



**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT**  
BIHAR LOK BHAVAN, PATNA-800022

**NOTIFICATION**

No.-L/ORD./03/2026- 1417 /GS (I)

Dated- 04<sup>th</sup> July, 2026

The Hon'ble Chancellor, after due consideration, has been pleased to approve the Syllabus of Crosswords as an SEC (2-3 Credits) in any Semester up to 4th Semester for 4-Year CBCS UG Courses in accordance with NEP 2020.

2. This shall come into force from the date when the Hon'ble Chancellor was pleased to signify his assent, that is, 04.07.2026.

By the order of the Hon'ble Chancellor,

(Dipak Kumar Singh)  
Additional Chief Secretary to the Governor

Memo No.- L/ORD./03/2026- 1417 /GS (I)

Dated- 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2026

1. All Vice-Chancellors, Universities of Bihar (except the BASU, the BAU, the BUHS & the BEU);
2. The Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Bihar, Patna;
3. The Additional Secretary (University), Governor's Secretariat, Bihar Lok Bhavan, Patna;
4. The Director, Higher Education, Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Bihar, Patna;
5. All Registrars, Universities of Bihar (except the BASU, the BAU, the BUHS & the BEU); and
6. The Joint Director, NIC, Governor's Secretariat, Bihar Lok Bhavan, Patna (for uploading on the official website of the Governor's Secretariat)...for information and necessary action.
7. Guard File.

*Kalpna Srivastava*  
(Kalpana Srivastava) 04/07/26  
Officer on Special Duty (Judicial)

Memo No.-L/ORD./03/2026- 1417 /GS (I)

Dated- 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2026

The Officer-in-charge, e-Gazette Cell, Department of Finance, Govt. of Bihar, Patna (with soft copy in a Flash Drive) for immediate publication in the Gazette of Bihar Extra-Ordinary.

*Kalpna Srivastava*  
04/07/26  
Officer on Special Duty (Judicial)

Memo No.-L/ORD./03/2026- 1417 /GS (I)

Dated- 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2026

The OSD to the Hon'ble Governor for information please.

*Kalpna Srivastava*  
04/07/26  
Officer on Special Duty (Judicial)

# Skill Enhancement Course (SEC): Cryptic Crosswords

Semester-(In any Semester up to IV Semester as SEC CREDIT- 2-3 (Theory- 01 + Practical-1-2)

The Skill Enhancement Course (SEC) titled "Cryptic Crosswords" is developed as part of the general pool of courses under the National Education Policy (NEP)-Undergraduate Curriculum Framework-2022 (UGCF) for Indian universities. It provides a comprehensive blend of theoretical foundations and practical learning experiences, aiming to foster multidimensional skills. Students across disciplines can enroll in this multidisciplinary undergraduate course to develop critical thinking, linguistic proficiency, and problem-solving abilities through the art and science of cryptic crossword puzzles.

## Course Overview

Course Title	Cryptic Crosswords
Course Code	SEC
Course Type	Skill Enhancement Course (SEC)
Credits	2-3 (1 Theory + 1-2 Practical)
Duration	One Semester
Level	Undergraduate

## Course Description

This course is designed to strengthen students' ability in problem-solving, logical reasoning, and vocabulary. Through active engagement in solving crossword puzzles—especially cryptic crosswords—students will develop proficiency in analytical thinking, creative reasoning, and language use.

## Learning Objectives

- a. Foster critical thinking, analytical skills, and cognitive abilities through crossword puzzle solving.
- b. Improve vocabulary and linguistic proficiency.
- c. Enhance logical reasoning and problem-solving potential.

## Learning Outcomes

- a. Students will improve their linguistic competence.
- b. Students will acquire logical-reasoning abilities and learn to apply them to real-life problem-solving.
- c. Students will find their creative potential strengthened, particularly in critical thinking and cognitive skills.

## Syllabus Structure

### Unit 1: Introduction to Crossword Puzzles

- a. History and evolution of crossword puzzles
- b. Significance for cognitive development and education
- c. Types of crossword puzzles: Simple, Cryptic, Cryptic
- d. Basic rules and conventions: Ximenean and Libertanian principles
- e. Development of crossword puzzles in India

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Unit 2: Crossword Structure (Grid) and Clue Structure

- Grid structures: Symmetric, Asymmetric, Blocked
- Terminology: Across, Down, Clue Fill, Entries
- Cryptic clue structure: Crossword jargon, wordplay (Word Masonry), pattern recognition, word identification

Unit 3: Cryptic Clue Types and Indicators

- Anagrams (Jumbled words)
- Double definitions / multiple definitions
- Hidden words (Telescopic words)
- Homophones
- Acrostics (first/last letter; even/odd)
- Reversals
- Deletions
- Containers and content
- Charades
- Combination and complex clues
- Spoonerism
- Cryptic Definition
- & lit!

