



The

METAMORPHOSIS

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

Issue:27

From the Editor's Desk:

The newsletter for the first quarter of this year could not be published due to enactment of Model Code of Conduct for 17th General Parliamentary election. In this issue we have covered our ventures and achievements made during last six months. While the whole country has participated in this election, once more the folk within the four walls of prisons remained deprived from the opportunity of participation in the biggest show of the democracy. This is surely a matter for concern. Whatsoever, we are constantly putting our best effort to make the term of incarceration of each individual bearable and gainful by adopting various schemes and projects.

In the New Year, implementation of the project 'Aloshree' was our newest venture by utilizing solar energy as parallel source of energy in the Correctional Home. Jhargram Special Correctional Home was selected for the pilot project of 'Aloshree' in association with West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency. Roof top of barracks of the Correctional Home were installed with solar panels for illumination. The successful functioning of the system has inspired us to replicate the project in other Correctional Homes too.

Dum Dum Central Correctional Home was selected for another pilot project, where all data of incarceration has been made available to an inmate at his finger tip. Information Kiosk has been installed at Dum Dum Central Correctional Home. Success of the demonstration has enthused us for replicating this facility to other Correctional Homes.

You must be knowing that canteens are run by the inmates in several Correctional Homes. In our plan to enhance the culinary expertise of the inmates engaged in such canteens a training course in collaboration with eminent chefs from famous hotel of the city has been arranged. Similarly, for upgrading the mental ability of the inactive inmates, we have received support of Kolkata Chess Association. On the onset of Bengali New Year, we have initiated chess training for inmates at Presidency Correctional Home. We wish to propagate the training module to few other Correctional Homes since it can be an effective tool in correctional programme to instill reasoning by minimizing boredom.

Culture Therapy is sailing smooth through the ups and downs of the lives of people in captivity. Remote Correctional Homes are also coming up following the trend set by Kolkata Correctional Homes. Inmates celebrate English and Bengali New Year's Day, Saraswati Puja, Eid festival to mark the end of Ramadan month etc. inside Correctional Homes and to participate wholehearted irrespective of caste, sect and religion etc. It is a good example of unity in diversity for the civil society.

In our last issue we presented brief history of century old Alipore Central Jail for the readers. This heritage has already been vacated and inmates have been shifted elsewhere. But still one unit is running within the premises of Alipore central Jail which is even older than the century old Jail itself namely the Alipore Central Jail Press. We have tried to capture a pictorial document of this organization which for years is supplying various types of forms to different Government Departments. Hope it will be informative enough to raise your interest level.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its directives has precisely mentioned importance of training of Prison Officials. We upgraded our training modules in continuum and in resonance with the directives. Commanding role of RICA demands strong appreciation in this field.

Arun Kumar Gupta

OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG, Correctional Services, WB



Officers taking oath

JAN - JUNE, 2019



The Pr. Secretary inspecting the contingent



Trainees at Shooting Range

Professional Capacity Building

Training is important so that Correctional Services staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and attitude to perform their duties well and with respect for the rights and dignity of prisoners. Work in Correctional Homes is complex and requires a variety of skills. Hence, training must be dynamic and should discuss issues that are extremely important to correctional staff. Knowledge keeps us safe; knowledge keeps us skilled.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has also emphasized on training of prison officials while dealing with the suo-motu writ petition in Re-Inhuman conditions of 1382 Prisons in India.

Amongst all courses the institutional basic training is said to be the foundation of a Correctional Officer which is carefully designed by the Regional Institute of Correctional Administration, Dum Dum and the freshers are being imparted with basic training on several disciplines related to prison or correctional administration.

Two successive Basic Training Courses for Correctional Services officials were organized by the RICA this year which ended up with the gorgeous joint Passing-Out-Parade on 7th May, 2019 in the gracious presence of Sri. Sanjay Mukherjee, IPS, Principal Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration, Govt. of West Bengal. Six officers from West Bengal Correctional Services and eight officers from Manipur Prisons attended the 7th batch of basic course whereas, in the 8th batch fifteen newly promoted officers in the rank of Assistant Controller participated.

The course included various indoor training sessions which are related to criminal justice system, regular office procedures, prison management, provisions of Act and Rules, law, sociology, criminology, victimology, penology, integrated financial management system and related Financial Rules, e-Prison Suite etc. The outdoor course comprised of parade, arms drill, unarmed combat, physical fitness training, yoga etc. Visits to different institutions related to criminal justice system like Police Station, Court, Correctional Home, Juvenile Home were also included in the programme.

