



माँ शाकुम्भरी विश्वविद्यालय, सहारनपुर

(पुर्वारका, सहारनपुर, उ०प्र०, पिन-247120)

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पत्रांक : 468 / ACD / एम०एस०यू० / 2025-26

दिनांक: 3 / 10 / 2025

सेवा में,

01. प्राचार्य/प्राचार्या,

समस्त सम्बद्ध महाविद्यालय, राजकीय, अनुदानित एवं स्ववित्त-पोषित,
जनपद-सहारनपुर, शामली एवं मुजफ्फरनगर।

02. शैक्षणिक समन्वयक, विश्वविद्यालय परिसर।

विषय:- अपराधिक अपील संख्या 1425/2025 (SLP(Crl.) NO. 13324/2024) के सम्बन्ध में।


महोदय/महोदया,

कृपया उपर्युक्त विषयक सहायक शिक्षा निदेशक, उ०शि० के पत्र सं० 1777/2025-26 एवं संयुक्त सचिव उत्तर प्रदेश शासन, उच्च शिक्षा अनुभाग-3 के पत्र सं०-भा०स०-157/सत्तर-3-2025 दिनांक 30.09.2025 (प्रति संलग्न) का सन्दर्भ ग्रहण करने का कष्ट करें, जिसके माध्यम से मा० सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के दिनांक 24.03.2025 के निर्णय के अनुपालन में, जो छात्रों मानसिक स्वास्थ्य संबंधी चिंताओं को दूर करने के लिए व्यापक उपायों की तत्काल आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है। उक्त हेतु एक राष्ट्रीय कार्यबल का गठन किया गया है और उसे सितंबर 2025 के अंत तक अपनी अंतरिम रिपोर्ट और दिसम्बर, 2025 तक अंतिम रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने का आदेश दिया है, जो कि स्वतः स्पष्ट है।

विशेष सचिव, उत्तर प्रदेश शासन, उच्च शिक्षा अनुभाग-3 लखनऊ के पत्र संख्या 2346/सत्तर-3-2025-70-3005 (001)/2/2025 दिनांक 02 सितम्बर 2025 के क्रम में विश्वविद्यालय के पत्र सं 424/71/एम०एस०यू०/2025-26 दिनांक 10.09.2025 द्वारा पत्र निर्गत किया गया था किन्तु बड़ी संख्या में सम्बद्ध महाविद्यालयों द्वारा सम्बन्धित सर्वेक्षण फार्म नहीं भरा है। अब राष्ट्रीय कार्यबल में अपनी वेबसाइट पर प्रतिक्रियाएं जमा करने की तिथि बढ़ा दी गयी है। अतः सम्बद्ध संस्थान अपने AISHE प्रमाणपत्रों का उपयोग करते हुए 4 अक्टूबर 2025 तक संस्थागत सर्वेक्षण पूरा करना आवश्यक है।

अतः उक्त के आलोक में मुझे कहने का निदेश हुआ है कि विद्यार्थी, अभिभावक, संकाय सदस्य मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाप्रदाता एवं अन्य संबंधित हितधारक अपने विचार एवं सुझाव <https://ntf.education.gov.in> पर दर्ज कर प्राथमिकता के आधार पर संलग्नक पत्रों में उल्लिखित दिशा-निर्देशों के क्रम में आवश्यक कार्यवाही करते हुए कृत कार्यवाही से विश्वविद्यालय को अवगत कराना सुनिश्चित करें।

संलग्नक:- यथोपरि।


03.10.25
सहा० कुलसचिव

प्रतिलिपि:- निम्नलिखित को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित ।


01- कुलपति कार्यालय को मा० कुलपति जी के संज्ञानार्थ।

02- कुलसचिव।

03- परीक्षा नियंत्रक ।

04- वित्त अधिकारी।

05- गार्ड फाईल ।


सहा० कुलसचिव

10-9-25

ई - मेल/अति महत्वपूर्ण/समयबद्ध



प्रेषक,

शिक्षा निदेशक (30श0), 30प्र0,
उच्च शिक्षा निदेशालय,
प्रयागराज।

सेवा में,

1. समस्त क्षेत्रीय उच्च शिक्षा अधिकारी, उत्तर प्रदेश।
2. समस्त कुलसचिव, राज्य/निजी विश्वविद्यालय, उत्तर प्रदेश।

पत्रांक:- डिग्री विकास/ 1777 /2025-26 दिनांक - 30/ 09/2025
विषय- आपराधिक अपील संख्या 1425/2025 (S.L.P (Cr.) No. 13324/2024) के सम्बन्ध में।

महोदय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक कृपया शासन के पत्र संख्या भा0स0/सत्तर - 3 - 2025 दिनांक 30 सितम्बर, 2025 एवं इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक डिग्री विकास/481/2024 - 25 दिनांक 30.05.2025 का संदर्भ ग्रहण करने का कष्ट करें, जिसके माध्यम से यह अवगत कराया गया है कि माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के दिनांक 24.03.2025 के निर्णय के अनुपालन में, जो छात्रों के बीच मानसिक स्वास्थ्य संबंधी चिंताओं को दूर करने के लिए व्यापक उपायों की तत्काल आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है। उक्त हेतु एक राष्ट्रीय कार्ययोजना का गठन किया गया है और उसे सितम्बर, 2025 के अंत तक अपनी अंतरिम रिपोर्ट और दिसम्बर, 2025 तक अंतिम रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने का आदेश दिया गया है। तत्क्रम में टास्क फोर्स ने विचार विमर्श शुरू कर दिया है और एक समर्पित वेबसाइट/पोर्टल (<http://ntf.education.gov.in>) लॉन्च किया है, ताकि सर्वेक्षण प्रश्नावली के माध्यम से छात्रों, अभिभावकों, संकाय सदस्यों, मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाताओं, संस्थागत प्रतिनिधियों और पूर्व छात्रों, गैर सरकारी संगठनों और संबंधित नागरिकों सहित आम जनता से विविध दृष्टिकोण एकत्र किये जा सकें।

उक्त के ज्ञापन में आप सभी से यह अपेक्षा की जाती है कि निदेशालय द्वारा प्रेषित पूर्व पत्र दिनांक 30.05.2025 एवं शासन के पत्र दिनांक 30.09.2025 में उल्लिखित निर्देशों का कड़ाई से अनुपालन कराते हुए, कृत कार्यवाही से शासन को दिनांक 04.10.2025 तक अवगत कराते हुए, उसकी एक प्रति अधोहस्ताक्षरी को भी ई - मेल आई0डी0 dhedegreevikas@gmail.com पर प्रेषित कराना सुनिश्चित करें।

प्रकरण शासन की प्राथमिकता में है। अतएव आपका व्यक्तिगत ध्यान अपेक्षित है।

संलग्नक - यथोक्त।

भवदीय,

Digitally signed by
AJP KUMAR SINGH
सहायक शिक्षा निदेशक (30श0),
उच्च शिक्षा निदेशालय,
उत्तर प्रदेश, प्रयागराज।

