

1. New Initiatives

1. Smart Cards for jail inmates

A Smart Cash Card has been introduced to assist prisoners in various transactions with jail canteens, thus replacing the old coupon system. This will bring transparency in the accounts of the prisoners. Money of inmates will now be credited in their accounts by name for use via smart card.



2. Augmentation of Prison security through Electronic Gadgets

Eleven Cell Phone Jammers have already been installed in jails to prevent use of mobile phones by the inmates in jails. There is a proposal to install 21 more jammers during the year. These jammers block communication in GSM 900/1800 MHZ and CDMA Band and Cellular activities like incoming and outgoing calls, SMS, picture sending, web access etc. The existing jammers have been upgraded to block 3G communication as well.

Deep Search Metal Detectors have been procured to detect prohibited articles hidden beneath the earth by prisoners.

Prison Administration is also in the process of procuring full body scanners so that prisoners are not able to smuggle prohibited articles inside the jail by concealing them in body cavities/parts.

3. Starting of Semi Open Jail

There is a proposal to start a semi-open prison in Tihar Complex which is a step forward in reformation, rehabilitation and re-integration of convicted prisoners. This will enable a convict to step out of prison walls and work outside the jail to earn wages.



The following will be the criteria for selection of convicts for the semi-open jail :

1. Convicts sentenced for more than five years but less than ten years and whose remaining sentence is less than two years.
2. Convicts who have maintained good conduct during their sentence and have executed their allotted labour satisfactorily.
3. Convicts who have availed either three paroles or furloughs and nothing adverse against them came to notice during their temporary release.

Convicts against whom there are pending court case/s or who are considered dangerous or are involved in serious prison violence like assault, outbreak, riots, mutiny or escape, or who have been found instigating serious violation of jail discipline or involved in offences such as dacoity, terrorist crime, sedition, kidnapping, smuggling, under NDPS act, foreigners or members of organized criminal gangs shall not be eligible for open jail treatment.

A Committee under the Chairmanship of DIG(Prisons) will select the convicts for semi-open jail.

Under the proposed scheme the convicts can work on PWD/horticulture/contract based projects inside the jail complex which is spread over 400 acres. They can also be employed at Tihar Haat and Hut, Tihar outlets for selling TJ products. At present all prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment and such other classes of prisoners who volunteer to labour, are entitled to wages as specified by the government from time to time. The wages are paid on the basis of actual work done according to the prescribed task. 75% amount of the wages are given to the prisoner and rest 25% of the wages is deducted and paid to the victims or their legal heirs. The labour is allotted to the prisoner in the following order of preference:-

- (a) Convict sentenced to rigorous imprisonment
- (b) Convict sentenced to simple imprisonment opting for labour
- (c) Un-convicted prisoner, volunteering for labour.

A presentation on opening semi-open jail was made before Hon'ble Chief Minister by the Director General (Prisons) Mr. Neeraj Kumar on 03.8.2011 which was very well appreciated by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi and she has given her approval in principle. Draft rules and guidelines in this regard have already been sent by Prison Administration to the Govt. of NCT of Delhi for approval.

4. Creation of Job opportunities in Central Jail No.5

A major achievement in 2011 was creation of vocational opportunities in Central Jail No.5, which is a convict jail. 61 convicts were given jobs in the shoe upper unit being run under PPP (Private Public Partnership). In the incense cone unit, created in cooperation with Divya Jyoti Sansthan, 20 convicts were employed, 12 in a newly created Soap Unit and 6 in a tailoring unit.



5. Provision of hot food trolley and melamine plates

Hot food trolleys which were earlier provided only in the first time offender wards have now also been provided in other wards. Now hot food is being served in all the wards. In addition to above melamine plates with inbuilt bowls have also been provided to the prisoners for streamlining the food distribution system.

6. Increase in unlocking hours of the inmates

Earlier the prison inmates were being locked up between 12 noon to 3 pm but this practice has now been dispensed with and prisoners remain locked out in their wards from morning 6 am to 6 pm. However, they are not allowed to come out from their wards without valid reasons. Strict ward integrity is maintained.



7. Streamlining the duty hours of staff

The security staff of jail cadre has now been put on 8 hours duty in three shifts i.e. 6 am to 2 pm, 2 pm to 10 pm and 10 pm to 6 am. This system has allowed the prison staff to be more alert and devoted to their duties and gives them enough time for their families and leisure.

8. Change of Nomenclature

The nomenclature for various kinds of duties allotted to prisoners has been changed and made more dignified. Archaic terms like 'sewadar' has been substituted with 'sahayak', 'panja' with 'sewadal' etc.



9. Installation of Solar Water Heaters

Solar Water Heaters have been installed in all jails at a cost of ₹ 54 lacs. Prisoners can use hot water for bathing purposes during winter. This environment friendly step has brought great relief to inmates.

10. Rock Band in Jail

A band called 'Flying Souls' has been formed by the inmates of Central Jail No.3. This band has been trained by a Delhi based rock band 'Menwhopause' for rock performances in the jails. The band performed for adolescent prisoners on 21, December 2011 which was widely acclaimed by the inmates and got extensive coverage in the media. Now other jails are trying to create their own bands.



11. Monthly Idea Note

A new concept was introduced in which prison officers are encouraged to give ideas for further improving the prisons' functioning and to give a filip to reformation and rehabilitation activities. These idea notes are discussed in weekly co-ordination meetings and are implemented, if found viable. It is an attempt at enhancing participative management.



12. New Interview system

The meeting system between a prisoner and his/her visitors has been streamlined and now all inmates are required to give names of ten persons who can either be his/her relatives or friends. This new system has curbed malpractices associated with meeting of visitors with inmates and prevents unwanted visitors from meeting inmates.



13. Candle Unit

A candle manufacturing unit has been started in Central Jail No. 8/9. This unit manufactures candles of different designs and colors. Around fifteen inmates are employed in this unit who get wages for the work done. These candles are sold through TJ'S outlets, distributors and Kendriya Bhandars in Delhi and NCR.



14. Puppet manufacturing Unit.

A Puppet manufacturing Unit has been established at Tihar Study Centre in Central Jail No.3, with the help of IGNOU's School of Performing and Visual Arts. The puppets manufactured at the unit are sold at Tihar Haat, Select City Walk and other malls. They are also on display at India International Trade Fair 2011 at Pragati Maidan. This is a skill that the inmates can use to their advantage after being released.



15. Inauguration of film Club

A film club has been established in the jail which has been named after the famous film maker Satyajit Ray in collaboration of IGNOU's School of Performing and Visual Arts. This club was formally inaugurated on 22.12.2011 at Tihar Study Centre Jail No.3, by renowned film maker Shri Bharat Bala, in the presence of Director General (Prisons).

On this occasion, School of Visual and Performing Arts announced introduction of three new courses in the field of Media and Production at Tihar Study Centre. The program was followed by cultural events including a show of the memorable film of Late Mr. V. Shantaram, "DO AAKHEN BARAH HAATH", a movie showcasing the efforts put in by a jailor to reform prisoners.

