

# THE LITTLE PRISON LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT  
OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

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“ I told my little girl I would be back in a minute...I didn't wish her goodbye...and I haven't met her since I walked into prison. ”

SEEMA, 31 YEARS,  
PAGE 1 DEHRADUN DISTRICT JAIL



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# LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION AND ITS TRUSTEES

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE  
PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

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**DR. SANA DAS**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LIFE AND  
LIBERTY FOUNDATION

## ABOUT LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

Life and Liberty Foundation (LLF) is a new nonprofit organisation in India, committed to protecting life, liberty and dignity, and promoting the rule of law, fair trial, fair treatment by the law, and justice for all. It is registered under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.

LLF is dedicated to the creation of safe societies and ensuring safe custody. For more, refer <https://lifeandlibertyfoundation.wordpress.com/>.

## LLF Activities

- Safeguarding access to effective representation and legal aid at the earliest stages.
- Promoting justice solutions to prevent crime, unnecessary detention and prison overcrowding.
- Strengthening the monitoring of custody institutions.
- Facilitating access to information for persons behind bars and other needy populations.
- Providing legal education and capacity building for students, prisoners, criminal justice representatives.
- Furthering mechanisms and opportunities for the well-being and reintegration of prisoners with society.
- Supporting institutions/governments to achieve/exchange good practice in the areas of justice administration and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Contact LLF for queries and donations:  
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# ABOUT THE LITTLE PRISON LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

Dear Readers,

New Year Greetings. The Little Prison Libraries Newsletter is a publication of Life and Liberty Foundation's (LLF) Prison Lighthouse Project whose objective is to set up 'integrated' prison libraries for women prisoners (including those with children) in order to ensure their access to information, contact with the outside world, reintegration, and overall well-being.

The Newsletter will carry bi-lingual stories, interviews and recommendations around the distress and difficulties faced by women prisoners as well as the access, activities and solutions brought in through the integrated prison libraries and their referral work with justice agencies under its Prison Lighthouse Project.

LLF gave a campaign call on 8 March 2021, International Women's Day, for the promotion of prison libraries for women prisoners. The campaign prioritises 23 states and 2 union territories for integrated prison library initiative. In August 2021, as soon as there was an ebb in the second Corona wave, LLF took the opportunity to seek permissions from Prison Departments of 8 states and 2 union territories for meetings, jail visits and for the setting up/upgrading of **Little Prison Libraries** and **Mini Prison Libraries** for women prisoners.

Prison life is everybody's business and The Little Prison Libraries Newsletter invites the participation, empathy and collective responsibility of various sections of the public, civil society, corporations, associations, justice system, elected representatives, philanthropists, entrepreneurs, educationists, writers, publishers, prison reformers, and other important stakeholders, to break the isolation and ensure women prisoners' access to information and restoration of meaningful contact with society.

The first few issues of the Newsletter deal with the findings from visits made to 17 prisons in ten of the top 25 priority states and union territories where women prisoners are lodged in the country and where the Little Prison Libraries and Mini Prison Libraries will be set up. They also carry updates from some of these prisons. Conversations with women prisoners and prison officials in the 17 prisons revealed the immense difficulties women prisoners have in getting access to anything, be it a newspaper, a meeting/mulakat with their family members or their lawyers, or bail, parole and early release, or a second chance.

**Issue 2 & 3 of Volume 1 focus on the Mulakat/Visitation challenges faced by women prisoners and appeals to public minded individuals and organisations to support Little Prison Libraries with E-Mulakat facilities. Issue 1 may be read on the Campaigns page of LLF website.**

**THANKS:** The Prison Lighthouse Project and the Little Prison Libraries Team are thankful to all women prisoners and prison officials for sharing their views.

**NOTE:** This Newsletter does not use photographs or real names of prisoners, prison teachers or prison officials. For queries and contributions, please contact Life and Liberty Foundation at:

Email: [lifelandlibertyfoundation2020@gmail.com](mailto:lifelandlibertyfoundation2020@gmail.com). Phone: 8800626629.

