



Bihar Sets Minimum Teacher Requirements for Primary & Middle Schools | Bihar | 29 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The **Bihar Education Department** has established new standards for the **minimum number of teachers** required in **primary** and **middle schools**.

Key Points

- According to these new guidelines, **primary schools (classes 1 to 5)** must have at least **five teachers**, including the **head teacher**.
 - For schools encompassing **classes 1 to 8**, a minimum of **nine teachers**, including the principal, is mandated.
- **District Education Officers** have been instructed to upload reports detailing the approved and required number of teachers for each school on the **e-ShikshaKosh portal** by 31 January 2025.
 - The department emphasizes that each teacher should have at least one dedicated classroom, and the actual assessment of teacher requirements will be based on the availability of rooms in each school.
- In primary schools with student numbers ranging from **1 to 120**, **five teachers** are mandatory.
 - For student numbers between **121 and 150**, **six teachers** are required. For every additional **40 students** beyond **150**, **one extra teacher** will be appointed.
- In **classes 6 to 8**, for student numbers up to **105**, the staffing requirements are as follows:
 - One teacher for **Science and Mathematics**
 - One teacher for **Social Studies**
 - One teacher for **Hindi**
 - One teacher for **English**
 - Additionally, provisions can be made for **Urdu** and **Sanskrit teachers** as needed.
 - For every additional **35 students** beyond **105**, one extra teacher will be appointed.
- These measures aim to ensure adequate teacher-student ratios and improve the quality of education in Bihar's schools.

e-ShikshaKosh Portal

- **About:**
 - **e-ShikshaKosh** is an integrated digital platform designed to streamline **educational data management, enhancing decision-making, optimizing resources, and enabling real-time monitoring** by consolidating data from various sources.
- **Key Benefits**
 - **Enhanced Decision-Making:** Consolidates data to improve decision-making and resource optimization.
 - **Real-Time Monitoring:** Provides up-to-date information for continuous monitoring.
 - **Efficiency:** Addresses inefficiencies, reduces redundancy, and ensures strong governance.
 - **Comprehensive View:** Offers a holistic view of educational metrics.
 - **Academic Improvement:** Supports continuous improvement in academic quality and equity.
 - **Sustainability & Inclusion:** Promotes a sustainable, inclusive, and well-managed learning environment.

- **Integrated Functions:** Combines multiple educational functions like teaching standards, student performance monitoring, and e-learning programs into one platform.

//

BPSC Mains Course

हिंदी Medium English Medium

200+ Hours of Classes Answer Writing Practice Mains Test Series

Admissions Open

87501 87501

Potential Petroleum Reserves in Ballia | Uttar Pradesh | 29 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The [Oil and Natural Gas Corporation \(ONGC\)](#) has started drilling operations in **Ballia, Uttar Pradesh**, after **geological surveys** indicated the **possibility of petroleum reserves** in the region.

Key Points

- **Survey and Exploration:** ONGC conducted [satellite](#), [geochemical](#), [gravity-magnetic](#), and [magneto-telluric \(MT\)](#) surveys over the **last three years**, confirming the possibility of oil and natural gas reserves.
 - **Magnetotellurics (MT)** is a geophysical method that uses natural changes in the **Earth's magnetic and electric fields** to study underground **electrical resistivity**.
- **Drilling Operations:** The project, with an **estimated cost of ₹100 crore**, involves drilling up to **3,001 meters** at a site near **Sagar Pali village** in **Gram Sabha Vaina (Rattuchak)**.
- **Land and Infrastructure:** ONGC has leased **eight acres of land** for **three years**.
- **Potential Impact:** If petroleum reserves are confirmed, the project could significantly contribute to the energy sector, boost local employment, and transform the economy of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)**, formerly **Oil and Natural Gas Commission**, was established in **1956**.
- In **1994**, **Oil and Natural Gas Commission** was converted into a Corporation, and in **1997** it was recognized as one of the **Navratnas** by the Government of India.
 - Subsequently, it had been conferred with [Maharatna status](#) in the year **2010**.
- It is the **largest crude oil and natural gas company** in India, contributing around **70%** to Indian domestic production.

Ganga Basin

- The headwaters of the Ganga called the '**Bhagirathi**' are fed by the **Gangotri Glacier** and joined by the **Alaknanda** at **Devprayag** in Uttarakhand.
- At **Haridwar**, Ganga emerges from the mountains to the plains.
- The **Ganga** is joined by many tributaries from the Himalayas, a few of them being major rivers such as the Yamuna, the Ghaghara, the Gandak, and the Kosi.



Rajasthan Govt to Introduce Suicide Prevention Bill for Coaching Students | Rajasthan | 29 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government**, has informed the **Rajasthan High Court** that it has announced plans to introduce a bill aimed at **suicide prevention** among coaching students. The Rajasthan HC took *suo motu* cognizance of the issue.

- This move comes in response to the **alarming increase** in **student suicides**, particularly in **Kota**, known as **India's coaching hub**.

Key Points

- **Rising Suicides in Kota:** Since the start of 2025, six coaching students have died by suicide, adding to the long-standing crisis. Over the past decade, **127 suicide cases** have been recorded,

with 26 cases in 2023 and 17 in 2024.

