

# END DIGITAL & ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

## 1. Why do we need to end digital and online child sexual abuse?

- As per the NCRB data, 1861 children were victims of online sexual abuse in India in 2022.
- The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) 'CyberTipline 2022 Report' states that out of the 32 million reports received, 5.6 million reports pertained to CSAM uploaded by the perpetrators based out of India.

Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) is a global problem and unfortunately, India is not immune to it. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of reported cases of CSAM, and these have seen an exponential increase since the pandemic. CSAM includes images and videos of children being sexually abused, exploited or depicted in a sexual manner. There is no standardized mechanism for detection and prosecution of CSAM cases, identification and rehabilitation of victims is also a challenge. Compounded by its cross-border nature, addressing this issue requires international collaboration and cohesive strategies.



## 2. What are we doing to address this?

ICP, through the implementation of a systematic, highly focused, and intensive intervention model, we can effectively address the root causes of such heinous crimes.

Introducing the PICKET strategy which offers a holistic and time-bound approach to tackle the issue of CSAM –

- Policy intervention for prevention, protection, prosecution, regulation, monitoring, rehabilitation and tracking of financial transactions.
- Investment in research, infrastructure and technology, capacity building, strengthening of institutions, and victim identification and rehabilitation.
- Convergence, Coordination and Cooperation between various stakeholders, bodies, agencies and internet service providers at international, national and district levels.
- Knowledge and awareness enhancement of all stakeholders such as children, parents, law enforcement agencies, judiciary and institutions for prevention, enhanced reporting, timebound investigation, and prosecution.
- Ecosystem for promotion of safe online space through behavioural change, convergence among different stakeholders and by affixing accountability of all stakeholders at different levels.
- Technology usage for investigation, regulation, monitoring, maintaining of database and time-bound dissemination of information.



## 3. How are we going to end digital and online child sexual abuse?

- Technology and training support to police and government
- Strengthening the institutional framework for reporting, response mechanism, regulation, tracking, monitoring and rehabilitation of victims
- Intervention in pending cases through legal guidance and technical support to police
- Targetted stakeholder awareness and inclusion of digital literacy in school curriculum
- Expanding evidence and knowledge through research
- Targetted deterrence messaging on public web
- Legal aid to the victims to reintegrate and reinstate back into society
- Counselling support as part of every case, with mental health interventions where needed
- Investment in technologies and software to tackle CSAM cases at all stages
- Partnership at Central and State level law enforcement agencies