

**Minutes of the meeting dated 11.06.2021 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 Sixty-second 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 **03.06.2021 to 09.06.2021** as received from all the DLSAs consequent upon holding of Under Trial Review Committees in the districts for the aforementioned period, in view of the guidelines issued by the High-Powered Committee –

- a) **No. of UTPs identified for release on Interim Bail : 302**
- b) **No. of UTPs released on interim bail : 113**
- c) **No. of convicts identified for release on parole/  
furlough : 38**
- d) **No. of Convicts released on Parole/Furlough/  
Special Remission : 0/2/1**
- e) **No. of prisoners found infected by COVID- 19 : 10**
- f) **No. of prisoners recovered from COVID-19 : 310**
- g) **No. of prisoners succumbed to COVID-19 : 2**
- h) **No. of prisoners kept in quarantine wards : 1328**

**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.	Koraput	Circle Jail, Koraput	<p><b>3 nos.</b></p> <p>On dated <b>08.06.2021</b></p>	<p>The Senior Superintendent, Circle Jail, Koraput reported that the 02 nos. of prisoners are being treated inside the jail premises in isolation ward, and one UTP has been shifted to SLN Medical, Koraput.</p>	<p>i. The UTRC has instructed that such cases should be given priority for their immediate medical treatment and should be shifted to hospitals whenever required.</p> <p>ii. It is also reported by the jail authorities that all prisoners have been given medical tests/treatments in the wake of Covid- 19 as a measure of precaution.</p>
2.	Sambalpur	Sub-Jail, Rairakhol	<p><b>1 no.</b></p> <p>On dated <b>02.06.2021</b></p> <p>(communicated to OSLSA on <b>03.06.2021</b>)</p>	<p>The UTP has been sent to Covid Hospital, Burla for follow up treatment and was returned after necessary treatment with advice for home isolation and treatment. Now the UTP has been kept in isolation inside the jail and being given medical treatment.</p>	<p>i. To ensure early shifting of sick inmates and staff to Nodal Medical Institution in case of any further detection.</p> <p>ii. Complete and full sanitization of the premises of Sub-Jail, Rairakhol.</p> <p>iii. Steps for immediate segregation of UTPs who are showing flue like symptoms and those who have</p>

					come in contact with the COVID-19 positive UTP.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Kendrapara</b>	<b>Sub-Jail, Kendrapara</b>	<b>1 no.</b> On dated <b>04.06.2021</b>	The Superintendent, Sub-Jail has been directed to take effective steps in consultation with CDMO, Kendrapara for proper treatment of the inmate as per the guidelines of the HPC.	The Superintendent, Sub-Jail, Kendrapara has been directed to take appropriate steps for complete sanitization of the jail as well as the quarantine wards.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Ganjam</b>	<b>Circle Jail, Berhampur</b>	<b>2 nos.</b> On dated <b>04.06.2021</b>	The infected UTP and the convict has been kept inside the DCC, Circle Jail, Berhampur and their treatment is being carried out there.	i. Complete and full sanitization of the premises of Circle Jail, Berhampur, Special Sub-Jail, Bhanjanagar and Sub-Jail, Kodala.
		<b>Special Sub-Jail, Bhanjanagar</b>	<b>2 nos.</b> On dated <b>01.06.2021 &amp; 04.06.2021</b>	One infected UTP has been shifted to MKCG Medical College for treatment whereas the other one has been kept in isolation inside the Special Sub-Jail, Bhanjanagar.	ii. COVID- 19 test of the other inmates who have come in contact with the affected inmates.
		<b>Sub-Jail, Kodala</b>	<b>1 no.</b> On dated <b>06.06.2021</b>	The inmate from Sub-Jail, Kodala has been kept under close observation in isolation.	iii. Shifting of sick persons to a Nodal Medical Institution in case of emergency.

