

## **Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill**

### **Why in news?**

The Union Government has finalised National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill 2020 to replace the Indian Nursing Council Act 1947.

### **What is the current situation?**

- At present, there are different undergraduate nursing examinations conducted by different medical institutes.
- This requires an aspirant to keep track of these throughout the year.

### **What would be the purpose of the Commission?**

- The draft Bill replaces the Indian Nursing Council with a new body called National Nursing and Midwifery Commission.
- This body would have representatives of the Centre and the states.
- It would frame policies and regulate standards for the governance of nursing and midwifery education and institutions.
- It would provide standards for nursing and midwifery faculty and clinical facility in teaching institutions.
- It would provide basic standards of education, physical and instructional facilities, training, research, maximum tuition fee payable in respect of various categories.
- It would frame policies and codes to ensure observance of professional ethics in nursing and midwifery profession.
- Similar to the National Medical Commission, the proposed commission would have different boards to regulate UG and PG education.
- It will assess and rate different institutions offering courses.

### **What are the other proposals?**

- It proposes a **common entrance test** for undergraduate nursing courses that would integrate the system.
- It also proposes a **National Exit test** for the final year of the nursing or midwifery course, to ensure uniform quality.
- Every nurse and midwife would have to register with the **state boards**.
- The Bill will likely vest in the board the power to decide course structure, fee, etc.,

- A **national register** would be maintained to track all qualified and practising nursing professionals.
- It proposes a **temporary licence** for foreign nationals who are qualified nurses and midwives to practice in India.

**Source: Financial Express, Economic Times**

