

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF APCA (UP TO 30.06.2021)



Dr. Alok Mohan I.P.S.,
Chairman, BOM of APCA and
Director General, Prisons & CS
Karnataka



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Member, BOM of APCA and
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Member, BOM of APCA
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New Delhi



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Co-opted Member, BOM of APCA &
IG, Research, BPR & D
New Delhi

Special Events

100th Meeting of the Board of Management of APCA

The 100th Meeting of the Board of Management of APCA was held on 30.03.2021 via online due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation.

Dr. Alok Mohan IPS, Chairman, Board of Management of APCA & Director General, Prisons and Correctional Services, Karnataka chaired the meeting. Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Member-Secretary and Director, APCA welcomed the Chairman and Members and presented Agenda of the Meeting. Sri. Rajiv Trivedi IPS, Member, BOM & DG of Prisons & CS, Telangana; Sri. Sunil Kumar Singh IPS, Member, BOM & DGP, Prisons & Correctional Services, Tamil Nadu; Sri. Mohammed Ahsan Reza IPS, Member, BOM & DG Prisons & CS, Andhra Pradesh; Sri. Arun Sobti, Member, BOM & Deputy Secretary, PR&ATC, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi; Sri. K.K. Meena, Assistant Director (CA), (on behalf of I.G./Co-opted Member), BPR&D, New Delhi and Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Member-Secretary and Director, APCA attended the meeting.

The Board has approved the selection of APCA Award for Innovation in Corrections and APCA Awards for Best Institutions (for the years 2017 and 2018). Details of the Award Winners are as follows:

APCA Award for Innovations in Corrections (2017) :

Sri.Y. Rajesh, DIG of Prisons, Telangana.

APCA Award for Best Institution of the Year (2017) :

- Central Prison, Chanchalguda, Telangana.
- Prisoners' Agricultural Colony, Cherlapalli, Telangana.

APCA Award for Best Institution of the Year (2018) :

- Central Prison, Cherlappalli, Telangana.
- District Prison, Sangareddy, Telangana.
- Sub Jail, Saidapet, Tamil Nadu.

DIRECTOR'S DESK:**FASTER System for Quick Communication between the Courts and Prisons**

'Justice delayed is justice denied' is a common phrase we come across in the criminal justice sector. Unjustifiable delay in

executing orders is one of the most condemned flaws of our justice delivery mechanism. This issue has again hit the headlines recently when the Hon'ble Supreme Court initiated proceedings on a Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 4/2021, titled "RE: DELAY IN RELEASE OF CONVICTS AFTER GRANT OF BAIL."

The immediate trigger for the registration of the Suo Motu case was delay shown by the Agra Jail authorities to release 13 prisoners who had suffered imprisonment for up to two decades despite the Juvenile Justice Board declaring them 'juveniles' at the time of commission of their crimes. It was reported that it took nearly four days to release them despite the Hon'ble Supreme Court granting them bail on July 8, 2021, as the prison authorities insisted on receiving by hand the "authentic" hard copy of the bail order.

The Apex Court stated that in this age of Information and Communication Technology, we are still looking at the skies for pigeons to communicate orders and thus the Court has decided to roll out a Scheme named 'FASTER', i.e., 'Fast and Secure Transmission of Electronic Record' for transmission of e-authenticated copies of the judgments, final orders, and interim orders to the concerned Courts or Tribunals and other duty holders for execution. With the assistance of FASTER Mechanism, the Court would instantly, directly, securely and electronically transmit various orders to jail authorities, district courts and High Courts.

This mechanism is intended to make use of enormous advantage offered by the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for high speed information transmission. Delay in delivery of services in the criminal justice system is a topic of constant criticism in India. On several occasions this problem has led to late release of inmates from prisons, thus causing illegal detention. It is a laudable move from the Apex Court to find a solution for this prolonged problem.

It was reported that the Court has directed the State Governments and Union Territories to submit the details of whether efficient internet facilities are available in their respective prisons. If not, they were directed to suggest suitable alternative to implement the mechanism. Further, the Court directed the Secretary General of the Court to submit a proposal within a period of two weeks suggesting the modalities to implement FASTER system.

