

BALAKNAMA

UNIQUE NEWSPAPER FOR AND BY STREET CONNECTED CHILDREN

“Balaknama is the newspaper presented by Street and Working children themselves to fight for their own rights and problems because they are being completely ignored.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO HAVE LIVED ON THE STREET SHARE THEIR OPINION

SPECIAL ON INTERNATIONAL STREET CHILDREN'S DAY

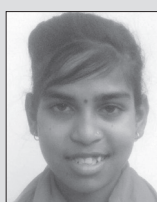
Talkative reporters Jaikishan, Abhishek, Usha, Kishan,

Friends, some of you may not know that International Street Children's Day is celebrated on the 12th of April. It started in 2012 and is being celebrated to date. Now let me tell you the reason behind the celebration. So, friends, the most important reason behind this is that this day is celebrated to strengthen street children's rights and give them a voice, as well as to make a permanent improvement in the lives of street children. People should be aware of this subject. Today we are introducing you to some such children who did not lose courage even after facing difficulties in their life and today they are moving ahead in life with their hard work and diligence. Let's check out their story.



Name of the Child-Aslam
Age -15 years

Aslam is a resident of Raiganj, there are 5 members in his family, three brothers and one sister and one mother, his father is no more as he used to drink a lot so because of many health issues, he passes away. Earlier, all of them lived in the village, after the death of their father in the village, the financial condition of their house became very bad. Then his mother was told about Delhi by someone from the village that there were women too who work and you go to Delhi with your children, there you can work and feed your children, her mother agreed to this and then came to Delhi with her children. After coming to Delhi, his mother found work, then his mother got a job cleaning at Vatika Chowk, got the cleaning job, but the money was very less in it, due to which she wasn't able to manage the financial issues and did not pay the rent of the jhuggi. It used to happen then that his mother found work in the Kothis and got the job of cooking and cleaning, then his family started living properly and Aslam also used to go to school. Aslam loved



Name of the child-Anjali
Age-15 years

Anjali hails from Bulandshahr. There are six members of her family. He has two sisters and two brothers. His father used to live in a village in Bulandshahr, where he used to do agricultural work and due to less wages, the economic system of his house had become very weak. Then his father left the village and came to Delhi and even after coming to Delhi, he did not get work for a long time and used to live in others' houses and had his meals in others' houses. After a gap of two months, his father got a small cleaning job, then he started doing cleaning work and started living in the slum with a friend. But Anjali's grandmother used to trouble Anjali's mother a lot in the village, one of the reasons for troubling her was that when Anjali's father was married, she did not get a dowry. After that Anjali's grandmother separated Anjali's mother from the house and gave her a broken house in which she lived, but after some time there was a storm and her house was damaged in that storm and then she became homeless. After that, when his father came to know about this, then he thought to bring his family with him to Delhi, then he thought that I will bring my family to Delhi but where will I keep them but their problem was solved because in Delhi Anjali's aunt was already living and when she came to know about her situation, she said that you bring your children and I will keep them with me, then her father brought them all to Delhi and everyone started living with their aunt, but after some time passed, the aunt also started getting upset with them and then started telling them that

going to school and used to study diligently, but after some time his mother's health got worst. Due to this he also had to work, he used to sell vegetables install and sometimes used to work in a furniture shop due to not going to school for a long time, his name was dismissed from school, then after some time, his mother got well. So one day his mother was going to work, when she saw Chetna's worker teaching the children and she asked him about her son's education, then Chetna's member first enrolled Aslam in Chetna organization, then after this, he got admission to the school, then Aslam started studying well but after that due to corona, there was a lockdown due to which this child had to stay at home and his mother's work was also removed, hence had to work again. But due to lack of work in the lockdown, the financial condition of his house became very bad, then after that, he got ration by the Chetna Organization with the help of Chetna Organization through which he earned his living, then Aslam again after completely ending the corona, started going to school and

studied diligently and now he is in class 10th He studied hard and has passed in 9th class with good marks. Therefore, I want to request all of you that you all should support children, there are many Aslam's and other children who want to pursue their dream. We can also change the world with our positive activations



Name of the child- Kishan
Age-17

Kishan was born in Paharganj, an area located in Delhi. There are 14 members in his house, 6 brothers, a mother and three sisters-in-law and their children. His father died in 2017. Kishan's entire family lived in Delhi, his father used to sell bidi, cigarettes, tobacco and snacks. The area of Paharganj was not good. One day Kishan was sleeping at the night and one of them who used to come from the station tried to molest him in the night. He was very scared, but still, Kishan courageously picked up his brother to go to

the bathroom and after coming from the bathroom, the place where Kishan was sleeping earlier changed to another place so that the person could not tease Kishan again. In the morning, Kishan was very scared and was thinking about whether he should tell this his brother or not, if he tells, then there would be chances of friction, but somehow Kishan courageously told all this to his brother and his brother Said that you should have told this thing in the night itself, then Kishan's brother told this to the hostel owner and the hostel owner after knowing all this in detail said that I don't think that person can do this. if he does this next time, then you must inform me. So, after hearing this, Kishan and Kishan's brothers retreated from there to their room. He decided to tell this to his father and his father's response was not so assured. He said that the place where we are living these incidents happen with many children and therefore his father did not take any heed to it. When Kishan told his father's response to his elder brother, his brother upon hearing this, called Kishan and

his other brothers from that hostel back to Noida. Kishan was studying in class 5 at that time and was about to appear in the final examination, but he wasted the whole year's hard work and lived with his family in Noida for 1 year. And then Kishan's father enrolled him in a school. As his English was weak, he could make it to the class 3rd. Everything was going well, and suddenly Kishan's grandfather died in the village. Due to this Kishan had to go to the village and after completing the obligatory funeral rituals of Kishan's grandfather, he came back to Noida again with his family. After coming from the village, it was found that his father passed away in the village the very next day, due to which he and the whole family had to go to the village and after performing the obligatory funeral rituals of his father's demise, He came back to Noida with his family and joined the school again. As everything was settling down, one day he was in the school and then news arrived that his uncle had died and then he had to go to the village again. And after completing the

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SPECIAL ON INTERNATIONAL STREET CHILDREN'S DAY

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uncle's funeral rituals, he came back and was about to join his school again. He came to know that he has been rusticated from the school. He was very upset to hear this. He stayed at home. There was a lot of difficulty in running the expenses of the house as a result of the demise of his father. Therefore, he started to run a stall of gutka, bidi, cigarette, tobacco, glass, and water, in front of the liquor shops around him.

