

Newspaper Clips April 4, 2015

HRD Ministry may accept resignation of IIT Delhi Director Shevgaonkar

<http://www.prepsure.com/news/hrd-ministry-may-accept-resignation-of-iit-delhi-director-shevgaonkar/>

Recently, [Anil Kakodkar](#) made media headlines for resigning from his post of Chairman of the IIT Bombay Board of Governors due to his differences with the HRD Ministry over selection of IIT Directors. Even before Kakodkar resigned, [IIT Delhi Director R K Shevgaonkar](#) had resigned from his post on December 22, 2014 citing personal reasons. It is said that Shevgaonkar was under pressure by the HRD Ministry to release salary dues of a former IITD faculty member Subramaniam Swami who is now a BJP leader.

The government officials present other issue as the probable reason for the resignation. According to them, the government is investigating irregularities by the IITD Director while establishing the Mauritius [campus](#) and hence, he was feeling 'cornered'.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has neither accepted nor rejected his resignation till now – even after more than three months. On March 13, IITD Board of Governors had written to the Ministry with the request that the last three months are treated as the required 'notice period of 3 months' and to relieve Dr Shevgaonkar by March 21. Now, the media sources say that Shevgaonkar's resignation may finally be accepted.

The Higher Education Secretary S N Mohanty has moved the file to HRD Minister Smriti Irani which recommends acceptance of the resignation. However, Shevgaonkar will be requested to stay on the post till a new Director is appointed. If the letter gets accepted, the Ministry would constitute a search-cum-selection committee to replace Prof. R K Shevgaonkar, who might choose to go back to IIT Bombay once again.

Rajasthan Patrika ND 04/04/2015 P-5

पेड़ के नीचे पढ़ने को मजबूर आईआईटी छात्र

आईआईटी-जोधपुर के छात्रों ने निदेशक पर लगाए गंभीर आरोप

जोधपुर @ पत्रिका . आईआईटी-जोधपुर में निदेशक प्रो. सीवीआर मूर्ति के खिलाफ छात्र-छात्राओं ने पहली बार खुलेआम शुक्रवार को हल्ला बोल दिया। आईआईटी कैम्पस में छात्र-छात्राओं ने पत्रकारों से बातचीत में बताया कि गत डेढ़ वर्ष में आईआईटी का शैक्षणिक माहौल खराब हो गया है। इस दौरान कई सेंटर्स और लैब बंद कर दिए, जिससे छात्र पेड़ के नीचे और वैंटीन में पढ़ने को मजबूर है।

निदेशक पर लगाए आरोप

- ▶ सिस्टम साइंस व बायोलोजिकली सिस्टम साइंस के सेंटर बंद कर दिए। पहले इनकी सीटें घटाई और अब आगामी सत्र से इन ब्रांचों में एडमिशन नहीं होंगे।
- ▶ नियमित पैकट्टी को इतना प्रताड़ित किया कि वे इस्तीफा देकर चले गए। प्रोबेशन काल में चल रही पैकट्टी को रिज्यू कमेटी के नाम पर निष्कासित कर दिया। जिससे

कई पीएचडी करने वाले विद्यार्थियों का रिसर्च अधर में लटक गया।

- ▶ इनोवेशन इन्क्यूबेशन सेंटर (आईआईसी) को बंद कर दिया। एन्टरप्रेन्योर बनने आए छात्रों के फंड रोक दिए। वे सेंटर छोड़कर चले गए।
- ▶ आईआईटी में शुरू की गई फ्लेगशिप टेक्निकल एजुकेशन बैल्डिड बीटेक प्रोग्राम के तहत आज तक कोई काम नहीं हुआ है।
- ▶ पैकट्टी से अपनी बात जबरन मनवाने के लिए दबाव डालते हैं।

