

ഭരണഭാഷ - മാതൃഭാഷ

സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ഡയറക്ടറേറ്റ്
തിരുവനന്തപുരം

നമ്പർ. DTETVM/2692/2025-C2 (ACA)

തീയതി: 28-01-2026

സർക്കുലർ

വിഷയം:- സാങ്കേതികം - വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം - സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ഡയറക്ടറുടെ കാര്യാലയം - അക്കാദമിക് സെക്ഷൻ - സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ വകുപ്പിന് കീഴിലുള്ള എല്ലാ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിലും റാഗിങ് നെതിരെ നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നത് സംബന്ധിച്ച്.

സൂചന :- 29.10.2025 തീയതി ഉന്നത വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ വകുപ്പിൽ നിന്നും ലഭ്യമായ കത്ത് നം.K3/127/2025-HEDn

സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ വകുപ്പിന് കീഴിലുള്ള എല്ലാം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിലും സൂചന പ്രകാരം റാഗിംഗ് തടയുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടതും, സ്വീകരിച്ച നടപടികൾ സർക്കാരിലേക്ക് Action Taken റിപ്പോർട്ട് നൽകേണ്ടതിനാൽ ഈ കാര്യാലയത്തിലേക്ക് 05.02.2026 നു മുമ്പായി അറിയിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ആയതിലേക്കായി സൂചന കത്ത് ഇതോടൊപ്പം ഉള്ളടക്കം ചെയ്യുന്നു.

Signed by Ani Abraham
Date: 28-01-2026 17:24:38

ANI ABRAHAM
SENIOR JOINT DIRECTOR (PS)

സ്വീകർത്താവ്,

1. ഈ വകുപ്പിന് കീഴിലുള്ള എല്ലാ സ്ഥാപനമേധാവികൾക്കും ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ജീവനക്കാർക്കും (www.dtekerala.gov.in എന്ന വെബ്സൈറ്റ് മുഖാന്തിരം).
2. സ്റ്റോക്ക് ഫയൽ / ഓഫീസ് കോപ്പി

F.No.16-2/2025-U.5
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education
U.5 Section

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
dated the 22nd September, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:- Minutes of the 29th Meeting of Anti Ragging Committee for monitoring measures to prevent ragging in Higher Educational Institutions held under the Chairmanship of Air Marshal (Dr.) Ajit S. Bhonsle, AVSM, VSM on 26th August, 2025 from 11.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M. in virtual mode.

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith the minutes of the 29th Meeting of Anti Ragging Committee for monitoring measures to prevent ragging in Higher Educational Institutions held under the Chairmanship of Air Marshal (Dr.) Ajit S. Bhonsle, AVSM, VSM on 26th August, 2025 from 11. A.M. to 01.00 P.M. in virtual mode, for necessary action and compliance. An action taken report in this regard may kindly be sent to this Department and to the Secretary, University Grants Commission, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002.

Encl.: As above.

Ashok
22.09.2025

(Ashok)
Section Officer
Tel. 011-23070431

To

1. All Members of the Anti-ragging Monitoring Committee
2. All Regulatory Bodies
3. Chief Secretaries of all States/ UTs
4. Secretary, UGC, BSZ Marg, New Delhi

Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education

Minutes of the 29th Meeting of Anti Ragging Committee for monitoring measures to prevent ragging in Higher Educational Institutions under the Chairmanship of Air Marshal (Dr.) Ajit S. Bhonsle, AVSM, VSM held on 26th August, 2025 from 11. A.M. to 01.00 P.M. virtually.

A meeting of Anti-Ragging Committee for monitoring measures to prevent ragging in Higher Educational Institutions under the Chairmanship of Air Marshal (Dr.) Ajit S Bhonsle, AVSM, VSM was held 26th August, 2025 from 11. A.M. to 01.00 P.M. virtually. The following Committee Members attended the meeting: -

1. Air Marshal (Dr.) Ajit S. Bhonsle AVSM, VSM	-	Chairman
2. Prof. (Mrs) Hardeep Kaur Professor, Ramjas College	-	Member
3. Sh. Vardhan Chander Member, NARMC	-	Member
4. Sh. S. Jaganathan Sarvanasamy IPS (Retd.)	-	Member
5. Prof. Santanu Misra Member, IIT Kanpur	-	Attendee
6. Sh Jeewan Kumar Deputy Secretary	-	MoE

In addition, the following officers also attended the meeting.