However, use of information and communication technology for transmission of such orders warrants adequate precautionary measures to prevent misuse. Court orders, whether bail order or release orders or any other orders, are very sensitive documents. Therefore security of such documents is of extreme importance.

It is equally important to have suitable mechanism to instantly verify authenticity of orders. There were several incidents in which even physical orders were tampered with or fabricated in the name of Courts and used by criminal elements to falsely release prison inmates.

Another key point to consider is facility for faster filing of appeals before the Courts. It would be a great boon for scores of inmates lodged in our prisons to have an electronically enabled mechanism to file appeals against the verdicts and also to track the status of such appeals on a regular basis. Extended use of E-filing system for office administration and office file management has to be highly encouraged. It must be noted that without maximum automation of administration and file management in all connected departments, it would be difficult to operate an e-order transfer system like FASTER.

A mechanism for online interaction between the confined prisoners and their advocates is also required in this regard. One key impediment that our prisons are confronting is basic facilities for effective communication between the inmates and their legal counsels. The recent world-wide eruption of Covid-19 pandemic has literally frozen human life across the world. One group that was severely impacted due to Covid-19 induced restrictions was the prison inmates. There have been severe repercussions among the prison populations due to this pandemic. While contemplating a mechanism to integrate IT into criminal justice administration, we must also consider enabling IT enabled prison visitation facilities.

It is also suggested to have a comprehensive and integrated mechanism for online payment of various fines imposed by the Courts. This option will definitely help to save lot of time and resources for collection of fine amounts and transfer of such collected amounts to government treasury.

Online options for submission of petitions and applications by the prisoners may also be made part of the said e-mechanism. It has always been noted that submission of petitions and complaints by prisoners for their grievance redressing is not effective. There has always been a lag in proper channelling of prisoners' complaints to the concerned authorities, including judicial officers. By incorporating an appropriate option in the said mechanism for online submission of such petitions, prisoners' grievances can be addressed speedily and more effectively.

There are few more key considerations while contemplating this new initiative. Development, operation and maintenance of required hardware and software for running the proposed mechanism is one important issue. Another issue is reliable internet connection for which the Court has already issued directions to examine and inform the possible options. All the State/UT governments shall give top priority to provide internet connection with broadband network to facilitate the FASTER system initiated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Requirement of suitably trained staff in Courts and Prisons to operate the mechanism shall be addressed promptly.

To conclude, it is commendable that the Apex Court has taken very serious steps to reduce the snail-paced movement of documents in the criminal justice system. This measure is more significant considering the fact that many judicial orders and directions pertain to protection of fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution, which are, on the other hand inevitable for the survival of citizens such as right to life and liberty.

– M. Chandrasekhar,
Director.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Management of Interviews in Prisons during Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted prisons globally. There have been reports of Covid-19 in prisons around the world, with the housing density and population turnover

of many prisons contributing to an increased risk of contracting the virus compared to the general population. As a mitigation measure, several countries including India have already released prisoners, to reduce density and attempted to reduce the spread of the illness. A UN expert stated that, in fact, people incarcerated across the world are being "disproportionately affected" by the Covid-19 pandemic.

One major challenge that has drastically affected prisons was cutting off contact facilities between prison inmates and their families and friends. Prisons have experienced various consequences due to suspension of prison visits and the enforced condition of prison inmates whom were denied with opportunities to maintain contact with the outside world, especially with their own kith and kin. The additional restrictions have increased tension in prisons around the world. In some countries, such measures have led to discontent, unrest, breakouts and riots.

However, the decision to end prison visits has not been taken lightly by the Governments. Prison systems have introduced other, controlled ways for prison inmates to stay in touch with their beloved ones. It assumed further significance in terms of visits by legal counsels to meet their clients confined in prisons.

The UK Government has given secured phone handsets with locked SIM card enabling prisoners to contact their loved ones without waiting for their limited time out of cell. Around 900 mobile phones distributed among the prisons, in addition to the in-cell telephones facilities available in about 50 prisons. It was also reported that the UK Prisons had introduced video calling in 26 prisons. Further, in order to help the inmates to meet the phone call expenses, the government announced a £5 phone credit, each week, for prisoners.