डॉ. गणेश अस्पताल में भर्ती

इस बीच आईआईटी से बर्खास्त किए गए असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर डॉ. गणेश बागलेर अवसाद में चले गए हैं। इस मानसिक प्रताड़ना के बाद डॉ. बागलेर की तबीयत खराब हो गई उन्होंने शुक्रवार को अस्पताल में भर्ती होना पड़ा। प्रोबेशन काल में चल रहे डॉ. बागलेर की सेवाएं निदेशक ने यह कहकर समाप्त कर दी थी कि रिज्यू कमेटी ने उनके काम को संतोषजनक नहीं माना। हालांकि निदेशक प्रो मूर्ति अब तक यह स्पष्ट नहीं कर पाए कि डॉ बागलेर का कौन सा काम असंतोषजनक पाया गया।

Protests against IIT 'dictator'

Our Correspondent

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150404/jsp/nation/story_12591.jsp#.VR-6dyUdrs

Jaipur, April 3: Students at IIT Jodhpur are boycotting classes to demand the resignation of the director, C.V.R. Murthy, whom they accuse of sacking faculty to suit his whims.

Around 700 undergraduate and 150 post-graduate students boycotted classes on Wednesday and have been protesting on the campus against Murthy, describing him as a "dictator" who has terminated the services of 17 teachers in one-and-a-half years.

The termination of Ganesh Bagler, an assistant professor in the centre for biologically inspired science system, is the immediate trigger.

Bagler was on probation and was given an extension last year. But a decision has been taken to terminate his services from April 9, 2015.

"He has appealed and the appeal is pending before the review committee," Amardeep Sharma, the public relations officer of IIT Jodhpur, said.

A petition sent by the students to the HRD ministry and the institute's board of governors said: "We feel that our institute is in very bad condition and we are facing various serious issues all due to one person - the director. Over the past one-and-a-half years, there have been many instances of dictatorship, autocracy, favouritism due to which many faculty and staff have been terminated senselessly."

PTI quoted Murthy as saying the terminations were made following due procedure. "We take the faculty on probation and get their performance reviewed by a committee, which we have no control over, on completion of one year and if the performance is not found satisfactory, either the faculty is given one more chance or services are terminated," he said. "We cannot compromise on the quality of faculty."

Murthy, who took charge in September 2013, did not answer calls from this newspaper.

Spokesperson Sharma said: "When Murthy took over, the strength was 56. Now it is 45. Seven more appointments have been made and they are likely to join in July 2015," he said. Of the 11 who have left, seven chose to quit because they got better offers, he said.

IIT Jodhpur should have a faculty strength of 90.

IIT Jodhpur students urge Prez, HRD Ministry to sack Director

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/iit-jodhpur-students-urge-prez-hrd-ministry-to-sack-director-115040300947_1.html

Agitating students of the [IIT Jodhpur](#) have appealed to President [Pranab Mukherjee](#) and the HRD Ministry to remove Director CVR Murti for his "dictatorial attitude".

The students have been agitating against a recently passed Code of Conduct for the students, which prevents them from speaking to media about the institute and "on controversial topics".

"We have been left with no other option than to come out of the institute's walls. We are not being heard either by the government or the institute's administration," an agitating student said.

The students have sent a signed petition the HRD Ministry and the Board of Governors, demanding the resignation of Murti, annulling of the recent termination of faculty member Ganesh Bagler and a transparent probe into the terminations of faculty of the institute.

"The atmosphere has been non-academic since Murti took charge in September 2013 and all the progress or development has been held up," the students alleged in the petition.

"At a time when IIT Jodhpur is facing an alarming faculty crunch, Murti has been consistently and ruthlessly terminating the faculties in the name of unsatisfactory review," they said.

Economic Times ND 04/04/2015 P-3

LEAVING IN A HURRY Yet another joint secretary leaves the human resource development ministry headed by Smriti Irani, making it the fifth senior bureaucrat to leave in 11 months of Modi government rule

'Something Wrong': Does HRD Ministry Have an HR Issue?

