SWAMINARAYAN UNIVERSITY
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FACULTY OF LAW

REPORT ON

ACADEMIC VISIT

CENTRAL JAIL SABARMATI, AHMEDABAD

EVENT DETAILS: -

FACULTY	:	Dr. Satnam Tuteja (Dean-Faculty of Law)
		Ms. Krina Shah (Assistant Professor)
STUDENTS	:	51 Students participated
DATE	:	20th March 2025
TIME	:	09:30 am to 3:00 pm
PLATFORM	:	Offline
VENUE	:	Central Jail Sabarmati , Ahmedabad
FEES	:	Free of Cost

PROGRAMME INITIAVE BY: Faculty of Law, Swaminarayan University.

Introduction

Sabarmati Central Jail, established in 1895, is the main correctional facility in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It notably housed prominent figures of India's independence movement, including Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Historical Significance

The prison has a rich history of incarcerating key leaders during India's struggle for independence. Within the facility, the "Sardar Yard" preserves the cell where Sardar Patel was confined, displaying his personal belongings and providing insights into that pivotal era.

Current Challenges

As of March 31, 2023, Sabarmati Central Jail held 3,578 inmates, exceeding its capacity of 2,586 by approximately 38.36%. This overcrowding highlights a broader issue within Gujarat's prison system.

Recent Incidents

In January 2025, Manuji Thakor, a life-term inmate convicted of murder, escaped from Sabarmati Central Jail, triggering a city-wide search. The following month, videos allegedly filmed inside the prison surfaced online, showing inmates in relaxed settings, prompting official investigations

Larence Bishnoi

The Life of Lawrence Bishnoi in Jail and the Irony of His Sabarmati Connection

Since August 28, 2023, Gujarat's Sabarmati Central Jail has housed notorious gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, known among his associates as 'Milky.' His presence in the same prison historically associated with India's independence movement adds an ironic twist to his story.

Bishnoi, a former SOPU leader and student of DAV College, Sector 10, Chandigarh, hails from a farming family in Ferozepur. He faces over 20 cases across Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Rajasthan, including charges of attempted murder, carjacking, extortion, and violations under the Arms Act. The Faridkot police arrested him on March 5, 2015, in possession of foreign-made weapons.

His name has surfaced in multiple high-profile crimes, including the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala and a plot against Mumbai-based Nationalist Congress Party politician Baba Siddique. More recently, reports suggest his gang may have been involved in the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada, allegedly at the behest of the Indian government

Rehabilitation Initiatives

At Sabarmati Jail in Ahmedabad, the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority (GSLSA) offers free legal aid to inmates through Legal Aid Clinics. These clinics are staffed by trained Paralegal Volunteers (PLVs) who provide legal assistance, and guidance, and inform inmates about their right to free legal aid. Inmates can apply for free legal aid at any stage of their case, provided they meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Despite various challenges, the prison prioritizes rehabilitation. Collaborations with educational institutions like IGNOU and BAOU enable inmates to pursue correspondence courses.

Additionally, spiritual organizations such as Patanjali Yogapeeth, Art of Living, and Ramakrishna Mission conduct workshops and seminars to aid in prisoner reintegration.

In 2015, a Sanskrit revival initiative was launched, featuring seminars and workshops for inmates, highlighting a commitment to cultural and educational enrichment.

Conclusion

Sabarmati Central Jail, with its deep historical roots, continues to grapple with challenges like overcrowding while striving to offer rehabilitative programs for its inmates.

GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT







