

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2016/17



RAILWAY
children
Fighting for street children



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HAPPY
REPUBLIC



MY HOMEWORK

GIANTS
GREAT MATCH

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RAILWAY CHILDREN INDIA

Railway Children India (RCI) is a section 8 Non-Profit company under the companies Act 2013. Working in India with a vision of creating 'a world where no child ever has to live on the streets'. Railway Children's work strives for sustainable changes in the lives of children alone and at risk on the Railway stations further to streets. Railway Children India is governed by a Board of four Directors that meets every quarter to discuss strategy and programmes and advise the Country Director. These directors are experienced individuals from diverse fields such as international development and corporate social responsibility.

Railway Children India believes that no child should ever be forced to live alone and at risk on a railway platform. We want to be able to reach as many children as possible and make a real, lasting difference to their lives. We believe that the more people who help us, the greater the impact we can have, and the more effective our work will be in helping children stay safe.

RAILWAY CHILDREN INDIA (RCI)'S MODEL OF INTERVENTION

Railway Children India's mission is guided by three important elements as highlighted in the below figure:

Immediate Need for Care and Protection

At and around the railway station: We aim to transform stations into child friendly spaces. A team of outreach workers (ORW) are always on their toes at the stations; with the mission to reach out to every child arriving or passing by the station alone. The ORWs are entrusted to ensure the first response to the child's need, i.e. food, water, medical and counselling support etc. The first response centre is located at the station as a Child Help Desk, to cater to the needs of every child who are being identified. The work at the station level extends upto sending the child safely to child care institutions (CCI) with a fulfilling promise of rehoming and restoration.

- 1. Working with Government:** Strengthening the existing system and structures by the Government is the key to ensure a sustainable change and we make every effort for bringing sustainable changes. Working closely with government enables us to bring changes in policy spaces, in existing laws and programmes. The research studies done by RC have always given opportunity to develop effective programming to ensure impact and bring in changes in the existing policy spaces. Railway Children India works in collaboration Ministry of Railway, Railway Board, MWCD and various state governments for strengthening child protection mechanism in India particularly at railway stations. It conducts capacity building trainings for Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) in child protection issues and related laws.
- 2. Making community responsive to the issue:** Children are leaving home and that's the trigger point for our intervention. We plan to create a safety net within the community, so that none of the child should fall out of the safety net and be vulnerable. RC believes in empowering communities and strengthening the system-structures and resources of the community. Our endeavour is to create community a safe place for every child by empowering them through a child centric programming. Railway Children India works to create mass awareness on children rights the process of displaying posters, distribution of hand outs and display of banners communicating child protection information for passengers at railway stations.

VISION 2022 (STRATEGIC PLAN)

Over the next five years, RCI has planned to transform 25 railway stations to child friendly spaces, improve child care & protection work in Child Care Institutions and strengthen child protection mechanism at 5 source areas by 2022. RCI will protect 120,000 children and restore 96,000 children sustainably around 25 railway stations, 5 source areas and 26 government children home. It means lives of 96000 children would be transformed from living alone and at risk to a life with dignity, control, purpose and togetherness and continue to live at a safe space (either family or long term care).

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN THE FINANCE YEAR 2016-17

During the financial year 2016 -17, Railway Children India (RCI) worked to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation in different settings, including railway stations, family, community and wider society.

RCI worked towards strengthening child protection mechanism and improve the services of care and protection works in Child Care Institutions (CCI) in the state of Delhi, Bihar and Tamil Nadu. It worked in 3 Railway Stations (Villupuram, Katpadi and Salem in Tamil Nadu, Darbhanga Railway Station in Bihar, Sarai Rohilla and Delhi Cantonment Railway Station in Delhi in collaboration with local partner organisations.

OUTREACH PROGRAM IN RAILWAY STATIONS			
Sl. No	Name of station	State	Local Partner
1	Villupuram Junction Railway Station	Tamil Nadu	Scope India
2	Katpadi Railway Station	Tamil Nadu	The Hope House
3	Salem Railway Station	Tamil Nadu	TDH Core trust
4	Darbhanga Railway Station	Bihar	Narayani Seva Sansthan
5	Delhi Sarai Rohilla and Delhi Cantt Railway Station	Delhi	SARD

The progress and achievements made during the year 2016-2017 are categorized as Child Protection mechanisms at Railway Station (Station level work) and source level intervention.

