



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

NEET-UG 2026 Cancelled: NTA Annuls Paper-Leak Exam, CBI Takes Over Probe

14 May 2026

SOCIAL ISSUES**POLITY**

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

epicbharat@gmail.com

NEET-UG 2026 Cancelled: NTA Annuls Paper-Leak Exam, CBI Takes Over Probe

14 May 2026 · 5 min read · 2 tags

WHY IN NEWS

The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** on **May 12, 2026** cancelled the **National Eligibility cum Entrance Test – Undergraduate (NEET-UG) 2026** held on **May 3, 2026**, after a paper leak was confirmed. The **Ministry of Education** has transferred the investigation to the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. **Rajasthan Police Special Operations Group (SOG)** has arrested two suspects – **Manish Yadav** and **Rakesh Mandavriya** – in **Sikar (Rajasthan)**. NTA Director General **Abhishek Singh** confirmed a re-examination within **6-8 days** with a fee refund for the roughly **23 lakh candidates** affected.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
May 3, 2026	NEET-UG 2026 conducted across approximately 5,000 centres
May 6-8, 2026	Social-media circulation of a “guess paper” with ~410 questions; 120 Chemistry questions matched the actual paper
May 9, 2026	Rajasthan SOG detains coaching operators in Sikar
May 11, 2026	NTA admits “isolated breach”; Education Ministry refers matter to CBI
May 12, 2026	NTA cancels exam; CBI formally takes over; arrests in Sikar
Expected re-exam	Within 6-8 days

THE LEAK CHAIN

Source – Nashik Printing Press

- Paper printing for NEET-UG is carried out at a small network of **NTA-empanelled secure presses**
- A **Nashik printing-press chain** was identified as the apparent point of origin

Transit – Sikar Coaching Hub

- Sikar (Rajasthan) is one of India’s major medical-coaching hubs (alongside Kota)
- Leaked content reached coaching operators who marketed a “guess paper” of about **410 questions**, of which **120 Chemistry questions** were near-identical to the actual paper

Arrests

- **Manish Yadav** and **Rakesh Mandavriya** – arrested by Rajasthan SOG
- CBI now investigating: paper transit, financial trail, role of NTA-empanelled vendors

NTA – INSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND

FEATURE	DETAIL
Established	2017 as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860
Parent Ministry	Ministry of Education
Current DG	Abhishek Singh
Examinations	NEET-UG, JEE (Main), CUET-UG/PG, UGC-NET, CSIR-UGC NET, NCHM-JEE, NID-DAT, NIFT
Scale	~ 3.5-4 crore unique candidates across exams annually

The agency is structurally distinct from the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** (Article 315) and the **Staff Selection Commission (SSC)** (executive body). UPSC is a constitutional body; NTA is a society.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024

- Punishes paper leaks with **imprisonment of 3-10 years** and **fine up to Rs 1 crore**

- “Organised cheating” attracts **enhanced punishment up to 10 years and Rs 1 crore minimum fine** for entities
- Applies to NTA, UPSC, SSC, Railway Recruitment Boards, IBPS, NEET, JEE, CUET, NET
- Non-bailable, non-compoundable, cognizable

National Medical Commission Act, 2019

- Section 14 mandates a **single common uniform NEET** for admission to MBBS, BDS, Ayush, and PG medical courses
- Replaced the **Indian Medical Council Act, 1956**
- Quashes the multiple-entrance regime that prevailed pre-2019

NEET as a Single-Window Test

- Made mandatory after the **Modern Dental College v. State of Madhya Pradesh (2016)** ruling
- The Supreme Court has held NEET conformable with **Article 14, 19 and 21** in cases including **Christian Medical College, Vellore (2020)**

2024 VERSUS 2026 – THE TWO NTA CONTROVERSIES

PARAMETER	2024 NEET-UG	2026 NEET-UG
Issue	Grace-mark anomaly + suspected leak in Bihar/Gujarat	Confirmed leak via printing-press chain to Sikar coaching nexus
Outcome	Limited re-test for 1,563 candidates (those with grace marks)	Full cancellation of NEET-UG; re-exam in 6-8 days
Agency response	High-Level Committee on Examination Reforms (Radhakrishnan Committee)	CBI investigation; Public Examinations Act invoked

