

NEWSLETTER

Prayas- TISS

Foregrounding IMPACT stories from the field



»»» About Prayas

Prayas is a field action project of the Centre for Criminology and Justice, School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, working to advance the legal rights and rehabilitation of persons coming into contact with the criminal justice system. These include prisoners and released prisoners, families of prisoners, especially their minor children, women rescued from commercial sexual exploitation and their children, women in destitution or at risk of victimization or criminalization, and children in conflict with the law. Prayas works towards providing a range of socio-legal and rehabilitative services through social work and socio-legal interventions, enabling people to live respectable lives as citizens.

In addition to direct service delivery, Prayas collaborates with CJS and allied departments and agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and ex-clients to transform people's lives.

The fundamental idea is to lower the likelihood of individuals becoming victims of sexual exploitation, crime, destitution, or mental illness by supporting them throughout their social re-entry and reintegration process and countering the social stigma that surrounds them.

>>> We are pleased to announce that the release of the official report of the National Consultation on the Probation of Offenders Act is now live.



organised on December 1, 2025, by the Centre for Criminology and Justice, School of Social Work, Prayas, and the Resource Cell on Juvenile Justice (RCJJ) in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), this consultation brought together key stakeholders to bridge gaps in the criminal justice system and prioritise reformatory justice.

The report offers critical insights into the implementation of probation laws and recommendations for a more humane legal framework.

Read the full report here: <https://share.google/iGwr4sfKMn1g6Kq6Z>

Landmark Supreme Court Judgment on Victims of Sex Trafficking



In *Prajwala v. Union of India* (2026 INSC 609), the Supreme Court of India has issued significant directions for the protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration of survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, including the development of India's first Victim Protection Plan (VPP). The judgment places the victim at the center of the justice process, recognising dignity, informed consent, rehabilitation, and protection from criminalisation as key principles under Articles 21 and 23 of the Constitution.

The judgment marks an important step towards victim-centric and rights-based justice, recognising survivors as individuals with dignity, rights and agency—not as commodities. Effective implementation by the police, judiciary, government agencies and civil society is now crucial.

Key Highlights:

- Rehabilitation is a right, not charity.
- Clear guidelines for pre-rescue, rescue, post-rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration.
- Victims should not be arrested and must be treated with dignity.
- Legal representation and informed consent are emphasised.
- Strengthened roles for Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs), social workers and inter-agency coordination.
- Special protections for children, transgender persons and persons with disabilities.



Challenges in Accessing Bal Sangopan Yojana

A new report by Prayas and iProbono India highlights the systemic challenges faced by eligible families in accessing benefits under Maharashtra's Bal Sangopan Yojana. While the scheme aims to provide financial support to vulnerable children, the report identifies key barriers including complex documentation requirements, misplaced records and delays in Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT).

The findings underscore the need for simpler processes, timely payments and stronger implementation mechanisms to ensure that eligible children and families receive the support they are entitled to.

Read the article here: <https://indianexpress.com/.../maharashtra-bal-sangopan.../>.

To access the full report, click here: https://www.tiss.ac.in/.../Bal_Sangopan_Yojana_-_Analysis..

For Maharashtra's vulnerable children, welfare aid trapped in red tape

Prayas-TISS report finds delays, missing documents and patchy implementation often keep Maharashtra's Bal Sangopan benefits from reaching children of single parents, prisoners and other vulnerable families.

Written by: [Purnima Sah](#)

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Supporting Prisoners Through Counselling, Legal Aid and Rehabilitation



A joint initiative of the Maharashtra Prisons Department and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) is strengthening prison rehabilitation through counselling, legal aid, and social support for prisoners across Maharashtra.

As highlighted by The Free Press Journal, the programme deploys social workers to support undertrial prisoners facing challenges such as delays in bail applications, family-related concerns and lack of legal representation.

The initiative reflects a human-centered and rehabilitative approach to prison reform, helping prisoners navigate legal and personal challenges while promoting dignity, access to justice, and successful reintegration into society.



Jail training programmes for undertrials face uphill battle

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Mumbai: Bacocho Khan (name changed), a former Arthur Road jail inmate who dreams of a Dubai job after undergoing a wall-painting course during his time in prison, said he took up the course as "it seemed so interesting and I thought I could take up commissions and contracts and make a living". The course teaches inmates practical painting skills ranging from applying putty and preparing walls to advanced finishes, textures and decorative designs.

"Now my mother is happy and doesn't worry about me anymore," he said. "She is happy with the life I have made for myself," Khan said.

The importance of such programmes extends beyond skill development. Nearly three-fourths of India's prison population comprises undertrials — people who have been accused but not convicted of crimes. Many spend years awaiting the outcome of their cases, only to be acquitted or handed sentences equivalent to the time they have already spent in jail. For them, courses such as wall painting, lift repair and English speaking offer not just a distraction from prison life but a chance to rebuild careers and livelihoods after years lost to the judicial process.

