



The METAMORPHOSIS

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

Issue - 31



From the Chief Editor :

It gives me immense pleasure to announce the publication of the 31st. issue of our bulletin "The Metamorphosis". We have been issuing this quarterly bulletin since 2006, but due to Corona Pandemic, it's publication was stopped in between for a period of about 2 years. This is our first bulletin after the Corona Pandemic. For the Jail Institution, the word "Metamorphosis" holds a deep meaning - it refers to the transformation of a convict from the dark shadows of his life to a world of respectable living through a scientific process of rehabilitation - keeping this philosophy in mind, the Jail Institution has been rechristened to "Correctional Home" now. The Correctional Homes in West Bengal are house to the stories of achievement, personal tragedies, despair and hope. We, in the Correctional Services, try to assuage this feeling of despair and try to engage our inmates towards a constructive path of positive thinking and new creations, which we try to share through this bulletin. Thus the sole purpose of the bulletin is to highlight the bright areas within an otherwise gloomy surrounding of the "Correctional Homes". I am thankful to the Govt., various NGOs and the inmates who are stakeholders in our approach to Correctional Administration with the motto-Correction, Care and Counselling.

I am sure that this bulletin is a bird's eye view of how we are transforming our Correctional Homes.

Thank you.

Rajesh Kumar Yadav, IPS
Inspector General of Correctional Services, WB



JULY - DEC, 2022

METAMORPHOSIS

75th Independence Day



Contai SCH

75th Independence Day was celebrated in a glorious manner this year at all the Correctional Homes across the state of West Bengal. Apart from hoisting the National Flag, due homage was also paid to the martyrs by concerned officials. The Hon'ble MOS (IC), Department of Correctional Administration, Government of West Bengal, Sri Akhil Giri, hoisted the National Flag at the Contai Subsidiary Correctional Home. Inmates and staffs of the Contai Subsidiary Correctional Home performed various cultural activities in front of the Hon'ble MOS (IC).

The State Government released 99 convicts including 7 women on 15th August 2022 from different Correctional Homes across the state of West Bengal.



Burdwan CCH

Formal Education for the Children of Inmates



Children of Inmates of Alipore WCH

A new initiative has been taken to enrol the children of school going age residing with their mothers inside Correctional Home. Already 14 children from Alipore Women's Correctional Home and Krishnanagar District Correctional Home have been enrolled in regular schools.



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

- NELSON MANDELA

Rehabilitation after Redemption



Intended or unintended punishable acts lead a person to imprisonment. After staying as inmates inside a correctional home for a substantial period, a few well-behaved convicts are released by the authorities. Although release of a convict brings loads of happiness to their families, it becomes very tough for them to earn their livelihood in the mainstream life because of the social stigma attached to their names. Thus, a released convict requires rehabilitation and necessary advice in this regard. The "After Care Rehabilitation" programme taken up by 'Probation Section' under the Department of Correctional Administration looks after these aspects of the released lifers. In this connection, the activities of Hooghly District Authority, The West Bengal SCs, STs, OBCs Development & Finance Corporation, Self-Help Group & Self Employment Section, Department of SHG & SE and Minority Development and Finance Corporation under the West Bengal State minority and Finance Corporation are remarkable.

Anwar Ali Mallick got released prematurely from Lalgola Open Correctional Home. He was in quest for a job, when he had a chance meeting with Mr. Manoj Kumar Roy, Probation-cum-after care officer. An amount of Rs. 50,000 was sanctioned to his son by the West Bengal Minorities Development & Finance Corporation, Hooghly District, for the purpose of rehabilitation. Gradually, Anwar set up a mobile vegetable shop at Dokantala, Khanpore, Chanditala-II, Hooghly. He now leads a happy life with his family.

Kuhu Malik's parents are both imprisoned as life term convicts. It is very difficult for children like them to continue on with their education. Telegraph Education Foundation (TEF) provided Rs 10,000/- financial assistance to Kuhu and 9 other children under the guidance of the Probation-cum-After Care officer (PACO).

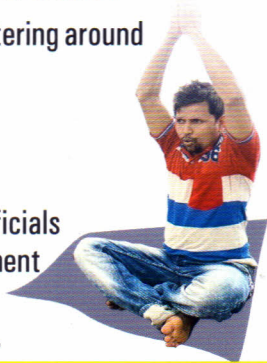
Sri Arjun Rajbhar, a father of a minor child, got released after life time imprisonment. A tea stall has been setup for him with kind support of Bhadreswar Police and Champadani Municipality under the supervision of PACO.