**For donations, please visit LLF website:**

<https://lifelandlibertyfoundation.wordpress.com/donate/>

THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

ENSURING WOMEN PRISONERS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD

LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

The Little Prison Libraries Newsletter seeks to draw attention to the isolation, stigma, and instability of women's lives behind bars, and the place that 'integrated' prison libraries could have in checking and reducing the same, through newspapers, magazines, books, audio books, letters, e-mulakat/e-visitation, reading-writing activities, socio-legal-psychological counselling and vocational activities. It privileges the prisoner's right to have access to information and contact with the outside world.

## About the Editor

Dr. Sana Das is a Founder and the Executive Director of Life and Liberty Foundation. She has a background in the Social Sciences and has been working in the field of human rights education and policy research for more than 25 years and has been actively engaged in criminal justice reforms for the last ten years.

She has been associated with the SMILE programme of Indo German Social Service Society in different capacities and regions, the National Youth Foundation, Action Aid, Amnesty International, Heinrich Boell Foundation (affiliated to the Green Party of Germany), the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and the British High Commission. She has also been part of global change platforms such as the World Social Forum and the World Dignity Forum.

Some of her contributions are in the fields of human rights education, democratisation of Indian society, prevention of unnecessary pre-trial detention, promoting alternatives to imprisonment, strengthening prison legal aid, prison monitoring, capacity building, and reducing barriers to access to justice.

She is the author of "Bringing Them Home: Repatriation of Indian Nationals from Foreign Prisons, A Barrier Analysis (2017)", published by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, and Co-Editor of "Art as Witness (2010)", published by Amnesty International. She is the co-editor of several watch reports on the criminal justice system and has been published from time to time in The Hindu, Indian Express, Tehelka and The Wire.



# WHAT CAN WE TELL OUR FAMILIES IN 5 MINUTES

## PHONE MULAKAT

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

Even after two years of Covid restrictions, most jails remain unprepared to provide prisoners with adequate contact with the outside world. The pressure on phones has reduced the phone mulakat from 5 times to just twice a week per prisoner, and in several jails, the regular 5 minutes has come down to just three.

The phone kiosk area is often the most active and crowded place in women's jails and enclosures. With chances of 'Jaali' Mulakat (physical visitations conducted with a mesh partition) having shrunk following Covid 19 restrictions, the pressure on phone mulakat has increased. Where face-to-face mulakat is being revived, it is mainly restricted to blood relations, and only once a week for undertrials and once a fortnight for convicts.

Most jails grant a 5 minute phone mulakat twice a week.

Barely a few grant 8-10 minutes at the kiosk or landline, and allow prisoners with cards/tokens to call anytime during the open hours, and this is only if the phone to prisoner ratio is manageable.

" What can we tell our families in 5 minutes... The connection is set on an auto-cut mode. The moment our 5 minutes are up, the call gets disconnected."

SMRITI, DEHRADUN DISTRICT JAIL

“

BREAK THE ISOLATION.

PRISON LIFE IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS.

SUPPORT PHONE MULAKAT AND E-MULAKAT FOR WOMEN PRISONERS.

DONATE NOW.

”





# WHAT CAN WE TELL OUR FAMILIES IN 5 MINUTES

## PHONE MULAKAT

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

Landline phones themselves are a scarce commodity in several jails. Some prisons were found managing phone mulakat in women enclosures with a single landline phone despite having almost 80-90 women in lock-up. In some cases, jails housing about 1200 male and female prisoners, had only 6 phones in total for mulakat.

A few states used 2-3 kiosk-fixed phones in the women enclosures. These were fed with pre-approved numbers and a time-set.

Some prisons did not provide phones inside women prisoners' enclosures at all. Either special arrangements had to be done for calls to be made or received, sometimes a device being specially taken into the enclosure, or women had to be escorted out to the phone area.

**Only jails in one state had supplemented land line phones with secure smart phones for video calling to ease mulakat through the difficult Covid 19 times**

**Only one state was envisioning setting up 105 kiosks for e-peshi and e-mulakat for a more sustainable humanitarains model.**

**Some states were in the process of installing them for the first time in their prime jails.**

"Phone calls are permitted twice a week for both undertrials and convicts. But we cannot call our families. Only they can call us.

We wait. There is only an incoming phone mulakat system..."

SUNITA, INDORE CENTRAL JAIL

" Our families call the prison office, and then we call them back using the tokens we have.

Tokens are paid for by our families already. The money is deducted from the tokens with every use at the phone or canteen..."

