



Press Release

Baruipur Police District, Biswa Bangla, Govt. of West Bengal, And International Justice Mission, Kolkata, Begin Puja Celebrations Spreading Human Trafficking Awareness Among District Citizens

Kolkata, 20th October, 2020: Baruipur Police District, Biswa Bangla, Govt. of West Bengal, and International Justice Mission, Kolkata, today inaugurated a caravan vehicle and placed banners in all 17 police stations across Baruipur district. This collaboration is an initiative to raise awareness among the masses and combat issues of human trafficking thereby making the district trafficking free zone.

A 'Puja Guide Map' and 'Online Puja Parikrama App' was also launched in the presence of **Shri Biman Banerjee**, Hon'ble Speaker, WB Legislative Assembly, **Shri Subhashis Chakrabarty**, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and **Mr Saji Philip**, Director of Operations, International Justice Mission (IJM), Kolkata.

"From our experience the crime rate has always gone higher during festivals. Increased cases of trafficking has always been found after the festivals. We are doing such activities only to make people aware and stay safe", said **Mr Bunjungam Chiru**, Head, Law Enforcement Development, International Justice Mission, Kolkata

The vehicle will be strategically placed at important junctions where more crowd would gather. It will also distribute sweets to the children giving them a friendly idea that police can be approached anytime for anything suspicious that requires immediate action. The Caravan will patrol for 15 days during the peak puja season. It will have pre-recorded messages broadcasting the issue of human trafficking and to act on by taking appropriate steps to combat it.

It has been noted that South 24 Parganas is one of the most significant source area for trafficking in West Bengal in comparison to other districts. Initiatives like this are taken to help reach the goal of making the area trafficking free zone.

About International Justice Mission:

International Justice Mission (IJM) is a global organization that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems. Since 2006, IJM Kolkata has been working alongside government agencies to rescue and rehabilitate victims of sex trafficking, prosecute offenders and train public justice officials.

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