

Ballari Students Protest NTA, Demand Abolition

Students in Ballari protested police action against Sonam Wangchuk and demanded the abolition of the National Testing Agency (NTA).

The National Testing Agency (NTA) is an Indian government agency responsible for conducting entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Members of the **All India Democratic Students' Organisation** (AIDSO) staged a protest near OPD Circle in **Ballari** on **July 18, 2026**.
- The protest condemned the alleged forced removal of **educationist** and **environmental activist Sonam Wangchuk** and other fasting protestors.
- **AIDSO** district president **K. Eranna** alleged repeated irregularities in examinations conducted by the **National Testing Agency** (NTA).
- These irregularities, including **NEET-UG**, had jeopardised the future of **lakhs of students** across the country.
- The students demanded democratic talks and the **abolition** of the **National Testing Agency**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **National Testing Agency** (NTA) was established in **2017** by the **Ministry of Education** (then MHRD).

NTA functions as an **independent, autonomous**, and self-sustained premier testing organization.

It conducts major entrance examinations such as **NEET (UG)**, **JEE (Main)**, **CUET (UG/PG)**, and **UGC NET**.

NEET-UG is the single entrance examination for admission to undergraduate medical (**MBBS**) and dental (**BDS**) courses in India.

The **National Medical Commission** (NMC) is the **statutory body** that regulates medical education and medical professionals in India.

Article 21A of the Indian Constitution guarantees the **Right to Education** for all children between the ages of **six and fourteen years**.

The **86th Constitutional Amendment Act** of **2002** inserted **Article 21A** into the Constitution.

Sonam Wangchuk is an Indian **engineer**, innovator, and **education reformist**, known for his work in **Ladakh**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Students in Ballari protested against the National Testing Agency (NTA) due to alleged exam irregularities.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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