The Trainees were awarded with certificates of successfully completion of Basic Training. A Book "Prison: Insight and Innovation" based on project reports of the trainee officers was published by RICA during the occasion.

Infrastructural Capacity Building

The erstwhile Subsidiary Correctional Home at Jhargram was upgraded to a Special Correctional Home in 2016. Besides administrative up-gradation, the infrastructural up-gradation was also our point of concern. In commensurate with the administrative up-gradation, the guarding staff strength has also been augmented considering higher capacity and enhanced security. Apart from the guarding staff a number of Police personnel are also deployed for ensuring outside perimeter security. Hence, there was a demand of Warders' Barrack. A two storied Warders' barrack with a capacity of 50 heads was therefore, constructed, which was inaugurated by Sri Ujjal Biswas, Hon'ble MIC of the Department on 31.01.19.



New Warders' Barrack



Hon'ble MIC inaugurating the project



Rooftop Solar Panel

Project - Aloshree

The flagship programme of the Government of West Bengal, "Aloshree", to install Grid connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic system (GRTSPV), has been gaining its importance day by day for the effective use of the unused area of the rooftops for the production of environmentally clean energy, thus saving electricity and diesel. Effective use of unused rooftop area, generation of environmentally clean energy, opportunity for consumers to become the generators of their own electricity, saving of electricity bill, reduction in diesel consumption, feeding of excess power to the GRID system are some of the advantages of this programme.

This programme had been undertaken in correctional homes in collaboration with the West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA), selected as the nodal agency for implementation of this project, which is under the control of the Department of Power & Non-Conventional Energy Sources, West Bengal. A solar power installation under such programme has been successfully commissioned at the Jhargram Special Correctional Home facility on 31st January, 2019 in presence of Sri Ujjal Biswas, Hon'ble MIC, Deptt. of Correctional Administration, Govt. of West Bengal and other senior officials.

Info - Kiosk

West Bengal is one of the pioneer States to implement e-Prison Suite in all Correctional Homes across the State. Recently, a major step has been taken by the State Government to establish **Info-Kiosk** based information System at Dum Dum Central Correctional Home, Kolkata on a pilot basis. This project is a part of e-Prison Suites which has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).

At present inmates are required to collect their information from the Correctional Home Offices only. The Info-KIOSK will be installed inside the Correctional Home for easy access to the inmates. Through biometric finger print authentication system an inmate will be able to access all his data relating to his detention in Correctional Home. The inmate will also be able to apply for parole and lodge complaint if any, through this info-KIOSK.

The first demonstration of the project at Dum Dum Central CH was witnessed by Sri Ujjal Biswas, Hon'ble MIC, Department of Correctional Administration, Govt. of West Bengal on 12 February, 2019.



Hon'ble MIC inaugurating the kiosk



Info-Kiosk



Jail Press

In various printed forms used by Government offices throughout the State a tiny endorsement at the bottom of the form may come to your notice.

It is 'ACJP' - the Alipore Central Jail Press, which is located inside the erstwhile Alipore Central Jail and is still functioning to cater to several Government Offices with huge amount of printed forms.

In search of its history of origin we have to wind back to the troubled time of sepoy mutiny. Till 1857 the chief view of the administration concerning the labour in jails was penal and utilitarian; the convicts were deemed to be the worst characters and therefore only rigorous work was allotted for them and as a mode of payment for their sustenance in the jails. But Dr. Mouat, the newly appointed Inspector General of the Prisons of Bengal Provinces thought otherwise after visiting a Jail Exhibition at Bareilly in 1857. He planned to introduce a print industry in Bengal Jail to print its own circulars and thus making the jails a profit-making organization for the State.

