



Restructuring of NTA

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Why in News?

A government-appointed panel, led by former ISRO chairman [K. Radhakrishnan](#), has recommended **extensive reforms** in the [National Testing Agency \(NTA\)](#).

What are the Key Recommendations for Restructuring the NTA?

- **Empowered Governance:** Create an empowered governing body with three sub-committees on **audit, ethics, and stakeholder relations**.
 - The **Director-General (DG)** should be at least of **additional secretary rank** and hold a dedicated leadership position.
- **'Digi Exam' System:** It suggests launching a **'Digi Exam'** system to prevent **impersonation**.
 - The process uses [Aadhaar](#), **biometrics**, and **AI analytics** to authenticate candidates' identities **at various stages** of the exam process.
- **Mobile Test Centers (MTCs):** Equip buses with **workstations, internet connectivity, and power supply** to reach remote locations like the **Northeast, Himalayan states, and islands**.
- **Hybrid Testing Methods:** **Encrypted question papers** are transmitted to the centralised servers of testing centers, printed securely, using **high-speed printers** for ensuring confidentiality.
- **Printing of Question Papers:** The printing press should undergo **pre-approval verification** and continuous monitoring throughout printing, packaging, and transportation.
 - Question papers and OMR sheets should be **uniquely coded and audited**.
- **Testing Innovations:** The panel recommended **three policy innovations**.
 - **Multi-Session Testing:** For large-scale exams, particularly when participant numbers **exceed two lakh**.
 - **Multi-Stage Testing:** Test to be conducted in **phases**, with **each stage** focusing on a **specific aspect** of the candidate's knowledge or skills.
 - **Cluster Approach:** Streamlining the wide range of subject streams for **CUET** admission into more **focused clusters of related subjects**.
- **Test Centre Allocation:** The panel proposed allocating testing centers **near candidates' residences** and establishing secure centers in each district.
 - The National Testing Agency should aim to **set up 1,000 secure centers**, prioritizing government institutions.
- **Permanent Staffing:** It recommended NTA to **hire permanent staff**.
- **Collaboration:** The NTA should collaborate with **Test Indenting Agencies**, including the [University Grants Commission \(UGC\)](#) and [Council of Scientific and Industrial Research \(CSIR\)](#), throughout the testing process.

What is the National Testing Agency?

- **About:** NTA was established in **2017** as a **Society** registered under the [Indian Societies Registration Act, of 1860](#).
- **Objective:** It is a **premier, specialist, autonomous and self-sustained** testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for admission/fellowship in **higher educational**

institutions. E.g., JEE (Main), CMAT, UGC - NET etc.

- **Governance:** NTA is chaired by an **eminent educationist** appointed by the **Ministry of Education**.
 - The Director General is assisted by **9 verticals headed by academicians/ experts**.
 - The **CEO** is the Director General appointed by the Government.

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