METAMORPHOSIS

Your mental and physical health are inseparable.

Four-Pronged strategy centering around

- i) Cultural Therapy,
 - ii) Games & Sports,
 - iii) Yoga & Meditation and
 - iv) Counselling and Care
- has been adopted by the officials of the Correctional department to keep the inmates mentally and physically fit.



Yoga & Meditation



Banipur CCH

For healthy living, human beings need physical, mental, financial and social peace – of these, the mental aspect holds the prime importance because a healthy mind can soothe an unhealthy body, but an unhealthy mind makes even a healthy body defunct. Stress, tension, lack of patience and tolerance are the major causes of mental diseases. These in turn accelerate an individual to perform criminal activities. An inmate's mind, intellect and personality become weak due to negative environment and hence, he easily falls prey to vicious thoughts. Yogic Meditation teaches him positivity in life.

Cultural Therapy



Inmates of Burdwan CCH

All Correctional Homes motivate the inmates to participate in various Cultural activities for keeping them mentally and physically fit. One such dance performance was staged by the inmates of Burdwan CCH at Sankhir Pukur Utsav Maidan, Burdwan, during the Burdwan Poura Utsav.

Games & Sports



Cooch Behar DCH

Group activities cultivate the spirit of sportsmanship within individuals. To inculcate this feeling of enthusiasm within the inmates, Cooch Behar District Correctional Home organized a Carrom Tournament amongst various teams of inmates.

Counselling and Care



Hooghly DCH

Every inmate faces different problems depending on the crime committed and their age, gender, nature and background. Counselling gives them courage, mental support and confidence. If the inmates have some psychological problems, then they are provided sessions by professional psychologists. This helps in making them a relaxed and stress-free individual.

“If a man devotes himself to art, much evil is avoided that happens otherwise if one is idle.”

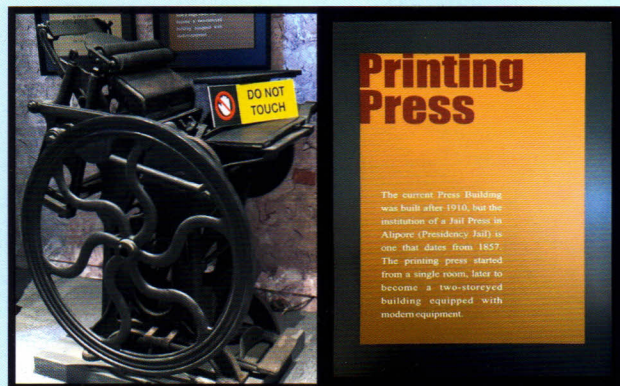
Albrecht Durer

ALIPORE JAIL MUSEUM - HISTORY IN A FREEZE FRAME



Alipore Central Jail was converted to Alipore museum recently. Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee, inaugurated it on 21 September 2022 and it was thrown open to general public from 23 September 2022. The museum tells moving stories of the Indian freedom fighters and their struggle against the British regime. The fact that prominent national figures of the likes of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Rishi Aurobindo, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Bidhan Chandra Roy were arrested and confined here, adds to the significance of the place. The Alipore Jail Museum area consists of gallows (where many of our freedom fighters were hanged), a watch tower (from where the British jailors used to monitor the entire area), exhibitions (one in Cell 5 and another in the Hospital Building), special cells (where the famous people were kept), general cells, a library, a seminar hall and a light and sound show.

The Directorate of Correctional Services, West Bengal, has already taken an initiative to preserve the History and Heritage of State Correctional Homes by preserving old documents like attendance registers, peon books, admission registers, release registers, summons, orders of hang till death etc. These valuable documents will be displayed at the Museum and respective homes will also display history and heritage at plaques.



Printing Press

The current Press Building was built after 1910, but the foundation of a Jail Press in Alipore (Presidency Jail) is one that dates from 1857. The printing press started from a single room, later to become a two-storeyed building equipped with modern equipment.

Self Dependence



The inmates of the Presidency Correctional Home manufactured sturdy bunk-beds (capable of accommodating 2 to 4 people) under the supervision of the MD (Manufacturing Department) Section of the Home. This is a one-of-its-kind

concept, uniquely saving space in the residing area of the convicts and the warders alike.



