

**SCOTTISH HIGH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

**2024**



**BACKGROUND GUIDE FOR  
NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY  
NTA  
ON THE AGENDA**

**REFORMS TO BRING IN THE JOINT ENTRANCE EXAM &  
NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY-CUM-ENTRANCE TEST WITH  
EMPHASIS ON STUDENT WELFARE**

**MOHD. SAUD UR REHMAN  
SIDDIQUI**

**CHAIRPERSON**

**DEBYANI KISHORE**

**VICE CHAIRPERSON**

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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Dear Delegates,

It is our distinct honour to write to all of you as your moderators. We would like to extend our warmest welcome to each one of you. Your participation in this esteemed conference is a testament to your dedication and commitment to global issues and diplomacy.

SHISMUN is not just a platform for debate, but a crucible for shaping future responsible citizens of this world. It is a forum where you will be challenged to broaden your perspectives, deepen your understanding, and strengthen your negotiation skills.

As we gather to deliberate on the critical agenda of “Reforms to Bring in the Joint Entrance Exam & National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test with Emphasis on Student Welfare,” we recognize the significance of our collective efforts in shaping educational opportunities for future generations. We encourage each one of you to bring your unique insights, ideas, and solutions to the table. Remember, every voice matters and every idea has the potential to bring about change.

As your moderators, we are here to facilitate and guide our discussions. We urge you to reach out to us should you have any queries or require any assistance.

Let us remember that while we may represent viewpoints, we are united in our goal to make this world a better place. We look forward to a fruitful and enlightening session with all of you.

Sincerely,

Mohd. Saud ur Rehman Siddiqui,  
Chairperson,  
NTA

Debyani Kishore,  
Vice Chairperson,  
NTA

## INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

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***“Education is a right, not a privilege; it is an opportunity, not an entitlement.”***

***-Arne Duncan***

Entrance examinations wield immense influence over the educational trajectory of countless students. In India, two pivotal exams—the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and the National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test (NEET)—hold the key to coveted engineering and medical institutions. However, recent controversies and mounting concerns have underscored the urgency of comprehensive reforms.

The National Testing Agency (NTA), an autonomous body under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, was established in November 2017. Its mandate includes conducting entrance examinations for admissions and recruitment in higher educational institutions related to engineering, medicine, management, and pharmacy. The NTA operates with a governing body comprising a chairperson, a secretary, and officials representing different national-level institutes. Decisions related to exam patterns, syllabi, and evaluation methods are taken collectively by this body. Despite its pivotal role, the NTA’s inner workings and decision-making processes remain relatively opaque. Transparency and accountability in decision-making are essential to build trust among students, parents, and educational stakeholders.

The JEE, administered by the NTA, serves as the gateway to premier engineering colleges across the nation. It evaluates students’ proficiency in physics, chemistry, and mathematics. Yet, beneath its academic rigor lies a darker reality: the intense competition and relentless pressure associated with JEE preparation often exact a toll on students’ mental well-being.

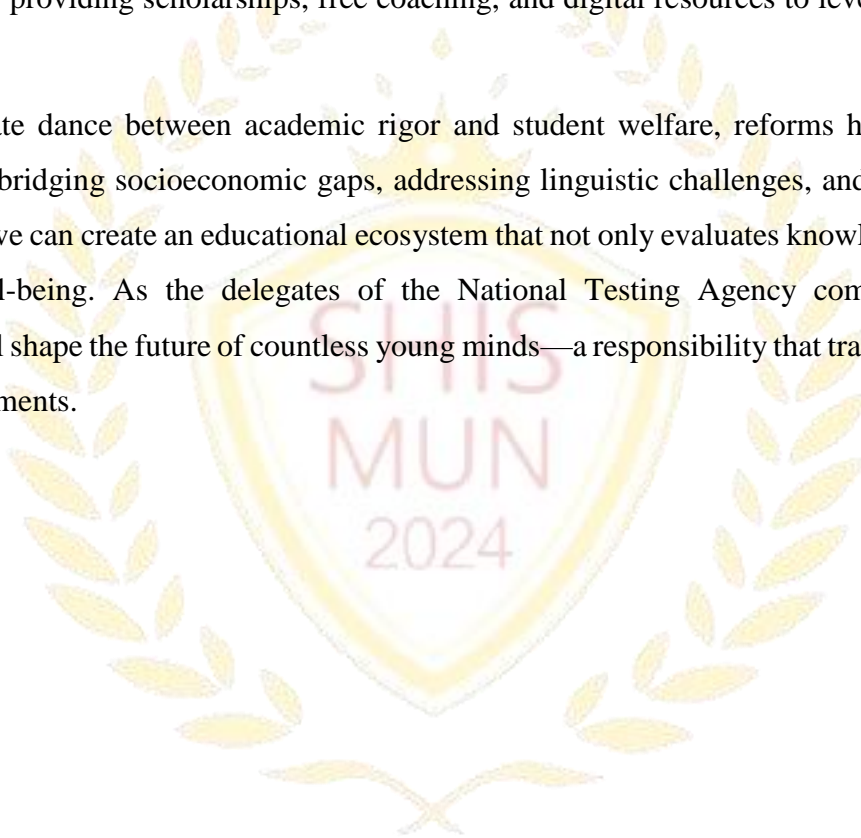
NEET-UG, another NTA-conducted exam, determines admission to medical and dental courses. While it ensures uniformity in evaluation, legal battles have erupted. State-run universities and medical colleges contest NEET, citing concerns about institutional autonomy and the potential impact on regional diversity in medical education.

