

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 334
ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025**

UGC-NET cancellation and leaks

334 Shri Saket Gokhale:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Ministry follows a written chain-of-custody protocol for paper setting, printing, transport and storage of all pen-and-paper exams conducted by NTA, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any deviation was recorded for UGC-NET June, 2024 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the evidence on which the Ministry based its claim that paper was leaked on the darknet; and
- (d) the timeline by when the high-level committee report on this matter will be made public and whether the Ministry plans to publish the forensic audit report on the incident?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)**

(a) to (d) The National Testing Agency (NTA) has been established by the Ministry of Education as a specialized body to conduct examinations for admission/fellowships in Higher Education Institutions. Since its inception in 2018, NTA has successfully conducted over 250 examinations involving over 5.5 crore candidates.

NTA has been conducting the UGC-NET Examination to determine the eligibility of candidates for Assistant Professor and/or Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) in universities and colleges since 2018. Examinations are conducted by NTA in accordance with laid out procedures to maintain confidentiality of examination material and integrity of examination process.

The UGC-NET June 2024 Examination conducted by NTA on 18.6.24 in pen and paper mode was cancelled after receipt of certain inputs alleging that integrity of the examination may have been compromised. The matter was entrusted to CBI and the examination was conducted afresh in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode between 21st August and 5th September, 2024. The Result of the examination was declared on 17th October 2024.

In order to suggest effective measures for transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations by NTA, the Ministry of Education constituted a High-Level Committee of Experts (HLCE) on 22.06.2024 headed by Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, former Chairman ISRO. The Committee has submitted its report on 21.10.2024. Abridged version of the report is available at:

https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/HLCE_Report.pdf
