

It is up to Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) to decide whether they want to award degrees or diplomas to their postgraduate students, according to officials in the [HRD ministry](#).

Despite the ministry allowing them to grant degrees to their students, [IIMs](#) have not yet arrived at a consensus on the matter.

"The decision to grant [degree](#) or [diploma](#) is to be taken by [IIMs](#). They are free to do so. They have created a strong reputation for themselves, and their academic awards including the Post Graduate [Diploma](#) (PGDM) are recognised globally. The ministry will not intervene in it," a senior [HRD ministry](#) official said.

Parliament had on December 20 passed the IIM Act, empowering the premier [management](#) institutes to grant degrees to students.

The directors of all the 20 business schools met in the national capital on February 28 to reach a consensus on the issue.

IIM Bangalore, IIM Lucknow and IIM Ranchi held their [convocation](#) ceremony last month.

While IIM Lucknow and IIM Ranchi gave postgraduate diplomas in [management](#) or PGDM to their students, IIM Bangalore was the first to award an MBA [degree](#).

IIM Udaipur and IIM Indore are also exploring the idea of granting degrees.

Earlier, all [IIMs](#) were separate bodies registered under the Societies Act. Since societies are not authorised to award degrees, students admitted to their Master's programme were given a PGDM. Similarly, those pursuing doctoral studies are awarded the title of a "Fellow" at the end of their research.

Although the PG [diploma](#) and "Fellow" title are recognised by the Association of Indian Universities and the [HRD ministry](#) as being equivalent to an MBA and a PhD degree, respectively, the equivalence is not universally accepted, especially for the Fellow programme, which prompted the government to conceive the Act.