

डॉ. विनीत जोशी, भा.प्र.से.

सचिव

Dr. VINEET JOSHI, IAS
Secretary

Tel. : 011-23386451, 23382698
E-mail : secy.dhe@nic.in



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

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

Date: 5th April 2025

Dear

Punya,

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 eminent 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. Secretary, D/o Higher Education, MoE, is the Member Secretary, and Secretary, D/o Social Justice & Empowerment, MoSJ&E, Secretary, M/o Women & Child Development and Secretary, D/o Legal Affairs, M/o Law & Justice are the ex-officio members of the Task Force and to collaborate with the Task Force and extend full cooperation by providing all necessary information, documents, and resource required by the Task Force to effectively carry out its mandate.

5. You would appreciate that action in compliance of order dated 24.03.2025 has been initiated at Ministry and an online preliminary meeting of National Task Force has been held 29.03.2025 to

discuss further course of action. **Minutes of the Meeting is enclosed.** In the meeting, it was inter-alia decided that Nodal Officer at the level of Joint Secretary may also be onboarded to the National Task Force. The next meeting is proposed to be held on 12.04.2025 at (Saturday) at 4.30 PM at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi.

6. I would therefore request you to kindly:-

(i) nominate a Joint Secretary from your Department to act as Nodal Officer to coordinate with the Task Force and oversee compliance.

(ii) instruct all Regulatory Bodies and Educational Institutions under your administrative control to 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.

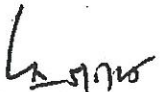
7. I would also be grateful if you could kindly furnish your suggestions and details of existing regulations/mechanism, if any, on the matter for the consideration of the National Task Force. Your prompt action in this regard will contribute significantly to fostering a safer and more supportive environment for students.

8. 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,

Encl: As above


(Vineet Joshi)

Ms. Punya Salila Srivastava
Secretary,
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare