

NIPER Amendment Bill 2021

December 16, 2021

In news- Parliament has passed the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill recently.

Key features of the bill-

- It **amends the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1998.**
- The **1998 Act established the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Punjab and declared it as an Institution of National Importance.**
- The Bill seeks to **give the coveted 'institute of national importance' status to pharmaceutical education and research institutes** – NIPERs – situated in Ahmedabad, Hajipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati and Raebareli.
- It also envisages **establishment of a Council, a central body, to coordinate the activities of all the institutes** to ensure coordinated development of pharmaceutical education and research and maintenance of standards.
- **Composition of the Council:**
 - The Minister in charge of the Ministry or department of the central government having administrative control of pharmaceuticals (ex officio), as the Chairperson.
 - The Minister of State of the Ministry or department of the central government having administrative control of the pharmaceuticals (ex officio), as the Vice-Chairperson.
 - The Chairperson of each Board of Governors (ex officio).
 - The Director of every institute (ex officio).
 - The Chairperson of All India Council for Technical Education (ex officio).

- The Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (ex officio).
- Three Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha).
- It 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.
- The Board will be chaired by an eminent academician or professional.

Note: An Institution of National Importance refers to an autonomous institute established under an Act, with the power to hold examinations, grant degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions or titles. These institutes of national importance receive funding from the central government.