SUKANYA, JHARPARA SPECIAL JAIL, BHUBANESWAR

“

There are no phones inside the women enclosure as such. Phones are in the Control Room. Women have to walk from their enclosure under security to the Control Room and back to receive or make calls. So definitely an exclusive device for women prisoners would be helpful...

”

PRISON OFFICIAL





# YEH MULAKAT NAHIN ASAAN PHONE MULAKAT

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE  
PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

Both women prisoners and jail officials concurred that case-based and confinement-based anxiety and depression are common. Insomnia is normal. Depression due to lack of mulakat with family and lawyers is rampant. Though a regular and good mulakat/visitation system has been internationally recognised as a necessity to ensure both prisoner mental health and well-being as well as effective prisoner management system, there were many shortcomings. The prison inmate calling system is driven by prison infrastructure on one side and willingness and ability of families of prisoners to connect and pay.

**Some jails require prisoner families to have an affidavit-certified post paid number and the prisoner to have a money-deposit based card or token, often paid for by the families for calls to be placed to them.**

**The prisoner card system requires the recharge to be done by prisoners or their families.**

**In other jails, there's a purely incoming system, prisoners can only receive calls and cannot place calls themselves. Both systems are arduous for prisoners and their family members**

In all cases it is the family members or prisoners themselves who are charged for the calls. A five minute call costs 5 rupees. More expenditure on calls means less expenditure on food. The prisoners' agency in a purely incoming system is minimum while anxiety is maximum. On the other hand, in a post paid system, family members may not consent to the rigorous affidavit-approval process set by the jails. The outcome, in either case, is exclusion.

**" Advocates were not coming, courts were not functioning, paralegal volunteers were not coming, E-mulakat also was not happening much for women prisoners as relatives have to organise this, though landline phone mulakat was there...The integrated prison library with E-Mulakat feature is welcome..."**

SENIOR PRISON  
ADMINISTRATOR

**SUPPORT E-  
MULAKAT AND  
PHONE MULAKAT  
FOR WOMEN  
PRISONERS**

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“

**If we spend so much on phone calls what will we eat... We won't have money to buy food from the jail canteen. If only the calls could be free...**

”



# YEH MULAKAT NAHIN ASAAN

## E-VISITS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

A pan-India video calling/conferencing (VC) system for E-Mulakat (Jail Varta) has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) for prisoners (both Indian and foreign), and the families of prisoners to avail video-calling facilities, but prisoners and their families are facing numerous challenges to avail this.

**A prisoner is entitled to have one E-Mulakat monthly in most jails. But in some of the visited jails, no woman had availed E-Mulakat.**

**In others, it was barely 5-6 women in a hundred. And in yet others, no VC system was in place yet.**

**In jails where E-Mulakat system was instituted, there were several complaints of slow internet and server issues. In others, women bitterly observed that the VC system was mainly being used by lawyers and very little by families.**

Further worrisome were complaints indicating trend of an exploitative market situation feeding off the pathos of prison life. Prisoners mentioned cyber shops charging their families unreasonable amounts to facilitate e-visit booking as they were unaware of the technology of the NIC and the Prisons, or lacked the knowledge to use the same. Sometimes desperate prisoners request the jail staff to send a link to their families which they can use for a more easily scheduled E-Mulakat.

**" Our family members do not know how to book E-Mulakat visits on the government's NIC portal. Cyber shops are charging our families Rs 100 for each e-visit they have to book... Sometimes they come all the way down to the jail to be helped for an e-visit."**

VINITA, KANDA CENTRAL JAIL, HIMAGHAL PRADESH

**Only 906 out of a total of 1306 prisons in the country had the NIC's Video Conferencing System in place as on 31.12.2020.**

NCRB'S RECENT PRISON STATISTICS OF INDIA REPORT, 2020



**BREAK THE ISOLATION.**

**PRISON LIFE IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS.**

**SUPPORT PHONE MULAKAT AND E-MULAKAT FOR WOMEN PRISONERS.**

**DONATE NOW.**





# YEH MULAKAAT NAHIN ASAAN NO MULAKAT

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE  
PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

The location of the jails, often outside the city limits, and the lack of proper visitor waiting rooms with care facilities for elderly and children make the journey and waiting hours for mulakat cruel and arduous, and an intimidating expenditure and barrier to mulakat for poor families. Those without family support are also in a bad way. For them there is no mulakat.

