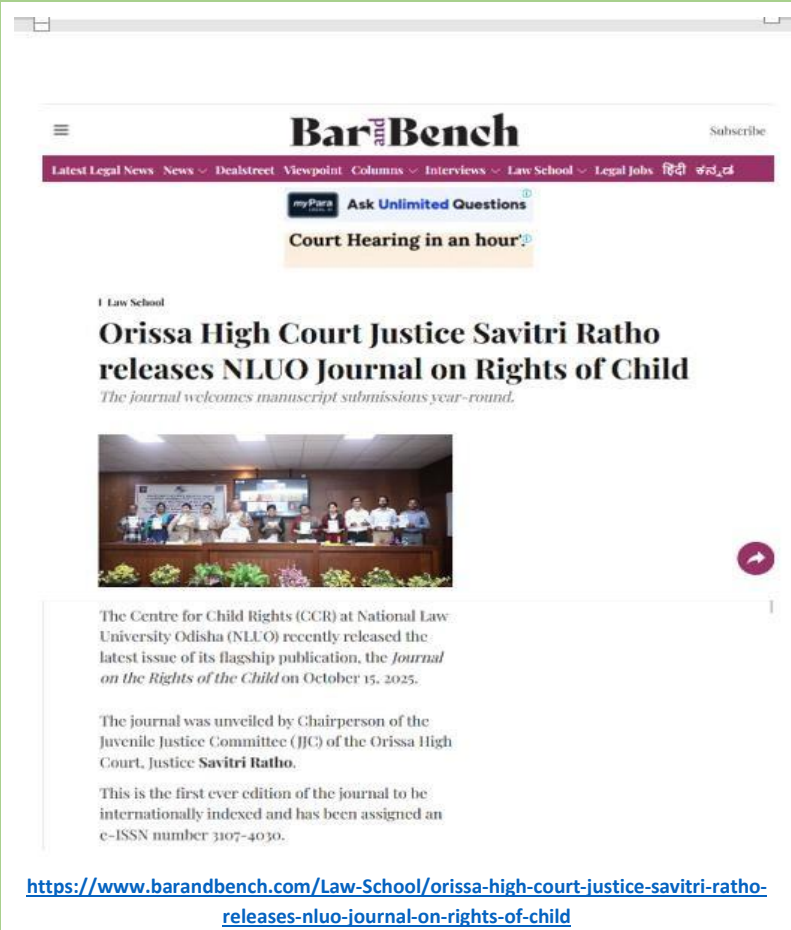

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Photograph 59: Participation in FDP Programme at NLUO

CCR IN NEWS - 2025

NEWS ITEM	HEADLINE	DATE OF PUBLICATION
<p>Unveiling first issue of CCR's flagship journal Post Indexation (October, 2025)</p>		
 <p>The Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at National Law University Odisha (NLUO) marked a significant milestone this week with the release of the latest edition of its flagship publication, the <i>Journal on the Rights of the Child</i>, on 19 October 2025. The event was headlined by Justice Savitri Ratho, Chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC), Orissa High Court, who formally unveiled the Journal. Notably, this edition is the first to be internationally indexed and assigned an e-ISSN (3107-4030), reinforcing both CCR's and NLUO's commitment to global standards of academic excellence.</p> <p>Also Read - RGNLU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jaishankar Singh Nominated To National Legal Services Authority (https://spitee.in/gnl/vice-chancellor-prof-jaishankar-singh-nominated-national-legal-services-authority-312102)</p> <p>Delivering the Presidential Address, Justice Ratho underscored the indispensable role of academic discourse in strengthening child rights frameworks. Invoking John F. Kennedy's words—"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future"—she highlighted constitutional provisions and legislative measures focusing on child rights, yet cautioned against a purely legal or judicial approach. According to Justice Ratho, child rights protection is a shared societal responsibility. She also announced the relaunch of the Orissa High Court JJC's digital newsletter <i>Sakshu Sakshita</i>, encouraging wider readership. Her remarks concluded with Nelson Mandela's call to action: "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way it treats its children."</p> <p>https://www.livelaw.in/lawschool/news/justice-savitri-ratho-unveils-first-internationally-indexed-issue-of-nluos-journal-on-the-rights-of-the-child-307708</p>	<p>Justice Savitri Ratho unveils First Internationally Indexed Issue of NLUO's 'Journal on the Rights of the Child'</p> <p>- Live Law</p>	<p>24.10.2025</p>
 <p>First Internationally Indexed Issue of NLUO's Journal on the Rights of the Child Released</p> <p>23 OCTOBER 2025</p> <p>CHILD RIGHTS INCLUSION JUSTICE INDIA NEWS POLICY ANALYSIS</p> <p>Children Child Rights First internationally indexed issue of NLUO's Journal on the Rights of the Child Released</p> <p>by OWSA STAFF</p> <p>First Internationally Indexed Issue of NLUO's Journal on the Rights of the Child Released</p> <p>The first ISSNed journal edition features 11 original submissions by academics, researchers, advocates, and students. It covers public finance, education, nutrition, consent, social work in child rehabilitation, decriminalizing young love, digital safety, and child-centered justice.</p> <p>Latest news</p> <p>CHILD LABOUR 3 OCTOBER 2025 Pakistan: Over 1.6 Million Children in Sindh Trapped in Child Labour, Says Survey. Many experts emphasise the need for conditional cash transfer programmes, improved rural schooling, transportation support for students, and vocational training initiatives to ensure that families are not forced to choose between survival and education.</p> <p>ENERGY 3 OCTOBER 2025 India-Russia Summit 2025: New Health, Labour and Energy Pacts Deepen Strategic Partnership. In a landmark one-day visit (December 4-5, 2025) by Vladimir Putin to New Delhi, the governments of India and Russia unveiled one of the most extensive packages of bilateral agreements in recent years.</p> <p>AIR 1 OCTOBER 2025 Delhi Government Sets Up</p> <p>https://owsa.in/first-internationally-indexed-issue-of-nluos-journal-on-the-rights-of-the-child-released/?putm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=referralp</p>	<p>First Internationally Indexed Issue of NLUO'S Journal on the Rights of the Child Released - OWSA Journal</p>	<p>23.10.2025</p>