One day he was preparing to open the stall when Saurabh Bhaiya from CHETNA NGO came and started asking Kishan, where do you live? And why are you doing this work? And why don't you study? He gradually explained, "brother, when my father was alive, I used to go to school, but after his death, there was a lot of problem in the family to run the household expenses, that's why I had to give up my studies. I live in the adjacent slum, then Saurabh Bhaiya told Kishan about the CHETNA organization and its one of the projects "Badhte Kadam" where we teach the working children why don't you also come to study! Then Kishan after hearing this, said that I will start coming from the day onwards and from the very next day Kishan started coming to the NGO and got involved with "Badhte Kadam". After coming regularly, Kishan with some difficulty started reading Hindi and English, and then he gradually learned it. He would answer whatever the teacher would ask him, and after observing him for some days the teacher made him the leader of Badhte Kadam.

A few days later, he got to know about Balaknama newspaper, which is the newspaper of children. He used to give the news about him to his teacher through support group meetings. After some days Kishan became a talkative reporter and after a few months, he became a reporter for the newspaper after becoming a handwriting reporter, he would go to the points around him and meet the children and organize support group meetings with the children and discussed the problems of the children in detail and gave that news to the editor Sahib and that news would be published in the Balaknama newspaper. A few days later, when corona spread all over India, Kishan had to work from home. He would talk to the children on the phone and discuss their problems of the children, then write the article for Balaknama and send the news of the children to the children through email. He has passed class 8th and has taken admission in class 10th from open basic education. When the relaxation was given during the lockdown, he was made the editor of Balaknama newspaper. Currently, he is the editor of Balaknama and he still goes to the field, talks to the children, takes out news and talks to the



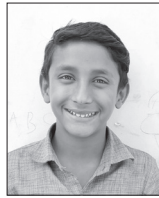
Name of Child: Rihana
Age- 16

Rihana is a resident of Sultanpur UP and the total number of members in her family is 16. Rihana's father works as a locksmith and their mother used to work in "Kothi" as a home service provider but nowadays she remains at home because now she has problems in her feet. Rihana herself also works in a Kothi as a home service provider and contributes to her family's expenses.

Rihana's family used to live in their village Sultanpur earlier, her mother used to sell the bangles and bindi, and Rihana's father was in the habit of drinking alcohol. Because of this, he did not contribute to the expenses of the house, Rihana's mother-in-law and in-laws also did not help her and used to beat her if she did not earn any day in the house. Rihana's father also used to ask for money from her and if she did not give it, all her anger would come out by hitting on the children and her mother due to this behavior, Rihana's mother had to bring her small children to Delhi, here first she started the work of picking up garbage, whatever money

she earned from that, she used to invest in feeding and nurturing her children. Slowly, when the children started growing up, their expenses also increased. And along with Rihana, her seven siblings started living under the bridge and started begging for a living, gradually all the siblings started getting admission in the school and they started going to school. After doing class 6, Rihana left the school because of their money crunch and for this reason Rihana had to work in the cottage. During the Covid period, when all the work had been stopped, the condition of her entire family had become very vulnerable. The family in the house was big and the expenses were too much. Once Rihana had fainted due to strong sunlight and at that time there was no money even for medicines, even the neighbours did not give any support. Despite facing her troubles, Rihana motivated all the members of her family and learned to solve her problems by small efforts herself. Information received from Chetna, all the government places from where the facility of ration and other things could be found, she called there and got help and solved her problems. In the end, Rihana wants that if there is any such problem in the future, then the government should do such planning in advance so that it will be easier for the children to combat such problems.

team and coordinates with his team members. He urges the government that there is no such facility as a night shelter for the street and working children in the places of Noida therefore Night shelters should be built in those places so that the children who live in the harsh cold and spend days under the scorching sun on the road can avoid these problems.



Name of the Child - Arshad
Age-12

This story is of Arshad, a child living in the slums of Sadarpur Noida. Father's name is Iqbal and the mother's name is Ruksana. The child has two sisters. One is an elder sister and another a younger sister. He himself is the middle child of his house.

This family is from Chhapra village, district Dhanghata, Uttar Pradesh, due to poor financial conditions in the village, the parents had to migrate to Noida in search of better work opportunities. His father started selling balloons and his mother also got a job as a home service provider in a couple of houses in her neighbourhood, after that the parents of the child brought the

children with them to Noida. When the child's family settled in Noida, all the siblings started going on the ferry with their parents. The child also used to sell balloons at the traffic signals, the child had no idea about the education, but where the child had a slum, there was consciousness. The centre of the institution used to run, the child was connected to the centre through the worker and the child started coming to the centre, gradually the child's interest in the studies increased and the child, as well as his parents, came to know how important education is for us, child's parents also used to come to the parents meeting. They started sending his child regularly to the centre to study and stopped sending them to work. When the child started studying at the centre, he wasn't able to read and write anything, he started his education from level first and gradually progressed forward in his studies. Along with studies, the child used to participate in other activities of the centre as well.

But then Covid-19 arrived due to which, the centres were closed and the child's education was being disrupted. Due to Covid-19, the child's parents also lost their work consequently it led to a financial

crisis in the home. At such a time, the Chetna NGO helped the child's family by providing ration kits to the family. Arshad's father borrowed some money from neighbours and took the children to the village.

After that when the lockdown was being given relaxation, the child's father took the children back to Noida and the child joined the centre and started studying again, subsequently, the worker got the child admitted to the nearest government school in class five and the child gradually started studying again. The child went to school in the morning and started coming to the centre at noon to study. The child studied well and the child passed his class and also got the second position in the class. After securing second place in the class, the child is very happy and wants to continue his studies. He would often say that "I want to be a doctor when I grow up."



Name - Usha
Age-15

Usha is a resident of Bihar, her parents work as a mason.

Usha has an elder brother, an elder and a younger sister, she is a younger child of his family. Usha's brother is married and

they have two small children. Her brother and sister-in-law work as labourers.

