



INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (HQS.)

(Registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860)

Mutually Affiliated with the British & Nepal Medical Associations

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Press Release

NEXT in the line of fire: IMA stages National Protest

IMA calls the test as unfit for medical profession and medical fraternity at large; stands by thousands of students

February 1, 2017, New Delhi: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, through the Medical Council of India (MCI) has proposed some amendments in the Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act to introduce “**National Exit Test (NEXT)**” for becoming Medical Graduates (MBBS). “These proposed amendments for introduction of NEXT, a common Exit test for all MBBS students are not in the interest of medical profession in particular and health of the society at large”, said **Padma Shri Awardee, Dr K K Aggarwal, National President, IMA and Dr R N Tandon, Honorary Secretary General, IMA** in a joint statement issued here today.

If this amendment is implemented, it will create a discrimination between Indian Medical Graduates (IMG) and Foreign Medical Graduates (FMG). “Instead of introducing two exams, why cannot the government introduce a common final MBBS exam?” **asked Dr Aggarwal.**

The introduction of NEXT has already been mooted as the centre turning a blind eye to some harsh realities in medical education such as inadequate infrastructure in medical colleges, insufficient academic facilities, and faculty shortage. The test was introduced as a substitute to three tests, including NEET for postgraduate admissions, recruitment for central health services, and the foreign graduate medical examination.

Speaking on the issue, **Dr Ravi Wankhedkar, National President (Elect), IMA and Dr R V Asokan, Chairman, Action Committee, IMA**, said that “MCI is empowered enough to check the standards of final MBBS exam by each medical university/college, The need for another exam when the students have already cleared the final MBBS exam is unclear”.

Adding to these aspects, leaders in Delhi assembled to address the students gathering at IMA HQs. at ITO and in a joint statement said that the amended IMC Act may allow anyone having an MBBS

degree from China or Russia and 3 to 6 months diploma to bypass the screening exam and get themselves registered in India and start practice.

Dr K K Aggarwal and Dr R N Tandon added “Unless the final examinations are held and internship started uniformly at the national level and the NEET held within one month of MBBS exam, the stress of PG exam will continue to loom over the minds of the medical graduates to such an extent that PG students will keep committing suicides. They will also miss skilled training in internship just because they need to mug up multiple choice questions (MCQs)”.

Supported by IMA HQs and IMA state and local branches, thousands of medical students from over 200 medical colleges throughout the country boycotted classes and conducted rallies holding placards and handed over the Memorandum to this respect to the state and local administrative heads. All the Students pledged to intensify their stir if their demands are not met immediately.

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About IMA: Indian Medical Association is the only representative, national voluntary organization of Doctors of Modern Scientific System of Medicine, which looks after the interest of doctors as well as the well being of the community at large. It has its Headquarter in Delhi and State / Terr. Branches in 30 States and Union Territories. It has over 2, 60,000 doctors as its members through more than 1765 active local branches spread across the country.☐

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