Arthur Road jail superintendent Harshad Ahirao said convincing undertrials to join educational or vocational programmes remains a challenge. "The prison houses only undertrials who think they will be out in no time," Ahirao said. "Inevitably many end up spending three to four years at least here, but initially they are not concerned about learning something new. Convicted prisoners, on the other hand, know that they have to spend a long time behind prison walls and are more willing to sign up."

Ahirao said the biggest impediment to scaling up educational and vocational initiatives inside the prison is the lack of space. "To conduct these classes you need a large hall or dedicated space, which is really hard to come by in a prison that is already heavily overcrowded," he said.

Mahipal Singh (name changed, 40) spent nearly two decades working as a spot boy on film sets in Mumbai before he too was arrested in a phone theft case. Inside prison, thoughts of his 12-year-old son, who had no one to care for him, tormented him day and night. "To distract myself during the long lonely hours of prison, Singh too joined the wall-painting course."

After his release, he found work at construction sites, and eventually secured regular



MOST POPULAR EDUCATIONAL & VOCATIONAL COURSES AT ARTHUR ROAD JAIL

Course	Number of inmates
Wall painting	127
Satsang (meditation)	50
Computers	22
Lift repairing	21
Spoken English	18
AC maintenance and repair	9
Salon	5



128 inmates were pursuing traditional degree programmes such as BCom and BEd through the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University in Mumbai

Many former inmates after release live with a fear of continued police harassment or surveillance and the social stigma of imprisonment, because of which they frequently change phone numbers or do not maintain stable addresses. This makes long-term follow-up and job placement extremely challenging.

Skills like carpentry cannot continue to be the default option indefinitely. There is a need to rethink prison vocational education more creatively and introduce courses that are aligned with changing industries and employment opportunities.

Professor Vijay Raghavan | CENTRE FOR CRIMINOLOGY AND JUSTICE AT THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

employment in the sector. His son, now 17, has just finished his junior college and is fascinated by the stock market and plans to pursue a course in it.

"Many don't have anybody to guide them or speak for them, so they don't know the correct path to take," Singh said. "There should be more opportunities like these."

TIMES Special

Sachin Bhinge, the course trainer and coordinator, said more than 650 inmates have been trained through the programme over the past five years. "We have been able to place around 50 inmates in jobs after release, while many others found work on their own," Bhinge said.

When asked about how contractors and companies react to and treat former prisoners

working with them, he said, "To be honest, many times we don't tell employers about their past. There are only two or three contractors we work with regularly."

According to Bhinge, one of the biggest challenges after inmates are released is simply staying in touch with them. "Most don't have a stable address or even a phone number, so tracking them and following up becomes difficult," he said.

The wall-painting course is part of a broader shift in education and vocational training at Arthur Road jail. Alongside painting, lift repair training has emerged as one of the most sought-after programmes among inmates.

Avinash Gavit, senior jailer and in charge of education at Arthur Road, said inmates prefer courses that directly improve employment prospects after release. "These two courses are

the most popular because inmates are able to find work in these sectors after leaving prison," Gavit said. "Courses like welding, electronics and computers were very popular once and don't attract much attention anymore. English-speaking classes on the other hand, however, have remained evergreen."

Ahirao said English-speaking courses often give inmates hope that they may someday join respectable society.

Gavit narrates an interesting event about a former inmate who became a stylist to the stars. "Many years ago a young boy from UP wound up in jail here, he took up our salon classes and after a few years here when he went free he joined the film industry, and now for many years he has become a hair stylist for some of the biggest stars in the industry, and they are none the wiser where he learnt these skills."

A recent feature in the Times of India highlights the transformative role of vocational training in supporting imprisoned individuals to acquire meaningful skills, explore employment opportunities, and prepare for life beyond prison.

Since March 2021, the JSW Dulux Academy, in collaboration with Prayas – A Field Action Project of TISS, has been implementing vocational skill development initiatives across prisons in Maharashtra. These programmes aim to equip prisoners with practical, industry-relevant skills that can strengthen their prospects for employment and support their journey towards rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

With the continued support of our partners, the initiative is set to expand its reach to more prisons, creating greater opportunities for skill development, livelihood and a dignified future beyond incarceration.

From Confinement to Opportunity: Building Pathways to Change



On 5 June 2026, Prayas marked World Environment Day through plantation drives at Bharuch District Prison and Shanti Sadan Mahila Vasatigruh. Around 200 prisoners at Bharuch participated in planting saplings within the prison premises. At Shanti Sadan, women residents and staff planted saplings while reflecting on the importance of environmental protection. These initiatives encouraged environmental awareness, collective responsibility, and a commitment to a greener future.

