

No. EDN-HE(3)F(9)41/2025
Directorate of Higher Education
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1

To
Dated: Shimla-171001 the July, 2025

1. The Registrar, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla-5.
2. The Registrar, Sardar Patel University, Mandi Distt. Mandi HP.
3. All the Principals Govt. Degree College / Skt. / GCETE Dharamshala, in HP.

Subject: - Minutes of 8th Apex Level NCORD Committee meeting held on 15.05.2025.

In pursuance to letter No. EDN-A-Ga(1)-2/2025 dated 16-07-2025 received from the Secretary (Education) to the Govt. of HP, and letter No. EXN-F(10)-6/2024 dated 15/07/2025 received from the Special Secretary (ST&E) to the Govt. of HP along with photocopy of Minutes of 8th Apex level NCORD Committee Meeting held on 15.05.2025 under the Chairmanship of Union Home Secretary, to the Govt. of HP (copy enclosed) on the subject cited above.

In this context, it is to inform you that the actionable point on abovementioned meeting which are to be acted upon are as under: -

1. As per point No. 4.1. of the proceedings of the meeting, the Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy emphasized the need to simultaneously tackle supply chains, especially around education institutions. Key suggestions included enhanced kiosk/gumti inspections a strict 100-yard no-sale point/kiosk rule around schools/colleges, and the declaration of schools/colleges as Tobacco-Free Zones as per ToFEI guidelines of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as tobacco consumption, more often than not, is the gateway to other forms of substance abuse.
2. As per Point No. 4.4. of the proceedings of the meeting, the Secretary, Department of Higher Education Highlighted the susceptibility of students in highly competitive academic environments to drug abuse. He suggested about the need for holistic student development beyond academics. He added that dining halls and canteen are important meeting places since students not only partake food but also engage in conversations with each other, which also serve as a platform for venting out their feelings, therefore, these should be professionally managed with supply of wholesome food and those skipping on meals should be monitored for likely substance abuse or any other problem. CCTVs should be installed in the perimeter wall and entrances to the campus to check on entry of drug couriers and suppliers. He suggested that institutions should be prioritized based on proximity to boarders, pressure environments (like IITs/AIIMS) and known hotspots. He also suggested the need to designate the Registrar or equivalent officer as Anti-Drug Officer in each institution.

Keeping in view the above, you are hereby requested to take further necessary action in the matter accordingly and also ensure to send the ATR to this Directorate at the earliest.

Encl: As above

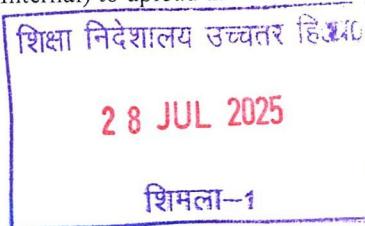
Director Higher Education
Himachal Pradesh

July, 2025

Endst. No. Even dated Shimla -1

Copy for information and necessary action is forwarded to: -

1. The Secretary (Hr. Edu.) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh w.r.t. letter referred to the above please.
2. The Special Secretary (ST&E) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
3. Technical Officer I.T. Cell (Internal) to upload the same on departmental website.
4. Guard File.



Director Higher Education
Himachal Pradesh

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No. EDN-A-Ga(1)-2/2025
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Higher Education

To

The Secretary (Hr. Edu.) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

The Director of Higher Education,
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1.

Dated - 16.07.25

Subject:-

Minutes of 8th Apex Level NCORD Committee meeting held on
15.05.2025.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith a photocopy of letter No. EXN-F(10)-6/2024 dated 15/07/2025 alongwith its enclosures received from the Special Secretary (ST&E) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh on the subject cited above and to request you to look into the matter and take necessary action on the points pertaining to this Department and send action taken report to the quarter concerned as well as this department.

Yours faithfully


(Manjeet Singh) 16/7/25

Under Secretary(Hr.Edu) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh.

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Most Urgent

No. EXN-F(10)-6/2024
Government of Himachal Pradesh
State Taxes and Excise Department

From

Principal Secretary (ST&E) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

To

1. Addl. Chief Secretary (Home) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh
2. Secretary (Health) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh
3. Secretary (SJ&E) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh
4. Secretary (Education) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh
5. Commissioner of State Taxes and Excise
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-09
6. Director General of Police
Himachal Pradesh-02
7. Director General (CID)
Himachal Pradesh
8. Drug Controller
Himachal Pradesh
9. Director (SFSL)
Himachal Pradesh at Junga-171218

Dated: Shimla-2, the

15/4/2025

Subject:- Minutes of 8th Apex Level NCORD Committee meeting held on
15.05.2025.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of e-mail dated 26.06.2025 received from Superintendent (Coordination), NCB, Headquarter New Delhi, along with its enclosures on the subject cited above and to request you to take necessary action on the points pertaining to your respective Department's and send action taken report to this office immediately so that the same may be forwarded to the quarter concerned, please.