**The biggest sorrow of a young woman undertrial in jail for the last 4 months was not wishing her 8 year old daughter goodbye and not being able to meet her little girl since her arrest. The police said they needed her briefly at the police station. She had no idea then that she would be arrested and later sent to prison. And now, the family was not letting her meet her child.**

**Another woman undertrial, a widow, detained since 8 months did not know where her children of 14 and 16 years were after she was taken into custody, and was pining to meet them.**

In almost every visited jail there were a few elderly women who were not receiving any mulakat, and some women who had never ever gone out on bail or parole ever since they came in. Women serving long sentences were deeply anxious and bitter that their children who were in the custody of other family members had swayed to their side and had stopped visiting them in jail.

"My husband and I were arrested in February 2021 in a 'false case'. I have a Masters degree in Social Work from Allahabad University. I used to work in Indian Airlines. Never imagined I would be separated from my child who is about 7 years and so cannot stay with me here as only children below 6 years can. Not being able to see my child is a great source of mental tension. Everyone here is in mental tension. I have left him behind with a relative but cannot stop crying."

SARASWATI,  
CHOWDWAR CIRCLE JAIL, ODISHA

My parole was rejected and now I can reapply only after 6 months. I have a girl who is 5 and a boy who is 10. They are with my parents, but they are getting really old. It is tough for them to not only mind them but also bring them over to visit me. They often have to wait outside for several hours before the mulakat happens. The waiting facilities are not so great. It is too taxing for them.

SANDHYA, CONVICT PRISONER,  
CHOWDWAR CIRCLE JAIL, ODISHA

“This jail was in the city some years ago and our family members could at least come from other districts and even states to visit us. Now, we are in Habuapur, which is difficult to reach even from Lucknow city. This is the state of mulakat for sentenced prisoners. No one visits us.”



# YEH MULAKAAT NAHIN ASAAAN

## JAIL TO JAIL MULAKAT

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE  
PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

Prison departments also offer mulakat to prisoners that is jail-to-jail or between two jails. If you are in the woman jail but would like to meet someone in the male jail, despite the right being there, there are rules and restrictions to navigate. For prisoners from the same family, jail to jail mulakat is a key mode of survival.

**"Can you arrange the jail to jail mulakat for us?"**

**I am a 23 year old college student. I am in jail with my mother, who is the 'second wife' of my father who is now dead. Father's first wife and son have done this to us to deprive us of property. Just 20 decimal land is in my Mom's name. But my step brother is in the government service and is powerful. I am studying, I have exams, I have dreams... I feel like committing suicide. Its my fifth day inside.**

**The co-accused/witnesses in our case are in the male jail. They have the contact details of our lawyers, we don't. As they are not our blood relatives we are not being allowed to meet them. Please see if mulakat is possible."**

RITIKA PRADHAN, 23 YEARS, JHARPARA  
SPECIAL JAIL

**LLF approached prison authorities and other organisations to facilitate women prisoners' access to information about their lawyers.**

**"I have been convicted and I want to meet the co-accused who is in the male jail so I can think about our case better for filing the appeal. No, he is not a family member. But mulakat with co-accused has been recently stopped in this jail. Can you please speak to prison authorities to make a mulakat possible?"**

GAYATRI DEVI, 41 YEARS  
DEHRADUN DISTRICT JAIL

**"My brother is there in the male jail. We are both accused in the death of our step mother. Both of us are undertrials and have been inside for more than 3 years but have not been able to meet as often as we requested. We are hopeful of getting bail soon.**

HEMA JAGAR, 26 YEARS  
CHOWDHWAR CIRCLE JAIL

**Jail to jail mulakat is provided in most jails so that family members may meet and family contact is maintained. Some states allow even a non-family member co-accused in the same case to meet but several jails apply the latter rule with great discretion.**



# YEH MULAKAAT NAHIN ASAAN

## THE NEW MULAKAT ROOMS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

Under the prison modernisation drive, the 'jaali mulakat' is being pulled down in some of the key jails and being replaced with what is being called the 'Tihar' technology' of 6 inch glass partition supported by intercom phones on both sides.

While many could be provided mulakat at a time within an hour through the 'jaali', the new system would have a timer of 5 minutes and in those 5 minutes only 3-6 persons (as per the number of intercoms made available to a jail) can be provided mulakat with their loved ones behind bars.

