



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 [student suicides](#), 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 [Public Interest Litigation \(PIL\)](#) 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):**
 - [District Mental Health Programme \(DMHP\)](#) 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.

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