ભરૂચ જિલ્લા જેલ ખાતે વિશ્વ પર્યાવરણ દિવસની ઉજવણી કરાઈ



AWARENESS SESSION ON GOVERNMENT SCHEMES



Financial Literacy and Rights (FLR) Training session



In June 2026, an informative Financial Literacy and Rights (FLR) Training session was conducted for women by Ms. Sunanda Sandanshiv and Ms. Nikita Nayak, Assistant Revenue Officers, Tehsil Office, Thane.

The session focused on various government welfare schemes for widows, persons with disabilities, single mothers, and women from economically and socially disadvantaged communities. Participants were guided on eligibility criteria, required documents, application procedures, and scheme benefits. Their individual queries and concerns were also addressed.

The session enhanced awareness among women about available government support and empowered them to access their rights and entitlements.

Awareness Session on Government Welfare Schemes



On 25th June 2026, Ms. Nikita Nayak and Ms. Sunanda Sandanshiv from the Thane Tehsil Office conducted an awareness session for 55 women prisoners at Thane Central Prison. The session covered welfare schemes such as Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and Shraavanbal Niradhar Yojana, including eligibility, documentation, application procedures and benefits. Participants' queries were addressed, enhancing their awareness of and access to government welfare entitlements.



Disaster Management Training at Nashik Road Central Prison

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Shakti Vikas Academy, Nashik, and Prayas, a field action project of TISS, Mumbai, a Disaster Management Training Programme was organised at Nashik Road Central Prison for prison officers, staff, and male and female prisoners.

Mr. Manohar Jagtap, President of Shakti Vikas Academy, provided practical guidance on disaster preparedness, fire safety, use of DCP fire extinguishers, precautionary measures, and basic first aid. The programme was attended by 170 male and 62 female prisoners, along with prison officers, staff, and social workers.



The initiative strengthened awareness, preparedness, and practical safety skills, contributing to a safer prison environment and supporting the broader goals of prisoner welfare, capacity building, and rehabilitation.



Awareness Session on Government Welfare Schemes at Kalyan District Prison

On 28th July 2026, an awareness session on Bal Sangopan Yojana and the Released Prisoners Grant-in-Aid Scheme (Muktabandi Sahaya Yojana) was organised at Kalyan District Prison. Officials from the Women and Child Development Department—Ms. Tadvi, District Programme Officer (DPU), Ms. Sable, Protection Officer, and Mr. Krishna More—provided guidance on the objectives, eligibility criteria, required documents, application procedures, and benefits of the schemes.

The interactive session enabled participants to clarify their concerns and understand the available government welfare and social protection services, particularly those supporting vulnerable children and the rehabilitation and reintegration of released prisoners.





Strengthening De-Addiction Services in Punjab Prisons

To strengthen prisoner rehabilitation and de-addiction services, Prayas, in collaboration with the Prison Officers Training School, Patiala, conducted a three-day training programme from 20–22 May 2026 for social workers, clinical psychologists, doctors, ward boys and accountants working in prison de-addiction centres across Punjab.

The training covered key areas including rehabilitation, mental health, working with involuntary clients, legal aid and bail, expressive arts therapy, case and group work, documentation, and self-care. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Balbir Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Health, Government of Punjab, who emphasised the importance of a reformative and correctional approach in prisons.

The enthusiastic participation of the trainees reflected a shared commitment to strengthening professional support, prisoner well-being and rehabilitation services.



Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Session



In the month of August 2026, awareness sessions on Menstrual Hygiene were conducted at Kasturba and Navjeevan Mahila Vasatigruh. The sessions focused on promoting awareness about menstrual health, hygiene practices and self-care.

Following the sessions, sanitary napkins were distributed to the women, supporting their access to essential menstrual hygiene products and promoting health, dignity and well-being.



Promoting Awareness on De-addiction and Substance Abuse

On 10th August 2026, Prayas conducted an Awareness Session on De-addiction and Substance Abuse for women prisoners at the Women's Section of Thane Central Prison, with approximately 100 women participating.

The session addressed the impact of substance abuse on individuals, families, and communities, while emphasising the importance of timely support, emotional well-being, and a healthy, substance-free environment. Participants actively engaged in discussions, shared their concerns and experiences, and sought guidance on challenges related to substance use.



The interactive session provided a supportive space for reflection, awareness and peer learning, contributing to the women's rehabilitation and well-being.

PLV Training Workshop at Bharuch Court



In the month of June 2026, a Para Legal Volunteer (PLV) Training Workshop was organised at Bharuch Court in coordination with the District Legal Services Authority, under the programme “Working with People in Prisons and Communities.”

