

## Chapter – 1

### Prisons – Types and Occupancy

#### Introduction

Prison administration is an important component of criminal justice system. Prison institutions are known by different names in different countries like 'Correctional Facilities', 'Detention Centre', 'Jails', 'Remand Centre' etc. There is a paradigm shift in social view point towards prisoners in last century. Earlier system of prison with punitive attitude where inmates were forcibly confined and deprived a variety of freedom as a form of punishment has changed with a change in social perception towards prison and prisoners. It is now treated as correction or improvement facility which itself indicates that there is more emphasis on reformation of prisoners than to punish them.

In last few decades, prison population has increased tremendously which creates number of challenges before prison administration like security & safety in prison, hygiene issues, overcrowding, etc. In recent years the Supreme Court of India has come down heavily on sub-human conditions existing in prisons especially on overcrowding in prisons. This report contains comprehensive information at the national level on majority of such aspects

of these institutions. This report for the year 2019 is the twenty fifth in the series.

Prisons exist at three levels such as Taluk level, District level and Zonal/Range level and Jails at these levels are called as **Sub Jail, District Jail and Central Jail** respectively. Generally, capacity in terms of infrastructure, available prison staffs & powers vested in them, security, facilities to prisoners such as medical, educational and rehabilitation etc. are progressively better from Sub jail to Central Jail.

#### State/UT wise Number of prisons, Capacity and Inmate Occupancy in the Country as on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019

##### I. State/UT wise Number of Prisons:

As on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 there were 1,350 Jails in the country. State of Rajasthan has the highest number (144 out of 1,350) of jails among the States/UTs followed by Tamil Nadu (141), Madhya Pradesh (131), Andhra Pradesh (106) Karnataka (104) and Odisha (91). These six States together covers 53.11 % of total jails in the country as on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 (**Chart – 1.1**). Details on number of jails in the States/UTs is given in **Table 1.1**.





































