



The

METAMORPHOSIS

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

Issue:24

From the Editor's Desk:

Power said the world, "You are mine." The world kept it prisoner on its throne. Love said to the world, "I am thine." The world gave it the freedom of her house.

..... Rabindranath Tagore

We all are prisoners of our own self. We are either a captive of the desire or of the power itself. In our thrive to master the power we often become a slave of it unknowingly. Conquering a mind with power is always accompanied by a sense of fear- the fear of losing. But winning with love ? It gives a feeling of liberation. Liberty of spirit and soul - Liberation from the prison of power. Liberation is the pinnacle of our expectations. Liberation of mind and soul rules our dreams. Rabindranath had taught us to visualize liberation. He had chiseled out our plight for liberation from our inner selves and the Bengalees learnt to convert their dreams into reality.

Rabindranath has remained an all time great and popular figure beyond the barriers of land and languages. Also beyond the boundary of ages. Whether as a tiny tot or a youth, or a child or his mother, whether within the four walls of a prison or the society beyond - Tagore has something suitable for all. We all can find his creations apt for each occasion of our lives even in our Correctional Homes.

This issue of Metamorphosis is our humble tribute to Rabindranath Tagore. From this issue we have introduced a new feature on the evolution of prison administration and reforms in our newsletter. In this effort our first topic is Jail Depot. Hope you like it.

Arun Kumar Gupta

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



Our Principal Secretary



Shri Sanjoy Mukherjee stood fifth in All India in the IPS batch of 1989. He worked for four years as SP of CBI. His five years in Kolkata Police culminated with Deputy Commissioner (Head Quarters).

He then worked for 3 ½ years as DIG and Special IG of CID. He was subsequently posted as the last IG of undivided South Bengal Zone. After completing 2 ½ years there, he joined as the first Police Commissioner of Barrackpore Police Commissionerate.

His tenure of 2 ½ years as Director General of West Bengal Fire and Emergency Services witnessed an increase in efficiency and transparency. He then joined the Directorate of Security, subsequently becoming Chief of CID.

He completed his MBA from IIM Calcutta in 1988. He is on the Board of Governors of IIM Calcutta, in his personal capacity.

He was awarded the President's Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2005, President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2015 and Chief Minister's Police Medal for Outstanding Service in 2016.

He joined as Principal Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration on 12/06/2018.



Once Rabindranath penned his protest against the oppression by the British Rulers on inmates in Jails during independence movement. Time has changed. Prisoners today are remembering Rabindranath Tagore through his songs, poetry, drama etc. While some of them tried their hands on canvas by painting portraits, a few others showcased Tagore's creation through choreography and other art forms. The bouquet of performances in all Correctional Homes all over the State on Rabindra Jayanti was a spectacular one. This event brought together officers and inmates on the same stage.



Riddhi Bandopadhyay is an eminent singer who dwells at ease in all quarters of Bangla Gaan. Smt. Bandopadhyay is well aware of our mission of correction through culture therapy too. Performance by Riddhi Bandopadhyay at Rabindra Jayanti celebration by the folk of Alipore Women's Correctional Home added grace to the occasion.

West Bengal has remained a harbor of mixed culture from time unknown. In our establishment, we practice the same. Bengali New Year started with popular notes by Indo-Brazilian globe trotter Carlyta Mouhini Maria. Carlyta is popularly called as *Senorita* by her fans worldwide, after her mesmerising performance of famous number "*Senorita....*" in popular movie *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*. Performance by Carlyta has added enthusiasm to the daily chores in lives of women inmates of Alipore.





A full-fledged workshop by leading shirt maker 'TURTLE' has been set up at the Manufactory Department of Presidency Correctional Home comprising of 12 sewing machines, 5 handlooms and 2 weaving machines.

50 inmates who have working knowledge in weaving, cutting and stitching are selected for the first phase training programme. Sri Ujjal Biswas, Hon'ble MIC of Department of Correctional Administration inaugurated the unit on 29 June, 2018. Inmates will be trained in all steps of production - from spinning the yarn till weaving the cotton and making shirts in this Unit. Shri Sanjay Jhunhunwala, owner, Turtle Apparels hopes that on completion of the hands-on-training programme this group will be able to finish 120 pure handloom cotton shirts a day.

We wish our inmates to grow into shirt makers under the guidance and supervision of 'Turtle' apparels.

Tagged with Brands

The Directorate of Correctional Services, West Bengal in collaboration with the West Bengal State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society Ltd. (TANTUJA), has initiated a project on commercial production of value added handloom fabrics at Dum Dum Central Correctional Home. This project runs with the aid of Dobby m/c & extra Weft Buta mechanism.

