



The

METAMORPHOSIS

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

Issue:26

From the Editor's Desk:

The prime objective of Prison Reforms is to put concerted effort to make incarceration more humane and habitable by all means; addressing all needs from physical to emotional. Recently, in a bunch of directives the Hon'ble Supreme Court has expressed its concern regarding inhuman conditions in 1382 prisons including overcrowding in jails throughout the country. We, in our State are constantly trying to address the issues with spontaneity.

Most of today's correctional homes inherit the age old colonial infrastructures. Moreover, most of them are presently localized at populous urban areas that come in the way of providing a healthy habitation including other facilities as well as ensuring security and safety. Hence, the immediate challenge faced by the administration is to relocate the sensitive correctional homes at the outskirts and creating new infrastructure with modern facilities.

In the first phase we have marked more than a century old Alipore Central Correctional Home and Presidency Correctional Home. Baruipur in the District of South 24-Parganas has come up as alternative to Alipore Central Correctional Home in record time. In the first move prisoners from Alipore are being shifted to Baruipur Central Correctional Home. We are hopeful to relocate Correctional Homes viz., Presidency, Howrah, Alipore women's at comparatively better facilities in the near future. A similar project is on way in Tamluk in the District of Purba Medinipur. Prisons Department of various States in India has also started exercising similar ventures. A peep into the history reveals that Kolkata jail was initially housed at Lalbazar. Later on it was shifted to Maidan area. Then the jail had to be shifted from Maidan to the Alipore address to provide space for Victoria Memorial. Hence, it can be said that such shifting is actually a traditional phenomenon in tune with the modifications in town planning. We have mentioned the euphoria associated with the opening of new Correctional Home while keeping our readers aware of the heritage of Alipore Central Jail in the current issue of Metamorphosis.

Bengal is a State of festival and festivities. The spirit reaches its peak during Durga Puja and the enthusiasm sails through Christmas and New Year celebrations. The melody of outer world reverberates within the four walls of Correctional Homes. Winter Carnivals organized during this period boost up the moral of the inmates and bridge the gap between the inner and outer world.

However, true satisfaction is derived from achieving one's self competence enough to run the family and becoming an active element in the civil society. In our latest endeavour to make our inmates self sufficient we have started state wide vocational training programme hand in hand with Department of Self Help Group & Self Employment. In this drive 24 different trades have been chosen for imparting training towards our inmates.



OCT - DEC, 2018

Arun Kumar Gupta
OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG, Correctional Services, WB



Certification of successful candidates at Alipore Central CH

In our endeavour to train our inmates in different vocational trades a massive education drive has been undertaken in different Correctional Homes of the State in association with West Bengal Swarojgar Corporation Ltd. (WBSCL), an undertaking of the Department of Self Help Group & Self Employment (SHG & SE), Government of West Bengal. It is a programme to train inmates of Correctional Homes across the State by

arranging much skill based training programmes on various trades, keeping the objective to develop skill & expertise of inmates. The WBSCL has sponsored this programme with the sole objective to train inmates of correctional homes to make them self-reliant. Inmates who are going to be trained through this programme, will get financial assistance after their release from correctional homes. As proposed by the WBSCL, released inmates will be linked with the flagship scheme - "Swami Vivekananda Swanirbhar Karmasanasthan Prakalpa (SVSKP)" to support them for self-employment.