Ritika Chopra @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Union HRD ministry saw its fifth senior joint secretary-level officer moving out this week, making it probably the most attrition-prone in the BJP-led government.

Radha S Chauhan, joint secretary (secondary education), joined the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on Thursday, much before completing her five-year tenure at the HRD Ministry. The Uttar Pradesh cadre IAS officer moved out of the ministry on her own amid speculation that she was unhappy about being "pushed" to give up her room in Shastri Bhawan to accommodate one of the Ministers of State for HRD, among other things. Chauhan refused to comment on the speculation or on her shift.

Before Chauhan, three other officers of her rank—Veena Ish, Jagmohan Raju and Praveen Prakash—had sought an early transfer from the ministry. While Ish and Raju have been repatriated to their state cadres, Prakash has moved to the Union Urban Development Ministry headed by Venkaiah Naidu.

Although most transfers are per-

ceived to be a "routine affair", two recent developments, ET has learnt, had drawn attention. Last month, the ministry "surrendered" Nagesh Singh, an economic services officer, back to his parent cadre and divested additional secretary Amarjeet Sinha of his

GK PILLAI, EX-HOME SECY

A joint secy is the memory bank of a ministry. Every time someone new is brought in, he will take 6 months to learn the job

charge of technical education. He was moved to the statistics division, a relatively insignificant responsibility. While the reason for Singh's repatriation is not clear, Sinha is said to have had some differences with Irani over the appointment of heads of different institutions. Both officers were not available for comment.

ET has learnt that school education

secretary Vrinda Sarup met the cabinet secretary Ajit Seth and principal secretary Nripendra Mishra in the PMO in a bid to retain Singh. She also put her objection down in writing on Singh's transfer orders. Sarup was not available for comment despite repeated attempts.

"Amarjeet Sinha is one of the brightest officers in the ministry with over a decade's experience in health and education. His sidelining set tongues wagging and showed there is something wrong in the ministry," said a bureaucrat, who no longer works at HRD.

GK Pillai, senior IAS officer and Union home secretary during the UPA regime, told that frequent movement of officers is "unusual" and is bound to affect the delivery of education-related promises. "A joint secretary is the memory bank of a ministry by virtue of the long deputation (of five years). Every time someone new is brought in, he or she will take six months to learn the job. That will affect the smoothness with which work is conducted in the ministry."

HRD Minister Irani was not available for comment despite repeated attempts.

'Difficult Place to Work'

Where the HRD officers are working now

OFFICER	RANK	CURRENTLY IN
Jagmohan Singh Raju, IAS, 1985 Tamil Nadu cadre	Jt Secy	Tamil Nadu government
Veena Ish, IAS, 1985 Andhra Pradesh cadre	Jt Secy	Andhra Pradesh government
Praveen Prakash, IAS, 1994 Telengana cadre	Jt Secy	Union Urban Development Ministry
Nagesh Singh, IES 1982 batch	Jt Secy	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
Amarjeet Singh, IAS, 1983 Bihar cadre	Add secy	Still at HRD Min, but divested of important charge
Radha S Chauhan, IAS, 1988 UP cadre	Jt secy	UIDAI

There are 12 joint secretary level posts in the ministry

Transferred officers, credited Irani for being "bright" and "sharp", but felt that her "impatience" could be rubbing bureaucrats the wrong way

Smriti Irani led HRD Ministry to push for passage of 2 crucial education bills

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/industry/jobs/smriti-irani-led-hrd-ministry-to-push-for-passage-of-2-crucial-education-bills/60282/>

The HRD Ministry would seek to push through during the second half of the Budget Session two crucial bills to help students maintain their certificates in digital format and empower prestigious IIMs to award degrees in place of diplomas.

In a fresh bid, the Smriti Irani-led Ministry would introduce the National Academic Depository Bill, 2011, which had lapsed with the last Lok Sabha.

