

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT JUDGE, PITHORAGARH, UTTARAKHAND

Telephone : 05964-225286

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No. 111 /Order-Book-2026 Pithoragarh dated September 10 , 2026

OFFICE - MEMORANDUM

Subject: Monthly Roster of Visits by the Members of the Board of Visitors to the District Jail, Pithoragarh.

In pursuance of the Notification No. 427271/XX-2-26-05(11)2024(E-81738), dated 31.08.2026 issued by the Home Section-2, Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun (copy enclosed), regarding the constitution of the 'Board of Visitors' and in accordance with Chapter-XXIX, Paragraph 29.08 read with Paragraph 29.09 of the Model Prison Manual 2016 and Chapter-XXXIII, Paragraph 701 (vii) read with Paragraph 701(viii) of the Uttarakhand Jail Manual, 2023, a monthly roster of visits by the Members of the Board of Visitors to the District Jail, Pithoragarh is hereby drawn up in consultation with the Superintendent, District Jail, Pithoragarh, as follows:

Sl. No.	Month	Member of the Board of Visitors
01	January	Chief Medical Officer Pithoragarh
02	February	Executive Engineer Provincial Division Public Works Department Pithoragarh
03	March	Executive Engineer Electrical/Mechanical Division Public Works Department Pithoragarh
04	April	District Social Welfare Officer Pithoragarh
05	May	Employment Officer District Employment Office Pithoragarh
06	June	Secretary District Legal Services Authority Pithoragarh
07	July	Chief Agriculture Officer Pithoragarh
08	August	General Manager District Industry Centre Pithoragarh
09	September	Chief Medical Officer Pithoragarh
10	October	District Education Officer (Secondary Education) Pithoragarh
11	November	District Education Officer (Elementary Education) Pithoragarh
12	December	Secretary District Legal Services Authority Pithoragarh



The Members of the Board of Visitors shall make monthly visits to the District Jail, Pithoragarh, as per the roster given above, in accordance with the provisions contained in Chapter-XXIX of the Model Prison Manual, 2016 and Chapter-XXXIII of the Uttarakhand Jail Manual, 2023.

Dhananjay
10.09.2026
(Dhananjay Chaturvedi)
District Judge
Pithoragarh/
Chairman
Board of Visitors

Endorsement No. Memo/Order Book-2026, dated as above
Copy to the following for information and necessary action:

1. The District Magistrate, Pithoragarh.
2. The Superintendent of Police, Pithoragarh.
3. The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Pithoragarh.
4. The Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Pithoragarh. (Civil Judge (Sr. Div.) Cadre)
5. The Chief Medical Officer, Pithoragarh.
6. The Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh.
7. The Executive Engineer, Electrical/Mechanical Division, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh.
8. The District Social Welfare Officer, Pithoragarh.
9. The Employment Officer, District Employment Office, Pithoragarh.
10. The Chief Agriculture Officer, Pithoragarh.
11. The General Manager, District Industry Centre, Pithoragarh.
12. The District Education Officer (Secondary Education), Pithoragarh.
13. The District Education Officer (Elementary Education), Pithoragarh.
14. The Superintendent, District Jail, Pithoragarh.
15. Official website.
16. File concerned.

By order
Joshi
10.09.2026
(Jagmohan Joshi)
Chief Administrative Officer
District Court, Pithoragarh

उत्तराखण्ड शासन
 427271 गृह अनुभाग-02
 संख्या- /XX-2-26-05(11)2024(E-81738)
 देहरादून : दिनांक 31 अगस्त, 2026

अधिसूचना

मा० सर्वोच्च न्यायालय, नई दिल्ली द्वारा रिट याचिका सं०-1404/2023, सुकन्या शान्ता बनाम भारत संघ में पारित आदेश दिनांक 03.10.2024 के क्रम Suo Moto Writ Petition no- 10/2024, In Re: Discrimination Inside Prisons in India में पारित निर्णयादेश दिनांक 27.01.2025 के Part XX पैरा-231(viii) के क्रियाव्ययन हेतु मॉडल जेल मैनुअल, 2016 के प्रस्तर-29.01 सपठित प्रस्तर-29.03 में प्राविधानित "बोर्ड ऑफ विजिटर्स" के अनुरूप उत्तराखण्ड कारागार प्रशासन एवं सुधार सेवा विभागान्तर्गत प्रत्येक कारागार हेतु जनपदवार निम्नवत् पर्यवेक्षक बोर्ड (Board Of Visitors) का गठन किया जाता है :-

