

National Task Force (NTF) on Student Mental Health

Prelims - Indian Polity & Governance.

Mains - GS II | Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Why in the News?

Recently, a National Task Force (NTF) on Student Mental Health was formed.

- **Formed by** - Supreme Court of India.
- **Objectives** - To address the mental health concerns of students and to prevent student suicides in institutions of higher education.
- **Need** - National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for 2021 highlights that over 13,000 students lost their lives by committing suicide in the country, which is almost twice a decade ago.

Status of Student suicides in Higher Educational Institutions

- **Rajya Sabha discussion data (2023)** - 98 student suicides in colleges of higher education from the years 2018 to 2023.
 - 39 in IITs
 - 25 in National Institutes of Technology (NITs)
 - 25 in central universities
 - 4 in Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)
 - 3 in Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs)
 - 2 in Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs)

According to the NCRB report, student suicides accounted for 7.6% of the total suicides in India in 2022, with 1.2% of total suicides attributable to professional or career problems and 1.2% to failure in examinations.

- **Composition** - Chairman and ex-officio members
 - **Ex-officio members** - Secretaries of the ministries of higher education, social justice and empowerment, legal affairs, and women & child development.
- **Functions** - Determining the most significant factors for student suicides.
- Reviewing current rules and providing suggestions.
- Carrying out surprise checks at universities and colleges.
- It can make recommendations for additional steps beyond its original mandate for efficient handling of student mental health issues.
- **Report preparation:**
 - Interim report - within 4 months.
 - Final report - within 8 months.

Reference

[The New Indian Express| NTF for Student Mental Health](#)

