

CBSE Question Papers Leak

What is the issue?

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- The CBSE recently announced of re-conducting two of the Board exam papers due to question paper leak.

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- It calls for changes to exam methodology and immediate measures by CBSE to restore its credibility.

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What happened?

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- The Class 12 Economics and Class 10 Maths examinations question papers were found to be leaked.

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- Police received two separate complaints in Delhi.

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- Following complaints, the CBSE announced to re-conduct the exams.

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- The Delhi Police registered two separate FIRs under IPC Section 420 [cheating] and 406 [criminal breach of trust].

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- The case has been transferred to the Crime Branch for further investigation.

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What is the concern?

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- The question papers are usually sealed and stored in secret places.

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- They are released to authorised officials with a window of only a few hours.

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- In addition, the board has dedicated secrecy officers for each region.
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- But clearly, the standard operating procedure was easily breached in the present case.
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- The questions were circulated on instant messaging platforms.
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- It is evident that the Ministry of Human Resource Development failed to assign top priority to secrecy and integrity of the process.
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What is the way forward?

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- **Inquiry** - The HRD Ministry should conduct a thorough inquiry to get at the truth and initiate remedial steps without delay.
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- **Authority** - The National Testing Agency was cleared by the Union Cabinet last year.
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- The Centre assured that this would soon be operationalised to prevent a repeat of question papers leaks in public examinations.
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- NTA was although was originally supposed to take charge of entrance examinations in the first phase.
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- **Testing Methodology** - The testing pattern lays too much emphasis on quantitative indicators.
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- Also, social pressure associated with education makes it more vulnerable to corruption pressures, undermining the very purpose.
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- There is thus a need for a credible testing method to assess a student's aptitude and learning.
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- Multiple assessments, instead of the current one all-important definitive board examination, could be considered.
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- This can go a long way in reducing the exam stress for the students.
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- But for now, the CBSE has to restore faith in its processes.
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Source: The Hindu

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Quick Fact

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National Testing Agency

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 - National Testing Agency (NTA) will act as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization.
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 - It would initially conduct those entrance examinations (for higher educational institutions) which are currently being conducted by the CBSE (NEET, JEE, etc).
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 - It will be registered as a society under the Indian Societies Registration Act.
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 - It will be chaired by eminent educationist appointed by the Ministry of HRD.

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