The Goa Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2026

Act No. 24 of 2026

DISCLAIMER: This document is being furnished to you for your information by PRS Legislative Research (PRS). The contents of this document have been obtained from sources PRS believes to be reliable. These contents have not been independently verified, and PRS makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or correctness. In some cases the Principal Act and/or Amendment Act may not be available. Principal Acts may or may not include subsequent amendments. For authoritative text, please contact the relevant state department concerned or refer to the latest government publication or the gazette notification. Any person using this material should take their own professional and legal advice before acting on any information contained in this document. PRS or any persons connected with it do not accept any liability arising from the use of this document. PRS or any persons connected with it shall not be in any way responsible for any loss, damage, or distress to any person on account of any action taken or not taken on the basis of this document.

Notification

7/29/2026-LA/187 Date : 15-Oct-2026

The Goa Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2026 (Goa Act 24 of 2026), which has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of Goa on 01/09/2026 and assented to by the Governor of Goa on 07/10/2026, is hereby published for the general information of the public.

Dnyaneshwar Raut Dessai, Joint Secretary (Law).

Porvorim.

The Goa Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2026

(Goa Act 24 of 2026) [07-10-2026]

AN

ACT

Arrangement of Sections

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

SECTIONS

1. Short title, extent and commencement
2. Definitions

CHAPTER II

FUNCTIONS OF PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

3. Functions of Prisons and Correctional Institutions

CHAPTER III

PRISON ACCOMMODATION

4. Accommodation for Prisoners
5. Prison architecture and Institutional pattern
6. Categories of Prisons and Correctional Institutions
7. Temporary accommodation for prisoners

CHAPTER IV

ORGANISATIONAL SET UP

8. Inspectorate General of Prisons and Correctional Services
9. Head of Prisons and Correctional Services
10. Other officers of Prisons
11. Recruitment and Training

CHAPTER V

DUTIES OF PRISON OFFICERS AND STAFF

12. Functions and Duties of officer-in-charge
13. Medical officer
14. Duties of other prison officers and staff
15. Exercise of powers of officer-in-charge and Medical Officer in their absence
16. Prison officers and staff not to have business dealings with prisoners and interest in prison contracts
17. Staff Welfare

CHAPTER VI

USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN PRISON ADMINISTRATION

18. Use of technology in prison administration

CHAPTER VII

ADMISSION, TRANSFER AND DISCHARGE OF PRISONERS

19. Admission of Prisoners
20. Transfer of a prisoner to another State
21. Prisoners to be searched and examined on admission, exit and reentry
22. Search of Prisoners
23. Articles of Prisoners
24. Admission, transfer and repatriation of foreigner prisoners

CHAPTER VIII

CLASSIFICATION OF PRISONERS

25. Composition of Classification and Security Assessment Committee
26. Grounds of Classification and categories

CHAPTER IX

PROTECTION OF SOCIETY FROM CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF HIGH- RISK PRISONERS, HABITUAL OFFENDERS AND HARDENED CRIMINALS

27. Taking appropriate measures against criminal activities of prisoners
28. Special provisions for security, intelligence gathering, surveillance and rotation of prison staff on duty
29. Use of electronic tracking devices on prisoners

CHAPTER X

PRISON REGIMEN FOR WOMEN PRISONERS

30. Separate Accommodation for Women Prisoners

31. Pregnant Women Prisoners
32. Women prisoners with children
33. Inquiry into complaints of sexual harassment

CHAPTER XI

TRANSGENDER PRISONERS

34. Prison Regimen for Transgender prisoners

CHAPTER XII

CUSTODY AND SECURITY OF PRISONERS

35. Safe custody and security of prisoners
36. Visit to Prisoners
37. Search of visitors and prison officers and staff

CHAPTER XIII

DISCIPLINE IN PRISONS

38. Discipline in Prisons
39. Prison Offences
40. Punishment for Prison Offences
41. Punishment for possessing and using mobile phones and other contraband
42. Procedure on repeated committal of a prison offence
43. Display of Prison offences and penalties

CHAPTER XIV

HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

44. Prisoners' Health Care
45. Mental health - psychological assessment and treatment

CHAPTER XV

WELFARE PROGRAMS FOR PRISONERS

46. Vocational Training, Skill Development, Education and Recreation facilities
47. Establishment of Canteens and Sales Outlets

CHAPTER XVI

SENTENCE PLANNING

48. Individual Sentence Planning
49. Work programme and wages

CHAPTER XVII

OPEN AND SEMI OPEN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

50. Open and semi open Correctional Institutions

CHAPTER XVIII

PRISON LEAVE, REMISSION AND PRE-MATURE RELEASE

51. Parole and Furlough
52. Remission to prisoners
53. Pre-mature release

CHAPTER XIX

INSPECTION OF PRISONS

54. Inspection of Prisons

CHAPTER XX

AFTER-CARE AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

55. After-care and Rehabilitation Services

CHAPTER XXI

MISCELLANEOUS

56. Prohibition of caste-based discrimination in Prisons and Correctional institutions
57. Rights and Facilities for Prisoners with Disabilities
58. Legal Aid
59. Constitution of Under Trial Review Committees for every district
60. Report on the death of a prisoner
61. Grievance Redressal Mechanism
62. Utilisation of services of prisoners
63. Prohibition of strike and agitation
64. Emergency
65. Extramural Custody, Control and Employment of Prisoners
66. Prison Development Board
67. Delegation of Powers
68. Accounts and Audit
69. Protection of action taken in good faith
70. Powers of the Government to make rules
71. Repeal and Saving
72. Power to remove difficulties

The Goa Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2026

(Goa Act 24 of 2026) [07-10-2026]

AN

ACT

to provide for the safe custody, correction, reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners as law abiding citizens, and management of prisons and correctional services in the State of Goa and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Goa in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER-I

Preliminary

1. *Short title, extent and commencement*.— (*1*) This Act may be called the Goa Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2026.

(*2*) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Goa.

(*3*) It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by Notification in the Official Gazette, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act, and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.

