

Juvenile Justice Newsletter

Monthly Newsletter of Activities Concerning Child Protection in Assam

Editorial

Children's Protection against all forms of violence usually gets undermined against the backdrop of other significant development processes. Moreover the issue of child protection is a hidden issue and dearth of concrete data makes it even more difficult to advocate for this issue, so as to attract larger intervention from various Government machinery. However, without ensuring protection for our children, we cannot achieve larger human rights goals. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also cannot be achieved without addressing issues related to child protection. Through this issue of newsletter, we would like to bring to our readers; the endeavours taken by the State and its commitment towards child protection.

Editorial Board,
State Child Protection Society, Assam

ASPCR and the Dept of Social Welfare are hopeful that this celebration will help in bringing some changes in the lives of children. Smt. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson ASCPCR, made every person to pledge to work for the protection of Children against all forms of abuse, so that every child enjoys their rights. The discussions during the celebration also focused on raising awareness on Adoption, addressing issues of child marriage, protecting children from labour and trafficking and finally on the Right to Free and Compulsory Education.

Hon'ble Justice Indira Shah of Gauhati High Court in his speech focused on intervening with specific targets on issues of children to eradicate their plight - be it children from street or from other downtrodden section of society.

Social Welfare Minister of the State Sri. Akon Bora was also present during this celebration and he emphasized on family strengthening and eradication of poverty to secure the future of our children. The Child Protection Day on March 4 will hereafter be celebrated annually as notified by Assam government.

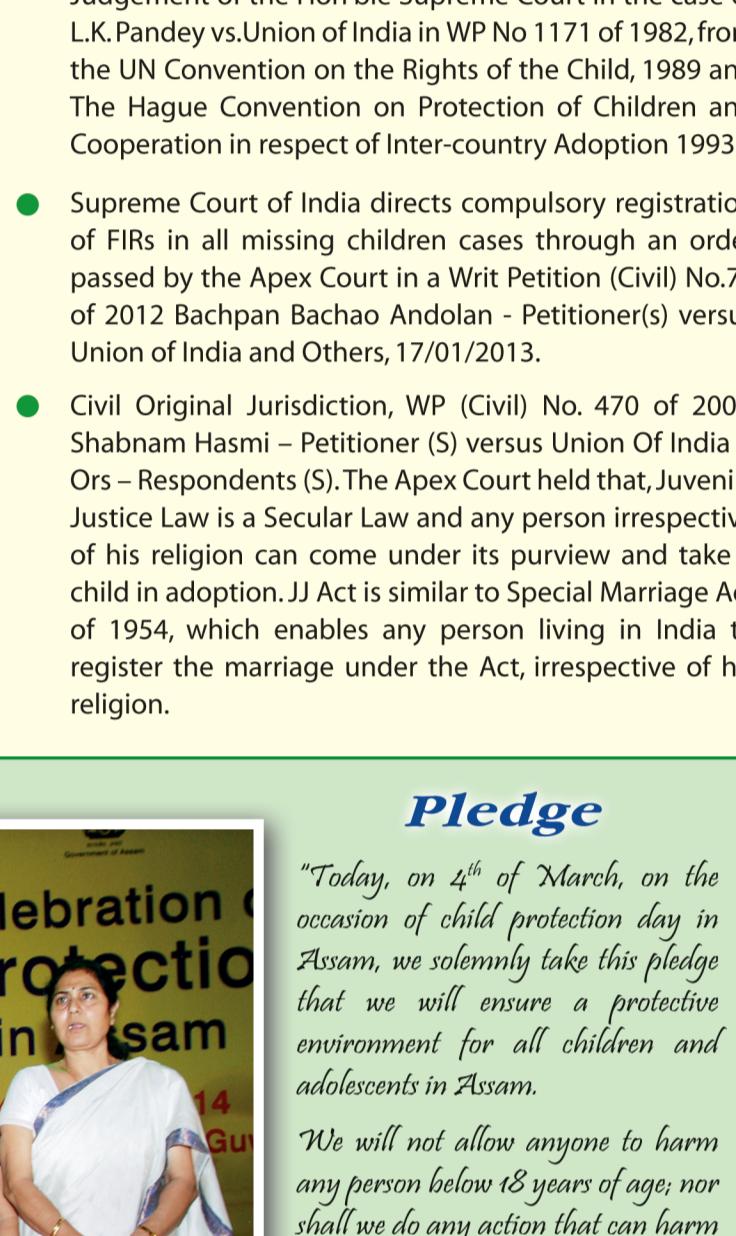
Assam Celebrates its First Child Protection Day

Assam paved the way for the country, as it was the first state in the country to observe Child Protection Day on 4th March, 2014 to secure the future of children. Marked by celebrations in all 27 districts of the state, a State Level function was held in Guwahati at DTRP Indoor Stadium. Almost 1200 children from various schools of Kamrup District and more than 100 Government Officials from different departments of the State Machinery were present. The Day was organised under the aegis of the Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASPCR) in collaboration with UNICEF, Assam Field Office.

