



Higher Education (A2) Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

Letter No.20034/A2/2021, dated 11.09.2026

From
Thiru. Dheeraj Kumar, I.A.S.,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government.

To
The Commissioner of Collegiate Education, Chennai – 15. (w.e.)
The Director of Technical Education, Chennai – 25. (w.e.)
The Registrars of all Universities under the aegis of
Higher Education Department. (w.e.)
The Registrars of all Deemed-to-be Universities.(w.e.)
The Registrars of all Private Universities.(w.e.)

Sir / Madam,

Sub: Higher Education - Drug Free Tamil Nadu – Launch of the "Drug and Tobacco-Free Campus" initiative – Detailed Guidelines for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) – Communicated – Action Taken Report (ATR) requested – Regarding.

Ref: From the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Home, Prohibition and Excise (XVI) Department, D.O. Letter No.26016/H,P&E (XVI)/2026-1, dated 17.08.2026.

I am directed to state that during the mass Anti-Drug Pledge Programme held on 11.08.2026 at Chennai, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu launched the **"Drug and Tobacco-Free Campus"** initiative for educational institutions across the State. This campaign is targeted to establish schools, colleges, and universities as safe, clean, and healthy environments by strictly prohibiting the use and availability of tobacco, drugs and other harmful substances on campuses and their surrounding zones.

2. Based on the operational framework outlined by the Home, Prohibition and Excise Department, this department has formulated comprehensive **"Guidelines for the Implementation of the 'Drug and Tobacco-Free Campus' Initiative in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) across Tamil Nadu"**. A copy of the approved guidelines is enclosed herewith for your perusal and strict adherence.

3. I am, therefore, to request you to circulate these guidelines to all Government, Aided, and Private Higher Educational Institutions coming under your respective jurisdictions/control. The institutional heads must be instructed to execute the prescribed directives with immediate effect.

[P.T.O]

4. I am further to request you to closely monitor the systematic progress of this campaign across all institutions. A consolidated Action Taken Report (ATR) in this regard may be sent to Government on or before the 10th of every succeeding month without fail.

Yours faithfully,

21.11.26
11/9/26
for Additional Chief Secretary to Government
6498
11.9.26

Guidelines for the Implementation of "Drug and Tobacco-Free Campus" Initiative in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) across Tamil Nadu

1. Objective & Scope

The initiative aims to establish all Higher Educational Institutions (Government, Aided, and Private Colleges and Universities) throughout Tamil Nadu as safe with healthy environment by preventing the use and availability of tobacco, drugs and other harmful substances. It enforces institutional responsibility, multi-agency enforcement, and proactive student support systems.

2. Enforcement and Zonal Restrictions

- **'No Tobacco Zone' Earmarking:** The area within a 100-meter radius of all college and university campuses must be clearly demarcated with visible paints and signages declaring it a "No Tobacco Zone".
- **Joint Inspection Teams:** Regular, unscheduled checks must be conducted on commercial shops within this 100-meter radius by Joint Teams consisting of Local Police, Food Safety Officers, and Institutional Representatives to completely stop the sale of tobacco and banned substances.
- **Shopkeeper Sensitization:** Anti-Drug Clubs of the institutions, alongside local enforcement agencies, must actively sensitize neighborhood shopkeepers against selling tobacco products and banned substances to students.
- **Stakeholder Coordination:** Institutions must maintain active operational linkages with the State Tobacco Control Cell, Health Department, Local Bodies, and District Police.

3. Student Admission and Mandatory Orientations

- **Induction Orientation:** All newly admitted students must undergo a mandatory orientation program covering:
 - The physical and psychological risks of substance abuse.
 - Legal implications and strict punishments under the NDPS Act.
 - Institutional disciplinary actions, including suspension and expulsion.
 - Information on available counselling and treatment facilities.
- **Voluntary Affidavit:** Every student entering the institution must submit a voluntary signed affidavit pledging not to indulge in drug or substance abuse.

4. Anti-Drug Club Activities & Peer Support Systems

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Anti-Drug Clubs must conduct regular high-impact campaigns, including:
 - Annual mass drug-free pledges.
 - Street plays (Therukoothu), poster presentations, and essay competitions.
 - Walkathons and cycle rallies within local communities.
 - Organized visits to de-addiction centers to create real-world awareness.
- **Peer Ambassadors:** Institutions must nominate and train specific student "Peer Ambassadors". These ambassadors will be equipped to identify early behavioral changes in classmates and offer immediate, confidential peer-level support.

5. Medical Surveillance and Psychological Support

- **Health and Psychological Evaluations:** Institutions must integrate annual health and psychological screening frameworks.
- **Confidential Testing:** Under professional medical supervision, non-invasive tests must be conducted strictly confidentially for students exhibiting early indicators of substance abuse.
- **Independent Counselors:** Every institution must appoint dedicated, independent psychological counselors to provide targeted mental health support and rehabilitation assistance to affected students.

6. Campus Security and Digital Reporting

- **Surveillance Infrastructure:** Adequate, high-resolution CCTV cameras must be installed at all entry/exit points, peripheral blind spots, and common student gathering spots in and around the campus.
- **Police Liaisoning:** A dedicated Institutional Nodal Officer must be appointed to maintain a direct line of communication with local jurisdiction police for prompt action against external drug trafficking networks.
- **Digital Vigilance:** The "Drug-Free Tamil Nadu" Mobile Application must be aggressively popularized across campuses. Students must be trained and encouraged to securely report any instances of drug abuse or sales through the app.

7. Institutional Compliance and Declaration

- **Self-Declaration:** Upon successful deployment of all the above protocols, the head of the institution shall formally declare the campus as a verified "Drug and Tobacco-Free Campus".

DHEERAJ KUMAR
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

TRUE COPY/

21.8.2023
11/9/26
SECTION OFFICER