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## 2021 State of the Education Report for India: UNESCO

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### Why in News

On the Occasion of the **World Teachers' Day (5<sup>th</sup> October)**, the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** launched its **2021 State of the Education Report (SOER) for India: "No Teacher, No Class"**.

#### **MOST TEACHER VACANCIES IN UP**

- UP (3.3L), Bihar (2.2L) & Bengal (1.1L) have the most vacancies in teaching positions in schools
- Of the 11L vacant posts in the country, 69% are in rural areas, according to a Unesco study
- At 21k, MP has the highest number of single-teacher schools
- 7.7% pre-primary, 4.6% primary, 3.3% upper-primary & 0.8% secondary teachers in India are underqualified



“Pupil-teacher ratios are adverse in secondary schools. Also, there's no info on availability of special education, music, arts and physical education teachers. The need (for teachers) is likely to grow, given the shortages in certain education levels and subjects (and because) about 30% of the current workforce will need to be replaced

—Unesco state of education report

### Key Points

- **About:**

- The findings are largely based on analysis of **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** and the **Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE)** data (2018-19).

- It aims to **serve as a reference** for enhancing the **implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP)** and towards the realization of the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4** (target 4c on teachers).

**Target 4c:** By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States.

- **Findings of the Report:**

- **Lack of Teachers:**

- There are nearly **1.2 lakh single-teacher schools** in the country of which an overwhelming **89% are in rural areas**.
- The report projects that **India needs 11.16 lakh additional teachers** to meet the current shortfall.

- **Performance of States (Women Teachers):**

- **Tripura has the least number of women teachers**, followed by Assam, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.
- **Chandigarh leads** the chart followed by Goa, Delhi, Kerala.

- **Increase in Number of Teachers in Private Sector:**

The proportion of teachers employed in the private sector **grew from 21% in 2013-14 to 35% in 2018-19**.

The **Right to Education Act** stipulates that the **Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR)** should be 30:1 in classes 1-5 and 35:1 in higher grades.

- **Lack of Digital Infrastructure:**

- The **overall availability of computing devices** (desktops or laptops) in schools is 22% for all India, with rural areas seeing much lower provisioning (18%) than urban areas (43%).
- **Access to the internet in schools** is 19% all over India - only 14% in rural areas compared to 42% in urban areas.

- **Increment in Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER):**

- For **elementary schools**, it has **increased from 81.6 in 2001 to 93.03** in 2018-19 and stands at 102.1 in 2019-2020.

**GER** is the **number of students enrolled** in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education.

- **Overall retention is 74.6%** for elementary education and 59.6% for secondary education in 2019-20.

- **Recommendations:**

- **Increase the number of teachers and improve working conditions** in North Eastern states, rural areas and **'aspirational districts'**.
- **Increase the number of physical education**, music, art, vocational education, early childhood and special education teachers.
- Value the **professional autonomy of teachers**.
- Build **teachers' career pathways**.
- Provide teachers with **meaningful Information and Communication Technology (ICT) training**.
- Develop **teaching governance** through consultative processes, based on mutual accountability.

**Source: IE**