पर्यवेक्षक बोर्ड

1. सम्बन्धित जनपद के जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश	अध्यक्ष
2. सम्बन्धित जनपद के जिला अधिकारी	सदस्य
3. सम्बन्धित जनपद के वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक/अधीक्षक	सदस्य
4. सम्बन्धित जनपद के मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी	सदस्य
5. सम्बन्धित जनपद के जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण के सचिव	सदस्य
6. सम्बन्धित जनपद के लोक निर्माण विभाग के अधिशासी अभियन्ता	सदस्य
7. सम्बन्धित जनपद के जिला समाज कल्याण अधिकारी	सदस्य
8. सम्बन्धित जनपद के जिला सेवायोजन अधिकारी	सदस्य
9. सम्बन्धित जनपद के जिला कृषि अधिकारी	सदस्य
10. सम्बन्धित जनपद के जिला उद्योग अधिकारी	सदस्य
11. सम्बन्धित जनपद के जिला शिक्षा अधिकारी	सदस्य

2- उक्तानुसार गठित बोर्ड का कार्यक्षेत्र/कर्तव्य विषयगत वाद में मा० न्यायालय के पारित आदेश, मॉडल जेल मैनुअल, 2016 एवं उत्तराखण्ड कारागार नियमावली, 2023 के अध्याय-XXXIII (पर्यवेक्षक बोर्ड) में उल्लिखित प्राविधानानुसार होंगे।

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 Shailesh Bagauli (शैलेश बगौली)
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संख्या एवं दिनांक : तदैव।

प्रतिलिपि निम्नलिखित को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित :-

1. महानिदेशक, कारागार प्रशासन एवं सुधार सेवा विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून।
2. समस्त जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश, उत्तराखण्ड।
3. समस्त जिलाधिकारी, उत्तराखण्ड।
4. समस्त वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक/पुलिस अधीक्षक, उत्तराखण्ड।
5. समस्त मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी, उत्तराखण्ड।
6. समस्त जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण के सचिव, उत्तराखण्ड।
7. अधिशासी अभियन्ता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, समस्त जनपद, उत्तराखण्ड।

SEEN.
 CIRCULATE.

01.09.2026
 धनंजय चतुर्वेदी
 DHANANJAY CHATURVEDI
 जिला न्यायाधीश / DISTRICT JUDGE
 पिथौरागढ़ / PITHORAGARH
 उत्तराखण्ड / UTTARAKHAND

8. समस्त जिला समाज कल्याण अधिकारी, उत्तराखण्ड।
9. समस्त जिला सेवायोजन अधिकारी, उत्तराखण्ड।
10. समस्त जिला कृषि अधिकारी, उत्तराखण्ड।
11. समस्त जिला उद्योग अधिकारी, उत्तराखण्ड।
12. समस्त जिला शिक्षा अधिकारी, उत्तराखण्ड।
13. गार्ड फाईल।

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Chandra Bahadur
Date: 31-08-2026
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(चन्द्र बहादुर)
उप सचिव

कार्यालय जिला न्यायाधीश, पिथौरागढ़, उत्तराखण्ड

दूरभाष : 05964 225286

ई-मेल : dj-pit-ua@nic.in

संख्या ज्ञाप/बुक-तीन-2026 पिथौरागढ़ दिनांकित सितम्बर 01, 2026

प्रतिलिपि निम्नांकित को सूचनार्थ प्रेषित:

01. न्यायाधीश, परिवार न्यायालय, पिथौरागढ़।
02. अपर जिला न्यायाधीश, पिथौरागढ़।
03. मुख्य न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट, पिथौरागढ़।
04. सिविल जज (सी0डि0), पिथौरागढ़।
05. सचिव, जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण, पिथौरागढ़।
06. सिविल जज (जू0डि0), पिथौरागढ़।
07. सिविल जज (जू0डि0), डीडीहाट, जिला पिथौरागढ़।
08. सिविल जज (जू0डि0), गंगोलीहाट, जिला पिथौरागढ़।
09. सिविल जज (जू0डि0), धारचूला, जिला पिथौरागढ़।
10. न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट, प्रथम वर्ग, पिथौरागढ़।
11. प्रधान मजिस्ट्रेट, किशोर न्याय परिषद्, पिथौरागढ़।

आज्ञा से

31-08-2026

(जगमोहन जोशी)

मुख्य प्रशासनिक अधिकारी
जिला न्यायालय, पिथौरागढ़

Model Prison Manual 2016

Model Prison Manual 2016



सत्यमेव जयते

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
NEW DELHI**



CHAPTER XXIX

BOARD OF VISITORS

29.01 The State Government shall, by notification, constitute a Board of Visitors comprising Official and Non-official members at District and Sub-divisional level.

