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**SPECIAL EVENTS****Passing Out Parade and convocation of the 32nd Batch Basic Course**

Dr. Maheshwar Dayal, IPS, Chairperson, BOM of APCA and DG of Prisons and Correctional Services, Tamil Nadu, reviewing the POP of 32nd Batch Nine - Month Basic Training Course. He is accompanied by Sri. B. Pradeep, Director, APCA.

A passing out parade of 42 trainee officers from Tamil Nadu belonging to the 32nd Batch Nine- Month of the Basic Course was held on 08.04.2025 at the Central Prison Parade Ground, Vellore. Dr. Maheshwar Dayal, IPS, Chairperson, BOM of APCA and Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services, Tamil Nadu was the chief guest on the occasion. The Chief Guest reviewed the parade and distributed Medals to the best performed trainee officers. Sri. B. Pradeep, Director, APCA delivered the welcome address and presented the course report. Sri. B. Pradeep, Director, APCA administered the oath. Sri. G. Shanmuga Sundaram, DIG of Prisons, Chennai Range I/C and Vellore Range, Tamil Nadu, other senior officers, Professors and staff of APCA also attended the programme.



Each platoon salute the chief guest during the parade

This batch comprised 42 trainee officers from Tamil Nadu, including 5 Jailors and 5 women Asst. Jailors who participated in the parade. Sri. Jothiram M. Asst. Jailer was awarded the Best All-Rounder medal as well as Best in Psychology, Sociology & Social Work and Human Rights and Best in Subjects. Sri. Arumugaraj B. Asst. Jailer was awarded the Best in Prison and Correctional Administration Medal;

Sri. Sivanantham M. Jailer was awarded the medal for Best in Penology and Alternatives to Imprisonment and Best in Parade ; Sri. Gunanithi K. Asst. Jailer was awarded Best in Criminology & Victimology ; Sri. Nirmal G. Asst. Jailer was awarded the medal for Best in Criminal Laws and Minor Acts; Sri. Murugesan A. was awarded the medal for Best in Shooting and Best in Outdoor. The special appreciation award was given to Sri. Ramvignesh S. and Sri. Rajasekar S. Asst. Jailers from Tamil Nadu.



Chief guest of the programme Dr. Maheshwar Dayal, IPS, Tamil Nadu appreciating and congratulating Sri. Jothiram M. Asst. Jailer who was awarded the Best All Rounder; Best in Psychology, Sociology and Social Work and Human Rights and Best in Subjects Medals.

**DIRECTOR'S DESK**

**Shri. B. Pradeep,**  
Director, APCA, Vellore.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM VS. CORRECTIONAL CENTRES IN INDIA :A CHANGING LANDSCAPE****INTRODUCTION:**

India's Criminal Justice System (CJS) is undergoing a transformative phase with the enforcement of the New Criminal Laws – 2023, effective 1st July 2024. these reforms not only modernize our legal processes but also have a significant bearing on the role and functioning of correctional centers across the country. This article explores the interplay between the evolving Criminal Justice framework and the Correctional administration system in India.



### **Salient Feature of India's Criminal Justice System:**

The Indian Criminal Justice System rests on four Pillars: Police, Judiciary, Prosecution and Correctional Administration. It aims to uphold the rule of Law, ensure fair trials and protects the rights of both victims and the accused.

### **The New Criminal Laws – 2023, replacing Colonial – era codes include:**

- Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita(BNS) - Replaces the IPC.
- Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita(BNSS) – Replaces CRPC.
- Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) – Replaces the Evidence Act.

### **These Laws emphasize:**

- Victim – Centric and time – bound justice.
- Use of digital and forensic tools.
- Alternative punishments, including community Service.
- A stronger shift toward restorative and rehabilitative forms of Justice.

### **Correctional Centres : Evolving Roles and Responsibilities**

Correctional Centers (Prisons) are no longer mere detention centers. The new legal framework positions them as vital institution for reformation and reintegration.

### **Key area of impact:**

- Introduction of rehabilitative Programmes for skill – building, education and mental wellness.
- Encouragement of non-custodial alternatives (Probation, Parole, Community service)
- Modernization through digitized records, vocational training and structured reformation plans.
- NGO's and Civil Society partnerships play a role in inmate rehabilitation.

The reforms push correctional centers to align more closely with the goals of justice delivery and reduce recidivism.