Usha used to study earlier, she used to go to school every day, but when her elder sister got married, the girl's education was missed due to the responsibility of the whole house coming on her shoulders. The girl was very sad that she had to miss her studies. When the children used to go to school, she often would cry a lot that I also have to study but due to household responsibilities, she was not able to continue her education. Her parents came with the whole family to the slums of Noida Sector 116 and started living there, it had been 5 years since the girl's education had been disrupted and now the girl's siblings also started taking some responsibility, due to which she again wanted to go to school but she could not find any way, then one day suddenly she met the worker of CHETNA and told all her things, the girl wanted to study, the girl joined CHETNA, she started coming to the centre, her siblings also joined her, the girl got admitted in the school, then suddenly there was a lockdown. Due to the lockdown, the girl's parents lost their work due to which they had to face financial problems and they had to go back to the village. The girl still continued her studies by taking online classes from the village, but the parents had a view that now they will not go back to Noida and now they will get their daughter married. The girl did not want to get married. She raised her voice and contacted the worker. The worker also explained to the parents, that during the conversation, the parents agreed to re-educate the girl. Now the girl has come to Noida Sector 116 and joined the Chetna NGO Center and started studying. The girl has become the leader of the "Badhte Kadam" at the centre. She wants to request everyone that child marriage should be stopped as even today there is no ban on child marriage in the villages and parents get married to their young girls under the influence of relatives, therefore we want

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Name of the Child-Babita
Age- 16 years

Babita's family is from Bihar, she has four sisters in her family, two sisters have been married, Babita's father had

left their family many years ago, after searching a lot, it was found that her father got married again since then her mother started working out, she does the cleaning work in the Kothi. She and her younger sister used to go to school, after coming from school, she used to go with her mother to help her in Kothis, but one day suddenly Babita's mother Shanti ji's eyes started dysfunctionally, she couldn't see, as a result, she could not go outside to work, then now Babita was older in the house, she decided that she would have to leave the school, only then she would be able to support the house, since then Babita started going to work in Kothi and she took all the responsibility of her house, her younger sister takes care of the mother at home.

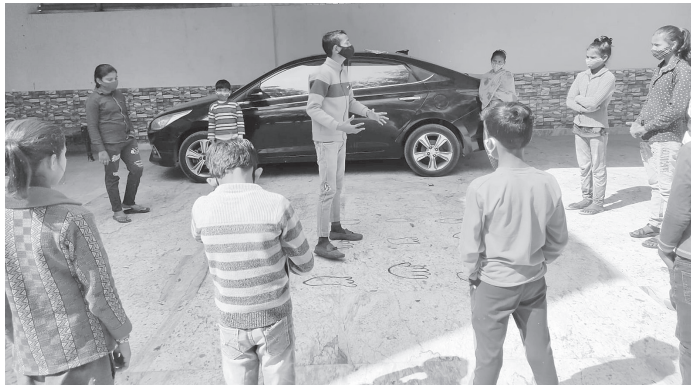
She said that when the lockdown happened, I used to get bored for the whole day, neither there was a TV in the house nor any child in the house to play with nor we could go out and even if we used to go out, the policemen used to chase us away.

Babita said that we used to get food from school but she had to get up early in the morning and stand in long queues and she also said that the food was not good.

She took admission in class 10th after passing class 8 where she got enrolled with the help of Chetna NGO, now she is currently preparing for class 10 papers. Babita wants to become a very good teacher and also wants to teach children and brighten their future of those children.

She loves bhindi's food and she is fond of playing games of kabaddi and cricket. Her dream is that when she grows up, she would like to become a teacher, then she will always be ready to help children and will make new efforts to improve their lives.

COMPULSION TO DO RISKY WORK TO FEED ONESELF



Talkative reporter and Co-Reporter Kishan

Often, we see children selling goods and doing work on the streets. These children work very hard at such a young age. Our reporters interacted with one such child, Sahil (name changed). During the conversation, our

reporters' eyes were drawn to Sahil's thumb, his thumb was chopped off. Seeing this, the Reporter asked Sahil, "How did you come across such an accident?" When asked, Sahil said, "Brother, I live alone in a rented room in Noida. My parents live in the village and I work as a seller of coconut water on a small cart. There

is a market at a distance of 2 km from my house where I buy coconut water and sell it in the nearby market. One coconut water brings ₹60 and I sell approximately 10 to 12 coconut water in a whole day. The skin of coconut is very strong and it is not easily peeled off by hand. Because of this, I have to use a large knife or any sharp weapon which is quite sharp to peel it. One day I was chopping coconut and while cutting coconut, the knife hit the thumb instead of the coconut. It resulted in cutting my thumb off. Sahil said that the amount of money that comes in the whole day by selling coconut is used for the expenses of my house and I have to take care of my stomach instead of caring about my life.



CHETNA ORGANIZATION GOT THE CHILDREN 15 TO 18 YEARS COVID VACCINATED

Bureau report

In the centre run by CHETNA NGO in Sector 66 of Gurugram, 15-18-year-old School going children get vaccinated. These are the

children who come to the contact point of the CHETNA NGO to study and the children who were admitted to the school by the Chetna NGO. All these children were called along with their Aadhar cards to the contact point of Chetna NGO and taken to the Primary Health Center (PHC) in Badshahpur and got vaccinated. Keeping in mind the safety of these children while being taken to the primary health centre, they were taken wearing masks and sanitized repeatedly with sanitisers and stood in a line following social distancing. One by one all the children get vaccinated. These children were very happy with the vaccination because now they are safe after getting the vaccine and can also go to school to study. Now they will not have much fear of Corona. Along with this, the children were also very happy that they did not have to wait long to get the vaccination. With the help of Chetna NGO, they got the first jab of vaccination. The children also said that if the vaccination was not done by the Chetna NGO, then we would have to travel far and wide with their parents for the vaccination. So, we got the vaccination very early, on time and without any problem. With this, we are now safe and very happy.

CHILDREN GOT AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY WITH THE UNIQUE INITIATIVE OF NANHEPARINDE MOBILE EDUCATION VAN

Bureau Report

Hearing the word mother, the hearts of humans and animals feel solace and peace. Because a mother in itself is a very special term. By the way, parents are very special and close to all the children. But the relationship between mother and child is very special. A mother treats all her children equally. But this affection is a little more for girls. That is why for girls, the mother is a friend, also a sister. With whom she shares all kinds of things. If you are still in any kind of alteration regarding the importance of the mother, then you should ask the child about the mother who has lost his/her mother after achieving some maturity. We are using the word maturity because that child has seen his/her mother's loving caress and after that, if she leaves him/her then what happens to that child. Only a child can understand



this sorrow, who does not have a mother. Today we are going to tell you about one such girl, who is 12 to 13 years old and lives in Noida. When she was 8 years old, her mother died due to some illness. Since then she was raised by her father. Although the father did not take any kind of care in the upbringing of his two girls, as in the pursuit of earning, he could not pay attention to them that way. The way her mother used to take care of

her. But after the death of the mother, that girl never let her younger sister feel the absence of her mother from her family. Because after the death of the mother, that girl started doing all the things that her mother used to do earlier. Because of this, the girl gradually started stocking in home chores and then dropped out of school as she was confined to the care of her younger sister and the stove in the house. After the death of her daughter, she was busy with her household chores all

day, consequently, she had to miss school.