Correctional Home	Name of the Trade	Training Agency
Alipurduar D CH	Ethnic Dress Making	Alipurduar Geographical Society
Cooch Behar D CH	Pisciculture	Dakshin Chandpur Child Development Mission
Darjeeling D CH	Floriculture	Hill Social Welfare Society
Jalpaiguri C CH	Food Processing	Chandannagar Ambitious Intelligent Master Mind Society
Raiganj D CH	Horticulture	North Bengal Art Academy
Balughat C CH	Basic Tailoring & Garment Making	Pranavananda Institute Of Management & Technology
Malda D CH	Food Processing	Maheshpur Welfare Society
Berhampore C CH	Kantha Stich	Samaj Kalyan Mahila Unnayan Kendra
Berhampore C CH	Zori Craft	Sarvik Vivekananda Gram Seva Sanstha
Krishna Nagar D CH	Agriculture	Virtual Global Education Ltd.
Dum Dum C CH	Carpentry	Ramkrishna Vivekananda Mission
Dum Dum C CH	General Duty Assistant / Bed Side Assistant	Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Matri Bhavan
Dum Dum C CH	Jute Craft	Enterprise Development Institute
Dum Dum C CH	Unarmed Security Guard	Brainware Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.
Dum Dum C CH	Food & Catering	Social Engineering And Advanced Technical Education (Senate)
Midnapore C CH	Sal Leaf Plate Making	Do
Dum Dum C CH	Handmade Soap Making	Inditech Software Wizard Pvt. Ltd
Presidency CH	Tailoring & Sewing Machine Operator	Narayanpur Mukti Sangha
Presidency CH	Plumbing	Garden Reach Bangla Basti Academic Dev. Society
Presidency CH	Incense Stick Making	Tangra Binapani Sevapeeth
Alipore C CH	Ornamental Candle Making	Lake Gardens Maa Sharada Welfare Society
Howrah D CH	Domestic Electrician	Samaritan Help Mission
Burdwan C CH	Basic Tailoring & Garment Making	Manindranath Banerjee Memorial Society
Burdwan C CH	Pisciculture	Ramkrishna Mission Samaj Sevak Sikshan Mandir
Suri D CH	Basic Tailoring & Garment Making	Suresh Amiya Memorial Trust



Jalpaiguri Central CH



Alipurduar District CH

"Prisons of stone and iron may hold the body for long and painful years in darkness, but they cannot shut out the light of truth from the truth-loving soul; they cannot destroy the peace of the dutiful spirit." Hubbard Winslow



New Chapter

Smt. Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal inaugurated the newly built Central Correctional Home at Baruipur in the District of South 24 Parganas from 'Nabanna' through remote control on 14th November, 2018. Sri Biman Bandopadhyay, Hon'ble Speaker of West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Sri Ujjal Biswas, Hon'ble MIC, Department of Correctional Administration and many other dignitaries were present at the inaugural programme at Baruipur Central Correctional Home.

The new Correctional Home has been constructed on 18 acres of land with modern facilities and provisions of enhanced securities to replace the age old Alipore Central Correctional Home situated in the midst of a populated city like Kolkata. The entire project was divided in two phases and construction started in February, 2017 on a war footing. The West Bengal Police Housing & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. was given the charge of implementation of the scheme and they in turn entrusted Mackintosh Burn Ltd., Kolkata with the task of construction.

In the first phase, three 3-storied buildings with wards for accommodating 850 inmates, one 2-storied hospital, two modern kitchens, separate dining halls for Convict and UTPs, modern multipurpose hall for welfare, recreational and vocational activities, staff quarters and barracks have been erected on 8.7 acres of land involving an amount of ₹70 Crores from Government exchequer and completed within a time frame of 20 months only.

In the second phase, capacity for 1350 more inmates will be built with other amenities on 9.3 acres of land at the same premises. It is expected to be completed by the end of current financial year at an estimated cost of ₹98 Crores. The entire cost of the project is being incurred from the State Budget only.

The functioning of Central Correctional Home at Baruipur would not only ease the production of prisoners to different Courts in the District of South 24-Parganas, the family members, relatives and friends may also find it little easier for interviews and communication for other purposes. Police personnel have also been deployed for creating extra layer of outer security of the new Correctional Home. In short, the project aims to create a modern correctional facility for the purpose of extending more humane and dignified treatment to its inmates with a well balance of strict security measures.

In our State, we are constantly thriving for making our Correctional Homes with more humane approaches for its inmates and to make optimum use of the large pool of human resources confined in it for fruitful purposes so that they can make a way for dignified means of rehabilitation and reintegration to the mainstream society. Some limitations on certain rights may, however, be necessary and legitimate to maintain security. However, these limitations and additional measures should never go as far as undermining the dignity and humanity of prisoners.





Memoire

Nullah with a capacity for 1481 prisoners in order to replace the old Presidency Jail at Calcutta Maidan, as the site was required for the erection of Victoria memorial Hall. At that time it was a modern up-to-date prison with modern improvements including electric lighting and a water-closet system. It was admirably designed and had only one defect, viz., the limited space available for its numerous buildings. Its industries were taken over from the old Presidency Jail. The chief industry was printing, some 800 convicts being employed daily in printing and binding the forms and registers required for Government offices in Bengal and Assam.