Its passage would be a boon for students, cutting their woes to run around in case of loss of certificates or attestation, said officials in the Ministry.

The certificates will be readily available on a proposed depository that can be directly accessed by them, educational institutes as also by the government agencies for the purpose of recruitment.

The government shall appoint a depository as the National Academic Depository to establish and maintain the national database.

The Indian Institute of Management Bill, 2015 empowering the 13 premier B-Schools to award degrees in place of diplomas to its students at the end of the two-year MBA programme would also be taken up for passage, the officials said.

The legislation also seeks to set up a coordinating body of IIMs, much on the lines of the IIT Council in decision making process, but allowing enough flexibilities to the IIMs to chart their own course.

Significantly, the bill help the IIMs gain global recognition and attract more foreign students.

The Ministry is placing high hopes on the passage of these crucial legislations backed by confidence that three legislations on education was passed during the first year of the Narendra Modi Government as opposed to a very few of them passed during the previous UPA regime.

The government also intends to introduce a bill to bring about an effective regulation in education offered through distance mode, the officials said.

The Distance Education Council of India Bill has been drafted in keeping with the recommendations of the Madhava Menon Committee which had envisaged establishment, through an act of Parliament, of a regulatory authority equipped with necessary powers and resources to determine and regulate the standards of higher education including technical education through open/distance learning.

IIT Kanpur records 100 per cent campus job placement

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/exceptional-hiring-in-iit-kanpur/1/428262.html>

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur has witnessed a record campus job placements. Eighty five per cent of 1,090 students have bagged jobs through campus placement during the four-month recruitment process from Dec 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Placement in-charge professor Deepu Philip said that some 900 students got jobs during the four-month long drive. Most of the students were hired by top Multinational companies.

The remaining 10% of the students will prepare for the civil services exams. Also about 100 students have opted for the public sector companies.

According to Times of India, over 100 students received job offers in the first three days of the drive. Placement officers have termed this achievement as "exceptional hiring".

They also said that some 10 students of computer science, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering received salary packages of more than rupees one crore.

Students pursuing BTech and MTech in computer science, mechanical engineering, civil engineering and electrical engineering were in high demand among the companies. These students were hired by foreign multinational companies with high salary package. Some of the companies included IBM, Accenture, Larsen and Turbo and Microsoft.

IITians fall back on Kakodkar report

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/IITians-fall-back-on-Kakodkar-report/articleshow/46803736.cms>

HUBBALLI: Even as various districts of Karnataka are trying to hard-sell their case to house the IIT, a team in Hubballi-Dharwad is busy collating data to justify why the prestigious institution deserves to be set up in their midst.

A team of enthusiasts, including alumni of IITs, techies, politicians, civil engineers, bureaucrats and other professionals are helping elected representatives and officials with data to bolster the argument in favour of Dharwad.

The team meticulously scanned a report, 'Taking IITs to Excellence and Greater Relevance', that was submitted by a committee headed by veteran nuclear scientist and mechanical engineer Anil Kakodkar in April 2011. The Kakodkar committee's mandate was to recommend autonomy measures to facilitate IITs to scale greater heights.

Sunil Nalavade, a senior techie and social activist, said the team found the 278-page report online and has drawn the attention of elected representatives and officials to it. Team Dharwad, the group on messaging app Telegram, also has officials like district-in-charge secretary P Manivannan, deputy commissioner Rajendra Cholan, MP Pralhad Joshi, MLAs Arvind Bellad and Srinivas Mane.

"This is a campaign from our end to support officials and representatives to advocate for an IIT in favour of Dharwad," explained Nalavade.

Subhas Managuli, an alumnus of IIT-Madras, noted that many experts have stressed on the need to establish new IITs in non-capital with supportive ecosystems. "Dharwad checks all requirements stressed on in the Kakodkar committee report. No doubt, wherever the institution comes up, it'll communicate at the national level. But it'll also create a motivating atmosphere in the surrounding areas. Though Dharwad is a hub of educational institutions and industries, it's surrounded by relatively backward areas. If the IIT comes here, various local problems can also be addressed," said Subhas.

