



Introducing the journey of the “Paalan” and SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) to extend socio-economic support to Covid impacted children on the eve of ‘World Mental Health Day’

- *Rani Fund and PVR NEST, the founding members of SPV partner with Delhi Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD)*
- *Associate with ‘Paalan’ as part of a Dynamic Response Initiative towards care and protection of these children*
- *Bring in INR 2 million as part of the first round of corporate funding as start-up*
- *First 100 children absorbed as part of the initiative to benefit from the scheme*

New Delhi, 9th October 2021: The Delhi Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) in association with The Rani Fund, a Philanthropic Family Trust and PVR Network for Enablement of Social Transformation (NEST), the CSR arm of PVR Cinemas, introduced journey of the ‘Paalan’ and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), an initiative to provide immediate relief to COVID-19 impacted children. **Shri Rajendra Pal Gautam, Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi** presided over the event as Chief Guest. Among other officials from the Delhi Government who were present at PVR Plaza, Connaught Place, the venue of the event included Dr. Rashmi Singh (IAS), Special Secretary cum Director, DWCD and Dr. Amit Sen, Senior Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and Director Children First.

The WCD department in collaboration with various stakeholders such as DCPCR, CWCs, DCPUs, Childline, Anganwadis and Saheli Samanvay Kendra field functionaries have been able to create a database of children who have been rendered orphan or lost either of their parents during Covid pandemic and other children in need of care & protection. As a result, the ‘Paalan’ project was launched by the DWCD in association with the Rani Fund and PVR NEST, as a Dynamic Response Initiative using CSR collaboration to support these children. The project was set up under the mechanism of SPV Project by the State Child Protection Society (SCPS), Department of WCD for providing holistic care and protection of COVID impacted children.

Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) is a mechanism to simplify the process of fund raising, investment and project development. SPV committee meets regularly to do a roll out necessary for the program. The members of the team are constituted from various organizations with the mandate to Funds Resource Mobilization; Project Development: Holistic well-being for children in need; Awareness, communication and visibility strategy.

Shri Rajendra Pal Gautam, Minister of WCD, Govt of NCT of Delhi said, *“We would welcome corporates with their CSR funds to join hands with the Delhi Department of Women and Child Development in its efforts to contribute and support the ‘Paalan’ SPV Project”.*



'Paalan' is based on need assessment and response to the challenges of providing the child customized support which is 'child-centric' and not scheme centric. The uniqueness of the program is its instant response which caters to the varying needs of children by providing them immediate financial, socio-economic support. The project operates with valuable contributions from various organizations and corporates under CSR, such as The Rani Fund and PVR NEST which highlights the importance of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) model in today's time for overall development of the society.

"The loss of a parent or the loss of a livelihood earning parent due to covid has caused a great deal of vulnerability in these children. We are glad that corporates are getting interested to augment the Delhi Child Welfare Fund and motivate other corporates to support the cause", said Dr. Rashmi Singh (IAS), Special Secretary cum Director, DWCD & Dept of Social Welfare, Govt of NCT of Delhi.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in a recent report to the Supreme Court provides an insight into the profound scale of the tragedy. According to the report 6855 children were orphaned, 274 were found abandoned, and 68,218 lost a parent between April 1, 2020, and July 23, 2021.

Ms. Nayana Bijli, Founding Member of Rani Fund said, *"It requires a cohesive and large task force to support the vulnerable children impacted by Covid-19. Rani Fund wants to enter into existing partnerships and support these initiatives that have been there for long and leverage the government mechanism to extend the resources to these children. It will network with likeminded corporates and resourceful NGOs and bring them on board to contribute towards this cause".*

In addition to being vulnerable to child labor and trafficking, COVID orphaned children have a more immediate need: trauma counselling. Having had their lives overturned in a year's time, children have very limited emotional resources to handle such extreme trauma, and therefore it is a necessity to respond to their mental and emotional needs and wellbeing.

Ms. Deepa Menon, Founder Head, PVR NEST said, *"We are happy to partner the Rani Fund and Delhi Department of Women & Child Development in their noble work to make a difference in the lives of these children. We have in-depth experience in public-private-partnership model for our various projects and in the era of Covid when funds are impacted, a collaborative way is the best way to manage projects of such scale. It is our collective responsibility to help the children manifest their true potential".*



About Delhi Department of Women and Child (DWCD)

The Department of Women and Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi has been created vide Cabinet decision 1259 dated 20 August 2007. This separate department of WCD has the objective of giving the much-needed impetus for the holistic development of Women and Children. Its role is to ensure a state of well-being for women and children especially those of the weaker sections of society. The Department formulates plans, policies, and co-ordinates the efforts of both governmental and non-governmental organizations in the field of all-round development of women and children.

About The Rani Fund

The Rani Fund was specifically created to meet immediate needs of children impacted by COVID in India. The Fund assesses the needs of these children identified by District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) officers on ground and addresses them in the most effective manner. Rani Fund is a Philanthropic Family Trust of the founders of PVR Cinemas. Nayana Bijli is the founding member of the Rani Fund which believes in entering into partnerships with the CSR divisions of corporates and NGOs to strengthen its foundation. The Rani Fund seeks to bridge the gaps that exist in vulnerable women and children born into difficult circumstances or faced tragedies preventing their development as capable individuals who can contribute to society.

About PVR NEST

PVR NEST, the CSR arm of country's leading cinema chain, PVR Cinemas founded in 2006 works in accordance with the Sustainable Development (SDG) No.11 which envisions safe, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities for all. Since its inception, the trust has launched several programs such as 'Aanchal Childscapes', 'Child Friendly Railway Stations', 'Pink Toilets' etc. to strengthen its resolve to create 'safe spaces' for all, with special emphasis on women and children.

Please visit: <http://pvrnest.org/>, Share your feedback at: pvrnestteam@pvrnest.org

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