The Department has sanctioned Rs. 7,00,000/- for procurement of machineries and equipments, and an amount of Rs. 1,42,500 /- towards the cost of training programme of inmates.

The hands on training of inmates by TANTUJA is going on and the production is on full swing. Produces will be marketed by the TANTUJA under its brand.





Caring Hands:

In an initiative to create employment opportunities for female inmates a project of making sanitary napkins has been taken up at Jalpaiguri Central Correctional Home. The produce is mainly aimed for supply to schools covered under the “Kanyashree” scheme of the State Govt. with help of the District Administration. Besides employment generation, this project will also create awareness on better hygienic practices amongst marginalised and underprivileged families. Considering the social aspect of this project the Directorate of Correctional Services has set up a production unit at Jalpaiguri Central Correctional Home.

Postal Bag Production:

Water resistant canvas cotton bag, usually of large size are used by the India Post specifically for despatching bulk quantity of confidential packets and parcels. Such canvas bags are now being manufactured at Presidency Correctional Home. Such bags are essential to despatch confidential documents to different places or examination centres with the service of the Postal Department.

Recently, an order has been received from the WB Police Recruitment Board. The bags are secured with double interlock stitches as per SOP set by Postal Department.

In this connection, we have also approached different Service Commissions like PSC etc who often hold recruitments and require similar canvas bags. It will ensure savings of a huge amount of Government money.

It is mention-worthy that emphasis has been given on reforms and rehabilitation of inmates by engaging them in productive work thereby ensuring their livelihood.



Capacity Building

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has given a set of directives in WP (Civil) No. 406 of 2013 (Re-Inhumane Conditions in 1382 Prisons in India) regarding management of overcrowding in prisons particularly where the prison population is more than 150% of the registered capacity. As a follow up action several correctional homes of the State has been identified and we are constantly striving to upgrade the capacity of such Correctional Homes.

In our endeavour new infrastructure has been developed at Ranaghat Sub Correctional Home premises in the District of Nadia. The enhanced capacity of Ranaghat Subsidiary Correctional Home has been fixed at 176. Sri Ujjal Biswas, Hon'ble MIC, Department of Correctional Administration inaugurated the new complex on 31st May, 2018 in presence of the Correctional Services officials and other dignitaries.



“That's all the freedom we can hope for - the freedom to choose our prison.”

..... L. M. Montgomery



Yeaah !!! Here comes **Dev !!!** the most popular hero of Tollywood. The inmates of Presidency were waiting since morning to share the same frame with their loving actor. He took a round and visited the heritage sites and workshops. The workers of the fashion unit are lucky to gift apparels made by them to Dev. The day ended with a screening of Dev's latest hit 'Kabir'. It was really a memorable day for the prisoners to get a chance to interact with the silver screen hero.

Then came the turn of a sports star. **Monoj Tewary**, the popular cricketer of Bengal squad and IPL. Earlier he came for a fashion show of the dresses made by the inmates. He walked in ramp and promised to visit again. This time he visited the workshop of fashion unit at Presidency. He was mesmerized to see the new innings by prisoners with swing machines.





Old Jail Depot at Writers Buildings

The Jail Depot :

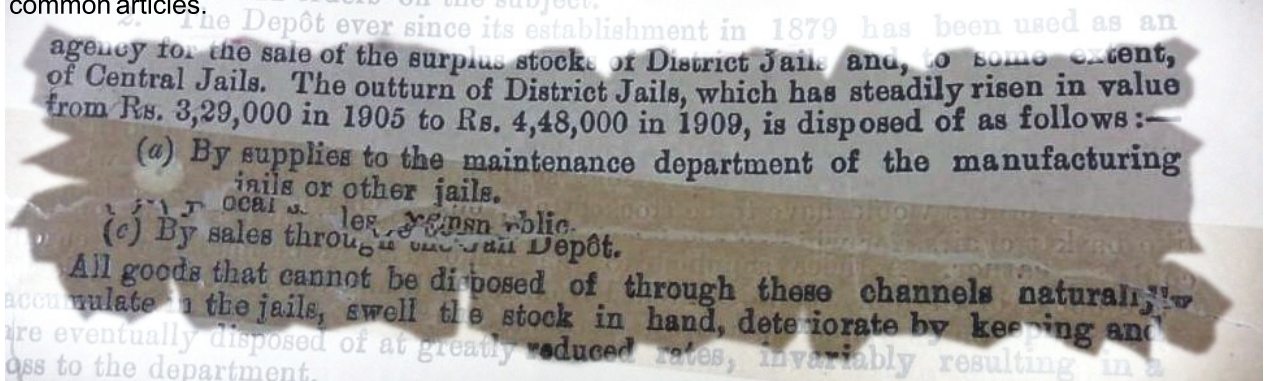
If you have the opportunity to traverse along Brabourne Road towards Dalhousie you may still notice the old sign board of Jail Depot at the north-east corner of ground floor of the Writers' Building, the former headquarters of West Bengal Secretariat. It was perhaps the second showroom and sales counter of Jail products of undivided Bengal. The Jail Depot ever since its establishment in 1879 has been used as an agency for the sale of the surplus stocks of District Jails and to some extent, of Central Jails. From an old document of 1910, it reveals that the Depot was then located at the lower flat of No. 5, Hastings Street, at its

junction with Old Post Office Street with three adjacent rooms and two small stores.