पृष्ठांकन संख्या - डिग्री विकास/

/उसी तिथि को।

प्रतिनिधि निम्नलिखित को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित -

1. संयुक्त सचिव, उच्च शिक्षा अनुभाग - 3, उत्तर प्रदेश शासन, लखनऊ।
2. अपर सचिव, उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य उच्च शिक्षा परिषद्, लखनऊ को इस आशय से प्रेषित कि: अपने स्वयं के निजी विश्वविद्यालयों की सूचना प्राप्त कर समग्र सूचना संकलित करके शासन को दिनांक 04.10.2025 तक प्रेषित करते हुए, अधोहस्ताक्षरी को भी इस कार्यालय की ई - मेल आई0डी0 dhedegreevikas@gmail.com पर उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित करें।

डॉ0 (अजीत कुमार सिंह)

सहायक शिक्षा निदेशक (30श0),

उच्च शिक्षा निदेशालय,

उत्तर प्रदेश, प्रयागराज।

प्रेमक,

प्रेम कुमार पाण्डेय,
संयुक्त सचिव
उत्तर प्रदेश शासन।

सेवा में,

1. निदेशक
उच्च शिक्षा
उत्तर प्रदेश, प्रयागराज।
2. कुलसचिव,
समरत राज्य/निजी विश्वविद्यालय, उ0प्र0।
3. डॉ० संजय दिवाकर,
उप निदेशक (तकनीकी), रूसा/मोडल
अधिकारी, AISHE

उच्च शिक्षा अनुभाग-3

लखनऊ: दिनांक 30 सितम्बर, 2025

विषय:- आपराधिक अपील संख्या-1425/2025 [SLP (Cr.) No 13324/2024] के संबंध में।

महोदय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक सचिव, शिक्षा मंत्रालय, उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग, भारत सरकार के पत्र संख्या-5-21/2025-पू० दिनांक 25 सितम्बर, 2025 (छायाप्रति संलग्न) का कृपया संदर्भ ग्रहण करने का कष्ट करें, जिसके माध्यम से अवगत कराया गया है कि माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के दिनांक 24.03.2025 के निर्णय के अनुपालन में, जो छात्रों के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य संबंधी चिंताओं को दूर करने के लिए व्यापक उपायों की तत्काल आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है, उक्त हेतु एक राष्ट्रीय कार्यबल का गठन किया गया है और उसे सितंबर 2025 के अंत तक अपनी अंतरिम रिपोर्ट 31 दिसंबर, 2025 तक अंतिम रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने का आदेश दिया गया है। तत्काल में टास्क फोर्स ने विचार-विमर्श शुरू कर दिया है और एक समर्पित वेबसाइट/पोर्टल (<https://ntf.education.gov.in>) लॉन्च किया है, ताकि सर्वेक्षण प्रभावित माध्यम से छात्रों, अभिभावकों, संकाय सदस्यों, मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाताओं, संस्थागत प्रतिनिधियों और पूर्व छात्रों सहित सरकारी संगठनों और संबंधित नागरिकों सहित आम जनता से विविध दृष्टिकोण एकत्र किए जा सकें।

2- अग्रेतर यह भी अवगत कराया गया है कि इस सम्वन्ध में दिनांक 27.03.2025 को अपर मुख्य सचिव, उच्च शिक्षा/सचिव, उच्च एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा और राज्यों/केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के नामित मोडल अधिकारियों के साथ एक बैठक भी की, जिसमें सभी राज्य/केंद्र शासित प्रदेश सरकारों से अनुरोध किया गया है कि वे अपने-अपने राज्य/केंद्र शासित प्रदेश के उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों द्वारा संस्थागत सर्वेक्षण भरवाएं। अब तक 2,47,868 छात्रों, 39,152 शिक्षकों, 35,741 अभिभावकों, 2288 स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों, 1766 मानसिक स्वास्थ्य प्रदाताओं और 57,411 संबंधित नागरिकों से प्रतिक्रियाएं प्राप्त हुई हैं। अब तक संस्थागत सर्वेक्षण का संबंध है, बड़ी संख्या में उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों ने संबंधित सर्वेक्षण फॉर्म नहीं भरा है। अब कार्यबल ने अपनी वेबसाइट पर प्रतिक्रियाएं जमा करने की तिथि बढ़ा दी है। AISHE के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत सभी उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान उन्हें अपने AISHE प्रमाणपत्रों का उपयोग करते हुए, 4 अक्टूबर 2025 तक संस्थागत सर्वेक्षण पूरा करना आवश्यक है।

3- इस सम्बन्ध में गुझे यह कहने का निदेश हुआ है कि सचिव, शिक्षा मंत्रालय, उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग, भारत सरकार के उपरोक्त संदर्भित पत्र में की गयी अपेक्षानुसार यथावश्यक कार्यवाही निर्धारित तिथि दिनांक 04.10.2025 तक सुनिश्चित करते हुये कृत कार्यवाही से शासन को अवगत कराने का कष्ट करें।

संलग्नक-यथोक्त।

भवदीय

(प्रेम कुमार पाण्डेय)
संयुक्त सचिव।

डॉ. विनीत जोशी, भा.प्र.से.

सचिव

Dr. VINEET JOSHI, IAS
Secretary

Tel. : 011-23386451, 23302698

E-mail : secy.dhe@nic.in



सत्यमेव जयते

सं० - 70510 - 157/70-3-2025

भारत सरकार

Government of India

शिक्षा मंत्रालय

Ministry of Education

उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग

Department of Higher Education

127 'सी' विंग, शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 001

127 'C' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001

Dated: 25th September, 2025

D.O. No. 5-21/2025-PN.II

सं० 761/NIPPSHED/2025

Dear Ma'am/Sir,

दिनांक 25.09.2025

I would like to draw your kind attention to this Department's communications dated 05.04.2025, 05.05.2025, 20.06.2025, 17.07.2025, 30.07.2025, 13.08.2025 and 23.08.2025, in compliance of the judgment dated 24.03.2025 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the Criminal Appeal No. 1425/2025 [SLP (Crl.) No. 13324/2024], which underscores the urgent need for comprehensive measures to address mental health concerns among students. A National Task Force has been constituted and mandated to submit its interim report by end of September 2025 and final report by December, 2025.

2. The Task Force has since commenced deliberations and launched a dedicated website/portal (<https://ntf.education.gov.in>) to gather diverse perspectives through survey questionnaires from students, parents, faculty members, mental health service providers, institutional representatives, and general public including alumni, NGOs, and concerned citizens.

3. In this regard, I also had a meeting with ACS/Pr. Secretary/Secretary, Higher & Technical Education and nominated Nodal Officers of States/UTs on 27.08.2025 wherein all State/UT Governments have been requested to get the Institutional Survey filled-up by Higher Education Institutions of their respective State/UT. So far, responses have been received from 2,47,868 students; 38,152 faculty; 35,741 parents; 2288 HEIs; 1766 mental health providers and 57,411 concerned citizens. As far as Institutional Survey is concerned, a large number of Higher Education Institutions have not filled-up the respective Survey Form. Now, the National Task Force has extended the date for submission of responses on its website. All HEIs registered under AISHE are required to complete the institutional survey by 4th October 2025 positively, using their AISHE Credentials.

