

No.C.31015/1/2025-HTE
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM
HIGHER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Dated Aizawl, the 1st of September, 2025

CIRCULAR

In pursuance to the judgment of the Supreme Court of India dated 25.07.2025 in C.A(Crl.) No.3177/2025 in Suhdeb Saha -vs- The State of Andhra Pradesh & Ors, Govt. of India, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi issued Office Memorandum vide No.J.18/32/2025-JUDICIAL dated 08.08.2025 circulating guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court of India for compliance by all the States regarding prevention of suicides by students and mental health concerns. This aforesaid Office Memorandum is hereby circulated for compliance by all concerned.

All Administrative Heads of Departments and Head of Departments are requested to bring the contents of this Office Memorandum to the notice of all the Institutions under their control for compliance.

Enclo.: As Stated.

Sd/-H.LALENGMAWIA

Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram
Higher & Technical Education Department

Memo No.C.31015/1/2025-HTE : Dated Aizawl the 1st of September, 2025
Copy to :

1. Secretary to Governor, Mizoram.
2. Commissioner & Secretary to Chief Minister, Mizoram.
3. P.S to Speaker/Ministers/Opposition Leader/Deputy Speaker/
Minister of States.
4. Sr.P.P.S to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Mizoram.
5. All Administrative Departments.
6. All Heads of Departments.
7. Website Manager, H&TE for uploading in the official website.
8. Guard File.

(ZAHMINGTHANGA)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram
Higher & Technical Education Department

Directorate of H&TE
Receipt No: 3667
Date 10/9/25



भारत सरकार Government of India
विधि एवं न्याय मंत्रालय Ministry of Law and Justice
विधि कार्य विभाग Department of Legal Affairs
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
Tel. No.: 011- 23384836, Mail: madhabc.prusty@gov.in

No.: J-18/32/2025-JUDICIAL

Dated: 8th August, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub.: Crl.A. No. 3177 / 2025-Sukdeb Saha Vs. The State Of Andhra Pradesh-Hon'ble Supreme Court.

1. This Department is in receipt of an order dated 25.07.2025 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court forwarded by its Registry for the purposes of information and necessary compliance.

2. The facts of the case as stated in the judgment are below:

3. The present appeal arises from the judgment and order dated 14th February, 2024, passed by the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amravati in Writ Petition No. 25381 of 2023, whereby the High Court rejected the appellant's prayer, seeking transfer of the investigation of FIR No. 148 of 2023 to the Central Bureau of Investigation. 2 The aforesaid FIR was registered following the tragic, unnatural death of the appellant's 17-year-old daughter, Ms. X, who was undergoing coaching for the National Eligibility-cum Entrance Test (NEET) examination at Aakash Byju's Institute, Vishakhapatnam. She was staying in a Hostel when the unfortunate incident occurred on 14th July, 2023, leading to her untimely death.

Consequently, the deceased's parents moved to the Apex Court to seek a CBI investigation into her death a relief, which the Hon'ble Court graciously granted.

3. In the 2nd part of the judgment the Hon'ble Court has delved into the issue of suicides by students. In this regard, the Hon'ble Court exercising its powers under Article 32 read with Article 141, has laid down the following guidelines:

35. Keeping in view of the above, and in exercise of the powers conferred upon this Court under Article 32 of the Constitution of India for the enforcement of fundamental rights, and treating this pronouncement as law declared by this Court under Article 141, we hereby issue the following guidelines, which shall remain in force and be binding until such time as appropriate legislation or regulatory frameworks are enacted by the competent authority. The Guidelines are prescribed as under:

- I. All educational Institutions shall adopt and implement a uniform mental health policy, drawing cues from the UMMEED Draft Guidelines, the MANODARPAN initiative, and the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. This policy shall be reviewed and updated annually and made publicly accessible on institutional websites and notice boards of the institutes.
- II. All educational Institutions with 100 or more enrolled students shall appoint/engage at least one qualified counsellor, psychologist, or social worker with demonstrable training in child and adolescent mental health. Institutions with fewer students shall establish formal referral linkages with external mental health professionals.
- III. All educational institutions shall ensure optimal student-to-counsellor ratios. Dedicated mentors or counsellors shall be assigned to smaller batches of students, especially during examination periods and academic transitions, to provide consistent, informal, and confidential support.
- IV. All educational Institutions, more particularly the coaching institutes/centres, shall, as far as possible, refrain from engaging in batch segregation based on academic performance, public shaming, or assignment of academic targets disproportionate to students' capacities.
- V. All educational institutions shall establish written protocols for immediate referral to mental health services, local hospitals, and suicide prevention helplines. Suicide helpline numbers, including Tele-MANAS and other national services, shall be prominently displayed in hostels, classrooms, common areas, and on websites in large and legible print.

