

RGICS
Legislative Brief
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Changes made to The Indian Institute of
Information Technology Bill 2013

Governance Cluster
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RGICS Legislative Brief

The Indian Institute of Information Technology Bill 2013

The Indian Institutes of Information Technology Bill, 2013 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 18, 2013 by the Minister of Human Resource Development, Mr. M.M. Pallam Raju.

Under the NDA government The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT) Bill, 2014 was introduced by the Minister of Human Resource Development, Ms. Smriti Zubin Irani, in the Lok Sabha on August 12, 2014.

Objective of the 2014 bill: According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Bill seeks to provide four existing IIITs, independent statutory status. It proposes to declare them as institutes of national importance, to enable them to grant degrees to their students.

Objectives of the 2013 bill: The Bill sought to declare certain institutions of information technology to be institutions of national importance and creates mechanisms to establish new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs).

- **Financing of the Institutes:** New IIITs may be established by the central government, or in public-private partnership (PPP) mode between the central government, state government and an industry partner. In the case of PPPs, the state government shall identify an industry partner for collaboration and submit a proposal to the central government. On acceptance of the proposal, the central government will enter into a memorandum of understanding or agreement with the concerned state government and the industry partner for the establishment of the proposed IIIT. Every IIIT shall be a not-for-profit legal entity and all funds must be used to meet the expenses of the IIIT. Funds may also be used for the furtherance of research and as capital investment for the development of the IIIT. The NDA government's bill excludes any mechanism or guidelines for opening up new IIT institutes
- **Difference in composition of Board of Governors:** The 2013 bill guaranteed the participation of member from the SC/ST communities into the Board of Governors, which is the presiding body for executive control, by reserving seats for candidates, However, the NDA government's bill does not mention such reservation to safeguard the rights and participation of SC's and ST's. Under the new bill members of the board would only be nominated by the state governments.
- **The chairperson of the board shall be appointed by the institute from the panel of three names by a Search Cum selection Committee.** This would result in an academic institute could chose its own head from within the academia and keep up the autonomy of the institute. The NDA bill has scrapped the search-cum-select committee.
- **Under Authorities of the Board:** The Board shall in exercise of the powers and discharge of functions strives to provide autonomy in academic matters to the senate and departments or faculties or schools, as the case maybe. This section has been done away in the bill presented by the NDA government, thus seriously compromising the autonomy of an academic institute. Under the new bill any scrutiny of the functions discharged by the institute has to be initiated by the visitor.

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- The 2014 bill introduces the office of the Visitor, who will be a part of each institution. The visitor may appoint one or more persons to review the work and progress of any institute and to hold inquiries into the affairs thereof and to report thereon in such manner as the visitor may direct.

The two bills differ largely on the basis that the 2013 bill provided a framework for the establishment of new IIT institutes using PPP. It also had a more democratic way to assign posts for the Board of Governors for each such institute.