29.02 The task of the Board of Visitors shall include:-

- a) Monitoring the Correctional work in Prisons, with special attention to the degree and quality of training and the effectiveness of infrastructure/facilities in the Prisons.
- b) Suggesting new avenues leading to improvement in correctional work.
- c) Going into individual or collective grievances of Prisoners and providing redressal in consultation with the Prison authorities.

29.03 The Board of Visitors shall comprise the following official members:

- a) The District Judge at the District level, or the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate exercising Jurisdiction, at Sub-Division level
- b) The District Magistrate, at the District level or Sub-Divisional officer at Sub-Divisional level
- c) District Superintendent of Police
- d) The Chief Medical Officer of the Health Department, at the District level or the Sub-Divisional Medical Officer at Sub-Division level
- e) The Executive Engineer, PWD at the District level, or Assistant Engineer PWD at Sub-Divisional level
- f) The District Education Officer dealing with literacy programmes.
- g) District Social Welfare Officer
- h) District Employment Officer
- i) District Agricultural Officer
- j) District Industrial Officer

The Board shall make at least one visit per quarter and for this purpose, presence of three members and the chairman shall constitute quorum.

29.04 The Board of Visitors shall also comprise the following Non-Official Members:-

- a) Three Members of the Legislative Assembly of the state of which one should be a woman.
- b) A nominee of the State Human Rights Commission
- c) Two social workers of the District/Sub-Division; one of them shall be a woman having an interest in the administration of prisons and welfare of prisoners.

- 29.05 The District Judge shall be the Chairman of the Board of visitors at District level and the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate shall be the Chairman at Sub-Division level. The Non-official visitors after their appointment must be sensitised and trained about their duties, roles and responsibilities.
- 29.06 The Board of Visitors shall meet in the office of the Superintendent of prisons at least once in every quarter.
- 29.07 The minute of every meeting of the Board of Visitors shall be recorded in the Visitors' Minute Book, and the same shall be forwarded to the Inspector General of Prisons with comments of the Superintendent. A copy of the minutes shall also be dispatched to every member of the Board of Visitors. The Inspector General of Prisons shall place a copy of the minute of the last meeting/meetings of the Board of Visitor of all the prisons before the State Advisory Board.
- 29.08 When a non-official member of the Board of Visitors visits a prison he shall be accompanied by at least one more member (official or non-official). The Chairman of the Board of Visitors shall make a monthly roster of visits to be paid by the members of the Board to the Prison, in consultation with the Superintendent.
- 29.09 The roster shall be made in such a manner as will envisage at least one visit by a member in every month.
- 29.10 Every non-official visitor is expected to interest himself in the upkeep of prisoners and visit the prison of which he is a visitor, once a month, and oftener, if possible.
- 29.11 During visits, a Visitor (Member of the Board of Visitors) shall enjoy the right to converse secretly and separately with any prisoner who is willing to talk to the Visitor. However such separate interaction between a Visitor and a prisoner shall be held in a place within the prison well within sight of a prison officer. The Visitor, immediately after such conversation with a prisoner, shall inform the Chairman of the Board in writing about what transpired in the conversation with the prisoner. The Chairman, if he thinks it necessary, shall take up the matter with the Superintendent of Prison.
- 29.12 Any observations/comments made in the Visitors' Minute Book, by any member of the Board, shall be forthwith brought to the notice of the Inspector General of Prisons by the Superintendent, along with his own comments. The copy of the same shall also be sent to the Visitor concerned and the Chairman of the Board of Visitors.
- 29.13 The Members of the Board of Visitors shall specially attend to the quality and quantity of Prison diet, condition of the kitchen and hospital, availability of medicines, hospital management, medical treatment of the prisoners, sanitary arrangements, aspects of vocational trainings, literacy program, and library facility for the prisoners.
- 29.14 The Superintendent shall present before the visiting member/members of the Board of Visitors any paper /document pertaining to correctional work, recreation and trainings of prisoners, prison diets/ medicines, grievances of prisoners and follow redressal of such grievance, if it is sought by a visiting member of the Board.