 <p>Orissa High Court Justice Savitri Ratho releases NLUO Journal on Rights of the Child</p> <p>Bar and Bench</p> <p>https://www.barandbench.com/Law-School/orissa-high-court-justice-savitri-ratho-releases-nluo-journal-on-rights-of-child</p>	<p>Orissa High Court Justice Savitri Ratho releases NLUO Journal on Rights of the Child</p> <p>-</p> <p>Bar and Bench</p>	<p>22.10.2025</p>
 <p>NLUO's journal on child rights unveiled by Justice Savitri Ratho</p> <p>The Indian Express</p> <p>https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2025/Oct/22/nluos-journal-on-child-rights-unveiled-by-justice-savitri-ratho</p>	<p>NLUO's Journal on child rights unveiled by Justice Savitri Ratho</p> <p>-</p> <p>The Indian Express</p>	<p>22.10.2025</p>

<https://judicialquest.com/nluos-journal-on-the-rights-of-the-child-earns-global-recognition-justice-ratho-leads-the-launch/>

NLUO'S JOURNAL ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD EARNS GLOBAL RECOGNITION; JUSTICE RATHO LEADS THE LAUNCH - Judicial Quest

22.10.2025

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19qQWcixLZ/>

Unveiling first issue of CCR's flagship Journal Post Indexation - Utkal Khabar

19.10.2025

Official Satellite Event of 5th World Congress on Justice with Children (June, 2025)

6/25/25, 10:49 AM

Justice Is Not a Privilege, It is a Right for Every Child: Justice Savitri Ratho - OneWorld SouthAsia



The satellite event was a global hybrid event, dedicated to further the discourse on child-centred justice. This year, the spotlight was the General Comment 27 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Centre for Child Rights (CCR), National Law University Odisha (NLUO), and Child Rights and You (CRY) hosted a high-level panel discussion as part of the fifth World Congress on Justice with Children

The Centre for Child Rights (CCR) and National Law University Odisha (NLUO) and Child Rights and You (CRY) organised a high level panel discussion on "Advancing Child-Centred Justice" on 3 June 2025 at Cuttack. It was an official satellite event of the recently concluded 5th World Congress on Justice with Children, with participants and speakers from around the world. The World Congress took place in Madrid from 2nd to 4th June. In a first, to deepen the conversations and reforms, this fifth World Congress also allowed official satellite events in different parts of the world which had to sync with the dates and agenda of the Congress. The hosts and topics were selected through an intensely competitive process.

The theme of the fifth World Congress was "Advancing Child-Centred Justice: Preventing and Responding to Violence Affecting Children in Justice Systems." The aim of this year's Congress was to highlight entrenched systemic issues and create an inclusive, rehabilitative justice system for the children.