In view of the above, I would therefore seek your kind cooperation and request you on the following wing:-

उच्च शिक्षा विभाग
उत्तर प्रदेश शासन

(i) Kindly instruct Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of your State/UT to complete the survey form using AISHE Login Credential.

(ii) Advise State Regulatory Authorities in the field of Higher Education for wider dissemination of website of NTF-Mental Health and urge them to further direct HEIs to fill the survey.

(iii) Kindly instruct nominated State Nodal Officer to provide requisite data/information to NTF as decided in the meeting of NTF held with them on 06.08.2025. A copy of D.O. letter dated 25.08.2025 along with summary of discussion is enclosed for reference.

5409/10(T)/2025

25/8-3

अम्बर लाल

(अम्बर लाल)

निजी सचिव

विशेष सचिव,

उच्च शिक्षा विभाग,

उ० प्र० शासन

25.09.2025

25.09.2025

सं० 761/NIPPSHED/2025

25/9/2025

प्रमुख सचिव,
उच्च शिक्षा विभाग,
उत्तर प्रदेश शासन

847/5(AT)/2025

VS(4K3)

20/9/2025

25/9/2025

25.09.2025

(अमृत त्रिपाठी)

सचिव

उच्च शिक्षा विभाग

उत्तर प्रदेश शासन

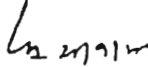
(iv) Heads of HEIs may be instructed to provide requisite data/information with regard to mechanism/initiatives taken to promote mental health and wellbeing of students and to facilitate visit of NTF as and when they come to their Institution.

5. I would be grateful if you could kindly issue necessary advisory to Higher Education Institutions/Education related Regulatory Bodies from your end to expedite the matter and issue the Press Note also. Your prompt action in this regard will greatly contribute to foster a safer and more supportive environment for students.

6. Ms. Rina Sonowal Kouli, Joint Secretary (Email: rinasonowal.edu@nic.in and Phone No. 011-23385162 and 0-1123381721) of this Department who is the Convenor of the National Task Force, may be contacted in case of any further assistance in the matter.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Dr. Vineet Joshi)

ACS / Pr. Secretary / Secretary to Higher & Technical Education, All State / UT Governments



Rina Sonowal Kouli
Joint Secretary (Higher Education)
Tel. No. 23385162
Email: rinasonowal.edu@nic.in

D.O. No. 5-21/2025-PN.II (Part-III)

भारत सरकार
शिक्षा मंत्रालय
उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग
शास्त्री भवन
नई दिल्ली - 110 115
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
SHASTRI BHAVAN
NEW DELHI-110 115
Date: 25th August, 2025

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please refer to this Department's Office Memorandum of even number dated 05.04.2025 regarding National Task Force (NTF) constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its judgment dated 24.03.2025 in Criminal Appeal No. 1425/2025 [SLP (Crl.) No. 13324/2024] concerning issues relating to mental health of students and the prevention of student suicides in Higher Educational Institutions, and the discussion held with Nodal Officers on 06.08.2025.

2. The National Task Force has started deliberation on the issues as per the mandate entrusted to it by Hon'ble Supreme Court and is required to submit its interim report by September 2025 and final report within eight months from the date of the order.

3. A copy of summary of discussion held on 06.08.2025 is enclosed for reference. It has been inter-alia decided to provide requisite data/information w.r.t. mental health and suicide prevention initiatives in higher education with NTF.

4. Accordingly, the following information/data has been requested by the NTF:-

- i. Please share information on existing or ongoing initiatives for student mental health and suicide prevention in higher education, including the following details:
 - a. Nature of the initiative, including goals and method of implementation (not more than 10 bullet points)
 - b. Launch year
 - c. Funding source, if any, for the initiative, and the funding amount
 - d. Number of institutes covered so far
 - e. Any outcome evaluation being carried out (less than 250 words)
 - f. Challenges faced in implementation (less than 250 words)
 - g. Any suggestions (500 words or less)
- ii. Specific actionable suggestions from the State authorities on implementing /strengthening mechanisms for student mental health and suicide prevention in higher education institutes (bullet points, not more than 250-300 words)

4. In view of the above, I would request you to kindly provide the above information / data by 4th September, 2025, so as to enable the NTF to analyze the data and frame effective recommendations.

With regards,

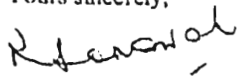
Encl: As above

Nominated Nodal Officers from States/UTs

Copy to:

Pr. Secretaries/Secretaries of Higher & Technical Education Department

Yours sincerely,


(Rina Sonowal Kouli)

**Minutes of the National Task Force – Meeting with Nodal Officers of
States and Union Territories (6 August 2025, 2.00 pm)**

1. An online meeting of the National Task Force with the nodal officers appointed by the respective states and union territories was held on the 6th of August 2025.
2. The Convener of the National Task Force (NTF), Ms. Rina Sonowal Kauli (Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education), began the meeting by welcoming the state nodal officers. She informed the nodal officers about the composition of the NTF and welcomed Dr. Vineet Joshi, Secretary (DoHE), who is serving as the Member Secretary of the NTF. She briefly explained how the NTF was set up through a Supreme Court judgment, the surveys to be launched for various stakeholders, and the field visits that have been conducted and are planned by the NTF to gather information about the mental health of students and issues surrounding suicides and suicide prevention in higher education institutions.
3. The Chair of the NTF, Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, referred to the Supreme Court judgment dated 24th March 2025 and described the mandate of the Task Force to cover HEIs across the entire country and submit a report on the factors associated with student mental health and measures that may be taken to strengthen mechanisms for suicide prevention. He shared that the NTF had thus far held around 20–25 internal meetings and divided the members into subgroups focused on different aspects of the study undertaken, such as literature review, designing surveys, and so on. The diverse disciplinary training of the members has enabled a multi-pronged approach to collecting the required information. He gave an overview of this approach—online surveys and an open space to share views on the NTF website, which is to be launched soon—along with institutional visits, a few of which have already been conducted. He highlighted the fact that HEIs of all kinds will be covered, including central universities, state universities, private universities, affiliated colleges, and so on. The Interim report of the NTF is due on 30th September, while the full report has to be submitted within eight months from the constitution of the NTF, i.e., by December 2025. This was followed by the NTF members and the nodal officers introducing themselves.
4. Dr. Aqsa Shaikh presented a glimpse of the available NCRB data pertaining to student suicides, highlighting the increasing number of suicides among students and the percentage share of student suicides. She pointed out that, as per the 2022 NCRB data, student suicides surpassed those of farmers. She further highlighted that these figures are only indicative because they are based on FIRs and therefore do not include all incidences of student suicides. Moreover, suicide figures are just the tip of the iceberg, and we need to take into account the much higher prevalence of suicide attempts, suicidal ideation, and distress among students.
5. Prof. Mary E. John discussed the research methodology, involving multiple modes of gathering information about the problems faced by students that lead to isolation, anxiety, and depression, and can also lead to suicides. The Task Force has planned field visits to various HEIs, comprising a small sample of various types of institutes across regions, as it is not feasible to visit a large number within the time frame of the NTF. She briefly explained the pilot visits in Delhi and Bangalore and how these provided important insights for planning more such visits.
6. Dr. Nidhi S. Sabharwal explained the purpose and nature of the online surveys of the NTF. She detailed the five surveys that have been designed for HEIs, students, faculty, parents, and mental health service providers, in addition to the surveys to be filled out by heads of higher education institutes.
7. Prof. Rajendra Kachroo emphasised the importance of engaging with people in each state who have already been working on these issues and have thought about them in depth.

