



The

METAMORPHOSIS

A bulletin on the changing lives in the Correctional Homes of West Bengal

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From the Editor's Desk:



The demography of Correctional Homes in West Bengal and relevant social studies suggest that illiteracy and lack of proper education is a prime factor which drags many people towards crime. It is also noticed that the huge manpower remain idle during incarceration and are of little value after years of imprisonment. Being in charge of the Correctional Homes of West Bengal, I have strongly felt that the unrest among the inmates and recurrence of criminal activities can be arrested if this enormous latent energy of the inmates can be gainfully utilized by formulating a policy of revamping the Manufactory Department at the Correctional Homes by way of initiating vocational training courses for the inmates. Giving them a second chance to

life is the motto of the Correctional Services. Vocational training is enabling the inmates to earn a living while incarcerated and also prepare them for post release to re-establish them in the society as a responsible and active citizen.

To adopt vocational trades, they also need to learn certain basic educational skills. Hence, in tune with the kind of priority given to education and cultural upliftment of mind and soul in Bengal and with the aim to achieve 100% literacy among the inmate population, this Directorate has taken up Project *SANDEEPAN* - the inmate literacy programme in Correctional Homes of West Bengal. The Tata Consultancy Services, Kolkata is working as the knowledge partner in this project under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme. This Directorate has also taken up initiative for setting up of *special study centres* at different Correctional Homes under the guidance of IGNOU. These study centres will act as nodal centres for different academic courses conducted by IGNOU. The Scholarship is awarded to deserving children of the inmates who are continuing with their formal education back at home. Various NGOs have shared this social responsibility in tune with the motto of this Directorate.

Sports, football, volleyball, cricket and yoga, craft, paintings and music are also encouraged among the inmates to maintain them in a healthy body and happy mind.

I welcome you all to join hands with us in this endeavor to make this world a better place to live in. You are free to use this platform to share any new ideas to enliven the situation.

Arun Kumar Gupta IPS

DG & IG, Correctional Services, WB

The Great Touch



The word 'Mother' probably the first word we all utter the moment we start speaking. Our first shelter even before we see the world. Her hands try to protect us in all adversities despite her limitations. Her hands feed her child when the mother herself is fasting. Mother is our first place to seek solace in hours of need and distress. A caring heart manifests her love through a loving hug.

But what about the child who doesn't have her mother by the side when ill? Or a child who has just passed her final exam? And a girl who is getting married in few days?

The Government, headed by a Lady Chief Minister, feels the agony and could not turn a deaf ear to this situation any longer. The Government of West Bengal has passed a very democratic and caring order where it ensures that children can touch their mother during interview at the Correctional Home.

We are just making enough room for a mother to cajole her daughter even while she is incarcerated. Hope you agree!!

Project 'Sandeepan'



Liberation of mind comes only with broadening of vision. Enabling the inmates to earn a living to give a second chance to life is the motto of the Correctional Services.

To minimize chances of re-occurrence of crime which is committed mainly due to ignorance and secondly as a result of unemployment, inmates need to learn certain basic educational skills to adopt new vocational trades efficiently. This Directorate has taken up Project *SANDEEPAN* - the inmate literacy programme in Correctional Homes of West Bengal. The Tata Consultancy Services, Kolkata is the knowledge partner in the Computer Based Fundamental Literacy (CBFL) programme.

Project *Sandeepan* is a bold step taken towards achieving a 100% literate population in West Bengal Correctional Homes.

Minimizing Grievances

Welfare Board at the Correctional Home originated from the thought of solving collective problems of the uniformed staff related to health care, service benefits, general principles of service, career counseling, etc. West Bengal Correctional Services Welfare Board at State Level will act as an apex body while all Correctional Homes- from the Central to the subsidiary will constitute Welfare Board at concerned level and hold meetings regularly to resolve all issues that might come up to the Board.

In order to redeem the individual grievances and requests from uniformed officers and staff of Correctional Services, West Bengal, the system of **Request Room** is being introduced. Request Rooms are scheduled to be held at fixed day and time at regular intervals by concerned officers at different levels of Correctional Service. If found appropriate, concerned officer even the IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal will accord *personal hearing* to the subordinate and pass necessary orders. Introduction of Request Room for the first time in Correctional Services of West Bengal is a dynamic step taken towards welfare and keeping the task force at peace. A way to vent out the grievances and to seek justice will certainly nip many issues at bud leading towards a transparent and friendly administration.