The satellite event was a global hybrid event, dedicated to further the discourse on child-centred justice. This year, the spotlight was the General Comment 27 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. General Comment 27 guides states and their instruments on implementing the rights of children in the context of access to justice and effective remedies. This event was to further unpack and interpret why and how to make children's access to justice a lived reality.

https://owsa.in/justice-is-not-a-privilege-it-is-a-right-for-every-child-justice-savitri-ratho/#google_vignette

The satellite event was a global hybrid event, dedicated to further the discourse on child-centred justice. This year, the spotlight was the General Comment 27 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child - OWSA Journal

25.06.2025

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INSTITUTIONS NEWS

Justice Is Not A Privilege, It's A Right For Every Child, Says Justice Savitri Ratho

CCR, National Law University Odisha and CRY host panel discussion as part of the 5th World Congress on Justice with Children

By EB Bureau Last updated Jun 7, 2025

BHUBANESWAR: Centre for Child Rights (CCR), National Law University Odisha (NLUO), and Child Rights and You (CRY) hosted a high-level panel discussion as part of the 5th World Congress on Justice with Children.

<https://educationbytes.in/justice-is-not-a-privilege-its-a-right-for-every-child-says-justice-savitri-ratho/>

Justice Is Not A Privilege, It's A Right For Every Child, Says Justice Savitri Ratho - Education Bytes

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1 News

NLU Odisha, CRY host panel discussion on Advancing Child-Justice

The event featured renowned experts with extensive experience in child rights, justice administration.



CRY

 Ratna Singh X

Published on: 06 Jun 2025, 7:18 pm · 3 min read

The Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at National Law University Odisha (NLUO) in collaboration with Child Rights and You (CRY) hosted a high-level panel discussion on "Advancing Child-Centred Justice" on June 3 at Cuttack.

Held as an official satellite event of the recently concluded 5th World Congress on Justice with Children, the panel brought together global experts and participants to further the international dialogue on child-friendly justice systems.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2025/Jun/06/justice-is-not-a-privilege-but-right-of-every-child-odisha-hc-judge>

NLUO, CRY
hosts panel
discussion on
Advancing Child-
Centred Justice
-
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06.06.2025

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Justice is not a privilege but a right for every child: Justice Savitri Ratho

Speaking at the 5th World Congress on Justice with Children that took place earlier this week in Madrid, Justice Ratho said, 'Justice is not a privilege to be earned, it is a promise to be kept for every child', underscoring the need for trauma-informed processes and regular monitoring under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015.

DH Web Desk
Last Updated: 06 June 2025, 17:54 IST



Image for representational purposes. Credit: iStock Photo

Justice is not a privilege but a right for every child, said Orissa High Court Judge Justice Savitri Ratho.

The event, which was hosted by Child Rights and You (CRY), Centre of Child Rights (CCR), and the National Law University Odisha (NLUO), was attended by participants and speakers from around the world.

This year's theme was 'Advancing Child-Centred Justice: Preventing and Responding to Violence Affecting Children in Justice Systems.'

The panel discussion, in which Justice Savitri Ratho spoke included distinguished practitioners and experts in the field, including Justice Madan Bhimarao Lokur, Chairperson of the United Nations' Internal Justice Council and former Judge of the Supreme Court of India; Shubha Sharma, IAS, the Principal Secretary of the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha; Prof Ved Kumari, Vice Chancellor, NLUO and Patron-in-Chief, Centre for Child Rights; Sonal Kapoor, Founder-CEO of Protsahan India Foundation; Prof Rangin Pallav Tripathy, Professor of Law cum Registrar of NLUO, Prof Ved Kumari, Vice Chancellor of NLUO and Patron-in-chief of CCR and Subhendu Bhattacharjee, Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange, CRY.

The World Congress on Justice with Children is a global platform that convenes every five years to further the policy, practice and discourse on child-centred justice. It comprises of institutions and individuals championing the cause of children's access to justice and child rights, i.e. the United Nations' nodal agencies like UNICEF, UNODC etc, global, regional and national civil society organisations like Terre Des Hommes, Penal Reforms International etc, academics, members of the judiciary around the world and national governments and most importantly the children and youth, who are at the centre of this global conversation.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/justice-is-not-a-privilege-but-a-right-for-every-child-justice-savitri-ratho-3576566>

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/justice-is-not-a-privilege-but-a-right-for-every-child-justice-savitri-ratho-3576566>

Justice is not a
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Justice Savitri
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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Odisha

Justice is not a privilege but right of every child: Odisha HC judge

He highlighted the underreporting of violence against children, alarming backlog in inquiries, and revictimization faced by survivors during the trial due to systemic delays and inadequate support systems.




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Express News Service

Updated on: 06 Jun 2025, 8:11 am · 1 min read

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BHUBANESWAR: Justice is not a privilege but a right of every child, said Justice Savitri Ratho.

Addressing a panel discussion on 'Advancing Child-Centred Justice' hosted by the National Law University Odisha (NLUO) and Child Rights and You (CRY) as part of the 5th World Congress on Justice with Children here recently, the Orissa High Court judge underscored the need for trauma-informed processes and regular monitoring under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, especially for marginalised children. "Justice is not a privilege to be earned; it is a promise to be kept for every child," she affirmed.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2025/Jun/06/justice-is-not-a-privilege-but-right-of-every-child-odisha-hc-judge>

Justice is not a privilege but a right of every child: Odisha HC Judge

The Indian Express

06.06.2025

SAHARA TIMES 06 June 2025

Justice is not a privilege, it's a right for every child: Justice Savitri Ratho

Centre for Child Rights (CCR), National Law University Odisha (NLUO), and Child Rights and You (CRY) hosted a high-level panel discussion as part of the 5th World Congress on Justice with Children. The Centre for Child Rights (CCR) and National Law University Odisha (NLUO) organised a high-level panel discussion on "Advancing Child-Centred Justice" on 3rd June 2025 at Cutack. It was an official satellite event of the recently concluded 5th World Congress on Justice with Children, with participants and speakers from around the world. The World Congress took place in Madrid from July to late June. In a first, to deepen the conversations and reforms, this 5th World Congress also allowed official satellite events in different parts of the world which had to occur within dates and agenda of the Congress. The hosts and topics were selected through an intensely competitive process. The theme of the 5th World Congress was "Advancing Child-Centred Justice: Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Children in Justice Systems." The aim of this year's Congress was to highlight entrenched systemic issues and create an inclusive, rehabilitative justice system for the children. The satellite event was a global hybrid event, dedicated to further the discourse on child-centred justice. This year, the spotlight was the General Comment 27 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. General Comment 27 guides states and their instruments on implementing the rights of children in the context of access to justice and effective remedies. This event was to further unpack and interpret why and how to make children's access to justice a lived reality. The event was attended by a distinguished panel of eminent practitioners with credentials in child rights, justice systems, and public administration. The panel included Hon'ble Justice Sarin Ratho, Judge of the Orissa High Court and the Chair of the Juvenile Justice Commission of the Orissa High Court. Sint. Shubha Samra, IAS, the Principal Secretary of the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha; Prof. Veetkumari, Vice Chancellor, NLUO and Patron-in-Chief, Centre for Child Rights; Ms. Sonal Kapoor, Founder-CEO of Protsahan India Foundation; Prof. Rangin Pallav Tripathy, Pro-

cessor of Law cum Registrar of NLUO, Prof. Veetkumari, Vice Chancellor of NLUO and Patron-in-chief of CCR and Mr. Subhendu Bhattacharya, Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange, CRY. The panel was moderated by Prof. Biraj Swain, Chief Minister's Chair Professor and Director, Centre for Child Rights - NLUO. The panel de-

liberated on various aspects of children's access to justice in the legal systems and in their everyday lives. Some key take-aways from the day were: Prof. Rangin Pallav Tripathy highlighted the fact that such periodic Congresses raised the concern about the plight of children around the world, the progress necessary and the back-slides in the progress still happening. He called

on everyone to imagine a day when such Congress would not be needed because every child will be afforded their due to achieve their best potential. Justice Madan Singh, Chairperson of the United Nations' Internal Justice Council and former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, emphasised the need for meaningful access to justice for children's court, political will, and a move towards restorative justice. "Children in conflict with the law or in need of support from the justice system must be treated with empathy," he said. "However, the system needs a social audit as well as the performance audit of schemes through three stages: awareness, implementation, and audit," he further underlined. Justice Sarin Ratho, Judge of the Orissa High Court, stressed that access must be transformative, not merely physical. She underscored the need for trauma-informed processes and regular monitoring under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, especially for marginalised children. "Justice is not a privilege to be earned; it is a promise to be kept for every child," she affirmed. Shrinati Shubha Samra, Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development, Odisha, shared the state's commitment through schemes like Sabharwal and Ashirwad. She highlighted trauma-informed care, kinship adoption, and inclusive rehabilitation as central to reducing incarceration and ensuring dignity for every child. "Timely execution of justice could help children come back to normal life," she said and added that "Odisha was taking bold steps toward the implementation of re-