These individuals and organisations should be identified and encouraged to offer their insights to the Task Force. He informed the group about the open space on the website that will provide a forum for expressing views and opinions on the issues under consideration and will also allow people to share their suggestions. Thus, he appealed to the nodal officers to direct people to the website.

8. Dr. Alok Sarin outlined the plan to gather the required information through stakeholder consultations with a wide variety of groups, such as medical professionals, legal experts, mental health experts, policy experts, and those who have experience working on these issues in other committees, and so on. He asked the nodal officers to share their ideas in designing such consultations and help the NTF in choosing the stakeholders they should meet.
9. Adv. Aparna Bhat explained her role as the Amicus Curiae, in addition to being a member of the Task Force. She reports to the Supreme Court to provide updates about the progress of the NTF. She is also tasked at various times with filing a status report on student suicide cases of which the Court takes cognizance. She emphasised that the help of the nodal officers would be useful in such cases for gathering information as well as filing court reports. The Supreme Court has taken note of the role of nodal officers seriously, regarding their administrative cooperation as well as their facilitation of the work of the NTF.
10. Expectations from the state nodal officers: Dr. Seema Mehrotra noted the three main areas where the support of the state nodal officers and the state machinery is needed for the work of the Task Force.
11. First, coordinated efforts and support from the state nodal officers are needed to facilitate field visits by the Task Force from time to time to different regions and institutes of higher education, as well as to organise open forums in these towns and cities where students from a variety of institutions and stakeholders could have an opportunity to interact with the Task Force team.
12. Second, the state nodal officers are requested to send circulars to all institutes of higher education in their state (government, government-aided, and private colleges; state and central universities) to ensure maximum participation in the online surveys by students and faculty members in higher education institutes, as well as to ensure that HEIs complete and submit the institute surveys by the end of August 2025.
13. Third, the state nodal officers are requested to share any information regarding state-level reports on student mental health and any initiatives related to suicide prevention and mental health promotion specifically being undertaken for higher education institutes. A template will be provided for sharing these details.
14. Justice Bhat emphasised that the NTF is mandated to consult with state governments to gather inputs and requested them to share their strategies and insights. The representative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment drew attention to the struggles faced by marginalised students in higher education and promised support and cooperation to the NTF in spreading awareness, publicising the website, and encouraging people to take the surveys.
15. Some of the nodal officers, particularly from Kerala, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh, briefly highlighted the relevant programmes already existing in their states. The chair requested them to share the same with the NTF.
16. The nodal officers were informed about the launch of the website and the surveys scheduled as part of the press meet on 8 August 2025, which would be livestreamed for them to watch online. Adv. Aparna Bhat requested the nodal officers to disseminate the press release in their state, along with a vernacular translation of the document.

17. Mr. Arman Ali offered the vote of thanks, reiterating the valuable role of the states and the importance of the cooperation and support of the nodal officers for the National Task Force to achieve its goals.

List of Attendees

S. No	Member
1.	Justice (Retd.) S. Ravindra Bhat, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, Chairperson
2.	Dr. Alok Sarin, Consultant Psychiatrist, Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science & Research, New Delhi, Member
3.	Mr. Arman Ali, Executive Director, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People, Member
4.	Prof. Rajendar Kachroo, Founder, Aman Satya Kachroo Trust, Member
5.	Dr. Seema Mehrotra, Professor of Clinical Psychology, NIMHANS, Member
6.	Dr. Nidhi S. Sabharwal, Associate Professor, Centre for Policy Research in Higher Education, NIEPA, New Delhi, Member
7.	Prof. Mary E. John (Retired), Former Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi, Member
8.	Prof. Virginus Xaxa, Visiting Professor, Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi, Member
9.	Dr. Aqsa Shaikh, Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, New Delhi, Member
10.	Ms. Aparna Bhat, Senior Advocate (as amicus curiae), Member
11.	Shri Amit Yadav, Secretary, Social Justice & Empowerment
12.	Dr Anju Rathi Rana, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice
13.	Shri Biswaranjan Sasmal, Additional Secretary, M/o Social Justice & Empowerment
14.	Ms. Preeti Pant, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India
15.	Ms. Rina Sonowal Kouli, Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Convener of the Task Force
16.	Prof. Vinod Kumar Shanwal, Manodarpan Cell, NCERT
17.	Shri Sunil Sharma, Director, D/o School Education & Literacy
18.	Shri Devendra Kumar Sharma, Director, D/o Higher Education

List of Attendees (Nodal Officers)

S. No	State/UT	Name & Designation
1.	Punjab	Shri Sanyam Aggarwal, Director, Higher Education Dr. J.P Singh D.D College Education Directorate of Higher Education
2.	Ladakh	Ms. Bhanu Prabha, Administrative Secretary Higher Education
3.	Rajasthan	Dr. Om Prakash Bairwa, Commissioner College Education, Higher Education
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Prabal Sepaha, Higher Education Government of Madhya Pradesh
5.	Delhi	Ms. Anjali Sehwat, Director, Social Welfare Shri Ram Phool, Deputy Director, Higher Education
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Dr. Amarjeet Kumar Sharma Director, Higher Education, Shimla
7.	Dadra Nagar Haveli D.D. UT	Sh. Shivam Teotia, Director-Cum-Joint Secretary, Higher and Technical Education
8.	Chandigarh	Sh. Amandeep Singh Bhatti, Additional Secretary, Higher Education
9.	Goa	Shri Bhushan Savaikar, Director, Education
10.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Shri K. Ajit Kumar, Deputy Secretary, Higher Education
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	Dr. Milorai Modi, Director, Higher & Technical Education
12.	Karnataka	Prof. Shobha G., Director, D/o Collegiate Education
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Director Colleges Higher Education
14.	Kerala	Dr. Sharmila Joseph, Principal Secretary, Higher Education
15.	Manipur	Dr. David Elangbam, Joint Secretary, Higher & Technical Education
16.	Sikkim	Mr. Gyalshen Sherpa, Joint Director Higher and Technical Education
17.	Andhra Pradesh	Dr. Narayana Bharath Gupta, Director, Education Department Dr. Krishna, Joint Director, Education Department
18.	Puducherry	Shri Aman Sharma Director, Higher & Technical Education
19.	West Bengal	Sri Jaydip Mukhopadhyay, Senior Special Secretary, Higher Education
20.	Meghalaya	Shri David D. Sangma, Secretary, Education Department
21.	Lakshadweep	Shri. C. Attakoya Lecturer, DIET, Directorate of Education Kavaratti
22.	Tamil Nadu	Tmt. K. Karpagam, Joint Secretary, Higher Education Department
23.	Haryana	Sh. S. Narayanan IFS, Secretary, Haryana Government Higher Education
24.	Bihar	Shri Nasim Ahmed, Deputy Director, Higher Education