But with the help of Chetna NGO and Noida Police, the NanheParinde just got a golden opportunity to read this unique initiative. Through the NanheParinde bus, the workers of Chetna NGO themselves go to the place of residence of such children and provide education to those children who are unable to go to school due to any reason. Now that girl, along with her household chores, whenever the little bird's bus goes to teach the children at her place in Noida, she also comes to study and concentrates on studies along with work. Children are always playful and this child was also a little playful. But she is very smart in her studies as well. So, you saw friends, after a mother, if someone can run the house like a home again, then it is only girls. What is your opinion, do let us know?

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to educate the girls. We do not get the chance that we want that there should be a strict ban on child marriage so that young children like us do not bind the girls of the country in the bondage of marriage. Let the girls move towards education so that girls like us can also move forward and make their dreams come true.



Name of the Child- Sameer
Age-14 years

Sameer is a resident of Bihar Muzaffarpur, he is 14

years old and has 8 members in his family. Sameer lives in the slums of Seelampur with his maternal grandparents and their children including with some of his cousins. His grandfather works as a daily wage labourer and his grandmother does wire peeling work. Sameer would also join his grandmother in this work to contribute his part. Sameer used to live in Bawana with his mother, father and younger brother when he was a toddler.

When Sameer was a year old, his father passed and then his mother remarried and she went to Gujarat. After this, Sameer started living in Seelampur with his maternal grandparents

and stayed at home and started doing wire peeling work with his grandmother. Sameer used to work for the whole day peeling wire, many times during the wire peeling, he used to get hurt as the wire is peeled with a sharp knife, due to which it used to become very perilous to peel the wire, he also used to get blisters on his hands, Sameer sometimes couldn't even sleep throughout the night as a consequence of going through a lot of pain. When Sameer used to see other children going to school, he also felt like going to school. When he was 12 years old, his neighbourhood friend told him about Chetna NGO. He started

going there and one day, one of the workers at CHETNA study point talked to her grandmother and got him admitted to the school. Sameer started going to school he loved going to school and studying very much, then Schools got closed during the period of COVID lockdown, Sameer had to do the work of peeling wires as a result of staying at home again but he

did not lose his courage, he continued to study with a small phone which was available at his disposal and Sameer has learnt to read Hindi as well. Sameer wants to become a police officer when he grows up. Sameer wants all the children to get the love of their parents and no child should work, he would say that all the children should get good food and good education.

**CHILDREN'S HELP
LINE NUMBERS**

**CONTACT THESE TOLL FREE
NUMBERS IF YOU FACE ANY
PROBLEM.**

Child line Number

1098

Police Helpline Number

100

STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN SPEND THE NIGHT SLEEPING IN THE DUSTBIN DUE TO NO PLACE TO LIVE

Talkative Reporter Armana, co-reporter Kishan

Let us take you towards the traffic signals of Delhi. Whenever you go to your work from your home, you must have seen some children working on the tracks picking rags around the traffic signals. Our Reporters visited some places in Delhi and got to know about their lives by talking to street and working children, which brought out some surprising things. The children said that "brother, in the winter season, as the fog and cold increase, in a similar way our problems

also increase. The 13-year-old girl said, "Brother, there is a traffic signal next to our house and every day we sell balloons, and flowers, pick up junk, throw clothes on the vehicles going at red lights and earn money from these activities.

We all see them at least doing something on the traffic signals. Most of the children stay in the same place around the red-light pavements or footpaths. In winter, these children did not have clothes to wear or even cover themselves from the chilly and cruel winter. As these children do not have any home, they



buy and eat from the food cart on the footpath and whenever there is a shortage of money,

then these children go to the bhandara on the road and fill their tummies. Also, these

kids sleep on the sidewalks or on the pavement near traffic signals.

When it is very cold and foggy, they have to face shivering cold and trouble due to heavy fog and they don't have a warm blanket and roof to cover their heads. Whenever these children did not have the ability to bear the cold, they had to find some places where they would not catch a cold. In such a situation, the children would find those dustbins kept on the streets in which there is less garbage. The children used to clean those dustbins and sleep inside them.

SEEING THE HANDS OF THE CHILDREN, WE WERE FORCED TO THINK WHETHER THE COUNTRY IS REALLY PROGRESSING



Balaknama Reporter Aanchal and Talkative Reporter Rita

On the one hand, when we discuss major issues such as development, on the other hand there is a section of our society which still works day and night for a roof over their heads and to secure two times square meals to survive. Yet such basic necessities are not

available to them. There are still some people who are stuck under the below poverty line, we have discussed this problem even before. There are still many such houses where the kerosene and wood stove is lit to cook the food. With great difficulty, they collect wood and cook food by lighting the stove. Little girls cook food on the stove and clean the burnt

utensils on the stove. When our child reporter Aanchal, during her visit to Vinayagapuram, Lucknow, looked for children who are taking responsibility in the age of having fun and playing with toys but are burdened with the kind of responsibilities for which they were yet to be grown up.

When we had a conversation with some of the children on this subject, the children, expostulated their feelings and said, "Didi, we have become very tired and upset by cleaning the burnt utensils of the stove, due to all of this, our whole body have blackened. And the palm of the hand starts bursting, due to which we start having a lot of problems. During the conversation, the children also kept their views before us and said that we have also heard that now our country has progressed a lot, but we do not feel anything because still we are stuck where we were a few decades ago.



CHILD LABOUR INCREASED DUE TO SCHOOL CLOSURE

Reporter Jyoti

During the Noida visit, the Reporter came to know that due to Corona, schools are closed for the last two years, due to which the children are at home. Being at home, the parents of the children have started sending their kids to work. The Reporter came to know that there are many children here who are running their household expenses due to the financial crisis and closure of the school. These children do many types of work like helping in the golgappa shop

and in the grocery shop. One such child told me that a child who was studying in class VIII, due to the closure of the school, started doing Beldari work (Daily Wage Labor) to run his house and assist his father on the worksite. His father also works as a daily wage labourer. He said that while lifting the brick, his hands hurt, sometimes if bricks fall on his feet, it hurts a lot. But what to do, you have to help your father to run the house. He said that along with doing my homework, I also study at night.