2. *Definitions*.— In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:—

(*1*) "after-care service" means a service or activity aimed at the rehabilitation of the released prisoner for enabling him to lead life as a dutiful citizen;

(*2*) "civil prisoner" means any prisoner who is not committed to custody under a writ, warrant or order of any court or authority exercising criminal jurisdiction, or by the order of a court martial and who is not a detenue;

(*3*) "convict" means any prisoner under sentence of a court exercising criminal jurisdiction or court martial;

(*4*) "correctional service" means any service or program aimed at the reformation and rehabilitation of an inmate, and includes services related to the assessment, supervision, treatment, training, control, custody of an inmate;

(5) "Court" means and includes any officer lawfully exercising civil, criminal or revenue jurisdiction;

(*6*) "detenue" means any person detained in prison on the orders of a competent authority under any law providing for preventive detention;

(*7*) "family" means spouse, children, siblings, parents, grand-parents, grandchildren and, in the context of transgender inmates, people related through socio-religious family system;

(*8*) "foreign prisoner" means any prisoner who is not a citizen of India;

(*9*) "furlough" means short leave granted to a convict, after undergoing a prescribed period of sentence, as an incentive for maintaining good conduct in prison;

(*10*) "Government" means the Government of the State of Goa;

(*11*) "habitual offender" means a person who during any continuous period of five years has been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment on more than two occasions on account of any one or more of the offences committed on different occasions and not constituting parts of same transaction, and such conviction not having been reversed in appeal or review:

Provided that in computing the continuous period of five years referred above, any period spent in jail either under sentence of imprisonment or under detention shall not be taken into account;

(*12*) "Head of the Inspectorate General of Prisons and Correctional Services" means an officer appointed by the Government to head the Inspectorate General of Prisons and Correctional Services;

(*13*) "high-risk prisoner" means a prisoner with high propensity towards violence, escape, self-harm, disorderly behaviour, likely to create unrest in the prison and a threat to public order and includes those engaged in organised crime or terrorist activities;

(*14*) "high security prison" means an independent self-sufficient prison complex with dynamic and strengthened security systems with provision of an independent Court complex, etc., to house convicted and undertrial inmates, who need to be kept in a high security custody area, such as persons involved in terrorist activities, gangsters, dangerous prisoners, hardened criminals, habitual offenders, prisoners with high propensity of escape, have the potential of rioting and negatively influencing other inmates, etc;

(*15*) "history ticket" means the ticket, either in physical or electronic form, exhibiting all relevant information in respect of a prisoner;

(*16*) "inmate" means any person lawfully confined in a prison and correctional institution;

(*17*) "institution" means a place where prisoners are lawfully confined.

(*18*) "inspectorate" means the Inspectorate General of Prisons and Correctional Services of the State.

(*19*) "institution for young offenders" means a prison for young prisoners established to ensure their care, welfare and rehabilitation, and to provide an environment of education and training conducive to their reformation;

(*20*) "medical officer in relation to prisons" means a qualified Government medical practitioner deputed as a medical officer of a prison;

(*21*) "medical subordinate staff" means a qualified Medical Assistant, such as Pharmacist, Nurse, Lab Technician, etc. deputed in a Prison;

(*22*) "officer-in-charge of the prison" means an officer appointed by the competent authority as in-charge of a prison, such as Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, etc;

(*23*) "open correctional institution" means a place for confinement of eligible prisoners on such conditions, as may be prescribed for giving them more liberty outside a regular prison for facilitating their rehabilitation after release;

(*24*) "parole" means temporary release of a convict for a short period of time for attending to familial and social obligations;

(*25*) "prescribed" means prescribed by the rules made under this Act;

(*26*) "prison" means any place used permanently or temporarily under general or special orders of the Government for the detention of prisoners and includes all lands and buildings appurtenant thereto, but does not include,—

(*a*) any place for the confinement of prisoners who are exclusively in the custody of the police;

(*b*) any place specially directed by the Government under Section 457 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Act No. 46 of 2023);

(*c*) any place which has been declared by the Government by a general or special order to be a subsidiary jail.

(*27*) "prison officer" means an officer belonging to the Inspectorate General of Prisons and Correctional Services and includes officers of any other security force or any other service deployed in the prison for assisting the prison administration for the safe custody of/providing correctional services to the prisoners;

(*28*) "prison staff" means an employee appointed by the Inspectorate General of Prisons and Correctional Services, other than a prison officer, who exercises powers or performs duties or functions related to the administration of this Act or as may be assigned by the Government;

(*29*) "prisoner" means a person committed to custody in a prison under the writ, warrant, order or sentence of a Court or a competent authority and includes convicted prisoner, civil prisoner, undertrial prisoner, prisoner remanded by a court to prison custody under the orders of a competent authority and a detenue;

(*30*) "prohibited article" means any item that presents a threat to the safety or security of the prisoners, prison staff, prison institution or any object, substance, or material forbidden by the Prisons and Correctional Institutions or the Government from being in a prisoner's possession, like cell phone, a communication device, drugs or anything that can be used as a weapon or to aid in escape, such as fire arms or any of its part, explosives, knives, wire, tools, chemicals, razor blades, alcohol, matches, lighters or any article, the introduction or removal of which into or out of a prison is prohibited by this Act or by the rules framed under this Act or by any other law, by any notification of the Government;

(*31*) "recidivist" means any prisoner who is convicted for a crime more than once;

(*32*) "remission" means a concession granted to an eligible convicted prisoner by the competent authority with the prospect of early release from prison by shortening of sentence;

(*33*) "undertrial prisoner" means a person who is not a convict and has been committed to judicial custody pending investigation by the police or trial by a court of competent jurisdiction;

(*34*) "wireless communication device" means a mobile phone, computer, tablet, laptop, palmtop or any other electronic device used for unauthorized communication using any cellular or satellite network or any other device notified by the competent authority;

(*35*) "young offender" means a prisoner who has attained the age of 18 years but has not attained the age of 21 years.

CHAPTER-II

Functions of Prisons and Correctional Institutions

3. *Functions of Prisons and Correctional Institutions*.— The functions of prisons shall be as follows:—

(*i*) to keep in safe custody, a prisoner committed to it under any writ, warrant or by the order of any court or any other competent authority;

(*ii*) to take suitable measures for the safety and security of prisoners;

(*iii*) to provide the prisoners with food, clothing, accommodation, other necessities and medical treatment;

(*iv*) to provide correctional treatment to the prisoners with the objective of rehabilitating them in the society as law abiding citizens;

(*v*) to maintain discipline in the prison in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder.

CHAPTER-III

Prison Accommodation

4. *Accommodation for Prisoners*.— The Government shall provide sufficient number of prisons and correctional institutions in the State for accommodating the prisoners, which may be constructed and maintained in such manner so as to comply with the requirements of this Act.

