

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

Shastri Bhawan New Delhi,  
Dated 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Virginius 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.

*R. 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