strative justice." Sonal Kapoor, Founder-CEO of Protsahan India Foundation, emphasised that every child's testimony emerges through a nervous situation deeply shaped by trauma, and stressed the importance of understanding child neurobiology as she educated the house on how trauma impacts memory, behaviour, and a child's ability to cope with legal processes. She also emphasised that there is no child protection without social protection. Subhendu Bhattacharya, Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange, CRY, said that access to justice for CRY in courtroom and beyond. Unpacking justice for children per CRY, he said that every child should have access to essential services - education, health, nutrition, and protection. "It is the right to be heard, to be safe, to grow up with dignity and equity, and to be treated fairly when in contact with institutions of the state," he concluded. Prof. Veetkumari, Vice Chancellor, NLUO and Patron-in-Chief, CCR, advocated for a broad, child-centred definition of justice. She reiterated GC 27's re-definition of access to justice to include not only courts but also administrative justice, economic-social and cultural rights. She also highlighted that the availability of services was not coterminous with accessibility, and the metric that mattered more was accessibility. She also spoke about the need for better financing and better, more sensitive human resources to enable and ensure children's access to justice, especially at the last mile. Comparing India's performance on various child-related indicators with other South Asian countries, she concluded that more than money, it is the intention to foreground the best interests of children in planning and programming exercises for the country. The World Congress on Justice with Children is a global platform that convenes every five years to further the policy, practice and discourse on child-centred justice. It comprises of institutions and individuals championing the cause of children's access to justice and child rights, i.e. the United Nations' nodal agencies like UNICEF, UNODC etc, global, regional and national civil society organisations like Terre Des Hommes, Penal Reformes International etc, academics, members of the judiciary around the world and national governments and most importantly the children and youth, who are at the centre of this global conversation.

Justice is not a privilege, it's a right for every child: Justice Savitri Ratho

Sahara Times

06.06.2025



Utkal Khabar

04.06.2025

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Launching of Community Level Child Welfare and Protection Committees in three urban Settlements



NLUO
 launches child
 protection
 committees
 in 3 villages of
 Cuttack
 -
 The Indian
 Express

07.05.2025



SAHARA TIMES 09 May 2025

Community Level Child Protection Committees launched in Cuttack urban settlements of Brajabeharipur, Valmiki Nagar and Baba Tilkanagar in collaboration with Centre for Child Rights - National Law University Odisha

Cuttack, this orientation programme strengthening grassroots child protection mechanisms, the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at National Law University Odisha (NLUO), in collaboration with its flagship outreach programme, Community Level Child Protection Committees (CLCPCs) on May 5, 2025, at Brajabeharipur (Talasahi), Cuttack. The CLCPC were launched in the presence of the Mayor of Cuttack Municipality, Subhas Chandra Singh, District Child Protection Officer, Pragati Mohanty, Corporation of Ward No 3, Pradeep Rout and NLUO Vice Chancellor Professor Ved Kumar. Project KUTUMB is led by Dr Akshay Verma from NLUO and Dr Swagatika Samal from NLUO CCR and supported by Durbadala Mantry, Kanishka, Dr. Vijay Bhaskar, Dr Pradipta Sarangi, Amulya Swain, Ankita Kumar Keshri and Prof Biraj Swain NLUO.


The orientation programme is part of NLUO's commitment to creating Child-Friendly Communities, and it marks a milestone in Project Kutumb's mission to foster safer environments for vulnerable and at-risk children. The event aimed to formally establish the CLCPC for the neighbouring settlements and to sensitize and train its members—comprising key stakeholders such as local youth groups, Self Help Groups (SHGs), school teachers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), parents and caregivers, community leaders, elected representatives—on their roles and responsibilities in ensuring children's rights, protection and overall well-being.

Project KUTUMB, launched in August 2022, is NLUO's flagship outreach programme, implemented with the shared leadership of the CCR. It seeks to holistically transform adopted settlements into aspirational communities with active citizenship and responsive state mechanisms. The project takes a rights-based and community-driven approach by empowering families, children and local institutions to take an active role in child protection. It is being implemented in Braja Beharipur (Upara Sahi and Tala Sahi), Baba Tilkanagar, Valmiki Nagar. The initiative aligns with the objectives of the Mission Vatsalya mandate of Government of India, which advocates for decentralized and community-led mechanisms to protect children in need of care and protection. Through a combination of awareness building, capacity enhancement, needs assessment, and vulnerability mapping, Project Kutumb aims to establish sustainable, locally led child protection systems with long-term impact. In 2024, the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) also conducted research, titled 'Child-Friendly Communities: A Study of the Role of the State in Child Protection', which highlights the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to child protection, involving the state, citizens and the society to ensure children drive back to their family. The role of the child in the needs of the society and its integration of the family, not a single child should be the focus of the state. This needs the commitment of the state, citizens and the society to ensure children drive back to their family. The role of the child in the needs of the society and its integration of the family, not a single child should be the focus of the state. This needs the commitment of the state, citizens and the society to ensure children drive back to their family.

Community Level Child Protection Committees launched in Cuttack urban settlements of Brajabeharipur, Valmiki Nagar and Baba Tilkanagar in collaboration with Centre for Child Rights- NLUO - Sahara Times

05.05.2025

Project Kutumb Launch Community Level Child Protection C... https://owsa.in/nluo-project-kutumb-launch-community-level-child-protection-committees-in-urban-cuttack/?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=referral



Project Kutumb, launched in August 2022, is NLUO's flagship outreach programme, implemented with the shared leadership of the CCR. It seeks to holistically transform adopted settlements into aspirational communities with active citizenship and responsive state mechanisms.