5. *Prison architecture and institutional pattern*.— (*1*) The pattern of construction of a prison, ground space, air space, ventilation of cells, barracks, bathing places, kitchen, work-sheds, hospitals etc. shall conform to such standards and requirements as may be prescribed.

(*2*) The standards of security for each prison shall be such as may be prescribed.

(*3*) Prisons shall be designed in such a manner so as to facilitate segregation and separate lodging of various categories of prisoners and/or for attending to special needs of prisoners, such as women/transgender/persons with disabilities/persons suffering from contagious disease or mental illness or substance abuse/old and infirm prisoners, undertrial prisoners, convicted prisoners, high security prisoners, habitual/recidivist prisoners, young offenders, civil prisoners, detenues etc. as may be prescribed.

(*4*) The setup of prisons and correctional institutions may include accommodation and other facilities for the prison officers and other staff as per functional requirement.

(*5*) Wherever there is no provision of a stand-alone High Security Prison in the State, high risk offenders, hardened criminals and habitual offenders shall be segregated and lodged in separate barracks or cells of the jail, which shall have a provision of keeping them away from mingling with other prison inmates, young offenders, first time offenders, etc.

(*6*) Such separate accommodation as referred to in sub-section (*5*) shall have appropriate advanced architecture, design and institutional pattern, as may be prescribed, for keeping inmates in a safe and secure custody.

6. *Categories of Prisons and Correctional Institutions*.— (*1*) The Government may establish various categories of Prisons and Correctional Institutions, such as,—

(*a*) Central Prisons;

(*b*) District Prisons;

(*c*) Sub Prisons;

(*d*) Open Correctional Institutions;

(*e*) High Security Prisons;

(*f*) Exclusive Women Prisons;

(*g*) Institution for Young Offenders.

(*2*) The Government may determine the number of prisons and correctional institutions of any category and the place at which these may be established.

(*3*) Each Central Prison/District Prison shall have provision for a separate Ward for High-Risk Prisoners/hardened criminals/recidivists/habitual offenders, where they may be lodged separately in cells without the scope of mingling with other inmates so as to protect other prisoners from their negative influence and radicalised thought process.

(*4*) Appropriate and advanced security infrastructure and procedures shall be in place for High-Risk Prisoner Ward in all Central/District Prisons. Such prisons shall also have appropriate provisions for an independent Court complex for holding court hearings/trials.

7. *Temporary accommodation for prisoners*.— Whenever it appears to the Government that,—

(*i*) the number of prisoners in a prison is greater than that can conveniently or safely be kept therein, and it is not convenient to transfer the excess number to any other prison, or

(*ii*) due to the outbreak of any disease in any prison, or for any other reason, it is desirable to provide for temporary shelter and for the safe custody of prisoners.

Appropriate provision for temporary prisons may be made, in such manner as the Government may direct, for the shelter and safe custody of as many prisoners that cannot be conveniently or safely kept in a prison.

CHAPTER-IV

Organisational Set Up

8. *Inspectorate General of Prisons and Correctional Services*.— (*1*) There shall be an Inspectorate General of Prisons and Correctional Services in the State, which shall be responsible for implementing the prison policies laid down by the Government, and it shall plan, organise, direct, co-ordinate and control various prisons and correctional services and matters connected therewith and incidental thereto. The Inspectorate shall consist of such number of officers and staff as may be prescribed.

(*2*) The institutional set-up may be decided in accordance with the need and requirement of accommodating the prisoners, the inmate population, workload of prison officers and staff and the workforce may include such executive, ministerial, guarding staff, correctional officers and staff, medical personnel, etc., as may be prescribed.

9. *Head of Prisons and Correctional Services*.— (*1*) For the administration of Prisons and Correctional Services, the Government shall appoint the Head of Prisons and Correctional Services (of appropriate rank as the Government may deem fit), subject to the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder.

(*2*) The Head of Prisons and Correctional Services shall exercise powers and perform duties under this Act and other officers and staff of prisons shall work under the general supervision, control and direction of the Head of Prisons and Correctional Services.

(*3*) The Head of Prisons and Correctional Services shall exercise such administrative, financial and disciplinary powers as may be exercised by a Head of Department and such other powers specifically conferred upon him by the Government from time to time, as may be prescribed.

10. *Other officers of prisons*.— (*1*) The Government may appoint as many officers as may be necessary to assist the Head of the Inspectorate General of Prisons and Correctional Services for performing such duties as may be prescribed.

(*2*) For every Prison, there shall be an officer-in-charge, who may be a Superintendent, Additional Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent or any other officer of the Prisons and Correctional Services, as prescribed.

(*3*) The general administrative control and management of a prison unit shall vest with the officer-in-charge and other officers and staff shall exercise or perform such duties and functions under his direction, as may be prescribed.

11. *Recruitment and Training*.— (*1*) The qualifications, recruitment, appointment and training of the officers and staff of the Prisons shall be such as may be prescribed.

(*2*) Salaries and other benefits of officers and staff members shall be commensurate with the work performed in a modern prisons and correctional system as may be prescribed.

(*3*) Every member of the prison and officers and staff in the Prison shall be provided basic induction training and periodic in-service training to enable them to perform their duties efficiently and professionally.

CHAPTER-V

Duties of Prison Officers and Staff

12. *Functions and duties of officer-in-charge*.— (*1*) Subject to the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder or under orders and directions of the Head of Prisons and Correctional Services, the officer-in-charge of a prison shall manage the prison in all matters including admission of prisoners, security of the prison, correctional programs, allowing visitors inside the prison, expenditure, discipline, punishment and control and release of prisoners, with the aid and assistance of other subordinate officers and staff.

(*2*) The officer-in-charge shall be responsible for the proper upkeep of the prison and all equipments and machinery, etc. of the prison under his charge.

(*3*) The officer-in-charge shall be responsible for the safe custody of all documents/records, including records in electronic format, in his care, and for the money and other articles taken from prisoners, and perform such other duties and discharge such other functions as may be prescribed.

(*4*) Officer-in-charge of a prison shall exercise such disciplinary powers as assigned to him under the Act or as prescribed for regulation of prisoners, maintaining prison discipline and proper management of the prison, including high security wards.