Businessman Hemal Desai pointed out that Dharwad is the only city in North Karnataka that has an airport maintained by the Airports Authority of India. Former mayor Shivu Hiremath said, "This initiative is certainly strengthening our pitch. We are considering all points and preparing a memorandum to submit to chief minister Siddaramaiah, who will visit the city on April 11."

Hiremath pointed out that Kota in Rajasthan was denied an IIT due to lack of air connectivity.

Higher education, higher meddling

No quick-fixes can help public universities if successive governments exercise power unbridled by reason

SHAHID AMIN AND
SHOBHIT MAHAJAN



GARIB ki jori sab ki bhaujai (A poor man's wife is fair game). If anything captures the goings-on in the HRD ministry since the reign of Kapil Sibal, it is this saucy peasant proverb from the cow belt. Irrespective of the shade of the successive Central governments, the HRD minister and functionaries display a propensity, Alice in wonderland-like, for exercising power unbridled by reason and reasonableness. This has come to the fore most recently in the refusal of Anil Kakodkar, the respected nuclear scientist, to play ball with the minister in arbitrarily overruling an earlier consensus and interviewing no less than 36 candidates for the post of IIT director in a single day. "IITs are centres of excellence. They should be left alone," Kakodkar has responded in defiance of having left the important task of choosing heads of these premier institutions to the minister and

her epigones.

Six years ago, a UPA minister unrolled a plan to create 14 world-class universities ("universities of innovation") "unencumbered by history or culture of the past" — something that no world-class institution would dare boast. The underlying idea is to build islands of excellence by relying on "the highly skilled Indian diaspora". Now, fast on the heels of a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's diktat making it mandatory for all research scientists in its employ to put in 12 hours of *guan-daan* in educational institutions outside their research labs, comes the news that US President Barack Obama has accepted the GIAN proposal mooted by the Modi government. As with other "smart" acronyms, when unravelled it yields the cumbersome phrase: Global Initiative of Academic Network. Under this programme, top-notch scientists will teach in Indian institutions from between two weeks to 20 days. This is clearly an India-specific movement of global academic talent, following on the heels of Sibal's still-born scheme to invite premier universities from the UK, Europe and the US to set up off-shore subsidiaries in our country.

The normal flow of international and inter-university academic talent is, however, for such outstan-



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ding academicians to hold regular joint-appointments for a semester each in two universities. Ronald Dworkin, the late professor of jurisprudence (the US and the UK) and the brilliant social historian Carlo Ginzburg (Italy and the US) are leading examples from the social sciences. We lost one of our most innovative sociologists, Veena Das, the author most recently of *Affliction: Health, Disease, Poverty* — an ethnographic study of the urban

poor, the "aam admivoter" of north Delhi — to the US, as "under the rules" Delhi University could not allow its faculty such intellectual freedom to benefit from and contribute to knowledge globally in a sustained way. The new fortnightly GIAN idea of the Modi government, by contrast, envisages a veritable "fly-by-night" rapidfire igniting of Indian students' minds. More significantly, there has been no discussion. In fact, an earlier HRD

THE PRESENT government is equally keen on pressing the high visibility insta-cook button, while stirring the slow bubbling gruel of higher education with the ladle of ill-thought, top-heavy recipes.

minister was opposed to the idea of enabling India-based academics (Veena Das worked under the legendary sociologist M.N. Srinivas during the golden days of the Delhi School of Economics) to hold joint appointments in "foreign" universities. For its part, the US government allows Indian academics to teach semester- or year-length courses in American universities under a visa regime meant to facilitate "skill development", requiring a time-bound return to the home country for putting the skill gained to domestic use. The visiting Indian academic, one would have thought, gets paid because she contributes value to the particular US university, which invites her, so to speak, for her "skill-imparting" qualities!