The session focused on Communication Skills for PLVs, with 30 trainees participating. Through theoretical inputs, role-plays and interactive exercises, participants strengthened their communication and interpersonal skills.

The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of PLVs to engage effectively, sensitively and empathetically with individuals in prisons and communities, contributing to more responsive legal aid services.



Ayushman Card Camp for Prayas and TISS Staff



In the month of August 2026, an Ayushman Card Camp was organised for Prayas clients, staff and their families, along with TISS staff members. A total of 54 participants attended the camp, and 38 beneficiaries received Ayushman Cards. The initiative provided valuable support in accessing healthcare benefits through information, guidance, and enrolment assistance. The active participation and cooperation of all staff members and families contributed to the successful completion of the camp.

Increased Grant Support under Mukta Bandi Sahaya Yojana



Through sustained engagement with the State Inter-Departmental Committee on Prisoners and follow-up with the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra, Prayas has contributed to an important policy development in support of released prisoners.

With effect from 18 August 2026, the Mukta Bandi Sahaya Yojana grant has been increased from ₹25,000 to ₹50,000, strengthening financial support for prisoners as they rebuild their lives and reintegrate into society.

Significantly, the scheme now also covers undertrial prisoners who have spent at least one year in prison and are subsequently acquitted. This provision recognises the challenges faced by those who experience prolonged incarceration despite being acquitted and marks an important step towards a more humane, rights-based and rehabilitation-oriented approach to prison reform.

For more details: <https://lnkd.in/dENCbNVX>

EXPOSURE VISIT



Exposure Visit for Children to D Atlantic Resort, Virar



On 22 May 2026, Prayas-TISS, with support from the Impact Foundation, organised an exposure visit for 47 children and staff members to D Atlantic Resort, Virar. The visit offered children a safe and joyful space for recreation, social interaction and team building through engaging group activities.

The children participated enthusiastically, building confidence, camaraderie and a sense of belonging while creating memorable experiences. Nutritious meals and refreshments were also provided throughout the visit.

Students' Felicitation Programme of Children of Prisoners



With the support of partner NGOs and donors, Prayas provides educational guidance, counselling and financial assistance to children of women prisoners and women residing in institutional settings, helping them continue their education despite challenging circumstances.

During the academic year 2025–26, 20 children from Byculla District Prison, Kalyan District Prison, Thane Central Prison, Shanti Sadan and Navjeevan Mahila Vasatigruh successfully cleared their Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations.

To recognise and celebrate their achievements, Prayas organised a Students' Felicitation Programme on 30 June 2026, bringing together the students, their parents and guardians. The programme provided a platform to acknowledge their hard work and encourage them to pursue their educational aspirations.

Ms. Arpita from Thadomal Shahani Alumni Philanthropies motivated the students and assured them of financial support for those pursuing higher education. The students also shared their educational journeys, aspirations and future plans, reflecting their confidence, resilience and determination.

The programme celebrated not only their academic success but also their perseverance in overcoming challenges. It reaffirmed the importance of continued educational support and encouragement in enabling young people to pursue their dreams and build brighter, more independent futures.



Study Visit by Shri Alok Kumar, IPS, to Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Central Prison



On 28 July 2026, Shri Alok Kumar, IPS, Director General of Prisons & Correctional Services, Karnataka, visited Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Central Prison as part of a study tour. He reviewed key prison facilities, including education and vocational training units, and took an overview of the ongoing Prisoners' Welfare and Rehabilitation Project.

During an interaction with prison officials and Prayas-TISS social workers, discussions focused on prisoner welfare, counselling, family reintegration, education, skill development and post-release rehabilitation. Shri Alok Kumar appreciated the rehabilitation initiatives undertaken under the guidance of Prof. Vijay Raghavan and acknowledged the important role of social workers in strengthening connections between prisons, prisoners and their families.

Rehabilitation Requires More Than Confinement—it Requires Opportunity



A recent Times of India feature highlights how vocational training programmes can play an important role in supporting imprisoned individuals to rebuild their lives through meaningful skills, employment opportunities and pathways towards reintegration.

Since March 2021, the JSW Dulux Academy initiative, implemented in collaboration with Prayas – A Field Action Project of TISS, has been contributing to this effort across prisons in Maharashtra, equipping prisoners with practical skills that can strengthen their prospects for employment and self-reliance after release. With further expansion planned, the initiative continues to demonstrate the importance of linking rehabilitation with opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.

At Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), we remain committed to advancing evidence-based approaches that promote rehabilitation, inclusion, dignity and social justice, while strengthening pathways for individuals to rebuild their lives and reconnect with their communities.