13. *Medical Officer*.— There may be a medical officer for every prison. If the post of the medical officer is vacant, then the medical officer or the doctor in-charge of the Government Hospital or the resident medical officer of the District Civil Hospital shall act as the medical officer of the Sub-Jail or the District or Central Prison, as the case may be.

14. *Duties of other prison officers and staff*.— All other prison staff shall discharge their duties based on the functions and responsibilities assigned for various categories of prison officers and staff as prescribed.

15. *Exercise of powers of officer-in-charge and Medical Officer in their absence*.— All or any of the powers and duties of an officer-in-charge or a medical officer may, in his absence, shall be exercised and performed by such other officer(s), as the competent authority/Head of Inspectorate General of Prisons may direct, either by name or by official designation.

16. *Prison officers and staff not to have business dealings with prisoners and interest in prison contracts*.— No prison officer or staff shall have any business dealings with any prisoner or any relative or friend of a prisoner, directly or indirectly, nor shall he have any business dealings with any prison/jail institution or have any interest, direct or indirect, in any contract for supply of provisions or any other article to the prison nor shall he derive any benefit, directly or indirectly, from the sale or purchase of any such provisions or articles. He shall be bound by the conduct rules of the service as applicable.

17. *Staff Welfare*.— The Head of Prisons and Correctional Services may establish a staff welfare wing to aid and advise the Government in the implementation of welfare measures for prison officers and staff.

CHAPTER-VI

Use of Technology in Prison Administration

18. *Use of Technology in prison administration*.— (*1*) The State shall ensure integration and embedding of appropriate technology for the effective management and superintendence of prisons and for the safety and security of prisons and the inmates, which may include biometrics, CCTV system, scanning and detection devices, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), video conference facilities, etc. in every prison for prisoners to attend Court hearings/trials and to provide for seamless biometric access control system for movement of inmates.

(*2*) The State shall computerize the entire prison administration and integrate the database with the Interoperable Criminal Justice System. The State shall also develop suitable interfaces for seamless sharing of information and facilitate the Prison and Prisoner Management System.

(*3*) The State shall use advanced cellular jamming and cellular detection solutions in the jails to prohibit unauthorised use of cell phones by the inmates. Latest technological interventions shall be used to detect and prohibit use of cell phones and other electronic devices in prisons and its use by inmates.

(*4*) The State may use electronic monitoring technology on prisoners under temporary release/leave from prison, by making use of inmate tracking devices.

CHAPTER-VII

Admission, Transfer and Discharge of Prisoners

19. *Admission of prisoners*.— (*1*) The officer in-charge of a prison shall receive and detain a person duly committed to his custody, under this Act or otherwise, by any Court or any competent authority, according to the exigency of any writ, warrant or order by which such person has been committed to the prison until such person is discharged or removed in due course of law.

(*2*) The officer-in-charge of a prison shall, after the execution of such writ, warrant or order or after discharge of the person committed thereby, return the same to the court by which it was issued, with a duly signed certificate, showing how the same has been executed or why the person committed thereby has been discharged from custody before execution thereof.

(*3*) The Officer-in-charge of a prison shall give effect to any sentence or order or warrant for the detention of any person, passed or issued by any court or competent authority, under the provisions of any law for the time being in force.

(*4*) Where an officer-in-charge of a prison doubts the legality of a warrant or order sent to him for execution, he shall refer the matter to the concerned court for further advice as to the future disposal of the prisoner. The officer-in-charge shall detain the prisoner till an advice is received on the reference, treating as if the warrant or order was correct.

(*5*) No person shall be admitted into a prison for detention otherwise than under the production of a lawful warrant or under any order of commitment addressed to the officer-in-charge of a prison by a Court or any other competent authority.

20. *Transfer of a prisoner to another State*.— (*1*) Where any person from other State is confined in a prison in the State of Goa under a sentence of imprisonment or under sentence of death or in default of payment of a fine or in default of giving security for keeping peace or for maintaining good behaviour, the Government of Goa may, with the mutual consent of the Government of such State, by order, provide for the transfer of the prisoner from that prison to any prison in such State.

(*2*) The transfer of any undertrial prisoner from one State to another shall be done with the consent of the trial Court.

21. *Prisoners to be searched and examined on admission, exit and re-entry*.— (*1*) Whenever a prisoner is admitted into a prison, he shall be searched and all cash, jewellery, weapons and prohibited articles or any other article which a prisoner cannot retain with him shall be taken from him and retained in safe custody of the officer-in-charge of the prison or an officer authorized by him:

Provided that a woman prisoner or a transgender prisoner shall be searched in an appropriate manner as may be prescribed.

(*2*) Every inmate received in a prison shall undergo such physical and biometric identification measurements in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 (Act No. 11 of 2022) and any other law in force.

(*3*) Every such prisoner shall be examined, on the same day or not later than 24 hours, by the medical officer, who shall enter in a record, the health status of the prisoner, including any illness, present or past.

(*4*) Every prisoner who leaves a prison or re-enters a prison shall also undergo search and physical and biometric identification upon each such exit from or entry into Prison.

22. *Search of Prisoners*.— Any prisoner shall be liable to be searched at any time for detection of any prohibited article, etc.

23. *Articles of prisoners*.— All valuable articles of a prisoner, in respect whereof no order of a competent court has been made, and which, under the rules may, be brought into a prison by any prisoner or sent to the prison for the inmate's use, shall be placed in the custody of the officer authorized by the officer-in-charge in this behalf.

24. *Admission, transfer and repatriation of foreigner prisoners*.— The information of admission of a foreigner prisoner in a prison shall be sent forthwith to the Head of the Inspectorate General of Prisons and Correctional Services and forwarded to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, or any other agency as may be specified by the Central Government.

CHAPTER-VIII

Classification of Prisoners

25. *Composition of Classification and Security Assessment Committee*.— A Committee may be constituted for classification and security assessment of prisoners, comprising officers of the Prisons and Correctional Services and other officers as may be prescribed.

26. *Grounds of classification and categories*.— (*1*) The Classification and Security Assessment Committee may classify the prisoners admitted into a prison according to their age, gender, length of sentence, safety and security requirements, physical and mental health needs, correctional needs, etc. as may be prescribed.

(*2*) The prisoners may be classified under the following broad categories:—

(*a*) Civil prisoners;

(*b*) Criminal prisoners;

(*c*) Convicted prisoners;

(*d*) Undertrial prisoners;

(*e*) Detenues;

(*f*) Habitual Offenders; and

(*g*) Recidivists.

