POLITY AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES

IIM Amendment Bill: A Step in the Right Direction

In Context: The Lok Sabha recently passed the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

About IIM:
- ✓ Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) are the country's flagship institutions, providing the highest quality management education based on globally benchmarked management education and training methods.
- ✓ The IIMs are world-class management institutions and centers of excellence that have given honor to the country.
- ✓ All IIMs are distinct autonomous organisations governed by the Societies Act.
- ✓ Because IIMs are not authorized to offer degrees, they have instead awarded Post Graduate Diplomas and Fellow Programmes in Management.

Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Act, 2017
- ✓ The IIM Act of 2017 declared IIMs are institutions of national importance and sought to improve the governance at IIMs to help these institutions attain "standards of global excellence in management, management research and allied areas of knowledge".

Need for the Amendment
- ✓ The Indian Institutes of Management Act of 2017, hugely expanded the autonomy enjoyed by the IIMs, and contains an important clause. It requires the Board of Governors (BoG) of the IIMs to commission an independent review of the institutes at least once every three years and place the report in the public domain.
- ✓ However, very few of the 21 IIMs have done so.
- ✓ A dangerous governance vacuum has been created in the IIM system in the years since the government relinquished control over these institutes.
- ✓ The IIM Act 0f 2017 created a situation where there were no meaningful checks and balances on the director of IIMs.

Key provisions of IIM (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- ✓ **President of India as a Visitor**: It designates the President of India as a Visitor of every Institute covered by the Act.
- ✓ **Appointments:** As per the IIM Act, 2017, the chairperson of the board of governors and the institute's director are to be appointed by the board of governors. The board of governors includes the chairperson, director, government nominees, eminent persons, and faculty.
- ✓ The recent amendment altered the selection process to include the involvement of the Visitor (President of India) such that the Visitor nominates the chairperson, and the selection committee for director will consist of one member (out of three) nominated by the Visitor.
- ✓ **Constitution of Search Committee:** At present, the Search Committee comprises the Chairperson of the Board, and three members from amongst eminent administrators, industrialists and educationists.
- ✓ The Bill reduces these three members to two and adds another member to be nominated by the Visitor.
- ✓ **Termination of Director**: The Board will require prior approval of the Visitor before removing a Director. It also grants the Visitor the authority to terminate the services of the Director, as may be prescribed. The Bill also states the Chairperson of the Board will be nominated by the Visitor.
- ✓ **Inquiries against IIMs:** The Bill proposes a new procedure for inquiries against IIMs. It confers the power of inquiry upon the Visitor. The Visitor may appoint persons to review the work of any Institute and hold inquiries into its affairs.
- ✓ Based on the report of such inquiries, the Visitor may issue directions which will be binding on the Institute.
- ✓ **Conditions for dissolving Board**: The Bill provides that the central government may prescribe the conditions and procedure for dissolving or suspending an Institute's Board. If a Board is suspended or dissolved, the central government will constitute an interim board for six months or until a new Board is constituted.
- ✓ **Coordination Forum**: At present, the Act provides for a Coordination Forum for all the Institutes, the Chairperson of which is selected by a Search-cumSelection Committee. Under the provisions of the Bill, the Chairperson will be nominated by the Visitor.

Concerns about autonomy & interference
- ✓ Various critics have suggested that this revised selection process, which includes the President (who shall presumably act on the advice of the central government), amounts to excessive interference by the government in the functioning of IIMs.
- ✓ The critics are concerned about whether the bill will dilute the autonomy of IIMs in the name of fixing accountability.

Way ahead:
- ✓ Global practice: The notion that government control is inimical to the functioning of an educational institution is flawed.
- ✓ The state-controlled universities in the California system, where the Governor of the state often sits on the board, are among the best in the world.

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- ✓ Government control on IITs: Government control has not kept the IITs from creating a brand that is way above that of the IIMs.
- ✓ The President of India is the Visitor of all the central universities and IITs and appoints their vice-chancellors and directors.
- ✓ The IIM brand itself flourished for around the last six decades under government control because the IIMs enjoyed the fullest autonomy in all operational matters.
- ✓ Principle of democratic accountability: Also, IIMs are public institutions & no public institution can be exempt from the principle of democratic accountability.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CHANDRAYAAN 3 MAKES SOFT LANDING

In context: Chandrayaan-3 etched its place in history when the lander and rover touched down near the lunar south pole region on 23 August 2023.This successful landing not only established India as the first country to achieve such a feat but also marked the fourth nation to soft-land on the Moon.