- 29.15 The Superintendent shall not be bound to present any Register/Document/paper pertaining to financial accounts before a member of the Board of Visitors without written approval of the Inspector General of Prisons.
- 29.16 The Superintendent shall ensure that the prisoners lodging complaints with the visiting member/members of the Board of visitor do not subsequently fall prey to vendetta of the accused or prison staff complained against.
- 29.17 Following any such visits by member/members of the Board of Visitors, the Superintendent shall inform the Inspector General of Prison regarding the details of the visit.
- 29.18 For the purpose of a meeting of the Board of Visitors One official Visitor and two non-official Visitors shall form a quorum.
- 29.19 A Non-official Member of the Board of Visitors shall hold office for a period of two years from the date his appointment to the Board, and may be considered for reappointment.
- 29.20 The appointing authority may cancel the appointment of any non-official visitor for reasons to be recorded in writing. Removal of non-official visitors must not be arbitrary and should be based on a sound reasoning. In particular, any removal must be made after following principles of natural justice.
- 29.21 A non-official member of the Board of Visitors shall receive allowances as may be sanctioned by the government from time to time, for attending meetings of the Board of Visitors.

Duties of Visitors

- 29.22 All Visitors, official and non-official, at every visit shall:
- (a) examine the cooked food;
 - (b) inspect the barracks, wards, work-sheds and other buildings of the prison generally;
 - (c) ascertain whether considerations of health, cleanliness and security are attended to, whether proper management and discipline is maintained in every respect and whether any prisoner is illegally detained, or is detained for undue length of time while awaiting trial;
 - (d) examine prison registers and records, except secret records and records pertaining to accounts;
 - (e) hear and attend to all representation and petitions made by or on behalf of the prisoners;
 - (f) direct, if deemed advisable, that any such representation or petition be forwarded to the Government;
 - (g) suggest new avenues for improvement in correctional work.

Note: A spare copy of the list of duties of the visitors will be kept at the main gate and handed over to a visitor on the occasion of his visit to the prison. Each non-official visitor will be supplied with a copy on his appointment.

Board of Visitors to Records Remarks

29.23 The Board of Visitors should record their remarks in the Visitors' Book after every visit. A copy of these remarks shall be forwarded to the Inspector General who should pass such orders as he thinks necessary. A copy of the Inspector General's order should be sent to the visitor concerned.

Visitors to be facilitated

29.24 The Board of Visitors shall be afforded every facility for observing the state of the prison and the management thereof, and shall be allowed access, under proper regulations, to all parts of the prison and every prisoner confined therein. They shall ordinarily not visit high security areas unless the instructions in this behalf are given by the Inspector General of Prisons.

29.25 The Board of Visitors should have the power to call for and inspect any book, or other record, in the prison unless the Superintendent, for reasons to be recorded in writing, declines on the grounds that its production is undesirable. Similarly every visitor should have the right to see any prisoner and to put any question to him out of hearing of any prison officer.

29.26 Non-official visitors shall not visit prisoners who are not allowed to be interviewed on medical grounds.

29.27 Visits shall not ordinarily be made after prisoners have been locked for the night and on prison holidays.

Visit to High Security Prison

District & Session Judge to Visit and Inspect Prisons

29.28 It shall be the duty of the District & Session Judge to visit and inspect high security and other prisons and to satisfy himself that all rules, regulations, directions and orders made or issued to such prisons, are duly observed and enforced.

Record of Inspection

29.29 A record of the result of each visit and inspection made shall be made in a register to be maintained by the Superintendent for this purpose.

District & Sessions Judge to Communicate only with the Superintendent of Prisons

29.30 The District & Sessions Judge shall not ordinarily address any communication or order to any officer of any prison below the Superintendent. All orders issued by the District & Sessions Judge shall be in writing.

29.31 The District & Session Judge's orders should ordinarily be issued in the form of an entry in the Visitor's Book. The judge is not required to interfere in matters of detail effecting management of a prison. He should refrain from any action which may tend to weaken the authority of the Superintendent over subordinate prison officers and prisoners.