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In a significant step towards strengthening grassroots child protection mechanisms, the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at National Law University Odisha (NLUO), in collaboration with its flagship community engagement initiative Project Kutumb, successfully conducted the launch cum orientation program for *Community Level Child Protection Committees (CLCPCs)* on May 5, 2025, at Brajabeharipur (Talasahi), Cuttack. The CLCPC were launched in the presence of the Mayor of Cuttack Municipality, Subhas Chandra Singh, District Child Protection Officer, Pragati Mohanty, Corporator of Ward No 3, Pradeep Rout and NLUO Vice Chancellor Professor Ved Kumar.

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Project Kutumb Launched in August 2022, is NLUO's flagship outreach programme, implemented with the shared leadership of the CCR. It seeks to holistically transform adopted settlements into aspirational communities with active citizenship and responsive state mechanism - OSWA Journal

05.05.2025

10th Anniversary of CCR and Re-launch of CCR's flagship Journal

4/22/25, 10:40 AM

NLU's Centre for Child Rights Launches Tenth Anniversary Edition of Flagship Journal - OneWorld SouthAsia



Journal

Sharing insights from her judicial career, Justice Ratho spoke candidly about the gulf between legislative intent and implementation, particularly in the application of the Juvenile Justice Act and POCSO Act.

The *Journal on the Rights of the Child of NLUO*, the flagship academic publication of the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at the National Law University Odisha (NLUO), was re-launched on Saturday as the institution marked a decade of committed scholarship, public service, and systemic engagement on child rights. Justice Savitri Ratho, Judge of the Orissa High Court and Chair of its Juvenile Justice Committee opened the celebrations by reminding the audience that justice for children must be "felt in their lives – not just inscribed in our laws."

Reflecting on the Centre's journey since its inauguration in 2015, Justice Ratho lauded CCR as a rare academic institution that offers thought and practice leadership in child rights. "The CCR is not just complementary to the judiciary's work – it is constitutive of the child protection ecosystem," she said. She credited Vice Chancellor, Prof Ved Kumari, for charting a new institutional path in child rights law. She noted that establishing the Chief Minister's Chair Professorship in 2023 was a watershed moment that institutionalised child rights as a rigorous legal and interdisciplinary inquiry domain.

Justice Ratho also drew attention to CCR's pedagogical innovation, especially the high student demand for the elective courses "Child Rights and Determinant Sectors" and "Food and Nutrition Justice," noting that "legal theory, when not rooted in lived experience, risks becoming sterile." She praised the KUTUMB initiative as a standout example of praxis, where CCR supports children's participation and agency in shaping their communities. "Children are not passive recipients of protection – they are active rights-holders and agents of change," she affirmed, grounding her

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Sharing insights from her judicial career, Justice Ratho spoke candidly about the gulf between legislative intent and implementation, particularly in the application of the Juvenile Justice Act - OWSA Journal

22.04.2025

4/22/25, 10:39 AM

Odisha High Court Judge Launches 10th Anniversary Edition Of CCR's Flagship Journal - Education Bytes



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Odisha High Court Judge Justice Savitri Ratho and other dignitaries launching the flagship journal of CCR.

FEATURED INSTITUTIONS NEWS

Odisha High Court Judge Launches 10th Anniversary Edition Of CCR's Flagship Journal Let us ensure that no child is invisible, voiceless, or without recourse, says Justice Savitri Ratho

By [IB Bureau](#) Last updated: **Apr 19, 2025**

CUTTACK: The *Journal on the Rights of the Child of NLUO*, the flagship academic publication of the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at National Law University Odisha (NLUO), was re-launched as the institution marked a decade of committed scholarship, public service, and systemic engagement on child rights.

Justice Savitri Ratho, Judge of the Orissa High Court and Chair of its Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC), inaugurated the event. "Justice for children must be felt in their lives and not just inscribed in our laws," she said.

Highlighting on the CCR's journey since its inauguration in 2015, Justice Ratho described it as a rare academic institution that offers thought and practice leadership in child rights.

"The CCR is not only complementary to the judiciary's work, but also constitutive of the child protection ecosystem," she said and credited Vice Chancellor Prof. Ved Kumari for charting a new institutional path in child rights law.

She noted that establishing the Chief Minister's Chair Professorship in 2023 was a watershed moment that institutionalised child rights as a rigorous legal and interdisciplinary inquiry domain.