As the new jail is situated outside the limits of the Presidency town of Calcutta, the question of the jurisdiction of the High Court arose, and it was decided that its jurisdiction should be extended so as to include the road leading to, and the area occupied by the Old Jail at Alipore. Accordingly, by a notification issued in October, 1913, the Old Alipore Jail became the Presidency Jail of Calcutta, while the name of the new Central jail at Kalighat was changed to Alipore Central Jail.

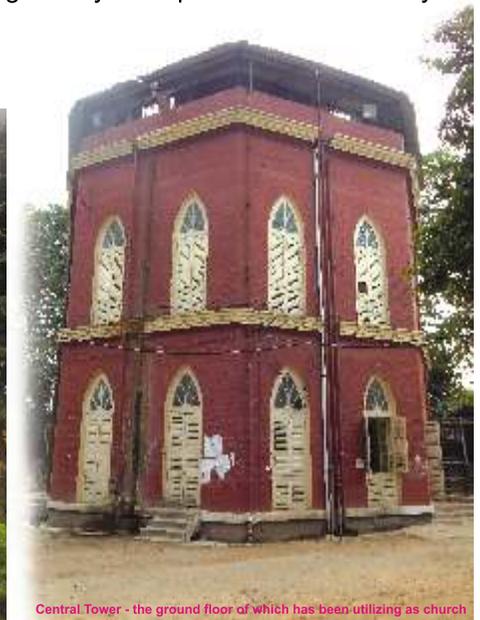
The capacity of this jail has been extended within its limited space over period of time. However, the demographic changes in the prisoners population and changing pattern of criminality have become continually challenging for the administration in the parameters of accommodation, reformation etc. With the changing crime graph a modification in the overall structure and facility had become inevitable. Owing to the metro-city, Alipore has been housed at Baruipur very recently. With Baruipur becoming operational full fledged, the history of Alipore will fade away with passing time leaving merely an impression in the history of prison discipline.

Situated on the banks of Tolly's Nullah close to the Kalighat bridge at Alipore on Judges Court Road, Alipore Central Correctional Home is widely known for having lodged renowned personalities of the freedom movement in the pre-independence era. The imposing red brick building which is visible from outside the large iron gates is a testimony to the majesty of colonial architecture. The beautiful main building of the correctional home stands tall, towering over the sturdy cement walls.

In 1906, the New Central Jail was constructed on the banks of Tolly's



The Hospital Building - Referral Jail Hospital for the State



Central Tower - the ground floor of which has been utilizing as church



Nehru Bhavan

Netaji Bhavan

Heritage Buildings :

Netaji Bhavan : A beautiful two-storied red brick cell block (No. W & B 12) within the premises is preserved in deference to the sacred memory of the nation's heroes. It is now known as 'Netaji Bhavan'. Several great heroes of India's freedom movement including Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Deshapriya Jatindra Mohan Sengupta and Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy were incarcerated in the cells of this two storied building at different spell.

Nehru Bhavan : The first Prime Minister of India Sri Jawaharlal Nehru was incarcerated in a cell of this building (PWD 11/1) from 17.02.1934 to 07.05.1934 by the British Government. This single storey building consisting of 4 cells is now known as 'Nehru Bhavan' and has been preserved with due care.



Subhas Ch. Bose : 23.01.1930 to 23.09.1930



Jatindra Mohan Sengupta : 22.10.32 to 05.06.33



Chittaranjan Das : 14.02.1922 to 09.08.1922

Dr. B.C.Roy : 05.09.30 to 16.01.31



Jawaharlal Nehru : 17.02.1934 to 07.05.1934

Martyrs Executed at Alipore Jail :

- Promodranjan Chowdhury** : Executed on 28.09.1926
- Anantahari Mitra** : Executed on 28.09.1926
- Dinesh Gupta** : Executed on 07.07.1931
- Ramkrishna Biswas** : Executed on 04.08.1931
- Dinesh Mazumdar** : Executed on 09.06.1934

Freedom Fighters Died at Alipore Jail :

- Radhacharan Paul** : 1914
- Asidhari Ghosh** : 1944
- Ambika Charan Basu** : 1931
- Phanindralal Nandi** : 1937

Execution in post-independence period:

15 execution took place at Alipore Central Jail in post-independence Period.
Last execution held on 14.08.2004.



