



# Bill Summary

## The Universities for Research and Innovation Bill, 2012

- The Universities for Research and Innovation Bill, 2012 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on May 21, 2012 by the Minister of Human Resource Development, Kapil Sibal.
- The Bill seeks to allow the central government to set up Universities for Research and Innovation through notifications. These universities shall be enabled to emerge as hubs of education, research and innovation. They may also establish campuses in foreign countries.
- The key objectives of the universities are: (a) to aspire for attaining the pinnacle of knowledge by innovations in design; (b) to attempt through research to provide a path for mankind free from deprivation; (c) to provide society with innovators to meet its knowledge needs; (d) to be transparent in admission, appointment and academic evaluation; and (e) to build linkages with research institutions and industry.
- The universities shall determine the standard of education it will be providing and display the information on its website. If there is a dispute between the university and a statutory authority, it shall be referred to a committee consisting of a nominee of the statutory authority, a nominee of the concerned university and a nominee of another university of research and innovation. The decision of the committee shall be final and binding.
- These universities shall have autonomy in matters such as awarding degrees and diplomas, appointing teaching and research faculty and determining fees to be paid by students and salary to be paid to the faculty. It can define standards of admission to the university. In case of public funded universities, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 shall apply. In case the universities are private, they shall specify by Statutes such criteria to account for diversities in social educational background. However, reservation is applicable only for seats available for Indian citizens.
- The universities shall be open to all irrespective of sex, religion, caste or class. At least half the students admitted to a programme in the university shall be Indian citizens.
- Every university shall be a not-for-profit legal entity. All surplus generated by the university has to be reinvested for the growth of such university. A person can set up a university if it is (a) a non-profit company under the Companies Act, 1956, a society or a trust, which is an organisation of repute and has proven innovations in research; or (b) a university in India for at least 25 years and is accredited as a university of repute or (c) a foreign university, which is at least 50 years old and reputed.
- The promoter of each university shall submit a vision plan, a memorandum of agreement and a project report to the central government. The government shall display the memorandum of agreement for 60 days for suggestions from the public. It shall form an expert committee for advice on the vision plan. The application shall be either approved or rejected within 6 months, as far as possible. If the government accepts the application, the memorandum of agreement shall need the approval of Parliament.
- Each university shall constitute a Board of Governors, an Academic Board and a Research Council. The Bill specifies certain criteria for membership in each of these bodies. The Research Council shall publish its annual output on its website three years after it is established.
- Each university shall maintain a University Endowment Fund with such initial corpus as provided in the Memorandum of Agreement (agreement between the promoter of the university and the central government).
- The Bill provides for a process of protection and utilisation of intellectual property created out of public funded research. It also provides for review of these universities by experts at regular intervals.
- The universities shall maintain books of accounts which shall be laid before the Board of Governors annually. The Board of Governors shall appoint auditors to scrutinise the balance sheet and statement of income of the university (the Companies Act, 1956 shall apply).
- Each university shall constitute a committee to review the performance of the university within 15 years of it being set up. Subsequent reviews shall be every 10 years. The criteria for the review shall be defined by the UGC. The recommendations of the committee shall be submitted to the central government which shall lay it in Parliament.

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