About:

➢ **A Triumph in Lunar Endeavors**

- ✓ Chandrayaan-3, part of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Chandrayaan program, signifies a remarkable feat in lunar exploration.
- ✓ Comprising a lander named Vikram and a rover named Pragyan, akin to the Chandrayaan-2 mission, this mission focuses on achieving a controlled landing and rover mobility on the lunar surface.
- ✓ With the propulsion module transporting the lander-rover configuration to lunar orbit, a powered descent by the lander was the critical phase of the operation.
- ✓ The mission encompasses a Lander and Rover configuration, propelled by LVM3 from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota. The propulsion module carries the Lander and Rover until the lunar orbit's 100 km mark.

CHANDRAYAAN-3 INDIA'S SHOT TO THE MOON

The powered descent will begin on August 23, 5:45 pm, in four broad phases: Rough braking phase; Attitude Hold Phase; Fine Braking Phase; Terminal Descent Phase.

Earth-bound manoeuvres | Lunar Transfer Trajectory | Moon-bound manoeuvres

Aug 6–Aug 16 Chandrayaan-3's orbit is reduced gradually from 170 km x 4313 km around the Moon to 153 km x 163 km.

Jul 14 Chandrayaan-3 Launched

Jul 15 to Jul 25 Chandrayaan-3 completes orbit around Earth. ISRO choose a revolving route from Earth to the Moon.

Aug 1 ISRO has injected the spacecraft into the translunar orbit

Aug 5 Chandrayaan-3 has been successfully inserted into the lunar orbit.

CHANDRAYAAN-3
Lander Module:
1,752 kg (including Rover of 26 kg)
Propulsion Module:
2,148 kg

PROPULSION MODULE was filled with 1,696.4 kg of fuel during the launch on July 14. With more than 150kg of fuel left, it could remain operational for several years to come

Aug 17 Separation of the Lander Module from the Propulsion Module

CHANDRAYAAN-3 Spacecraft (inside the payload fairing)

Lander has four payloads or scientific instrument (ChaSTE, Rambha, ILSA, LRA)

LVM3-M4 VEHICLE
Height **43.5 m** | Lift-off Mass **642 t**
S200 Solid Rocket Boosters
L110 Liquid Stage

Aug 23 (17.20 hrs) Soft-landing begins (Chandrayaan-3 slowly land on the lunar surface and to explore it with the help of a rover)

ROVER (6-wheeled robotic vehicle)
Life: **One lunar day** (14 Earth days) | Weight: **26 kg** | Power: **26 kg**

Source: ISRO   Graphic: Ritesh Kumar

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➤ **Origins and Progression: Chandrayaan-2's Influence**
  ✓ Chandrayaan-2's launch in July 2019, which featured an orbiter, lander, and rover, set the stage for Chandrayaan-3.
  ✓ While the initial lander's trajectory went awry during a landing attempt in September 2019, ISRO's spirit remained unbroken, leading to the conception of Chandrayaan-3 and other future lunar missions.

➤ **Global Collaboration: ESA's Involvement**
  ✓ The European Space Tracking network (ESTRACK), operated by the European Space Agency (ESA), provided support for the mission.
  ✓ A mutual support agreement emerged, where ESA's tracking assistance for ISRO missions, including Gaganyaan (India's human spaceflight program) and the Aditya-L1 solar research mission, was reciprocated by ISRO's support for future ESA missions.
  ✓ This collaboration underlines the global nature of space exploration.

➤ **Spacecraft Configuration**

➤ **Propulsion Module:**
  • Carries the lander-rover to a 100 km lunar orbit.
  • Features a solar panel and mounting structure for the lander.

➤ **Lander (Vikram)**
  • Executes the soft landing on the Moon.
  • It had four landing legs and four landing thrusters capable of producing 800 newtons of thrust each
  • Accommodates the rover and scientific instruments.