Unit 4: Abbreviations and Foreign Words used in Cryptic Clues

- General abbreviations
- Peculiar abbreviations
- Foreign words
- Numerals
- Symbols

Unit 5: Strategies for Solving Cryptic Crosswords

- Identifying clue types
- Recognizing definitions/direct clues
- Indicators for different clue types
- Utilizing dictionaries and solving tools
- Word lists and dictionaries
- Etymology and word origins
- Idioms and phrases

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(Kalpna Srivastava) 04/07/26  
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## Course Structure

### Theory (15 hours)

- Introduction to Crosswords; Types of Crossword – Simple, Cryptic, Cryptic; Structure of a Cryptic Clue; Cryptic Crossword Conventions
- Word Masonry (Wordplay); Cryptic Clue Types
- Anagrams (Jumbled words) – Example Clues; Double Definitions – Example Clues; Hidden Words (Telescopic words) – Example Clues; Homophones
- Acrostics (first/last; even/odd); Reversals; Deletions
- Containers; Combination and Complex Clues; &Lit Clues; Reverse Anagram; Spoonerism
- Abbreviations in Cryptics; Charades; Complex or Combination Clues
- Identifying Clue Types; Anagram Indicators; Telescopic Indicators; Homophone Indicator
- Acrostic Indicators; Reversal Indicator; Container Indicators; Content Indicators
- Popular Crossword Platforms

### Practical (30 hours)

- Analysis and practice on clue type indicators (4 hours)  
 Anagram Indicators  
 Hidden Words (Telescopic Clues) Indicators  
 Homophone Indicators  
 Acrostic Indicators  
 Container Indicators  
 Content Indicators
- Analysis and practice on clue types (8 hours)  
 Anagrams  
 Telescopic/Hidden Words  
 Homophones  
 Acrostics  
 Double Definitions / Multiple Definitions
- Analysis and practice on common abbreviations and short words used in cryptic crosswords (4 hours)
- Practice on solving Cryptic (simple cryptic) grids. (4 hours)
- Practice on solving published cryptic crossword grids to enhance skills (10 hours)

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### Teaching & Examination Scheme

S.N.	Theory/Practical	Credit	Hour	ESE	CIA	Total	Notional Learning Hour:-
1.	Theory	01	15	35	15	50	Class room teaching, Assignment, Seminar, Project & Field work.
2.	Practical	01	30	35	15	50	
Total:		02	45	70	30	100	

*S. P. Singh*  
 19/06/2026

*P. P. Singh*  
 19.06.2026

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*H. J. Singh*  
 19.06.2026

*Chandan / A. Singh*  
 19/6/26

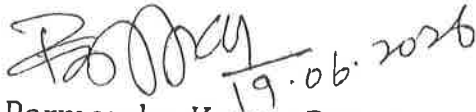
*S. P. Singh*  
 18/08/2026

Suggested Readings/ Books:

1. Understanding Cryptic Crosswords – Vivek Kumar Singh
2. How to Solve the New York Times Crossword – P. Smith
3. The Chambers Crossword Manual – Don Manley
4. Wordplay: The Philosophy and Fun of Cryptic Crosswords – David Astle
5. Additional Books/Resources/E-Books/Platforms may be chosen as per the Programme requirement

Online Platforms

1. ACAD School, ACAD College, ACAD Elder, ACAD Global, CCCC, NICE, IXL, WCCC on crypticsingh.com
2. The Hindu Daily Cryptic Crossword/The Hindustan Times Daily Cryptic Crossword
3. The Guardian Newspaper
4. Ximenes and the Art of Cryptic Crosswords
5. Exet Crossword Creation software
6. Crossword Compiler
7. Crosswordunclued.com

  
19.06.2026

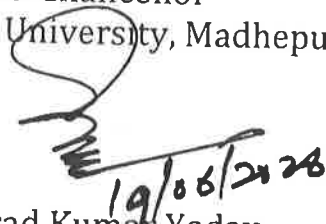
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*Kalpna Srivastava*  
Ms. Kalpana Srivastava 19/6/26  
OSD(J)-cum-Member Secretary  
Governor's Secretariat, Bihar, Patna

**(Kalpana Srivastava)**  
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