The present government is equally keen on pressing the high visibility insta-cook button, while stirring

the slow bubbling gruel of higher education with the ladle of ill-thought, top-heavy recipes. A one-size-fits-all uniform course content across the country is to be matched by a single Central Universities Act riding roughshod over historical specificities; students could now move effortlessly, with scant regard for compatibility, from one university to another, as teachers could be shunted out, the intrepid Haryana IAS officer Ashok Khemka way, wherever and how so many times the Indian state deems it fit for them to serve the educational requirements of the nation, and in whichever part of the India that is Bharat it deems fit.

It is interesting that the question of institutional autonomy catches public attention when, as in the case of the Kakodkar story, it concerns flagship institutions such as IITs. By implication, for the rest of us wallowing in the mud of public universities, there seems scant possibility of more than a few stunted lotuses blooming. Equally, due to the structure of almost magisterial authority allowed under the colonial dispensation to vice chancellors, the professoriate in these institutions fails signally in its fiduciary obligation to uphold academic and moral norms. Not for nothing were the fellows and professors of Ox-

ford University able to outvote their VC's attempt to award an honorary degree to a controversial politician from the subcontinent. And some paid a price for it, as when Richard Gombrich, the renowned Indologist, was denied the chair at Oxford that S. Radhakrishnan had once held, as he had successfully opposed the honouring of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto by Oxford University, citing his inglorious role in triggering the 1971 war.

For their part, *desi* institutions such as Delhi University cannot quite effect Bertolt Brecht's sardonic suggestion — if dissatisfied with the existing lot, "elect another people". For the usual *viswa vidyalayas*, the parameters are given: a national intake of students from unequally diverse backgrounds and a sudden doubling of enrolment and influx of first-generation students. And most crucially, a system that gives the faculty no say whatsoever in choosing its own colleagues.

No amount of quick-fixes can help our public universities meet the new challenges as long as the cavalier and top-heavy system of faculty recruitment is allowed to continue.

Amin is a retired professor of history and Shobhit Mahajan is professor of physics, Delhi University

Babies have an innate understanding of physics

Steve Connor

Babies have an innate understanding of the way the world works and will pay more attention to objects if they appear to defy the basic laws of physics, a pioneering study has found.

Researchers have discovered that infants less than a year old become more interested in objects that do seemingly impossible things, like pass through a solid wall or become suspended in mid-air with



BORN GENIUS

no visible means of support.

The findings support the contention that humans are born with some kind of core knowledge about how things should work which acts as a template on which babies begin to learn about the world around them, the scientists said. "Our research suggests that infants use what they already know about the world to form predictions. When these predictions are shown to be wrong, infants use this as an opportunity for learning," said Lisa Fei-

genson, a psychologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

The study looked at the way 11-month-old babies responded to seeing a ball rolling through a solid wall. In another experiment, a toy car could be seen rolling off a ledge into mid-air without falling. On both occasions, the gaze of the babies became longer compared to parallel tests where the ball and toy car did what babies expected and were stopped by the wall or fell to the floor respectively. THE INDEPENDENT

Mega research on mobile tower radiation gets nod

CENTRE OK TO 16 INSTITUTES

ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS REGULATIONS

> The Electromagnetic Fields limit permissible in India is **450 milliwatts** per square metre

> DoT says every cellular operator must certify that all public areas around a tower

will be within safe EMF exposure limits after the antennae starts radiating and get an acknowledgement from Telecom Enforcement Resource And Monitoring (TERM) cells



PUNISHMENT FOR VIOLATION

> DoT imposed a fine of **₹10 lakh** per over-radiating Base Transceiver Station (BTS) in 2013

> It was **₹5 lakh** before

HOW TO COMPLAIN

> Contact the local TERM cell office of DoT

> Call helpline **9969555000**

> Email | Emr.termcellmumbai@gmail.com

Somit.Sen@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Sixteen leading scientific institutions across India have been allowed to conduct research on the effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF), particularly radiating from cell phone towers, on human health.

