

VISITS BY DIGNITARIES/FOREIGN DELEGATION

VISIT OF CHINESE DELEGATION

A Chinese delegation led by the Vice Minister, Mr. Zhang Sujun, along with seven others visited Tihar Jail on 26.11.2012. They were first welcomed at Prison Headquarters and were briefed about the Prisons functioning by the Director General (Prisons), Ms. Vimla Mehra. After Guard of Honour, the delegates visited the IGNOU campus in Central Jail No.3. The Hon'ble Minister was very impressed with the educational activities being carried out in the jails. About 1200 prisoners are presently pursuing different courses from IGNOU and NIOS, of which there is a permanent centre in Tihar. They also saw the preparation of food in jail



kitchen and the lodgment of prisoners in the dormitories. The delegates also visited Drug De-addiction Centre in Central Jail No.3, Tihar where the treatment of addicts and their rehabilitation activities are carried out with the help of medical staff and NGOs. Further United Nation Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) are helping the Prison Administration in de-addiction programmes called Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST). The delegates were very much impressed with the treatment programmes.

The delegates also visited jail factory in Central Jail No.2, Tihar. They appreciated the work culture of jail factory. The delegates were told that jail factory is run on no profit basis and inmates wage structure is Skilled- ₹ 99/- per day, Semi-skilled ₹ 81/- per day and Unskilled ₹ 70/- per day. The annual turnover of jail factory is gradually increasing and now expected to be ₹25 crore in the current financial year. The delegates were highly impressed with the turnover of jail factory. The delegates spent around 2 ½ hours in jail and Vice minister wrote the following comments.

"Prison complex of New Delhi has excellent management, harmonious environment, and is a model for the corrections work in Asia".

SUJUN ZHANG, Vice Minister.

VISIT OF HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE GITA MITTAL

Hon'ble Ms. Justice Gita Mittal visited Tihar Jail on 04.04.2012. She was given power point presentation about the functioning of Delhi Jails by Director General (Prisons) Sh. Neeraj Kumar. She visited Central Jail No.6 (women's jail) where she saw vocational activities, educational activities run under the "Padho Aur Padhao" scheme, creche etc. Hon'ble Visiting Judge recorded the following remarks in the Visitors' Book:-

"A window to the world outside for these young children. A commendable effort which manifests the vision of every body associated with the Tihar Jail. My congratulations for the work, initiatives, enthusiasm, hardwork, which is on display in every facet of the working in the prisons."

A woman prisoner is allowed to keep her child upto six years of age with her. There is a well maintained crèche in the female jail where, on an average around 45 children, are taken care of. As per Hon'ble Supreme Court



Guidelines given in Writ Petition (Civil) No.559/1994 in the matter R.D. Upadhyay Vs. State regarding mothers and children lodged in Jails, no child in Delhi prisons is treated either as an undertrial or a convict during its stay with its mother.

VISIT OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.R. MIDHA

A music room was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.R. Midha, Judge, Delhi High Court, in Central Jail No.2 on 03.05.2012 in the distinguished presence of Mr. Neeraj Kumar, D.G. (Prisons) and Mr. G. Sudhakar, D.I.G (Prisons). The Hon'ble judge visited the Jail Factory, Bakery and interacted with inmates and recorded the following remarks in the Visitors' Book:-

"I am very glad to see that the inmates are living in very good condition. The authorities are taking very good care and I complement them, I wish that all jails in the country should follow this".

Every jail has a music room in which instruments like tabla, harmonium, guitar, keyboard, flute etc. are available for use by prisoners. This experiment has yielded positive results and the programme is being expanded further. Music Teachers visit the jails and impart training to interested inmates. A band called 'Flying Souls' has



been formed by inmates which has become very popular and is drawing good reviews from the media. Around 300 prisoners attend music classes everyday. It is a well known fact that music destress the mind and bring positive thoughts to a person.

VISIT OF THE PUNJAB JAIL MINISTER

On 07.08.2012 Sh. S.Sarwan Singh Phillaur, Minister for Jails, Govt. of Punjab visited Tihar Jail, alongwith team of Punjab jail officers. They visited the Tihar Jail Factory in jail No.2, to get first hand knowledge about the vocational programmes for inmates.

A Power Point Presentation and the Best Practices/ Corrective Activities being undertaken in Delhi Jails was given. The team was also shown the Inmates Phone Call System under which a prisoner can do a phone call to his relatives/friends on all days of the week, Cashless Smart Card System for jail canteens, CCTV system for observing the activities of prisoners and staff, Video Conferencing System, Vocational Training Institute, Legal Aid Facilities, etc.etc. They were very impressed with the functioning of Delhi Jails, some of which could also be replicated in their jails at Punjab.



VISIT OF INDO-PAK JOINT JUDICIAL DELEGATION



On 23.1.2012, a delegation of India-Pakistan Joint Judicial Committee visited Tihar Jail and met Pakistani Prisoners lodged here. The delegates spoke to the prisoners and enquired after their well being. A total of 51 prisoners met the delegation which included 23 from Delhi Jails and 28 from various prisons of Uttar Pradesh. The judicial committee also visited other jails of the country and met the Pak prisoners. This is regular exercise undertaken by both the countries so that prison inmates may ventilate their complaint if any to their country delegation.

VISIT OF HON'BLE MINISTER



A Music album containing performances by Tihar inmates, composed by noted singer Kamal Sabri, was launched in Central Jail No.2 on 27.1.2012. The launch ceremony was performed by Sh. Oscar Fernandes, Hon'ble Member of Parliament.

VISIT OF CRICKET ICON



The final inter jail cricket match of Tihar Olympics was played between the teams of Central Jail No.1 and 2. On this occasion famous cricket stars Ashish Nehra and Ishant Sharma were present to motivate the prison inmates. The team of Jail No.1 won the match.

Both Mr. Nehra and Mr. Sharma cheered the inmates from the sidelines during the match. Later, they presented a trophy to the winning team adding that they were impressed with the facilities inside the jail.

Mr. Nehra said that he had a different notion about jails which is now changed completely on seeing the various ongoing welfare activities being carried out for inmates, the discipline maintained by prisoners, the greenery inside the jail etc. Both the dignitaries also exhorted the inmates to maintain good conduct inside the prison so that reformatory activities may run smoothly.

VISIT OF IGNOU'S VICE-CHANCELLOR



Delhi Prisons, in coordination with IGNOU, has been running Tihar Study Centre since 1995 which is the nerve-centre of all educational activities in various jails. On 14.2.2012, the Vice Chancellor of IGNOU Shri Mohammed Aslam visited Tihar Study Centre and announced the establishment of sub centres in all jails to motivate maximum number of inmates to avail educational facilities provided by IGNOU through the Tihar Study Centre.

VISIT OF CHAIRMAN OF NIOS



On 19.3.2012 the Chairman of NIOS Sh. S.S. Jena visited Tihar Study Centre and graced the final Basketball match of Tihar Olympics between the teams of Central Jail No.3 and Central Jail No.5. He promised to establish NIOS corner in the existing Library and sub centres in all jails to increase the rate of admissions from amongst the inmates. At present around 1500 inmates are pursuing different literacy courses in jails. It is well known fact that illiteracy is directly linked with criminal mentality and to change the mindset of a prisoner a number of literacy projects are being run in jails.