

## Panel moots more seats for med colleges

Bangalore: The seven-member committee that replaced the Medical Council of India on Saturday recommended far-reaching reforms, including 100 additional seats in every medical college across the country, raising retirement age of teachers and easing land requirement norms for campuses and hostels. These are aimed at removing the shortage of doctors in the country—7.5 lakh according to one estimate.

Most medical colleges have about 150 seats and the proposal envisages hiking it to 250. The committee also recommended doing away with the mandatory 25-acre land requirement to start a medical college. **TNN Medical college teachers will now retire at 70**

Bangalore: The panel which has replaced the Medical Council of India has recommended that the requirement of 25 acres of land to start a medical college be brought down to 10 acres. A member of the panel, headed by Dr S K Sarin, said, "To address the acute faculty shortage, the retirement age of teachers has been raised from 65 to 70 years." The committee, which met on Saturday, also decided to reduce the mandatory number of beds from 1,500 to 900 for a teaching hospital with 250 students. "The mandatory hostel requirement for medical colleges will also be eased. Colleges can now construct hostels in the 5-km radius. The idea is to add 10,000 more medical seats. We want more colleges to come up, specially government institutions," he said. According to sources in the committee, India requires 500 more medical colleges. "If 100 colleges are added every year for the five years, we'll have adequate number of doctors by 2025. Right now, India has a shortage of 7.5 lakh doctors," the member said. TNN