➤ **Rover (Pragyan)**
  • A six-wheeled, 26 kg vehicle.
  • Conducts diverse measurements, contributing to lunar research.
  • Investigates lunar surface composition, presence of water ice, lunar impact history, and atmosphere evolution.

➤ **Mission Life**
  ✓ Propulsion Module: Carried lander and rover to lunar orbit, with operation of experimental payload for up to 6 months.
  ✓ Lander Module: 1 Lunar Day (14 Earth Days).
  ✓ Rover Module: 1 Lunar Day (14 Earth Days).

Decoding Soft Landing and South Pole Target

➤ **Significance of Soft Landing**
  • A soft landing refers to a controlled, gentle touchdown of a spacecraft on a celestial body to avoid damage.
  • Chandrayaan-3 aims to demonstrate technical prowess by ensuring a safe and damage-free landing on the Moon.
  • The Lander's successful soft landing highlights its ability to come to a standstill from high speeds without human intervention.

➤ **South Pole as the Landing Site**
  • The mission's objectives include showcasing a safe landing, rover mobility, and in-situ scientific experiments.
  • Chandrayaan-3 is targeting the Moon's south pole for its landing site.
  • Unlike previous lunar missions that landed near the equator, the south pole presents challenges due to unique terrain, temperatures, and illumination patterns.

➤ **Challenges and Rewards of South Pole Landing**
  • The Moon's polar regions remain largely unexplored due to extreme conditions.
  • Temperature extremes and limited sunlight pose obstacles for sustained operations and instrument functionality.
  • Chandrayaan-3's endeavor to land at the south pole opens avenues for discovering clues about the early Solar System.

Conclusion: Chandrayaan-3's successful landing near the lunar south pole epitomizes the spirit of exploration and innovation that ISRO embodies. The mission's achievements, propelled by advanced technology and a resolute team, deepen our understanding of the Moon's mysteries and pave the way for further lunar exploration. The triumph of Chandrayaan-3 cements India's position on the global map of space exploration and opens new avenues for unraveling the Moon's enigmatic history.

PRELIM FACTS

1. **20th ASEAN India Economic Ministers' Meeting:**
In Context: Recently, the 20th ASEAN India Economic Ministers' meeting was held in Semarang, Indonesia.
Key Points
  ✓ The summit was attended by Economic Ministers from all ten ASEAN member countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
  ✓ The Ministers examined bilateral trade and investment connections between India and ASEAN in order to improve and expand the economic partnership.
  ✓ In 2022-23, India and ASEAN recorded a bilateral trade of USD 131.5 billion.
  ✓ In 2022-23, trade with ASEAN accounted for 11.3% of India's total worldwide commerce.

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- ✓ The Ministers also met with the ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) to discuss various initiatives, including the 5th ASEAN-India Business Summit.
- ✓ Significant topics mentioned include the multifaceted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, increased volatility in the global financial sector, inflationary pressures, and geopolitical conflicts.
- ✓ Areas of Cooperation: Supply chains, food security, energy security, health and financial stability.

ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA):
- ✓ The main agenda of this year is ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) which was signed in 2009.
- ✓ The review of the AITIGA was a long-standing demand of Indian businesses and it would help in making the FTA trade facilitative and mutually beneficial.
- ✓ It is expected to enhance and diversify trade while addressing the current asymmetry in bilateral trade

2. Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE)

In context: The revised guidelines were issued for the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for the North East Region (PM-DevINE).

About
- ✓ PM-DevINE, was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 to address development gaps in the North Eastern Region (NER).It was approved by the Cabinet for the remaining four years of the 15th Finance Commission from 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- ✓ The new Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme and will be implemented by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).
- ✓ The PM-DevINE Scheme will have an outlay of Rs.6,600 crore for the four year period from 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- ✓ An Empowered Inter-Ministerial Committee (EIMC) will be established, tasked with various functions under the scheme.

Objectives of PM-DevINE
- ✓ Fund infrastructure convergently, in the spirit of PM Gati Shakti;
- ✓ Support social development projects based on felt needs of the NER;
- ✓ Enable livelihood activities for youth and women;
- ✓ Fill the development gaps in various sectors.