### **Role of CJS in Rehabilitation:**

With rehabilitation now a central theme in Criminal jurisprudence, both the judiciary and Correctional systems are expected to

- Support early reintegration of reformed offenders.
- Promote open Prisons and halfway homes.
- Use Parole and probation as tools of transformation.
- Ensure under trial Prisoners are not unnecessarily detained.

These efforts signal a departure from the punitive legacy of the past toward a more humanitarian approach that upholds dignity and offers second chances.

### **Way forward: Strengthening the Link:**

To bridge the gap between the Criminal justice system and Correctional institutions, the following steps are :

- Joint training programmes for police, judicial officers and Prison staff.
- Enhanced infrastructure and technology in correctional centers.
- Regular legal aid camps and counseling services.
- Transparent monitoring and evaluation of rehabilitation outcomes.

### **Conclusion:**

The synergy between India's evolving Criminal Justice System and its Correctional centers marks a new chapter in law enforcement and rehabilitation. With the implementation of the New Criminal Laws – 2023, the spot light is on reform, not just punishment. Correctional Centers are now essential partners in justice, playing a transformative role in reshaping lives and contributing to a safer, more just society.



ARTICLE ON PRISON AND CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATION

**Behind Bars, Beyond Minds: The Role of Correctional Psychology**

**Prof. R. Kanagaraj**

Professor of Psychology, APCA, Vellore

Correctional psychology is an emerging and dynamic discipline that bridges the fields of psychology, criminology, and correctional practice. Rooted in the understanding of human behavior, it focuses on the assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice system. Its central aim is not only to address criminal thinking and behavioral patterns but also to promote mental well-being, reduce recidivism, and support safe reintegration into society.

Research consistently shows that the prevalence of mental disorders among incarcerated people is substantially higher than in the general population, with depression, substance-use disorders, psychosis, and suicide risk being prominent concerns (WHO, 2022; WHO/Europe, 2023). These findings emphasize the necessity of integrating psychological assessment, treatment, and prevention into routine correctional practice to enhance safety, reduce morbidity and recidivism, and support rehabilitation.

Evidence from randomized trials indicates that psychological interventions delivered in prison can reduce post-release recidivism (Beaudry et al., 2021). Among the available modalities, cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT)—focusing on cognitive restructuring, problem solving, and self-regulation—has one of the strongest evidence bases for reducing reoffending when delivered with quality assurance (Chicago Crime Lab, 2024; Beaudry et al., 2021). Motivational Interviewing (MI) enhances engagement and readiness to change among justice-involved individuals, with reviews reporting improvements in treatment retention and, in some

cases, reductions in offending (McMurran, 2009; Walters et al., 2021).

Given the high prevalence of trauma histories, trauma-informed care (TIC)—which spans organizational practices and individual therapies (e.g., CBT variants, EMDR, and exposure-based interventions where appropriate)—is increasingly recommended and shows emerging benefits across patient, staff, and system outcomes (Levenson & Willis, 2018;

systematic reviews up to 2024). Suicide remains a leading cause of death in custody, making psychological risk screening, safety planning, brief therapies, and post-attempt follow-up core functions of correctional mental health teams. Guidance from global health bodies emphasizes comprehensive prevention programs and access to evidence-based psychological care. Recent reviews continue to support the role of psychological therapy in reducing self-harm and suicide risk in prisons (WHO, 2007; recent guidance/reviews, 2024).

A foundational framework for correctional assessment and intervention is the Risk–Need–Responsivity (RNR) model, which directs psychologists to: (a) match service intensity to risk, (b) target criminogenic needs (dynamic risk factors), and (c) tailor delivery to individual responsivity factors (e.g., cognitive abilities, culture, motivation) (Andrews & Bonta, 2010; Public Safety Canada, 2022). RNR has shaped modern risk tools and program design and is linked to improved outcomes when implemented with fidelity. As a helping profession, psychology has a significant role to play in correctional settings.

Psychologists can assist offenders whether they are incarcerated in maximum-security prisons or serving probation with minimal supervision. Behavioral scientists in correctional settings generally focus on five main areas: classification, treatment, training, research, and evaluation.



The key roles of correctional psychology include:

**Practical Roles of Correctional Psychologists**

- **Clinical assessment & treatment** : diagnosis, individual and group therapy (CBT, trauma-informed care, SUD treatments), crisis intervention.
- **Risk assessment & violence management**: dynamic risk formulation, case planning, and behavior management strategies.
- **Re-entry planning & continuity of care**: liaising with community services, relapse prevention, and transition interventions to reduce reoffending.
- **Staff consultation & training**: reducing burnout, improving communication, and advising on humane policies and practices.
- **Program design, evaluation & policy**: implementing evidence-based rehabilitative programs and measuring outcomes.