To offer full liberty to ventilate their grievances, prisoners of all correctional homes are given an opportunity of **Drop Box**. There will be two types - yellow box for complaints / petitions addressed to the Superintendents and red box for complaints to higher authority. The prisoners may drop their written complaints in any of these boxes according to gravity and also can place to Chief Judicial Magistrate / District & Sessions Judge and Board of Visitors during their visits.

This approach to grievance redressal will act as a safety valve against any possibility of sudden outbursts of suppressed grievances.



Industrial Breakthrough

An effort was made to revive and strengthen the Jail Industries and the revamping of the Manufactory Units across the Correctional Homes in West Bengal. These units manufacture a wide range of products starting from durries, duster, umbrellas, washing soap, blankets to iron kit box, cot, etc. The age old Ghani oil expellers at Presidency Correctional Home were made functional.



Bakery products were introduced at Alipore Women's Correctional Home, which is consumed by the inmates of different Correctional Homes. Candle making units are set up at various Homes like DumDum Central Correctional Home, Alipore Women's Correctional Home, Presidency Correctional Home, etc. Dumdum Central Correctional Home is leading the production of jute items under guidance of National Jute Board.



The Manufacturing Department is constantly striving to excel in the field of production of these items so that the finished products are of competitive quality and eligible to enter the competitive market.



The Government is giving emphasis on the endeavours of reformation and rehabilitation of inmates by bringing out their creativity and providing opportunities for reformation by utilizing their energy towards productivity.



Work is in progress in full swing in the Manufactory Department with lots of optimism and hope.

Contemporary Changes

A bunch of amendments contemporary to the present age has been made in the West Bengal Correctional Services Act, 1992 as a part of administrative reforms in Correctional Homes of the State:

Definition of "biometric" has been included;

Definition of "correctional home" has been elaborated with reference to CrPC, 1973;

Word and expressions not defined in the Act to be read as defined in IPC, 1860 or in CrPC, 1973;

The upper age limit for allowing a child accompanying his / her mother in correctional home has been extended from 'five years' to 'six years' in consonance with the directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;

'Provisions of lock-up timings of different types of Open Correctional Homes have been amended.

New Ventures



Since "Muri" is in the approved list of prisoners' diet in West Bengal Correctional Homes, and considering the huge consumption by all correctional homes, puffed rice (muri) making machines have been installed at four central correctional homes at Presidency, Dum Dum, Midnapore and Berhampore. In the second phase such machines will be installed at Jalpaiguri and Suri. These Correctional Home can supply "muri" to others after meeting their own requirement in due course.

A three-months course on basic training of manufacturing leather products have been organized by the Directorate at Presidency Correctional Home, Kolkata in association with Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI). 40 selected convicts from different correctional homes were imparted skill-training on making fancy leather bag, wallet, belt, cell phone cover etc. An exhibition of leather items produced by the trainees was organized at Presidency Correctional Home on 7th January, 2017.



Bakery has been introduced in vocational trade for inmates of Presidency and Alipore Women's Correctional Home. Both the units have been running in full swing. Initially a 3 months training course was organized for women by A.G. Church Vocational School and in later stage the expertise of Taj Bengal was invited. Apart from preparing bread for daily requirement, cookies, buns, garlic bread of varieties and of good qualities produced by the women inmates became very popular among the inmates, staff and visitors.

Though tailoring is a very common and basic trade in prisons throughout the country since long, its business oriented manifestation in respect of correctional homes is very rare. Keeping in view this aspect a group of selected inmates were imparted specialized training on stitching denim jeans trouser. The programme organized by the 'Asha Deep Trust of Apostolic Carmel' at Alipore Central Correctional Home has already found remarkable success. The 'Jeans from Jails' are now available at very considerable price.



The wide varieties of jute crafts as displayed in the picture shows the potentiality of the inmates of Dum Dum Central Correctional Home. A number of 25 inmates of Dum Dum Central Correctional Home were initially trained in crafts with golden fibre. Apart from the Correctional Home Depot at headquarters, these items are available in different fairs and exhibitions participated by the Directorate. Such skill development initiative would be taken in a few other Correctional Homes shortly.

Cut your coat if you have a dream :



Incarceration reduces a person to a mere number allotted to the convict as *kaidi number*. One has to leave everything and everyone at the huge Iron Gate while entering this world behind bars- Remains with him only his dreams to come out beyond the boundaries one day. This aspiration of freedom inspires the person to learn and adopt a new way of living. Longing for a life with family members keeps his desires alive.

