



Healthcare Bills to Reform Nursing, Midwifery, and Dentistry

For Prelims: National Nursing and Midwifery Commission bill (NNMC), National Dental Commission bill

For Mains: Significance of Health Sector in an Economy, Challenges in Nursing, Midwifery, and Dentistry, Government initiatives

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the [Lok Sabha](#) passed **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill (NNMC), 2023**, and the **National Dental Commission bill, 2023**.

- The Bills aim to **repeal existing acts** and bring about improvements in the **quality of healthcare in different medical fields**.

What is the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC) Bill, 2023?

▪ About:

- The NNMC Bill is a significant healthcare legislation aimed at **reforming and enhancing nursing and midwifery professions** in India.
- Establish the **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC) as a regulatory body** for nursing and midwifery professionals.
- Repeal the existing **Indian Nursing Council Act, of 1947**. As the act is outdated and **does not reflect the current needs and demands** of the nursing and midwifery profession, which has evolved significantly over the years in terms of education, training, practice, and service standards.

▪ Key Features:

◦ **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission:**

• **Composition:**

- NNMC will consist of 29 members.
- Chairperson with a postgraduate degree in nursing and midwifery and 20 years of field experience.
- Ex-officio members from Department of Health and Family Welfare, National Medical Commission, Military Nursing Services, and Directorate General of Health Services.
- Other members from nursing and midwifery professionals and charitable institutions.

• **Functions:**

- Framing policies and regulating standards for nursing and midwifery education.
- Providing a uniform admission process for nursing and midwifery

- institutions.
 - Regulating nursing and midwifery institutions.
 - Establishing standards for faculty in teaching institutions.
- **Autonomous Boards:**
 - **Nursing and Midwifery Undergraduate and Postgraduate Education Board:** Regulate **education and examination** at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
 - **Nursing and Midwifery Assessment and Rating Board:** Provide the framework for assessing and **rating nursing and midwifery institutions.**
 - **Nursing and Midwifery Ethics and Registration Board:** Regulate **professional conduct and promote ethics** in the profession.
- **State Nursing and Midwifery Commissions:**
 - To be constituted by state governments.
 - Will consist of **10 members**, including representatives from the health department and nursing/midwifery colleges.
 - Functions include enforcing **professional conduct**, maintaining state registers, issuing certificates of specialization, and conducting skill-based examinations.
- **Establishment of Institutions:**
 - Permission from **Assessment and Rating Board** required to establish new nursing and midwifery institutions or increase seats/postgraduate courses.
 - Appeals process available to National Commission and Central Government in case of disapproval.
- **Practicing as a Professional:**
 - Individuals must be enrolled in the **National or State Register to practice nursing or midwifery.**
 - **Non-compliance may result in imprisonment or a fine.**
- **Advisory Council:**
 - Provides advice and support to the National Commission on Nursing and Midwifery education, services, training, and research.
 - Includes representatives from each State and Union Territory, Ministry of Ayush, University Grants Commission, National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Indian Council of Medical Research, and nursing/midwifery professionals.

What is the National Dental Commission Bill, 2023?

- **About:**
 - The National Dental Commission Bill focuses on the **regulation and improvement of dentistry in India.**
- **Key Features:**
 - Establish the **National Dental Commission (NDC)** to regulate the profession of dentistry.
 - Repeal the **Dentists Act of 1948.**
- **Key Features:**
 - **National Dental Commission:**
 - Composition:
 - Constituted by the central government with 33 members and will be chaired by **an eminent and experienced dentist.**
 - Chairperson appointed by the central government upon recommendation of a search-cum-selection committee which is chaired by **Cabinet Secretary.**
 - Ex-officio members of the commission include Presidents of three autonomous Boards, Director General of Health Services, Chief of the Centre for Dental and Educational Research, AIIMS.
 - Part-time members include faculties of dentistry from government institutes and representatives of states and union territories.
 - **Functions:**
 - Regulating dental education, institutions, research, and infrastructure, as well as ensuring admissions through National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).
 - **Autonomous Boards:**
 - **Undergraduate and Postgraduate Dental Education Board:** Responsible for determining education standards, developing curriculum, and granting recognition

to dental qualifications.

- **Dental Assessment and Rating Board:** Responsible for determining compliance assessment procedure for dental institutions, granting permission to establish new institutions, and conducting inspections and ratings.
- **Ethics and Dental Registration Board:** Responsible for maintaining online national registers of dentists/dental auxiliaries, suspending/cancelling licenses, and regulating standards of conduct, ethics and the scope of the practice.
- **State Dental Councils:**
 - To be established within a year, responsible for maintaining registers, handling grievances, and implementing provisions.
- **Entrance Examinations:**
 - Admission to **Bachelor of Dental Surgery through NEET**, and **National Exit Test (Dental)** for **licensing and postgraduate admissions**.
 - Clearing **National (Exit) Test grants a license to practice dentistry**, but registration in **state/national register required before commencing practice**.
- **Dental Advisory Council:**
 - Advise the Commission on education, training, research, and equitable access to dental education.
 - Ex-officio members of the Commission are ex-officio members of the Council.

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