CHILD PROTECTION MECHANISMS AT RAILWAY STATIONS IN INDIA

I. Round-the-Clock Outreach at Railway Stations

Railway Children India (RCI) along with its local partners deployed strong outreach team at Railway stations to provide care and protection to children arrive at station. RCI also started 24*7 outreach at station level to ensure that no child is left behind who arrives at station alone and at risk.

The outreach team developed a working relationship with all stakeholders at the station so as to get early information about any new child at risk. In Tamil Nadu railway stakeholders has been sensitized on child protection issues in adjoining stations to Katpadi and Villupuram; like Jolarpet and Arrakanam as a result of the sensitisation and capacity building activity many children are being referred by the stakeholders from these two stations to Villupuram and Katpadi interventions. RCI protected 1025 children in 5 railway stations of Tamil Nadu and one Government Children's Home in Chennai. These children were provided support like counselling, nutritious food, safer accommodation through our programmes.

In Darbhanga, RCI protected 877 children out of which 19 were girls in Darbhanga during the reporting period. At Sarai Rohilla Railway station of North West Delhi, a total of 99 children were protected and provided immediate care and support in collaboration with local partner and Child Welfare Committees.

II. Establishment of Child Help Desk

Child Help Desk at Darbhanga - Railway children India established Child Help Desk at Darbhanga Railway Station which is acting as nodal point of operation for outreach and child protection. It is manned with adequate human resources having requisite skill to outreach children immediately and can cater to their immediate needs like food, health check, counselling and connecting the missing and lost child with parents. At CHD, first-hand information of all children 'outreached' is maintained and updated every day by ensuring General Dairy entry with Government Railway Police.



Child Help Desk at Darbhanga Railway station in Bihar

Child Help Desk (CHD) at Villupuram: RCI started a model CHD at Villupuram railway station close to the main entrance and Platform 1 with a huge space of 13 X 10 Ft. It is designed as two separate space where at one place children are received and their information are collected. Another room is exclusively dedicated for children to settle, have safe space and supported with Psycho social needs. This space is created keeping the idea to make children happy when they step in and be there. A team of Bal Sabha members have designed this space. Structure and portraits were designed and developed by children themselves.



Child Help Desk at Villupuram in Tamil Nadu

As result of it, passengers' access to Child Help Desk have increased due to its visibility and the number of outreach of children have increased significantly in this financial year.

III. Psychosocial Support

Railway Children India (RCI) has developed a module called Ehsaas to provide psychosocial support to children with whom it is working. During the reporting period, RCI conducted a capacity building training for the staff members of its partner organization from 11th to 13th May 2016. In this training, participants were oriented to tools on Psychosocial support and how to handle children in need of PSS.

A total of 18 participants from four partner organizations of RCI participated in this training program. After the training, follow up was conducted with partners to know they are using this tool to help children to overcome such difficult experiences and develop life skills and coping mechanisms.

In Tamil Nadu, 160 families and their children who were found to be vulnerable and being at risk of leaving again received counselling services. In Darbhanga, district of Bihar 507 children received counselling support. In North West Delhi, 36 children were supported through counselling services.

IV. Capacity Building Program on Child Protection for Railway Stakeholders

In Tamil Nadu, 304 Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel were trained on Child Rights, Juvenile Justice Act, Standard Operating procedure (SOP) issued by Railways, and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act by Railway Children India at Chennai and Trichy division covering Chennai, Katpadi, Villupuram railway junctions. As a result children are being identified and referred to the Katpadi and Villupuram intervention for further processes.



Stakeholders Sensitization Meeting at Villupuram Junction

One day consultation with JJ Stakeholders of 5 district (Chennai, Vellore, Villupuram, Tiruvallur and Kanchipuram) from where majority of children arrived to GCH and reunified was organized in collaboration with DSD.

