3

No EDN-HE(3)A(1)-16/2025-NTF
Directorate of Higher Education
Himachal Pradesh
E-Mail: genbrhedu@gmail.com

शिक्षा निदेशालय उच्चतर हि0प्र0
24 DEC 2025
शिमला-1

Dated: Shimla 171001 the December, 2025

To

1. The Registrar, HPU Shimla-5
2. The Registrar, SPU Mandi, District Mandi, HP.
3. The Registrars, all the Govt./Pvt. Universities in HP
4. All the Principal(s) of Govt./Skt./Pvt. Colleges, in Himachal Pradesh.
5. The Secretary, H.P. Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission, Shimla HP.
6. The Director, Directorate of Medical Education & Research, Himachal Pradesh, SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-171009
7. The Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training, HP.
8. The Director, Directorate of Tourism & Civil Aviation, H.P. Shimla.

Subject: **Mandatory compliance with Hon'ble Supreme Court directions on student mental health, suicide prevention and participation in National Task Force (NTF) survey – reg.**

In pursuance of the judgments dated 24.03.2025 and 25.07.2025 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Amit Kumar & Ors. vs Union of India & Ors. and Sukdeb Saha vs State of Andhra Pradesh & Ors., the undersigned, being the State-level Nodal and Coordinating Authority, is directed to issue the following instructions for uniform and immediate compliance by all educational authorities and institutions addressed above.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that mental health is an integral component of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India and has issued binding interim directions under Article 141, mandating educational institutions to put in place enforceable safeguards for prevention of student suicides, protection of student well-being, and institutional accountability.

The Hon'ble Court has further directed the constitution and operationalization of a National Task Force (NTF) on Mental Health Concerns of Students and Prevention of Suicides, and the Ministry of Education has launched a national digital survey and stakeholder consultation platform (https://ntf.education.gov.in) for collection of institutional data and evidence-based inputs.

Accordingly, all authorities and institutions addressed herein are hereby jointly and severally directed to ensure the following:

(a) Strict implementation of the mandatory institutional safeguards, preventive measures, grievance redressal systems and reporting protocols as detailed in Enclosure-I;

(b) Compulsory participation in the National Task Force (NTF) institutional survey, including timely submission of accurate and authenticated information through the official NTF portal, as detailed in Enclosure-II;

(c) Nomination of a Nodal Officer at the institutional level for coordination on student mental health and NTF-related matters; and

(d) Internal coordination and supervision to ensure that all constituent colleges, departments, hostels and affiliated units under their administrative or regulatory control comply fully and uniformly.

The directions contained in this Office Circular and its Enclosures shall be treated as mandatory and shall come into force with immediate effect. Any failure, delay or non-compliance shall be viewed seriously and may invite administrative, regulatory and legal consequences, as per applicable rules and law.

This Office Circular is issued in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and shall be accorded highest priority by all concerned.

Encl.: As below

Director of Hr. Education
Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. Even Dated: Shimla-171001 the December, 2025

Copy for information and further necessary action to: -

1. The Secretary, Education Govt. of Himachal Pradesh HP Shimla – 2
2. The Director of School Education HP, Shimla-1 for information and further necessary action in the matter accordingly.
3. In charge, IT Cell Directorate of Higher Education HP Shimla-1 to upload the same on department website.
4. Guard file.

Director of Hr. Education
Himachal Pradesh

Tel. No.:0177-2656621, 2653120 Extn.: 220Fax. No. 0177-2811247, 2812882 e-mail: dhe-sml-hp@gov.in

IT Cell

ENCLOSURE – I

Mandatory Institutional Directions on Student Mental Health & Suicide Prevention

All institutions shall ensure the following without exception:

- Adoption and notification of a Mental Health & Student Well-Being Policy, aligned with national initiatives such as MANODARPAN, UMMEED Guidelines and the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.
- Constitution of a Student Mental Health & Well-Being Cell with clearly defined roles and confidentiality safeguards.
- Engagement of qualified mental health professionals or establishment of formal referral mechanisms.
- Implementation of early-warning and preventive mechanisms to identify students at risk.
- Ensuring campus and hostel safety measures, including restriction of access to high-risk areas.
- Prominent display of suicide prevention helpline numbers, including Tele-MANAS, on campus and institutional websites.
- Mandatory training and sensitization of teaching and non-teaching staff.
- Maintenance of an inclusive and non-discriminatory environment, with special sensitivity to vulnerable groups.
- Functional SC/ST Cells, ICCs (Internal Complaints Committee), Anti-Ragging Committees, Equal Opportunity Cells and Student Grievance Redressal Mechanisms.
- Immediate reporting of any suicide attempt, unnatural death or serious mental health crisis to local police and district administration.

ENCLOSURE – II

- National Task Force (NTF) Survey – Mandatory Institutional Participation
- Every institution shall submit its institutional response on the NTF portal (https://ntf.education.gov.in) within prescribed timelines.
- Information furnished shall be accurate, complete and institutionally authenticated.
- Non-participation or submission of misleading information shall be treated as non-compliance.

ENCLOSURE – III

Institutional Compliance Checklist

(Mandatory | To be completed and signed by the Head of Institution)

Name of Institution: _____

AISHE Code: _____

Category: ☐ University ☐ College ☐ Technical ☐ Medical ☐ Paramedical ☐ Other

District: _____

A. Policy & Governance

☐ Mental Health & Student Well-Being Policy formally adopted

☐ Policy notified / circulated / uploaded on institutional website

☐ Student Mental Health & Well-Being Cell constituted

☐ Institutional Nodal Officer designated for mental health & NTF coordination

Name & Designation of Nodal Officer: _____

B. Mental Health Support Infrastructure

☐ Qualified counsellor / psychologist / social worker engaged

☐ Formal referral arrangement with external mental health professionals (if applicable)

☐ Confidential counselling mechanism operational

C. Preventive & Early-Warning Measures

☐ Early-warning mechanism to identify at-risk students implemented

☐ Mechanism for monitoring academic stress, absenteeism and distress in place

☐ Student outreach / peer support initiatives undertaken

D. Campus & Hostel Safety

☐ Safety audit of hostels / campus conducted

☐ Access to high-risk areas restricted / monitored

☐ Wardens / supervisory staff sensitized on suicide prevention

E. Training & Sensitization

☐ Teaching staff trained on identifying distress signals

☐ Non-teaching staff trained on psychological first aid

☐ Student awareness programmes conducted

☐ Parent / guardian sensitization activities undertaken (where applicable)

F. Grievance Redressal & Zero Tolerance

☐ SC/ST Cell functional

☐ Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) functional

☐ Anti-Ragging Committee functional

☐ Equal Opportunity Cell functional

☐ Student Grievance Redressal Mechanism functional

☐ Zero-tolerance policy against harassment, bullying and discrimination enforced

G. Helplines & Emergency Response

☐ Suicide prevention helpline numbers displayed prominently

☐ Tele-MANAS helpline information displayed

☐ Emergency response protocol notified

H. Mandatory Reporting & Legal Compliance

☐ Protocol for reporting suicide attempts / unnatural deaths notified

☐ Coordination mechanism with local police and district administration established

☐ No incident suppressed, delayed or informally disposed of

I. National Task Force (NTF) Survey Compliance

☐ Institutional response submitted on https://ntf.education.gov.in

☐ Data submitted is complete and institutionally authenticated

☐ Supporting information retained for verification

J. Documentation & Reporting

☐ Records of counselling and interventions maintained (confidentially)

☐ Training and sensitization records maintained

☐ Annual Mental Health & Student Well-Being Report prepared

☐ Report submitted / scheduled for submission to Directorate of Higher Education

DECLARATION

I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that this institution has complied with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Office Circular issued by the Director of Higher Education, Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Seal of Institution

Date: _____