In United States, the Bureau of Prisons have amended its regulations in March, 2020 itself to provide inmates in federal custody with the opportunity for free video-conferencing and telephone usage during the national emergency with respect to Covid-19. Subsequently all inmates in Pennsylvania were allowed one free 45-minute Zoom call a week and within a month, in the Pennsylvania alone, more than 21,000 Zoom calls from inmates have taken place.

As far as India is concerned, all the State/UT Prisons Departments have taken sufficient steps to curtail problems which are caused due to suspension of interviews and visits in prisons. In Delhi NCT, though the Prisons Department has resumed internal mulaqat during the month of March 2021, since April they have discontinued the same in view of surging cases of Covid-19 and the prisons have restarted e-Mulaqat system.

Tamil Nadu has introduced 'e-Mulakat' online portal to enable prisoners and their families to meet virtually. According to reports, within 15 days this system has helped over 770 persons in the State to make video calls with their families and advocates. As many as 58 smart phones were purchased by the Prisons Department to enable this mechanism.

In Kerala also the Covid-19 situation prompted authorities to introduce videoconferencing facilities for prisoners to interact with their relatives. Earlier, prison authorities have conducted a three-month trial of WhatsApp video communication feature to enable prisoner-relative interactions. Now it has been resolved to make online meetings a permanent fixture, following the success of the WhatsApp experiment. Software approved by the Central Home Ministry to be employed for the facility.

The Odisha Government allowed prisoners to talk to their family members through VC or jail telephone or e-Mulakat. In jails where the infrastructure for e-Mulakat was not available, the jail authorities used video calling or web calling through electronic means. To increase the frequency of e-Mulakat, the relatives were permitted to access e-Mulakat either from their house or through any other remote point facilitating e-Mulakat, viz., Panchayat Office, Tahasil Headquarters, Block Headquarters or Office of Chairman, Legal Services Committee etc, so that visitors did not have to come from remote areas for interview with their respective inmates in jail.

To sum up, it is learned that the system of interviews and communication with families and lawyers have been successfully conducted and challenges faced due to pandemic Covid-19 has been overcome by the prison functionaries. The spread of pandemic Covid-19 effectively thwarted and controlled by the efficient way of handling the unprecedented situation that arose out of the pandemic. The test of challenge exposed by the unforeseen Covid-19 pandemic won over by the grit, will power, and determination of the prison functionaries. In India, the prison service personnel have shown exemplary courage and dedication to handle the pandemic situation.

The technological advancements have largely helped prison administrations to help their inmates to maintain contact with their families and legal counsels in this unprecedented time of Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally it has provided an opportunity for the Prisons to experiment with unconventional methods to deal with newer challenges and also convinced its staff members- who traditionally tend to reject changes- that change is inevitable and unavoidable.

– V. Karuppnanan, Deputy Director.

Courses and Programmes Conducted During January – June, 2021

Webinar on Findings and Recommendations of a Research Study “On improving Family contact with Prisoners”, in Collaboration with TISS, Mumbai

The Academy, in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, organized a webinar to present the key findings and recommendations of a research study titled “On improving family contact with prisoners”, undertaken by the Prayas, TISS, Mumbai, on 06.01.2021. Sri. V. Karuppannan, Deputy Director, APCA welcomed the participants and Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Director, APCA delivered the keynote address.

Dr. Sharon Menezes, Assistant Professor, TISS gave a brief introduction about the project. Dr. Vijay Raghavan, Professor, TISS and Ms. Surekha Sale, Prayas, presented key findings and recommendations of the study.

Prof. (Dr.) A. Mathan Raj, Professor in Criminology, APCA coordinated the programme. A total of 32 prison officers from the ranks of DIG of Prisons, Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Jailors, Deputy Jailors and Assistant Jailors from Southern States attended the webinar.

Online Awareness Programme Series on ‘Social Defence Issues’ for Prison Functionaries

The Academy, in collaboration with National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, New Delhi organized a series Online Awareness Programme on ‘Social Defence Issues’ for Prison Functionaries.

The first programme was conducted on 20.01.2021. Dr. Veerendra Mishra, Director, NISD inaugurated the programme and Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Director, APCA, delivered the special address. Prof. A.N. Singh, HOD, Mahatma Gandhi University, Varanasi, was the key resource person. Sri. V. Karuppannan, Deputy Director, APCA, proposed formal vote of thanks. A total of 52 prison officers from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu attended the webinar.

