



Drishti IAS

Press Release

Date : 30 July, 2024

In light of the tragic incident that took place in the basement of a coaching institute in Rajinder Nagar on Saturday (July 27) and the subsequent situation, Team Drishti's views are as follows -

- 1) We regret that we are late in presenting our view. We did not want to say anything based on incomplete information. We are sincerely apologetic for this delay.
- 2) We express our deepest condolences on the untimely and painful demise of the three students Shreya Yadav, Tanya Soni and Nevin Dalvin in Saturday's unfortunate incident. We pay our humble tributes to the three aspirants and pray to God to give courage to their families to bear this irreparable loss.
- 3) While we do not have direct acquaintance with the families of these children, we are completely with them in this hour of grief. If we can do something for them in any way, we will feel grateful.
- 4) The anger seen among the students regarding this accident is completely justified. It would be appropriate if this anger gets correctly channelised and the government issues certain guidelines for coaching institutes. In this regard, we are willing to actively co-operate with the government.
- 5) The problem related to coaching institutes is not as simple as it appears. It has many aspects which are due to the ambiguity and contradiction of laws. There is inconsistency in the rules of DDA, MCD and Delhi Fire Department. Similarly, there is a lot of contradiction in the provisions of 'Master Plan of Delhi 2021', 'National Building Code', 'Delhi Fire Service Rules' and 'Unified Building Bye Laws'. Except 'Master Plan of Delhi 2021', no document has clear provisions for coaching institutes. We are hopeful that when the committee appointed by the Union Home Ministry submits its report in a month, most of the above-mentioned points will be resolved.



- 6) We can say with full confidence that Team Drishti is extremely cautious about the safety of the students. Currently, there is a special post of 'Fire and Safety Officer' in Drishti's management. The appointed official has graduated from National Fire Service College (Nagpur) and has worked in big hospitals and malls for 14 years. Regular safety audits are conducted of each building. Apart from this, one officer for each building is responsible to check 16 points of safety on a daily basis and update the information on 'Building Maintenance Group'. The buildings in which our classrooms are located have at least two separate routes for entry and exit, so that in case of any emergency, students can come out safely.
- 7) The comprehensive action taken by Municipal Corporation of Delhi in the last few days is welcome.
- 8) A permanent solution to this problem is that the government should select three-four areas in Delhi and designate them for coaching institutes. If the government itself sets-up the classrooms, libraries, hostels, then there will be no problem of high rent or of safety provisions.
- 9) We will soon release a detailed analysis (article or video) to clarify the complexities of this issue so that all students and other stakeholders can understand all aspects. We believe that when all aspects will be clear, the right path to a solution will emerge.
- 10) Once again, if our team has made any mistake knowingly or unknowingly, we yet again express our regret for that. We assure you to be even more cautious about the safety of students.

Heartfelt Gratitude,
Vikas Divyakirti