CRIME IS INCREASING IN BROAD DAYLIGHT IN DELHI

Bureau Report

Our Reporters interacted with street children at some places in Delhi. Among them, a 10-year-old boy said that a lot of crime is increasing in some places of Delhi, such as snatching mobile phones from moving vehicles, stealing money, clothes and belongings from houses, and molesting small children. Offences like drinking, using abusive words, quarrels and fighting are included. The festival of Basant Panchami comes every year and it is also celebrated with great pomp. This time, on the occasion of

Basant Panchami in Delhi, Pandals were decorated at many places, in which some such drunken people came who started fighting among themselves and even took out the knife in the quarrel. Due to this there were chances of a stampede. Many people left their worship incomplete and went to their homes after the incident. However, I would like to say to all of you that it is very wrong to go or do any kind of intoxication at such a religious place. And even more evil is to hurt the mind of other devotees or put their lives at risk.

CHILDREN WALK MILES AWAY TO GET WATER

Talkative Reporter Maya and Reporter Sangeeta Lucknow

There is neither water nor electricity in the place where our street and working children live. Because of this, these people have to face many problems and the people of the community have to go far and fill water from the water tank. To fill the water, these people go by bicycle or cart and bring water in their respective utensils. With this water, they do household chores like cooking, washing dishes, bathing etc. If they



do not go to fetch water, then even food cannot be cooked in their houses. The children of Madiyav Basti of Lucknow

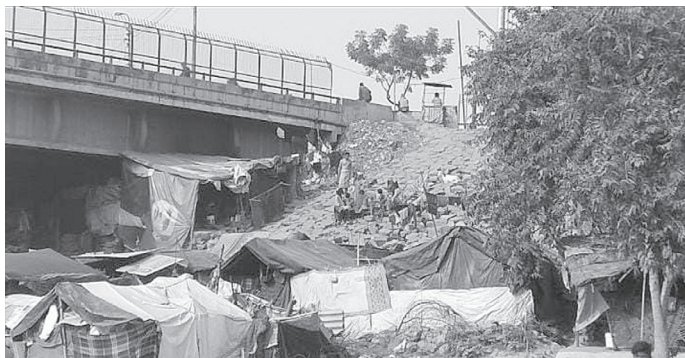
have to travel long distances to fetch the water along with their parents and they have to work very hard. When they have transportation means in their houses, they bring water from those means and if there is no means they bring water on foot by covering long distances. When our Balaknama Reporter tried to know about this problem in detail, the children there told her, "Didi, if we do not bring water, then there will be no food or drinking water in our homes. Due to which We have to go this far to get water."

CHILDHOOD STRUGGLES WITH DIFFICULTIES

Talkative Reporter Huma and Reporter Sangeeta Lucknow

As our street and working children do not have their own houses, they start living by making huts and slums anywhere they find a place. No matter how much danger there is, they stay there because they do not get a place anywhere else. And even if they get a place after great difficulties, then their huts are removed from the present location and

they are not allowed to stay. The children of our Daliganj Basti in Lucknow do not have their own land, that is why they start living by making their hut anywhere they find any free space. The place where the parents of these children have built their huts is in great danger. There are very high rocks and stones, if anyone's foot slips from there, then he will fall straight down and he can get injured. On top of those stones the parents of our street and working children are



living by building their house. When a Balknama Reporter talked to some children about

the issue, some children said that yes didi, many children have fallen from this and they

have faced head, nose and other injuries. Any child who falls from here gets hurt in a very bad way. Moreover, there is a lot of difficulty in carrying water upstairs. If the foot slips, even older people can fall down. They can get injured too. We are living in great danger around the hilly and rocky areas, but what to do? We are compelled to live here and there is no place to live anywhere and even if we go to live somewhere, we are banished.

SMILES CAME ON THE FACES OF THE CHILDREN AFTER HEARING THE NEWS OF THE OPENING OF THE SCHOOL

Talkative Reporter Sunil and Reporter Anchal

After a lot of troubles and struggles, finally, now the smiles have come on the faces of the children, for which they yearned. Let us join them in their happiness and by increasing their enthusiasm. When our Balaknama reporter Anchal met the children living in Vinayakapuram Basti of



Lucknow, talked to them and asked about the reason for their happiness, they came to know that since the news has arrived that now all the children's schools are opening. Since then, the children are very happy and are preparing in full swing to go to school. Some children also said "didi this time we will take full care to avoid the corona pandemic. Whenever we leave for school, we will

carry sanitiser, lunchbox, and water bottle in our bag and also whenever we meet with any child, we will meet by keeping a distance of 1 meter and wearing a mask on our face. We will keep it so that we do not waste the time we have got studying. Like last time, this time also we have not seen our school for many months. Now we will go to our school and start studying again properly.

THANKS, CHETNA NGO AND HCL FOUNDATION



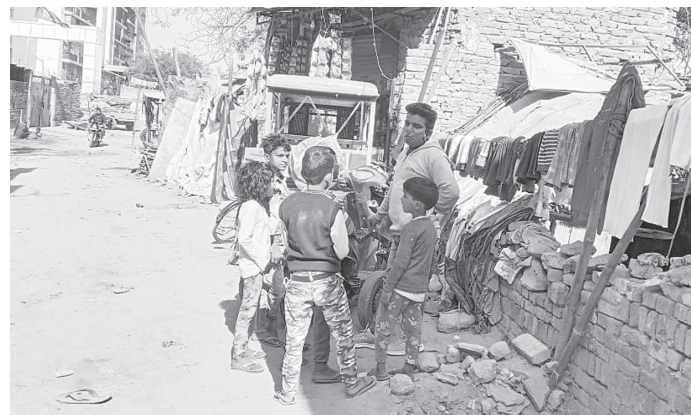
Bureau Report

Friends, every year winters break their new records. This time too, winter crossed all limits of cold and created a lot of furore. Due to this, the street and working children of Delhi and Noida had to face a lot of problems. Because these children live by putting

taraulins on the side of the roads and there are many children who help their parents to feed their families by working hard. The income of their parents is so low that they can hardly meet the expenses of the house.

