



# Department of Higher Education

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## Why in News?

- The **Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee (DRPSC)** on *Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports* presented a report reviewing the performance of **Autonomous Bodies (ABs)** under the Department of Higher Education.

**What are Autonomous Bodies?** Set up either through:

- a. A specific Act of Parliament, or
- b. Registration under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
  - They receive government funding but enjoy functional autonomy.

## Key Issues Highlighted by DRPSC

### 1. National Testing Agency (NTA)

- **Leakages** ? e.g., **NEET-UG** paper leak.
- **Postponement** of CUET due to tech glitches.
- Delays in **result declarations**.
- Poor **vendor management** for exam centres/software.

### 2. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

- **Long, bureaucratic accreditation processes**.
- Allegations of **corruption** and subjective assessment.

### 3. University Grants Commission (UGC)

- **Vacant Chairperson post**.
- Delay in finalising **UGC Regulations 2025**.
- **Infrastructure deficits** in HEIs.
- Issues in **faculty recruitment**, including **EWS quota appointments**.

### 4. Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)

- **Inadequate budget** to support research grants, fellowships, and publications.

### 5. Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

- Non-implementation of **7th Pay Commission** recommendations.
- **Staff shortages** and administrative delays.