

NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY

(An Autonomous Organization under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education,
Government of India)

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PRESS BRIEFING NOTE

Date: 10 May 2026

Subject: Commencement of the Common University Entrance Test (Undergraduate) — CUET (UG) 2026 — on 11 May 2026.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) will commence the **Common University Entrance Test (Undergraduate) — CUET (UG) 2026** tomorrow, **11 May 2026**, in Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode. The examination will be conducted from **11 May to 31 May 2026** across India and at **14 international cities across 13 countries**, including in Sharjah and Abu Dhabi (UAE), Riyadh (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Kuwait, Kathmandu (Nepal), Doha (Qatar), Muscat (Oman), Manama (Bahrain), Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), and Washington DC — ranking among the **largest computer-based examinations conducted globally**. The complete list of overseas centres is at **Annexure-I**.

2. Scale of the Examination

A total of **15,68,866 candidates** have registered for CUET (UG) 2026. Under the flexibility offered to candidates to opt for up to five subjects each, the registrations have generated an aggregate of approximately **67,56,321 test instances** across **12,906 distinct subject combinations**, with candidates opting for an average of **4.31 subjects** each. To accommodate this scale and diversity while safeguarding examination integrity, the test is being conducted across **35 shifts** over the 21-day examination window.

Approximately **6,74,352 registrations** — **about 43% of the total** — originate from **three states**: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Delhi.

The **most opted subjects** (in descending order of candidate registrations) are: **English (12.64 lakh)**, **Chemistry (9.51 lakh)**, **Physics (9.14 lakh)**, **General Aptitude Test (9.12 lakh)**, **Mathematics / Applied Mathematics (5.81 lakh)**, and **Biology / Biotechnology (5.56 lakh)**.

3. Examination City Allocation

Vide Press Release dated 05 May 2026, the NTA communicated that **96.6% of candidates have been allotted one of their preferred cities** and **79% have been allotted their first choice of city**. A re-allocation window was opened on a first-come-first-serve basis for the remaining 3.4% of candidates whose preferences could not be accommodated due to capacity constraints in high-demand locations. Revised admit cards reflecting the final allocation have since been released.

4. Day 1 — 11 May 2026: At a Glance

The opening day of the examination will be conducted in two shifts at examination centres across the country:

Particulars	Shift I	Shift II	Total
Examination Centres	314	281	—
Candidates Registered	63,247	60,773	1,24,020
Subjects Scheduled	8	8	—

Subjects scheduled on Day 1:

Shift I: English; Accountancy / Book Keeping; Business Studies; Chemistry; Economics / Business Economics; Geography / Geology; History; and Political Science.

Shift II: English; Accountancy / Book Keeping; Business Studies; Computer Science / Informatics Practices; Economics / Business Economics; History; Political Science; and Sociology.

5. Facilitation for PwD / PwBD Candidates

In line with established practice, the NTA has provided full facilitation for **Persons with Disabilities (PwD) / Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD)** candidates, including scribe and compensatory time arrangements at examination centres. The window for affected candidates to furnish scribe details was extended to ensure that no eligible candidate is left without support.

6. Candidate Advisory

Must-carry items at the centre: Candidates are reminded to carry, at the minimum — (i) printed Admit Card with Self Declaration duly filled in; (ii) two passport-size photographs (same as uploaded in the online Application Form); (iii) an original, valid Photo ID proof — the same one uploaded during the online application; and (iv) a transparent ball-point pen. The detailed advisory follows below.

Drawing from the Public Notice dated 7 May 2026, the CUET (UG) 2026 Information Bulletin (Chapter 8), and the Exam Day Guidelines issued by the NTA through official communications, candidates appearing for the examination are advised of the following:

6.1 Items permitted inside the examination centre

Only the following items are permitted inside the examination centre:

- Transparent water bottle.
- Transparent ball point pen.

- **Print copy of Admit Card** along with the Self Declaration (Undertaking) duly filled in.
- **Two passport-size photographs** (same as uploaded in the online Application Form), for affixing on the attendance sheet at the centre.
- **Original, valid Photo ID proof** — candidates must carry the **same Photo ID proof** that was uploaded during the online application process. Acceptable IDs include School Identity Card, PAN Card, Passport, Aadhaar Card (with photograph), e-Aadhaar with photograph, Class 12 Board Admit Card with photograph, or Bank Passbook with photograph.
- **Diabetic-related eatables** (such as sugar tablets, banana, apple, or orange) — only for candidates who are diabetic.
- **PwD / PwBD certificate** issued by the authorised medical officer, if claiming relaxation under the PwD/PwBD category.

6.2 Dress code and articles of faith

- White, light clothing is preferred.
- Woollens are permitted, subject to reporting at the centre well in advance to enable frisking.
- Normal shoes, slippers, and low heels are the preferred footwear.
- Articles or objects of faith — including religious threads such as *kalava* — are permitted. Candidates wearing religious or customary attire are advised to report at the examination centre well in advance for mandatory frisking and checking.

6.3 Photo and identity verification

- Candidates must carry the **same Photo ID proof** that was uploaded during the online application process. A different ID will not be accepted.
- Candidates whose **live photograph at the examination centre does not match** the photograph on their Aadhaar or registered Photo ID proof must carry the **required original certificate duly attested by the competent authority** for verification at the centre.

6.4 Reporting and general instructions

- Candidates should **carefully verify** the allotted examination city, centre, date and shift as mentioned on the admit card.
- Candidates should **reach the allotted examination centre well before the reporting time** — additional time will be required for frisking, particularly for those wearing religious/customary attire or woollens.
- Candidates are advised **not to carry** prohibited items such as mobile phones, electronic devices, smart watches, calculators, wallets, geometry boxes, or any other unauthorised material. The NTA shall not provide any facility to safe-keep such items at the centre.


7. Support for Candidates

A dedicated NTA Help Desk is operational to address candidate queries:

- **Helpline:** +91-11-40759000
- **Email:** cu-et-ug@nta.ac.in
- **Websites:** <https://nta.ac.in> | <https://cu-et.nta.nic.in>

8. Conduct of Examination

Elaborate arrangements have been made by the NTA, in coordination with examination centres and concerned authorities, to ensure the smooth, secure, and fair conduct of the examination. The NTA reaffirms its commitment to a transparent, candidate-friendly, and fair examination process and extends its best wishes to all candidates appearing for CUET (UG) 2026.


(Dr. Archana Shukla, ISS)
Director
National Testing Agency

ANNEXURE-I

List of CUET (UG) 2026 Examination Cities outside India

As per Appendix-III of the CUET (UG) 2026 Information Bulletin, the examination will be conducted at the following 14 cities outside India:

S. No.	Country	City	City Code
1	Bahrain	Manama	ZZ01
2	Germany	Munich	ZZ02
3	Indonesia	West Java	ZZ14
4	Kuwait	Kuwait	ZZ10
5	Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	ZZ11
6	Nepal	Kathmandu	ZZ05
7	Nigeria	Lagos	ZZ12
8	Oman	Muscat	ZZ06
9	Qatar	Doha	ZZ03
10	Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	ZZ07
11	Singapore	Singapore	ZZ09
12	UAE — Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi	ZZ13
13	UAE — Sharjah	Sharjah	ZZ08
14	USA	Washington DC	ZZ15

Source: CUET (UG) 2026 Information Bulletin, Appendix-III, National Testing Agency.