They themselves do daily wage work, which is available sometimes and sometimes

not. Apart from this, it is very difficult to work in winter. Therefore, due to extreme cold for many days, they also have to face difficulties in going to work. Due to all these things, children are unable to buy good warm clothes for themselves to escape the winter and they are often seen roaming here and there in a thin T-shirts and half-pants. Keeping all these things in mind, Chetna NGO and HCL Foundation took an initiative, under which around 500 street and working children living in slums at different places of Noida were given jackets to help them. All the children wholeheartedly thanked Chetna NGO and HCL Foundation.



AGAIN FACING A NEW PROBLEM

Reporter Ravi

Street and working children are those who live on the streets or due to any reason have left their childhood and got engaged in work. They make their living by selling various stuff such as balloons, tissue paper, pens, toys, remote mobiles etc. at the traffic light. It is a true thing in their life that one problem does not go away but another comes. We are saying this because it was only a matter of time ago they were suffering from cold weather and now they are struggling with heat stroke. Now a new problem, the scorching sun and such heat that can make even a person sweat. In such heat, many problems are being faced by these children while working on the streets under the scorching sun. Some children who live in the roadside slums also have their own problems because in such

scorching heat, the rays of the sun falling on their slum make the slum a big heat hub and the children live in that scorching heat in the hut made of thin foil. Because of this, sometimes children also get heat stroke. The problem does not end there, in many slums there is no electricity and even if there is power for some time, the fan gives such air as if a hot heater has been turned on. Like this, children spend their whole day and when the atmosphere is a little cooler in the middle of the night, then they can get some sleep. Then the very next morning from 6:00 am again the same scorching heat and the same sun, from the same traffic light to selling pens, tissue paper, toys, mobiles, etc., the day goes out. And this condition is not for the children of any one place, but it is the condition of every street and working children and they have to face all this daily.

HAVE TO STUDY BUT DON'T HAVE MONEY TO GO TO TUITION



Talkative reporter Sania, Co-reporter Kishan

The lockdown during the Corona pandemic might have become a year-old talk, but it will take years to make up for the loss caused to many people because of this tragedy. Our Reporter talked about the troubles related to the life of one such girl. The 9-year-old girl

said, "Brother, I live in Noida with my elder sister and my parents live in the village. My parents have sent me to study at her sister's place. Some days back I used to go to tuition every day and my elder sister used to stay at home to take care of her young children. Now my didi has started going to work at the Big Houses of others as a consequence of lockdown

and exhaustion of our savings, because of this sudden uncertainty, my didi has stopped my tuition. Didi told me that we don't have money anymore. She also said "I have started going to work as a home service provider and consequently I will not be here to look after the children therefore from now you will also have to work to run the household expenses. Now you shall stay at home and take care of my young children", so I was forced to say yes. Now I stay at home and do not go to tuition. While Staying in home, I take care of Didi's children and take time out to study at CHETNA NGO. Didi says that when the children grow up a little, then I will get you enrolled in your tuition again.

WAVES OF HAPPINESS AMONG CHILDREN



Reporter Sameer

Friends, as we all know that education is very necessary for everyone. Because education not only leads to our mental development but it helps us in providing a new direction for our future. And this is the reason why we emphasize

sending every child to school. Children also enjoy school very much. Because there they get opportunities to do many things like play, jump, study, learn new things and make new friends. Let us know the views of children on school reopening. Ramu (Name changed) of Seelampur's

thoughts. And that too in his own words. I am Ramu. I live in a small slum of Seelampur. I am very happy at this time. Because my schools have opened. I enjoy studying very much. Schools were closed continuously for 2 years. Due to this many children as well as I was not able to study properly. Children who had small phones suffered a lot. Children who used to study by phone. They also did not understand many things properly. Therefore, now that the schools have opened, all the children are very happy. The child also gets to play in the school. With the reopening of schools, you can study well. Many children in Seelampur who did not like to go to school now also go to school happily.

EVEN TO GET DAILY WAGE LABOR WORK, WE HAVE TO PAY BRIBES TO THE CONTRACTOR

Talkative reporter Pankaj and reporter Shambhu

During the outreach, the Reporter met the mother of a child and she told that, "During the lockdown, she has no work, due to which there is no source of income. When there was no source of income, then my 18-year-old son went out to find work, a contractor engaged him in the work of Beldari (daily wage labouring), but he made a condition that after working for 15 days, he would have to pay 1000 rupees to the contractor. If he refuses then he won't have any work. It is



very important to have money to run the house. We have to pay the contractor a bribe. Even if the one thinks of complaining, the contractor threatens that he will be fired and will be replaced by someone else. So he has to do this work helplessly."



THE TALKATIVE REPORTER DID AN ACT OF BRAVERY BY CONNECTING THE GIRL CHILD TO EDUCATION

Talkative Reporter Santosh, co-reporter Kishan

When the talkative reporter was talking to the children in the field, the reporter came to know about the problems of Shivani (name changed) after talking to her. Shivani said "Didi, I am 9 years old and my mother and I live in my house. My father has died and we live in a small slum. My mother sells pens and water pouches at our home's nearby bus stand. I stay at home and do household chores.

The talkative reporter asked Shivani why don't you go to school? Shivani said "didi, I do not go to school, my mother does not have much information about this place where the school is. My mother is not even aware

of the process of getting admission in the school. She goes to work, due to which she does not even get time." Then the talkative reporter introduced Shivani to the worker of Chetna NGO and got Shivani's name written on the contact point. After joining the Chetna NGO, she used to come to the contact point to get an education every day, and after a few days, the activists of the Chetna NGO got her admission in the Government School in class one. Now, presently Shivani is studying in 3rd standard and goes to school every day. The talkative reporter said that Shivani used to stay at home earlier and did not even go to school. After talking to Shivani, the talkative reporter connected her with the organization.

IT IS VERY SAD TO SEE MONTHS OF HARD WORK BEING WASTED IN MINUTES

Talkative reporter Jainab and reporter Anchal

Sometimes these children laugh at their life and then they start thinking that whatever happened, happens for good, they convince their hearts by saying this as they struggle a lot before achieving anything in their life. There are kinds of challenges and struggle to face and earn money by working hard for a month to buy a copy pencil.