Justice Ratho drew attention to the CCR's pedagogical innovation, especially the high student demand for the elective courses 'Child Rights and Determinant Sectors' and 'Food and Nutrition Justice,' noting that "legal theory, when not rooted in lived experience, risks becoming sterile."

KUTUMB Initiative

She praised the KUTUMB initiative as a standout example of praxis, where the CCR supports children's participation and agency in shaping their communities.

"Children are not passive recipients of protection. They are active rights-holders and agents of change," she said, grounding her statement in Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and India's SDG commitments.

Sharing insights from her judicial career, Justice Ratho spoke about the gulf between legislative intent and implementation, particularly in the application of the Juvenile Justice Act and POCSO Act.

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Odisha High Court Judge Launches 10th Anniversary Edition of CCR's Flagship Journal - Education Bytes

16.04.2025

ସମ୍ବାଦ



ଏନ୍ଏଲୟୁ ଶିଶୁ ଅଧିକାର କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ଦିବସ

କଟକ, ୧୨ | ୪ (ରମି ମ) : ନରାଜପିତ ଜାତୀୟ ଆଇନ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ (ଏନ୍ଏଲୟୁ) ର ଶିଶୁ ଅଧିକାର କେନ୍ଦ୍ରର ୧୦ମ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ଦିବସ ପାଳିତ ହୋଇପାରିଛି।

ଏହି ଅବସରରେ କୁଳପତି ପ୍ରଫେସର ଦେବ କୁମାରୀଙ୍କ ପୌରୋହିତ୍ୟରେ ଆୟୋଜିତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ପୁଣ୍ୟ ଅତିଥି ଭାବେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ହାଇକୋର୍ଟର ବିଚାରପତି ଜଷ୍ଟିସ୍ ପାଣିଗ୍ରାହୀ ରଥ, ପଞ୍ଜାବୀ ଅତିଥି ଭାବେ ଯୁକ୍ତିଯୋଗ୍ୟ ସରକାରୀ ପୌରକ କର୍ମାଚାରୀ, କୁମ୍ଭୀର ନିକେଶକ ଶୁଭେନ୍ଦୁ କର୍ମାଚାରୀ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଯୋଗଦେଇ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ଶିଶୁ ଅଧିକାର କେନ୍ଦ୍ରର ବିଭିନ୍ନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଉପରେ ଆଲୋଚନା କରିବା ସହ ପଞ୍ଜାବୀ ଅତିଥିଙ୍କ ଅବଦାନ ଉପରେ ଶିଶୁ ଅଧିକାର କେନ୍ଦ୍ରର ପାଇଁ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରର ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ପ୍ରଫୁଲ୍ଲ ପାଣିଗ୍ରାହୀ କଲିଥିଲେ। ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଶିଶୁ ଅଧିକାର ଆଇନକୁ ନେଇ ଏକ ମୁଖପତ୍ର ଉନ୍ମୋଚିତ ହୋଇଥିଲା। କୁଳପତିଙ୍କ ପ୍ରଫେସର ତତ୍ତ୍ୱରେ ରଚିତ ପଞ୍ଜୁରା ତ୍ରିପାଠୀ, ବିତ୍ତ



ଅଧିକାରୀ ତତ୍ତ୍ୱରେ ପୁଣ୍ୟାଦି ରାଜତ, ବିଲୁ କର, ବିଲୁ ମାଧ୍ୟମ, ତତ୍ତ୍ୱରେ ପୁରାତନ ପାମଲ, ତତ୍ତ୍ୱରେ ପ୍ରଦିପ୍ତା ଷଡ଼ଙ୍ଗୀ, ତତ୍ତ୍ୱରେ ଅମଳ୍ୟ ପାଣି, ତତ୍ତ୍ୱରେ ଅନିତ କେଶରୀ, ତତ୍ତ୍ୱରେ ଅର୍ଚ୍ଚନା ପାଣି, ତତ୍ତ୍ୱରେ ରଶ୍ମିରେଖା ପାଲ, ଶୋଭା ପୁରୋ, ପ୍ରମୋଦ ଆଚାର୍ଯ୍ୟ, ମାନବ ଉତ୍ତମ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ, ଯାସି ରାମ, ଧୀରନ୍ଦ୍ର ତେଜ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇଥିଲେ। କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶିକା ବିବାଳ ପାଣି ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ପୂରଣ ଓ କୁଳପତି ତତ୍ତ୍ୱରେ ଦେବ କୁମାରୀ ପ୍ରାଣୀ କଲିଥିଲେ। ମଧୁଲିକା ତ୍ରିପାଠୀ ଓ ଅଭିଯୁକ୍ତା ଶ୍ୟାମଲି ମିଶ୍ର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପରିଚାଳନା କରିଥିଲେ। ତତ୍ତ୍ୱରେ ରଶ୍ମିରେଖା ଦାଶ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ଦେଇଥିଲେ।

CUTTACK Edition Page No. 11 April 13, 2025

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NLU Child Rights Centre Establishment Day - The Sambad, Cuttack

13.04.2025

Justice Ratho Launches 10th Anniversary Edition of CCR's Flagship Journal

"Let us commit ourselves anew to the cause of justice for children. Let us ensure that no child is invisible, voiceless, or without recourse."

