

Minutes of the meeting dated 18.06.2021 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-third 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 **10.06.2021 to 16.06.2021** 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 : 346**
- b) **No. of UTPs released on interim bail : 78**
- c) **No. of convicts identified for release on parole/
furlough : 3**
- d) **No. of Convicts released on Parole/Furlough/
Special Remission : 0/0/0**
- e) **No. of prisoners found infected by COVID- 19 : 58**
- f) **No. of prisoners recovered from COVID-19 : 251**
- g) **No. of prisoners succumbed to COVID-19 : 0**
- h) **No. of prisoners kept in quarantine wards : 1590**

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.	Koraput	Sub-Jail, Jeypore	1 no. On dated 15.06.2021	The Senior Superintendent, Circle Jail, Koraput reported that the infected prisoner is being treated inside the jail premises in isolation ward.	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. ii. It is also reported by the jail authorities that all prisoners have given medical tests and accordingly being treated in the wake of Covid-19 as a measure of precaution.
2.	Ganjam	Sub-Jail, Digapahandi	1 no. On dated 16.06.2021	The infected UTP has been kept in isolation under close observation.	i. Complete and full sanitization of the premises of Sub-Jail, Digapahandi. ii. COVID- 19 test of the other inmates who have come in contact with the affected inmates. iii. Shifting of sick persons to a Nodal Medical Institution in case of emergency.

3.	Nabarangpur	Sub-Jail, Nabarangpur	<p>1 no.</p> <p>On dated 16.06.2021</p> <p>3 nos.</p> <p>On dated 18.06.2021</p>	<p>The infected inmates have been kept in isolation ward in the jail premises with proper medication.</p>	<p>i. The Medical Officer attached to the Sub-Jail, Nabarangpur has been requested to monitor the health condition of the inmate round the clock.</p> <p>ii. The Superintendent, Sub-Jail, Nabarangpur has been further requested to ensure periodical and timely sanitization of the jail premises.</p>
4.	Khurda	Sub-Jail, Khurda	<p>1 no.</p> <p>On dated 15.06.2021</p>	<p>After being found COVID positive the UTP has been shifted to KIIMS, Bhubaneswar immediately through warders guard. Now the health condition of the said UTP is stable.</p>	<p>i. To ascertain if any other UTPs have come in close contact with the said UTP and to make arrangements for conducting RTPCR test for them.</p> <p>ii. To take immediate steps for sanitization of the quarantine ward as well as the whole jail premises.</p> <p>iii. To take immediate steps for admission of prisoner in Hospital in case any prisoner is found serious by following govt. protocol.</p>
5.	Jajpur	Sub-Jail, Jajpur	<p>51 nos.</p>	<p>The infected inmates have been kept in isolation wards inside the</p>	<p>i. Sanitization of the jail premises and wards.</p>

			On dated 16.06.2021	jail premises and their treatment is being done.	ii. The CDM & PHO, Jajpur has been directed to vaccinate all the UTPs/convicts of the Sub-Jail, Jajpur and Sub-Jail, Ragadi as soon as possible.
--	--	--	-------------------------------	--	--

III. Report submitted by A.I.G of Police, Vigilance, Odisha, Cuttack

The A.I.G of Police, Vigilance, Cuttack vide letter No. 9915 dated 17.06.2021 intimated the Member Secretary, OSLSA that necessary guidelines have been issued to all Divisional Superintendents of Police, Vigilance to act in compliance with the directives contained in the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Motu W.P.(C) No. 1/2020 in letter and spirit while arresting and forwarding of accused persons in vigilance cases.

In view of the above reports and in wake of spread of the pandemic in the State, Chairperson, HPC reiterates to ensure that efforts be continued with same care and intensity for treatment of critical and symptomatic prisoners without delay to prevent infections and casualties.

The Chairperson, HPC in the minutes dated 11.06.2021 had requested all the stakeholders to submit report reflecting exact data in compliance of the directives of HPC in its minutes dated 21.05.2021 and had also requested 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 but till now no reports have been received. Therefore, the Chairperson, HPC again instructed all concerned to submit their reports at the earliest to be placed before the HPC in the next meeting.

By Order

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