1. Dr. Sunita Siwach Joint Secretary, Anti Ragging Cell	-	UGC
2. Sh Ajay Kumar Joshi, Under Secretary, Anti Ragging Cell	-	UGC
3. Sh Devender Kaushal, Section Officer, Anti Ragging Cell	-	UGC
4. Dr. Arvind Kumar Drave Consultant, National Medical Commission	-	NMC
5. Col. Dr. Sarvjeet Kaur Secretary, India Nursing Council	-	INC
6. Mrs. Jyothi B.	-	INC

Deputy Secretary, Indian Nursing Council

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 7. Dr. Neetu Bhagat
Deputy Director, AICTE | - | AICTE |
| 8. Dr. (Ms) Seema Jaggi
Assistant Director General
India Council of Agriculture Research | - | ICAR |
| 9. Ms Alka Tomar
Chairperson, Centre for Youth (C4Y) | - | Anti Ragging Monitoring Agency |
| 10. Sh. Deepak Goyal
Managing Director,
ADC Electrosoft Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi | - | Anti Ragging Helpline |

The Chairman of the Committee began by extending a patriotic salute, followed by a warm welcome to all distinguished participants, The Chairman of the Committee stated that the 28th meeting of the National Anti-Ragging Monitoring Committee (NARMC) had been held on 14 May 2025, and that the minutes of the meeting were already available. He noted that 12 August and the week spanning 12–18 August had been observed nationwide as Anti-Ragging Day and Anti-Ragging Week, respectively. Since this month also marked the commencement of new academic sessions in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), he emphasized that sensitization and compliance efforts needed to be intensified.

Referring to the All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) 2022, the Chairman pointed out that there were 1,357 universities, 52,409 colleges, 15,563 standalone institutes, 902 colleges under PM VIDYALAXMI, and 249 research and development institutes such as IITs, IIMs, NITs, and AIIMS. He highlighted that these 69,123 HEIs had enrolled 4.33 crore students as of 2021–22, and that the numbers were continuing to rise in 2025–26. He clarified that these figures were not shared as mere statistics, but to underscore the magnitude of responsibility owed to students and to the nation in implementing and monitoring anti-ragging measures for full coverage and effective year-round compliance.

He acknowledged that the Joint Secretary (Anti-Ragging Cell) and her team had been actively engaged in this task, and that the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education (MoE), was also coordinating efforts for the National Task Force (NTF) constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 24 March 2025. He welcomed this development and drew attention to the core of the Apex Court's order, particularly Para 69, which stated that recurring instances of student suicides in HEIs—including private institutions—served as a grim reminder of the inadequacy and ineffectiveness of existing legal and institutional frameworks in addressing mental health concerns and preventing such tragedies. The Court had stressed the urgent need for a more robust, comprehensive, and responsive mechanism to address the various factors compelling students to take their own lives.

The Chairman further noted that the Apex Court had identified multiple causes for student deaths, including ragging, academic pressure, caste-based discrimination, sexual harassment, financial stress, and exam failure. In the context of ragging, as outlined in Para 65 of the order, the Court had referred to the Raghavan Committee (2007), which had detailed both causes and actionable remedies. He mentioned that the UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in HEIs, 2009, were already in place, but that news reports had pointed out a lack of tangible action by stakeholders, who often limited themselves to formalities such as collecting undertakings from students and parents and displaying anti-ragging notices on campuses. The Hon'ble Apex Court cited a news article from *The Hindu* dated 27 November 2023, titled "Unending Ordeal: On Continuing Acts of Ragging," which had been published following the tragic death at Jadavpur University, West Bengal, and incidents of physical and mental ragging at PSC College of Technology, Tamil Nadu.