Prayas Featured in Horizons

Prayas was featured in Horizons, a magazine published by Tata Trusts, highlighting its work across five Central Prisons in Maharashtra under the MoU between the Government of Maharashtra (Home Department) and TISS, with funding support from Tata Trusts. The feature showcases Prayas' efforts towards prisoner welfare, rehabilitation, skill development, and reintegration.

For details read the link below...

https://lnkd.in/daCMZt_4

Orientation Visit to Dongri Children's Home



On 9 July 2026, the Department of Law, HSNL University, Mumbai, organised an orientation visit to Dongri Children's Home for 15 law students and two faculty members. The visit provided practical exposure to the juvenile justice system and the rehabilitation and reintegration of Children in Conflict with Law (CCL).

Students interacted with Children's Home staff and visited Prayas vocational training classes, gaining insights into institutional care, child protection, legal support, education and skill development. The visit helped students connect their academic learning with practice while reinforcing the importance of a rights-based, child-centred approach to rehabilitation.



Orientation and Recreational Activities at Protective Home

In July 2026, Prayas organised orientation and recreational activities for women residing at the Protective Home, with a focus on newly admitted residents. The programme included a concentration game, an orientation session for 9 women on their rights, legal procedures, support services, free legal aid and rehabilitation opportunities, followed by a Pipe Cleaner Craft Activity for 13 women. The activities promoted confidence, communication and social connection, creating a welcoming and supportive environment while reflecting Prayas' holistic approach to rehabilitation.

GALABHET : STRENGTHENING FAMILY BONDS



Galabhet Programme at Nashik Road Central Prison

A heartfelt Galabhet Programme was organised at Nashik Road Central Prison, creating a meaningful opportunity for prisoners to reconnect with their families. In the presence of Chief Guest Hon'ble Shri D.B. Patange, District Judge 8 & Additional Sessions Judge, Nashik, 60 male and 15 female prisoners reunited with 156 children.

The reunion was filled with moments of joy, affection, and emotion as parents spent precious time with their children, enquiring about their well-being and education.

The Prayas team distributed flowers, balloons, and sweets, adding warmth and cheer to the occasion. The programme highlighted the importance of family bonds and emotional support in the rehabilitation and well-being of prisoners.



Galabhet Programme at Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Central Prison



Under the joint Prisoners' Welfare and Rehabilitation Project of Prayas-TISS and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Central Prison, a Galabhet Programme was organised on 30 June 2026, bringing together 61 prisoners and 154 family members, including children. The programme provided a meaningful opportunity for prisoners to reconnect with their loved ones, with some meeting their children after several years or seeing them for the first time. Meals, educational kits, and essential materials were also provided to support the visiting families and children.

The reunion was marked by moments of joy, affection, and deep emotion, reinforcing the importance of family support during incarceration. Such meaningful family connections help strengthen emotional well-being, hope, and motivation, while contributing to the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners. The efforts of the Prayas social work team and prison administration were appreciated for ensuring the smooth and meaningful conduct of the programme.



Galabhet at Nagpur Central Prison: Reconnecting Families, Strengthening Hope

On 11 July 2026, Nagpur Central Prison organised a special Galabhet Programme, bringing together 166 prisoners and 283 children for a meaningful family reunion. The programme offered children and their parents an opportunity to reconnect, share affection, and spend quality time together.

Children presented poems and songs, adding warmth and joy to the gathering, while educational kits containing school bags, books, notebooks, and learning materials were distributed to support their education.

The programme highlighted the vital role of family bonds in prisoner rehabilitation, providing emotional strength, hope, and motivation for positive change. Meaningful family contact can help prisoners maintain important relationships and strengthen their confidence towards rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society.

The heartfelt interactions reflected the human dimension of prison reform and the importance of compassion and family support in the rehabilitation journey.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS



Skill Development Trainings at Shanti Sadan Mahila Vasatigruh

During June and July 2026, Prayas organised a series of skill development trainings at Shanti Sadan Mahila Vasatigruh to promote vocational skills, creativity, self-reliance, and livelihood opportunities among women.

The training series included Silk Jewellery Making on 8th and 15th June, with 15 women participating; Mangalsutra Pattern and Nath Making on 25th June, attended by 8 women; and Invisible Necklace Making in July, benefiting 20 women. Participants received hands-on training in both traditional and contemporary jewellery-making techniques.

The sessions were well received and provided women with opportunities to develop practical skills, confidence, creativity, and entrepreneurial potential. Such livelihood-oriented initiatives support women in moving towards greater self-reliance and economic empowerment.



Empowering Women Through Skill Development and Creative Expression



During July 2026, Prayas organised a series of skill development and recreational activities for women residing at the Protective Home, with a focus on promoting creativity, self-confidence and psychosocial well-being.