In Delhi, Railway Children India conducted capacity building training programs at nine Railway Stations of Northern Railway Zone. These trainings were conducted between 21st February to 28th March 2017 for Railway Protection Force (RPF). Total of 334 stakeholders including 227 personnel from Railway Protection Forces (RPF), Inspector-in-Charge of RPF, Assistant Security Commissioner (ASC)-RPF attended these capacity building programme. The contents of the capacity building programs were child rights, Child protection mechanisms and related laws, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Railways to ensure care and protection of Children in contact with Indian Railways.



Capacity Building Training for RPF at Kishanganj Railway station

As result of these trainings, the participation of stakeholder in outreach programme increased and significant number of children are being referred by to our CHD. These trainings also helped in easing the process of GD/DD entry for children with support from RPF and GRP. These training helped to participants to gain an understanding of issues and concerns of children in contact with Railways and the key components of the Railway's SOP with special focus on the specific role of RPF with regard to the procedures to be followed in different case situations. It fostered better coordination between RCI team and RRP for an efficient implementation of SOP and stations transform into child friendly spaces. Mr. D.S Chauhan, Inspector-RPF in Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway station extended support for organising awareness program on child care and children rights in nearby slum on regular basis.

V. Awareness Building

In Tamil Nadu, 8 awareness meetings were organised at Villupuram and Katpadi railway station with the support of Child Help Group (CHG) to create awareness on the issues of children living alone and at risky situation to passengers. These awareness meetings were carried in the form of street theatres, song & dance and talk. Approximately 5500 passengers have been reached during this financial year. In addition to this, awareness handouts and display boards have been developed in consultation with railways are being used to reach out huge volume of passengers.



Awareness campaign through street play at Railway junction, Villupuram

In Bihar, awareness meetings were organised at station level targeting both primary stakeholders (Station Manager, Railway Protection Force, Govt Railway Police, Ticket Checkers, Railway Mail Services and Train Ticket Examiner) and secondary stakeholders (coolies, vendors, cleaning staff etc.) to transform Darbhanga Railway Station into child friendly spaces. These awareness meetings focus on child rights issues", JJ Act and POCSO Act 2012.



In Delhi, Information Education Campaigns were conducted at 8 railway stations to sensitise railway passengers, vendors, porters, sanitation workers on child protection issues. A total of 46 banners were displayed at various locations of 10 railway stations. These banners carried the information and messages on child rights and child help line number and measures to be taken when a child is found at railway alone and at risk. During the training, RCI also distributed 400 copies of SOPs among RPF and GRP personnel.

VI. Stakeholder Engagement

At Villupuram and Katpadi railway stations of Tamil Nadu, stakeholders including vendors, porters and cleaning staff were sensitized regularly which ensured protection of children at all times within the railway station. In addition, recommendation by Child Help Groups (CHG) and continuous engagement by Railway Children India with Divisional level authorities, Trichy division has granted permission to Railway Children India to facilitate the process of setting up of integrated facilitation centre for child protection at Villupuram station.



In Darbhanga Railway station of Bihar, meeting with stakeholders was organized on 22nd March 2017. In this meeting, NSS team shared the progress of its work at Darbhanga railway station with GRP and RPF. Station master participated in the meeting and shared his input and discussion was also held on SOP. It was collectively agreed to support each other for strengthening outreach to provide care and protection children arriving at station.

At Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, RCI has initiated the process of forming Child Help Groups at Sarai Rohilla and Delhi Cantt Railway station. In this regard, RCI conducted two meetings with Station Superintendent, RPF inspector and GRP-SHO and discussed the modalities of forming CHGs at both the railway stations. This process is talking time as both the railway stations are not listed in SOP.



Railway Children India on invitation of Railways had set up a stall on child protection and actively

participated in a seminar called 'Neki Ki Rail' for improving the Railway's social footprint and impacting society in a positive manner being organized on 23rd March, 2017 at National Rail Museum, New Delhi organized by Railway Board. Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, hon'ble Minister of Railways, Govt. of India inaugurated this important seminar in the august presence of board members of Railways, Chairman of Railway Board, Executive Director (Efficiency & Research, Divisional Railway Managers (DRM), NGO representatives, CSR heads of private sector companies and media personnel.