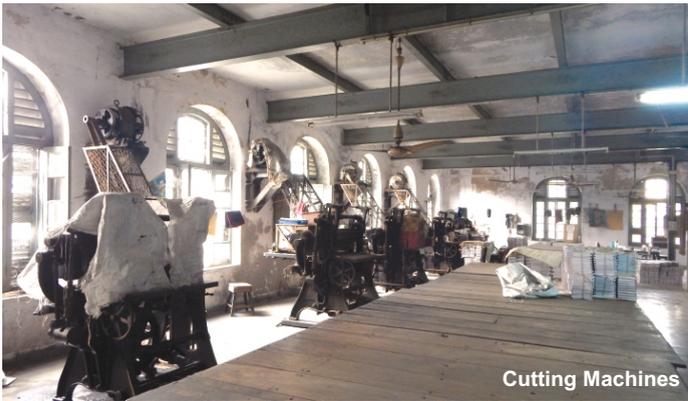
After a year, the press was formed in order to decrease the expense and delay incurred in printing and lithographing circulars, forms, etc. for the Jail Department. After successful and efficient performance of the small experiment, Dr. Mouat proposed to extend it with the object of establishing a complete printing and lithographic establishment at Alipore. But the proposal was opposed by some men in the Government who thought that the occupation would be too light for the convicts. At this juncture the Government decided to extend only the typographic department from the Government Gazette Press after ratifying Dr. Mouat's proposal. The printing of all Bengal forms was, for the first time, undertaken by the Jail Department since 1st July, 1858. However, till his retirement in 1870, Dr. Mouat had to strive over functioning of press. A notable change was made on the recommendation of a Committee of 1869 to transfer the Forms store from the stationary office to Alipore Jail and in 1876 it was reverted to its original location. The setback of the press affected the Government acutely and it soon sought to transfer the entire press to the then Presidency Jail at Maidan. It thus become possible to transfer the greater part of printing apparatus from the Secretariat Press and to create opportunity for employment of 600 to 700 prisoners in all branches of printing and book-binding.



Old Type & Foundry Section



Offset Machines with allied accessories



Cutting Machines



Press Building

In 1906, a special committee decided to amalgamate the forms department with the Press Section under a common Press and Forms manager. Two committees in 1908 and 1909 sat to decide the work schedule of jail Press and Secretariat Press. On 6 April 1908, Mr. John Grey, the first Press and Forms Manager took over the charge of Jail Press. On 30 Oct 1913, the old Presidency jail at maidan was closed and the old Alipore Jail became the Presidency Jail. At that time the new Alipore Jail (later known as Alipore Central Jail) made its advent. A small book-binding unit was opened there from which the existing press gradually sprung up.

The total system of Press is based on services of different long-term convicts and a few paid hand staff. The main function is to print and supply 8000 types of different forms (general and revenue earning) to different Departments of Government. Apart from printing etc. its purpose is to train up the convicts in this trade. In 1865, the Press employed 269 prisoners and annual earning was of Rs. 2,20,643. The Press by 1915-16 was replete with every modern machinery and employed 900 convicts.

Earlier this Press maintained high speed Rotary machine and Flat bed Printing Machines. With the purchase of three HMT automatic machines in 1985 and 1988 the printing process has been improved a lot. Since 1994 onwards the Press and Forms had undergone modernization process and by this time sheet fed off-set, camera, plate making apparatus and a few other modern accessories were procured. Later on web-offset and DTP machines have also been introduced.

However, there are some limitations of this 160 years old Press Department. Only single colour printing job for Government departments is performed by Press & Forms. The Press should be equipped with latest and faster machines and accessories to do this job cheaper and better. Outside works can also be invited to make the press unit profitable. Suitable amendment in manual is required to that effect. A total revamp of the Press & Forms Department is therefore required to cross the hurdles. Attitudinal uplift is of immense importance along with choosing the apt technology and imparting matching training to the staff and inmates for achieving the goal.

At this juncture, the Alipore Central Jail has been closed and shifted to Baruipur. The age old Press is facing another shift from its present location. The present challenge is to develop Jail Press into a profitable organization and utilize the facility for effective and gainful employment of convicts in its new location.



Convict working in Press



Press Building



Chamber of Manager, Press & Forms



Drawing Competition for inmates of Alipore WCH



Music Band of Dum Dum CCH

Dum Dum Central Correctional Home has remained a regular in the arena of such therapy since inception of correctional activities. In its latest endeavour it has formed its own musical band '**DomDoma Dol**' comprising of 23 inmates of different backgrounds. The first in house performance of this troupe was held on 2nd April, 2019. Devotion for music and unexpressed emotion has elevated each prisoner beyond the grief of incarceration.

Organizing various cultural programmes round the year and participation of inmates of Alipore Women's Correctional Home is a regular phenomenon. Their programme for International Women's Day this year was remarkably colourful. On the occasion of Sarswati Puja, the women inmates also participated in a drawing competition on the theme '**Patriotism**' organized under guidance of social activist Smt. Madhabilata Amrita Mitra. Thirty two inmates including two Nigerian prisoners participated in it. The prizes were also sponsored by Smt. Mitra. But the most vibrant presence in the arena of culture therapy is marked by Balurghat Central Correctional Home. Under the training and direction of danseuse Tapasi Biswas, public performance of famous '**Bhusundir Mathe**' has been highly praised by the civil society audience. We are waiting for more marvels from the inmates of Balurghat Central Correctional Home.