To utilize this period of incarceration gainfully and moreover, to save lives from destruction due to depression, Government is launching new projects for the inmates time to time. The latest one is the joint venture initiative of a fashion apparel unit at Presidency Correctional Home by eminent fashion

designer Shri Avishek Dutta, the costume designer of several box-office hits including the National Award winning film AUTOGRAPH. His creations have clad cricket star Kapil Dev, film star Irfaan Khan and many more youth icons. Many inmates have seen his work on films and they were visibly excited to have Shri Dutta among them. Starting from kurta-pyjama and pallazo, the inmates are being trained at this workshop to cut Nehru-Jacket, dhoti-pants etc both traditional and trendy dresses. Popular actor Shri Parambrata graced the inauguration to enthuse the inmates. Shri Arun Kumar Gupta, IPS, DG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal congratulated Shri Avishek Dutta for taking up such a social step and wished all trainees a bright future in designing.



This is a pioneer project of this kind in India where top designer has associated himself with inmates to bring out fashion clothes. This initiative was appreciated in national media also.

Beyond the Boundaries

Readers, you may be aware of the 'Saheb Bandh', a huge water reservoir located in Purulia town and recently abandoned 'Jubilee Bridge', the railway bridge over the river Hooghly connecting Hooghly Ghat and Garifa. Both the structures were created in mid-19th century has the history of engaging convict labours of the nearby jails. Such working group of convict labours out of jails were known as "Extra Mural Gang". It was one of the several provisions codified by the British in Jail Manual for effective utilization of prison labour. In Latin, 'extra muros' means 'outside the walls', which is 'extra mural' in English. Such extramural gang of convicts used to work in adjoining jail garden, construction or renovation works undertaken by PWD, and as jail servants. However, today's prison personnel don't have any experience of allowing a prisoner of a closed institution to let work outside the prison premises, since utilization of this provision was seized in the mid 80's. The Government discontinued the usage of the provision mainly due to security concern and on the question of extension of services of Jail Servants. As a result the scopes of works became limited within the perimeter wall only. The jail gardens turned to barren land gradually.

With the drive to utilize the huge human resources incarcerated within the walls, a thought was given to restoration of services of extramural gang of convicts. The pilot project starts with Midnapore Central Correctional Home after 30 years. The convict members of extramural gang of Midnapore Central Correctional Home are now regularly striving for making a green ambience on the barren latterite. Engaging the extramural gang in renovation of adjoining buildings of Correctional Homes under PWD is expected to yield tangible success. Restoration of extramural services is surely a step towards the employability of the inmates of Correctional Homes of our State.





It is worth mentioning that the economy of our State is mainly based on agriculture and most of the people live in rural areas and are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. It is therefore, obvious that a substantial inmate population that comes from rural areas have agricultural background. Hence, it is important and logical that agriculture is given prominence in correctional home work programmes.

However, it was observed that though vegetable gardening are being attempted within the premises by some of the correctional home authorities, but most correctional homes have not paid attention to agriculture on available land.

It was felt that much more is needed to be done to promote agriculture on scientific lines in correctional homes of the State. Besides the wide range of kitchen gardening, cultivation of oil seeds are being encouraged. Trainings of inmates in organic farming by social organizations are being arranged at different locations.

Apart from the central and district correctional homes some of the subsidiary correctional homes are also attempting agriculture by the



willing under trial prisoners and thus achieved

several targets. Agriculture in correctional homes are being given due importance in more organized manner and a good number of prisoners found their vocations. Moreover, consumption of production in-house has lessened the burden on Government exchequer. A drive for production of mustard seeds was taken in correctional homes during last winter to meet the demand of mustard seeds as raw materials of oil mills in Correctional Home Industries and a remarkable result has been achieved.

Above all the green surrounding in correctional homes not only ensures good diet but also a healthy mind of inmates.



Allied Activities

While most of the correctional homes are going great in agriculture project, a few correctional home authorities demand a special mention for their exceptional success in agriculture and allied products. Berhampore Central Correctional Home has stunned with the productivity level in processed food like jam, pickles etc. Commendable performance of comparatively smaller sub correctional home like Haldia has set an example for others by arranging training of inmates in preparing of tomato sauce, jam, jelly etc.



Prison Art Festival, 2017

Art has been recognized as an effective medium of correction. Art offers an acceptable outlet for expressing feelings and emotions by an inmate. Keeping in view the socialization of inmates and to enhance the teamwork through a group project a number of art workshops are held through out the year. In such a programme named Prison Art Festival, 2017, held on 20 January, 2017 at Mohar Kunj, Kolkata 28 prisoners from different Correctional Homes participated in a day long art workshop along with the reputed main stream artists.