(*3*) The prisoners classified into different categories as above may be lodged in separate barracks/enclosures/cells with a view to protect other prisoners from negative influence and radicalised thought process of the hardened/habitual/high risk prisoners.

(*4*) The prisoners shall also be segregated gender-wise-male, female and transgender and lodged separately.

(*5*) The prisoners classified in sub-section (*2*) above shall be further classified under the following sub-categories and lodged separately:—

(*a*) Drug addicts and alcoholic offenders;

(*b*) First time offenders;

(*c*) Foreign prisoners;

(*d*) Old and infirm prisoners (65+ years);

(*e*) Prisoners suffering from infectious/chronic diseases;

(*f*) Prisoners suffering from mental illness;

(*g*) Prisoners sentenced to death;

(*h*) High risk prisoners;

(*i*) Women prisoners with children;

(*j*) Young Offenders.

(*6*) Dangerous and high-risk prisoners shall be accommodated in special cells or high security prisons.

(*7*) The officer-in-charge shall take special care and caution for ensuring safe and secure custody of high-risk prisoners, as may be specified by the Government in this behalf.

CHAPTER-IX

Protection of Society from Criminal Activities of High-Risk Prisoners, Habitual Offenders and Hardened Criminals

27. *Taking appropriate measures against criminal activities of prisoners*.— (*1*) It shall be the responsibility of the Inspectorate General of Prisons and Correctional Services and the Police Department of the State to take all appropriate measures for protecting the society from the criminal activities of high-risk prisoners, habitual offenders and hardened criminals.

(*2*) Based on the details of the crime committed by the inmate, available background record, history ticket, etc. inmates shall be suitably classified, assessed for their propensity and potential to negatively influence other inmates and be housed in separate barracks/cells, as may be appropriate.

(*3*) With a view to protect the society and the victims, high risk prisoners, hardened criminals and habitual offenders shall not be entitled for parole, furlough, or any kind of prison leave in the normal course.

28. *Special provisions for security, intelligence gathering, surveillance and rotation of prison staff on duty*.— (*1*) Prisons and Correctional Institutions shall ensure special watch and surveillance on such

inmates for preventing organised crime and continued criminal activities while imprisoned, including gang activity, intimidating witnesses, etc.

(*2*) For ensuring dynamic security, preventing escapes, instances of disorder and criminal activity in prisons, appropriate provision for intelligence gathering from prisoners, careful observation, monitoring of prisoners and analysis of the relevant information may be done by the Prisons and Correctional Services in co-ordination with the Intelligence Wing of the Police Department of the State.

(*3*) The State shall ensure strengthened and effective measures for periodic search and detection of contrabands, cell phones, etc. in the cells and barracks of high risk offenders and hardened criminals and deploy advanced jamming solutions in such areas, including conduct of frequent surprise checks.

(*4*) The prison and other security staff deployed in such sensitive barracks and cells shall be rotated at periodic intervals to prevent any nexus and complacency in security.

(*5*) The release of a high-risk/hardened/habitual offender convict on completion of sentence or an under-trial on bail or an inmate released temporarily on parole/furlough, etc. shall be informed to the Superintendent of Police of the concerned district, who shall keep a watch on the activities of such prisoner.

(*6*) The district administration shall fully secure the movement of the prisoner, in course of movement to court for judicial proceeding, to the hospital for medical treatment or any other place, as per writ, warrant or order of the competent authority, as the case may be.

29. *Use of electronic tracking devices on prisoners*.— Prisoners may be granted prison leave on the condition of their willingness to wear electronic tracking devices for monitoring the movement and activities of such prisoners. Any violation by the prisoner shall attract cancellation of prison leave, in addition to disqualification from any prison leave being granted in future.

CHAPTER-X

Prison Regimen for Women Prisoners

30. *Separate accommodation for women prisoners*.— (*1*) The Government may establish such number of exclusive prisons for women prisoners as it may consider necessary, to accommodate women prisoners. In a prison housing women and men prisoners, women prisoners shall be kept in a separate building or a separate part of the same building, with a separate entrance, in such a manner that they do not come into contact with men prisoners. All basic facilities as provided in the prison for men may also be provided to women prisoners, along with such other facilities that meet their gender specific needs.

(*2*) A separate female ward in the prison hospital shall be created for women prisoners.

(*3*) In case of exclusive women prison and women enclosure/female ward, only women prison officials and staff shall be deputed. Male prison officials and security staff can be deployed for duties outside such prison or enclosure and can be called inside by the officer-in-charge or the officer on duty, only in case of any situation of emergency or prison offence.

(*4*) Women prisoners may be provided access to correctional programs and activities which take into account their gender specific needs.

31. *Pregnant Women Prisoners*.— When a woman prisoner is found to be pregnant at the time of admission or later, the medical officer shall report the fact to the officer-in-charge. Necessary arrangements shall be made for providing her such medical care and diet, as may be prescribed.

32. *Women prisoners with children*.— (*1*) Woman prisoner may keep her child inside the prison until the child attains the age of six years.

(*2*) A child living with his mother in prison may be provided with such healthcare and such other facilities, as may be prescribed.

33. *Inquiry into complaints of sexual harassment*.— Any complaint or information of sexual harassment of a woman prisoner shall be acted upon without delay as per the provisions of law.

CHAPTER-XI

Transgender Prisoners

34. *Prison Regimen for Transgender prisoners*.— (*1*) Separate enclosures/wards for transgender prisoners, both transmen and transwomen, may be provided.

(*2*) Transgender prisoners may be provided access to any specific health-care or psycho-social needs.

(*3*) Transgender prisoner may be provided access to correctional programs and activities.

CHAPTER-XII

Custody and Security of Prisoners

35. *Safe custody and security of prisoners*.— (*1*) The officer-in-charge of the prison shall be responsible to undertake effective measures for ensuring safe custody and security of prisoners. These measures may not be limited to but may include secure walls, building gates, good lighting system, central point monitoring of prisoners, watch towers, power fencing, control of prohibited articles, system for gathering intelligence information, closed circuit televisions and other advanced gadgets and devices for guarding purposes and preventing access to prohibited articles in prisons, etc.

(*2*) The Head of Prisons and Correctional Services shall be empowered to transfer a prisoner to any other prison in the State in such manner as may be prescribed.

