National Testing Agency (NTA)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Polity and Governance*

Why in News?

Recently, A Parliamentary Committee flagged exam irregularities and urged the NTA to expedite implementation of the Radhakrishnan Committee's recommendations.

- **NTA –** It is an autonomous, specialist body established to conduct entrance and fellowship exams for admission to higher educational institutions.
- **Established in–** November 2017.
- **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Education,
- **Legal Status –** Registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- **Purpose –** NTA was set up to relieve CBSE of heavy testing duties, which helps CBSE to focus on school education, curriculum design, and academic evaluation.
- **Vision –** Right candidates joining best institutions to realise India's demographic dividend.
- **Key Values –** Quality, efficiency, equity, security
- **Functions**
  - **Partner Institutions –** Identify schools/colleges with exam infrastructure.
  - **Question Bank –** Create subject-wise question banks using modern techniques.
  - **Research and Development culture –** Build strong research culture and expert pool in different aspects of testing.
- **Major exams conducted –** NEET-UG, JEE Main, CUET-UG, CUET-PG, UGC-NET and CSIR-UGC NET

Dr. K. Radhakrishnan Committee

- **Formed in –** June 2024, after the NEET-UG paper leak.
- **Purpose –** To *recommend reforms for the NTA*, focusing on exam security, fairness, and structural strengthening.
- **Exam Format Shift –** Transition to *fully digital tests and hybrid OMR model tests.*
- **Candidate Security –** Aadhaar biometrics, facial recognition via *DIGI-EXAM*.
- **Center Monitoring –** Strict monitoring through CCTV, mobile jammers, independent presiding officers.
- **Logistics –** Multi-stage exams to reduce systemic pressure, assigning test centres closer to students.
- **Reduced Outsourcing –** Strengthen internal test development, secure data.

References

1. Indian Express | NTA
2. NTA | NTA

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