He asserted that the UGC and other regulatory bodies were undertaking far more than what the newspaper had reported, but emphasized the need for periodic public dissemination of these efforts to ensure that the broader environment was aware of the measures being taken.

The Chairman informed that the NTF was headed by Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, former Judge of the Supreme Court, and comprised experts in psychiatry, women's development, disability, community medicine, clinical pathology, human development, educational research, and representation from an NGO. It also included inter-ministerial ex-officio members at the secretary level from the Ministries of Education, Social Justice and Empowerment, Women and Child Development, and Legal Affairs. The Secretary of Higher Education, MoE, is also a member.

He reiterated his welcome of the NTF's formation and expressed that wholehearted participation was not only desirable but essential. He stressed the importance of presenting a clear record of ongoing efforts, achievements, constraints, inadequacies, and the changes warranted by evolving circumstances. He viewed this as an opportunity to articulate expert analyses on curbing ragging in all its forms and to contribute to an integrative strategy addressing student mental health concerns. He referred to Para 74 of the Apex Court's order, which outlined the remit of the Task Force.

According to the Chairman, the remit of the Task Force included:

- Identifying the predominant causes leading to student suicides, with 14 causes listed in addition to ragging.
- Analyzing existing regulations to evaluate whether current frameworks adequately addressed student challenges. He viewed this as an opportunity to expand the definition and scope of ragging and revise the UGC Regulation of 2009, with the aim of securing the Apex Court's approval through the NTF's report.
- Recommending reforms to strengthen protections, including proposals for stronger enforcement, accountability, and preventive measures. He suggested that one such recommendation could be the enactment of a specific law under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) addressing offences related to ragging.

The Chairman then invited JS (ARC) to proceed with the formal agenda of the meeting.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of Minutes and Action Taken of 28th meeting of the Anti-Ragging Monitoring Committee to prevent ragging in Higher Educational Institutions held on 04.03.2025.

The Minutes of the 28th meeting were confirmed by the Committee and the Action Taken on the part of UGC was informed by JS (ARC) to the committee.

Item No. 2: Report, Analysis and Remedies/Modalities for the Institutions' for non-compliance of UGC Regulations for curbing the menace of Ragging in HEIs – 2009, a presentation by Anti-Ragging Monitoring Agency.

The representative from C4Y reported that the 12–18 August Anti-Ragging Week was now in its third consecutive year of implementation. A dedicated page had been created on their website to document activities and resources. They had launched a national competition focused on social media messaging, particularly on platforms like Instagram and YouTube, to engage youth in anti-ragging advocacy.

C4Y also presented findings from their longitudinal survey titled “Swades in HEIs,” covering the period 2020–2025, which analyzed causes and patterns of student distress. They noted that nearly 50% of FIR registrations were hindered by parental reluctance, indicating a systemic gap in reporting. An innovative confidential youth survey had been conducted to confirm compliance levels, offering a fresh model for last-mile verification.

They highlighted their participation in the NHRC Open House held on 25 August 2025, chaired by Justice V. Ramasubramanian, on the theme “Re-examining Ragging in HEIs: Creating Safer Campuses through Awareness, Accountability and Action.” C4Y shared that out of 243 recorded student suicides between 2020 and 2025, only two had been officially attributed to ragging—though they cautioned that post-pandemic vulnerabilities required deeper scrutiny.

They also flagged the need to counter the perception of declining faith in institutional systems and advised all regulatory bodies to actively seek student feedback to confirm compliance at the grassroots level.

Item No. 3: Presentation by NMC, AICTE and any other Regulatory Bodies. for steps taken for implementation of compliance of UGC Regulation for Curbing the Menace of Ragging – 2009, if any.

National Medical Commission (NMC): The NMC representative reported that Anti-Ragging Week activities had been conducted across medical HEIs and that they had participated in the NHRC Open House on 25 August 2025. They raised concerns about the high closure rate of ragging cases—96%—and called for access to details of these closed cases to assess procedural integrity.

