

## **2. National Recruitment Agency (NRA)**

**Prelims: Governance- Institutional Reforms**

**Mains:**

**GS-II- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.**

**GS-II- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.**

### **Why in News?**

- ▶▶ The Finance Ministry has approved a proposal to streamline recruitment of some posts in the government along with various equivalent recruitment in public sector banks.
- ▶▶ A new National Recruitment Agency (NRA) will be set up to conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for all these competitive examinations, in which an estimated 2.5 crore candidates appear annually.

### **National Recruitment Agency (NRA):**

- ▶▶ The proposed NRA will conduct preliminary examinations for all these recruitment, which are at present conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).
- ▶▶ As per the proposal, the NRA will subsequently forward the list of qualifying candidates to the respective recruiting agencies to conduct the mains examinations.
- ▶▶ The SSC and IBPS, it is learnt, will not be disbanded for now and will conduct the mains examinations as usual.
- ▶▶ The basic idea behind this proposal is to shortlist qualifying candidates through a Common Eligibility Test before sending them for the mains examination.

### **Need for a New Agency:**

- ▶▶ The proposal for a new agency is meant to streamline recruitment process on subordinate-rank posts in the government.
- ▶▶ The proposed NRA is expected to reduce the burden of SSC and the IBPS, among others, from holding preliminary recruitment exams, which is an extensive exercise.
- ▶▶ Once up and running, NRA will work as a preliminary single-window agency to shortlist qualifying candidates from bulk of applicants and forward the list to SSC, IBPS, etc, to hold the mains.
- ▶▶ According to an estimate, more than 2.5 crore candidates sit for these prelims, most of them conducted by SSC.

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- ▶▶ Recruitment conducted at present through the SSC and proposed to go to the new agency include the Combined Graduate Level (CGL) examination to enter government departments.

**Clerical level:**

- ▶▶ Similarly in line with CGL, recruitment tests for clerical-level recruitment in public sector banks are proposed to go to the NRA.
- ▶▶ The proposed agency, however, will not be in charge of recruitment of Probationary Officers (PO) in banks.