As part of the vocational training programme, seven women learned basic crochet techniques and created handcrafted items including keychains, bangle clips and woollen flowers. The activity helped strengthen their hand coordination, creativity and practical vocational skills. These activities provided the women with a supportive and engaging space to learn, create and express themselves, while fostering positive interaction and enthusiasm for the upcoming celebrations.



Wall Painting Training Programme at Latur District Prison

On 7th August 2026, Pratham Foundation and Prayas-TISS jointly organised a presentation on a Wall Painting Training Programme at Latur District Prison. The session introduced prisoners to practical painting skills, training opportunities and potential employment avenues.

The Prayas team also highlighted available skill development and rehabilitation support, while participants were guided on the documentation required for enrolment. With the support of Latur District Prison Superintendent Mr. Mulani, the programme received an enthusiastic response from prisoners.

The training is scheduled to commence shortly, offering pathways towards skill development, employability, self-reliance and rehabilitation.



Skill Development, Employment & Entrepreneurship Guidance Session



In August 2026, a Guidance Session on Skill Development, Employment and Entrepreneurship was organised at Navjeevan Mahila Vasatigriha, Mankhurd, with 26 women participants.

Facilitated by Ms. Aarti Devdhar and Ms. Sanskriti Salunkhe from the District Skill Development, Employment and Entrepreneurship Guidance Centre, the session provided information on free skill development courses, employment opportunities, scholarships, government schemes and entrepreneurship support.

Participants also received guidance on the Chief Minister's Youth Work Training Scheme and opportunities for women-led businesses, encouraging them to explore pathways towards skill development, employment and economic self-reliance.



AWARENESS SESSIONS ON MENTAL HEALTH



Activity-Based Workshop at Dongri Children's Home

A two-day activity-based workshop was organised at Dongri Children's Home in May 2026 for Children in Conflict with Law (CCL), focusing on emotional awareness, creativity, communication and positive behavioural development.

On 12th May, 12 CCL participated in the "My Mood Monster" activity, using drawing, sounds and actions to express their emotions. On 13th May, 27 CCL engaged in storytelling and the "Good Frog, Bad Frog" activity, exploring teamwork, decision-making and positive behavioural choices.

The workshop provided children with a safe and engaging space for self-expression, emotional learning and personal development through creative activities.



Yoga, Meditation & Legal Awareness Programme



As part of its holistic rehabilitation initiatives for Children in Conflict with Law (CCL), Prayas organised a Yoga and Meditation Session at Dongri Observation Home in June 2026, introducing children to basic yoga, breathing exercises and guided meditation to promote stress management, concentration and emotional well-being.

The session was followed by a Legal Awareness and Education Programme for children and parents, covering legal rights and responsibilities, education, rehabilitation, documentation, welfare schemes and reintegration support. The programme reinforced Prayas' integrated approach to wellness, education, family support and social reintegration.



Supporting Emotional Well-being Through Dance Movement Therapy

As part of its holistic rehabilitation initiatives, Prayas, in collaboration with Artscape Foundation, organised a Dance Movement Therapy Session for 15 children at Dongri Children's Home in August 2026.

Facilitated by a trained Dance Movement Therapist, the session used creative movement to promote emotional expression, stress management, communication and positive social interaction. It also supported physical well-being through activities that encouraged balance, coordination, flexibility and body awareness.

The session provided children with a safe and supportive space to build self-confidence, emotional resilience and healthy coping skills, contributing to their overall psychosocial development and rehabilitation.



Creative Skill-Building Activities at Women's Development Centre



During July and August 2026, Prayas Women's Development Centre, Thane organised creative skill-building activities for its clients, including traditional Nath-making and pipe-cleaner keychain making.

A total of 10 women participated in the Nath-making activity, gaining hands-on experience in designing and crafting traditional jewellery. The keychain-making activity provided participants with an opportunity to explore creative designs while developing concentration, fine motor skills, and practical craft skills.

Both activities encouraged creativity, self-confidence, positive peer interaction, and skill development in a supportive and engaging environment.



➤➤➤ Health Check-Up Camp for Children of Women Prisoners at Kalyan District Prison

On 29 July 2026, Prayas, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Kalyan, organised a Health Check-Up Camp for children of women prisoners at Kalyan District Prison. Paediatricians Dr. Sandeep Naik and Dr. Himanshu Thakkar from Rainbow Children's Hospital, Kalyan, conducted health examinations and provided medical guidance and follow-up recommendations.

The camp provided an important opportunity for early identification of health concerns and timely medical care, contributing to the overall health and well-being of children living in vulnerable circumstances. The initiative reflects the shared commitment of Prayas and Rotary Club of Kalyan towards supporting the healthy and dignified development of children.



Awareness and Sensitisation Session on the RPwD Act, 2016 at Thane Central Prison <<<



In accordance with the directions of the prison administration, an awareness and sensitization session on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016) was organised at Thane Central Prison on 1st August 2026 for newly appointed male and female prison staff members. The session was jointly conducted by the prison's staff and two social workers of Prayas.