No doubt the glass partition would ensure more privacy to prisoners as compared to the desperate cacophony during jaali mulakat where everyone speaks at the same time. Nevertheless, in the jaali mulakat system, the officials could use discretion to increase mulakat time from 5 to 15 minutes. This would no longer be possible in the glass partition system due to the timer.

How will Prison Welfare Officers and other jail officials manage mulakat requests and balance the local, out-station and out-of-state mulakat?

Moreover, the prevailing crisis in the jails with regard to the 'person in position' strength as compared to the sanctioned strength of Prison Welfare Officers, invites further stress to the mulakat management.

" A 'Window' mulakat is a discretion that prison officials use to provide a meeting at their own office window between us and our family members. We are called from our barrack to the prison office for this, and we see our family members through the office window near their desk. We are very grateful to prison officials who provide us a glimpse and a chance to catch up with our families. It keeps us going for the week."

SAMITA BARALA, CHOWDWAR CIRCLE JAIL

"Several women enclosures are without female Jailers or Assistant Jailers. Prison Welfare Officers, often male, have to take care of the welfare of women prison inmates. With only 50% appointments in place, the Prison Welfare Officers also double up as Public Information Officers (PIO) who respond to RTI requests and as PWOs for more than 1 jail. We also perform several tasks assigned by the Under Trial Review Committees (UTRC) and legal aid bodies... "

PRISON WELFARE OFFICER,  
RECEIVED THE PRESIDENT'S  
AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS  
CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

“ I always try to ensure that outstation visitors from West Bengal, Bihar, UP, are given priority for mulakat. I never turn them back even if they arrive at odd or unscheduled hours or want to meet more than once in a very short period. Many families brave a lot of hardship and expenditure to reach the prison. We have to understand their urgency. Family support to prisoners is their lifeline. ”

PRISON WELFARE OFFICER



# YEH MULAKAAT NAHIN ASAAN

## THE TIME OF THE ORDINARY POST CARD AND OTHER STORIES.

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

"Can we write to our homes?"

We are harassed just sitting about and dwelling on our cases and family situation. If we had post cards we could at least write a few lines regularly."

"I have sent a post card to my lawyer who is not answering my calls from here...what other option is there... I hope he calls after reading..."

RATNA DEVI,  
INDORE CENTRAL JAIL

"The price of the post card has gone up recently. So postcards provided from outside, as by LLF, would be helpful to prisoners..."

PRISON WELFARE OFFICER

SAVITRI,  
CHOWDWAR  
CIRCLE JAIL,  
ODISHA

**DONATE NOW  
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THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT  
ENSURING WOMEN PRISONERS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION  
AND CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD  
LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

"When you go out can you inform my sister that the court has cancelled one of my sureties? As soon as the second one is decided, I shall step out with my one year old girl. She was born here but I don't want her to grow up here though everyone here in the barrack and prison officials, too, take care of her.

VINITA, DEHRADUN  
DISTRICT JAIL

VINITA, AN UNDERTRIAL PRISONER FROM KARNATAKA ENTERED DEHRADUN JAIL WITH SEVERE INJURIES AND IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF PREGNANCY. SHE GAVE BIRTH IN CUSTODY.

HER BAIL HAD BEEN GRANTED BUT CONDITIONS FOR SURETIES PLACED BY THE COURT WERE STRINGENT. THE GOOD NEWS OF THE DAY WAS THAT THE COURT HAD CANCELLED ONE OF HER SURETIES. HOWEVER, SHE WAS STRUGGLING TO CONTACT HER SISTER WHO WORKED AS A DOMESTIC HELP IN THE CITY.

LLF PLACED A CALL TO KEEP VINITA'S FAMILY INFORMED ABOUT THE NEARING POSSIBILITY OF HER RELEASE.

It is very important that prisoners have family contact. It is their families who support them for phone calls and food from the canteen. The families help to recharge their cards/coupons. We also facilitate prisoners in the process of receiving money from their family members towards these requirements. This family contact also helps when they are released from prison.

केवल पता  
ADDRESS ONLY

PRISON OFFICIAL





# LIBRARY EXPERIENCES AND DEMANDS FROM WOMEN PRISONERS IN ODISHA

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

"Thanks for providing Times of India. It is so good and useful to read an English newspaper."

