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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
KARTAVYA BHAVAN
NEW DELHI-110001

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

Date: 30th July, 2026

Dear Colleague,

This has reference to my D.O. letter of even no. dated 05.02.2026 and reminder dated 15.06.2026 and order dated 15.01.2026 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Amit Kumar & Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors., wherein Hon'ble Court has constituted a National Task Force (NTF) to address Mental Health concerns of students and prevent the commission of suicides in HEIs. While taking cognizance of the Interim Report submitted by the National Task Force, the Hon'ble Court, inter-alia issued several directions including the following: -

"45 (iv)... an annual report of student suicides or unnatural deaths must also be submitted to the UGC & all other relevant regulatory bodies for professional courses (e.g. AICTE, NMC, DCI, BCI etc.). In case of Central Universities and Institutes of National Importance (for short, the "INIs"), or any HEI that does not fall within the above-mentioned framework, it must be reported to the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

45 (vi) Keeping in mind the faculty shortages which have been reported in several HEIs, both public and private, it must be ensured that all vacant faculty positions (both teaching and non-teaching) be filled within a period of four months, with priority given to posts reserved for candidates from marginalized and underrepresented communities including those posts reserved for PwDs. Special recruitment drives may be held for faculty recruitment that come under various forms of reservations as per central and state government rules.

45 (vii) Appointment and filling of vacancies of the post of Vice-Chancellor, Registrars, and other key institutional/administrative positions, must also be made within a period of four months. Moreover, it must be ensured as a matter of practice that, these positions are filled within a period of one month from the date on which the vacancy arises, in order to ensure the smooth functioning of HEIs. Since the date of retirement is known much ahead in time, recruitment processes must begin well in advance to ensure that such posts do not remain vacant for more than a month. All HEIs must report on an annual basis to the Central and relevant State Governments, as to how many reserved posts are vacant, how many are filled, reasons for non-filling, time taken, etc., so that periodic accountability is ensured."

2. The matter is presently sub-judice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Hon'ble Court may seek Action Taken Report at any stage.

3. In view of the above, I would request you to kindly accord priority to the matter and take necessary steps to ensure compliance with the directions issued by the Hon'ble Court and maintain updated records/data to facilitate timely submission of the requisite information to the Hon'ble Court.

With regards,

Encl: As above

Yours sincerely,

(Rina Sonowal Kouli)

All Bureau Heads of D/o Higher Education