It further reveals that a post of Manager of the Jail Depot was sanctioned by the Government of Bengal in letter no. 1978 dated 18th November, 1881 at the pay of Rs.150-10-200, and Mr. J.C.Parish was appointed on transfer from Presidency Jail. Unfortunately the choice made was a bad one, and some eight months later Mr. Parish was convicted on account of certain defalcations in the Jail Depot account and was consequently dismissed. After this occurrence Babu S.K.Mukerji, the Head Clerk in the Manufacture Department of the Head Office, was appointed in 1882. He was the first Indian who became the Manager of Jail Depot. After his death in 1884, Babu Ashutosh Kumar became the Manager and remained in charge for 24 years till his retirement in 1908. However, having been convinced of the necessity of the head of the Depot being a business man rather than a clerk, Lieut. Col. W.J.Buchanan, I.M.S, the then IG of Prisons, Bengal endeavoured to find such a man on the pay Rs.150-10-200. He interviewed several men from various shops and firms in Calcutta, but could not get a man with the experience needed on the existing pay. But since he had strong belief that the management of the Depot needed a man with a business training and qualifications, he initiated a proposal to the Government for appointing European / Eurasian Manager at a pay of Rs. 300 per month with a large experience in mercantile storekeeping in the country specifically for effective supervision, discipline and to deal with European customers.

He also strongly opined for abolishing the prevailing system of accounts between Jails and the Jail Depot. At that time Jails used to send articles for sale and show the value of all such in their returns as with the Depot, and take credit for them as articles in stock. It often happened that the articles sent were not sold, or were not likely to be sold, and those articles, therefore, remained to the credit of the jails for months or even years, and so gave an erroneous view of the manufacture transactions of the jail as well as crowding up the limited space in the Depot with unsold goods. In order to avoid this it was proposed by the IG to provide an allotment in the budget so that the Depot may purchase these articles outright from the manufacturing jails and then realize the amount by sale to the public or any department of Government. He also gave emphasis on standardization of all jail manufacturers and the localization of industries in various jails.

At that time the authorities also found that the showroom with sales counter should be removed to more commodious quarters. It was suggested that the Depot should be situated in the immediate vicinity of the New Market. It was thought that there would be more opportunity of obtaining a ready pool of buyers for jail-made goods there. It was also recommended that a stall be opened at the market with a small selected stock of common articles.



On the basis of the proposal of re-organization of Jail Depot, the Government of India sanctioned a fixed pay of Rs. 300 per mensem for the Manager of the Jail Depot at Calcutta on 26th March, 1912. It can also be presumed that the erstwhile Jail Depot was also shifted to a new premise at Writers' Building at later stage.

However, it is evident that utilization of prison labours in different trades including agriculture has been given an utmost importance since British regime. It cannot be denied irrespective of time space and persons that work is the best alternative to channelize the potentiality of a pool of human resources of prisons in a rightful way and for benevolent purposes. Actually, the term 'rigorous imprisonment' implies that a prisoner who is convicted is to work in various prison industries. Hence, it is the duty on the part of prison authorities to allot suitable work to prisoners and ensure that the prison is economically managed as per rules. The gainful work done by the jail inmates not only provides a corrective approach to the psyche of the offender but also goes a long way in developing a responsive and respectful attitude in them towards the society. Thus several work programmes have been introduced since long under Jail Industries. In post-independent phase several jail reforms committees were constituted where prison industry policy had been included in recommendations with importance.

The Jail Code not only envisages the provisions of prison labour or prison manufactories, there is also a provision for sale of prison products through Jail Depot. The All India Jail Reforms Committee (1980-83) pointed out the possibility of introducing products according to market trends so that prison products could reasonably satisfy customers' expectations. It further considered that prison work programmes should be organized on sound business-cum-commercial basis. However, the Committee deterred the idea of privatizing prison industry as it compromised with the reformatory objectives of punishment. Further, they need to pay attention to promotion and pricing of the product, sales and profit margins. It was also explained that sale, outlets should be made open to the public and should be established outside prisons, preferably at convenient places for the public for promotion of prison products.

The then IG of Prisons, Bengal had strong opinion that the Jail Depot will not be put on a sound business footing till it get a more capable staff and more suitable premises. The views of IG of Prisons way before 108 years still have a deep impact with regard to success of Jail Depot.

In last couple of years West Bengal Correctional Services have given a drive for revamping the jail manufactories including skill development of inmates. Simultaneously, the Jail Depot which is shifted from Writers' Buildings to the ground floor of West Bengal Correctional Services headquarters at Jessop Building, 63, N.S.Road, Kolkata-1 in 2013 has improved a lot in terms of sales and financial transactions. Jail products are being exhibited and sold in public in different fairs through the stalls of Jail Depot. A few outlets have also been started outside the correctional homes at Berhampore and Dum Dum. Recently another open sale counter has been inaugurated at the headquarters. The enthusiasm and diligent efforts of Mr. John Mardy, Manager, Jail Depot is praiseworthy.

Important

A complete and detailed catalogue of the articles manufactured in jails should be made available in every year.

Prices of the articles should be fixed for a period of one year.

Articles required by any Govt. Deptt must normally be obtained from the jails or Jail Depot.

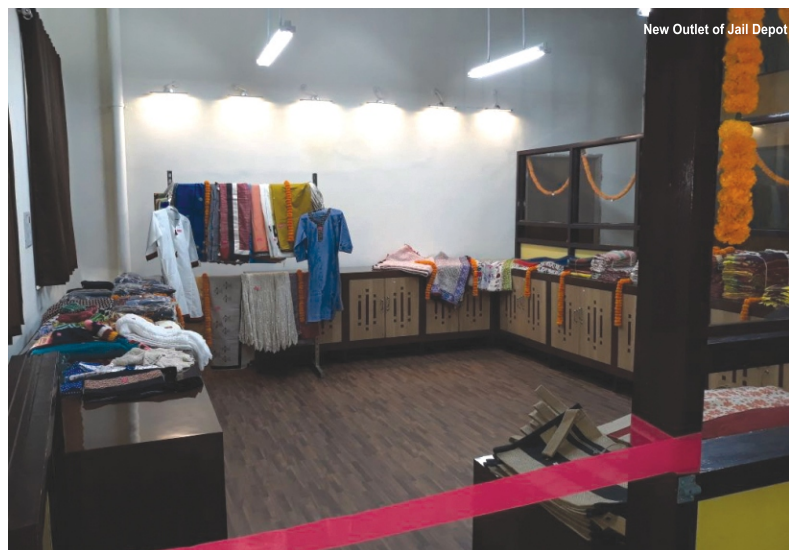
Deposits of Jail Depot in Govt. Exchequer

2014 – 2015 : ₹92,616

2015 – 2016 : ₹68,400

2016 – 2017 : ₹2,12,400

2017 – 2018 : ₹7,38,696



New Outlet of Jail Depot

SALE IS ON



Alipurduar Correctional Home houses Sanjay Rava of Kalchini for last one year. Hailing from the Rava group of forest tribes, Sanjay remains engrossed in depicting the wilds in his drawings. Quite natural of him being a son of the forest. But the person who dwells in the forest even in his dreams was booked for 7 cases under Wildlife Protection Act. Is this irony of real life or a dual personality? We are left bewildered.

CONTRADICTION

Barun Mandal, Tailor Master, the most favourite of the manufacturers and popular among his co-workers of Presidency Correctional Home. His craftsmanship is beyond any question. But life was no straight jacket for him since his childhood. Eldest among five siblings, Barun had to keep aside his books at an early stage of his studies. At 14, when he was in Class -VIII, Barun had to embrace the sewing machine to support his family. Soon he became very favourite among his customers for his good sense in fashion and intricate designs. Barun was a leading tailor in Shyampur area, Howrah. Barun and his four sisters learnt the life skills from their father, an ex-Army man. They led a very disciplined life all through. Barun got his sisters married from his income. Later he also got married and was living a happy life with his sons and all. Life was growing tough for him over period of time due to market competition, increasing expenses and rising responsibilities. A disciplined Barun started getting caught in discontent over family matters. One day it went beyond control and his wife got burnt in 1997.

Barun found his new address at Presidency Correctional Home in 2004.

Since then Barun is relentlessly doing his work as Tailor Master. He has sown magic with his machine on more than thousand uniforms and trained more than 100 inmates in the profession.

Barun is supporting his elder son who is pursuing Engineering course at reputed University and maintaining his family responsibly.

Barun is also a participant in the cultural troupe of Presidency.

He is the leader of Turtle Apparel Center operating at Presidency Correctional Home.

We all wish success for Barun, the face of this issue.

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