The programme aimed to enhance participants' understanding of the constitutional and legal rights of persons with disabilities and to promote an inclusive and rights-based approach within the prison system. The session covered key provisions of the RPwD Act, including equality of opportunity, dignity and respect, non-discrimination, accessibility, and the statutory obligations of public officials.

The facilitators emphasized that prison personnel play a crucial role in ensuring that persons with disabilities are treated with compassion, sensitivity, and fairness, while safeguarding their rights in accordance with the law. The session encouraged participants to adopt inclusive practices and contribute to creating a barrier-free, respectful, and accessible environment within the correctional setting.

➤➤➤ Strengthening Health Awareness Among Prison Officers and Staff

On 20 August 2026, Prayas-TISS, in collaboration with the District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit (DAPCU) and District Hospital, organised an awareness and guidance session on HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and related health concerns at Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Central Prison under the ISHTH initiative.

A total of 36 male and female prison officers and staff participated in the session. Dr. Salve from the District AIDS Control Department provided guidance on prevention, transmission, testing, treatment and available healthcare services, while counsellors addressed common misconceptions and emphasised the importance of timely testing and care.

The session strengthened health awareness among prison personnel and encouraged preventive practices, early detection and timely access to healthcare, contributing to a healthier and more informed correctional environment.



Promoting Access to Healthcare: Medical & Dental Camp at Byculla District Prison <<<



On 22 August 2026, Prayas, in collaboration with the Medical Services Society of India (MSS), Kurla Unit, organised a Medical and Dental Camp at Byculla District Prison for prisoners and prison staff.

A total of 233 prisoners received medical and dental examinations, including blood pressure monitoring and blood sugar testing wherever required. Prison staff were also screened, with four staff members identified with significantly elevated blood sugar levels and advised to seek further medical evaluation.

The camp was supported by 12 doctors, including seven female doctors, who generously contributed their time and expertise. Certificates of Acknowledgement were presented to the participating doctors in recognition of their valuable service.

The initiative strengthened access to essential healthcare within the prison setting and reflected the collaborative commitment of Prayas, MSS and the prison administration towards promoting the health and well-being of prisoners and staff.

TRADITIONAL ART & CRAFT



Art-Based Therapy Workshop at Navjeevan Mahila Vasatigruh



In May 2026, Prayas organised a two-day art-based therapy workshop at Navjeevan Mahila Vasatigruh, with 26 women participants. The workshop used creative activities to promote emotional well-being, self-expression, stress management and confidence.

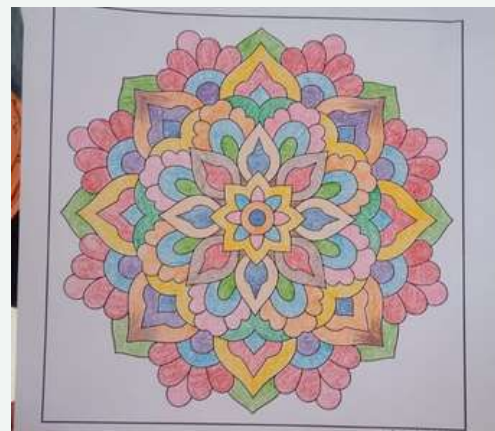
The participants engaged enthusiastically in various art forms as therapeutic tools. The initiative highlighted Prayas' continued efforts towards holistic rehabilitation and emotional well-being of women in institutional care.

Mandala Art Workshop for Mental Well-being at Kalyan District Prison and Shanti Sadan



In the month of June 2026, a mandala art workshop was conducted at Kalyan District Prison and Shanti Sadan Mahila Vasatigruh (for women rescued from commercial sexual exploitation) to promote mental health and emotional resilience. The workshop introduced participants to the therapeutic practice of mandala creation, known for its calming and meditative effects that help reduce anxiety, improve focus, and encourage self-reflection.

Women prisoners and women residents of Shanti Sadan actively engaged in the sessions, using colors and patterns as a medium for relaxation and inner expression. The initiative aimed to provide a constructive outlet for stress and support psychological well-being within institutional settings, reaffirming the importance of creative therapies in holistic rehabilitation.



Celebrating Tradition and Creativity: Jagannath Puri Rakhi-Making Activity

On 20 August 2026, nine women prisoners at Thane Central Prison participated in a special Rakhi-making activity and handcrafted 44 Jagannath Puri Rakhis, inspired by the rich cultural traditions of Rakhi Lagi Niti and Balabhadra Janma, celebrated at the Jagannath Temple in Puri on the occasion of Shraavan Purnima. The participants explored the traditional designs and colours associated with the sacred Rakhis, reflecting the craftsmanship, devotion, and cultural heritage of this age-old tradition.