Our Correspondent
Cuttack, April 12, 2025: The *Journal on the Rights of the Child of NLUO*, the flagship academic publication of the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at National Law University Odisha (NLUO), was re-launched today as the institution marked a decade of committed scholarship, public service, and systemic engagement on child rights. Hon'ble Justice Savita Ratho, Judge of the Orissa High Court and Chair of its Juvenile Justice Committee, opened the celebrations by reminding the audience that justice for children must be "lived in their lives—not just inscribed in our laws."



Reflecting on the Centre's journey since its inauguration in 2015, Justice Ratho lauded CCR as a rare academic institution that offers thought and practice leadership in child rights. "The CCR is not just complementary to the judiciary's work—it is constitutive of the child protection ecosystem," she said. She credited Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ved Kumar for charting a new institutional path in child rights law. She noted that establishing the Chief Minister's Chair in Childhood Studies in 2023 was a watershed moment that

refugee children's rights, influencer economy ethics, and childhood nutrition. It also includes an NCRB data re-analysis and an in-graphic fact sheet that distils evidence into actionable insight. Prof. Biraj Swain, Chief Minister's Chair Professor and Director of CCR, opened the program by framing CCR's mission in unapologetically bold terms: "We are here not just to mark a date, but to recommit to our mandate—justice, equity, and dignity for every child, everywhere." She lauded the unwavering support of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ved Kumar, whom she called "our Amazonian backbone," and spotlighted the students whose research, outreach, and editorial work have kept the Centre vibrant and engaged. Prof. Ved Kumar, in her address, placed the focus on children in conflict with the law, reminding the audience that they are rights-bearing individuals, not societal outliers. She praised the growth of the Centre under Prof. Swain's leadership and celebrated the student community's sustained engagement. In particular, she underscored the significance of KUTUMB in linking child rights with the broader terrain of family and community well-being. "Even after I depart office," she said, "my interest in the Centre's journey will remain steadfast." Sourav Bhattacharjee, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF, revisited CCR's founding partnership with UNICEF in 2014. "What was missing then was not law but a space for knowledge, research, and capacity-building," he said. "NLUO Odisha filled that gap." Outlining a bold vision for CCR's next chapter, he projected it as a centre of gravity for child protection knowledge and action across Odisha and South Asia—one that provides technical expertise, trains a new cadre of professionals, and leads research on critical issues like migration, trafficking, climate change, and online safety. The event also saw a major institutional announcement: the formalization of a long-term partnership between CCR and Child Rights and You (CRY). Subhendu Bhattacharjee, CRY's Policy and Knowledge Exchange Director, announced CRY's funding support for three grassroots-linked initiatives: student volunteerism, media legal training, and district-level legal aid centers. "This partnership is not about financials—it is about shared vision, praxis, and justice," he said. "The cases these students take up today will become the case laws of anywhere and everywhere."

Justice Ratho Launches 10h Anniversary Edition of CCR's Flagship Journal

World Watch

13.04.2025

5/8/25, 11:58 AM Justice Ratho Launches 10th Anniversary Edition Of CCR's Flagship Journal At NLUO | Odisha

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Justice Ratho Launches 10th Anniversary Edition Of CCR's Flagship Journal At NLUO

by OMMCOM NEWS - April 22, 2025 In Odisha

Cuttack: The Journal on the Rights of the Child of NLUO, the flagship academic publication of the Centre for Child Rights (CCR) at National Law University Odisha (NLUO), was re-launched today as the institution marked a decade of committed scholarship, public service, and systemic engagement on child rights.

Orissa High Court judge Justice Savitri Ratho and Chair of its Juvenile Justice Committee opened the celebrations by reminding the audience that justice for children must be "felt in their lives – not just inscribed in our laws."

Reflecting on the Centre's journey since its inauguration in 2015, Justice Ratho lauded CCR as a rare academic institution that offers thought and practice leadership in child rights. "The CCR is not just complementary to the judiciary's work – it is constitutive of the child protection ecosystem," she said. She credited Vice Chancellor Prof Ved Kumar for charting a new institutional path in child rights law. She noted that establishing the Chief Minister's Chair Professorship in 2023 was a watershed moment that institutionalized child rights as a rigorous legal and interdisciplinary inquiry domain.

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13.04.2025