They recommended involving District Anti-Ragging Committees to conduct ground-level compliance checks and take action on reported cases. It was noted that nearly 50% of institutions were not complying with basic requirements such as forming Anti-Ragging Committees (ARC), Anti-Ragging Squads (ARS), and installing CCTV cameras in hostels. They also proposed conducting webinars on mental well-being curricula to address underlying student vulnerabilities.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE): AICTE reported that its anti-ragging regulations were under revision and review. Ground visits had revealed that only 50% of HEIs were compliant, prompting the issuance of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to improve adherence. A national news advertisement campaign had been launched to enhance sensitization.

They observed that many complaints were not related to traditional ragging but rather to inter-group conflicts occurring outside the ragging-prone months and not involving senior-junior dynamics. Technical challenges were also noted in updating UGC Helpline data for specific HEIs. In response, Shri Deepak from the UGC Helpline clarified that AISHE IDs were being used to correlate institutional information.

Indian Nursing Council (INC): INC shared several initiatives aimed at close supervision and student engagement, including maintaining a 10:1 student-teacher ratio, implementing a buddy system modeled on armed forces practices, and organizing open forums on Visitors' Day. They expressed concern over declining student resilience and emphasized the need to proactively address suicidal ideation through early identification and intervention.

ICAR Representative: The ICAR representative reported that 78 agricultural universities had implemented a credit-linked two-week programme under the 'Dikshaarambh' initiative. Faculties had been allotted for student mentorship programmes to foster trust and early intervention.

Item No. 4. Points by JS (ARC)

The JS (ARC) informed the Committee that the inquiry report concerning KIIT had been received and reviewed. She confirmed that the first draft of the revised UGC Anti-Ragging Regulations, 2025, was ready for internal circulation. She also highlighted that the Anti-Ragging Week (12–18 August) had been successfully led by the Secretary, Higher Education, and the Chairman, UGC, with coordinated activities across institutions.

She later apprised the Committee of ongoing cases pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the High Court of Delhi. She emphasized the need to compile unified guidelines for the National Task Force (NTF) and proposed that the UGC Anti-Ragging Portal be broadened in scope to accommodate evolving forms of abuse and compliance tracking.

Item No. 5. Submission by Secretary, UGC, if any.

Secretary, UGC could not attend the meeting.

Item No. 6: Any other item with the permission of Chairman.

Submission by Sh. Varadan Chandar:

Sh. Varadan Chandar commended the recent initiatives undertaken by select Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), noting that the introduction of courses on mental well-being and the appointment of dedicated Deans for Student Welfare represented progressive and timely interventions. These steps, in their view, reflected a growing institutional recognition of student mental health as a core component of campus safety and academic success.

The member further welcomed the revised internal reporting format adopted within the National Anti-Ragging Monitoring Committee (NARMC), which now enabled more

structured data sharing and highlighted major concern areas. They emphasized that this format was a positive development, but stressed the need for its continued strengthening, elaboration, and institutionalization to ensure sustained impact.

Reflecting on the broader landscape, the member observed that general awareness regarding the rise in extreme and tragic campus incidents was gradually increasing. This growing consciousness, they believed, offered hope that corrective actions would soon follow as a natural consequence. However, they cautioned that the first and most essential step in addressing such serious issues was to acknowledge their existence—urging institutions to shed the “ostrich effect” and extend genuine cooperation and support to identify, resolve, and overcome the underlying causes.

Looking back at trends over the past few years, the member expressed concern that the alertness and corrective responses from regulatory councils had been far from satisfactory. They noted that while media outlets and judicial bodies had been actively monitoring and reporting on these incidents, institutional responses remained inadequate. In light of this, they asserted that it was now imperative for all stakeholders to initiate concrete steps to enhance effectiveness and bring these issues under control.

The member highlighted a troubling statistic: of the 243 campus suicide cases recorded over the past decade, only 2% had been officially attributed to ragging. They found this figure implausible and pointed to a disturbing tendency among institutions to obscure the real causes of such tragedies. According to them, many institutions appeared to deflect responsibility by attributing suicides solely to student-related factors such as poor mental health or depression—an approach they described as both unfortunate and regrettable.