VII. Research and Consultations

One of the major challenges of working with children connected with railways is the absence of evidence-based knowledge around what works well and what does not in terms of sustainable rehabilitation of children connected with railways. To address this challenge RCI conducted studies to generate evidence-based knowledge. The following studies were conducted during the reporting period:

- Baseline study was conducted in 3 identified intervention locations (Chennai, Villupuram and Vellore) with a purpose to strengthen the programme strategies as well as develop a clear understanding of the situation, so as to enable the impact assessment with evidence. The findings of this study were shared through workshop conducted in Villupuram and Chennai. District Collector, Villupuram participated in the workshop and assured to extend the district administrations fullest support towards child protection issues in the district.
- Baseline Study was conducted from 24th to 31st January 2017 and focus group discussions with stakeholders to understand the vulnerability and need of the children arriving at Darbhanga Railway Station. The findings of this study illustrated the need for intervention and confirm that in an average every day 19-20 children arrive at Darbhanga railway station alone and at risk to take a train and move to bigger cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Punjab.
- Station mapping exercise-Station mapping exercise has been conducted at Sarai Rohilla Railway station during the baseline survey conducted from 6th to 15th March, 2017. The preliminary assessment revealed that there are 41 trains arrive and depart from Sarai Rohilla and Delhi Cantt Railway station. There are seven platforms in Sarai Rohilla and 5 platforms in Delhi Cantt Railway station.



Railway children organized a south- regional consultation in Tamil Nadu to discuss the findings of the research titled 'Child reunification processes in India'. This consultation was attended by representatives from 5 states comprises of NGOs working on child rights issues, individual child rights experts, UNICEF, Department of Social Defense, Women and Child Development, NGOs from AP and Telangana and Child Welfare Committees. Hon'ble Justice G.M Akbar Ali (Retired judge and Member JJ Committee, High Court of Madras), chaired the consultation as a special invitee.

SOURCE LEVEL INTERVENTION

I. Strengthening Village Level Child Protection Committee (VLCPC)

In Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu, the members of the Village Level Child protection Committee (VLCPC) were oriented and sensitized on child rights and child protection by Railway Children India. After these orientation programs, VLCPC have started playing a significant role in ensuring care and protection children in the intervention sites. During this period VLCPC have supported 3 children who had taken up work after failing in their class 10th examination. VLCPC motivated them to give up their work and get back to schooling and with special tutorial support from the project they have now re-appeared for the class 10th examination and the results are awaited.



Child protection issues were discussed in Gram Shaba Meeting

In Bihar, Railway Children India worked in Baheri block of Darbhanga district to prevent desperate and forced migration of children from Darbhanga. The objective of this programme was to facilitate effective implementation of Govt. Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) by creating community-based child protection mechanism in various villages in Baheri Block. A total of 27 Village level Child Protection Committee were constituted and its members were oriented to their role and responsibilities and scope of work for child protection. 33 neediest girls have been identified through Bal Sangathan and are linked with



Mukhyamatri Kanya Suraksha Yojana (Chief Minister Girl Child Security Scheme. 117 children (60M and 57F) from different villages of Baheri and 16 Children from DIC are enrolled in Govt. primary schools amongst them 80 children are regularly attending their classes. 86 (43B+43G) children were supported in availing Aadhar cards.. 100 children received post home placement support from NSS wherein school fees, books and dress materials have been provided for those who want to continue with their studies

II. Developing Child Friendly Spaces

In Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu, Child Friendly spaces have been set-up in 5 Village Panchayats to provide opportunities to children to play, socialize, learn, and express themselves in safe and secure environment. It has presented these children with a platform to share their views and raise their voices. 35 members from these children groups have been shortlisted and linked to a summer vacation leadership training programme organized by NGOs in Villupuram district. Regular awareness meetings on Child Protection were carried out at Thennamadevi and Ezhil Nagar areas. Initiatives were taken to map specific needs of each child and their family through "Vulnerability Assessment Tool".



In Bihar, in order to bring children and their parents, community people, teacher and Panchayat members at a common platform, RCI conducted open house discussions in the community. The children discussed the issues related to school, challenges being faced by them. These problems were presented before the forum for wider discussion to seek possible solutions from the competent authorities.

