

Rajasthan Govt to Introduce Suicide Prevention Bill for Coaching Students | Rajasthan | 29 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government**, has informed the **Rajasthan High Court** that it has announced plans to introduce a bill aimed at **suicide prevention** among coaching students. The Rajasthan HC took *suo motu* cognizance of the issue.

This move comes in response to the alarming increase in <u>student suicides</u>, particularly in Kota, known as India's coaching hub.

Key Points

- Rising Suicides in Kota: Since the start of 2025, six coaching students have died by suicide, adding to the long-standing crisis. Over the past decade, 127 suicide cases have been recorded, with 26 cases in 2023 and 17 in 2024.
- Impact on Kota's Reputation: The ongoing crisis has negatively affected Kota's status as a coaching hub, leading to declining student enrollments.
- Need for Mental Health Support: The rising cases of student suicides highlight the inadequacy
 of current measures, emphasizing the need for stronger mental health support and stress
 management strategies.

Suo Moto Cognizance

- A Suo Moto cognizance is a Latin term which means an action taken by a government agency, court or other central authority on their own apprehension.
- A court takes a Suo Moto Cognizance of a legal matter when it receives information about the **violation of rights** or breach of duty through media or a third party's notification.
- Article 32 of the Indian Constitution and Article 226 of the Indian Constitution lay down the provisions for filing <u>Public Interest Litigation (PIL)</u> in Supreme Court and High Courts respectively.
 - This has given rise to the court's power to initiate legal action on their cognizance of a matter.
 - Suo Moto's actions by Indian courts are a reflection of judicial activism.

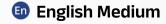
Other Initiatives Related to Suicide Prevention in India

- National Mental Health Programme (NMHP):
 - <u>District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)</u> is implemented in 738 districts, offering outpatient services, counselling, continuing care, and a 10-bedded inpatient facility at the district level.
- National Tele Mental Health Programme: Launched in 2022 to improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services across the country.
 - As of December 2023, 34 States/UTs have established 46 Tele MANAS Cells, handling over 500,000 calls on the helpline.
 - The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a 24/7 toll-free helpline "KIRAN" to provide mental health support.



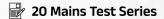
RAS Mains Course













©8750187501