AMITA DHALAI

"I have been here for 3 months now. I am a graduate and am grateful to have novels in the library collection. I enjoyed reading Saroj Chandra Chattopadhyaya's 'Parineeta' and 'Bijaya', Bina Mohapatra's 'Sagarika Preetidhara', and Surendranath Swain's books in the prison library. These books convey to us family love which we miss, emotion, how to adapt..."

MAMATA DAS

"Odia alphabet learning/'banabodha' books with plain copies would be very useful to raise literacy levels."

SMITA SAHOO

"Poetry books would be wonderful to receive and even Bhajan books by Mamata Sahoo and novels by Bhagirathi Sahoo."

PRITI NANDA

"I want to read English books. Can you please give us Chetan Bhagat?"

ABHA MITRA,  
JHARPARA SPECIAL JAIL

At Jharpara Special Jail, Bhubaneswar, Amita eagerly snatched the book on Right to Information from my hands, exclaiming over it, as I put down a new stack of Odia books in the corridor of the women's barrack.

Amita has taken charge of the library management and also keeps track of co-inmates' cases. She thinks the TV in the women's barrack is a distraction to reading. "It is a big mental health caretaker for elderly women and those who cannot read, but the TV makes difficult any reading timetable...I am a Post Graduate and I have been in jail for the last two and a half years. At some point I would like to do a PhD. Please give us English novels even if there are aren't too many readers in that language.

You can even give us Hindi novels. We badly want to read."

Please provide Anand Bazaar Patrika along with Sambad and Times of India. Some of us want to read in Bengali.

DEBJANI



# LIBRARY EXPERIENCES AND DEMANDS FROM ODISHA WOMEN PRISONERS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

"Can we demand for books? I would like to read Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's books if we have the Odia edition."

SUSMITA PANIGRAHI

"I am from West Bengal. I am in Cuttack jail for the last 2 years in a 'ganja'/ drug case. Can you please provide for a Bengali newspaper or a magazine? I cannot read Odia."

BARNALI KHATUN

"If you can provide us books on current affairs and general knowledge, that will be good for me. I have a Masters in Political Science and it would help me to stay updated."

KABITA JENA

"I would love to read the works of Sahitya Academy awardee, Pratibha Ray, like Jagynaseni and Shilapadma."

GAYATRI PRADHAN

LLF contacted Dr Pratibha Ray who has agreed to donate her books to prison libraries in Odisha.

LITERATI, reputed Book Cafe in Goa, and BEBOOK, a mobile library for children, have shipped LLF books on parenting and the motivational book "The Secret" along with several others. Chetan Bhagat's books are also in the book cargo.

## SPECIAL THANKS

THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT  
ENSURING WOMEN PRISONERS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND  
CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD  
LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

"Please provide me "The Secret". I have heard its a self-motivating book in English. I have done a lot of things, a PGDCA in Food Processing, Secretarial Practice, and in my three and a half years in jail I have completed a Masters in Public Administration through IGNOU. I have been granted bail but cannot provide the securities of 70 lakhs. God knows how long I may have to stay here...the co-accused in my case have all absconded. Yes, I have appealed to the Supreme Court to relax the sureties. While I am here I want to utilise my time in jail and read as much as I can... There are others also who have done courses like hotel management and nursing which might help them when they get out of jail."

JHARANA SAMAL

IN JHARPARA AND CHOWDWAR JAILS WOMEN PRISONERS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE NEW LIBRARY BOOKS, THE NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES PROVIDED BY LLF AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS. THEY ALSO DEMANDED THE READING AND WRITING MATERIALS THEY WANTED...

"I would like to read books on parenting, how to be a good mother, and the duties of parents... About 80% of us here in this jail are mothers, separated from our children. There is only one child here in the jail and she is everyone's child."

