

**Minutes of the meeting dated 27.04.2021 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-sixth 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 **21.04.2021 to 27.04.2021** 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 –

<b>a) No. of UTPs released on interim bail</b>	<b>: 245</b>
<b>b) No. of Convicts released on Parole/Furlough/ Special Remission</b>	<b>: 0/0/0</b>
<b>c) No. of prisoners found infected by COVID- 19</b>	<b>: 9</b>
<b>d) No. of prisoners recovered from COVID-19</b>	<b>: 174</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>: 2750</b>

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.	Sundargarh	District Jail, Sundargarh	7 nos. On dated <b>18.04.2021</b>  (Communicated to OSLSA on <b>22.04.2021</b> )	All the positive inmates have been kept in an isolation ward with proper treatment under the supervision of Jail Medical Officer. The health condition of the said UTPs is normal.	i. Complete sanitization of the District Jail, Sundargarh.  ii. The CDMO, Sundargarh has been requested to take necessary steps for better treatment of all the COVID- 19 positive UTPs.  iii. COVID- 19 test of the respective staff who were in contact with the UTP in consultation with the CDMO, Sundargarh following the govt. guidelines.
2.	Phulbani	District Jail, Phulbani	1 no. On dated <b>23.04.2021</b>	The said UTP has been admitted at COVID Care Centre, Phulbani for treatment.	Treatment is being done by the medical team of COVID Care Centre, Phulbani.
3.	Ganjam	Sub-Jail, Kodala	1 no. On dated <b>23.04.2021</b>	The said UTP has been detected as COVID- 19 positive at the time of remand to jail. He has been kept in isolation and his condition is stable at present.	i. Complete and full sanitization of the Sub-Jail premises.  ii. Steps for COVID- 19 test of other UTPs who were remanded and confined with the UTP in the Quarantine Ward.  iii. Shifting of

					sick persons to a Nodal Medical Institution in case situation so warrants.
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**In light of the above report, it is noted that in surge 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.**

**III. Report submitted by Superintendent, District Jail, Phulbani**

The Superintendent of District Jail, Phulbani vide L. No. 1108/JIs. Dated 20.04.2021 communicated to the office of the OSLSA on 27.04.2021 regarding vaccination of 10 numbers of prisoners above 60 years of age and 21 numbers of prisoners above 45 years of age in their jail.

**Further, the DG Prisons and Health Department, Govt. of Odisha were requested to submit the compliance report regarding steps being taken for COVID-19 vaccination of all prisoners inside the jails to be placed before the Chairman HPC 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-19 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**