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**JAMMU & KASHMIR
LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
OLD SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR**

**Expedite vaccination of Jail Inmates/staff as per
Govt. guidelines in Prisons of J&K: Justice Magrey**

**11th Meeting of HPC held
Press Release**

On May 17, High Powered Committee headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority along with Mr. Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Dr. B.Srinivas, DGP (Prisons) as its members, passed slew of directions for the release of jail inmates except those involved in militancy related cases and other serious crimes to decongest the prisons in the Union Territory of J&K. The committee was constituted by the Jammu and Kashmir government following an order by the Supreme Court on March 23, 2020 and May 07, 2021 directing the states and the UTs to decongest jails to ensure social distancing among the prisoners, while observing that overcrowding of prisons is a matter of serious concern in the wake of second wave of coronavirus outbreak. At the outset, the committee appreciated the efforts of prison department in not only managing the COVID-19 breakout in the prisons but also for maintaining hygiene in the jail premises. The Members of the Committee discussed and deliberated upon the proposed category of prisoners, who may be considered for grant of interim bail for **90 days** in view of the circumstances in which we are in.

As a first measure, it was decided that all the convicts/UTPs who were released on parole/interim bail on the earlier directions of the High Power Committee shall be immediately released temporarily for a period of 90 days. Justice Magrey directed the Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority to coordinate with the other two members of the committee to find out the category of convicts/UTPs who can also be released pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Such an exercise shall be completed within a week and the report be placed before the committee.

Justice Magrey directed the DGP (Prisons) to coordinate with the Health department to ensure vaccination of jail inmates as well as staff on priority.

Besides this, the Committee directed the jail authorities to take appropriate steps by ensuring that the inmates and the staff wear masks and maintain social distancing and by keeping the frequently visited areas like kitchen, bathrooms etc. hygienic to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, further directed the Legal Service Institutions across the UT of J&K to provide the services of Panel Lawyers to the inmates who are eligible to be released from the custody by moving applications on their behalf.

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Dated:17.05.2021.

Sd/-
M.K. Sharma
Member Secretary