

27% for OBCs, 10% for EWS in national quota medical seats

AIQ introduced in 1986 under SC directions

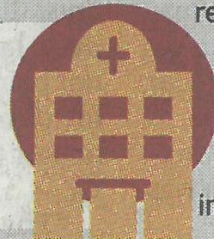
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The Union Health Ministry has announced 27% reservation for the OBCs (Other Backward Classes) and 10% quota for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in the all-India quota (AIQ) scheme for undergraduate and postgraduate medical and dental courses from 2021-22.

This decision, it said, would benefit every year nearly 1,500 OBC students at the undergraduate level (MBBS) and 2,500 such stu-

The Quota story | A brief timeline of reservations under the all India quota (AIQ):

- AIQ was introduced in 1986 for domicile-free merit-based opportunities to medical aspirants of a State to study in a college in another State
- In 2007, the Supreme Court introduced reservation of 15% of seats in the AIQ for the SCs and 7.5% for the STs
- On July 19, the Madras High Court said that the Centre cannot delay indefinitely the implementation of reservation to OBCs under the scheme. It granted the Centre a week's time to indicate the mode and manner of implementation
- Under it, 15% and 50% of the UG and PG seats, in government medical colleges are allocated



dents at the postgraduate level, and around 550 EWS students in MBBS and around 1,000 such students in postgraduate courses.

The AIQ was introduced in 1986 under the directions of the Supreme Court to provide for domicile-free merit-based opportunities to stu-

dents from any State aspiring to study in a medical college located in another State. It comprises 15% of the UG seats and 50% of the PG seats in government medical colleges.

Initially, there was no reservation in the AIQ. In 2007, the Supreme Court introduced reservation of 15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs in the scheme. When the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act became effective that year, providing for uniform 27% reservation to the OBCs, the same was implemented in all the Central educational institutions.

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These included Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Harding Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University and Banaras Hindu University among others. However, this was not extended to the AIQ seats of State medical and dental colleges.

"The OBC students from across the country shall now be able to take the benefit of this reservation in AIQ to compete for seats in any State. Being a Central scheme, the Central List of OBCs shall be used for this reservation. Around 1,500 OBC students in MBBS and

2,500 in postgraduation will be benefited through this reservation," said the Ministry in a release.

In the last six years, the MBBS seats in the country have increased by 56%, from 54,348 seats in 2014 to 84,649 seats in 2020, and the number of PG seats by 80%, from 30,191 seats in 2014 to 54,275 seats in 2020. In the same period, 179 new medical colleges have been established and now the country has 558 medical colleges – 289 government colleges and 269 privately run.