Yours faithfully,

(Harbans Singh Brascon)
Special Secretary (ST&E) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Ph. No. 0177-2621897

Sh. Ranveer

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Minutes of the 8th Apex Level NCORD Committee Meeting held on 15.05.2025
at North Block, New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Union Home Secretary

The 8th Apex Level Meeting of the NCORD Committee was held on 15.05.2025 in hybrid mode at Conference Hall No. 119, North Block, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Union Home Secretary. The list of participants is attached as Annexure-A.

2. The meeting commenced with a presentation by Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau, highlighting the current narcotics scenario in the country, the implementation status of directions from the 7th Apex NCORD meeting, and key points raised by the Hon'ble Union Home Minister in recent reviews, including raising awareness about use of precursors/synthetic chemicals, clandestine laboratories, discussions on performance of States in terms of NDPS cases; hotspot mapping and follow-up action. The copy of presentation of NCB is attached as Annexure-B.

3. After the presentation, the Union Home Secretary invited States/UTs to provide their inputs on the agenda points and the action taken with respect to the directions of the Hon'ble Union Home Minister issued in 7th Apex NCORD meeting :

3.1. The Director General of Police, Mizoram reported a sharp 20% rise in drug trafficking. He emphasized that the geographical location of the state along the Myanmar border has made it a key transit route. Chemical precursors from Gujarat are smuggled into Myanmar via Mizoram, while narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from Chinese handlers enter India through the State. To counter this, a CRPF company has been re-deployed from airport duties to identified hotspots. He informed that the State has requested additional central forces to strengthen surveillance. He also highlighted the reluctance of the State Police personnel to join the NCB due to the absence of benefits like Special Security Allowance in comparison to 13-month salary, and ration money available in the State cadre. He flagged the state urgently needs more de-addiction centers due to rise in drug users. He added that the growing drug problem is contributing increase in petty crimes such as burglaries etc. resulting worsening law and order situation in the state.

3.2. The Additional Chief Secretary, Maharashtra and The Additional Director General reported a decline in registration of NDPS cases this year compared to the previous year. He added that Maharashtra continues to serve both as a consumer market and as a transit point for narcotics. He however clarified that despite fewer cases, the total value and volume of drug seizures in Maharashtra had significantly increased. He further added that the establishment of the State's Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) had enhanced coordination with NCB and other enforcement bodies. He highlighted about a seizure in excess of ₹3000 crore at Pune. He further mentioned about dismantling of several trafficking networks, and setting up of a major detention facility.

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3.3. The Director General of Police, Odisha highlighted strong enforcement drive of the State, focusing primarily on cannabis eradication and trafficking curbs in the State. He added that the State has seized more than 233 tons of Cannabis, 1800 vehicles used in trafficking, launched awareness campaigns, and introduced drones for surveillance. He informed that a total of 65 tons of cannabis has been destroyed on pre-trial. He further mentioned that Odisha is working towards creation of five, exclusive NDPS courts to handle increasing caseloads.

3.4. The Director General of Police, Jharkhand mentioned that state authorities had destroyed around 55,000 acres of poppy cultivation — a five-fold increase from the previous year. He added that senior officers of state administration had been visiting vulnerable districts. He mentioned that FIR registration against cultivators remained a challenge due to difficulties in plant identification during the early stages. He also appreciated the role & active support of NCB in this regard. He further mentioned that Brown Sugar usage in the State has shown an increasing trend, with inflows from UP, Bihar, and Haryana. He added that awareness drives are being conducted in schools, and a special crackdown titled *Narcotics Hala* has been initiated to target poppy cultivation areas.