- 29.32 If the District & Session Judge gives an order to which the Superintendent of Prison or his senior takes exception, the concerned office may represent the matter through the Inspector General (Prisons) to the State Government, but he shall forthwith obey any order which is not inconsistent with the Prison Act of the State, or any rule made there under, and does not involve any immediate risk or danger.

Date of Visit to be Recorded and Copy of Remarks to be sent to Certain Officers

- 29.33 Every Visitor shall, after he has completed his visit to the prison, record in the visitors' book, the date and hour of his visit, and may enter therein any remarks or suggestions he may wish to make.
- 29.34 A copy of the remarks made by every Visitor, together with Superintendent's reply thereto, or the action taken by the Superintendent thereon, shall be forwarded to the Inspector General. In case the remarks relate to the long detention of an undertrial prisoner, a copy of such remark shall also be forwarded to the Sessions Judge.

Disposal of the Remarks Made by a Visitor

- 29.35 Any remarks made by a Visitor under the preceding section should be limited to a statement and fair criticism of actual facts, which may come to his knowledge, and to such suggestions, as he may desire the Superintendent or Inspector General to consider. Criticism should be confined to such aspects of the ordinary administration and management of the prison which, in the opinion of the visitor, can be improved. On no account the visitor should directly or indirectly reflect, either favourably or adversely, on the character or conduct of any of the prison staff. If the visitor wants to bring to notice the good or bad work of any prison official he should do so by a letter addressed to the Inspector General of Prisons.
- 29.36 The Inspector General of Prisons may pass orders on any remarks made by a Visitor, and shall, if any issue of importance requires the orders of the Government, forward such record to the State Government.
- 29.37 A copy of any order passed by the Inspector General, or by the State Government on any record made by a Visitor shall be communicated to the Visitor concerned through the Superintendent of Prison.



GOVERNMENT OF UTTARAKHAND

THE UTTARAKHAND JAIL MANUAL, 2023

Prison Administration and Correctional Services Department,
Uttarakhand

CHAPTER - XXXIII

BOARD OF VISITORS

701. Board of Visitors

- (i) The Government shall, by notification, constitute a Board of Visitors for each prison. However, the same Board of Visitors may be appointed for more than one prison.
- (ii) The task of the Board of Visitors shall include: -
 - (a) Monitoring the Correctional work in Prisons, with special attention to the degree and quality of training and the effectiveness of infrastructure/facilities in the Prisons.
 - (b) Suggesting new avenues leading to improvement in correctional work.
 - (c) Going into individual or collective grievances of Prisoners and providing Redressal in consultation with the Prison authorities.
- (iii) The Board of Visitors for each prison shall comprise the following Government servants who shall be known as official members:
 - (a) The District & Sessions Judge,
 - (b) The Commissioner, Garhwal/Kumaun Range.
 - (c) Director, Medical, Health & Family Welfare, Garhwal/ Kumaun Range
 - (d) District Magistrate of concerned District
- (iv) The District & Sessions Judge shall be the Chairman of the Board of Visitors and the District Magistrate shall be the Vice-Chairman.
- (v) The Board shall make at least one visit per quarter and for this purpose, presence of three members and the chairman shall constitute quorum.
- (vi) The minute of every meeting of the Board of Visitors shall be recorded in the Visitors' Minute Book, and the same shall be forwarded to the Inspector General of Prisons with comments of the Superintendent. The copy of the minutes shall also be dispatched to every member of the Board of Visitors. The Inspector General of Prisons shall place a copy of the minute of the last meeting/ meetings of the Board of Visitor of all the prisons before the State Advisory Board or to the Government.
- (vii) The chairman of the Board of Visitors shall make a monthly roster of visits to be paid by the members of the Board to the Prison, in consultation with the Superintendent.

