



National Recruitment Agency

Why in News

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has decided to set up a [National Recruitment Agency \(NRA\)](#) to conduct a **common preliminary examination** for various recruitments in the central government.

Key Points

▪ About:

- The NRA will conduct the **Common Eligibility Test (CET)** for recruitment to **non-gazetted posts** in government and public sector banks.
 - Approximately 1.25 lakh government jobs are advertised every year for which 2.5 crore aspirants appear in various examinations.
- This test aims to **replace multiple examinations** conducted by different recruiting agencies for selection to government jobs advertised each year, with a **single online** test.
 - The Government also plans to provide outreach and awareness facilities to assist candidates in rural and far flung areas to familiarize them with the online examination system.
 - A 24x7 helpline will be set up for answering queries, complaints and queries.
- The present recruitment agencies- **Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS)**— will remain in place.
- Based on the preliminary screening done at the CET score level, final selection for recruitment shall be made through **separate specialised Tiers** (II, III, etc.) of examination which shall be **conducted by the respective recruitment agencies**.

▪ Salient Features of CET:

- The Common Eligibility Test will be held **twice a year**.
- There will be different CETs for **graduate level, 12th Pass level and 10th pass level** to facilitate recruitment to vacancies at various levels.
- The curriculum for CET would be **common**.
- The CET will be conducted in **12 major Indian languages**. This is a major change, as hitherto examinations for recruitment to Central Government jobs were held **only in English and Hindi**.
- Initially, CET will cover recruitments made by three agencies : viz. SSC, RRB and IBPS at **Group B and C (non -technical)** posts. This will be expanded in a phased manner.
- CET will be held in **1,000 centres** across India in a bid to remove the currently prevalent urban bias. There will be an examination centre in **every district** of the country. There will be a special thrust on creating **examination infrastructure in the 117 aspirational districts**.
- CET will be a first level test to shortlist candidates and the score will be **valid for three years**.
- There shall be **no restriction on the number of attempts** to be taken by a candidate to

appear in the CET subject to the **upper age limit**.

- Age relaxation for **SC/ST and OBC** candidates as per existing rules will apply.

▪ **About NRA:**

- National Recruitment Agency will be a Society registered under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- It will be headed by a **Chairman** of the rank of the Secretary to the Government of India. It will have **representatives** of the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, the SSC, RRB & IBPS.
- The Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1517.57 crore for the National Recruitment Agency (NRA).
- The expenditure will be undertaken over a **period of three years**.
- It is envisioned that the NRA would be a specialist body bringing the state-of-the-art technology and best practices to the field of Central Government recruitment.

▪ **Need:**

- At present, candidates seeking government jobs have to appear for separate examinations conducted by **multiple recruiting agencies** for various posts.
- Candidates have to **pay fees** to multiple recruiting agencies and also have to travel long distances for appearing in various exams.
- **Women candidates** especially from rural areas **face constraints** in appearing in multiple examinations as they have to arrange for transportation and places to stay in places that are far away.

▪ **Advantages for Students:**

- Removes the **hassle** of appearing in multiple examinations.
- Single examination fee would **reduce the financial burden** that multiple exams imposed.
- Since exams will be held in every district, it would substantially **save travel and lodging cost** for the candidates. Examination in their own district would encourage more and **more women candidates** also to apply for government jobs.
- Applicants are required to register on a **single Registration portal**.
- It will also prevent the issue of **clashing examination dates**.

▪ **Advantages for Institutions:**

- Removes the **hassle of conducting preliminary/screening tests** of candidates.
- Drastically **reduces the time of recruitment cycle**.
- Brings **standardization** in examination pattern.
- **Reduces costs** for different recruiting agencies. **Rs 600 crore savings** expected.

Staff Selection Commission

- The Staff Selection Commission is an **attached office of the Department of Personnel and Training** under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**.
- The Government of India, in the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, vide its resolution dated the 4th November 1975 constituted a Commission called the Subordinate Services Commission. The same was re-designated as Staff Selection Commission effective from 26th September 1977.
- It makes recruitment to various **Group "B" and Group "C" posts** in the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and in Subordinate Offices.
- It has its headquarters in **New Delhi**.

Institute of Banking Personnel Selection

- IBPS is an **autonomous body** formed in 1984.
- It is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and also a Public Trust under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950.
- It was created to render **assistance to organisations in the areas of personnel such as recruitment, selection, placement, etc.**

- It has its headquarters in **Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

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