		Mrs. Purna Assistant Director Department of Higher Education.
25.	Chhattisgarh	Dr. Raj Lakshami Selat, OSD, Higher Education
26.	Mizoram	Shri K.Lalmangaihuala, Joint Secretary, Higher & Technical Education
27.	Gujarat	Shri Dilip Rana, Commisloner, Higher Education Department Ms. Arti Thakkar, Addl. Commissioner, Higher Education Department

प्रेषक,

शिक्षा निदेशक (उ०शि०),
शिक्षा डिग्री विकास अनुभाग,
प्रयागराज।

सेवा में,

1. समस्त क्षेत्रीय उच्च शिक्षा अधिकारी, उत्तर प्रदेश।
2. कुलसचिव, समस्त राज्य/निजी विश्वविद्यालय, उत्तर प्रदेश।

पत्रांक:- डिग्री विकास/ 481 /2024-25

दिनांक - 30/05/2025

विषय - उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में मानसिक स्वास्थ्य और छात्र आत्महत्या की रोकथाम हेतु राष्ट्रीय टास्क फोर्स (एनटीएफ) के विचार - विमर्श के अनुसार सूचना उपलब्ध कराये जाने के अनुरोध के सम्बन्ध में।

महोदय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक इस पत्र के साथ संलग्न न्यायालय/कार्यालय राज्य आयुक्त, दिव्यांगजन, उत्तर प्रदेश के पत्र दिनांक 29 मई, 2025 का संदर्भ ग्रहण करने का कष्ट करें, जिसके माध्यम से उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में मानसिक स्वास्थ्य और छात्र आत्महत्या की रोकथाम हेतु राष्ट्रीय टास्क फोर्स (एनटीएफ) के विचार - विमर्श के अनुसार सूचना उपलब्ध कराये जाने की अपेक्षा की गयी है।

आप सभी को निर्देशित किया जाता है कि इस पत्र के साथ संलग्न न्यायालय/कार्यालय राज्य आयुक्त, दिव्यांगजन, उत्तर प्रदेश के पत्र दिनांक 29 मई, 2025 के क्रम में वांछित 02 बिन्दुओं पर सूचना तत्काल अधोहस्ताक्षरी को उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित करें। सूचना ससमय प्राप्त न होने की दशा में संपूर्ण उत्तरदायित्व आपका होगा।

संलग्नक - यथोक्त।

भवदीय,

डॉ० (शशि कपूर)

संयुक्त शिक्षा निदेशक (उ०शि०),
कृते शिक्षा निदेशक (उ०शि०),
उत्तर प्रदेश, प्रयागराज।

पृष्ठांकन संख्या - डिग्री विकास/ 481 - 483 /उसी तिथि को।

प्रतिलिपि निम्नलिखित को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित -

1. विशेष सचिव, उच्च शिक्षा अनुभाग - 3 एवं 5, उत्तर प्रदेश शासन, लखनऊ।
2. न्यायालय/कार्यालय राज्य आयुक्त, दिव्यांगजन, उत्तर प्रदेश को उनके पत्र दिनांक 29 मई, 2025 के क्रम में।

डॉ० (शशि कपूर)

संयुक्त शिक्षा निदेशक (उ०शि०),
कृते शिक्षा निदेशक (उ०शि०),
उत्तर प्रदेश, प्रयागराज।



न्यायालय / कार्यालय राज्य आयुक्त, दिव्यांगजन, उत्तर प्रदेश { दिव्यांगजन अधिकार अधिनियम-2016 के अधीन }

पत्रांक 348-49 / 37 / रा.आ.दि.ज. / 2025

लखनऊ, दिनांक : 29/05/2025

अति महत्वपूर्ण / समयबद्ध
भारत सरकार संदर्भ

सेवा में,

निदेशक,

उच्च शिक्षा निदेशालय,

सरोजनी नायडू मार्ग, प्रयागराज, 2090।

विषय:- उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में मानसिक स्वास्थ्य और छात्र आत्महत्या की रोकथाम हेतु राष्ट्रीय टास्क फोर्स (एनटीएफ) के विचार-विमर्श के अनुसार सूचना उपलब्ध कराए जाने के अनुरोध के सम्बन्ध में।

महोदय,

कृपया उपर्युक्त विषयक इस न्यायालय को प्राप्त अनु सचिव, भारत सरकार, सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय, दिव्यांगजन सशक्तीकरण विभाग, नई दिल्ली के पत्र सं०-पी-13013/32/2025-पॉलिसी दिनांक 22-05-2025 (प्रति संलग्न) का संदर्भ ग्रहण करने का कष्ट करें जिसके अन्तर्गत उल्लिखित किया गया है कि - शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने अपने कार्यालय ज्ञापन दिनांक 05.04.2025 के माध्यम से आपराधिक अपील संख्या 1425/2025 (एसएलपी (सीआरएल) संख्या 13324/2024) में भारत के माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के दिनांक 24.03.2025 के निर्णय के अनुसरण में एक राष्ट्रीय टास्क फोर्स का गठन किया। यह निर्णय छात्रों के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य और उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों में छात्रों की आत्महत्या की रोकथाम से संबंधित महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों को संबोधित करता है। एनटीएफ को आदेश की तिथि से चार महीने के भीतर अपनी अंतरिम रिपोर्ट और आठ महीने के भीतर अपनी अंतिम रिपोर्ट क्रमशः 24.07.2025 और 24.11.2025 तक प्रस्तुत करने का आदेश दिया गया है।


इसी क्रम में प्रश्रुत प्रकरण पर उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में मानसिक स्वास्थ्य और छात्र आत्महत्या की रोकथाम हेतु राष्ट्रीय टास्क फोर्स (एनटीएफ) के विचार-विमर्श के अनुसार निम्नलिखित बिन्दुओं पर सूचना उपलब्ध कराए जाने की अपेक्षा की गई है:-

i. दिव्यांगजन सशक्तीकरण विभाग (डीईपीडब्ल्यूडी) द्वारा विभिन्न योजनाओं के तहत उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त करने वाले दिव्यांग छात्रों से संबंधित सूचना

ii. उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में दिव्यांगजन छात्रों की बाधारहित वातावरण उपलब्ध कराए जाने से सम्बन्धित सूचना

