National Medical Commission

Why in News

Recently, the **National Medical Commission** (NMC) has **replaced the** Medical Council of India (MCI), as per the gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- **MCI was established in 1934** under the **Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1933** with the main function of **establishing uniform standards of higher qualifications in medicine** and **recognition of medical qualifications** in India and abroad.
- The **old Act was repealed in 1956 and a new act was enacted** in its place. The new act was further modified in 1964, 1993 and 2001.

Key Points

- The government **dissolved the MCI in 2018** and replaced it with a **Board of Governors (BoG)**, which was chaired by a member of **NITI Aayog**.
- Now, the **IMC Act, 1956 stands repealed** after the gazette notification, and has been replaced by The **National Medical Commission Act** that came into existence on **8th August 2019**.
- The change is aimed at bringing in **reforms in the medical education sector** and especially aimed at **replacing the MCI,** which was **tainted by corruption and** other problems.
- The NMC will function as the **country's top regulator of medical education**.
- It will have **four separate autonomous boards** for:

    - Undergraduate medical education.
    - Postgraduate medical education.
    - Medical assessment and rating.
    - Ethics and medical registration.
- The **common final year Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery** (MBBS) examination will now be known as the **National Exit Test** (NEXT), according to the new medical education structure under the NMC.

    - NEXT will **act as licentiate examination to practice medicine,** the **criteria for admission to postgraduate** medical courses, and also for **screening of foreign medical graduates**.
- Besides, the **National Eligibility and Entrance Test** (NEET), **NEXT will also be applicable to institutes of national importance** such as all the **All India Institutes of Medical Sciences** (AIIMS) in a bid to ensure a common standard in the medical education sector in the country.

    - NEET is conducted by the **National Testing Agency** (NTA).
- **Dr. Suresh Chandra Sharma,** former head of ENT **(Otorhinolaryngology, the study of diseases of the ear, nose, and throat)** AIIMS Delhi, has been appointed as its **chairman for three years**.

Source: TH