The activity provided the women with an opportunity to express their creativity, patience, and craftsmanship while learning about a distinctive cultural tradition. The initiative beautifully connected cultural heritage, skill development, and rehabilitation, offering meaningful opportunities for self-expression, dignity, and a sense of connection. Through this creative engagement, the women became part of a celebration that conveys the universal values of love, care, siblinghood, and togetherness.



Rakhi-Making Training at Thane Central Prison



As part of the Prisoners' Welfare and Rehabilitation Project, a Rakhi-making training programme was conducted for women prisoners at Thane Central Prison on 29 July 2026. The hands-on training encouraged creativity, skill development and productive engagement.

The participants created approximately 375 handcrafted rakhis, which have been available for sale at the Thane Central Prison Sales Centre since 18 August 2026. The initiative promoted confidence, dignity and self-reliance, demonstrating the role of vocational skills in rehabilitation and positive reintegration into society.

Each rakhi is not just a handmade creation—it is a symbol of hope, skill and a new beginning.



Rakhi-Making Activity at Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh

In August 2026, Prayas organised a special Rakhi-making activity at Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh, with 10 women participants. The women enthusiastically created colourful handmade Rakhis using quilling strips and pearls, showcasing their creativity and craftsmanship.

The activity offered a joyful opportunity to celebrate Raksha Bandhan, sibling love and togetherness through creativity and meaningful engagement.



Paper Flower-Making Activity at Shanti Sadan



A Flower-Making Class has been conducted at Shanti Sadan in August 2026 as part of a skill-development initiative for resident girls. The sessions introduced participants to creative paper craft techniques for making decorative flowers, encouraging them to explore their creativity while developing a new practical skill.

A total of 14 girls actively participated in the sessions with enthusiasm and keen interest. The activity provided an engaging learning experience while promoting creativity, confidence, and skill development among the girls.



Independence Day Celebrations Across Prayas Centres

On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day on 15 August 2026, Prayas centres and partner institutions across Kalyan, Thane, Nagpur, Nashik Road, Bharuch, and women's shelter homes. Prisoners and women residents participated in activities such as flag-making, Mehendi, games, dance, and creative activities Mehendi, creative activities, and recreational programmes, fostering a spirit of patriotism, unity, joy, and positive engagement.

Mehendi activities were organised at Kalyan District Prison, Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh, and the Prayas Women Development Centre, Thane, providing women with opportunities for creativity, bonding, and celebration.

At Bharuch District Prison, around 300 prisoners joined the recreational celebrations.

The occasion also recognised the dedicated contribution of Prayas social workers towards prisoner welfare and rehabilitation. Social workers at Thane, Nagpur, and Nashik Road Central Prisons were felicitated with Certificates of Appreciation for their work in legal guidance, counselling, family communication, rehabilitation, and social reintegration. At Nashik Road Central Prison, Mrs. Anupama Munde, Mr. Pravin Mahire, and Mr. Sunil Koli were honoured for their exemplary contribution. The celebrations highlighted the values of hope, dignity, reform, responsibility, and reintegration into society.



Gratitude & Acknowledgement



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed partners, funders, donors, and well-wishers for their continued trust and unwavering support. Your partnership enables us to pursue our mission with commitment and strengthen our efforts towards rehabilitation, reintegration, and dignity.

We sincerely acknowledge the valuable guidance and support of government departments, prison officials, organisations, institutions, and individuals who contribute to the well-being of our clients and their families. Your collaboration continues to strengthen our interventions and expand the reach of our work.

Thank you for standing with us and being a part of our collective effort to build a society where every individual can live with dignity, responsibility, and mutual respect.

We are especially grateful to organisations and individual donors who provide timely assistance for essential and emergency needs, including food and medical support, house rent and repairs, educational and vocational stipends, travel assistance, bail support, and other critical requirements.

We also thank our clients and their families for their trust, resilience, and active participation in the journey towards change.



- 📍 Bharuch District Prison
- 📍 Juvenile Justice Board, Bharuch District



- 📍 Dongri Children's Home (Observation Home)
- 📍 Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh (NMV)
- 📍 Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh (KMOV)
- 📍 Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh (SSMV)
- 📍 Borstal School, Nashik



- 📍 Mumbai Central Prison
- 📍 Byculla District Prison
- 📍 Thane Central Prison
- 📍 Kalyan District Prison
- 📍 Taloja Central Prison
- 📍 Alibag District Prison
- 📍 Latur District Prison
- 📍 Yerawada Central Prison
- 📍 Aurangabad Central Prison
- 📍 Nagpur Central Prison
- 📍 Nashik Central Prison
- 📍 Kolhapur Central Prison

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