Something Different

It's a day of all difference.

The compound of Presidency Correctional Home is looking so bright!

Fancy leather items to designer sarees or bucket to bakery products - it's a galaxy of items to allure all eyes. Everybody is so busy putting up a stall to exhibit his own artisan quality.

Oh! It's a special day for all - Today is Presidency Utsav !!

They made it

It was a mistake - And they find themselves behind the bars. But their attitude never allows them to live a laid back life during incarceration. Their thrives for some constructive works - find a way to help others - fulfill their dreams - achieve little more.

The civil society honors their zeal to excel more while, otherwise, the whole world would have come to an end to them.

While Sanmarg Aparajita Award acknowledges performances of Smt Nandita Saha of Alipore Women's Correctional Home, this year on 8th March, the International Women's Day, efforts of Smt Anita Banerjee of Berhampore Central Correctional Home commanded attention and the jury board of 'Tinka Tinka Awards' has chosen her as this year's award recipient.

देशभर की आठ महिला कैदी तिनका तिनका बंदिनी अवार्ड के लिए नामित

सम्मन

जगन्नाथ संभवदास, नई दिल्ली : देश के विभिन्न जेलों में बंद आठ महिला कैदीयों को तिनका-तिनका बंदिनी अवार्ड 2017 के लिए चुना गया है। सर्मार्गसद की विद्यमानपुर जेल में बंद कल्पना रेखा पांडे को इस साल इस अवार्ड का पहला पुरस्कार प्राप्त हुआ है। पिछले 12 साल से जेल में बंद कल्पना ने अपने सपनों जेल के अंदर ही जेल की 14 महिलाओं को तिनका बंदिनी अवार्ड के लिए चुना है।

पुरस्कार को खादीरा जेल में आयोजित कार्यक्रम को सज्ज भूषण श्री सर्मार्गसद विद्यालय सुंदर मलिक (26) को बंदिनीयों को सर्मार्गसद का ज्ञान देने और उन्हें विभिन्न धनाना विद्यार्थी के लिए दूसरा पुरस्कार दिया गया है।

सर्वप्रथम बंगाल की केदारपुर कैदीयों कल्पना ने 14 साल से बंदी अमीता बनर्जी (48) को बंदिनीयों को सजा के लिए इस सम्मान के लिए चुना गया है। फ़र्मानपुर की विद्यमानपुर जेल में आयोजित कार्यक्रम को जेलन काट रही 33 वर्षीय बंदीना जैकब सखलाने उन्नी साहिन हुई। वह अपनी माँ संग जेल में आयोजित कार्यक्रम को सजा काट रही हैं। हिंदी और सर्मार्गसद में प्रकाशित



Coming Soon

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES FESTIVAL

AT RABINDRA SADAN , KOLKATA

7th June, 2017

Rabindra Sadan

- 3 pm : Inauguration
- 4 pm : Mahabritte (play)
- 6 pm : Balmiki Pratibha (dance drama)
- Open Air Stage
- 5 pm : Folk Song
- 6 pm : Mukta Beri (folk band)
- 7 pm : Chandalika

8th June, 2017

Rabindra Sadan

- 3:30 pm : Raktakarabi (play)
- 6 pm : Martial Art Dance (dance choreography)
- 7 pm : Padma Nadir Majhi (theatre)
- Open Air Stage
- 5 pm : Santhali Drama
- 6 pm : Chhow Dance
- 7:15 pm : Folk Song
- 8:15 pm : Cultural Programme



Grand Passing Out :

The 5th Batch of 19 Officers has successfully completed Basic Training in the history of Regional Institute of Correctional Administration at Dum Dum, Kolkata. Hon'ble Sri Abani Mohan Joardar, MIC, Deptt of Correctional Administration took salute through a grand Passing Out Parade of Officers on 30th January, 2017.



Annual Sports Meet :

The 58th Annual Sports Meet of Correctional Services was held this year at Dum Dum Central Correctional Home ground. Hon'ble Sri Saugata Ray, MP declared the Meet open on 4th February and Hon'ble Sri Abani Mohan Joardar, MIC, Deptt of Correctional Administration graced the closing ceremony on 5th February, 2017.

Glorious Trio

Following are the proud recipients of President's Correctional Services Medal for Meritorious Services on the occasion of Republic Day, 2017:



Sri Uttam Das
Chief Head Warden
Presidency CH



Sri Tajuddin Ahamed
Chief Head Warden
Burdwan Central CH



Sri Gopal Ch Biswas
Chief Head Warden
Midnapore Central CH

Press Corner :