III. Bal Sangathan (Child Club)

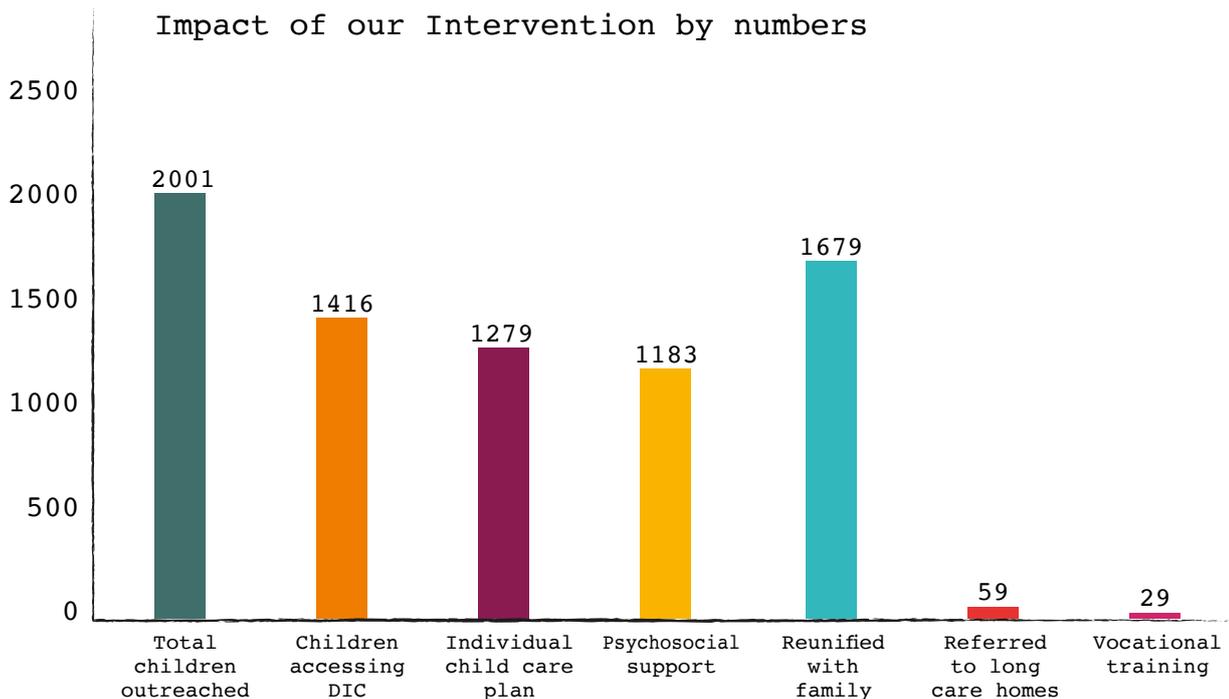
10 community members and volunteers from each village (Thennamadevi and Kappur villages) in Villupuram district were trained on child rights and role of community member in child protection. These volunteers managed and facilitated activities at the "Child Friendly Spaces". Through these centers "Bal Sabhas" were being formed and children were engaged. Initiatives have been taken to map specific needs of each child and their family through "Vulnerability Assessment Tool.



Child Rights Week - Sensitization programme at Govt. Higher Sec School, Villupuram

In Bihar to create a direct interface with the children in the community, Child Clubs and Adolescent Clubs were formed in every panchayat of Baheri block wherein children were constructively engaged and enabled to learn child rights, protection issues of children. 2083 Children were directly reached under source level intervention through Bal Sangathan and Open House Discussion with children in the communities

