



# drishti

## National Conference on 'Criminal Activities and Radicalization in Jails'

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Recently, a National Conference on '**Criminal Activities and Radicalization in Jails: Vulnerability of Inmates and Jail Staff and their Protection**' was held in New Delhi.

- The **two-day** conference was organized by the **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)**.
- The conference will **focus** on the following issues:
  - To consider vulnerabilities at individual and gang levels and to suggest safety measures for the same.
  - To understand various facets of radicalization as well as de-radicalization in prisons.
  - To analyze and formulate the security and protection standards for prison staff.
  - To provide an interdisciplinary platform for correctional personnel to exchange and share their experience on prison reforms.
- The conference enforced an aspect of "**Correctional Administration**" in **Prison reforms**.

### **Correctional Administration**

- A program that prepares individuals to plan and manage institutional facilities and programs for housing and rehabilitating prisoners in the public and/or private sectors.
- Correctional Administration includes:
  - Programme of the welfare of convicts/undertrials
  - Rehabilitation after release.
  - Involvement of Community.
- It also emphasized to convert **the prison as a centre of reformation**.

- **Challenges** addressed during the conference include:
  - Aggravation of sufferings during the process of imprisonment.
  - Rehabilitating and streamlining convicts back into society,
  - Overcrowding in prisons,
  - A large number of under-trials,
  - Inadequate prison infrastructure,
  - Criminal activities and radicalization in jails,
  - Safety of women prisoners and their young children,
  - Shortage of funds and staff for proper prison administration.

## Rights of Prisoners

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- **Article 21** of Indian Constitution enforces **“Right to Life”** as a Fundamental Right.
- The Imprisonment itself is a punishment for a convicted person thus **prison conditions should not be an additional punishment.**
- Imprisonment deprives someone of their **liberty and impacts on certain other rights, such as freedom of movement**, but human rights and fundamental freedoms of convicts shall not be restricted.

## Prison Administration in India

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- **Article 39(A)** of Indian Constitution states that State shall ensure **Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid for poor.**
- Prisons being a **State subject**, its modernisation is undertaken by respective State Governments.
- In a number of judgements on various aspects of prison administration, **the Supreme Court of India has laid down three broad principles:**
  - A person in prison does not become a non-person.
  - A person in prison is entitled to all human rights within the limitations of imprisonment.
  - There is no justification in aggravating the suffering already inherent in the process of incarceration.

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs** is supporting the States/UTs in implementing the **E-Prisons Project** and has issued the **Model Prison Manual**.
  - **E-Prisons Project.**
    - It aims to introduce efficiency in prison management through digitization.
    - It supplements the **Prisoner Information Management system (PIMS)**, which provides a **centralized approach for recording and managing prisoner information**.
  - **Model Prison Manual**
    - It mentions Legal Aid, provides detailed information about the legal services available to prison inmates and also free legal services available to them.
    - It is intended to provide assistance to under trial prison inmates.
- **The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** had also launched a web application to facilitate the **under trial prisoners** for providing them with **free legal services**.

**Source: PIB**