

Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences

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What's in today's article?

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Why in News?

- The draft National Medical Commission (Amendment) Bill 2022 seeks to introduce a fifth autonomous body – Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, under the country's apex medical education regulator, to conduct the National Exit Test (NExT).
- This comes at a time when the role of NMC is expanding, with the government working towards implementing NExT, a nationwide screening test for doctors before they are registered with the medical

council.

What is National Medical Commission (NMC)?

About the NMC

- The NMC was constituted (on 25 September 2020) by an act of Parliament known as the National Medical Commission Act, 2019.
- It regulates medical education and medical professionals in India and has replaced the Medical Council of India (MCI, constituted under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956).

What is the organisational structure of NMC?

- **Medical Advisory Council:** It provides the platform through which the states or UTs can put forth their views and concerns before the NMC and advises the NMC on measures to determine and maintain minimum standards of medical education.
- **Four autonomous boards:**
 - Under-Graduate Medical Education Board (sets norms for undergraduate (UG) courses),
 - Post-Graduate Medical Education Board (sets norms for post-graduate courses),
 - Medical Assessment and Rating Board (inspects and rates the medical education institutes), and
 - Ethics and Medical Registration Board (regulates professional conduct of the doctors and registers them).

What is the Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences?

Background in which the proposal for the new Board came

- **National Board of Examinations (NBE)** is an autonomous body (established in 1975 as a Society under Delhi Society Registration Act) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- It was established to standardise postgraduate (PG) medical education and examination in India and currently conducts –
 - The entrance tests for all post-graduation and super-speciality courses.
 - The screening test for foreign medical graduates.
- After several delays in conducting the PG examinations due to the pandemic, court cases and other procedural delays, **resident doctors' associations asked the government to set up such a body to streamline the process.**
- **The existing NBE will be dissolved**, according to the draft National Medical Commission (Amendment) Bill 2022.

- **The National Testing Agency** conducts the UG entrance exam, and no changes have been proposed in the new bill.

About the new Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences

- This will be the **5th autonomous board under NMC** and will **take over the functions of the NBE**, in addition to conducting the **NExT** tests – a two-part examination – a qualifying exam for granting registration to doctors as well as the basis for PG admissions.
- The new board will also **accredit institutions** for diploma, diplomat, postgraduate fellowship, and super-speciality fellowships.

News Summary with respect to the changes proposed in the NMC

What are the other proposals in the draft NMC (Amendment) Bill 2022?

- It also proposes a section in the parent act stating that any cases against the commission by medical colleges or institutions will lie under the jurisdiction of the **Delhi HC**.
- It also makes provision for **patients and their relatives to appeal with the Ethics and Medical Registration Board** or the NMC against decisions of the state medical council in cases of medical negligence

Way ahead to further reform medical education in India

- On a similar note, '**Board of Counsellors or Counselling**' should be constituted under NMC, to streamline and fast track admissions.
- At present, the counselling is conducted by the Medical Counselling Committee independent of NMC.

Q1) How is MCI different from NMC?

While MCI had 100+ members, NMC will only have 25 members in the committee. Re-nomination- MCI members could be re-nominated or re-elected. But NMC members nominated by the central government Cannot be renominated.

Q2) Is exit exam compulsory for MBBS?

It is compulsory for all MBBS graduates to pass the exam and only then they will be eligible to practice in India.

Source: [Govt to set up new NMC board to conduct NExT; existing body to be dissolved](#) | [ToI](#) | [Sansad TV](#)

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