



IIT Council's Recommendations

Why in News

Recently, the **Institute of Technology (IIT)** Council has constituted four working groups to look at greater **autonomy for the IITs**.

- The decision is in line with the [National Education Policy](#) recommendation.
- The IITs are seeking autonomy **on the lines of what was granted to the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)**.

Key Points

▪ About :

◦ Members and Head:

- The IIT Council is **headed by the Education Minister**.
- It includes the **directors of all IITs**, and the chairs of each **IIT's Board of Governors (BoG)**.

◦ Objective:

- It is meant to **advise** on admission standards, duration of courses, degrees and other academic distinctions.
- It **lays down policy** regarding cadre, methods of recruitment and conditions of service of employees of all IITs.

▪ Working Groups of the Council:

- **Group-1:** Graded Autonomy, Empowered & accountable BoG and Director.
- **Group-2:** Grooming distinguished academics for directorship of IITs.
- **Group-3:** Reform and restructuring of Academic Senate.
- **Group-4:** Innovative funding mechanisms.

▪ Other Recommendations:

◦ Use of Technology:

- To constitute a **task force to review use of technology** at all IITs and also to accelerate deployment of digital tools,
 - Such as [Blockchain](#), [AI \(Artificial intelligence\)](#), [ML \(machine learning\)](#), and [Cloud Computing](#).

◦ Reducing Staff:

- **Cutting IIT staff strength** to lower levels.

- The IITs currently function so that for every ten students, there is one faculty member. And for **every ten faculty, they have pre-approval for 11 staff**.

- **Research and Development Fair:**

- To organise an **IIT research and development fair** to showcase the quality research work being done by IITs to the industries.

- **Development Plans:**

- Asked the IITs to **develop Institute Development Plans to improve the mobility of faculty between institution** and industry to promote research collaborations.

- **Need of Autonomy:**

- **Better Decision Making:**

- Administrative and financial autonomy helps institutes to take a **valuable decision for the benefit of students and the organisation.**

- In the absence of autonomy, most decisions are taken by bureaucrats, who lack the technical knowledge needed to decide for technical institutes.

- Constructive decisions can be taken only by academicians and experts, while **IITs do not enjoy complete autonomy, they have partial freedom.**

- Recently, **an expert panel**, appointed to recommend measures to better implement reservations at IITs, has proposed that [IITs should be exempted from caste reservations for faculty appointments as they are institutes of national importance.](#)

- **Improved Responsibility:**

- **Lack of autonomy** not only permits interference, but also creates **divided responsibility**, which inevitably leads to maintenance of the status quo, which in today's India is not desirable.

- With autonomy these institutes would **have full control on their policies and operations**, as well as **have full responsibility** for what value they provide.

[Source:TH](#)

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