- (viii) The roster shall be made in such a manner as will envisage at least one visit by a member in every month.
- (ix) During visits, a Visitor (member of the Board of Visitors) shall enjoy the right to converse secretly and separately with any prisoner who is willing to talk to the Visitor. However, such separate interaction between a Visitor and a prisoner shall be held in a place within the prison wall within sight of a prison officer and in the presence of one more Visitor. The Visitor, immediately after such conversation with a prisoner, shall inform the Chairman of the Board in writing about what transpired in the conversation with the prisoner. The Chairman, if he thinks it necessary, shall take up the matter with the Superintendent of Prison.
- (x) Any observations/comments made in the Visitors' Minute Book, by any member of the Board, shall be forthwith brought to the notice of the Inspector General of Prisons by the Superintendent, along with his own comments. The copy of the same shall also be sent to the Visitor concerned and the Chairman of the Board of Visitors.
- (xi) The Members of the Board of Visitors shall specially attend to the quality and quantity of Prison diet, condition of the kitchen and hospital, availability of medicines, hospital management, medical treatment of the prisoners, sanitary arrangements, aspects of vocational trainings, literacy program and library facility for the prisoners.
- (xii) The Superintendent shall present before the visiting member/ members of the Board of Visitors any paper/ document pertaining to correctional work, recreation and trainings of prisoners, prison diets/ medicines, grievances of prisoners and follow Redressal of such grievance, if it is sought by a visiting member of the Board.
- (xiii) The Superintendent shall not be bound to present any Register/ Document/paper pertaining to financial accounts before the member of the Board of Visitors except the Chairperson.
- (xiv) The Superintendent shall ensure that the prisoners lodging complaints with the visiting member/members of the Board of Visitor do not subsequently fall prey to vendetta of the accused or prison staff complained against.
- (xv) Following any such visits by member/members of the Board of Visitors, the Superintendent shall inform the Inspector General of Prison regarding the details of visit.

702. Duties of Visitors

All Visitors at every visit shall:

- (i) Examine the cooked food;
- (ii) Inspect the barracks, wards, work-sheds and other
- (iii) buildings of the prison generally;
- (iv) Ascertain whether consideration of health, cleanliness and security are attended to, whether proper management and discipline is maintained in every respect and whether any prisoner is illegally detained, or is detained for undue length of time while awaiting trial;
- (v) Examine prison registers and records, except secret records and records pertaining to accounts;
- (vi) Hear and attend to all representation and petitions made by or on half of the prisoners;
- (vii) Direct, if deemed advisable, that any such representation or petition be forwarded to the Government;
- (viii) Suggest new avenues for improvement in correctional work.

Note: A spare copy of the list of duties of the Visitors shall be kept at the main gate and handed over to a Visitor on the occasion of his visit to the prison.

703. Board of Visitors to Records Remarks

The Board of Visitors should record their remarks in the Visitors' Book after every visit. A copy of these remarks shall be forwarded to the Inspector General who should pass such orders as he think necessary. A copy of the Inspector General's order should be sent to the Visitor concerned.

704. Visitors to be facilitated

- (i) The Board of Visitors or Visitors as per roster prepared by chairman shall be afforded every facility for observing the state of the prison and the management thereof, and shall be allowed access, under proper regulations, to all parts of the prison and every prisoner confined therein. They shall ordinarily not visit high security areas unless the instructions in this behalf are given by the Inspector General of Prisons.
- (ii) The Board of Visitors should have the power to call for and inspect any book, or other record, in the prison unless the Superintendent, for reasons to be recorded in writing, declines on the grounds that its production is undesirable. Similarly, every Visitor should have the right to see any prisoner and to put any question to him out of hearing of any prison officer.
- (iii) Visits shall not ordinarily be made after prisoners have been locked for the night and on prison holidays.

705. Respect to Visitors–

Due respect should be paid to the Visitors and their request for information should be complied with readily. The Superintendent can nominate any official to accompany the Visitor as and when required. The Visitor shall not be allowed to go around a prison without an escort, which is necessary for his personal safety. But on the demand of the Visitor, the guard should withdraw from earshot of the prisoner, so as to permit confidentiality.

706. Visit to High Security Prison

It shall be the duty of the District & Sessions Judge to visit and inspect high security and other prisons and to satisfy himself that all rules, regulations, directions and orders made or issued to such prisons, are duly observed and enforced.

707. Record of Inspection

A record of the result of each visit and inspection made shall be made in a register to be maintained by the Superintendent for this purpose.

708. Communication for District and Sessions Judge

All communications from District and Session Judge should be addressed to IG (Prisons) with endorsement to Home Department and concerned Jail Superintendent etc.

709. Date of Visit to be Recorded and copy of Remarks to be sent to Certain Officers

- (i) Every Visitor shall, after he has completed his visit to the prison, record in the Visitor's book, the date and hour of his visit and may enter therein any remarks or suggestions he may wish to make.
- (ii) A copy of the remarks made by every Visitor, together with Superintendent's reply thereto, or the action taken by the Superintendent thereon, shall be forwarded to the Inspector General. In case the remarks relate to the long detention of an under-trial prisoner, a copy of such remark shall also be forwarded to the District & Sessions Judge.

