OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE : DELHI

CIRCULAR

CIRCULAR No-2/2020

Subject: - Directions to streamlining the functioning of the District AHTUs for tracing the missing children.

The Hon'ble High Court vide its Judgment dated 19.02.2020 passed in the matter of WP (Crl.) No. 3239/2019, titled Surender Sah Vs State & Anr. has issued the following directions: -

(i). **It is directed that the District AHTUs shall henceforth function as a nodal agency for all cases of missing children in the district concerned.** The District AHTUs shall work in close coordination with the local police, as well as other agencies, providing expert assistance to Investigating Officers, including collection and analysis of technical evidence.

(ii) In every district, **an officer not below the rank of a DCP shall, on a fortnightly basis, review the progress of investigation in every case registered** in respect of missing children. Every **Investigating Officer shall be responsible for drawing up and maintaining a Guard File** for each case being investigated by him. The **ACPs of the District AHTU shall be responsible for submission of such file to the superior officer.**

(iii) **Within 48 hours, an officer not below the rank of an ACP should be nominated at every District AHTU, who shall thereafter, on a regular basis, i.e., at least twice a month, analyse the pending as well as closed cases of missing children to identify patterns or other circumstances indicating the likelihood of links to trafficking or organised crime.** Appropriate reports shall be drawn in this regard every month. The said officer shall, additionally, consider such further and other intelligence as may be required in this regard. In cases where there are indications of links to trafficking or organised crime, appropriate steps ought to be taken, including gathering such additional intelligence as may be necessary, and launching operations **no later than within 24 hours** to apprehend persons involved, and to rescue the missing children.

(iv) Pro-active steps should be taken by the Delhi Police to curb the menace of missing children. **To this end, within a period of 48 hours, an officer not below the rank of an Addl. DCP shall be nominated in each district, who shall thereafter hold at least one meeting each month with ACP (AHTU) and the SHOs concerned, to identify sections /pockets of their respective districts that are worst affected in terms of missing children.** An appropriate action plan shall be drawn from inputs gathered from other stakeholders such as NGOs and community leaders for steps to be taken in this regard. The officer concerned shall regularly, i.e., at least once a month review the implementation of the plan, making such changes as are necessary depending on the circumstances as may arise.

(v) Children rescued under Operation Milap are placed in Children Homes pending their restoration. **Within a period of 48 hours, a team shall be formed at each district under an officer not below the rank of an**

Inspector (AHTU), to streamline and expedite the process of restoring such children. As and when a child is placed in a Children Home, the team shall interact with the children within a period of 24 hours, to find details of their family members / acquaintances, in order that steps may be taken towards restoring them. **This exercise shall be undertaken in respect of children already placed in Children Home within 72 hours from today i.e.19.02.2020.** The said Inspector (AHTU) shall also be responsible to ensure that all details as can be ascertained from / about the children and photographs of the children rescued, are promptly, and in any event not later than within 24 hours from the children being placed in the Homes, uploaded by him on the Zonal Integrated Police Network (ZIPNET).

(vi) In the order dated 20th December, 2019, it was noted that the suggestion to delegate powers to Additional DCP-I as well as DCPs of the District to obtain CDRs in cases involved missing children was approved by the Commissioner of Police. It was noted that the Commissioner also approved that the assistance of the District Cyber Cell should invariably be taken by the Investigating Officers to analyse the CDRs obtained. **It is directed that such analysis be eventually carried out by the District AHTUs by themselves expeditiously. It is directed that within a period of one week, appropriate mechanisms ought to be put in place, including weekly training, to ensure that the District AHTUs themselves have a robust system to obtain and analyse CDRs of suspects at the earliest during the course of investigation.**

(vii) It is directed that henceforth, publication of advertisements of missing children shall be made in terms of Circular No. 24/2014 dated 13th February, 2020, which has amended and streamlined the process of publication. **It is directed that the publications shall be made no later than 72 hours from receipt of information by the Police in this regard**

In view of above order of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, it is hereby directed that appropriate steps may be taken to ensure compliance of these directions by all concerned within the stipulated timeline. Non compliance of these directions will be viewed seriously.

This has the approval of CP/Delhi.

(RAJESH DEO)
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE:
LEGAL CELL, PHQ : DELHI.

No 301-45 /Record Br./PHQ(AC-), dated Delhi 21-02-2020.

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