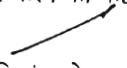
उक्त के क्रम में अनु सचिव, भारत सरकार, सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय, दिव्यांगजन सशक्तीकरण विभाग, नई दिल्ली के पत्र सं०-पी-13013/32/2025-पॉलिसी दिनांक 22-05-2025 की प्रति समस्त संलग्नकों सहित संलग्न कर आपको इस अनुरोध के साथ प्रेषित है कि कृपया प्रश्रुत प्रकरण पर भारत

सरकार द्वारा वांछित सूचना के क्रम में अपने स्तर से परीक्षणोपरान्त यथाशीघ्र आवश्यक कार्यवाही कराते हुए कृत कार्यवाही विषयक आख्या / सूचना से भारत सरकार व इस न्यायालय को भी अवगत कराने का कष्ट करें। प्रकरण दिव्यांगजन सशक्तीकरण विभाग, सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार से संबंधित है, अस्तु व्यक्तिगत ध्यानाकर्षण अपेक्षित है।
संलग्नक:- यथोक्त।


(प्रो० हिमांशु शेखर झा)
राज्य आयुक्त

पृष्ठांकन व दिनांक उपरोक्तानुसार //

1. प्रमुख सचिव, उ०प्र० शासन, उच्च शिक्षा विभाग, कक्ष संख्या - 03, नवीन भवन, उ०प्र० सचिवालय को सूचनार्थ एवं इस अनुरोध के साथ प्रेषित कि कृपया प्रश्रुत प्रकरण पर भारत सरकार द्वारा वांछित सूचना समयान्तर्गत उपलब्ध कराए जाने हेतु सम्बन्धित प्राधिकारी को अपने स्तर से निर्देशित करने का कष्ट करें।


(प्रो० हिमांशु शेखर झा)
राज्य आयुक्त

सं. /No P-13013/32/2025-Policy
भारत सरकार / Government of India
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय/ Ministry of Social Justice &
Empowerment)
दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग

**Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
(Divyangjan)**

पाँचवा तल, बी विंग, पंडित दीनदयाल अंत्योदय भवन, सी जी ओ कॉम्प्लेक्स, लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली -
110003

5th Floor, B Wing, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO
Complex, Lodhi Road New Delhi-110003

दिनांक/Date: 22-May,
2025

To,

1. O/o CCPD, Dwarka, New Delhi
2. All O/o SCPDs (as per list attached)

Subject: Request for Data and Information as per the National Task Force (NTF) Deliberations on Mental Health and Prevention of Student Suicides in Higher Education Institutions

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the subject mentioned above and to enclose herewith a copy of DO letter dated 19.05.2025 from M/o Education along with enclosures for reference.

2. M/o Education vide their Office Memorandum dated 05.04.2025 constituted a National Task Force, pursuant to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's judgment dated 24.03.2025 in Criminal Appeal No. 1425/2025 [SLP (Crl.) No. 13324/2024]. The judgment addresses critical issues concerning the mental health of students and the prevention of student suicides in Higher Education Institutions. The NTF is mandated to submit its interim report within four months and its final report within eight months from the date of the order, i.e., by 24.07.2025 and 24.11.2025, respectively.

3. As part of the NTF's ongoing deliberations, the following information/data are required from DEPwD:

i. Data concerning students with disabilities pursuing higher education, supported under various schemes by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD).

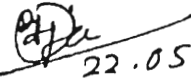
ii. Information on complaints received by the Office of the Chief

Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and all State Commissioners for Disabilities regarding students with disabilities facing barriers in accessing higher education.

4. In view of the above, I kindly request you to provide the aforementioned information/data (3.ii) **by 27.05.2025** for further submission to M/o Education within the requested timeline. This will enable the NTF to analyze the data and frame effective recommendations to foster a safer and more supportive academic environment for students.

Your prompt response in the matter will be highly appreciated.

Enclosures: As mentioned above


22.05.2025.
(Debala Bhattacharjee)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

(email:debala.joarder@gov.in)

Rina Sonowal Koul,
Joint Secretary (Higher Education)
Tel. No. 23388162
Email: rinasonowal.edu@nic.in

D.O. No. S-21/2023-PW II



भारत सरकार
शिक्षा विभाग
उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग
शास्त्री भवन
नई दिल्ली - 110 115
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
SHASTRI BHAVAN
NEW DELHI-110 115

Date: 19th May 2025

Respected Sir,

Please refer to this Department's Office Memorandum of even number dated 05.04.2025 regarding National Task Force (NTF) constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its judgment dated 24.03.2025 in Criminal Appeal No. 1425/2025 (SLP (Crl.) No. 13324/2024) concerning issues relating to mental health of students and the prevention of student suicides in Higher Educational Institutions. A copy of OM dated 05.04.2025 along with copy of judgement dated 24.03.2025 is again enclosed for reference.

2. As you are already aware the National Task Force has started deliberation on the issues as per the mandate entrusted to it by Hon'ble Supreme Court and is required to submit its interim report within four months with final report within eight months from the date of the order.

3. As part of the ongoing deliberations of the NTF, the following information/data has been requested by the NTF -

- i. Data concerning students with disabilities pursuing higher education with support from Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under various schemes.
- ii. Information on complaints received by the Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and all the state commissioners for disabilities regarding students with disabilities facing barriers in accessing higher education.

4. In view of the above, I would request you to kindly provide the above information / data by 30th May 2025, so as to enable the NTF to analyze the data and frame effective recommendations.

5. Your immediate and full cooperation is essential for facilitating a safer and more supportive academic environment for students.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Rina Sonowal Koul

(Rina Sonowal Koul)

Encl. As above

Sh. Rajesh Aggarwal
Secretary
Deptt. of Persons with Disabilities

Copy to:-

1. Sh. Anil Yadav, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
2. Sh. Birendra Singh Samal, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

JS(RS)

ITEM NO.1602

COURT NO.13

SECTION II-C

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Criminal Appeal No.1425/2025 @ SLP(Crl.)No.13324/2024

AMIT KUMAR & ORS.

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

[HEARD BY : HON. J.B. PARDIWALA AND HON. R. MAHADEVAN, JJ.]
IA No. 208458/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

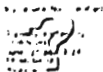
Date : 24-03-2025 This appeal was called on for pronouncement
of judgment today.

For Appellant(s) :

Mr. Mehmood Pracha, Adv.
Mr. R. H. A. Sikander, AOR
Mr. Jatin Bhatt, Adv.
Mr. Sanawar, Adv.
Mr. Kshitij Singh, Adv.
Ms. Nujhat Naseem, Adv.
Mr. Sikander, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Brijender Chahar, A.S.G.
Ms. Mrinal Gopal Elker, AOR
Ms. Chhavi Khandelwal, Adv.
Ms. Shruti Verma, Adv.

Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
Mr. Abhijit Pandove, Adv.
Mr. Amit Sharma Ii, Adv.
Mrs. Bani Dikshit, Adv.
Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.
Mr. Gaurang Bhushan, Adv.



Crl.A.No.1425/2025

Ms. Mrinal Gopal Elker, Adv.
Ms. Chhavi Khandelwal, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Chaudhary, Adv.