- The Secretary, DLSA, Bargarh vide L. No. 862 dated 07.06.2021 communicated to this office regarding death of one UTP Chhatram @ Satram Dhanuar of Sub-Jail, Padampur. The UTP was detected as COVID- 19 positive on 21.05.2021 and was shifted to COVID Care Centre, Padampur from Sub-Jail, Padampur on

23.05.2021 as per the referral of jail medical officer. Further the UTP was shifted from CCC, Padampur and to Sub-Divisional Hospital, Padampur due to serious condition on 05.06.2021 at 7:28 PM through warders guard and finally he breathed his last at hospital while undergoing treatment at about 7:50 PM on 05.06.2021.

- The Secretary, DLSA, Balasore intimated OSLSA vide L. No. 904 dated 07.06.2021 regarding death of Convict namely Kanhu Charan Mallick. The Convict passed away on 07.06.2021 in SCB Medical College & Hospital. The deceased convict was admitted at SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack on 04.06.2021 after being found COVID-19 positive.

**In light of the above mentioned reports, the HPC observed with regret that there were two COVID casualties during this week. Yet, it was also noted that total 10 prisoners were infected, whereas 310 prisoners have recovered from COVID- 19, which indicates that number of recoveries is much higher than the newly infected cases in prisons of the State during the said period.**

**However, in wake of spread of the pandemic in the State, Chairman HPC exhorted that efforts be continued with same care and intensity for proper treatment of critical and symptomatic prisoners without any delay on part of authorities to prevent further casualties.**

### **III. Report submitted by Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Odisha**

Pursuant to the directives of the High Powered Committee vide Minutes dated 20.04.2021, the Health & Family Welfare Department has intimated to the Member Secretary, OSLSA regarding steps being taken for COVID vaccination of all prisoners inside the jails as follows:

- i. As per the decision of the HPC meeting held on dated 04.01.2021, pursuant to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Motu W.P.(C) No. 01/2020, it has been directed to all the stakeholders to ensure timely treatment of prisoners and to look after the health of symptomatic prisoners without any lapse of time so as to avoid further spread of the infection in the jails during the second wave of COVID pandemic. Accordingly, all the Collectors & DMs and

all CDM & PHOs have been requested to take necessary steps on the matter vide their Deptt. L. No. 2016/H dated 22.01.2021.

- ii. An SOP on managing COVID- 19 positive inmates has also been communicated to all Collectors & District Magistrates/all Municipal Commissioners/all CDM & PHOs vide this Deptt. L. No. 13255/H dated 03.05.2021 with a request to follow the aforesaid guidelines meticulously while managing the COVID- 19 positive prison inmates.
- iii. As per the decision of the High Powered Committee (HPC) meeting held on dated 20.04.2021, pursuant to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Motu W.P.(C) No. 01/2020, the DFW (O), Bhubaneswar, DPH, Odisha, the CDM & PHOs Gajapati/Cuttack/Mayurbhanj have been requested to take necessary steps on the matter vide this Deptt. L. No. 13235/H dated 03.05.2021.
- iv. As per the reports received from concerned CDM & PHOs, 16 nos. of jail inmates have been successfully vaccinated at District Sub-Jail, Paralakhemundi, Gajapati, 5 nos. of prisoners have been vaccinated at Sub-Jail, Rairangpur, Mayurbhanj and total 620 nos. of Jail inmates have been vaccinated at Choudwar Jail, Narsinghpur Jail and Banki Jail at Cuttack.

**Taking note of the fact that all the stakeholders were requested to submit report reflecting exact data in compliance of the directives of HPC in its minutes dated 21.05.2021, the Chairperson, HPC again requests all the stakeholders to submit the compliance report within a week.**

**The Chairman, HPC again requests the Principal Secretary, Home Department, Govt. of Odisha to intimate regarding steps taken at their end for implementation of the directives of the Hon'ble Apex Court in Arnesh Kumar vs. State of Bihar by the Police Authorities or the arresting officers.**

By Order

**Sd/-  
Member Secretary (I/c)  
OSLSA**