The second programme in this series was conducted on 24.02.2021. Dr. Veerendra Mishra, Director, NISD inaugurated the programme and Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Director, APCA, delivered the special address. Prof. P. Madhava Soma Sundaram, Professor & Head, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, M.S. University, Tirunelveli, was the key resource person. Sri. V. Karuppannan, Deputy Director, APCA, proposed formal vote of thanks. A total of 59 prison officers from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana participated in the programme.

The third and fourth programmes were conducted on 10.03.2021 and 15.03.2021 respectively. Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Director, APCA, inaugurated the programmes and delivered the keynote address. Prof. P. Madhava Soma Sundaram, Professor & Head, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, M.S. University, Tirunelveli, was the

key resource person for both the programmes. Sri. V. Karuppannan, Deputy Director, APCA, proposed formal vote of thanks. A total of 37 prison officers from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana participated in the third programme and another 37 officers from the above states attended the fourth programme.

The fifth and sixth programmes in this series were conducted on 24.03.2021 and 26.06.2021. Dr. Veerendra Mishra, Director, NISD inaugurated the programmes and Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Director, APCA, delivered the special address. Prof. A. N. Singh, Professor, Dept. of Social Work, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi was the key resource person for both the programmes. Sri. V. Karuppannan, Deputy Director, APCA, proposed formal vote of thanks. A total of 52 prison officers from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana participated in the fifth programme and as many as 65 officers from Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu attended the sixth programme.

The seventh programme in this series was conducted on 01.06.2021. Dr. Veerendra Mishra, Director, NISD inaugurated the programme. Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Director, APCA, delivered the special address. Dr. Sanjai Bhatt, Professor & former Head, Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi University was the key resource person. A total of 32 prison officers from the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu participated in the webinar.

Dr. R. Giriraj, Deputy Director, NISD was the moderator and Prof. (Dr.) A. Mathan Raj, Professor in Criminology, APCA was the coordinator for the programmes.

Republic Day Celebration



Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Director, receiving salute during the Republic Day function at APCA. Sri. V. Karuppannan, Deputy Director, also seen in the picture.

The 72nd Republic Day of the Nation was celebrated in APCA on 26.01.2021. Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Director, APCA hoisted the National Flag and delivered the Republic Day Message. Sri. V. Karuppannan, Deputy Director, APCA, Professors, and other staff members were also present during the occasion.

2-Day Course Series on Radicalisation and De-Radicalisation in Prisons

The Academy has organized a series of 2-Day Course on the topic ‘Radicalisation and De- Radicalisation in Prisons’. The first course was conducted on 29.01.2021 & 30.01.2021; the second course was conducted on 17.02.2021 &

18.02.2021; the third course was conducted on 03.03.2021 & 04.03.2021 and the fourth one in the series was held on 17.03.2021 & 18.03.2021.



Sri. V. Karuppappan, Deputy Director, inaugurating the 2-Day Course on 'Radicalisation and De-Radicalisation in Prisons' on 29.01.2021.

Sri. V. Karuppappan, Deputy Director, APCA inaugurated the first course on 29.01.2021. Prof. (Dr.) A. Mathan Raj, Professor in Criminology, APCA and Course Coordinator welcomed the participants and introduced the course. A total of 15 officers in the rank of Deputy Jailor and Assistant Jailor from Tamil Nadu participated in the first course.

Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Director, APCA inaugurated the second course in this series on 17.02.2021. Sri. V. Karuppappan, Deputy Director, APCA delivered welcome speech. As many as 15 officers, including 4 Jailors, 5 Deputy Jailors and 6 Assistant Jailors from Tamil Nadu attended this course.



Sri. M.Chandrasekhar, Director, inaugurating the 2-Day Course on 'Radicalisation and De-Radicalisation in Prisons' on 17.02.2021. Sri. V. Karuppappan, Deputy Director, APCA also seen in the picture.

The third course in the series was inaugurated on 03.03.2021. Sri. V. Karuppappan, Deputy Director, APCA welcomed the gathering and Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Director, APCA inaugurated the event. A total of 15 officers in the ranks of Deputy Jailors and Assistant Jailors from Tamil Nadu attended this course.

The fourth course was inaugurated by Sri. V. Karuppappan, Director (FAC), APCA on 17.03.2021. This course was also attended by a total of 15 officers in the ranks of Deputy Jailors and Assistant Jailors from Tamil Nadu.



Smt.K.Jeyabarathi, DIG of Prisons, Vellore Range, Tamil Nadu distributing certificate to a course participant on 18.03.2021. Sri. V. Karuppappan, Deputy Director, APCA also seen in the picture.

The following topics were included in the two-day programme: Radicalisation and De-Radicalisation in Prison-An Introduction; Radicalisation of Prisoners-Detection of Early Signs; Safeguarding Vulnerable Inmates from Radicalisation; Risk Assessment, Classification and Segregation of Hardcore Criminals for Prevention of Radicalisation; Access Control and Surveillance on External Agents (NGOs, Religious preachers etc.) for Effective Prevention of Radicalisation in Prisons; Collective De-radicalisation and Disengagement, Individual De-radicalisation and Disengagement Programmes; Use of Technology in Prevention and Detection of Radicalisation-Effective Use of CCTV, Video Conferencing Facility etc., for Surveillance; Panel Discussion on Rehabilitation and Reintegration vis-a-vis Radicalisation.

Sri. M.Chandrasekar, Director, APCA; Sri.V.Karuppappan, Deputy Director, APCA; Sri.R.Kanagaraj, DIG of Prisons, Trichy Range, Tamil Nadu; Smt.K.Jeyabarathi, DIG of Prisons, Vellore Range, Tamil Nadu; Sri. Shanmugasundaram, DIG of Prisons, Coimbatore Range, Tamil Nadu; Sri. M. Sampath, Superintendent, Central Prison, Cherlapalli, Telangana, Prof. (Dr.) A.Mathan Raj, Professor in Criminology, APCA, and Dr.T.H.Ansar, Research Officer, APCA were the resource persons.

Commencement of 35th Batch 3-Months In-service Course

Training of the 35th Batch of 3-Month In-service Course was commenced on 15.04.2021. As many as 32 officers (9 Assistant Jailors from Tamil Nadu and 23 Deputy Jailors from Andhra Pradesh) who have been promoted from the guarding cadre attended the course.

Online Awareness Programme on Provisions in Transgender Community (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

The Academy in collaboration with National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India organized two online awareness programmes on Provisions in Transgender Community (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 for prison officers on 15.06.2021 and 22.06.2021. Dr. Veerendra Mishra, Director, NISD inaugurated the programmes and Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Director, APCA, delivered the special address on the occasion. Ms. Swati Bidhan, Advocate, Assam High Court, Guwahati was the resource person. Sri. V. Karuppappan, Deputy Director, APCA, proposed formal vote of thanks.

A total of 65 prison officers from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Delhi participated in the first programme and as many as 32 prison officers from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu attended the second course.

Dr. R. Giriraj, Deputy Director, NISD was the moderator and Prof. (Dr.) A. Mathan Raj, Professor in Criminology, APCA was the coordinator for the programmes.

Photo Feature



Participants of 2-Day Course on 'Radicalisation and De-Radicalisation in Prisons' with Sri. V. Karuppannan, Deputy Director, APCA; Prof. Dr. Beulah Emmanuel, Prof. Dr. A. Mathan Raj, and Dr. T.H. Ansar on 29.01.2021.

Firing Practice of Trainee Officers



Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Director, APCA supervising the firing practice and examination of 26th Batch 9-months Basic Course at District Firing Range, Salamanatham, Vellore on 08.06.2021.



Participants of 2-Day Course on 'Radicalisation and De-Radicalisation in Prisons' with Sri. V. Karuppannan, Deputy Director, APCA; Prof. Dr. Mathan Raj, Prof. Dr. Beulah Emmanuel, and Sri. M. Sampath, on 17.03.2021.



Participants of 2-Day Course on 'Radicalisation and De-Radicalisation in Prisons' with Sri. M. Chandrasekhar, Director, APCA; Sri. V. Karuppannan, Deputy Director, APCA; Prof. Dr. Beulah Emmanuel, Prof. Dr. A Mathan Raj and Dr. T.H. Ansar on 17.02.2021.

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