3.5. The Director General of Police, Telangana reported about a significant spike in registration of NDPS cases, with 3,032 cases registered between 2024 and April 2025, leading to seizures worth ₹166.73 crores. Natural drugs accounted for 87.60% of these cases, followed by synthetic, semi-synthetic, pharmaceutical, and nil seizure cases. Major operations in this regard included a ₹17.4 crore Alprazolam unit bust in Ahilyanagar and a ₹1.84 crore synthetic drug racket involving three foreign nationals in coordination with Goa Police. He mentioned that since 2022, foreign nationals involvement has shown an increase, with 64 arrests and 23 deportations out of 170 accused. He also flagged misuse of multiple passports, fake identities, and visa fraud, including re-entry via ECOPAS countries.

He added that the State had recommended biometric validation before visa issuance. He mentioned that the emerging trends in narcotics trade included drug delivery through e-commerce platforms, ride aggregators, and courier services with concealed addresses. In response, Telangana has intensified chemical diversion checks, frozen assets worth ₹67 crores from 51 accused, and proposed four exclusive NDPS courts. He thereafter suggested regulatory guidelines for courier and e-commerce sectors, real-time drug offender data sharing, and nationwide rollout of DOPAMS, Telangana's profiling system modeled after CYCAPS. He thereafter stressed about the urgent need to regulate parcel networks to combat trafficking via the dark web and cryptocurrencies.

3.6. The Chief Secretary and The Director General of Police, Punjab highlighted notable progress in combating drug trafficking and abuse. The CS mentioned that between January 2017 and April 2025, property freezing orders were issued in 1,470 cases, with 288 resulting in convictions carrying sentences of 10 years or more. Of these, 220 cases involved proposals for property forfeiture, but only six—worth ₹42.06 crore—have been acted upon, while orders in the rest, involving assets worth ₹135 crore remained pending.

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He added that the State has proposed an amendment to Section 64-A of the NDPS Act to allow its application at the time of apprehension, rather than after formal charges, to facilitate early intervention for small quantity offenders seeking de-addiction. He also highlighted the misuse of certain pharmaceutical drugs such as Pregabalin, Gabapentin, Dicyclomine, Tapentadol, Zopiclone, Flupentixol, and Carisoprodol that are currently not regulated under the NDPS or Drugs and Cosmetics Act. In this regard the State recommended their inclusion under Schedule H-1 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to curb misuse. To address a backlog of over 35,000 NDPS cases, he proposed setting up 79 exclusive NDPS courts and recruiting dedicated prosecutors and staff. He further mentioned about a one-time financial assistance of ₹600 crore over 10 years having been sought to support this initiative.

4. Thereafter, the Union Home Secretary invited the Ministries/Departments to provide their inputs on the agenda points:

4.1. The Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy apprised that all of their initiatives on the demand-reduction side, such as awareness programmes on harmful drug use conducted in schools and introduction of suitable material in school curriculum and grade/age appropriate textbooks. However, he emphasized the need to simultaneously tackle supply chains, especially around educational institutions. Key suggestions included enhanced kiosk/gumti inspections, a strict 100-yard no-sale point/kiosk rule around schools/colleges, and the declaration of schools/colleges as Tobacco-Free Zones as per ToFEI guidelines of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as tobacco consumption, more often than not, is the gateway to other forms of substance abuse.

(Action by: D/o School Education & Literacy / NCB)

4.2. The Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) underscored the necessity for expanding de-addiction infrastructure — ideally one center per district. He requested States to send proposals for establishing such centers. He further mentioned that his Ministry planned to strengthen its outreach through MoUs with spiritual organizations and awareness modules designed for school teachers (targeted at classes 6–8 and 9–12). A mass drug-free pledge campaign is also being planned. He urged the states to send proposals for setting up ATF-linked de-addiction centers in government hospitals. A copy of PPT by MoSJE is appended as Annexure-C.

(Action by: MoSJE / NCB)

4.3. The Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemical mentioned that the Chemical Sector in the country is deregulated. She further mentioned that there is an expectation for collection of data by the Department in respect of different Chemicals. However, there is no Act or legislation that could provide an enabling framework to do so. Coupled with the fact that there are nearly 80,000 chemicals with over 3,00,000 MSME operating in the sector, collection of data from the Chemical Companies is a challenge. Nevertheless, the Department has taken the initiative of launching a Pan-India portal under the The Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 to collect data from the Chemical Companies. However, in absence of support from any legislation, this process is taking time with only 1000 units having registered so far, out of which only about 300 units having shared the data. Further,

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the data confidentiality clause in The Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 prevents data sharing with any third party. She further mentioned that these difficulties could be further explained to the DG, NCB in a separate Meeting.

