

From: Additional Director General of Police (Prisons),
Punjab.

To: 1) Divisional Commissioner (Patiala/Ropar/Ferozepur/
Faridkot/Jalandhar).
2) All District and Sessions Judges in Punjab.
3) All District Magistrates in Punjab.
4) All CPs/SSPs in Punjab.
5) DIG Prisons (Patiala/Ferozepur/Amritsar)
6) All Superintendents of Jails, Punjab.

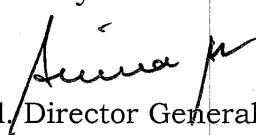
No. A-8/7768-7870

Date. 10/04/2020

**Sub: Minutes-of-Meeting of 'State Level Monitoring Team' held
under the Chairmanship of Sh. Praveen Kumar Sinha IPS,
ADGP, Prisons, Punjab, on 09-04-2020.**

With reference to subject cited above, a 'State Level Monitoring Team' was constituted by the Government of Punjab, in pursuance of orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SMWP (C) No.1/2020, for monitoring the progress of implementation of directions given by the Court.

In light of above, a meeting of the Team was held on 09-04-2020. The minutes of this meeting are hereby sent to you for information and compliance, please.


Addl. Director General of Police
(Prisons), Punjab, Chandigarh.

Minutes-of-meeting of 'State Level Monitoring Team' held under the Chairmanship of Sh. Praveen K. Sinha IPS, ADGP (Prisons), Punjab on 09.04.2020 at 13:30 hrs.

In pursuance to orders dated 23.03.2020 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No.1 of 2020 (RE-CONTAGION OF COVID-19 VIRUS IN PRISONS), a 'State Level Monitoring Team' was constituted to monitor and analyze the progress regarding the implementation of directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as recommendations of 'High Powered Committee'. Subsequently, a meeting of the State Level Monitoring Team was held on 09.04.2020 under the chairmanship of Sh. Praveen K Sinha, IPS, AGP, Prisons, at the office of ADGP, Prisons, Sec 17-A, Chandigarh.

The meeting was attended by the following officers/members:

1. Sh. Jaskiran Singh, IAS, Special Secretary, Jails, Punjab.
2. Ms. Rupinderjit Chahal, Member Secretary, PULSA (through WhatsApp video)
3. Mr. Roop Kumar Arora, Inspector General of Prisons, Punjab.

The Team examined the steps taken by various departments towards implementation of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 23.03.2020 in SMWP (C) No. 1/2020. The observations are as below:

1. It was observed that sufficient steps were being taken to reduce the congestion in prisons, and as on 08.04.2020, **4006 prisoners** had been released from different jails. It was decided that all District and Sessions Judges, District Magistrates and Superintendents of Jails may be asked to ensure that any remaining prisoners are released at the earliest according to the criteria.

(Action: DSJs/DCs/Jail Supdts.)

2. It was also decided that Chairpersons of the 'District Level Monitoring Teams' (Divisional Commissioners) may be requested to maintain close supervision over the process of release of prisoners as per the guidelines issued by the High Powered Committee. Any inter-departmental issue may also be sorted out at the level of the Divisional Commissioner.

(Action: All Div. Comms.)

3. It was brought to the notice of the Team that in Ludhiana, an under-trial prisoner who was brought to Central Jail Ludhiana for admission on 06.04.2020 had shown signs of infection during screening by Jail Medical Officer. He was referred to Civil Hospital where he tested positive for COVID-19 on 08.04.2020. Due to this, numerous jail officials including Medical

Officer and a prisoner who was assisting him had to be quarantined. It was felt that this is an indicator of things to come and the screening of all jails has to be further strengthened. Also, the police may kindly ensure that directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court contained in para-11 in *Arnesh Kumar vs State of Bihar* (2014) 8 SCC-273 and re-iterated in SMWP (C) No. 1/2020 are followed.

(Action: w/DGP, Punjab)

4. Directions have been issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the same writ petition dated 07.04.2020 regarding provision of transport or temporary accommodation to those released. It was observed that though necessary arrangements are being made for transport of prisoners to their respective places/homes, certain difficulties may arise in future concerning poor prisoners belonging to other states. All Deputy Commissioners, CPs/SSPs and Jail Superintendents need to co-ordinate and ensure either transport arrangements are provided in such cases, or shelter is provided to them in temporary shelter facilities created in various districts.

(Action: DCs/CPs/SSPs/Jail Supdts.)

Surender
Addl. Director General of Police,
Prisons, Punjab.