- **Impact on Kota's Reputation:** The ongoing crisis has negatively affected Kota's status as a coaching hub, leading to declining student enrollments.
- **Need for Mental Health Support:** The rising cases of student suicides highlight the inadequacy of current measures, emphasizing the need for **stronger mental health support and stress management strategies**.

Suo Moto Cognizance

- A **Suo Moto cognizance** is a Latin term which means an action taken by a government agency, court or other central authority on their own apprehension.
- A court takes a **Suo Moto Cognizance** of a legal matter when it receives information about the **violation of rights** or breach of duty through media or a third party's notification.
- **Article 32** of the **Indian Constitution** and **Article 226** of the Indian Constitution lay down the provisions for filing **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** in **Supreme Court** and **High Courts** respectively.
 - This has given rise to the court's power to initiate legal action on their cognizance of a matter.
 - **Suo Moto's** actions by Indian courts are a reflection of **judicial activism**.

Other Initiatives Related to Suicide Prevention in India

- **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP):**
 - **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)** is implemented in 738 districts, offering outpatient services, counselling, continuing care, and a 10-bedded inpatient facility at the district level.
- **National Tele Mental Health Programme:** Launched in **2022** to improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services across the country.
 - As of December 2023, 34 States/UTs have established 46 Tele **MANAS Cells**, handling over 500,000 calls on the helpline.
 - The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has launched a **24/7 toll-free helpline "KIRAN"** to provide mental health support.

RAS Mains Course

आ Hindi Medium En English Medium

700+ Hours of Classes

RAS Mains Series

20 Mains Test Series

Admissions Open

87501 87501

Uttarakhand Implements UCC and Launches Portal | Uttarakhand | 29 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The [Uniform Civil Code \(UCC\)](#) was officially implemented in Uttarakhand making it the first Indian state to implement the **UCC post Independence** and second state overall after Goa.

- The newly launched UCC portal has enabled individuals to register their marriages online by submitting necessary documents and undergoing a live witness verification process.

Key Points

- **Features:**
 - The **UCC Bill**, passed by the **State Assembly** in **February 2024**, bans practices such as **halala**, **iddat**, and **talaq** (customs related to marriage and divorce in the Muslim Personal Law).
 - The UCC mandates **online registration** of **marriages**, **divorce** and **live-in relationships**.
 - A government portal has been formed for the purpose on which people can access **records**, **register complaints** and also upload their will on the portal.
- **Online Registration Process:** The UCC portal requires individuals to submit essential documents, including a **birth certificate**, [Aadhaar card](#), [PAN card](#), [domicile certificate](#), and **details of the spouse**. Additionally, two witnesses, either parents or local guardians, must testify via live video.
 - The portal features an AI-based translation service that will translate the content into 22 languages, including English.
- **Chief Minister's Endorsement:** **CM Pushkar Singh Dhami** also registered his marriage on the [UCC portal](#) and shared his certificate on social media, assuring the

Uniform Civil Code

- **About UCC:**
 - The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is outlined in **Article 44 of the Constitution** as part of the [Directive Principles of State Policy](#), which states that the government should strive to establish a uniform civil code for all citizens across India.
 - However, its implementation is left to the discretion of the government.
- **UCC in Goa:**
 - Goa follows the Portuguese Civil Code of 1867. The **Goa, Daman and Diu Administration Act of 1962** permitted it to retain the colonial-era civil code.

Haryana-Delhi Yamuna Water Dispute | Haryana | 29 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The **Haryana-Delhi dispute** over the [Yamuna river](#) has once again become a key political issue. Delhi Chief Minister (CM) has accused the **Haryana government** of contaminating the Yamuna with untreated sewage and industrial waste.

Key Points

- **Water Contamination Allegations:**
 - Delhi Chief Minister termed Haryana's actions as "**water terrorism**" and wrote to the

Election Commission, citing a **Delhi Jal Board (DJB) report** that claimed **ammonia levels** in the **Yamuna** had surged beyond treatable limits.

- The **ammonia levels** have steadily increased in the water coming from Haryana to Delhi via **River Yamuna** due to mixing of untreated sewage or industrial waste from Haryana.

▪ **Legal and Political History:**

- The **Yamuna water-sharing dispute** is a long-standing dispute, ongoing since 1995.
- **1994 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):** Five states (Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh) signed an MoU in 1994 to regulate Yamuna water distribution.
- The **Supreme Court** had intervened in **1995** and **1996** to ensure Delhi's water supply from Haryana. Despite multiple petitions and legal battles, the issue remains unresolved.
 - The Supreme Court has ruled multiple times that Haryana must ensure Delhi's rightful share of water.

▪ **Recent Developments:**

- In 2018, the Supreme Court directed the **Chief Secretaries of Delhi and Haryana** to resolve water disputes.
- In 2021, the Delhi government accused Haryana of **withholding Yamuna water**, Haryana countered that Delhi's crisis was due to "**internal mismanagement.**"
- In July 2023, floods in Delhi led to fresh accusations, with the Delhi Government claiming Haryana deliberately released excess water from the **Hathnikund Barrage.**
- In June 2024, Delhi CM accused Haryana of "**conspiring against Delhi**" and launched an **indefinite hunger strike**, which she ended after five days due to health concerns.

▪ **Impact on Delhi Residents:**

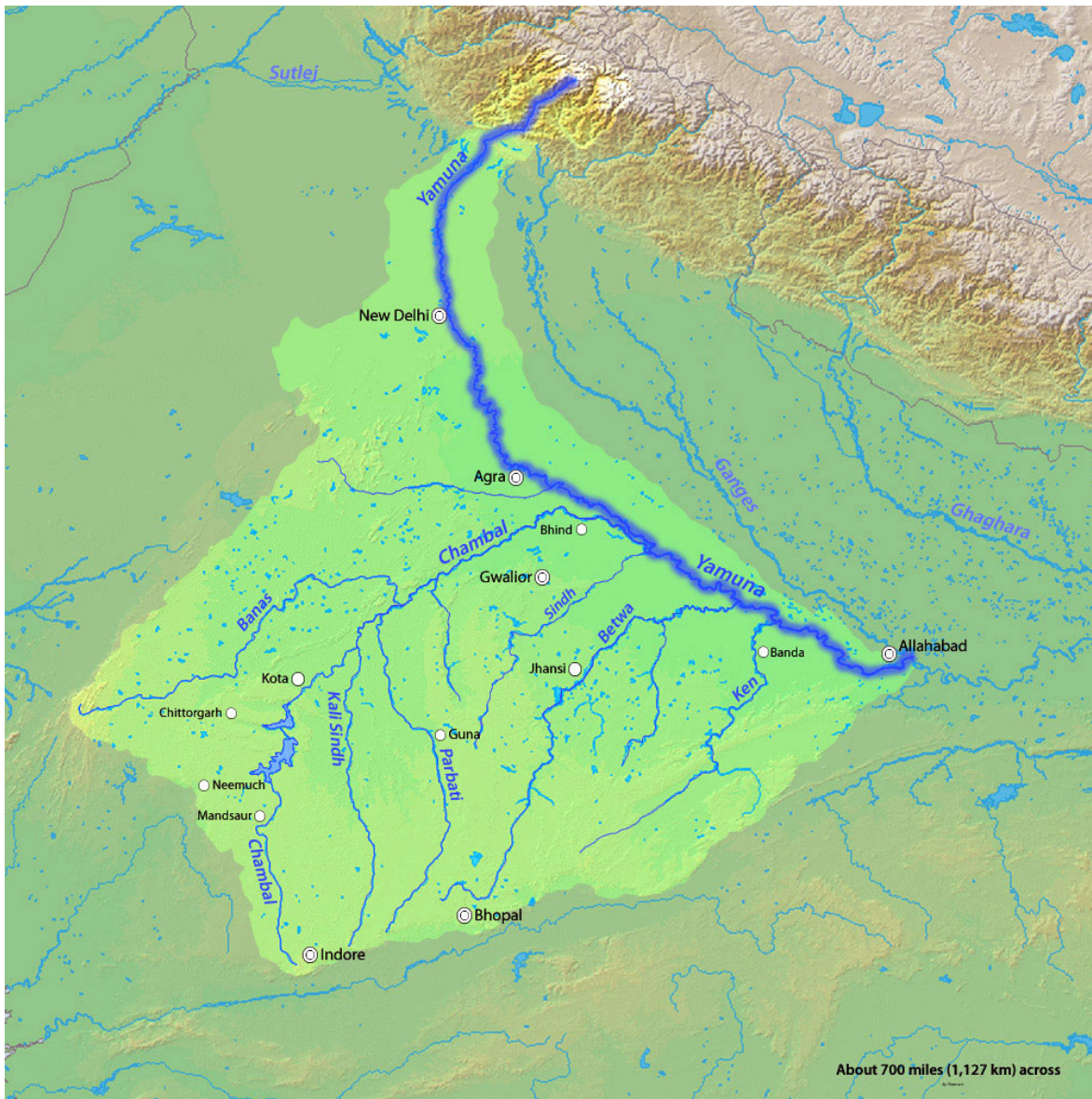
- The dispute has led to **severe water shortages** in Delhi, particularly in summer months.
- **Elevated ammonia levels** pose a threat to **public health, complicating water treatment processes.**

▪ **Future Outlook:**

- The dispute remains unresolved despite legal interventions.
- The upcoming elections could further intensify political rhetoric around the issue.
- A long-term **sustainable solution** is needed to address Delhi's water security concerns.

Yamuna

- The river Yamuna, a major tributary of river Ganges, originates from the **Yamunotri glacier near Bandarpooch peaks** in the Mussoorie range of the lower Himalayas in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.
- It meets the Ganges at the Sangam in **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh** after flowing through Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.
- Length: 1376 km
- **Important Dam:** Lakhwar-Vyasi Dam (Uttarakhand), Tajewala Barrage Dam (Haryana) etc.
- **Important Tributaries:** **Chambal**, Sindh, **Betwa and Ken.**



PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/29-01-2025/print>