As pre-events of celebrating the Child Protection Day, a series of state-level awareness-raising and capacity-building workshops and consultations on child protection issues were organized by ASCPCR. These were held from February 26 to March 3 and have given momentum for focused deliberation on child protection issues in Assam, bringing child protection issues to limelight for policy advocacy as well as to enhance awareness on the role of the ASCPCR in protecting the rights of children in the state.

The day was observed with the colourful dances and skits performed by school children and by other professional groups to highlight the following key issues related to children;

- Quality education
- Importance of protection of children
- Child trafficking and child marriage



Events

1. State level consultation on Strengthening the Adoption process in Assam (February 26, 2014).
2. State level consultation on addressing Child Marriage in Assam (February 27, 2014)
3. State level consultation on protecting children from Child Labour and Child Trafficking (February 28, 2014)
4. State level consultation on ensuring a violence free learning environment and the Right to Education Act, 2009 (March 3, 2014)

Key Objectives of the above consultations were :

- To promote increased discussions and deliberations among all concerned stakeholders about child protection issues in Assam and sensitize the duty bearers about their critical role in protecting children
- Advocate with the Government to act effectively and with increased resources and rigour to address child protection concerns of the state
- To visibilize the role and capacities of ASCPCR in protecting the rights of children as per the statutory provisions of The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.

Information for Stake Holders

- The CARA (Central Adoption Resource Agency) Guidelines Governing the Adoption of Children, 2011 draw support from Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act 2000 as amended in 2006, from the Judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of L.K.Pandey vs.Union of India in WP No 1171 of 1982, from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 and The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption 1993.
- Supreme Court of India directs compulsory registration of FIRs in all missing children cases through an order passed by the Apex Court in a Writ Petition (Civil) No.75 of 2012 Bachpan Bachao Andolan - Petitioner(s) versus Union of India and Others, 17/01/2013.
- Civil Original Jurisdiction, WP (Civil) No. 470 of 2005, Shabnam Hasmi - Petitioner (S) versus Union Of India & Ors - Respondents (S).The Apex Court held that, Juvenile Justice Law is a Secular Law and any person irrespective of his religion can come under its purview and take a child in adoption. JJ Act is similar to Special Marriage Act of 1954, which enables any person living in India to register the marriage under the Act, irrespective of his religion.

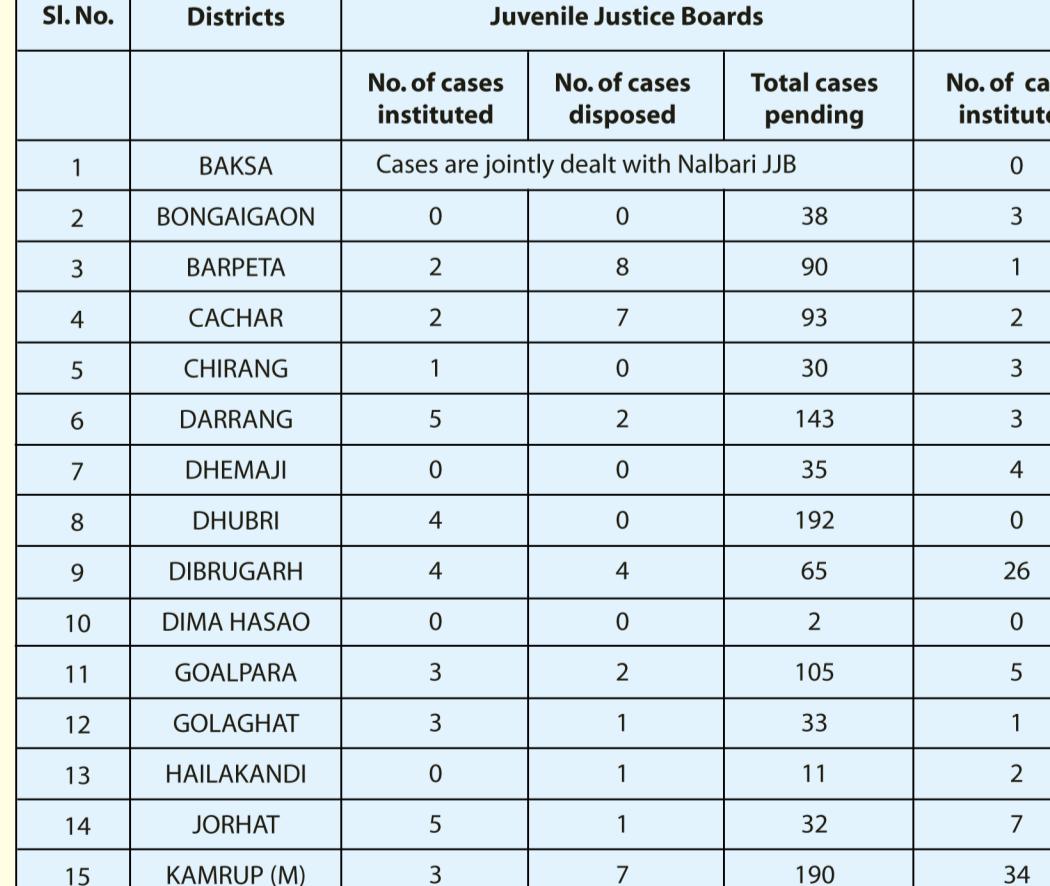
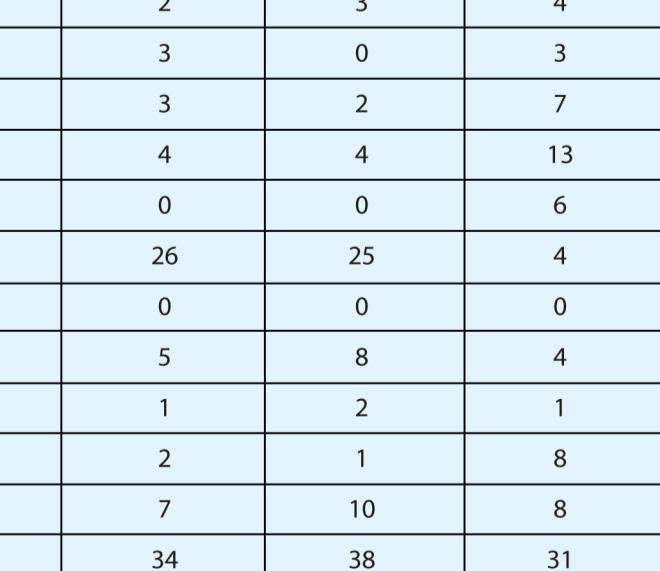
Pledge