710. Disposal of the Remarks made by a Visitor

- (i) Any remarks made by a Visitor under these Rules should be limited to a statement and assessment of actual facts, which may come to his knowledge, and to such suggestions, as he may desire the Superintendent or Inspector General to consider. Criticism should be confined to such aspects of the ordinary administration and management of the prison which, in the opinion of the Visitor, can be improved, if

the Visitor wants to bring to notice the good or bad work of any prison official, he should do so through a confidential letter addressed to the Inspector General of Prisons.

- (ii) The Inspector General of Prisons may pass orders on any remarks made by a Visitor, and shall, if any issue of importance requires the orders of the Government, forward such record to the Government.
- (iii) A copy of any order passed by the Inspector General, or by the Government on any record made by a Visitor shall be communicated to the Visitor concerned through the Superintendent of Prison.

ITEM NO.53

COURT NO.14

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

SMW No.10/2024

IN RE: DISCRIMINATION INSIDE PRISONS IN INDIA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

Respondent(s)

FOR ADMISSION

Date : 27-01-2025 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. MAHADEVAN

For Petitioner(s) : By Courts Motion

Dr. S.Muralidhar, Sr.Adv.

For Respondent(s) :

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. While disposing of the main matter, i.e., the Writ Petition No.1404/2023 relating to caste-based discrimination in the prisons across the country this Court had issued a slew of directions. The directions issued in Para 231 read thus:-

(i) The impugned provisions are declared unconstitutional for being violative of Articles 14,15,17, 21, and 23 of the Constitution. All States and Union Territories are directed to revise their Prison Manuals/Rules in accordance with this judgment within a period of three months;

(ii) The Union Government is directed to make necessary changes, as highlighted in this judgment, to address caste-based discrimination in the Model Prison Manual 2016 and the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act 2023 within a period of three months;

(iii) References to "habitual offenders" in the prison manuals/Model Prison Manual shall be in accordance with the definition provided in the habitual offender legislation enacted by the respective State legislatures, subject to any constitutional challenge against such legislation in the future. All other references or definitions of "habitual offenders" in the impugned prison manuals/rules are declared unconstitutional. In case, there is no habitual offender legislation in the State, the Union and the State governments are directed to make necessary changes in the manuals/rules in line with this judgment, within a period of three months;

(iv) The caste column and any references to caste in under-trial and/or convicts' prisoners' registers inside the prisons shall be deleted;

(v) The Police is directed to follow the guidelines issued in *Arnesh Kumar v State of Bihar* (2014) and *Amanatullah Khan v The Commissioner of Police, Delhi* (2024) to ensure that members of Denotified Tribes are not subjected to arbitrary arrest;

(vi) This Court takes suo motu cognizance of the discrimination inside prisons on any ground such as caste, gender, disability, and shall list the case from now onwards as *In Re Discrimination Inside Prisons in India*. The Registry is directed to list the case after a period of three months before an appropriate Bench;

(vii) On the first date of hearing of the above suo motu petition, all States and the Union Government shall file a compliance report on this judgment;

(viii) The DLSAs and the Board of Visitors formed under the Model Prison Manual 2016 shall jointly conduct regular inspections to identify whether caste-based discrimination or similar discriminatory practices, as highlighted in this judgment, are still taking place inside prisons. The DLSAs and the Board of Visitors shall submit a joint report of

their inspection to the SLSAs, which shall compile a common report and forward it to NALSA, which shall in turn file a joint status report before this Court in the above-mentioned suo motu writ petition, and

(ix) The Union Government is directed to circulate a copy of this judgment to the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories within a period of three weeks from the date of delivery of this judgment".

2. We take notice of the fact that in accordance with the direction No.231 (vii), all the States and the Union Government were directed to file a compliance report as regards the directions issued by this Court.
3. Till this date, the compliance reports have not come on record.
4. We remind all the States and the Union Government as regards the directions issued by this Court and give one last opportunity to file their respective compliance reports.
5. We also direct NALSA to file its report as regards the compliance of the directions issued by this Court.
6. Post it on 18-2-2025 on top of the Board.
7. Issue notice on IA No.21655/2025.

(VISHAL ANAND)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(POOJA SHARMA)
COURT MASTER (NSH)