(*3*) On the request of the officer-in-charge, the local police authorities shall provide necessary assistance to the prison authorities, for escorting a prisoner to a court or for visit to hospital or for custody parole, etc. and for ensuring the safe custody of any prisoner who poses a special risk, including escape from prison, rioting, arson or resorting to any violent means affecting the law and order and discipline in the prison.

(*4*) The manner of use of restraint and force on prisoners may be regulated in such manner as prescribed.

36. *Visit to Prisoners*.— (*1*) Prisoners may communicate with their Visitors, namely family members, relatives and friends through physical or virtual mode under proper supervision of prison authorities. Visitors to inmates shall be verified/authenticated through biometric verification/identification.

(*2*) The name, address, photograph and biometric identification of each visitor to the inmate shall be entered into record in such manner as prescribed.

(*3*) Foreigner prisoners may communicate with their family members and consular representatives in such manner as prescribed.

(*4*) Prisoners may communicate with their legal counsel in such manner as prescribed.

37. *Search of visitors and prison officers and staff*.— (*1*) All visitors to prisoners shall be searched in such manner as prescribed.

(*2*) In case any visitor refuses to get himself searched, he shall be denied admission to the prison and such decision shall be entered into record.

(*3*) Appropriate provisions for search of visitors who are women, transgender or persons with disabilities may be made in such manner as prescribed.

(*4*) All prison officers and staff shall be searched upon each entry to the prison and each exit from the prison.

CHAPTER-XIII

Discipline in Prisons

38. *Discipline in Prisons*.— (*1*) The officer-in-charge shall have the necessary authority and he shall be responsible for maintaining discipline in the prison and amongst the prisoners, prison officers and staff, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and rules made thereunder.

(*2*) The manner of enforcing discipline in the prisons shall be such as may be prescribed.

(*3*) It shall be the duty of every prisoner to obey the orders and instructions of a prison officer and to abide by the provisions of this Act and to comply with such other directions as may be prescribed.

39. *Prison Offences*.— The following acts shall constitute prison offences, when committed by a prisoner, namely:—

(*i*) willful disobedience of any rule or regulation of the prison, provisions of this Act or rules made thereunder;

(*ii*) any assault or use of force on anyone;

(*iii*) deliberate and persistent use of insulting or threatening language;

(*iv*) immoral or indecent or disorderly behaviour;

(*v*) willfully disabling himself from labour;

(*vi*) continuously refusing to work if the prisoner has been punished with rigorous imprisonment;

(*vii*) willful idleness or negligence at work by any convict prisoner sentenced to rigorous imprisonment;

(*viii*) willful mismanagement of work by any convict prisoner sentenced to rigorous imprisonment;

(*ix*) willful damage to prison property;

(*x*) tampering with or defacing history tickets, records or documents, maintained in physical or electronic form;

(*xi*) receiving, possessing or transferring any prohibited article;

(*xii*) willfully making a false accusation against any prison official;

(*xiii*) omitting or refusing to report, as soon as it comes to his knowledge, the occurrence of any fire, any plot or conspiracy, any attempt to escape or preparation to escape or attack on any prisoner or any other person or prison official;

(*xiv*) escape or attempt to escape, conspiring to escape, or to assist in escaping;

(*xv*) unauthorized use or possession of wireless communication devices and/or their ancillary components;

(*xvi*) trespassing in or loitering about in the prison premises where entry may not be allowed;

(*xvii*) unauthorized communication with any person outside prison;

(*xviii*) pretending to be a prison official or employee of the Inspectorate;

(*xix*) smuggling or attempting to smuggle or to have in possession any prohibited article in the prison;

(*xx*) intimidating fellow prisoner(s) into making false representation against the prison officials;

(*xxi*) participating in or inciting mass hunger strike or any other act of defiance or indiscipline;

(*xxii*) sexual harassment or sodomy;

(*xxiii*) participating in, or organizing anti-social activities like gambling;

(*xxiv*) aiding or abetting the commission of any of the aforesaid offences.

40. *Punishment for Prison Offences*.— The officer-in-charge, after conducting such inquiry as prescribed, may impose any of the following punishments with respect to the prison offences indicated in Section 39 above, except in such cases which constitute an offence under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Act No. 45 of 2023) or any other special or/and local law:—

(*i*) A formal warning, which means a warning personally addressed to a prisoner by the officer-in-charge and recorded in the punishment book and in the prisoner's history ticket;

(*ii*) Stoppage of recreational facilities, including canteen facility, up to a period of one month;

(*iii*) Forfeiture of remission earned for a period upto three months;

(*iv*) Stopping visits of all visitors for a period of not more than one month except the visit of an advocate;

(*v*) Separate confinement for a period not exceeding one month.

41. *Punishment for possessing or using mobile phones and other contraband*.— (*1*) No prison inmate shall possess or use mobile phone and other electronic communication device in prison. Whoever, being a prisoner or a visitor or a prison official, in contravention of any provisions of this Act or rules made thereunder, is found possessing or using such devices or introduces or removes or attempts by any means whatsoever, to introduce or remove into or from any prison or supplies or attempts to supply to any prisoner, any prohibited article, and every officer or staff of a prison who, contrary to any such rule, knowingly allows any such article to be introduced into or removed from any prison, to be possessed by any prisoner or to be supplied to any prisoner and whoever, contrary to any such rule, communicates or attempts to communicate with any prisoner, and whoever abets any offence made punishable by this section, shall, on conviction by a Judicial Magistrate First Class be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees, or with both.

(*2*) Whoever, being a prisoner or a visitor, or a prison official, is found in possession of, or operating or using, an electronic device or a wireless communication device or any of its ancillaries or components, or if any such person is found to be assisting or abetting or instigating in the supply thereof, or if any such person is found to be manipulating, damaging or destroying any equipment in the prison, electronic or otherwise, shall, on conviction by a Judicial Magistrate First Class be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than two years but which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees, or with both.

(*3*) The prisoner shall undergo the sentence awarded under sub-section (*1*) or sub-section (*2*) above on completion of any sentence which he is already undergoing.

(*4*) The offences mentioned in sub-sections (*1*) and (*2*) above, shall be cognizable and non-bailable.