Functions of Empowered Inter-Ministerial Committee (EIMC)
- ✓ It assesses initial project proposals based on quality, viability, and socio-economic impact, working alongside representatives from relevant Indian Government Ministries/Departments and State Governments.It then recommends project selection from among these proposals.
- ✓ The EIMC proposes effective monitoring and evaluation methods, which may involve on-site inspections through third-party agencies.
- ✓ The committee also devises mechanisms for the operation and maintenance of PM-DevINE projects, aiming to ensure their sustainability.

3. Microsites project:

In context: The National Health Authority (NHA) recently launched 100 Microsites projects to speed the country's adoption of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

About the project Microsites:
- ✓ These are identified geographical areas where intensive outreach attempts to onboard small and medium-sized private healthcare providers would be made.
- ✓ Private establishments such as standalone clinics, polyclinics, nursing homes, minor hospitals (ideally 10 beds), labs, pharmacies, and any other healthcare facility where health records are generated will be covered by a microsite.
- ✓ Health Care Facilities and Health Professionals from all medical systems are welcome.

According to regional priorities, any State/UT may implement any of the following categories of Microsites.
- ✓ **Category A Microsite**: A microsite which consists of at least 1000 facilities, inclusive of all types of health facilities, as mentioned above
- ✓ **Category B Microsite:** A microsite that consists of at least 500 facilities but less than 1000 facilities, inclusive of all types of health facilities, as mentioned above.

Implementation:
- ✓ These Microsites would be majorly implemented by State Mission Directors of ABDM, while the financial resources and overall guidance would be provided by NHA.
- ✓ An interfacing agency under this program will have an on-ground team to reach out to the healthcare providers in the area.
- ✓ This team will spread awareness about the benefits of ABDM. It will help the service providers to join the core registries under ABDM, besides promoting the use of ABDM to enable digital solutions for regular clinical documentation.
- ✓ Patients will be able to link the health records generated at these facilities with their Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHAs). They will be able to view and share these records using any ABDM-enabled Personal Health Record (PHR) application on their phones.

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4. **Likaru-Mig La-Fukche road**

In Context: The construction of the world's new highest motorable Likaru-Mig La-Fukche road began in Ladakh recently.

Background:- The Border Roads Organization (BRO) is working on constructing the 'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche' road in Ladakh, which will be the new highest motorable road in the world.

About Likaru-Mig La-Fukche road:-
- ✓ Location: Ladakh, India. (Operation Sadbhavana)
- ✓ It lies close to Hanle in Eastern Ladakh.
- ✓ Length:64-km.
- ✓ Altitude: about 19,400 feet.
- ✓ It is the highest motorable road in the world.
- ✓ It will surpass the Umling La Pass.
- ✓ Umling La Pass: located at an altitude of 19,300ft, is the highest motorable road in the world currently.
- ✓ It will connect Likaru to Fukche, situated 3 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- ✓ LAC: the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory. (India-China LAC standoff)

Significance:-
- ✓ It would also provide an alternate land connectivity route to the Fukche advanced landing pad.
- ✓ It is the first project in India to be carried out entirely by an All Woman Road Construction Company.
- ✓ It is led by a five-member All Woman Border Road Task Force.
- ✓ With this project, the BRO will break its own record of the highest motorable road.

ANSWER WRITTING

Q. The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples.

- Early on in the company's rule, the East India Company began reorganizing the territories in the states they captured, starting with Bengal, Bombay, and Madras Presidency. Since then, reorganization and consolidation of states has been a constant process.

Phase-1 1850's to 1947:
- After the revolt of 1857, the British government accelerated the process of continuous political and administrative reorganization.
- New presidencies were created (Central Province)
- Several independent states became part of the Chief Administration provinces (Assam, Awadh)
- North-West Frontier Province was created in 1901 from the north-western districts of the Punjab Province.
- Bengal was partitioned in 1905 on the basis of religion and language.

Phase 2: 1947- 2022:
- In 1950, the Indian Constitution contained a four-fold classification of the states of the Indian Union- Part A, Part B, Part C and Part D States on a political and administrative basis.
- In 1953, the States Re-organization Commission (SRC) under Fazal Ali was constituted to recommend the re-organization of state boundaries.
- Subsequently, the 7th Constitutional Amendment Act was passed which laid out two classifications of units: States and Union Territories.
- Andhra Pradesh became the first state to be formed on a linguistic basis.
- Several territories acquired from the Portuguese (Goa, Daman, Diu, Dadra Nagar Haveli, and Puducherry) were incorporated into the Union Territories (Goa was given statehood later).
- The creation of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand was made possible by disintegrating regional boundaries and political territories from within the existing States of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, respectively.
- In 2014, Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014 was passed that carved Telangana State out of Andhra Pradesh.

