



Medical College Seats and New Regulations in India

For Prelims: National Medical Commission (NMC), National Medical Commission Act, 2019,

For Mains: Medical College Seats and New Regulations in India, Government Policies & Interventions, Education

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the [National Medical Commission \(NMC\)](#) has issued guidelines putting a hold on **new medical colleges** and expansion of existing colleges in states with **more than 100 medical education seats per million population**.

- Earlier, [NMC also issued new guidelines on professional conduct for doctors](#), which mandate them to prescribe only generic drugs instead of specific brands.

What is the Scenario of Medical Colleges in States?

- **States with Excess Medical College Seats:**
 - At least 13 states and Union Territories in India have more than **100 seats per million population**, rendering them ineligible for capacity expansion.
 - Tamil Nadu has the highest number of medical college seats (11,225), followed by Karnataka (11,020), and Maharashtra (10,295).
- **States with Deficient Medical College Seats:**
 - There is an acute shortage of medical college seats in relation to population in **Meghalaya, Bihar, and Jharkhand**, where the deficit is more than 75%.
 - Meghalaya, with a population of approximately 33.5 lakh, has only 50 medical college seats.
 - Bihar and Jharkhand, with populations of 12.7 crore and 3.9 crore, have 2,565 and 980 medical college seats, respectively.
 - Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state, has 9,253 seats, **with a 61% deficit**.

What are the NMC Guidelines?

- In August 2023, the NMC issued regulations that set **population-to-seats ratios** for medical colleges.
- States with more than 100 medical education seats **per million population are restricted from expanding their medical education** capacity.
- The NMC argues that these guidelines are **intended to bring down regional disparities** and ensure effective quality medical education.
- The NMC's regulations will apply to new medical colleges and seat expansions starting from the 2024-25 academic session.
- The regulations do not require **states with excess seats to shut down colleges** or reduce

existing seats.

What is the National Medical Commission (NMC) ?

- The NMC has been constituted by an act of Parliament known as [National Medical Commission Act, 2019](#).
- The NMC acts as India's top regulator of medical education and practice.
- Committed to upholding the highest standards in healthcare education, NMC ensures the delivery of quality medical education and training across the nation.

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