When the Balaknama reporter from Lucknow met the children living in Madian Basti and tried to know the condition of the slum during the community visit, it came to light that now the children are very upset due to the scorching heat. Children had said that there is no power connection in the entire settlement, due to which the children and their



parents have to face many problems. Understanding and respecting the feelings of the children, the reporter went to the bottom of the matter, and the children said that they are unable to study at night due to a lack of power connection in the house. Some children also said that if dinner is left, then we think that we should

eat it in the morning but due to the weather the food gets spoiled. As you know, street and working children who work day and night to fill their stomachs, when the same food is wasted due to this scorching heat, they feel very sad because their hard-earned money is wasted in minutes. goes.

CHILDREN ARE NOT SAFE IF THEY DO HOUSEHOLD CHORES

Talkative reporter Rupali and Kishan

Our journalists visited some places in Noida. During the visit, it was noticed at every place that more children were involved in doing their household chores. Let us inform you in detail what are the problems they have to deal with while working. Our journalists saw that a girl was sitting very sad at one place, then our journalists visited that 12-year-old girl. Talked and found out why she was so worried. The girl said, "Brother, I live with my parents and younger siblings in the slum of Noida. Mataji



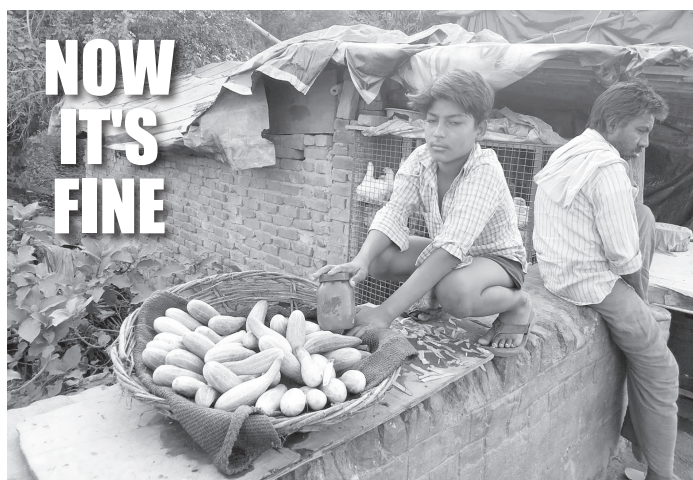
works at Kothi, she goes to work at 8:00 in the morning and comes home at 6 in the evening. I am the elder in the house, that's why I have to do

all the household chores like washing clothes, cleaning utensils, cooking, mopping the broom, etc. and I always do housework, I have got burnt a bit many times while cooking but I do not have to bear so much pain, a few days ago I was cooking saag ki sabzi and then she I tried to switch off the gas and all of a sudden the sabji fell on my feet, the vegetable was very hot due to which my feet got burnt very badly, so now I stay at home and do my housework. I do not cook anymore; my mother cooks food early in the morning and now I stay at home and do other work apart from cooking.

**CHILDREN'S HELP
LINE NUMBERS**

**CONTACT THESE TOLL FREE
NUMBERS IF YOU FACE ANY
PROBLEM.**

Child line Number
1098
Police Helpline Number
100



**NOW
IT'S
FINE**

Talkative reporter Anjali and Balaknama reporter Aanchal

As you also know that the people living in this big world are so big, that they judge you by your costumes. In the same way, seeing our street and working child, many people say son, why are you doing this work? Study son, leave all this work. But they don't know about our condition, how we live. Even after working for several months to buy new clothes for a festival. we are not able to get a new pair of clothes. Do they know what our situation is? When the journalist of our Balaknama,

during a community visit in Vinayakapuram Basti, Lucknow, saw that a child was selling cucumbers in a wooden basket in this scorching sun. Then we went to that child, and asked that child why are you selling cucumbers in such scorching sun? Your health may deteriorate. So that child replied that what sister cucumbers will have to be sold, whether it is sunlight or shade. During the conversation, that child also said that the sister whose responsibility is to help the guardian and the responsibility of his younger brother and sister. They don't see any problem.

A SOCIAL ORGANIZATION CHETNA NGO BECAME A BOON FOR CHILDREN

Talkative reporter Anshu and reporter Shambhu

Chetna NGO in collaboration with ACL Foundation in Noida is working to improve and educate the lives of street and working children. Many gurukuls are run by Chetna NGO at many places in Noida. Recently, in the month of October, a new Gurukul center of Chetna NGO was opened in the slum of a village named Agahpur. The children here are mostly from Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh. About 50 to 60% of children do not attend school. These children have dropped out of school and they are engaged in work with parents or do some work alone. For the support of the family, such as picking up scraps,



working in the cottage, park, sorting the garbage, and helping the parents in getting their stalls ready etc. Pointing to these children, Gurukul was started here. 70 to 75 children of Agahpur village come to this gurukul and get alternative education. Along with this, full attention is paid to the all-round development of the children - such as life skills workshop, support group meeting, parent teacher meeting so that parents can be properly guided for the future

of their children. Recently, Hotmail has also been started for children. Keeping in mind the Corona guidelines, food is distributed to the children. Food is the basic need of the children and by having nutritious food, they can fill their tummies at the same time they can also take interest in studies. All these children and the stakeholders here are very happy and they believe that the organization is a boon for us, which is doing such good work for the children.

THIS PANDEMIC TOOK AWAY OUR FUTURE



Talkative reporter Nikki and Balaknama reporter Aanchal

From the news of our Balaknama newspaper, you must have got the experience that our street and working children are increasing day by day through shifting from education to child labouring. We don't know whether it is the fault of the parents or not. The economic condition is not right or it may be due to

the pressure of the society. Due to all these reasons, the number of child labourers is increasing, similar is the condition of the children living in our ShramVihar Basti in Lucknow. When the journalist of our Balaknama had a support group meeting with the children living in ShramVihar, during the same meeting, many such children came out who was stuck in the same problems. When

we had a conversation with them, it came to the fore that the parents of the children had worked hard to get these children admitted to private schools, but suddenly there was a lockdown due to the corona epidemic, everything was closed, even no one there had any employment either. Meanwhile, due to low income, the parents of the children were not able to pay fees in private schools, which are compensated by the children by doing child labour, perhaps it is difficult to understand ahead of time whether the fault is of the children or of the parents. While talking to the children, the children also said that the grandmother said that it was difficult for our parents to get admission to private schools, and now I do not know how our future will be.