(Action by: D/o Chemical & Petro-Chemical / NCB)

4.4. The Secretary, Department of Higher Education. Highlighted the susceptibility of students in highly competitive academic environments to drug abuse. He suggested about the need for holistic student development beyond academics. He added that dining halls and canteens are important meeting places since students not only partake food but also engage in conversations with each other, which also serve as a platform for venting out their feelings. Therefore, these should be professionally managed with supply of wholesome food and those skipping on meals should be monitored for likely substance abuse or any other problem. CCTVs should be installed in the perimeter wall and entrances to the campus to check on entry of drug couriers and suppliers. He suggested that Institutions should be prioritized based on proximity to borders, pressure environments (like IITs/AIIMS) and known hotspots. He also suggested about the need to designate the Registrar or equivalent officer as Anti-Drug Officer in each institution.

(Action by: D/o Higher Education / NCB)

5. In his closing remarks, the Union Home Secretary emphasized that the evolving threat landscape of drug trafficking necessitates a robust and coordinated national response. The Union Home Secretary issued the following key directions to all states and agencies:

5.1. Control of Precursor Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion:

- A serious concern over the growing misuse and diversion of precursor chemicals and pharmaceutical drugs for narcotic purposes was expressed, calling it a significant national issue that demands vigilant oversight and systemic reforms.
- He instructed all concerned agencies to enhance coordination among State Drug Controllers, NCB field units, State narcotics enforcement bodies, and Departments of Health and Social Justice. States must implement strict monitoring of Unique Registration Numbers (URNs) issued for the manufacture of drugs and chemicals.
- Regular audits should be carried out in high-risk zones, and swift legal action must be taken against entities found misusing manufacturing licenses. States were also directed to hold periodic meetings with Health and Drug Control authorities and to ensure that pharmaceutical drugs are dispensed strictly against valid medical prescriptions.

(Action by: All States & UTs / DCGI /
D/o Pharmaceuticals/ D/o Chemical & Petro-Chemical / NCB)

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5.2. Establishment and Strengthening of Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTFs):

- He stated that although the States have constituted ANTFs, its poor constitution and inadequate staffing is a serious concern in several states.
- The lack of functionality of ANTF has resulted in a significant decline in narcotics-related case registrations in some states however some states like Telangana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and Haryana were commended for establishing robust and effective ANTFs.
- All state governments were directed to establish fully functional, adequately staffed ANTFs within three months. Furthermore, these ANTFs must compile narcotics-related data from all concerned agencies on a monthly basis and submit consolidated reports to NCB by the 7th of each following month.

(Action by: All States & UTs / NCB)

5.3. Regular Functioning of NCORD Mechanism:

- The Union Home Secretary observed that NCORD mechanisms meetings should be held regularly as adherence to NCORD's prescribed meeting schedule is crucial.
- The UHS emphasized that NCORD platform serves as a vital platform for inter-departmental coordination and must actively involve departments such as school and higher education, social welfare, health, and justice. This cross-sectoral collaboration is essential to ensure comprehensive, 360-degree oversight of the narcotics control ecosystem.

(Action by: All States & UTs / all member Agencies / NCB)

5.4. Strengthening of Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs):

- The meeting assessed the forensic infrastructure across States and Union Territories, highlighting that 23 out of 36 jurisdictions currently face significant gaps in capabilities.
- The UHS emphasized the critical need to enhance Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs) to enable swift and accurate drug testing, as well as timely extraction of digital evidence from seized devices. Delays in forensic analysis can undermine legal processes and allow offenders to evade justice.
- Accordingly, all States were asked to give high priority towards upgrading FSL infrastructure, especially in domains directly supporting narcotics investigations.

(Action by: All States & UTs / NCB / DFSS / MHA)

5.5. Deputation of Officers to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):

- The Union Home Secretary emphasized the importance of deputing qualified officers to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) to enhance coordination and operational effectiveness. A diverse, multi-state representation within the NCB is essential for its optimal functioning.
- States and Union Territories were urged to proactively sponsor eligible and willing Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors for deputation to the NCB without delay.

(Action by: All States & UTs / NCB)

6. In conclusion, the Union Home Secretary reaffirmed that the narcotics challenge is a pressing national security concern. He urged all stakeholders to respond with urgency, discipline, and collective resolve to effectively counter the threat. He emphasized the need for a strategic, data-driven approach that balances strong enforcement with social and preventive measures. All States and Union Territories are expected to implement the directives discussed and focus on the commitment to tackle the drug menace in the country and need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholders involved in the process to achieve the goal of Drug Free India.

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