

Minutes of the meeting dated 14.08.2020 of the High-Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Kumari Justice Sanju Panda, Judge, Orissa High Court and Executive Chairperson, Odisha State Legal Services Authority with regard to release of prisoners for decongestion of jails in view of spreading of Covid-19 disease, over telephonic conversation.

The twenty first meeting of HPC is convened through telephonic conversation by the following dignitaries-

- a. Hon'ble Kumari Justice Sanju Panda, Judge, Orissa High Court and Executive Chairperson, Odisha State Legal Services Authority.
- b. Shri Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Govt. of Odisha.
- c. Shri Santosh Kumar Upadhyay, IPS, Director General of Prisons, Odisha.

- I. The Member Secretary placed the following information for the period from **08.08.2020 to 14.08.2020** as received from all 30 DLSAs consequent upon the holding of Under Trial Review Committees in all districts in the aforementioned period, in view of the guidelines issued by the High-Powered Committee -

a) No. of UTPs identified for release on interim bail	: 287
b) No. of UTPs released on interim bail	: 185
c) No. of Convicts identified released on Parole/ Furlough/Special Remission	: 38/0/19
d) No. of prisoners found to be affected by COVID- 19	: 112
e) No. of prisoners kept in quarantine wards	: 1499

II. Report regarding prisoners infected by COVID-19

Sl. No.	District	Name of Jail	No. of Prisoners affected by COVID & date on which identified	Treatment	Measures taken for safety
1.	Malkangiri	Sub-Jail, Malkangiri	5 nos. On 09.08.2020	The District Magistrate-cum-Collector has been requested to take steps for shifting of the said UTPs to Covid Care Centre/COVID Hospital/Isolation Ward or any other designated place. The positive UTPs have been kept inside the Sub-Jail in an isolation ward for the time being as reported orally by the Superintendent of Sub-Jail.	<p>i. Sanitization of the entire premises of the jail especially the Quarantine Ward i.e Ward No. 2 & 11 by making necessary requisition.</p> <p>ii. To keep the rest of the UTPs/Convicts in isolation so as to restrain them from coming in contact with the other inmates.</p> <p>iii. Shifting of sick persons to a Nodal Medical Institution in case emergency arises.</p> <p>iv. CDMO, Malkangiri has been requested to take steps for collection of the swab of the remaining prisoners for the COVID- 19 test/Rapid Test</p>
		Sub-Jail, Malkangiri	21 nos. On 12.08.2020	After being detected as COVID positive the Male positive inmates (15 nos.) have been	<p>i. Sanitization of the entire premises of the jail especially the Quarantine Ward of Jail and the</p>

				<p>shifted to the Isolation Ward No. 11 and Female positive inmates (6 nos) have been shifted to Quarantine ward attached in medical ward as per the advice of Jail Medical Officer.</p>	<p>female ward by making necessary requisition to the Municipality.</p> <p>ii. To keep the rest of the UTPs/Convicts in isolation so as to restrain them from coming in contact with the other inmates.</p> <p>iii. Shifting of sick persons to a Nodal Medical Institution in case emergency arises.</p> <p>iv. CDMO, Malkangiri has been requested to take steps for collection of the swab of the remaining prisoners for the COVID- 19 test/Rapid Test.</p>
2.	Sundargarh	Special Jail, Rourkela	<p>42 nos.</p> <p>On 11.08.2020</p> <p>1 no.</p> <p>On 11.08.2020.</p>	<p>The said 42 inmates are kept in the isolation ward.</p> <p>The Superintendent of Special Jail, Rourkela through his letter No. 2587 dated 11.08.2020 intimated that one life convict was found COVID positive on 10.08.2020 and has been shifted to the COVID Hospital, Rourkela on 11.08.2020 through Warder Escort Party.</p>	<p>i. Complete sanitization of the entire premises of Special Jail, Rourkela.</p> <p>ii. Shifting the COVID - 19 positive inmates who are symptomatic to the COVID Hospital, Rourkela immediately.</p> <p>iii. COVID- 19 test of all the rest inmates and staff in consultation with the CDMO, Sundargarh following Govt.</p>

