

**Minutes of the meeting dated 20.04.2021 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 fifty-fifth 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 **13.04.2021 to 20.04.2021** as received from all 30 DLSAs consequent upon the holding of Under Trial Review Committees in all districts for the aforementioned period, in view of the guidelines issued by the High-Powered Committee –

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| <b>a) No. of UTPs released on interim bail</b>                               | <b>: 150</b>   |
| <b>b) No. of Convicts released on Parole/Furlough/<br/>Special Remission</b> | <b>: 0/0/0</b> |
| <b>c) No. of prisoners found infected by COVID- 19</b>                       | <b>: 16</b>    |
| <b>d) No. of prisoners recovered from COVID-19</b>                           | <b>: 0</b>     |
| <b>e) No. of prisoners succumbed to COVID-19</b>                             | <b>: 0</b>     |
| <b>f) No. of prisoners kept in quarantine wards</b>                          | <b>: 1116</b>  |

**II. Report regarding prisoners infected by COVID- 19**

| <b>Sl. No</b> | <b>District</b>                   | <b>Name of Jail</b>                                    | <b>No. of prisoners affected by COVID &amp; date on which identified</b>  | <b>Treatment</b>  | <b>Measures taken for safety</b>   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| 1.            | <b>Gajapati at Paralakhemundi</b> | Sub Jail, Paralakhemundi<br><br>Sub-Jail, R. Udayagiri | <b>5 nos.</b><br>On dated <b>07.04.2021</b><br>and<br><b>09.04.2021</b><br><br><b>6 nos.</b><br>On dated <b>10.04.2021</b><br><br>(Communicated to OSLSA on <b>16.04.2021</b> ) | The said inmates have been kept in an isolated ward and a team of doctor is constantly monitoring the health condition.   | i. Swab test of all inmates of the jail and jail officials.<br><br>ii. Complete sanitization of the jail premises.<br><br>iii. Steps to be taken for contact tracing.  |
| 2.            | <b>Cuttack</b>                    | Circle Jail, Cuttack                                   | <b>1 no.</b><br>On dated <b>17.04.2021</b>  | The Senior Superintendent, Circle Jail, Cuttack has been requested to take effective step in consultation with CDMO, Cuttack for better treatment of the UTP.   | i. Complete sanitization of the jail premises and the quarantine ward/isolation ward of the Circle Jail.<br><br>ii. Contact tracing of the inmate found positive as per the direction of Govt. guidelines.<br><br>iii. Swab testing of the jail inmates and the warders. |
| 3.            | <b>Mayurbhanj at Baripada</b>     | Sub-Jail, Rairangpur                                   | <b>4 nos.</b><br>On dated <b>11.04.2021</b><br><br>(Communicated to OSLSA on <b>13.04.2021</b> )  | As informed by the SP, Mayurbhanj regarding no separate COVID care centre functioning except at PRM Medical Hospital and since there is no separate ward exclusively for keeping prisoners. Since the inmates are asymptomatic, as per the suggestion of the Collector, Mayurbhanj, the | i. Complete and full sanitization of Sub Jail Premises, Rairangpur.<br><br>ii. To take necessary steps for COVID 19 test of other staffs and inmates in consultation with CDMO as per applicable government  |

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|  |  |  |  | treatment is continuing inside the Sub-Jail premises. | guidelines.<br>iii. To keep the said inmates in a separate cell, segregating him away from other inmates to avoid contamination and spread of infection to other inmates of the jail. |
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**In light of the above report, it is noted that in spread of second wave of COVID- 19 pandemic in the State, the infected cases in the jails of the State are on the rise. Hence, Chairman HPC has re-emphasized that efforts be continued for ensuring medical treatment of critical and symptomatic prisoners without any delay on part of concerned authorities to prevent casualties. All the stakeholders in management of COVID pandemic in prisons must continue to coordinate and ensure to contain the spread of COVID- 19 infection in the jails.**

**Further, the DG Prisons and Health Department, Govt. of Odisha were requested to submit the compliance report regarding steps being taken for COVID vaccination of all prisoners inside the jails to be placed before the Chairman HPC in meetings dated 15.03.2021, 22.03.2021, 30.03.2021, 06.04.2021 and 13.04.2021 but no such report has yet been received. Hence, the Chairman, HPC again requested the concerned departments to submit the same to be placed before the HPC in its next meeting.**

**Further, all Chairman, DLSAs are advised to strictly enforce COVID safety measures in the jails and looking into the prevailing situation, order additional restrictions as deemed appropriate in co-ordination with District Administration.**

By Order  
Sd/-  
Member Secretary  
OSLSA