

All India Radio to Give Fillip to Jail Inmates' Talents

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: For the first time in the history of All India Radio (AIR), jail inmates with artistic talents will get an opportunity to present programmes on AIR.

The formal inauguration of the programme will be done by Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala at Poojappura Central Jail on Wednesday.

Inmates will narrate their experiences as well as their hopes after release from jail. Those with talent in music or acting will be selected to present programmes which will be broadcast on Fridays at 7.35 pm. The production team of AIR will record the programme on the jail premises for broadcasting.

"We aim to broadcast the recantations and aspirations of the jail inmates of Poojappura Central Jail. The programme will be also a platform for other recreational activities in the jail," said the Deputy Director (Programmes) at AIR, M A Dileep.

He added that it will be the first radio broadcast programme in the country which has the participation of prisoners. "I hope other stations of AIR across the country would also start such programmes to encourage the prisoners," he added. Initially, the programme will be broadcast as the part of a trial run. Dileep added that AIR will broadcast similar programmes at Kannur and Thrissur stations with the participation of the inmates of Kannur Jail and Viyyoor jail.

A senior official at Poojappura Central jail said that the jail staff have selected inmates who will participate in the programme. "There are quite a lot of talented artistes among the inmates. This will be certainly a good opportunity for them to present their talent," said a prison officer. Released prisoners will also participate in the programme to share their success stories post release.