The NEET-UG exam, conducted by the NTA, determines admission to medical and dental courses. However, the 2024 NEET exam sparked outrage due to significant discrepancies. Candidates secured unusually high marks, raising suspicions of irregularities. Allegations of

paper leaks and errors in question papers further fueled concerns. Legal challenges ensued, with students and parents demanding a re-test and filing petitions in courts. This controversy underscores the urgent need for rigorous quality control, robust security measures, and transparent handling of exam-related matters. The Supreme Court's intervention emphasized that even minor negligence should be thoroughly addressed.

The JEE and NEET exams, while ostensibly meritocratic, inadvertently magnify existing socio-economic disparities. Students from affluent backgrounds often have access to high-quality coaching centers, personalized study materials, and mock tests. In contrast, those from economically disadvantaged families face an uphill battle. Reforms must address this imbalance by providing scholarships, free coaching, and digital resources to level the playing field.

In the intricate dance between academic rigor and student welfare, reforms hold immense promise. By bridging socioeconomic gaps, addressing linguistic challenges, and reimagining assessment, we can create an educational ecosystem that not only evaluates knowledge but also nurtures well-being. As the delegates of the National Testing Agency committee, your decisions will shape the future of countless young minds—a responsibility that transcends mere policy adjustments.



## QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

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Here are some points for discussion which may be raised during our discussions,

1. How can we ensure that economically disadvantaged students receive adequate coaching and resources for JEE and NEET preparation?
2. What steps can be taken to reduce the stress and anxiety faced by aspirants during the exam season?
3. Should JEE and NEET be conducted in multiple languages to accommodate regional diversity?
4. How can we regulate the coaching industry to prevent unethical practices and exorbitant fees?
5. Is there a need to explore alternative assessment methods beyond traditional pen-and-paper exams?
6. What strategies can be employed to make coaching and exam fees more affordable?
7. How can technology improve the efficiency and security of exam administration?
8. Should reservation policies be re-evaluated to strike a better balance between merit and social justice?
9. What post-exam support mechanisms can be established for students who do not qualify?
10. How can we involve parents, teachers, and students in shaping exam reforms?

*Note: Please remember that this is not an exhaustive list and the delegates need not limit themselves to these sub-topics.*

## APPENDIX

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### HOW TO READ THE BACKGROUND GUIDE

This guide is designed to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the committee and its agenda. It is advised to read through each section carefully and conduct further research as needed.

Nevertheless, this guide is only meant to be a tool to provide a nudge in the right direction, and must not be treated as a repository of everything you shall need for the discussions. Further research is strongly recommended.

### RULES OF PROCEDURE

NTA shall follow the standard UNA-USA Rules of Procedure while conducting its business. It must be noted that procedural strictures are only meant to ease our proceedings, and not further complicate them, hence, great substance and minor procedural irregularities may not be to your disadvantage, but poor substance and strict adherence to procedure shall definitely not be to your advantage!

### WHICH SOURCES ARE ACCEPTED

Delegates are encouraged to use reliable sources such as government reports, academic articles, and reputable news outlets for their research. Other sources may be admitted at the discretion of the moderators.

### OTHER RESOURCES

1. Syllabus for JEE (Main) 2024. ([Link](#))
2. Syllabus for NEET (UG) 2024. ([Link](#))
3. Question Paper JEE (Main) 2024. ([Link](#))
4. Question Paper NEET (UG) 2024. ([Link](#))