



HEALING COLOURS A painting by a Tihar inmate

Unfettered expression

CURTAIN RAISER Art works by Tihar inmates to go on display at Maati Ghar

"A man commits crime when his negativity dominates his positivity. To keep his mind calm, we keep him engaged," says Sunil Kumar Gupta, Public Relations Officer of Tihar jail who has been working here for 12 years. One of the activities that keep the young inmates happy is painting. Hence, he allowed Ramachander Nath Foundation, a Delhi-based NGO, and Ojas Art, an art gallery inside the jail, to join hands to explore their talent.

The two brought in well known photographers and artists like Raghu Rai, Bose Krishnamachari, Chintan Upadhyaya, Riyas Komu, Shiv Verma, Gigi Scaria and Donovan Wodehouse to Jail Number Five which has inmates in the age group of 18 to 21.

The visitors helped them overcome ini-

tial hitches, and now an exhibition of their paintings and sculptures, "An Expression at Tihar", will be held at Maati Ghar, Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts on Janpath.

The exhibition opens on Wednesday, August 12 at 6 p.m. and will continue till September 2. Apart from this, several NGOs will demonstrate the inspirational activities carried out by them at Tihar through a series of events.

This will include a Vipassana meditation session, a Pranic healing camp, street theatre by the U.P.-based Pardada Pardadi Educational Society, and Salaam Baalak Trust, a musical performance by visually-challenged girls and art of living workshop etc., spread over these 19 days.