

## Madrassas introduce 'modern' syllabus from current session

**Patna:** The students of madrassas in the state will now learn English, Hindi, maths and science along with the traditional courses in Islamic studies and Arabic from this academic session that started in April.

Bihar State Madrasa Education Board chairman Abdul Qayum Ansari told PTI on Saturday that the students enrolled in madrassas across the state would be able to learn English, Hindi, science, social science and maths right from Class I to Class XII apart from the Arabic and Islamic studies taught to them.

"In order to keep pace with the society, we have introduced modern and mainstream syllabi based on the curricula of the SCERT and the NCERT in all the madrassas of the state. This would not have been possible without the help of the UNICEF and the UNFP," Ansari said, adding, "The students of madrassas can now choose science, arts and commerce subjects after Class X as SCERT textbooks have been prescribed till Class VII and NCERT books from classes IX to XII."

The medium of teaching and the school texts will be in Urdu for a better understanding. "Students will get to learn science and social science in Urdu language which will help them understand concepts in a better manner," Ansari said.

The board chairman gave credit to chief minister Nitish Kumar for the initiative, saying, "It is Nitish Kumar's resolve to bring the minorities into the mainstream as he (CM) thinks that Bihar will not move ahead if they remain laggard."

The board has started distributing books in the madrassas of the state through the 'Mukhya Mantri Madrasa Pustak Vitran Vahan'. All the course materials are also available on the board's website [www.bsmeb.org](http://www.bsmeb.org).

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**ABDUL QAYUM ANSARI**  
State madrasa education board chairman

Ansari pointed out, "Madrassas are also holding online classes through YouTube channels and an app has been launched for the students. Besides, 5,000 teachers have been given online training during the lockdown period."

Around eight lakh students are enrolled in 4,000 madrassas affiliated to the Madrasa Board, of which 1,942 are funded by the state government. "Another 1,000 will also start getting grants from the government soon," Ansari claimed.

Education specialist with UNICEF-Patna, Pramila Manoharan, pointed out that the world body carried a study in 2018 which recommended sweeping changes in the existing education system of madrasa education and submitted a report to the board and the state government.

"In our study, we found that children at madrassas are keen to learn subjects like science, social science and maths like others. After three years of hard work, we were successful in changing the curricula of madrassas where studies based on modern and mainstream syllabi began in the current academic session," Manoharan told PTI.

She added, "The UNICEF study showed that the madrassas in the state neither had teachers for science and maths nor any laboratory and library." PTI