STREET CHILDREN FORCED TO WORK IN THE SCORCHING HEAT

Talkative reporter Rubiyal and reporter Sangeeta Lucknow

As you all must be aware how much heat has started happening at this time, while it is only the month of March, April and the heat has kept fighting the bad condition of the people, and in this scorching heat, our streets and working children are forced to work. And the same is the case with the children living on the side of the streets and squares of our Lucknow, where the children are living by selling water pouches on the roads. In the afternoon, running around on the road and on government buses, selling water to everyone. When our balaknamareporter asked the child do you go to school? that child told his



painful story that "no sister, we are not able to go to school, from morning to evening, we just keep selling water here so we can get the money to run the house. That's why we are stuck in this work throughout the day.

NOW WE CAN FIND THE SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEMS ON OUR OWN

Talkative report Sunil and child Nama reporter Aanchal

In this world, if you turn your eyes in any direction, you will find every person struggling with some problem. Similarly, there are some of our streets and working children, who are stuck in one or the other problem. In this way, we present many types of problems of children to you through the Balaknama newspaper. But today we are going to present such news before you, which you have rarely heard or seen? When Lucknow's Balaknama

reporter Aanchal searched for the children living in Purnia Basti who go to school. When we met those kids. When talking to them related about going to school, it came to light that due to many children in a family, older children do not go to school, due to taking care of their younger siblings. But do you know that even after having such a situation at home, now they go to school every day and do not miss school? So, let's try to know the hidden secret behind it. While talking to the children, a girl kept her problem and said Didi, there are four siblings in



our house, the youngest one of them is our sister who cannot walk now. We could not go to school earlier because of his care. But now we have decided

that one day we will go to school and our other sister will take care of the younger sister, and the next day if she goes to school, we will take care

of that younger sister. And this is how we keep going to school. We continue to study. It was understandable from the words of the children, now the children are coming to know the importance of studies, what is education after all? Education is the thing that makes the future very beautiful and bright. Along with this, the children also said that if there are no problems and challenges in the journey of life, then what is the use of life? With small problems and small mistakes, we become strong and we also get to learn something.

DUE TO THE LACK OF ELECTRICITY IN THE SLUM, PEOPLE SPEND THEIR LIVES UNDER THE LIGHTS OF CANDLES

Talkative Reporter Radhika, reporter Kishan

Our journalists visited a slum in a place in Noida. The place where 40 slums are located. Many children and their children's parents live in those slums, our journalists went and talked to some of the children and tried to find out their problems, then about 30 children kept their talk, which we will tell you the through the medium of news itself, the place where these children live, is a government



place. This place used to have electricity sometime back and that too was stolen connection of electricity, the people of the nearby villages

who had to contest in the election used to get the people electricity connection, and whenever there would be any inspection the, the people of

the village would know first, then they used to go remove the electricity connection, when the election came, the people of the village contested in the election, but they were defeated, and that is why the connection of electricity of this slum have been completely removed at present. A 12-year-old girl said, "Brother, we have to face many problems due to lack of electricity, we spend our lives in the darkness, and we children go to the shop and bring candles and light up our houses with

candles. We do household chores like cooking, washing dishes, cleaning, etc., under the light of a candle. we spend 5 to 6 candles in a day, and a candle box costs us ₹ 30, The box in which there are only 6 candles and some candles we use in our houses, we children also go to school daily and in night we try to study under the candlelight, due to dim light, we are not able to get study well. "Children say if the educator can arrange electricity for us then we will be able to study well.

WE ARE ALSO HUMAN AND FEEL GOOD AND BAD

Talkative reporter Noorjahan and Balaknama reporter Aanchal

We only have heard of the life of fun and comfort, but never even lived it. We work hard and eat two meals, that is enough for us. At least we don't spread our hands in front of anyone. But society sometimes utters such things which penetrate our hearts, due to which we feel anguish. When our Balaknama reporter journalist met the children living in the Assamese Basti of Lavkush Nagar and talked to the children. During the conversation, it came to the fore that in this settlement, a pile of garbage filled in sacks and a pile of different types of bottles all these things are spread all around in their settlement. When our



journalist tried to know the problems of the children, the children said that didi, any outsider comes out of our settlement, then he comes out with a mask on their faces and those people look at us

as if we are not human but an animal. And they look at us in a very undignified way, which is neither liked by us nor by our parents.

As you know, our home is a temple for all of us, and if someone like them comes to our home and behaves in such a manner it is absolutely not acceptable. Although we consider that we are poor, we do not have a good house, we do not have good clothes to wear, we are definitely human beings. And we feel good and bad emotions too. But whenever we see such human beings behaving in such a manner, it seems that they want to pretend that they are richer than us. At least we should become human beings and realize the helplessness of human beings.

HAPPY DAYS HAVE COME

Talkative reporter Noorjahan and Balaknama reporter Aanchal

As you must be aware that when any festival arrives, it becomes a reason of happiness for us because on those days' happiness is scattered all around in our homes. Similarly, the condition of our children living in Lavkush Nagar is also similar because their festival called Eid is about to arrive.

Children are working hard for this festival so that they can celebrate this festival well with their families. So let us know what the children are preparing for the upcoming Eid festival.

When our Lucknow-based



child Nama journalist Aanchal met our street and working children living in Lavkush Nagar Assamese Basti, and talked

to the children, during the conversation the children told that Didi, as you would know that now the festival of Eid is coming for which we children are trying to earn money by doing various types of work like some kids are going out with their parents to pick up garbage and some kids are working outside mechanic and few kids Working outside the home.

So that he can buy a good pair of clothes on that day and wear it on Eid. This festival comes only once a year and if you don't wear good clothes, If you cannot eat and drink well, then what is the meaning of this special day?

BALANAMA AND BADHTE KADAM IN HEADLINES

The future of the children was discussed in detail in the stakeholder meeting



Children celebrated with great pomp with the colors of Holi



Girl more happy after getting sewing machine



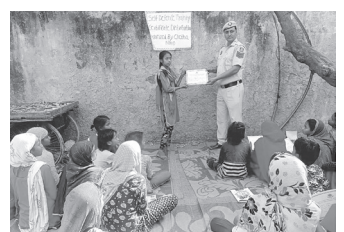
Promising talkative reporter got reward for publishing news



Children placing their problems through play



After receiving the certificate of participation in self-defense training, the girl's face brightened



Balaknama thanks to the Diamond Sponsor, Sardar Nagina Singh Ji, for helping us in publishing our newsletter. You can also help us for publishing.

This newsletter is for limited delivery only. All the pictures are printed by the approval of the children.

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