Every component of fine arts including music, dance, theatre, painting etc. have proven to be an effective tool for correctional measures. If used judiciously, it can yield effective improvement among the users. The therapeutic benefits of such components are immense. Keeping this in mind, in line with traditional culture therapy, inmates are being trained by professionals from different fields since long. Those who practice regularly, have not only felt the power of it, but have become an artist in their souls.

সমাজের মূলশ্রোতে ফেরাতে সংশোধনগারে হাতিয়ার নাটক

নিরস্ত্র প্রতিবেদন, বালুরঘাট: সদিচ্ছা থাকলে যে একে কঠিন কাজও সহজই করা যায় আবারও তার প্রমাণ দিল বালুরঘাট সংশোধনগারের বন্দীরা। অতীতের ভ্রষ্টাচারের অন্যতম সন্তোষনাপাথর। আর সে পথেই যে এগিয়ে চলেতে বন্দীরা তার প্রমাণ মিলল সংস্কৃতির শহর বালুরঘাটের নাট্যশিল্পের মাঝে। এখানে আয়োজিত সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠানে 'ভূমিত্তির মার্চ' নাটকটি মঞ্চর করে সর্বশেষের মত জয় করে নিল বন্দীরা। সুযোগ পেলে যে আর পাঠটা সাধারণ শিল্পীদের মতো তারাও নিরস্ত্র অভিনয়ের মাধ্যমে মঞ্চ জগিয়েছে পড়ে, রবিবার তার সাক্ষী হয়ে রইলেন সংস্কৃতির শহরের মানুষজন।

কেউ বালুরঘাট কেউ বা আঙ্গিক সময়ে অন্য সাক্ষাৎকারে বন্দী। কারও বাড়ি এদেশেই, কেউ আবার বাহ্যেই সংশোধনগারে। এরা কেউই প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত না পেশাগত শিল্পী নয়। আসে কখনও কখনও সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠানেও অঙ্গ নেয়নি। সংশোধনগারের কর্তৃপক্ষের



'ভূমিত্তির মার্চ' নাটকের অভিনয়ে বন্দীরা।

বালুরঘাট

প্রচেষ্টা আর অতীতের ভুল গুণের নিজেদেরকে সমাজের মূলশ্রোতে ফেরানোর আশিষ। দুইয়ের বিমানে ১৮ জনের সবচেয়ে আঁত শিল্পী। যার অভিনয়মূল্য খটম বালুরঘাটের নাট্যশিল্পে। বিশিষ্ট মুখ্য শিল্পী তথা সমাজসেবী তামসী বিশ্বাস মারে ১৫ দিনের নিয়োগের বন্দী আবাসিকদের 'ভূমিত্তির মার্চ' নাটকের বিভিন্ন চরিত্রে কুশীলবে করে বুলালেন। রবিবার বালুরঘাটের মার্চশিল্পী মঞ্চ বালুরঘাটের বন্দীরা 'ভূমিত্তির মার্চ' নাটকটি অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। 'ভূমিত্তির মার্চ', নাটকটির অভিনয়ে ছিলেন জিতেন রায়, পঞ্চপলাশ দত্ত, বৃষ্টি মজল, অমল বর্মণ, স্ট্যান কার্নি, জাহাঙ্গীর বিক্রমসিং, জয় সঙ্গর, শর্মিষ্ঠা মল্লিক, পুষ্টি মহন্তের মতো ১৮ জন শিল্পী। এরা সবকয়েকই সংশোধনগারের বন্দী আবাসিক। বন্দী আবাসিক শিল্পী পঞ্চপলাশ দত্ত এদিন নাটক শেষে জানিয়েছেন, তিনি আগে কখনোই অভিনয় হো বুরহান, নাগরনাও শেখর সুযোগ পাননি।