**Effectiveness of Interventions in Prison Settings**

Meta-analyses of randomized and quasi-experimental studies report that psychological treatments delivered in prisons (e.g., CBT, therapeutic communities, structured reentry programs) are associated with reduced symptoms and, in several studies and pooled estimates, reduced reoffending. Effect sizes and robustness vary depending on the type of intervention, study size, and length of follow-up. The strongest evidence supports structured, cognitive-behavioral, and socially integrative approaches tailored to criminal thinking and reentry needs.

**Need for Correctional Psychology in Prisons**

Correctional psychologists are directly involved in the legal system and work with mentally ill individuals in prisons and other correctional institutions. Their work applies psychological knowledge to legal, contractual, and administrative matters. In prisons, they not only assess and diagnose psychological and emotional problems among inmates but also provide treatment and rehabilitation after release. They study the psychological effects of prison conditions on offenders and play a central role in assessment and evaluation.

Correctional psychologists also conduct research on diverse topics, such as the effectiveness of incarceration methods, rehabilitation strategies, and reintegration programs.

**Conclusion**

Correctional psychology is not an optional add-on; it is an essential component of humane, effective, and safe correctional systems. The evidence shows high unmet mental health needs in prisons, clear psychological harms caused by incarceration, and strong indications that structured psychological interventions improve individual well-being and—in many cases—reduce reoffending when implemented with fidelity. Professional standards and systematic reviews converge on a model that integrates assessment, evidence-based treatment, staff support, and coordinated reentry planning. For policymakers and prison administrators, this implies three concrete priorities:

1. Embed trained correctional psychologists within multidisciplinary teams rather than outsourcing episodic care.
2. Implement evidence-based programs (CBT, therapeutic communities, transition-focused interventions) with quality assurance and outcome measurement.
3. Invest in continuity of care after release so that gains made in custody are sustained in the community.

Such measures enhance public safety, reduce long-term costs associated with recidivism and untreated illness, and uphold basic human rights for people in custody.

**COURSES AND PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED DURING  
APRIL – JUNE 2025**

**Convocation of the 45th Batch of the Three-Month  
In-service Training Course for Prison Officers**

The convocation of the 45th Batch of the Three-Month In-service training course for prison officers was held on 19.04.2025 at APCA. Sri. B. Pradeep, Director, APCA, Vellore, was the Chief Guest



and delivered the convocation address during the programme. Prof. (Dr.) A. Mathan Raj, APCA, gave the welcome speech and presented the course report. Prof. R. Kanagaraj, APCA, proposed the formal vote of thanks.



Sri. B. Pradeep, Director, APCA, presenting the Best All Rounder medal and certificate to Sri. Jithendra Krishna.K.S from Kerala.

A total of 17 officers underwent training in the 45th Batch of the three-Month in-service training course for prison officers: two Jailors and three Asst. Jailors from Karnataka; seven Assistant Superintendents Grade-II from Kerala, and five Deputy Jailor from Andhra Pradesh completed the training.

Sri. Jithendra Krishna.K.S from Kerala secured the Best All Rounder and Best in Prison Administration Medal; Smt. Reni Joy, Asst. Superintendent from Kerala received the Best in Subjects Medal; Sri. Kumara Devan, Asst. Jailor from Tamil Nadu, received the Best in Outdoor Medal; Sri. Rajeev S. R., Asst. Superintendent Grade-II from Kerala, received the Best in Prison and Correctional Administration Medal and Sri. Krishnaiah, Deputy Jailor from Telangaana, received the Special Appreciation Award.

## Commencement of the 46th Batch of the Three - Month In-service Training Course for Prison Officers

Training of the 46th Batch of the Three-Month In-service Training Course for Prison Officers commenced on 05.05.2025. As many as 12 officers (5 Asst. Superintendents Grade-II from Kerala and 7 Asst. Jailors from Karnataka) have joined the course.

## International Yoga Day

International Day of Yoga was celebrated with full spirit and joy in APCA on 21st June 2025 at 4.30pm. Sri. B. Pradeep , Director, APCA was the chief guest of the event and Dr. N.Y. Thiyagachanthan, Director of Physical Education, VIT, Vellore was the special invite. The mass yoga session for 1hr was conducted, Trainee Officers, Professors and other staff members of the APCA was participated In the event.

