



सत्यमेव जयते



राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी
National Testing Agency

Excellence in Assessment

(उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग, शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के तहत एक स्वायत्त संगठन)
(An Autonomous Organization under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India)

Government of India
Ministry of Education
National Testing Agency

PRESS RELEASE

**NTA Fully Prepared for Smooth and Secure Conduct of NEET (UG) 2026
on 3 May 2026**

*Examination to be held across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad for over
22.79 lakh candidates*

New Delhi, 2 May 2026 — The National Testing Agency (NTA) is fully prepared for the conduct of **NEET (UG) 2026**, scheduled on **Sunday, 3 May 2026** from **2:00 PM to 5:00 PM (IST)** in pen-and-paper mode. Candidates with disabilities (PwD/PwBD) eligible for compensatory time will be permitted to write the examination up to 6:00 PM.

The examination will be conducted across **551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad**, at **over 5,432 centres**, for approximately **22.79 lakh registered candidates** — making NEET (UG) 2026 one of the largest entrance examinations in the world.

Large-Scale Mobilisation and Coordinated Effort

The conduct of NEET (UG) 2026 involves close coordination across multiple agencies and levels of administration:

- **674 City Coordinators** overseeing city-level operations
- **More than 6,000 Observers** deployed for independent oversight at examination centres
- **Centre Superintendents and Invigilators** at every examination centre
- Active support of **District Administrations, Police Forces and Escort Teams**, particularly for the secure transportation of confidential materials

In all, **over 2 lakh personnel** have been mobilised to ensure the smooth conduct of the examination for 22.79 lakh candidates.



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Security and Monitoring Framework

NTA has put in place a multi-layered security framework to ensure a fair and transparent examination:

- End-to-end secure handling of confidential materials to designated locations under sealed protocols
- GPS-enabled vehicles with police escort for the movement of examination materials
- CCTV surveillance at all examination centres, with feeds linked to centralised control rooms
- Mandatory **frisking through high-sensitivity metal detectors** before entry, with strengthened manpower and equipment at every centre
- Aadhaar-based **biometric authentication** to prevent impersonation
- Real-time monitoring through centralised control systems

In addition, **active monitoring of social media platforms** is being undertaken to curb misinformation and prevent malpractice. **More than 65 Telegram channels** have been blocked for circulating fake question papers and false rumours intended to mislead and defraud candidates. NTA has filed complaints with cyber-crime authorities and is taking strict action against those involved.

Provision for Biometric Verification Exceptions

Per NTA's advisory dated 29 April 2026, candidates whose biometric verification cannot be completed at the examination centre due to **technical malfunction of devices, poor fingerprint quality, UIDAI connectivity issues, or any physical inability** will **not be denied entry** to the examination hall. Such candidates will be required to sign a written undertaking — the format of which will be made available at the centre with the Centre Superintendent or Observer — and will then be permitted to write the examination without disturbance during the main exam window. Manual identity verification will be carried out using valid documents in such cases.

Candidate-Centric Facilitation Measures

In view of the large candidate volume and prevailing summer conditions, NTA has put the following arrangements in place at every examination centre:

- Reliable **power back-up**, including generators, at all centres
- Adequate **electricity, lighting and fans** to ensure candidate comfort during the afternoon shift
- **Drinking water, sanitation and on-site medical support**



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- All candidates can carry a **Transparent Water Bottle**
- Additional **biometric machines and trained personnel** deployed to expedite verification
- **Diabetic candidates** permitted to carry sugar tablets and fruits (banana, apple, orange) with a transparent water bottle, in line with existing NTA guidelines
- **Travel and weather advisories** issued in advance, urging candidates to plan travel early and verify centre addresses from the admit card

Reporting Time and Entry Schedule

Candidates must report to their examination centre in the window of **11:00 AM to 1:30 PM**. Entry gates will close **sharp at 1:30 PM**, and **no candidate will be permitted entry thereafter** under any circumstance.

To facilitate timely entry:

- Candidates wearing customary or religious attire and those wishing to wear full-sleeves or woollens are advised to report **early** to allow time for thorough frisking
- Candidates are advised to verify the exact address of their examination centre from the admit card. **Map applications may show incorrect pins** for some centres and should not be relied upon as the sole reference
- Candidates must carry a printed copy of the admit card, one original valid photo ID and two passport-size photographs for affixing on the attendance sheet

Advisory to Candidates

Candidates appearing for NEET (UG) 2026 are advised to:

- Reach the examination centre well before the reporting window, accounting for traffic and weather
- Strictly follow the **dress code and permissible items advisory** issued on 30 April 2026, available on neet.nta.nic.in
- Carry only permitted items and adhere strictly to examination guidelines; mobile phones, smart watches, Bluetooth devices, calculators, wallets, jewellery, metallic accessories and food packets are not allowed inside the examination hall
- Rely only on official communications from **neet.nta.nic.in**



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- Not fall prey to rumours or fraudulent claims of question paper leaks; report suspicious messages or channels to NTA or to cyber-crime authorities
- Trust their own preparation and remain calm — for any concerns related to mental well-being, NTA has earlier shared official helplines including **Tele-MANAS (14416)**, the 24x7 national mental health helpline

Helpline and Contact Information

Candidates may reach out to NTA for any clarification through the following channels (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM):

- Helpline: **011-40759000 / 011-69227700**
- Email: **neetug2026@nta.ac.in**
- Website: **neet.nta.nic.in**

Commitment to Fair and Transparent Conduct

The National Testing Agency reaffirms its commitment to conducting NEET (UG) 2026 with integrity, transparency and operational efficiency. The Agency thanks State Governments, Union Territory administrations, district authorities, police forces, examination functionaries and the candidates themselves for their cooperation. The entire administrative machinery stands ready to ensure the smooth and fair conduct of the examination across India and abroad on 3 May 2026.

Issued by:

National Testing Agency

Ministry of Education, Government of India

Date: 2 May 2026



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