#### RADHAKRISHNAN PANEL: GOVERNANCE

**NEWS:** Radhakrishnan panel recommends restructuring of NTA, asks for better coordination with States

#### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The Radhakrishnan panel, formed after a NEET-UG exam paper leak, proposed reforms to enhance transparency, security, and efficiency in national entrance exams. Key recommendations include restructuring the NTA, adopting computer-adaptive testing, and strengthening digital infrastructure.

#### Radhakrishnan Panel Recommendations

#### 1. Formation and Mandate of the Dr. K Radhakrishnan Committee

- Context: The committee was constituted in June 2024 following a NEET-UG paper leak, exposing serious flaws in exam security.
- **Objective**: Tasked by the Ministry of Education to:
  - Recommend reforms in examination processes.
  - Strengthen data security protocols.
  - Improve the structure and functioning of the National Testing Agency (NTA).

#### 2. Key Recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Panel

#### A. Restructuring the National Testing Agency (NTA)

- Focus Areas: The NTA should prioritize conducting entrance exams and reduce dependence on outsourced agencies.
- Capacity Enhancement: Strengthen the NTA with domain-specific resources and leadership led by additional director generals.
- Streamlining Roles: Defer recruitment exams until NTA develops adequate infrastructure and capacity.

#### **B. Enhanced Role of State and District Authorities**

- Coordination Committees: Form committees with NTA, NIC, police, and intelligence agencies for smooth exam management.
- Secure Exam Centres: Implement strict measures such as:
  - Sealing centres under supervision.
  - Continuous CCTV monitoring.



• Appointment of a presiding officer at each centre.

### C. Improved Testing Processes and Security Measures

- Multi-Stage Testing: Introduce multi-session exams for fairness (especially for NEET-UG).
- Local Testing Centres: Allocate centres in candidates' districts to avoid logistical issues.
- Enhanced Security: Include measures like:
  - Encrypted question papers printed on-site.
  - Digital question paper delivery systems.
  - Biometric verification tools like Digi-Exam to prevent impersonation.

#### D. District-Level Testing Infrastructure

- Standardized Testing Centres: Establish at least one testing centre per district, supplemented by mobile centres for remote areas.
- **CBT Network**: Leverage Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas for creating standardized computer-based testing centres.
- Capacity Expansion: Aim for a capacity of 2-2.5 lakh test-takers per session, reducing reliance on private providers.

#### E. Adoption of Computer-Adaptive Testing

- Personalized Testing: Tailor questions in real-time to candidates' abilities, ensuring accurate and secure assessment.
- **Harmonization:** Standardize undergraduate admissions through this advanced testing mode.

#### F. Unified Testing Criteria

• Consistency: Introduce uniform eligibility and admission criteria across undergraduate programs.



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**Standardized Framework**: Ensure tests follow consistent modes, sessions, and frequencies.

# Committee's Recommendation

#### NTA OVERHAUL



NTA should focus on

entrance exams and take up other exams only after capacity augmentation

#### NTA should have a

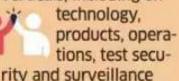


stronger governing body, with three subcommittees:

- → Test audit, ethics and transparency
- Nomination and staff conditions
- Stakeholder relationships

#### Additional secy-level

director general should be assisted by 10 verticals, including on



#### OTHER ISSUES

#### Creation of a Grievance

Reporting and Redres-



sal Cell backed with AI/ML mooted

**Need to strengthen** school education system



#### THE TEST



For exams involving over 2 lakh participants, multisession testing format spread

### over days suggested

### **Multi-stage**

testing for NEET-UG a 'viable possibility'

### Panel calls for

rationalisation of multiple subject streams in CUET



**Testing-centre allocation** policy recommended

# 'Strange' patterns

of choice should be detected through data analytics

# Panel moots

setting up standardised testing centres

# Mobile testing centers - possibly in a

bus with seating capacity for 40-50 mooted for remote, rural areas

## Hybrid computerised, pen-paper tests proposed:

- Encrypted question papers to be delivered to confidential servers BCCL 2024, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED at testing centres
  - → High-speed Question printers papers at testing distributed in centres PPT format



#### **G.** Development of Digital Infrastructure

- **Collaboration**: Work with educational institutions to build a nationwide network of CBT centres.
- **Infrastructure Expansion**: Enhance capacity and minimize operational risks for conducting large-scale digital exams.

#### 3. Broader Implications

- The recommendations aim to modernize and secure national-level entrance exams, ensuring greater **transparency**, **efficiency**, and **fairness**.
- Enhanced collaboration with state authorities and standardized digital infrastructure would create a robust, secure, and accessible examination ecosystem.

Source: <a href="https://www.thehindu.com/education/radhakrishnan-panel-recommends-restructuring-of-nta-asks-for-better-coordination-with-states/article68997163.ece">https://www.thehindu.com/education/radhakrishnan-panel-recommends-restructuring-of-nta-asks-for-better-coordination-with-states/article68997163.ece</a>