42. *Procedure on repeated committal of a prison offence*.— If any person in the prison premises is guilty of an offence against prison discipline, which by reason of his having frequently committed such offence or otherwise, in the opinion of the officer-in-charge, is not adequately punishable by the infliction of any punishment which he has the power to inflict under this Act, the officer-in-charge shall forward the case of such prisoner to the competent court having jurisdiction, together with a statement of the circumstances, and such court shall thereupon try the charge so brought against the prisoner, and upon conviction, may sentence him to imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years. Such punishment shall be in addition to any other punishment which such prisoner may be already undergoing.

43. *Display of prison offences and penalties*.— The officer-in-charge may cause to be affixed, at a conspicuous place inside the prison, a notice in English and in the vernacular language, setting forth the acts prohibited under this Act and the penalties incurred by their commission, for the information of the prisoners and prison staff.

CHAPTER-XIV

Healthcare Facilities

44. *Prisoners' Health Care*.— All prisoners shall have access to such gender- responsive health care facilities as may be prescribed.

45. *Mental health*.— (*1*) The Government may, by a general or special order, direct the transfer of any prisoner with mental illness from the place of detention to any mental health establishment in the State with prior permission of the Board referred in sub-section (*4*) of Section 103 of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 (Central Act 10 of 2017).

(*2*) The method, modalities and procedure by which transfer of a prisoner under this section is to be effected shall be such as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER-XV

Welfare Programs for Prisoners

46. *Vocational Training, Skill Development, Education and Recreation facilities*.— (*1*) The prisoners may be provided appropriate opportunity for enhancing their educational qualification, including making provision for library facilities in a prison.

(*2*) Vocational training and skill development programs may be provided to prisoners as part of prison correctional programs. These programs may be diverse in nature to facilitate rehabilitation of the prisoners.

(*3*) The officer-in-charge may organize such spiritual, cultural, and recreational programs, etc. for the prisoners, as may be prescribed.

(*4*) The Government may frame a scheme which may be called the Prisoners Welfare Fund for the welfare of the prisoners in the State.

47. *Establishment of Canteens and Sales Outlets*.— Canteens and Sales Outlets may be established in a prison for the sale of products, including jail products to the prisoners, prison staff and the public.

CHAPTER-XVI

Sentence Planning

48. *Individual Sentence Planning*.— (*1*) A sentence plan setting out the program of treatment shall be prepared by the officer-in-charge, which will help in the prisoner's rehabilitation and social reintegration.

(*2*) The individual sentence plans shall be updated and recorded in the prisoner files on periodic basis.

49. *Work programme and wages*.— (*1*) Every prisoner, including undertrial prisoner or civil prisoner or prisoner sentenced to simple imprisonment, while in custody, may be provided the opportunity of work, if available, and be paid commensurate wages.

(*2*) The record of wages earned and spent by any inmate, particulars of deferred wages and matters incidental thereto shall be maintained by the officer-in-charge.

(*3*) The prisoners shall be paid wages for the employment provided to them at such rate as may be prescribed from time to time. The fifty per cent of the total amount of such paid wages shall be kept and deposited in a separate common fund which shall be exclusively used for the payment of compensation to such deserving victim or his/her family in relation to the offence committed of which entailed the sentence of imprisonment to the prisoner. The account of fund shall be maintained by the Superintendent of Jail in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed. The rate of compensation to be paid to the victims or his/her family shall be fixed by a committee consisting of such persons as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER-XVII

Open and Semi Open Correctional Institutions

50. *Open and semi open Correctional Institutions*.— (*1*) The Government may establish and maintain as many open and semi-open correctional institutions for prisoners, as may be required.

(*2*) The Government may allow such facilities or concessions in such open or semi-open correctional institution which may assist the prisoner in his rehabilitation into the society, as may be prescribed.

(*3*) The rules for management of open or semi-open institutions, including the procedure and eligibility of prisoners who can be transferred to such correctional institutions, dealing with prisoners who violate any condition of transfer to an open or semi open correctional institution, etc. shall be such as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER-XVIII

Prison Leave, Remission and Pre-Mature Release

51. *Parole and Furlough*.— (*1*) Prison leave may be granted to eligible convicted prisoners as an incentive for good behaviour and responsiveness to correctional treatment with the objective of their rehabilitation, as may be prescribed.

(*2*) There may be the following types of prison leave, namely:—

(*a*) Regular Parole.

(*b*) Emergency Parole.

(*c*) Furlough.

(*3*) Regular Parole may be granted to eligible convicts by the competent authority under such conditions and for such purposes as may be prescribed. The period spent on regular parole may not exceed thirty days at a time and may not be granted more than two times in a year, as may be prescribed. The period spent on regular parole shall not be counted as part of sentence.

(*4*) Emergency Parole may be granted by the competent authority to eligible convicts in a rare or emergent situations under police protection for a period extending upto 48 hours as may be prescribed. The period spent under this parole shall be counted towards part of sentence.

(*5*) Furlough may be granted to eligible convicts by the competent authority as an incentive for maintaining good conduct and discipline in the prison as may be prescribed. The period spent on furlough shall be counted as part of sentence served by the prisoner.

(*6*) For prisoners governed by any of the laws relating to the Armed Forces of the Union, the grant of leave shall be subject to the provisions of those laws.

(*7*) For public safety and preventing parole jumping, prisoners may be granted prison leave on the condition of their willingness to wear electronic tracking devices for monitoring the movement and activity of such prisoners. Any violation by the prisoner shall attract cancellation of prison leave, in addition to disqualification from any prison leave being granted in future.

(*8*) If a prisoner on parole or furlough fails to surrender on the due date, upon intimation by the officer-in-charge of the Prison, the police shall arrest the prisoner under the provisions of Section 262 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Act No. 45 of 2023) and take action as per the provisions of law.

52. *Remission to prisoners*.— (*1*) Subject to the overall good behaviour and conduct of a convicted prisoner while serving the sentence, remission may be granted by the competent authority.

(*2*) The period and criteria of granting remission shall be such as may be prescribed.

53. *Pre-mature release*.— Pre-mature release may be allowed to a prisoner by the competent authority with the objective of his rehabilitation and reintegration into the society. The Government may constitute a Sentence Review Board for considering and recommending cases for premature release of a convicted prisoner in appropriate cases under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Act No. 43 of 2023).