					guidelines.
3.	Berhampur	Special Sub-Jail, Bhanjanagar	3 nos. On 10.08.2020	The convicts have been shifted to Covid Care Center, Berhampur.	<p>i. Complete and full sanitization of the premises of Special Sub-Jail, Bhanjanagar.</p> <p>ii. COVID- 19 test of the other inmates who were confined with the convicts in the Quarantine Ward in consultation with the CDMO, Ganjam following the Govt. guidelines.</p> <p>iii. Shifting of sick persons to a Nodal Medical Institution in case of any emergency arises.</p>
		Circle Jail, Berhampur	1 no. On 12.08.2020	The said UTP has been shifted to COVID Care Center, Circle Jail, Berhampur.	<p>i. Complete and full sanitization of premises of Circle Jail and the Hon'ble Court of 2nd ADJ, Berhampur.</p> <p>ii. COVID- 19 test of other UTPs in consultation with the CDMO, Ganjam by following Govt. guidelines.</p> <p>iii. Shifting of sick persons to a Nodal Medical Institution in case of any emergency arises.</p>
4.	Cuttack	Circle Jail, Cuttack	1 no. On 06.08.2020 (intimated to	The Senior Superintendent, Circle Jail, Cuttack requested to take	i. Complete sanitization of the jail premises and the quarantine

			OSLSA on 10.08.2020)	effective step in consultation with CDMO, Cuttack for shifting of above named UTP to the COVID Hospital for proper treatment.	ward/isolation ward of the circle jail. ii. Contact tracing of the inmate found positive. iii. Swab testing of the jail inmates and the warders. iv. Direction has been given to inform all the Courts to ensure COVID test of the accused is conducted before forwarding the accused to the Court.
5.	Khurda	Sub-Jail, Khurda	2 nos. On 08.08.2020	The UTPs are now facing their trial in the Court of 1 st Addl. Sessions Judge, Khurda and they were kept in ward no. 4 and 3 respectively along with other UTPs.	i. The UTPs are kept in isolation in ward No. 2 so as to restrain them from coming in contact with other inmates of the jail till they have been cured. ii. The M.O of DHH, Khurda has been instructed to monitor the health condition of the UTPs on daily basis till they have been cured. iii. Requisition has been made to the Executive Officer, Khurda Municipality for sanitization of the jail premises.
		Special Jail, Bhubaneswar	2 nos. On 10.08.2020	The UTPs has been kept in isolation in	i. Requisition has been done to

				<p>separate cells so as to restrain them from coming in contact with other inmates of the jail.</p>	<p>Director, Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar to depute one of their M.O to check the health condition of both the UTPs on daily basis till they have been cured.</p> <p>ii. A requisition has been made to Director, Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar to conduct rapid antigen test of the staff came in contact with the said UTPs.</p> <p>iii. A requisition has been made to the Deputy Fire Officer, Bhubaneswar for sanitization of the jail premises. Even the District Magistrate-cum-Collector, Khurda has directed to the local authorities for sanitization of the jail premises.</p>
7.	Gajapati	Sub-Jail, Paralakhemundi	6 nos. On 09.08.2020	<p>The said prisoners are kept in an isolation ward/quarantine ward without any physical contact with the remaining under trial prisoners till further instructions.</p>	<p>i. The Superintendent, Sub Jail, Paralakhemundi have sought permission for shifting of the said prisoners to the Circle Jail, Berhampur for specialized treatment.</p> <p>ii. The CDMO, Gajapati has been</p>

		Sub-Jail, Paralakhemundi	5 nos. On 13.08.2020	Meanwhile the said prisoners have been kept in an isolation ward/quarantine till further instructions.	<p>directed to ensure mandatory swab test of all the UTPs and furnish the said report to the UTRC by 18.08.2020 positively.</p> <p>iii. Complete sanitization of the jail premises.</p> <p>i. The Superintendent, Sub Jail, Paralakhemundi have sought permission from concerned Courts for shifting of the said prisoners who have tested positive for COVID- 19 to the Circle Jail Berhampur for specialized treatment.</p> <p>ii. The CDMO, Gajapati has been directed to ensure mandatory swab test of all the UTPs and furnish the said report to the UTRC by 18.08.2020 positively.</p> <p>iii. Complete sanitization of the jail premises.</p>
8.	Puri	District Jail, Puri	2 nos. On 12.08.2020	At the time of admission the UTPs were kept in segregated ward.	i. Necessary arrangements for shifting of the said UTPs to Special