CBI – POWERS IN THIS CASE

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation** derives powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946**
- It is functionally an investigating agency under the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**
- For investigation in a State without that State’s consent (Section 6, DSPE), the Centre relies on **Section 5** (extension of jurisdiction by Union notification)

- Recent trend: Several States including West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Kerala have withdrawn **general consent** to the CBI – but consent is not required where the offence relates to **Union employees or institutions** like the NTA

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

Systemic

- The episode highlights persistent vulnerabilities at the **printing and transit stage** of high-stakes exams
- Calls have grown for **fully computer-based NEET-UG** – a recommendation of the **Radhakrishnan Committee (2024)**

Federal

- States including Tamil Nadu have moved Bills to **exempt their students from NEET**; the President has so far withheld assent
- The Centre’s position rests on **Entry 66, Union List** – “coordination and determination of standards in institutions of higher education”

Equity

- 23 lakh candidates with a single chance per year suffer immense psychological and financial cost
- Need for a **second-attempt window** within the same academic year

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2 – Polity, Governance

- Statutory and regulatory bodies; NTA as a society vs UPSC as constitutional body
- Centre-State relations on examinations; Article 246; Concurrent List Entry 25 (Education)
- CBI – DSPE Act 1946, general consent

GS Paper 3 – Internal Security

- Organised paper-leak as a national-security and economic-offence concern

Mains Angles

- 1 Discuss the institutional design of the National Testing Agency. Does its society-status under the 1860 Act suit the scale of examinations it conducts?

- 2 Evaluate the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. Will deterrence alone fix the paper-leak problem?
- 3 The NEET regime raises Centre-State concerns. Examine in light of Article 246 and Entry 66 of the Union List.

*National Testing Agency; society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860; established **2017** under the Ministry of Education; conducts NEET-UG, JEE (Main), CUET, UGC-NET, CSIR-UGC-NET, NCHM-JEE, NID-DAT, NIFT-entrance.*

*Statutory single entrance for MBBS/BDS/Ayush under **Section 14 of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019.***

Replaced the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956; created the National Medical Commission (NMC); restructured Indian medical regulation.

*Established in 1963 by a Government resolution; derives statutory powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946**; under DoPT.*

*Enacted to deter exam frauds; up to **10 years' imprisonment** and **Rs 1 crore fine**; covers NTA, UPSC, SSC, RRB, IBPS.*

High-Level Committee on Examination Reforms, chaired by former ISRO Chairman K. Radhakrishnan; recommended computer-based testing, multi-stage exams, single secure question-paper bank.

SC upheld the NEET regime under Articles 19(6) and 30.

Section 6 – States may grant or withdraw general consent to CBI; West Bengal, TN, Punjab, Kerala among those that have withdrawn (as of 2025).

Kota (Rajasthan) for JEE/NEET; Sikar (Rajasthan), Hyderabad and Patna as secondary centres.

*NEET-UG 2026 had approximately **23 lakh candidates** – the world's largest single medical-entrance examination.*

[← NEWER ARTICLE](#)

[Current Affairs Today -- May 14, 2026](#)

[OLDER ARTICLE →](#)

[WPI April 2026: Wholesale Inflation Surges to 42-Month High...](#)

RELATED EDITORIALS

THE HINDU

[Testing Troubles: NTA, NEET-UG 2026, and the Credibility Crisis](#)

14 May

THE HINDU

[Plea Bargaining: A Reform the New Criminal Laws Missed](#)

14 May

INDIAN EXPRESS

[Plea Bargaining: The Reform Three New Laws Missed](#)

14 May

INDIAN EXPRESS

[Closing India's Cervical Cancer Gap: Prevention, Equity, and the HPV Vaccine](#)

14 May

RELATED KEY TERMS

KEY TERM

[42nd Amendment Freeze on Delimitation](#)

The constitutional freeze that locked Lok Sabha seat allocation to the...

KEY TERM

[Active Case Finding \(TB\)](#)

A proactive public health strategy where health workers systematically...

KEY TERM

[Advance Directive \(Living Will\)](#)

A legal document in which a competent adult specifies their medical...

KEY TERM

[AFSPA \(Armed Forces Special Powers Act\)](#)

A central legislation granting special powers to armed forces...



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/05/14/neet-ug-2026-cancellation-nta-cbi-probe/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com)

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com