They argued that such narratives ignored the fact that these students had demonstrated exceptional mental resilience and academic merit, having successfully cleared some of the country’s most competitive entrance examinations to gain admission into prestigious institutions. The member questioned whether individuals suffering from debilitating mental health conditions could realistically achieve such academic feats, thereby challenging the institutional tendency to oversimplify or misrepresent the causes of student suicides.

They stressed that identifying the true causes behind each campus suicide was essential for arriving at meaningful solutions. Despite calculated attempts by certain institutions to divert attention and protect their reputational interests, the member insisted that such realities must be confronted head-on. They acknowledged the uncomfortable truth that some institutions might distort or manipulate official records to suit their administrative narratives, and called for this practice to be recognized and overcome.

In their view, the most reliable sources of information regarding the true causes of student suicides were the parents and close friends of the victims. These individuals, they argued, held critical insights that could not be gleaned from institutional reports alone. Given the alarming rise in such incidents, the member called for dedicated and independent fact-finding inquiries into each case.

They asserted that if no other entity was willing to “bell the cat” in such difficult circumstances, it was incumbent upon the Committee to take initiative and ensure justice for the victims and their families. To this end, they proposed the formation of four zonal fact-finding subcommittees—covering the North, East, South, and West regions—comprising representatives from UGC, the concerned regulatory councils, and members of NARMC.

These subcommittees, they suggested, should not only engage with institutional authorities but also go a step further by meeting with the parents and close friends of the deceased students. Through these interactions, they could elicit the true causes behind each incident and submit detailed reports containing their findings and recommendations.

The member concluded by emphasizing that thinking and acting differently often revealed unexpected truths, enabling more accurate diagnoses and effective solutions for complex institutional challenges.

Submission by Sh. S. Jaganathan Sarvanasamy

Sh S Jaganathan Sarvanasamy, pointed out that inquiries into ragging incidents were currently conducted by the HEIs themselves, which could compromise objectivity. He recommended that 5% of HEIs be randomly selected for independent verification, either by regulatory bodies or members deputed by NARMC, to ensure the authenticity of institutional reports.

Submission by Prof. Santanu Misra

Prof. Santanu Misra cautioned that a low number of complaints did not necessarily indicate the absence of ragging. He advocated for involving students in discussions about incidents that “could have happened but did not,” viewing this as a proactive engagement strategy.

He provided an update on the mobile app being developed for anti ragging mental well-being assessments under the NTF charter. He noted that expanded use of the app would require manpower support from IIT Kanpur and financial backing from the Ministry of Education. He reiterated the need for on-ground verification to validate institutional claims.

Submission by Shri Jeewan Kumar

Shri Jeewan Kumar from Ministry of Education, informed that financial support for the mobile app was under consideration. With regard to NTF on mental health of students prevention of suicides in HEIs, he informed that suggestions/views have been invited from the stakeholder under the five categories- student, faculty, parents, mental health service provider and institutional representative and requested to all the regulatory bodies like UGC, AICTE, NMC, INC, ICAR, etc to upload their comments/suggestions on the designated portal(www.ntf.education.gov.in).

Submission by Prof. Hardeep Kaur

Prof. Hardeep Kaur echoed concerns about the low number of complaints and called for reality checks on campuses to ensure that silent suffering was not being overlooked.

Closing Remarks by the Chairman

In light of the above, the Chairman advised the NARMC and the team under JS(ARC) to prepare a meticulously crafted white paper that would be persuasive in articulation, authoritative in data, and in-depth in analysis. He proposed that this paper be presented to the NTF, along with a draft of the revised UGC Regulations for submission to the Apex Court through the Task Force. He emphasized that this was essential to prevent the NTF from being misled by social media narratives or vested interests.

The Chairman further advised that all members should submit their inputs in point form within the next one week to the Joint Secretary (Anti-Ragging Cell), to facilitate the preparation of a comprehensive white paper or document. This paper would be intended for subsequent submission to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the National Task Force (NTF), and the Hon'ble Courts.

He also informed the Committee that the next meeting had been scheduled for Tuesday, 11 November 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in IIT Kanpur.

The Minutes of NARMC meetings have been comprehensive in nature and therefore can be taken as the Periodic Report that the NARMC is mandated to submit.