				But after ascertaining that the UTPs are COVID positive the UTPs are shifted to a completely segregated ward.	Hospital for treatment. ii. Complete and full sanitization of the premises of the jail. iii. COVID test of other UTPs, convicts and staffs in consultation with the CDMO, Puri by following Govt. guidelines.
9.	Jagatsinghpur	Sub-Jail, Jagatsinghpur	21 nos. On 12.08.2020	On being identified COVID positive the inmates have been immediately isolated and kept in a separate room and they have been put under treatment inside the jail by Medical Team of DHH, Jagatsinghpur.	i. Shifting of the inmates to the nearby COVID Hospital or any other immediate medical attention ii. Sanitization of the entire Sub- Jail, Jagatsinghpur. iii. Steps to be taken for making the area (in which the jail is situated) secluded from the visit of other persons in order to minimize contamination. iii. swab testing of other inmates and jail officials.

- The Secretary, DLSA, Phulbani vide the minutes of proceeding of the UTRC held on dated 12.08.2020 intimated that one warder namely Srikanta Guru of District Jail, Phubani staying in the Jail Colony, Phulani has been detected COVID- 19 positive and he has been shifted to the COVID- 19 Hospital, Phulbani. The matter was brought to the notice of District Administration the CDMO, Kandhamal, Phulbani for deputation of medical team to the District Jail, Phulbani

to conduct COVID- 19 antigen rapid test of all staff and inmates of the jail.

UTRC directed for sanitization of the District Jail, Phulbani and medical examination of all other inmates of District Jail, Phulbani.

- DLSA, Sundargarh submitted a report vide L. No. 937 dated 12.08.2020 stating that 03 nos. of staff of Special Jail, Rourkela have been found COVID- 19 positive. UTRC resolved that the staffs be advised to stay in quarantine.
- The Secretary, DLSA, Malkangiri submitted a report vide minutes of the urgent meeting of UTRC held on 09.08.2020 regarding one Chief Warder Sri Debraj Sahu of District Jail, Malkangiri being detected as COVID- 19 positive. He has been shifted to COVID Care Centre, Malkangiri.
- DLSA, Gajapati submitted a report vide minutes of the urgent meeting of UTRC held on 13.08.2020 regarding four numbers of Guarding Staff of Sub-Jail, Paralakhemundi being detected as COVID- 19 positive. The said staffs are directed to strictly follow the guidelines regarding quarantine rules and isolation norms with maintaining strict social distancing.

Compliance by DG, Prisons & Correctional Services, Odisha

A 55 year old man was wrongly jailed in Sub-Jail, Dharamgarh in Sessions Case No. 106/29 of 2002. Taking account of this matter, the HPC had recommended the D.G Prisons vide in minutes dated 31.07.2020 to issue necessary instructions to all the jails across the State to avoid similar problem in future. Upon this recommendation, the DG, Prisons submitted before the Chairman, HPC that a Circular bearing No. 5/20 dated 10.08.2020 has been issued by Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services to all Jails to give more emphasis on transferred convicts (to face

trial in UT cases pending in other Court jurisdictions) by keeping track of unexpired portion of the sentences imposed. In the said Circular, all the Jail Superintendents have also been advised to follow Jail Manual Rules 515, 516, 517, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 533, 534, 539, 540, 541 and 544 meticulously.

While Principal Secretary Home, Govt. of Odisha may take steps for compliance of point 5 of recommendations vide minutes of HPC dt 13.07.2020, the Additional Chief Secretary, Health & FW, Govt. of Odisha is again directed to ensure that testing in prisons is done on top priority as per minutes dated 31.07.2020.

It is reiterated by HPC that all stakeholders make utmost efforts as per earlier directions to arrest the spread of the pandemic in the Jails of Odisha.

By Order

Sd/-

**Member Secretary
OSLSA**