

# Standing Committee Report Summary

## The National Institute of Design (NID) Bill, 2013

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce (Chairperson: Mr. Shanta Kumar) submitted its 111<sup>th</sup> Report on the National Institute of Design (NID) Bill, 2013 on August 26, 2013.
- The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on March 13, 2013 and seeks to declare the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad an ‘institution of national importance.’ Presently the NID, Ahmedabad functions as an autonomous institution under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, offering graduate and post-graduate diploma programmes. The Bill proposes to make NID, Ahmedabad a body corporate with the legal status of an institute (a) to conduct research and training in all disciplines related to design, (b) to confer honorary degrees, diplomas, certificates, awards etc in disciplines relating to design, (c) to frame, alter, modify and rescind statutes and ordinances, (d) to act as a nucleus for interaction between academia and industry, and (e) to establish institute campuses at any place in India or abroad. The Authorities established by the Bill for the governance and management of NID are the Governing Council, Senate, Chairperson, Director, Dean and Registrar.
- **Definition of ‘institute of national importance’:** The Committee noted that in spite of the fact that 40 higher education institutes have been declared as ‘institutes of national importance,’ the term has never been defined. The Committee strongly recommended that the term be defined in the Bill, before the same is enacted for NID.
- **New NIDs:** The Committee desired that the four new NIDs to be setup under the National Design Policy, 2007 be conferred the same status as NID, Ahmedabad through an amendment to the NID Bill. The Committee also recommended that one NID each may be opened for every National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) proposed.
- **Diversification of Expertise:** The Committee felt that at NID, design has been restricted to the urban arena, and its expertise should be diversified to areas like ‘Social Design’ which can be of immense help to the disadvantaged and marginalised.
- **Downward trend:** The Committee noted a downward trend in the number of industry sponsored projects undertaken at NID, and asked the DIPP to look into its reasons and take necessary corrective action. It asked the DIPP to prepare an action plan to achieve the objective of forging linkages between industry and academia as envisaged in the Bill.
- **Narrow range of consultation:** It was noted that stakeholders such as design academicians, design professions, alumni of NID, etc were not invited to give suggestions on the Bill. The Committee felt that this reflects negatively on the formulation of the Bill.
- **Composition of different authorities:** The Committee noted that (a) the eligibility conditions for the appointment and removal of the Director of the institute, and (b) the selection process for Senior Professors to be members of the Senate of the Institution has not been laid down in the Bill. These should be included in the Bill. It should also be explicitly stated that the Chairperson of the Governing Council of the Institute should be an academician from the field of design.
- **Statutes and Rules of the Institution:** The Committee recommended that the first Statutes and Rules of NID, Ahmedabad be laid in both Houses of Parliament within six months of the enactment of the Bill, given the record of the Government in delaying the laying down of rules and statutes of institutions. The Committee expects the DIPP to update it on this task, and to submit a note with reasons as to why some of its recommendations could not be incorporated.

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