



NIPER Amendment Bill, 2021

Why in News

Recently, [Rajya Sabha](#) passed the **National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research(NIPER) Amendment Bill, 2021**.

- It seeks to amend the **National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1998** which established the [National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research](#) at Mohali in Punjab and **declared it an institution of national importance**.

Key Points

▪ About the Bill:

◦ Status of Institute of National Importance:

- It seeks to accord the status of '**institute of national importance**' to six more institutes of pharmaceutical education and research institutes - NIPERs - situated in Ahmedabad, Hajipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati and Raebareli.

◦ Establishment of Advisory council:

- The council will be a **central body, to coordinate the activities of all the institutes** to ensure coordinated development of pharmaceutical education and research and maintenance of standards.
- The **functions** of the council include:

- **Advising on matters related to course duration, formulating policies for recruitment**, examining and approving **development plans of the institutes, examining annual budget estimates** of the institutes for recommendations to the central government for allocation of funds.

◦ Rationalizes the Board of Governors:

- The Bill **rationalises the Board of Governors of each NIPER** from its existing strength of 23 to 12 members and widens the scope and number of courses run by the institutes.

▪ Significance:

- The NIPERs would be governed on the lines of the IITs.
- NIPERs will help **in research that could bring more patents for India**, which in turn, would mean the **nation can produce high-cost pharmaceuticals**.

▪ Issues with the Bill:

- **State governments along with Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act), 1989 (SC/ST Act), OBC and women** have not been included in the apex council of the NIPERs.
- Issues like **autonomy and over-centralisation of power** have also been raised.

- It has been said that the **proposed council has been empowered with excessive powers** with regard to **financial, administrative and managerial matters** of these institutes, which has to be looked into very carefully.
- The Bill **potentially compromises the institutes' autonomy** as the council will mostly be composed of central government bureaucrats and some MPs, wherein it may take decisions that may not be in a particular institute's best interest.

National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs)

- They are the **institutes of national importance** under the aegis of the Department of Pharmaceutical, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
 - **Any Institution of National Importance** is an **autonomous body/institute** with the power to hold examinations and grant educational certificates/degrees.
 - They get **funding from the central government.**
- The Institute is **conceived to provide leadership in pharmaceutical sciences** and related areas not only within the country, but also to the countries in SouthEast Asia, South Asia and Africa.
- NIPER, Mohali is a **member of Association of Indian Universities** and Association of Commonwealth Universities.
 - Association of Indian Universities (AIU), formed in 1925 as **Inter-University Board (IUB)**, is an association of all universities in India. It is actively engaged in the growth and development of higher education.
 - The **Association of Commonwealth Universities** is an international organisation dedicated to building a better world through higher education in over 50 countries across the **Commonwealth**.

Source: IE

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