Bihar bars unauthorised visitors and unapproved reels/videos in government schools

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News

Bihar's Education Department on 4 November 2026 instructed that unauthorised outsiders must not enter government schools during teaching hours. Director (Administration) Vijay Kumar Pandey issued the instructions; Regional Deputy Directors of Education and District Education Officers are to enforce them. Teachers and school staff may not record or upload reels or videos on school premises without prior written permission. Even events such as Independence Day and Republic Day cultural programmes, tree planting, cleanliness drives and blood donation need prior approval to be recorded. The department said the aim is to protect students' privacy, prevent classroom disruption and stop the use of duty hours for personal social-media content. The instructions rest on the Bihar Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1976 and the 2026 amendment rules; violators may face disciplinary action. It is not a blanket ban on teachers' personal social-media use.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
State	Bihar (capital Patna)
Date	4 November 2026
Issued by	Vijay Kumar Pandey, Director (Administration), Education Dept

Point	Details
Barred	Entry of unauthorised outsiders during teaching hours
Reels/videos	Prior written permission mandatory
Legal basis	Bihar Govt Servants' Conduct Rules 1976; amendment 2026
Aim	Student privacy, discipline, no disruption of teaching
RTE Act	Enacted 2009; in force from 1 April 2010

Background

- Constitution: The 86th Constitutional Amendment (2002) inserted Article 21A, making free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 a fundamental right. It recast Article 45 as early childhood care and education for children below six, and added Article 51A(k), the fundamental duty of parents/guardians to provide educational opportunities to their child.
- RTE Act 2009: The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, which gives effect to Article 21A, came into force on 1 April 2010. Section 12(1)(c) reserves 25% seats in private unaided schools for disadvantaged children; Section 21 provides for School Management Committees (SMC); Section 31 gives monitoring to the national/State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights.
- School Management Committee: An SMC must be formed in every school except private unaided ones (i.e., government, local-body and aided schools). At least three-fourths of members are parents/guardians, and half of all members are women. The SMC has a role in monitoring the school's working.
- History/Geography: The ancient universities of Nalanda and Vikramashila stood in present-day Bihar. Bihar lies in the Ganga plain and is among India's most densely populated States, with one of the country's largest school systems.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu: To bridge COVID-era learning loss, the then Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' (education at the doorstep) – evening classes near students' homes run by volunteers – at Mudaliarkuppam, Villupuram district, in October 2021. School Management Committees function in Tamil Nadu's government schools under the RTE Act.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

State: Bihar (capital Patna); Date: 4 November 2026; Issued by: Vijay Kumar Pandey, Director (Administration), Education Dept; Barred: Entry of unauthorised outsiders during teaching hours.

What is the background to this news?

Constitution: The 86th Constitutional Amendment (2002) inserted Article 21A, making free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 a fundamental right.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Article 21A, making free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 a fundamental right, was added by which amendment?

A) 42nd Amendment

B) 86th Amendment

C) 73rd Amendment

D) 93rd Amendment

Answer: B – Explanation: The 86th Amendment (2002). The 42nd (1976) moved education to the Concurrent List; the 73rd is on panchayats; the 93rd added Article 15(5) on reservation in educational institutions.

2. Which Article makes it a fundamental duty of a parent/guardian to provide educational opportunities to a child aged 6–14?

A) Article 51A(h)

B) Article 51A(j)

C) Article 51A(k)

D) Article 51A(f)

Answer: C – Explanation: 51A(k) – the 11th Fundamental Duty, added by the 86th Amendment (2002). 51A(h) is scientific temper, 51A(j) striving for excellence, 51A(f) preserving the composite culture.

3. Under the RTE Act, 2009, in which schools is a School Management Committee (SMC) mandatory?

A) Private unaided schools only

B) CBSE schools only

C) All except private unaided

D) Secondary schools only

Answer: C – Explanation: Section 21: an SMC in every school except private unaided ones (government, local-body, aided); at least three-fourths parents, and half of all members women.

4. What was the main aim of Tamil Nadu's 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' scheme launched in Villupuram district in 2021?

A) Building school classrooms

B) Bridging COVID learning loss

C) Giving free bicycles

D) Recruiting regular teachers

Answer: B – Explanation: Volunteers held evening classes near students' homes to make up learning lost during COVID closures; launched at Mudaliarkuppam in October 2021.

5. Which body monitors, at the national level, the safeguards for children's right to education under the RTE Act, 2009?

A) NCPCR

B) NCERT

C) UGC

D) NHRC

Answer: A – Explanation: Section 31: the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR); SCPCRs in States. NCERT is the academic authority on curriculum under Section 29.

Sources: Education Post; NewsBytes; IANS via Lokmat Times (Conduct (Amendment) Rules 2026); IANS via Lokmat Times (earlier 2024 order); India Code, RTE Act 2009; DT Next. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.