

डॉ. विनीत जोशी, भा.प्र.से.

सचिव

Dr. VINEET JOSHI, IAS

Secretary

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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

Date: 5th April 2025

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

Dear Chief Secretary,

As you may be aware, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in its judgment dated 24.03.2025 in Criminal Appeal No. 1425/2025 [SLP (Crl.) No. 13324/2024], has issued significant directions concerning the prevention of student suicides in Higher Educational Institutions. The judgment underscores the urgent need for comprehensive measures to address mental health concerns among students. The relevant portion of the signed reportable judgment dated 24.03.2025 is enclosed for reference.

2. The Hon'ble Court has constituted a National Task Force under the Chairmanship of Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India and other experts from various domains as members, 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 key areas of focus include:

- i. Identifying predominant causes which lead to commission of suicides by students such as academic pressure, discrimination, financial burdens, and mental health stigma.
- ii. Analysis of the effectiveness of existing student welfare and mental health regulations/policies.
- iii. Proposing reforms to strengthen institutional frameworks and create a supportive academic environment.

3. The matter in the question has been partly heard by the Hon'ble Court and the National Task Force has to submit its interim report within 4 months from the date of the order and final report within 8 months.

4. In compliance with the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, I would like to request you to kindly:

- i. **Nominate a Nodal Officer:** A senior officer (not below the rank of Joint Secretary in the Department of Higher Education) to act as the nodal officer on behalf of the respective State/Union Territory to coordinate with the Task Force and oversee compliance. Complete contact details of the Nodal Officer may please be shared positively by 10.04.2025.

- ii. **Ensure Cooperation:** All relevant departments and Higher Education Institutions in your State/UT should extend their full and active cooperation to the Nodal Officer, who shall further provide the requisite data, information and assistance, as may be necessary, to the National Task Force.

5. I would also request you to kindly furnish your suggestions and existing mechanism, if any, on the matter for the consideration of the National Task Force. Your prompt action in this regard will contribute significantly to fostering 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 shall be the Convenor of the National Task Force, may be contacted in case of any further assistance in the matter.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Encl: As above


(Vineet Joshi)

Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs

Copy to:-

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