CHAPTER-XIX

Inspection of Prisons

54. *Inspection of Prisons*.— (*1*) There shall be a two-fold system for inspections of prisons:—

(*a*) Inspection conducted by senior prison officers— The Head of Prisons and Correctional Services may have a prison inspected by an officer of appropriate rank at such periodic intervals as may be prescribed:

(*b*) Inspections conducted by the Board of Visitors-Board of Visitors shall be headed by the Sessions Judge or any Additional Sessions Judge as authorized by the Sessions Judge, and may comprise of such other official and non-official members for carrying out such functions as may be prescribed.

(*2*) Every inspection shall be followed by a written report to the officer-in-charge of the Prison and to the Head of the Inspectorate General of Prisons and Correctional Services.

CHAPTER-XX

After-Care and Rehabilitation Services

55. *After-Care and Rehabilitation Services*.— The Government may endeavour to provide after-care services to all needy prisoners released from a prison with a view to ensuring their rehabilitation and reintegration into the society.

CHAPTER-XXI

Miscellaneous

56. *Prohibition of caste-based discrimination in Prisons and Correctional Institutions*.— (*1*) It shall be strictly ensured that there is no discrimination/classification/segregation of prisoners on the basis of their caste.

(*2*) It shall be strictly ensured that there is no discrimination of prisoners in allotment of any duty/work in prisons on the basis of their caste.

(*3*) The provisions of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (Act No. 25 of 2013), shall have a binding effect even in Prisons and Correctional Institutions. Manual scavenging or hazardous cleaning of a sewer or a septic tank inside a prison shall not be permitted.

57. *Rights and Facilities for Prisoners with disabilities*.— (*1*) Non-discrimination: No prisoner shall be discriminated on ground of disability. All prisoners with disabilities shall be entitled to equality, dignity, and respect for their integrity on an equal basis with others.

(*2*) Accessibility: All prison infrastructure, including cells, toilets, medical units, educational and vocational training centres and grievance redressal systems shall be made accessible in accordance with the standards specified under the 'Accessibility Standards and Guidelines' notified by Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi'.

(*3*) Healthcare and Rehabilitation: Persons with disabilities shall be provided with appropriate healthcare, including psychiatric and psychological services, as well as access to rehabilitation programs and therapies.

(*4*) Screening and Identification: All incoming prisoners shall be screened for disabilities at the time of admission. Relevant prison records must reflect their specific needs to ensure suitable accommodations and assistance.

(*5*) Staff Training: Prison staff shall be given regular training to sensitize them to the rights, needs and appropriate handling of prisoners with disabilities.

58. *Legal Aid*.— The Government shall provide the facility of free legal aid to the prisoners in accordance with the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (Act 39 of 1987) and the Standard Operating Procedure prescribed by National Legal Services Authority/State Legal Services Authority/District Legal Services Authority.

59. *Constitution of Under Trial Review Committee for every district*.— (*1*) There shall be an Under Trial Review Committee for every district, headed by the District and Sessions Judge, and comprising of such other members and for carrying out such functions, as may be prescribed.

(*2*) The Committee shall meet periodically and review the cases of eligible prisoners in all prisons of the district, and make appropriate recommendations.

60. *Report on the death of a prisoner*.— On the death of any prisoner, the Medical Officer shall forthwith record all such relevant details and particulars of the case, as may be prescribed and send the report to the officer-in-charge of the prison and the Head of Prisons and Correctional Services.

61. *Grievance Redressal Mechanism*.— There shall be such mechanism for redressal of the grievances of the prisoners and prison staff, as may be prescribed.

62. *Utilisation of services of prisoners*.— The officer-in-charge may utilize the services of prisoners in accordance with the rules for the day-to-day administration and management of the prisons.

63. *Prohibition of strike and agitation*.— No prisoner, visitor or any person employed in the prison, shall have any right to strike or start or continue any agitation inside the prison for achieving any request or demand.

64. *Emergency*.— The officer-in-charge shall, as may be prescribed under the rules, take all appropriate measures, including the procurement of necessary equipments and preparation of a contingency plan, for preventing and controlling any emergency situation in the prisons, including ensuring availability of Quick Reaction Team, etc. and any other provision in conformity with the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (Act 53 of 2005) or any other relevant Act and orders or instructions issued by any competent authority.

65. *Extramural Custody, control and employment of prisoners*.— A prisoner, when being taken to or from any prison, in which he may be lawfully confined, or to a court for production or to a hospital for medical treatment, or whenever he is working outside or is otherwise beyond the limits of any such prison in or under the lawful custody or control of a prison officer belonging to such prison, or any other officer deployed for such duty, shall be deemed to be in prison and shall be subject to all directions and discipline, as if he were actually in prison.

66. *Prison Development Board*.— (*1*) The State may set up a Prison Development Board with the objective of modernizing prison infrastructure and facilities for better prison management, correctional and reformational activities for prisoners and welfare of the prison staff.

(*2*) The composition of such Board, its responsibilities, and manner of governance etc., shall be such as may be prescribed.

67. *Delegation of Powers*.— Any of the powers conferred by this Act may be exercised and performed by such officers as the Government may designate in this regard.

68. *Accounts and Audit*.— The accounts of every prison shall be maintained and audited in such manner as may be prescribed.

69. *Protection of action taken in good faith*.— No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Government or any functionary of the Government in respect of anything which is done or intended to be done in good faith in pursuance of this Act or the rules made or orders or directions issued thereunder.

70. *Powers of the Government to make rules*.— The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

71. *Repeal and Saving*.— (*1*) The Prisons Act, 1894 (9 of 1894), the Prisoners Act, 1900 (3 of 1900) and the Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950 (29 of 1950), in their application to the State of Goa, are hereby repealed:

(*2*) Notwithstanding such repeal,—

(*a*) anything done or any action taken or purported to have been done or taken (including any rule, notification, inspection, order or declaration made or any document or instrument executed or any direction given or any proceedings taken or any penalty or fine imposed) under the repealed Act shall, in so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act; and

(*b*) all the rules, regulations, orders, directions, notifications relating to prisons in force immediately before the commencement of this Act shall, except where and so far, as they are inconsistent with or repugnant to the provisions of this Act, continue to be in force until altered, amended or repealed by rules made under this Act.

72. *Power to remove difficulties*.— (*1*) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, remove the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiration of a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(*2*) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before the Legislative Assembly of Goa.

Secretariat,
Porvorim-Goa.
Dated: 15-10-2026.

SANDIP JACQUES
Secretary to the Government of Goa,
Law Department (Legal Affairs).