GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
EDUCATION DIRECTORATE
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
BIKASH BHABAN, SALT LAKE, KOLKATA – 700091

Memo No.: ED- 242/2026 **Dated, Kolkata, the 30th October, 2026**

From: The Director of Public Instruction, West Bengal
Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal
Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700091

To: Principals / Vice-Principals / Teachers-in-Charge / Officers-in-Charge,
All Government and Government-Aided Colleges of West Bengal

Sub: Implementation of directives of the 9th Apex Level Committee Meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) regarding declaration and strict enforcement of 'Drug-Free Zone' (500-metre radius) around Educational Institutions – reg.

Ref: *Memo No. 1443(32)-HED-17014(99)/228/2026-CS SEC-Dept. of HE dated 21st September, 2026 read with endorsement No. 1443(32)/1(28)-HED-17014(99)/228/2026-CS SEC-Dept. of HE dated 21st September, 2026 of the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Higher Education Department.*

Madam / Sir,

With reference to the communication cited above and attached herewith, I am directed to invite your kind attention to Memo No. 1443(32)/1(28)-HED-17014(99)/228/2026-CS SEC-Dept. of HE dated 21st September, 2026 issued by the Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department (forwarding Memo No. 1219(2)-I.S.S./2M-10/20 (Pt.I) dated 21.07.2026 of the Home & Hill Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal), conveying the decisions and actionable resolutions adopted during the 9th Apex Level Committee Meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) chaired by the Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Government of India.

In terms of the said communication, special emphasis has been laid on Action Point No. XI falling under the heading "Educational Institutions 500-Meter Drug-Free Zone", which mandates immediate, concerted, and strict compliance by all higher education institutions across the State. For ready reference, Action Point No. XI is reproduced hereunder verbatim:

> ***"A 500-meter radius around all educational institutions will be declared a 'drug-free zone' and strictly enforced. Additionally, educational camps and voluntary medical checkups for students will be initiated on campuses, which will be made mandatory in a phased manner. Students should be screened upon admission to educational institutions. Students identified with drug use issues should be referred for appropriate counseling and rehabilitation. The goal of rehabilitation should be timely and appropriate prevention, rather than punishment."***

In pursuance of the instructions of the Higher Education Department and in strict conformity with Action Point No. XI, all Principals, Vice-Principals, Teachers-in-Charge, and Officers-in-Charge of Government and Government-Aided Colleges in West Bengal are hereby requested to strictly undertake the following immediate measures:

- **Active Liaison with Local Police & District Administration:** Establish active and continuous coordination with the local Police Station / Commissioner of Police / District Magistrate (who have also been addressed under Memo No. 1443(32)/1(28)-HED dated 21.09.2026) to ensure regular patrolling, strict surveillance, and immediate eviction/prosecution of any unauthorized kiosks, pan shops, or vendors suspected of peddling contraband within the 500-metre perimeter.

- **Campus Awareness Campaigns & Educational Camps:** Regularly organize educational camps, workshops, seminars, and peer-led orientation programmes within the campus in association with NSS, NCC, student wellness units, and certified NGOs to sensitize students against substance abuse and build institutional resilience.

- **Voluntary Medical Checkups & Admission Screening in Phased Manner:** Initiate voluntary medical and health checkup camps on campus in coordination with local Block/Sub-Divisional/District Health Authorities, as envisaged under the NCORD directives.

- **Student Support, Confidential Counseling & Rehabilitation Framework:** Ensure that any student detected or self-reporting with substance abuse issues is handled with utmost empathy, care, and strict confidentiality. Such students must be promptly referred to registered mental health professionals, or Government De-addiction & Rehabilitation Centres. It is reiterated that the institutional approach must strictly adhere to the mandate of timely, appropriate prevention and compassionate rehabilitation, rather than punitive action.

A detailed Action Taken Report (ATR) regarding the initiatives from the College Authority/ NSS unit of the college for drug-free zone undertaken till now, may be submitted through the accompanying Google Form positively within Tuesday, 3rd November, 2026

Given the critical importance and priority attached to this matter, this directive must be treated as extremely urgent and implemented in letter and spirit.

Enclo: As stated

Director of Public Instruction
Government of West Bengal

Government of West Bengal
Department of Higher Education
College Sponsored Branch, 6th Floor,
Bikash Bhaban Kolkata-700091

No: 1443 (32)-HED-17014(99)/228/2026-CS SEC-Dept. of HE Date : 21st Sep,2026

From : Sri Binod Kumar, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary to the GoWB

To : The Vice-Chancellor

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Sub : Implementation of directives of the 9th Apex Level Committee Meeting of the NARCO Co-ordination Centre (NCORD) regarding declaration of drug-free zone around Educational Institutes

Ref: Memo No. 1219 (2)-I.S.S./2M-10/20 (pt.I) Dt. 21st July, 2026 of Home & Hill Affairs Department

Sir/Madam,

With reference to above, I am to inform you that the 9th **Apex Level Committee** Meeting of the NCORD chaired by the **Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Govt. of India** has directed the State Government to implement certain directives with special emphasis on **Action Point no. XI** falling under the administrative control of this Department. The Home & Hill Affairs Department, GoWB has also forwarded the issue to this department for strict compliance of the same.

The **action point No. XI** (under the heading **Educational Institutions 500- Meter Drug-Free Zone**) read as follows-

A 500- meter radius around all educational institutions will be declared a "drug-free zone" and strictly enforced. Additionally, educational camps and voluntary medical checkups for students will be initiated on campuses, which will be made mandatory in a phased manner. Students should be screened upon admission to educational institutions. Students identified with drug use issues should be referred for appropriate counseling and rehabilitation. The goal of rehabilitation should be timely and appropriate prevention, rather than punishment.

In this regard, I would therefore request you to take necessary actions towards implementing the said directive (**action point No. XI**) immediately.

With regards,

Enclo : as stated

21/9/26

Additional Chief Secretary to the GoWB

No: 1443 (32)/1(28)-HED-17014(99)/228/2026-CS SEC-Dept. of HE Date : 21st Sep,2026

Copy forwarded for information to :-

1. The Commissioner, Kolkata Police, Lalbazar, Kolkatat-700 001,
   He is requested to notify & enforce the directives (**action point No. XI-** under the heading **Educational Institutions 500- Meter Drug-Free Zone**) under his administrative control strictly as per applicable law (copy enclosed).

2-24) The District Magistrate, ... District,
   He/ She is request to notify & enforce the directives (**action point No. XI-** under the heading **Educational Institutions 500- Meter Drug-Free Zone**) under his/her administrative control strictly as per applicable law (copy enclosed).

   P.O. ..... District :- .....

25. The Senior Special Secretary, University Branch, Higher Education Department.

26. The Director, DPI, WB with a request to issue necessary steps towards implementing **action point No. XI** -under the heading **Educational Institutions 500- Meter Drug-Free Zone** strictly as per memo referred above (copy enclosed).

27. Assistant Secretary, Home & Hill Affairs Department, Nabanna, 325, S.C. Road, Shibpur, Howrah- 711102.

28. Office Copy.

21/9/26

Additional Chief Secretary to the GoWB