LALITA MOHAPATRA  
CHOWDWAR CIRCLE JAIL,  
ODISHA



# BREAKING THE ISOLATION: RESTORING THE CONTACT

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE  
PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

**Fortnightly and Monthly  
Magazines have reached 814  
women prisoners (and their  
children) in 11 Jails in 6 states  
and 1 Union Territory**

1. JHARPARA SPECIAL JAIL, ODISHA: 40 WOMEN PRISONERS
2. CHOWDWAR CIRCLE JAIL ODISHA: 40 WOMEN PRISONERS
3. DHARAMSHALA DISTRICT JAIL, HIMACHAL PRADESH: 23 WOMEN PRISONERS
4. KAITHU SUB-JAIL, SHIMLA, HIMACHAL PRADESH: 7 WOMEN PRISONERS (MINI LIBRARY)
5. KANDA MODEL CENTRAL JAIL, SHIMLA, HIMACHAL PRADESH: 24 WOMEN PRISONERS
6. DEHRADUN DISTRICT JAIL, UTTARAKHAND: 79 WOMEN PRISONERS (CAPACITY 60)
7. CHANDIGARH MODEL JAIL, CHANDIGARH: 47 WOMEN PRISONERS
8. LUCKNOW NARI BANDI NIKETAN, UTTAR PRADESH: 171 WOMEN PRISONERS
9. LUDHIANA WOMEN JAIL, PUNJAB: 185 WOMEN PRISONERS
10. YERAWADA CENTRAL PRISON, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA: 192 WOMEN PRISONERS
11. YERAWADA OPEN WOMEN'S PRISON, MAHARASHTRA: 6 WOMEN PRISONERS, (MINI LIBRARY)

Children's magazine reached all above jails for children of women prisoners (below 6 yrs) behind bars and neo-literate women prisoners.

**Postcards have reached 80 women  
in 2 Jails in 1 State.**

**JHARPARA SPECIAL JAIL, ODISHA  
40 WOMEN PRISONERS.**

**CHOWDWAR CIRCLE JAIL ODISHA  
40 WOMEN PRISONERS.**

**Daily Newspapers have  
reached 569 women in 8 Jails  
in 5 States**

1. JHARPARA CIRCLE JAIL, ODISHA: 40 WOMEN PRISONERS
2. CHOWDWAR CIRCLE JAIL, ODISHA: 40 WOMEN PRISONERS
3. DHARAMSHALA DISTRICT JAIL, HIMACHAL PRADESH: 23 WOMEN PRISONERS
4. KAITHU SUB-JAIL, SHIMLA, HIMACHAL PRADESH: 7 WOMEN PRISONERS (MINI LIBRARY)
5. KANDA MODEL CENTRAL JAIL, SHIMLA, HIMACHAL PRADESH: 24 WOMEN PRISONERS
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7. LUCKNOW NARI BANDI NIKETAN, UTTAR PRADESH: 171 WOMEN PRISONERS
8. LUDHIANA WOMEN JAIL, PUNJAB: 185 WOMEN PRISONERS.

**Books have reached 807  
women in 9 Jails in 6  
States and 1 Union  
Territory**

1. JHARPARA SPECIAL JAIL, ODISHA: 40 WOMEN PRISONERS
2. CHOWDWAR CIRCLE JAIL ODISHA: 40 WOMEN PRISONERS
3. LUDHIANA WOMEN JAIL, PUNJAB: 185 WOMEN PRISONERS
4. DHARAMSHALA DISTRICT JAIL, HIMACHAL PRADESH: 23 WOMEN PRISONERS
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7. LUCKNOW NARI BANDI NIKETAN, UTTAR PRADESH: 171 WOMEN PRISONERS
8. CHANDIGARH MODEL JAIL, CHANDIGARH: 47 WOMEN PRISONERS
9. YERAWADA CENTRAL PRISON, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA: 198 WOMEN PRISONERS.

**Legal aid and assistance initiated for 40  
women in 1 Jail in 1 State in collaboration  
with Committee for Legal Aid to the Poor.**

**JHARPARA SPECIAL JAIL, ODISHA  
40 WOMEN PRISONERS.**

**READ THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE LITTLE PRISON  
LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER FOR MORE ON  
MULAKAT WITH LAWYERS AND ACCESS TO  
LAWYER AND COURTS**

**“ BREAK THE ISOLATION.**

**PRISON LIFE IS  
EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS.**

**SUPPORT INTEGRATED  
PRISON LIBRARIES FOR  
WOMEN PRISONERS.**

**DONATE NOW.**

**”**



# THE LITTLE PRISON LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

## THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE BOOK DONATION DRIVE FOR LITTLE PRISON LIBRARIES. BOOKS WE NEED FOR WOMEN PRISONERS AND THEIR CHILDREN

ENSURE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD FOR WOMEN BEHIND BARS

You can send us Fiction, History, Poetry, Drama, Self-Help and Motivational Books for literates, picture books, story books, health guides, early learning and practice books, language learning books for neo-literates and children, study books from various disciplines like Law and Management, and books on Business Entrepreneurship.