সংশোধনগারের ভেতরেই তামসী বিশ্বাসের আঁতের অভিনয় ও শিল্পের পরিচয় শিল্পী করে বুলালেন। মঞ্চর হাজার আঁতের নাটকটি নিয়ে কৃত করে ছিলেন তারা। কিন্তু এদিন অনুষ্ঠান শেষে পঞ্চপলাশ উল্লেখ ও প্রশংসা পেয়ে তারা আনন্দে। তারা শেষ করে তারা প্রত্যেকেই সাধারণ জীবনে যিরে যিরে নিজেদের ভেতরের এই বিশিষ্টস্বভাবকে অধিকার নিয়ে গেলেন। এটিকে পঞ্চপলাশ আগে বিস্ময়কর বলে পরিচিত বিশিষ্ট মুখ্যশিল্পী তামসী বিশ্বাস বলেন, 'একইই প্রথম না, বালুরঘাট কেন্দ্রীয় সংশোধনগারের সাক্ষাৎকারে আবাসিকরা উত্তরবন উসসেবে "মাঠ" নামক সাক্ষাৎকারে পরিচয় করে সর্বশেষ প্রশংসা বুড়িয়েছিল। এভাবেই নাটক অভিনয় করার কথা বললে এক বাবেই সকলে রাগি হয়ে যান। খুব ভালো লাগতে যে মারে ১৫ দিনের মতো হয়ে যান। ১৮ জন বন্দী আবাসিক নাটকটি সফলভাবে মঞ্চস্থ করতেছে।' সাংস্কৃতিক আবাসিকদের এদিন অভিনয়ের কথা জেনে কুশীল জানিয়েছেন জেলের মানুষের।

CAPABILITY



Bhusundir Mathe - Theatre by inmates of Balurghat CCH



Check Mate

Prisoners are diverse group with diverse needs. The sports and games offered in correctional homes also therefore, need to be diverse. The 'meaningful activity' in correctional homes should constitute physically active as well as less active team and individual sports and games. Some less popular sports and games have a positive impact in prison setting, particularly for those who are otherwise sedentary or simply reluctant to engage. Chess is such an indoor game which is affordable and claimed to help developing self control, reasoning and planning capacity and capability of an individual. Also, involvement of logical decisions helps to prevent dementia. Practice of chess has direct effect on reducing recurrence of committing offences while helping in improving mental and physical health. Training in chess may help in enhancing analytical power and decision making ability. Keeping this in view a Chess Training Camp has been inaugurated at Presidency Correctional Home with the advent of Bengali New Year. In this venture our civil society partner is Kolkata District Chess Association who agreed to provide with chess trainers. Permission has also been accorded for training of prisoners of Jalpaiguri Central Correctional Home and women inmates at Alipore Women's Correctional Home.



Inauguration of Chess Club



With a passion for bringing the best to the inmate-customers of canteen, Sweets of Bengal has begun its new journey at Presidency Correctional Home. The launching ceremony, which was nothing short of grand, occurred on 14 April, 2019. The art of preparing Bengali mishti in the canteen has been introduced as a part of corporate social responsibility by Taj Bengal.

Sweetmeat



REDMI NOTE 6 PRO
MI DUAL CAMERA



FACES



The Ravas are a marginalized tribal community among the Mongoloid units who entered North Bengal long ago. It is claimed that they had been settled at the rim of the forests of Dooars in 1915 by Raj officials. Their task was to clear the wild growth and plant trees valuable to the timber business. In return, the settlers were allowed access to forest produce and given limited land rights based on an agreement with the Forest Department. Gradually the laws related to forest became stringent. Distrust and conflict also crept in relation between the Ravas and foresters. Cultivation is the main source of the Rava's livelihood. So was Sanjay Rava's profession, the 'face' of this issue. Poverty compelled him to end up with his studies at eighth standard. Besides the farm-work he would assist the Forest Department in tasks of new plantation etc. But dispute rose with the issue of collecting woods from jungle for fuel. It was astonishing that the forest which was actually second mother of Sanjay, where he grew up from his childhood, he became a threat to the Jungle! Leaving the care of mother-nature one day Sanjay Rava landed up in Correctional Home under charge of poaching Rhino. A rhino horn and fire arms were seized from his house by the foresters, though Sanjay still claimed his innocence. Once committed to Alipurduar

District Correctional Home, Sanjay started deciphering his emotions for forest from his mind to canvas. The Jailor continued replenishing colours and canvases for Sanjay. He continues painting the forest in master strokes. Such minute and natural paintings, probably is possible only by a son of mother nature like Sanjay Rava, a person without any formal painting training and education. Sanjay hopes to return and devote time in nurturing mother nature for rest of his life. He wants to be lost in the forest and find his dreams. He wishes he could again pull his guitar and string with the tune of murmurs and chirps of mother nature.

Editor : Sri Arun Kumar Gupta, OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG of Correctional Services, WB
 Managing Editor : Sri Subir Ghosh, WBCS (Exe), Addl. IG (HQ) of Correctional Services, WB
 Published by : Directorate of Correctional Services, W B,
 Jessop Building, 63, N.S.Road, Kolkata -700001, Ph. 033-22625824
 Design & Printing : Uttarpara Computer Centre, Ph. : 9830914655