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## Kota Cares Initiative | Rajasthan | 01 Mar 2025

### Why in News?

To address stress among students preparing for competitive exams and the [rising cases of suicides](#), the **Kota district administration recently announced a comprehensive set of reforms** for student welfare across the city.

### Key Points

- **About Kota Cares Initiative:**
  - 'Kota Cares' is a **joint initiative of the** district administration, coaching institutes, hostel associations and local communities, **launched in December 2024**.
  - It is a **significant step towards improving the educational ecosystem of the city**. This initiative can serve as a model for other educational centres **not only in Kota but across the country**.
- **New Guidelines and Features:**
  - **Housing and Financial Aid:**
    - Security and caution money will be removed from 4,000 hostels.
    - Maintenance charges will be limited to Rs 2,000 per year.
    - Parents will be given receipts for all payments.
    - Defined guidelines for room change and leave policies.
  - **Safety and Security Measures:**
    - Compulsory gate-keeper training for all hostel staff.
    - Installation of modern security systems including CCTV surveillance and biometric systems.
    - Special provisions for women's hostels, which will also include women wardens.
    - Mandatory certification for anti-hanging devices and No Objection Certificates (NOC) for fire hazards.
    - Regular night attendance checks through personal room visits.
  - **Student Welfare Initiatives:**
    - Free access to Chambal Riverfront and Oxygen Zone
    - Designated spaces for recreation in all hostels.
    - Availability of food services during mid-term holidays.
    - **Kota Cares Help Desk** at Railway Stations and Bus Terminals.
    - A citywide network of student support centers.