

IIMs Set to See a Bigger Govt Role

Changes to IIMs

IIM (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 28

Latest amendments to IIM Act seek to designate President of India as 'Visitor' of every IIM

Prachi Verma Dadhwal & Sreeradha D Basu

New Delhi | Bengaluru: Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are set to see a bigger role from the government with both houses of parliament passing the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill 2023.

While some academics said the move will increase accountability, some others call the shift in the powers of the premium business schools confounding.

The latest amendments to the IIM Act seek to designate the President of India as 'Visitor' of every IIM covered by the Act. Among other provisions, it mandates the board to obtain approval of the Visitor for appointing or removing a director. The bill also grants the Visitor the authority to terminate the services of the director.

"Things were better off without this amendment. IIMs cannot be used to carry on the government's agenda by appointing their own people," an IIM director said on condition of anonymity.

"One needs to see a director's qualifications and capabilities first before their affiliation," the person said.

Some others see the amendments as a positive development.

"The IIM Act before this ga-

ED Seizes Shares Held by Goa Mining Baron's Estate

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Mumbai: The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Wednesday said that it has issued a seizure order over alleged forex violation against the estate of Goa-based businessman, the late Anil Salgaocar. The federal agency has seized the shares held by the said estate in connection with the foreign assets held by Salgaocar outside India.

"...by acquiring foreign exchange and holding assets outside India. Late Anil Salgaocar contravened the provisions of section 4 of FEMA, 1999 for a total amount of USD 69,06,50,641 (approx. ₹5718 Crore). Accordingly, the entire shareholding of Late

Anil Salgaocar which has been transferred to Estate of Late Anil Salgaocar, in all 33 companies which varies from 1% to 99.9% has been seized by ED.

These said 33 companies own 441 immovable properties located mainly at Goa and few at Mumbai and Karnataka," the statement issued by the agency read.

ED had earlier reported on five members of the Salgaocar family are under ED probe over alleged FEMA violations.

Besides the ED, the income tax department is also probing the family members under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) Act.

The income tax department has sent five notices to members of the family, and each of the five members has been asked to pay Rs 490 crore in dues, said an official privy to the developments.

Messages sent to members of the Salgaocar family didn't elicit a response until press time.

Tax dept is also probing the Salgaocar family under the Black Money Act

The amendments will create an additional layer of approvals for the appointment of the director and other senior leadership members of these institutes, said Amitabh Jhangiani, partner-education at strategic consulting major EY Parthenon.

"The same objective could have been achieved by strengthening the process and governance around senior appointments and encouraging the institutions to strengthen the long-range strategic planning process," he said.

DoT Flags 6m Fraudulent Mobile Phone Connections

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New Delhi: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has screened more than 11.4 million active mobile phone connections, of which 6 million have been found to be fraudulent. While the department has already disconnected 5 million such connections, work is going on to block the remaining connections, as the government doubles down on checking cybercrimes and catching criminals.

As per DoT officials, to break the network of cybercriminals, a multi-pronged strategy is being utilised by various government and autonomous departments.

For instance, the Reserve Bank of India, the ministry of home affairs, banks and the DoT work in tandem to break the network of cybercriminals and block sources of their proceeds.

"Over 700,000 accounts linked with fraudulent numbers including those of banks, financial institutions like Paytm, PhonePe have been frozen."

These accounts were involved in taking proceeds from various cybercrimes, an official told ET on the condition of anonymity.

Another official said DoT's

initiative to trace lost or stolen mobile phones is getting good results as police of various states have now become much more active post a letter from the previous telecom secretary, K Rajaraman.

The telecom department had also written to the chief secretaries and police chiefs of all states and union territories sometime back, highlighting the slow pace on the registration of FIRs over lost or stolen mobile phones and the recovery of the devices.

As per data made available on the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR), which was launched on May 16 this year, so far the department has been able to block 725,000 mobiles and 295,000 devices have been traced.

Some states like Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana are doing exceptional work in

recovering lost or stolen mobile phones.

Meanwhile, minister of state for communications Devansh Chauhan said Wednesday in a written reply to a question in Parliament that more than 300 FIRs had been registered naming over 1,700 points of sale (PoS) over fraudulent connections. Also, more than 50,000 PoS have been blacklisted.

The government has developed an artificial intelligence and facial recognition-powered solution, called ASTR, for telecom SIM subscriber verification.

It runs on the images of subscribers available in the customer acquisition form and can detect fraudulent subscribers.

Using ASTR and other algorithms, more than 6 million fraudulent connections had been detected, the minister said.

Under the Lens

DoT screens over 11.4 million active mobile phone connections

AIM: To break network of cybercriminals

RBI, home ministry, banks and the DoT working in tandem

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More than 50,000 PoS blacklisted

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