

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](#)

