

# Let IIMs award degrees: Panel

## Wants B-Schools To Shun Diplomas

Mathang Seshagiri | TNN

**Bangalore:** Apart from enviable pay packets, future managers will pass out from the iconic Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) with degrees instead of diplomas, if a human resources development ministry-appointed panel has its way.

The six-member panel, headed by professor N R



Madhava Menon, has recommended bringing in an overarching legislation governing all 13 IIMs, allowing them to award degrees without "any erosion of their existing autonomy". Unlike cen-

tral universities and IITs, the top B-schools currently award only diplomas.

"IIMs have not been set up through an Act of Parliament, but through the charitable societies route. When you are talking of increasing global diversity, diploma creates confusion. I feel allowing IIMs to award degrees is more of a hygiene factor," IIM-Bangalore director Pankaj Chandra, who is part of the autonomy panel, said.

The suggestions come months after the HRD minis-

try rejected IIM-B's proposal to amend its Memorandum of Association allowing it to confer degrees. The draft was not acceptable to the ministry as it asked: "It is not understood how IIM-B can award a degree." The panel has proposed autonomy to boards to appoint IIM directors solely via a search and selection panel. The panel wants flow of liberal grants to IIMs to enhance their level of academic activities to global standards, and funding of doctoral students.