

Media Release

PNB Housing plans more day-care centres for children of construction workers across South India

~ Highlights need for creating healthy environment for children of migrant labourers ~

Bengaluru, October 4, 2019: PNB Housing Finance, the country's fifth-largest housing finance company, and Mobile Creches, NGO working for the rights of marginalised children, plan to set up more day-care centres for the children of construction workers in Bengaluru and other cities in south India.

The two partners have so far established 17 day-care centres at construction sites across Bengaluru (10) and Hyderabad (7).

The initiative is part of efforts to provide an enabling and nurturing environment for the children of construction workers in and around Bengaluru. This includes plans by the Karnataka Labour Welfare Board to open 100 crèches at construction sites in the capital city.

On October 4, 2019, PNB Housing and Mobile Creches, along with the Karnataka government and other NGOs, organised an event – 'Building a Case for Crèches for Children at Construction Sites– to draw attention to the urgent need for creating a favourable environment for children of construction workers, influence key stakeholders on best practice day-care models, and discuss opportunities for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) projects in Bengaluru and elsewhere.

PNB Housing Finance Chief People Officer Anshul Bhargava said, "PNB Housing and Mobile Creches are working together to provide a better life for construction workers and their children in Bengaluru. The day-care centres help nurture the physical, mental and emotional growth of children, who are robbed of a steady environment and the support of an extended family due to the migratory nature of their parents' jobs. I believe we owe it to the marginalised sections of our society who are engaged in nation-building in so many different ways."

With construction being one of the fastest-growing industries in India, PNB Housing is building strong partnerships in Bengaluru and other cities, such as Ahmedabad and Delhi-NCR, to establish similar day-care centres and allow construction workers and their children to live a life of dignity and equality."

Mobile Creches Executive Director Sumitra Mishra said, at least 10 million children under six years remain invisible within the construction industry, migrating from site to site, excluded from any form of care and protection services. Highest rates of malnutrition, abuse and diseases affect these children. Reaching out to young children, to provide foundational support, that will give children a solid start in life, needs the highest levels of commitment by many – real estate industry players, ecosystem influencers like PNB Housing, civil society organisations and most importantly by the government.

Mobile Creches, a leading early childhood development organisation is committed to scale access to quality care and protection for young children at construction sites, through site based crèches and day care centres. The organisation is doing this through a business transference model, engaging, training and supporting real estate developers and local civil society organisations to run and manage the services.

MC recommends that crèche facilities for children of migrant workers travelling with their parents need to be created and activated across all construction sites. ICDS and ICPS services including vaccinations and food for infants and young children in the age group of birth-6 years and pregnant mothers as well as schooling for children aged 6-14 years need to be ensured. There should be a set of guidelines having benchmarks for crèche facilities for children of migrant workers in terms of space/infrastructure for crèche, basic facilities (toilet, electricity, water etc.) and trained workers.

About PNB Housing Finance Limited

PNB Housing Finance Limited (NSE: PNBHOUSING, BSE: 540173) is promoted by Punjab National Bank and is a registered Housing Finance Company with National Housing Bank (NHB). The Company got listed on the Indian stock exchanges on 7th November, 2016. The Company offer its retail customers “housing and non-housing loans”. The Company is also into construction finance loans to real estate developers. PNB Housing Finance is a deposit taking Housing Finance Company.

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