- VI. All teaching and non-teaching staff shall undergo mandatory training at least twice a year, conducted by certified mental health professionals, on psychological first-aid, identification of warning signs, response to self-harm, and referral mechanisms.
- VII. All educational institutions shall ensure that all teaching, non-teaching, and administrative staff are adequately trained to engage with students from vulnerable and marginalised backgrounds in a sensitive, inclusive, and non-discriminatory manner. This shall include, but not be limited to, students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), LGBTQ+ communities, students with disabilities, those in out-of-home care, and students affected by bereavement, trauma, or prior suicide attempts, or intersecting form of marginalisation.
- VIII. All educational institutions shall establish robust, confidential, and accessible mechanisms for the reporting, redressal, and prevention of incidents involving sexual assault, harassment, ragging, and bullying on the basis of caste, class, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or ethnicity. Every such institution shall constitute an internal committee or designated authority empowered to take immediate action on complaints and provide psycho-social support to victims. Institutions shall also maintain zero tolerance for retaliatory actions against complainants or whistleblowers. In all such cases, immediate referral to trained mental health professionals must be ensured, and the student's safety, physical and psychological, shall be prioritised. Failure to take timely or adequate action in such cases, especially where such neglect contributes to a student's self-harm or suicide, shall be treated as institutional culpability, making the administration liable to regulatory and legal consequences.
- IX. All educational institutions shall regularly organise sensitisation programmes (physical and/or online) for parents and guardians on student mental health. It shall be the duty of the institution to sensitise the parents and guardians to avoid placing undue academic pressure, to recognise signs of psychological distress, and to respond empathetically and supportively. Further, mental health literacy, emotional regulation, life skills.

education, and awareness of institutional support services shall be integrated into student orientation programmes and co-curricular activities.

- X. All educational institutions shall maintain anonymised records and prepare an annual report indicating the number of wellness interventions, student referrals, training sessions, and mental health-related activities. This report shall be submitted to the relevant regulatory authority, which may be the State Education Department, University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), or as otherwise indicated.
- XI. All educational institutions shall prioritise extracurricular activities, including sports, arts, and personality development initiatives. Examination patterns shall be periodically reviewed to reduce academic burden and to cultivate a broader sense of identity among students beyond test scores and ranks.
- XII. All educational institutions, including coaching centres and training institutes, shall provide regular, structured career counselling services for students and their parents or guardians. These sessions shall be conducted by qualified counsellors and shall aim to reduce unrealistic academic pressure, promote awareness of diverse academic and professional pathways, and assist students in making informed and interest-based career decisions. Institutions shall ensure that such counselling is inclusive, sensitive to socioeconomic and psychological contexts, and does not reinforce narrow definitions of merit or success.
- XIII. All residential-based educational institutions, including hostel owners, wardens and caretakers, shall take proactive steps to ensure that campuses remain free from harassment, bullying, drugs, and other harmful substances, thereby ensuring a safe and healthy living and learning environment for all students.
- XIV. All residential-based institutions shall install tamper-proof ceiling fans or equivalent safety devices, and shall restrict access to rooftops, balconies, and other high-risk areas, in order to deter impulsive acts of self-harm.
- XV. All coaching hubs, including but not limited to Jaipur, Kota, Sikar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai, and other cities where students migrate in large numbers for competitive examination preparation, shall implement heightened mental health protections and preventive measures. These

regions, having witnessed disproportionately high incidents of student suicides, require special attention. The concerned authorities, namely, the Department of Education, District Administration, and management of educational institutions, shall ensure the provision of regular career counselling for students and parents, regulation of academic pressure through structured academic planning, availability of continuous psychological support, and the establishment of institutional mechanisms for monitoring and accountability to safeguard student mental well-being.

36. The above guidelines shall apply to all educational institutions across India, including public and private schools, colleges, universities, training centres, coaching institutes, residential academies, and hostels, irrespective of their affiliation. We may clarify that these guidelines are not in supersession but in parallel to the ongoing work of the National Task Force on Mental Health Concerns of Students and are being issued to provide an interim protective architecture in the interregnum. We believe that these guidelines shall be read as complementary to the ongoing work of the National Task Force and would inform and assist the National Task Force in the development of a more comprehensive and inclusive framework.

4. For the proper enforcement of these guidelines the Hon'ble Court has given the following directions:

(iv) Directions:

37. All States and Union Territories shall, as far as practicable, notify rules within two months from the date of this judgment mandating registration, student protection norms, and grievance redressal mechanisms for all private coaching centres. These rules shall require compliance with the mental health safeguards prescribed herein.

38. A district-level monitoring committee shall be constituted in each district under the chairpersonship of the District Magistrate or Collector. The committee may include representatives from the departments of education, health, and

Child protection, civil society and shall oversee implementation, conduct inspections, and receive complaints.

39. Having regard to the serious and continuing nature of the concerns addressed herein, we direct the Union of India to file a compliance affidavit before this Court within a period of 90 days from the date of this judgment. The affidavit shall detail the steps taken to implement these guidelines, the coordination mechanisms established with State Governments, the status of regulatory rulemaking with respect to coaching centres, and the monitoring systems put in place. The affidavit shall also indicate the expected timeline for the completion of the report and recommendations of the National Task Force on Mental Health Concerns of Students.

40. Let a copy of this judgment be circulated to the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Law and Justice, University Grants Commission, National Council of Educational Research and Training, Central Board of Secondary Education, All India Council for Technical Education, and the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories for immediate compliance and necessary action

5. Further reference is invited to the order dated 24.03.2025 pronounced by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Criminal Appeal No.1425/2025 @ SLP(Crl.) No.13324/2024 titled Amit Kumar & Ors. Vs UOI & Ors. In its judgment the Apex Court had directed for the formation of a National Task Force to address the mental health concerns of students and prevent the commission of suicides in Higher Educational Institutions. The Court had also directed the Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India shall act as the convener of the Task Force. Subsequently, an OM dated 08.04.2025 addressed to Secretary, Department of Higher Education was issued by this Department for compliance with the said order.

6. In view of the foregoing, it appears to be appropriate for the Secretary, Ministry of Education to take a lead in the matter and file the compliance report especially since the National Task Force constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to address the

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