**ONLINE SHOP AND SHIP:** You can shop online at the following Book Stores and send your purchases directly to us:

**National Book Trust:**

[https://www.nbtindia.gov.in/catalogues\\_\\_online-index.aspx](https://www.nbtindia.gov.in/catalogues__online-index.aspx)

**Literati:** <http://www.literati-goa.com/books.html>

Email: [books@literati-goa.com](mailto:books@literati-goa.com)

**Pratham Books:** <https://store.prathambooks.org/>

**Crossword:** <https://www.crossword.in/books>

**The Amazon Wishlist:**

[https://www.amazon.in/gp/bestsellers/books/ref=zg\\_bs\\_unv\\_b\\_1\\_1318073031\\_1](https://www.amazon.in/gp/bestsellers/books/ref=zg_bs_unv_b_1_1318073031_1)

**MAIL US NEW AND OLD BOOKS, DIGITAL DEVICES, RECREATIONAL MATERIALS FOR THE LITTLE PRISON LIBRARIES:** We shall do the

Quality and Content Check and send them to the right jail.

**SHIPPING ADDRESS:**

Life and Liberty Foundation

Plot No-19, Block-B, Pocket 4, Sector 23, Dwarka, New Delhi. 110075, India.

Ph - 8800626629. Ph- -7827911562.

Email: [lifeandlibertyfoundation2020@gmail.com](mailto:lifeandlibertyfoundation2020@gmail.com)

**THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT**

ENSURING WOMEN PRISONERS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD

**LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION**



**DONATE NOW TO LLF**

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:  
50200050586428**

**IFSC CODE:  
HDFC0009248**

**TOTAL PROJECT OUTLAY FOR 64 LITTLE PRISON LIBRARIES AND 124 MINI LIBRARIES IN 8 STATES & 2 UTs:  
50 LAKHS**

**Read the First Issue of the Little Prison Libraries Newsletter on LLF website to know more about What Women Behind Bars Want to Read and the Barriers to their Access to Information and Contact with the Outside World. Also read LLF White Paper on the subject.**

<https://lifeandlibertyfoundation.wordpress.com/campaigns/>



# THE LITTLE PRISON LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT OF LIFE AND LIBERTY FOUNDATION

**THE PRISON LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT THANKS THE CONTRIBUTORS & SUPPORTERS OF LITTLE PRISON LIBRARIES & MINI PRISON LIBRARIES FOR WOMEN PRISONERS**

JOIN THE ALLIANCE TO BREAK THE ISOLATION AND RESTORE WOMEN PRISONERS' CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD

ENSURE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD FOR WOMEN BEHIND BARS

Life and Liberty Foundation is grateful to:

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LLF is grateful to the National Book Trust, India, for their support in providing suitable and relevant books for prison libraries, Delhi Press and Kadambini Media for magazines, and various news media groups and delivery agencies for ensuring newspapers behind bars.

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Dwarka, New Delhi. 110075.  
India. Ph - 8800626629.  
Email: lifeandlibertyfoundation2020@gmail.com



**DONATE NOW  
TO LLF  
ACCOUNT NUMBER:  
50200050586428**

**IFSC CODE:  
HDFC0009248**

## LLF BANK DETAILS

**Beneficiary Name: Life and  
Liberty Foundation  
Account Number:  
50200050586428  
RTGS/NEFT/IFSC Code:  
HDFC0009248**

**Address: HDFC Bank Ltd., Shop  
No 3 and 4, Aditya Urban Casa,  
Sector 78, Noida. Noida -  
201301, Uttar Pradesh.**

**MAKE YOUR DONATION NOW TO CREATE &  
UPGRADE AT LEAST 25 LITTLE PRISON  
LIBRARIES WITH AUDIO BOOKS, PHONE &  
E-MULAKAT FACILITY AND 50 MINI PRISON  
LIBRARIES IN 8 STATES & 2 UT.**