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itute of Science Campus, Bengaluru – 560012, INDIA.

PRATICRIA
An Initiative for Child Rights, Child Protection & Mental Health
(Protection, Response, Advocacy & Transformational Interventions for Children Residing in Adversity)
National Institute of Advanced Studies
IISc Campus, Mathekere
Bangalore 560012

Date: 30th September 2026

Director
Department of Education/ Directorate of School Education
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Subject: [Announcement] Launch of PRATICRIA (Protection, Response, Advocacy & Transformational Interventions for Children Residing in Adversity) – Initiative for Child Rights, Child Protection & Mental Health at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

As you may be aware, SAMVAD, A National Initiative for Child Protection, Mental Health, and Psychosocial Care, established by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), Government of India, and located in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), was in operation, across the country, between June 2020 – May 2025. Working in the key thematic domains of child protection, mental health, education, and law and policy, SAMVAD reached out to almost 2 Lakh service providers, such as child protection functionaries, mental health service providers, teachers and educators, and judicial and legal personnel, through a variety of activities, ranging from capacity-building programs, public series, research and policy documentation, and direct interventions for vulnerable children in the country. However, following the conclusion of the MoU between NIMHANS and MoWCD, SAMVAD ceased operations and moved to Azim Premji Foundation, continuing the work in the area of child protection and child mental health, between September 2025 – August 2026.

We are now delighted to inform you that our team has relocated to the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, to continue our work with children through PRATICRIA, (Protection, Response, Advocacy & Transformational Interventions for Children Residing in Adversity), a countrywide Initiative for Child Rights, Child Protection & Mental Health, with the generous support of the Azim Premji Foundation. NIAS is an autonomous, multidisciplinary research and educational institution that brings together diverse fields of scholarship, including the natural and social sciences, technology, humanities, and arts, to engage with complex issues of national and global significance.

Mr Vinay
30/9/26

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PRATICRIA aims to contribute strategically to the strengthening of child protection and mental health through nationwide capacity building of stakeholders and duty bearers working in child services, including (but not limited to) State child protection functionaries, judicial and police personnel, mental health service providers, educators and teachers (Schools & Universities), and Panchayati Raj workers. Our work will also include direct engagement with children, families, communities and child-serving institutions, with a focus on developing and strengthening contextually relevant responses to their needs. Additionally, the Initiative will continue to develop and implement transdisciplinary research on child-related concerns, spanning a range of critical issues related to child protection, mental health and psychosocial care, across the varied and oftentimes precarious spaces that children inhabit.

We have, of course, had the privilege of a long association with Department of School Education/ Directorate of Education and hope to be able to continue our collaborations with each of you, and your institutions. In this regard, we wish to mention that we will continue to use the materials, methodologies, and training curriculums, that we have previously developed over the years of our work, including those developed under the aegis of the MoWCD, Government of India and through our work at the Azim Premji Foundation. These resources and experiences will continue to inform and strengthen our work under PRATICRIA.

As always, we are available to support your Department/ Staff/ Personnel and welcome you to contact us for training and other technical assistance.

Thanking you for your continued support and collaboration in our endeavors to support children from vulnerable and adverse circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

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PRATICRIA

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