1. The Bench comprising Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.M. Mahadevan pronounced the judgment.
2. Leave granted.
3. The relevant portion of the signed reportable judgment is as under:-

"69. The recurring instances of student suicides in Higher Educational Institutions, including private educational institutions, serve as a grim reminder of the inadequacy and ineffectiveness of the existing legal and institutional framework in addressing mental health concerns of students on campuses and to prevent the students from taking the extreme step of committing suicides. These tragedies underscore the urgent need for a more robust, comprehensive, and responsive mechanism to address the various factors which compel certain students to resort to taking their own lives. In light of the concerns expressed above, a National Task Force to address the mental health concerns of students and prevent the commission of suicides in Higher Educational Institutions is being constituted and shall comprise of the following members:

- i. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, as the Chairperson;
- ii. Dr. Alok Sarin, Consultant Psychiatrist, Sitaram Bhatia Institute of Science & Research, New Delhi;
- iii. Prof. Mary E. John (retired), Former Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi;
- iv. Mr. Arman Ali, Executive Director, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People;
- v. Prof. Rajendar Kachroo, Founder, Aman Satya Kachroo Trust;
- vi. Dr. Aqsa Shaikh, Professor of the Department of Community Medicine in Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, New Delhi;
- vii. Dr. Seema Mehrotra, Professor of Clinical Psychology, NIMHANS;
- viii. Prof. Virginus Xaxa, Visiting Professor at the Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi;
- ix. Dr. Nidhi S. Sabharwal, Associate Professor, Centre for Policy Research in Higher Education, National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi;

x. Ms. Aparna Bhat, Senior Advocate (as *amicus curiae*). _

70. The following shall be the ex-officio members of this Task Force:

i. Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India;

ii. Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India;

iii. Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India;

iv. Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India.

71. We direct the Chief Secretaries of all the States/Union Territories to nominate a high ranking officer, not below the rank of Joint Secretary in the Department of Higher Education of the respective State/Union Territory, to act as the nodal officer on behalf of the respective State/Union Territory. We further direct all the concerned departments/authorities of the respective State/Union Territory to cooperate with the nodal officer concerned and furnish necessary information, data and assistance as may be sought by such nodal officer.

72. The Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India shall act as the convener of the Task Force.

73. The Task Force includes representatives from diverse fields to ensure an interdisciplinary approach to tackling the issue of commission of suicides in Higher Educational Institutions.

74. The remit of this Task Force is to prepare a comprehensive report that includes:

i. Identification of the predominant causes which lead to commission of suicides by students: An examination of the various causes which lead to student suicides in Higher Educational Institutions, including but not limited to ragging, caste-based discrimination, gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, academic pressure, financial burden, mental health related stigma, discrimination based on ethnicity, tribal identity, disability, sexual orientation, political views, religious belief or any other grounds.

ii. Analysis of Existing Regulations: A thorough assessment of the effectiveness of current laws, policies, and institutional frameworks applicable to

Higher Educational Institutions concerning ragging, caste-based and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, mental health support, support for students facing academic challenges, financial support to students in need of funds, etc. This analysis will evaluate whether these frameworks adequately address the challenges faced by students.

iii. Recommendations for Strengthening Protections:

Proposing necessary reforms to the existing legal and institutional frameworks to ensure stronger enforcement, accountability, and preventive measures. The Task Force shall also put forth recommendations to address existing gaps, create a more inclusive and supportive academic environment, and ensure equal opportunities for members of marginalized communities.

75. In the process of preparing its report, the Task Force shall have the authority to conduct surprise inspections of any Higher Educational Institution. Additionally, the Task Force shall be at liberty to make further recommendations beyond the specified mandate, wherever necessary, to ensure a holistic and effective approach towards addressing mental-health concerns of students and eliminating the incidence of suicides in Higher Educational Institutions. The Task Force is

72

requested to take into account the views and concerns of all stakeholders, including those of student unions, whether elected or nominated and other student representative bodies, wherever they exist. The Task Force is also requested to seek representation from and consult the governments of all the States and Union Territories. The Task Force may also consider obtaining the views of the different stakeholders by way of circulating a questionnaire and seeking written responses thereupon.

76. It is clarified that the term "Higher Educational Institution" is used broadly to cover all higher educational institutions, including government and private universities, deemed to be universities, government and private colleges, etc.

77. The Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education; the Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment; the Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development; and the Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, shall collaborate with the Task Force and extend full cooperation by providing all necessary information, documents, and resources required by the Task Force to effectively carry out its mandate.

all

78. The Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India shall serve as the Member-Secretary of the Task Force. The Ministry of Education, Government of India shall be responsible for providing all necessary logistical support to facilitate the functioning of the Task Force. This shall include making arrangements for travel, accommodation, and secretarial assistance, as well as covering all related expenses of the Task Force members. The Ministry shall provide a sufficiently large office space to the Task Force for holding its meetings and also to enable the officials to carry on its day-to-day activities. Additionally, the Ministry shall provide an appropriate honorarium to the members in recognition of their contributions.

79. We also direct that the Central Government, the Governments of all the States/Union Territories and agencies thereof, and Universities shall extend their full and active cooperation to the Task Force and provide the requisite data, information and assistance, as may be necessary. In the case of delay, reluctance or neglect on part of the aforesaid bodies, the Task Force will be at liberty to approach this Court through the *amicus curiae* seeking remedial actions.

80. The Chairperson of the Task Force shall be at liberty to engage the services of any person for the purpose of providing

secretarial assistance in coordinating with the members of the Task Force, preparation of the interim and final report and for the smooth and effective discharge of any other responsibilities as may arise during the course of carrying out the mandate of the Task Force. This shall include the engagement of the services of Data Analysts and Research Assistants as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the mandate of the Task Force.

81. The Chairperson of the Task Force shall also be at liberty to constitute, after due consultation with the members of the Task Force, committees and sub-committees as may be required for the purpose of carrying out specific functions.

82. We direct the Union of India to deposit an amount of Rupees Twenty Lacs (Rs 20,00,000/-) with the Registry within two weeks from the date of this order as an outlay for the initial operations of the Task Force. The *amicus curiae* shall be at liberty to move an appropriate application seeking orders for disbursement of any additional funds, whenever necessary. We clarify that this amount is in addition to the financial and administrative responsibility of the Ministry of Education as described aforesaid.

83. The Task Force is requested to present an interim report

the
within four months from the date of this order. The final report shall be submitted preferably within eight months from the date of this order.

84. We treat this matter as part heard. The registry shall notify this matter after four months alongwith the interim report of the Task Force before this very Bench (J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, JJ.) after obtaining appropriate orders from Honourable the Chief Justice of India."

3. The matter is part heard in terms of the signed reportable judgment.

(CHANDRESH)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(POOJA SHARMA)
COURT MASTER (NSH)

(Signed reportable judgment is placed on the file)

No. 5-21/2025-PN.II
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education
(PN.II Section)

Shastri Bhawan New Delhi,
Dated 5th April, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:- Constitution of the National Task Force constituted by Supreme Court of India in the matter of Criminal Appeal No. 1425/2025 @ SLP (Crl) No. 13324/2024 titled *Amit Kumar & Ors Vs. Union of India & Ors* in the Supreme Court of India.- reg.