"Today, on 4th of March, on the occasion of child protection day in Assam, we solemnly take this pledge that we will ensure a protective environment for all children and adolescents in Assam.

We will not allow anyone to harm any person below 18 years of age; nor shall we do any action that can harm anyone, especially those who are below 18 years of age. We will strive to realize the universal rights of children and will undertake all responsibility to realize those rights at all times and in all situations, be it at our Homes, Schools, Playgrounds, neighbourhoods, streets and communities."



Celebration of Child Protection Day



JJ NEWS CORNER

- A landscape drawn by Mr. Bikash Singha, a resident of Fatasil Ambari Children Home was published in 'The Assam Tribune's Planet Young' page on 13th February, 2014.
- Shri. Dipak Haloi, an ex-resident of Fatasil Ambari Children Home, has got a job of Peon in District and Session Judge (Kamrup – Metro) on 5th March, 2014. Presently he is also doing his graduation from Radha Govindha Baruah College and presently is in 2nd year.

Status Report on the functioning of the Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in Assam for the month of February 2014

Sl. No.	Districts	Juvenile Justice Boards			Child Welfare Committees		
		No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending	No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending
1	BAKSA	Cases are jointly dealt with Nalbari JJB			0	0	23
2	BONGAIGAON	0	0	38	3	2	7
3	BARPETA	2	8	90	1	0	2
4	CACHAR	2	7	93	2	3	4
5	CHIRANG	1	0	30	3	0	3
6	DARRANG	5	2	143	3	2	7
7	DHEMAMI	0	0	35	4	4	13
8	DHUBRI	4	0	192	0	0	6
9	DIBRUGARH	4	4	65	26	25	4
10	DIMA HASAO	0	0	2	0	0	0
11	GOALPARA	3	2	105	5	8	4
12	GOLAGHAT	3	1	33	1	2	1
13	HAILAKANDI	0	1	11	2	1	8
14	JORHAT	5	1	32	7	10	8
15	KAMRUP (M)	3	7	190	34	38	31
16	KAMRUP (R)	Cases are jointly dealt with Kamrup (M) JJB			0	0	14
17	KARBI ANGLONG	0	0	41	0	0	0
18	KARIMGANJ	2	1	34	0	1	1
19	KOKRAJHAR	7	0	142	1	0	10
20	LAKHIMPUR	2	7	37	2	4	14
21	MORIAGON	2	1	2	0	3	10
22	NAGAON	5	11	212	4	5	14
23	NALBARI	1	2	24	1	0	10
24	SONITPUR	7	2	251	2	3	38
25	SIBSAGAR	0	0	52	4	1	19
26	TINSUKIA	9	5	64	2	3	2
27	UDALGURI	1	1	17	0	5	10
	Total	68	63	1835	107	120	263

Source: MIS Cell, SCPS, Assam

For any feedback, write to :

Chairperson, Editorial Board,

State Child Protection Society, Assam

217, Bishnu Rabha Path, Beltola, Guwahati-781028, Phone: 0361-2229275, Email: scpsassam@gmail.com, Website: assam-scps.com/termsofuse.php

DSW, Government of Assam

Lokonya Press, Guwahati