The permission by the Union government's Department of Science and Technology will not affect research underway by Mumbai's Tata Memorial Centre and the Indian Council of Medical Research.

"It is the first time the Indian government is going for a massive evaluation of the health aspects of mobile radiation," said sources. The scientific institutions have been identified for support through a peer review process, primarily based on the competence of the individual researcher(s), their research track record, availability of infrastructure, etc.

The focus will be on the impact of EMF-related issues on the human body, including dosimetry (study of radiation absorbed by the body), brain-related effects, biochemical studies, effects on reproduction pattern, comparison of animal and human models, plant system, and remedial measures.

The 16 institutions include the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore; AIIMS, New Delhi and Uttarakhand; IITs in Kharagpur, New Delhi and Madras; and Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical

The focus will be on the impact of EMF-related issues on the human body, including dosimetry, brain-related effects, biochemical studies etc

Sciences in Andhra Pradesh.

World Health Organisation, which monitors such studies and releases periodic updates, had said in its October 2014 advisory: "A large number of studies have been performed over the last two decades to assess whether mobile phones pose a potential health risk. To date, no adverse health effects have been established as being caused by mobile phone use."

However, anti-radiation activists fear clusters of cell tower antennae close to residential buildings pose a major threat to health.

IIM Bill: Other B-schools see red

Nearly 50 B-schools in the country offer PGDM programmes well accepted by the student community

http://www.business-standard.com/article/management/iim-bill-other-b-schools-see-red-115040300734_1.html

The Indian Institutes of Management Bill (IIM Bill) which has been placed before the cabinet, and proposed to be introduced this month during the Budget session of 2015-16 by Ministry of Human Resource Development is giving sleepless nights to the other B-schools which offer the post graduate diploma in management (PGDM).

Nearly 50 B-schools in the country offer PGDM programmes well accepted by the student community. These B-schools say with IIMs being empowered to award [MBA](#) degree instead of Diploma in Management through the IIM Bill, it may jeopardize the creditability of their PGDM programmes. Thus they would want to have a better legal status for their programmes too.

"We are planning to approach the MHRD and seek recommendation for our programmes. If IIMs begin degree granting, our programmes may suffer," said the director of a Noida-based management institution.

IIM directors said the idea behind an [IIM bill](#) was to turn the institutes into statutory bodies to offer masters' degrees and doctorates, instead of diplomas and fellowships. Currently, the IIMs cannot award degrees, as they have been set up as societies, under the Societies Registration Act. Degrees can only be awarded by universities and institutes such as IITs, set up by Parliament or legislatures, and those declared deemed-to-be-universities under the UGC Act. Currently, the 13 IIMs issue a certificate that their PGDM programme is equivalent to an MBA degree.

The IITs have an [IIT](#) Council, which is the governing body responsible for all of the IITs. The minister-in-charge of technical education is the council's chairman. Other members include three Members of Parliament, the chairmen and the directors of all the IITs, the chairman of the University Grants Commission, the director-general of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), the chairman and the director of IISc, the joint secretary in the HRD ministry, and three appointees each of the Union government and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

IIM Ahmedabad had opposed the idea of IIM Bill saying it would threaten its autonomy. "The IIM council draft Bill's high points are the degree-granting status, as well as autonomy to IIMs," said an IIM-director who was part of the committee drafting the Bill.

Four years ago, the Union ministry of human resource development had granted greater autonomy to IIMs. These institutes, however, remain under the Right to Information Act, and have to get their accounts audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The changes were based on the recommendations of three committees (on governance, faculty and funding), constituted by then HRD minister Kapil Sibal.

The PGDM institutes would be meeting the MHRD minister this month seeking an equivalent recognition for their diplomas as that of the IIMs.