

CHAPTER - 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. About the National Testing Agency (NTA)

The Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India (GoI) has established the National Testing Agency (NTA) as an independent, autonomous, and self-sustained premier testing organization under the Societies Registration Act (1860) for conducting efficient, transparent, and international standardized tests in order to assess the competency of candidates for admission to higher education institutions with a mission to improve equity and quality in education by developing and administering research-based valid, reliable, efficient, transparent, fair and international level assessments.

NTA has created a system that promotes teaching (by teachers), learning (by students), and assessment (by parents and institutions). NTA strongly believes in the quality, efficiency, effectiveness, equity, and security of assessments. To practice these values, NTA is constantly engaging with its stakeholders, viz. students, parents, teachers, experts, and partner institutions.

The objectives of NTA, *inter alia*, include:

1. To conduct efficient, transparent, and international standardized tests in order to assess the competency of candidates for admission.
2. To undertake research on educational, professional, and testing systems to identify gaps in the knowledge systems and take steps for bridging them.
3. To produce and disseminate information and research on education and professional development standards.

The National Testing Agency has been entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the Common University Entrance Test (UG) for admission into the Undergraduate programmes/ courses for all the Central Universities (CUs) for the **Academic session 2025-2026**.

1.2. About Central Universities (CUs)

Central Universities or Union Universities in India are established by an Act of Parliament and are under the purview of the Department of Higher Education in the Ministry of Education. In general, Universities in India are recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC), which draws its power from the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. Central universities, in addition, are covered by the Central Universities Act, 2009, which regulates their purpose, powers, governance, etc.

1.3. About Common University Entrance Test (CUET (UG)-2025)

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET) Scores will be used for admission into UG Programmes in all Central Universities/ Participating Universities for Academic session 2025-26. The Common University Entrance Test (CUET) will provide a common platform and equal opportunities to candidates across the country, especially those from rural and other remote areas, and help establish better connections with the Universities. A single Examination will enable the Candidates to cover a wide outreach and be part of the