



Government of Puducherry
Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat

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PRESS RELEASE

'Visit to Central Prison, Kalapet to meet with NGO's & Officials to Plan & Energize Prison Reforms'.

...Tweet of Dr. Kiran Bedi, Hon'ble Lt. Governor

Yoga learning session was held as per schedule in the morning at Raj Nivas and later as part of 88th weekend round, Dr. Kiran Bedi, Hon'ble Lt. Governor visited the Central Prison at Kalapet.

Yoga session was held at 06.00 a.m. by Yoga Teachers/Volunteers from Isha Yoga Foundation. Students and general public attended the session, apart from staff of Raj Nivas. Students were explained on the benefits of Yoga and were advised to practice Yoga, for all round development viz. both mental and physical. Participants of session profusely thanked Hon'ble Lt. Governor for the rare opportunity and appreciated the initiative, for opening up the lawns of Raj Nivas for the common man.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor thereafter visited the Central Prison at Kalapet, to discuss with Inspector General of Prisons and officials on Prison Reforms. Hon'ble Lt. Governor was accorded Guard of Honour and thereafter a meeting was held with NGOs and prison officials. Hon'ble Lt. Governor was then introduced to NGOs viz., Sahaj' Yoga, Aurobindo Society, SARNA, World Vision and Prison Ministry. NGOs shared their experience and their ongoing work with the prison inmates. Hon'ble Lt. Governor stated that Prison Reforms should be comprehensive and should touch every prison inmate. To achieve this objective, Hon'ble Lt. Governor introduced 3C Model, i.e., Collective, Corrective and Community based, wherein the officials and NGOs, work in tandem with prisoners to bring about the Prison Reforms.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor impressed upon preparing an activity based time table for the prisoners, to skill, educate and recreate. It was suggested that the day can start with Prayer, Yoga and Shramdhan and thereafter from 10.00 to 12.30 hours, prison should transform into a school, educating the prisoners as per their requirement and interest, after conducting a survey/profiling on their capability/requirement, of each prisoners. Apart from co-opting Teachers from outside, it was suggested to see inward, wherein some of the prison officials and even prisoners who are well educated, can volunteer to conduct classes.

The afternoon session can be utilized for hobby classes viz art, music, etc. and thereafter for games in the evening. IG (Prisons) was advised to hold inter-faith speeches, to wean them towards spirituality and transform them for the better, so as to prevent relapse of crime

Hon'ble Lt. Governor impressed upon the importance of closed coordination between Prison and Police. The Prisoners upon their release, would be linked up with the Beat Officers of the locality for monitoring and ensuing employment as per their skill and education, they learnt, while serving their term in prison. This most important step, would help achieve the objective of Prison Reforms, i.e. prevent relapse of crime.

Medical Officer of the Central Prison informed that 70% of the Prisoners were alcoholics. It was decided to work closely with these prisoners, through NGOs and health institutions. Hon'ble Lt. Governor also advised that programme must be formulated, for women prisoners, after evaluating their requirement.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor directed IG (Prisons) to work closely with NGOs and prepare the Prison Reform programme, encompassing all aspects discussed during the meeting. The same would be reviewed by Hon'ble Lt. Governor on 15th July, 2017 and thereafter implemented.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor while concluding stated that Puducherry Prison through these reforms would evolve as a "**MODEL PRISON**", through the "**ION**" programme, wherein **I**nmates, **O**fficials and **N**GOs, work closely to bring about the Reform.