IMPACT OF OUR INTERVENTION



STORY OF CHANGE

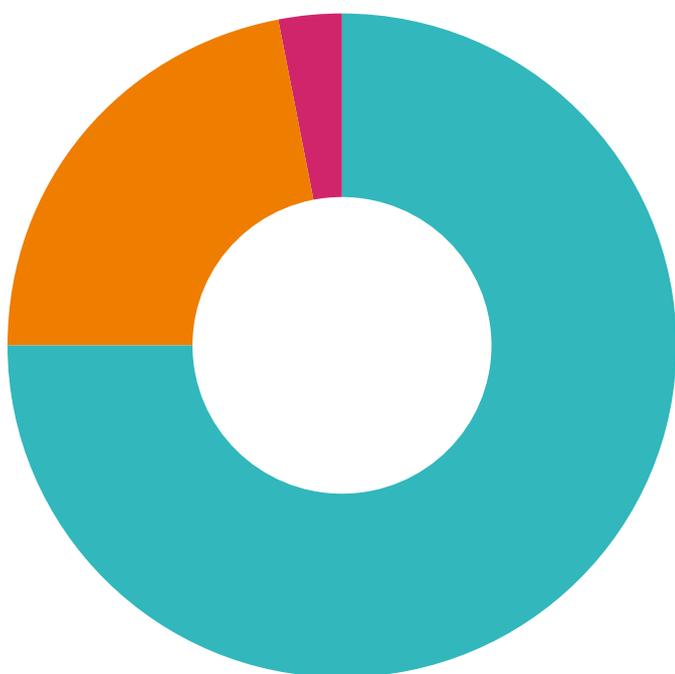
Guddi (name changed) got a lease of Life through RCI's Intervention

On 24th March, 2017 one of our Outreach Worker, Ms Mithlesh while conducting the outreach found a nine-year old girl child named Guddi (name changed) at Delhi Sarai Rohilla railway station. During interaction with the child, she came to know that Guddi was from Ambala district of Haryana state. Her family lives in a slum nearby Ambala Railway Station. One day when she was roaming near a temple (Goddess Kali), she met an elderly person. That person asked Guddi to come with him. When she refused, the stranger forcibly brought her to Delhi and when he got to know that girl was badly injured and need expensive medical treatment, he abandoned the girl at Sarai Rohilla Railway Station.

When the girl was outreached, she was frightened. Outreach Worker of RCI made her comfortable and provided food. The DD entry was done at RPF DSR. The child was taken to the Bara Hindu Rao Hospital for medical examination. On the basis of statement of child Guddi, Dr. had prescribed ultrasound and kept her under observation for 24 hours' child was admitted in hospital. Outreach Worker, Mithlesh was also with the child throughout the night. After all the examinations were done, the child was found fit. She was discharged from the hospital and provided short stay at Kilkari home. CWC was informed telephonically about the child.

Team tried to trace her home address but could not trace. Finally, they shared the information with P.S. Ambala through RPF DSR. Meanwhile Guddi was produced before CWC on the next day and referred to Nirmal Chhaya government girls home. At present Guddi is in girl's home. RCI team is doing the follow up to trace her family. In the whole process, Ms Mithlesh played an important role in rescuing the child.

FINANCES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR-2016-17



Finances for FY 16-17

Direct Program	75%
Support and Admin	22%
Training	3%

PARTNERS

1. Honda
2. Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI)

OUR TEAM

SR.	NAME	DESIGNATION
1	Mr. Guruprasad	Senior Programme Manager
2	Mr. Valavan Vasantha Siddartha	Programme Officer-South
3	Ms Anushree Banerjee	Quality Assurance Officer
4	Mr. Sukanta Behera	Quality Assurance Officer
5	Mr. Amit Kumar Sharma	Finance & Admin Officer
6	Ms Aparna Dwivedi	Training Officer
7	Ms Ranjita Sahoo	Project Manager
8	Ms Pooja Srivastava	Sr. HR Officer
9	Mr. Ravi Shankar	Field Officer
10	Mr. Lijiraj .S	Field Officer
11	Mr. Shiv Kumar	Office Assistant

OUR BOARD MEMBERS

SL.NO.	NAME	AGE	GENDER	OCCUPATION	POSITION IN THE BOARD
1	Vijay Sood	59	Male	Service	Director
2	Sunita	56	Female	Service	Director
3	Navin Sellaraju Sukumar	38	Male	Service	Director
4	Vaiyacheri Subramaniam Gurumani	69	Male	Self -employed	Director
5	Maneesha Chadha	41	Female	Service	Director
6	Naghma Parvez Mulla	40	Female	Service	Director

Railway Children India

Registered Office:

A 16/9,
Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi- 110057
Telephone No: +91 11 42591800

Working Office:

M-12/9, LGF, DLF Phase -II, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122002
Email: rcindia2013@gmail.com
Telephone: 0124 - 2571014
Mobile: +91 9818710704

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