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- The demand for separate statehood for Telangana has rested on factors such as the scale of inter-regional inequalities causing socio-economic backwardness of the region, inadequate industrial infrastructure, lack of educational and employment opportunities, diversion of water and natural resources of Telangana to the coastal region of Andhra, the hegemonic control of the coastal capitalist class over the Telangana region, etc.
- Most recently, in 2019 the State of Jammu and Kashmir was reorganised for administrative and security purposes.

Conclusion

- As our Indian Constitution is a living document, which allows reorganisation of states and union territories (Article-3), reorganisation of states may remain a continuous process with regard to the evolving nature of political and administrative dynamics.

MCQs

1. The friendship bridge, the Maitri Setu, recently in news because it is going to be functional soon. considered the following statement:
1. It has been built over the Feni River.
2. It spans 1.9 kilometres joining Sabroom (in Tripura) with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.
3. The name 'Maitri Setu' symbolises growing bilateral relations and friendly ties between India and Bangladesh.
4. The construction of the bridge has been overseen by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.
Which of the following statement is/are correct?
a) Only 4   b) Only 1 and 3
c) Only 3 and 4   **d) All of the above**

2. Which of the following statements about ISRO's space missions is incorrect?
1. The Chandrayaan-3 mission successfully landed on the lunar surface, making India the first country to reach close to the lunar south pole.
2. Chandrayaan-1, India's maiden Moon shot, featured payloads from international space agencies like the European Space Agency and NASA.
3. The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) or NavIC consists of seven spacecraft used primarily for planetary exploration.
a) Only 1   **b) Only 2 and 3**
c) Only 3   d) All of the above are

3. Consider the following statements with reference to Astra Missile:
1. It has Electronic Counter-Countermeasure (ECCM) capabilities.
2. Astra is an Indian family of all-weather beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles.
3. Astra Mk1s can attack targets flying at speeds of up to Mach 1.4 at a distance of 510 kilometers.
How many of the above are correctly matched?
a) Only 1   **b) Only 2**
c) Only 3   d) None

4. What is SeamlessM4T recently seen in the news?
a) Advanced multilingual AI translation and transcription model
b) Intergovernmental agreement to transfer defence technology
c) Interbank technology to share financial information
d) Trade agreement among the European Union members

5. Mylara cult, which was recently seen in the news, belongs to:
a) Western Himalayan States
b) Chota Nagpur Region
c) North Eastern States
d) Karnataka and Maharashtra

6. Considered the following statement:
1. The Border Roads Organization (BRO) is working on constructing the 'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche'
2. It is located road in Ladakh,
3. It will be the new highest motorable road in the world.
How many statements is/are correct?
a) Only 1   b) Only 2
c) Only 3   d) None

7. Considered the following statement regarding Bharat NCAP.
1. It is a new car safety assessment programme.
2. Minister of rode transport and highways lunched the program.
Which of the following statement is/are correct?
a) Only 1   b) Only 2
c) Both1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2

8. Considered the following statement:
1. Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve is the 54th tiger reserve in India.
2. It is the 5th tiger reserve in Rajasthan.
Which of the following statement is/are correct?
a) Only 1   b) Only 2
c) Both1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. Recently, Eco-anxiety term is in news Considered the following statement:
1. It defines as an overwhelming sense of fear, sadness, and dread due to warming of the plant.
2. It is based on the idea that economical crises in a country.
Which of the following statement is/are correct?
a) Only 1   b) Only 2
c) Both1 and 2   d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. With reference to the term ' Global South', consider the following statements
1. It refers to is richer nations that are located mostly in North America and Europe, with some additions in Oceania and elsewhere.
2. India hosted a two-day Voice of Global South Summit in 2023.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
a) Only 1   **b) Only 2**
c) Both1 and 2   d) Neither 1 nor 2

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