

Supreme Court Forms Task Force For Safety Of Medicos

Why In News

- “The nationwide protests” over the “brutal” rape and murder of a junior doctor at the R G Kar Medical College Hospital in Kolkata have brought to “the forefront” the issue of “lack of institutional safety for doctors” and that “the nation cannot await a rape or murder for real changes on the ground”, the Supreme Court constituted a **National Task Force** to “formulate effective **recommendations to remedy the issues** of concern pertaining to” the “safety, working conditions and well-being of medical professionals and other cognate matters”.



- Supreme Court on ordered the **removal of the name, photos** and videos of a trainee doctor, who was raped and murdered in Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, from all social media platforms.

Bench

- The bench of Chief Justice of India **D Y Chandrachud** and Justices **J B Pardiwala** and **Manoj Misra** said the NTF shall suggest appropriate timelines by which its recommendations could be implemented based on the existing facilities in hospitals. The NTF has been asked to submit an **interim report within three weeks** and the final report within two months.



- Admiral Aarti Sarin, Director General of Medical Services, Navy
- Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy
- Dr. M. Srinivas, Director of AIIMS Delhi
- Dr. Pratima Murthy, NIMHANS Bangalore
- Dr. Goverdhan Dutt Puri, AIIMS Jodhpur
- Dr. Somikra Rawat, Member, Gangaram Hospital Delhi
- Prof. Anita Saxena, Vice Chancellor
- Pallavi Saple, JJ Group of Hospitals
- Padma Srivastava, Chairperson of Neurology, Paras Hospital Gurgaon

National Task Force

- NTF shall consider the following to prepare an action plan:
- Prevent gender-based violence
- National plan to prepare dignified working of interns, resident, non-resident doctors
- Areas of emergency room needed for additional security
- Baggage screening to prevent arms from entering



- Not allowing people beyond a limit if they are not patients
- Security to manage crowd
- Rest rooms for doctors and gender-neutral spaces for resting of doctors, nurses
- Areas to have biometrics and facial recognition
- Proper lighting of all areas, installation of CCTV in all places
- Availability of Transport from 10 pm to 6 am for medical professions
- Conducting workshops for handling grief and crisis
- Quarterly audits of institutional safety measures
- Establishing a police force commensurate with footfall
- ICC to be constituted as POSH Act applies to medical establishments

Other Facts

- It shall also explore constitution of “**Employees Safety Committees**” comprising doctors, interns, residents and nurses at every medical establishment to conduct quarterly audits on institutional safety measures and ensuring compliance of the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013**.



- The **Supreme Court clarified that the phrase medical professionals** used in the order encompasses every medical professional including doctors, medical students who are undergoing their compulsory rotating medical internship as a part of the MBBS course, resident doctors and senior resident doctors and nurses including nursing interns.