In pursuance of order dated 24.03.2025 of Supreme Court of India, a National Task Force has been constituted to discuss and deliberate the issues related to mental health concerns among students, prevention of commission of the suicides in educational institutions and recommend preventive measures. The relevant portion of the signed reportable judgment dated 24.03.2025 is enclosed for reference.

2. The composition of the National Task Force is as under:-

- (i) Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, as the Chairperson;
- (ii) Dr. Alok Sarin, Consultant Psychiatrist, Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science & Research, New Delhi, as the Member;
- (iii) Prof. Mary E. John (retired), Former Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi; as the Member;
- (iv) Mr. Arman Ali, Executive Director, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People; as the Member;
- (v) Prof. Rajendar Kachroo, Founder, Aman Satya Kachroo Trust; as the Member;
- (vi) Dr. Aqsa Shaikh, Professor of the Department of Community Medicine in Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, New Delhi; as the Member;
- (vii) Dr. Seema Mehrotra, Professor of Clinical Psychology, NIMHANS; as the Member;
- (viii) Prof. Virginus Xaxa, Visiting Professor at the Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi; as the Member;
- (ix) Dr. Nidhi S. Sabharwal, Associate Professor, Centre for Policy Research in Higher Education, National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi; as the Member;
- (x) Ms. Aparna Bhat, Senior Advocate (as amicus curiae).

3. The following are the ex-officio members of the Task Force:-

- (i) Secretary, Department of Higher Education, M/o Education, Govt of India, as the Member Secretary
- (ii) Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India;
- (iii) Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India;
- (iv) Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India.
- (v) Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, M/o Education – Convenor:

4. The remit of this Task Force is to prepare a comprehensive report that includes:-

- i. **Identification of the predominant causes which lead to commission of suicides by students:** An examination of the various causes which lead to student suicides in Higher Educational Institutions, including but not limited to ragging, caste-based discrimination, gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, academic pressure, financial burden, mental health related stigma, discrimination based on ethnicity, tribal identity, disability, sexual orientation, political views, religious belief or any other grounds.
- ii. **Analysis of Existing Regulations:** A thorough assessment of the effectiveness of current laws, policies, and institutional frameworks applicable to Higher Educational Institutions concerning ragging, caste-based and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, mental health support, support for students facing academic challenges, financial support to students in need of funds, etc. This analysis will evaluate whether these frameworks adequately address the challenges faced by students.
- iii. **Recommendations for Strengthening Protections:** Proposing necessary reforms to the existing legal and institutional frameworks to ensure stronger enforcement, accountability, and preventive measures. The Task Force shall also put forth recommendations to address existing gaps, create a more inclusive and supportive academic environment, and ensure equal opportunities for members of marginalized communities.

4. In preparing its report, the Task Force shall take into account the views and concerns of all stakeholders, including those of student unions, whether elected or nominated and other student representative bodies, wherever they exist. The Task Force may also seek representation from and consult the governments of all the States and Union Territories. The Task Force may also consider obtaining the views of the different stakeholders by way of circulating a questionnaire and seeking written responses thereupon. The Task force may also conduct surprise inspections of any Higher Educational Institution. Additionally, the Task Force shall be at liberty to make further recommendations beyond the specified mandate, wherever necessary, to ensure a

holistic and effective approach towards addressing mental- health concerns of students and eliminating the incidence of suicides in Higher Educational Institutions.

5. The Chairperson of the Task Force shall also be at liberty to constitute, after due consultation with the members of the Task Force, committees and sub-committees as may be required for the purpose of carrying out specific functions. With permission of Chairman, any other experts/officials can be co-opted by the Committee.

6. The Task Force is required to present an interim report within four months from the date of the order. The final report shall be submitted preferably within eight months from the date of this order.

Encl: As above.

Rina Sonowal
- 5/4/21
(Rina Sonowal Kouli)

Joint Secretary to Govt. of India

To,

1. All Secretaries of Union Ministries of Government of India
2. All Chief Secretaries / ACS / Pr. Secretary of School, Higher & Technical Education of States / UTs
3. Chairman, UGC
4. Chairman, AICTE
5. Chairman, Bar Council of India
6. Chairman, National Medical Commission
7. Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog
8. Vice Chancellors / Heads of Centrally Funded Higher Education Institutions
9. Vice Chancellor, National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy – with a request to disseminate the order among all regulatory and implementing bodies under administrative control and request them to extend their full and active cooperation.
2. All Bureau Heads of Department of Higher Education – with a request to disseminate the order among all Educational Institutions under their administrative control and request them to extend their full and active cooperation.
3. CMIS/NIC– for uploading the Order on Ministry's website as well as on e-Office

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Education Minister
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS for Higher Education / Hon'ble MoS for Higher Education
3. PPS to Secretary (Higher Education, Ministry of Education)
4. PPS to Secretary (School Education & Literacy, Minister of Education)
5. PPS to Joint Secretary (Higher Education)
6. Guard File PN-II Section

Rina
Joint Secretary and
Tel.

Rina Sonowal Kouli
Joint Secretary (Higher Education)
Tel. No. 23385162
Email: rinasonowal.edu@nic.in

D.O. No. 5-21/2025-PN.II



भारत सरकार
शिक्षा मंत्रालय
उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग
शास्त्री भवन
नई दिल्ली - 110 115
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
SHASTRI BHAVAN
NEW DELHI-110 115

Date: 19th May 2025

Respected Sir,

Please refer to this Department's Office Memorandum of even number dated 05.04.2025 regarding National Task Force (NTF) constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its judgment dated 24.03.2025 in Criminal Appeal No. 1425/2025 [SLP (Crl.) No. 13324/2024] concerning issues relating to mental health of students and the prevention of student suicides in Higher Educational Institutions. A copy of OMI dated 05.04.2025 along with copy of judgement dated 24.03.2025 is again enclosed for reference

2. As you are already aware the National Task Force has started deliberation on the issues as per the mandate entrusted to it by Hon'ble Supreme Court and is required to submit its interim report within four months with final report within eight months from the date of the order.

3. As part of the ongoing deliberations of the NTF, the following information/data has been requested by the NTF:-

- Data concerning students with disabilities pursuing higher education with support from Dept of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under various schemes.
- Information on complaints received by the Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and all the state commissioners for disabilities regarding students with disabilities facing barriers in accessing higher education.

4. In view of the above, I would request you to kindly provide the above information / data by 30th May 2025, so as to enable the NTF to analyze the data and frame effective recommendations.

5. Your immediate and full cooperation is essential for facilitating a safer and more supportive academic environment for students.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Rina Sonowal Kouli)

Encl: As above

Sh. Rajesh Aggarwal
Secretary
Deptt. of Persons with Disabilities

Copy to:-

- Sh. Amit Yadav, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Sh. B. S. Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment