

Minutes of the Review Meeting of the National Task Force constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, held on 03.08.2025 at 09:30 AM in online mode, to discuss on the upcoming meeting with Nodal Officers of States/UTs scheduled for 06.08.2025 and the launch of NTF Website scheduled for 08.08.2025.

The Review Meeting of the National Task Force (NTF) on Mental Health was held on 03.08.2025 at 09:30 AM in online mode, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice (Retd.) S. Ravindra Bhat, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India. A list of attendees is at **Annexure**.

2. The primary agenda was to discuss and deliberate on the upcoming Press Meet and the Launch Event of NTF-Mental Health Website scheduled on 8th August, 2025 from 02:00 PM to 03:30 PM, and the issues and challenges related to field visits, data collection, and institutional cooperation.
3. It was apprised that the Secretary, MHA has been co-opted as the Ex-Officio Member to the National Task Force. It was also informed that the NTF-Mental Health Website, developed by NIC with directions from NTF, is ready to be launched on the 8th August, 2025, with a press conference, at the National Media Centre, Windsor Place, New Delhi.
4. The press conference aims to announce the national-level student mental health survey, showcase the task force's efforts thus far and the broader objectives of the NTF. The goal is to disseminate information about the task force's work and the website launch, rather than engage in extensive discussions during press conference as it would be a premature stage to comment on. Also, Agenda, Seating arrangements, and key points to be covered during the conference were deliberated upon.
5. It was decided that a brief press note / communique needs to be issued before the launch event, highlighting the mandate of the NTF, Survey methodology and its multi-pronged nature (student, parent, faculty, institutional level & mental health professionals), ongoing efforts of NTF, timelines, etc.
6. During the Press Conference, a demonstration of the NTF- Mental Health will be done by NIC describing the salient features of the portal and usefulness. NIC to ensure data privacy at every stage while accessing to the portal.
7. For ensuring maximum participation across stakeholders (students, faculty, institutions, families) and survey dissemination, all possible channels of communications will be explored to outreach and spread awareness about the survey. For Institution Survey, **State Nodal Officers will coordinate with Nodal Officers of AISHE.**
8. For the Online meeting scheduled to be held on 6th August, 2025, with the Nodal Officers/ Pr. Secretaries of the States/UTs, the agenda will focus on their role in disseminating information and facilitating the task force's visits to different states. It was highlighted that the task force seeks their support in ensuring wide participation in the website's questionnaires and surveys. **It was also decided to make arrangements for Nodal Officers to join the launch event virtually.**
9. The Task Force also discussed challenges encountered during field visits, including accessibility issues and adherence to protocol. Secretary (HE) proposed that NTF may devise a standard checklist, with required expectations; infrastructure readiness; identified personnel to be present; Sensitize institutions regarding the task force's mandate and scope, etc., to ensure minimum standards are met during visits.

10. It was stated by the Amicus Curiae that the task force seeks collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for data access and uniformity of response regarding suicides reporting by NCRB. For this purpose, a point person from the MHA is desired for ongoing communication and support.

11. JS, MHA confirmed willingness to cooperate, offering access to public domain data and institutional inputs from other sources. With regard to direction to States/UTs for registering FIRs, it was also emphasized that police and law & order are state subjects.

12. After the detailed discussion, the following are the actionable points:

(i) Preparation of the Press Note / Communique before the launch of website – to be Prof. Mary E. John, Prof. Alok Sarin and Dr. Aqsa Shaikh.

(ii) Arrangements for online presence of Nodal Officers of States/UTs at the website launch event.

(iii) Sign language interpreter for the website launch event.

(iv) Preparation of agenda for Nodal Officers meeting to be held on 06.08.2025 – to be drafted by Prof. Alok Sarin.

(v) Ensure survey dissemination across States and Institutions.

13. The meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks of Chair.

S No.	Member
1.	Justice S. Ravindra Bhat , Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, Chairperson
2.	Ms. Aparna Bhat , Senior Advocate (as amicus curiae), Member
3.	Mr. Arman Ali , Member
4.	Prof. Rajendar Kachroo , Member
5.	Dr. Seema Mehrotra , Member
6.	Dr. Nidhi S. Sabharwal , Member
7.	Dr. Alok Sarin , Member
8.	Dr. Aqsa Shaikh , Member
9.	Prof. Mary E. John , Member
10.	Dr. Vineet Joshi , Secretary, Department of Higher Education – Member Secretary
11.	Sh. Amit Yadav , Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment – Ex-Officio Member
12.	Ms. Anju Rathi Rana , Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs - Ex-Officio Member
13.	Shri Anand V. Patil , AS, D/o School Education & Literacy – Co-opted Member
14.	Dr. K.M. Arya , Dy. Legal Advisor, Deptt of Legal Affairs, M/o Law and Justice
15.	Ms. Rina Sonowal Kouli , Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Convener of the Task Force
16.	Sh. Vinay , Chief Statistician, NCRB
17.	Joint Secretary , MHA
18.	Additional Secretary , Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
19.	Sh. Vijay Mishra , D/o Legal Affairs
20.	Shri Kushal Negi , MHA
21.	Md. Anwar Khan , HoD, NIC, MoE
22.	Shri Kunal Kashyav , Deputy Director, NIC
23.	Sh. Ganga Kumar Sinha , Deputy Secretary, MHA
24.	Mrs. Poonam , Asst. Director, NCRB
25.	Prof. Vinod Kumar Shanwal , NCERT - representing Addl. Secretary, DoSEL
26.	Shri Junaid Ul Islam , M/o WCD
27.	Sh. Ranbir Singh , ACP/SJE
28.	DCP / SWD
29.	Sh. Devesh Srivastava , Spl. CP Crime
30.	SC Bohra
31.	SHO , Kishangarh