## Inauguration of the APCA Vellore Correctional Journal

The APCA Vellore Correctional Journal ( Vol.17 & Issue 1) was released by Sri.Rajeev Kumar Sharma, IPS, Director General, BPR&D, New Delhi during his visit at APCA, Vellore. Sri. B.Pradeep, Director, APCA; Sri. K.K. Meena, Assistant Director, BPR&D, New Delhi; Smt. Aandal, Superintendent, Womens Prisons, Vellore; Professors and Librarian, APCA, Vellore were present.



Sri. Rajeev Kumar Sharma, IPS., Director General, BPR&D, New Delhi, releasing the APCA Vellore Correctional Journal (Vol.17, Issue 1)

## Three-Day Short Term Course on "Prison Security-Dynamic & Static, Emerging Challenges"

The Academy has organized Short Term Course on 'Prison Security – Dynamic and Static, Emerging Challenges' with the sponsorship of the Bureau of Police Research & Development, New Delhi.

As many as 27 Prison officers in the ranks of Jailors, Asst. Jailors and Superintendents from the state of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu participated in the course.





Sri. Balram Kumar Upadhyay, IPS., Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services, Kerala & Member, Board of Management of APCA, Vellore, delivering inaugural speech through Online mode. All participants, professors and staff are seen in the picture.

The course was conducted from 24.06.2025 to 26.06.2025. Sri. Balram Kumar Upadhyay, IPS., Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services, Kerala & Member, Board of Management of APCA, Vellore, was the Chief Guest and delivered Inaugural speech through Online mode. Prof.(Dr.) Beulah Emmanuel, course coordinator, gave the welcome speech and presented introduction about the course. Sri. B. Pradeep, Director, APCA, Vellore, gave the presidential speech and Chairperson's Message. Prof. (Dr.) A. Mathan Raj, proposed the formal vote of thanks.



Sri. B. Pradeep, Director, APCA, Vellore, released the course material of the programme. Professors and other staff are seen in the picture.

The course included sessions on Case studies of Security Failure; Importance and types of Prison Security and Intelligence; Dynamic Security & Strengthening Measures; Static Security & forms of Static Security; Risk Assessment and Management in Prisons; Compendium of Electronic Gadgets in Indian Prisons; Use of Electronic Gadgets in Prison Security; Security Audits; Causes of disturbances, Preventive measures for disturbances, Escapes and Hostage Crisis.

**Editor in Chief :** Shri. B.Pradeep, Director, APCA

**Editorial Board Members :** Prof. (Dr.) Beulah Emmanuel, Professor in Social Work;

Prof. (Dr.) A. Mathan Raj, Professor in Criminology; Prof. R. Kanagaraj, Professor in Psychology; Prof. (Dr.) T.H.Ansar, Professor in Prison Administration.

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Dr. M. Varaprasad, DIG, Prisons, Andhra Pradesh; Prof.(Dr.) Beulah Emmanuel; Sri. G. Shanmuga Sundaram, DIG Prisons, Chennai range I/C & Vellore Range; Dr. A.Mathanraj, APCA, Vellore; Prof. (Dr. ) Sathya, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, VIT University, Vellore were the resource persons in the programme.

#### Study Tour of the 46th Batch of the Three - Month In-service Course Trainee Officers



Prof. Dr. T.H. Ansar and 46th Batch of the Three-Month In-service Prison Officers with Sri. K.R. Chaurasin, IPS, Inspector General of Police (Prisons), Goa, during the study tour.

The 46th Batch of the Three-Month In-service training course for Prison Officers had a 7- day study tour from 24.06.2025 to 30.06.2025. The team visited Central jails, District jails, and Open Prisons in Hyderabad, Kadapa, Colvale and Shivamogga, Prof. (Dr.) T. H. Ansar, APCA, lead the team.

#### APCA Staff Retirement



The staff of APCA organized a farewell function to felicitate Sri. B. N. Narasimha Reddy, sincere and hardworking office attendar, who was relieved from APCA service on the AN of 31.06.2025. He rendered 31years,10months & 7days of service in APCA. The staff of APCA bid farewell to him and acknowledged the valuable contributions to the institution;APCA extends its heartfelt wishes for his continued good health and a long fulfilling life.