Execution Ground



A Condemn Cell



Martyrs Column



Hon'ble MIC and other dignitaries in the inauguration



Performance by Raghav Chatterjee

The much awaited Correctional Home Winter Carnival was held on 22-23 December, 2018 in the Presidency Correctional Home premises at Alipore keeping afloat the spirit of the ongoing correctional measures. Sri Ujjal Biswas, Hon'ble MIC of the Department inaugurated the carnival in presence of other officials and dignitaries. Participation of the inmates of Presidency, Dum Dum, Burdwan, Alipore Women's as well as the staff members and their families also made the event a grand one. Participation of eminent singer Raghav Chattopadhyay put an added flavor to the show. Stalls were put by inmates from all over the State Correctional Homes for exhibition and sell of their products like puffed rice, mustard oil, bakery items, jute products, LED lamp, garments, candle, phenyl etc. However, the food stall run by prisoners' self help group, 'Anurag' canteen was the centre of attraction.

A solar run kiosk for selling jail products to outsiders was also inaugurated by the Hon'ble MIC during this occasion at Presidency Correctional Home.

The zest and zeal exhibited by an enthusiastic crowd of visitors and participants made the Winter Carnival 2018 a memorable one.



Participation of women inmates



Participation of the Directorate



Participation of inmates



Participation of inmates

At Alipore Women's CH

Alipore Women's chapter of winter carnival was vibrant with the glamorous presence of Tollywood actress Tanusree. The inmates got overwhelmed in joy to get the glam girl of silver screen among themselves. She was also found enthusiastic and full of energy taking rounds of nursery to parlour via kitchen and workshops. Both were engrossed in conversation sharing the minute details of everyday life in captivity. Time flew by. The visit left a memorable and encouraging impression in the minds of the inmates.



At Dum Dum Central CH



Dum Dum Central Correctional Home tops the list of all State Correctional Homes on the scale of prison population. In tune with its huge human resources, Dum Dum arranged a gala show during winter carnival. The highest earning SHG of all correctional homes is also at Dum Dum which put up various food stalls and counters for other articles including jail products. The major attraction of the cultural fest was a show hosted by Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown in association with Ms. Ritika Sahni of TRINAYANI. An orchestral presentation by visually impaired singers and musicians mesmerised the audience. A ladies cricket tournament as a part of carnival also added a splash of colours to the entire celebration.





The huge success of Indian cricket team in the arena of International Ladies Cricket has enthused all. Our female inmates have also got a platform to show the sport-spirit in the one day ladies cricket tournament organized at Dum Dum Central Correctional Home. The spontaneity of participation elevated the tournament to a level of mental satisfaction beyond a mere cricket match.

FACES



Modesty has its own essence. It can be heard louder than the loudest shrills. If you are shocked to read this; you will be more surprised to notice a humble soul, indifferent to the incidents surrounding - Ashim Chakraborty an inmate of Alipore Central Correctional Home. A man in his sixties, is most popularly known as 'Ashim Master' among his co-inmates and staff. Though born in Krishnanagar, Nadia, Sri Chakraborty's grooming was done in the steel-city Durgapur, his father's work place. He completed his Bachelor's in Commerce from a reputed college at Raniganj in 1983. But he had to take a job in a private concern immediately after sudden demise of his father to run the family. Later he was employed in Durgapur Steel Plant where his father used to work. He got married in 1992. According to him, life was smooth sailing so far for the Chakraborty family till Ashim's wife committed suicide after a tussle over losing a gold earring. Such action over a trifling matter shattered lives of all. Both his mother and himself were taken to the jails.

Ever happy, undemanding, straight and simple Chakraborty struggled hard to meet this twist of destiny. He turned more quiet and introvert. His soft and submissive attitude grabbed the attention of the prison authorities too. He devoted his hours

of incarceration in teaching his fellow inmates. Gradually he became 'Ashim Master' a favourite to all in the premises.

Ashim has many sorrows. Many unanswered questions whirl around in his mind. But his lips wouldn't let you know even a bit of those. His integrity, uncomplaining nature and sense of responsibility have upgraded him as the most important tool for implementation of prisons management successfully. His life in jail is an example to all in captivity.