An NGO works alongside 4 correctional homes, namely Alipore Womens Correctional Home, Dum Dum Central Correctional Home, Baruipur Central Correctional Home and Burdwan Central Correctional Home.



Alipore and Dum Dum women inmates are taught tailoring, knitting and embroidery. They prepare ladies garments like nighty, salwar, shawl, muffler, jackets etc. While the male inmates at Baruipur prepare shirts, T-shirts, night dress, kurta, salwar etc, the women inmates at Burdwan prepare sanitary napkin and learn tailoring as well.

The prepared items are sold inside each Correctional Home and also during the "mela" (fair) organized by the Directorate of Correctional Services. Sanitary napkins prepared at Burdwan are sold to every correctional homes housing female inmates.

The inmates are given wages every month according to the number of items they prepare. Tailoring exams are conducted by the renowned "SINGER" company and certificates are given to the inmates.

Once the inmates are released, the said NGO takes care of their rehabilitation.

Ready for Trading

The mustard oil manufacturing unit run by the inmates of Presidency Correctional Home got no objection certificate (NOC) from Kolkata Municipal Corporation for trading purpose. It has also received FSSAI Certification. Mustard oil and other products will be sold through counters manned by inmates very soon.



Best Puja Award

Like previous years, Durga Puja was celebrated at most of the Correctional Homes this year with active participation of the inmates. They organised, managed the festival and even prepared their own "DURGAIDOL" themselves.

This year, Durga Puja of Berhampore Central Correctional Home was awarded "first" prize in the DISTRICT in the segment of "SERA SAMAJ SACHETANATA BISWA BANGLA SHARADA SAMMAN" by District Administration of Murshidabad, West Bengal.



Berhampore CCH

Pandal Hopping by Inmates' Children



Children of Inmates of Alipore WCH & Dum Dum CCH

The children of the inmates residing at Dum Dum Central Correctional Home and Alipore Women's Correctional Home celebrated Durga Puja by visiting Kolkata's famous Puja Pandals – MUDIYALI CLUB, EKDALIA EVERGREEN CLUB, SINGHI PARK SARBOJONIN, TRIDHARA SAMMILANI and CHETLA AGRANI. This initiative, named "PRONAM", got success through the joint efforts of Directorate of Correctional Services and Kolkata Police.

At Cooch Behar District Correctional Home, eight children of the inmates were also taken outside for Durga Puja pandal-hopping on Maha Nabami. A few reputed pandals visited were Cooch Behar Debi Bari, Matri Sangha, Shanti Kuthi Club etc. The children had a gala time. They brought sweets for their respective mothers as well.



Children of Inmates of Cooch Behar DCH

Children's Park at Balurghat Central Correctional Home

The children of inmates lose their golden days of childhood by being confined within the four walls of the Correctional Homes. To give them an opportunity of enjoying these treasured moments, a Children's Park has been opened inside the Balurghat Central Correctional Home (Female Enclosure), where they play with great enthusiasm. The parents feel that the park will help the mental development of the children tremendously.



Balurghat CCH

Zoo Visit by Inmates' Children

Children of the inmates of Alipore Women's Correctional Home visited Alipore Zoo last winter. They saw various types of animals and had a gala time enjoying in the fresh air outside the confinement of the Correctional Home.



Children of Inmates of Alipore WCH

Cricket Match at Balurghat Central Correctional Home



Balurghat CCH

The picture depicts the Prize distribution Ceremony of a Cricket match at the Balurghat CCH. Directorate of Correctional Services has always given importance to such fitness activities for the inmates of all Correctional Homes.

Medical Camp at Balurghat Central Correctional Home



Balurghat CCH

Tuberculosis detection and training camp in progress at Balurghat CCH under the direct supervision of the Balurghat CMOH.

Legal Aid

National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) launched a scheme called the Para Legal Volunteers Scheme, which aimed at imparting legal training to volunteers from different walks of life so as to ensure legal aid reaching all sections of people. In December 2022, District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) selected 3 prisoners from Presidency Correctional Home and named the group "Para Legal Volunteers". They were remunerated to act as intermediaries between the prisoners seeking legal advice and legal Institutions.



Martial Arts Show

15 inmates of Dum Dum CCH have been taking Martial Arts training since ages under the renowned dancer, Chirantan Bhaduri. They have performed at many places outside the Jail.



Martial Arts Show at Burdwan



Martial Arts Show at Khidirpur Ganesh Utsab

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