

Indians, the pinnacle of business education has been a diploma from the prestigious *Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)*, which have operated independently under autonomous boards. Indian companies compete fiercely each year to snap up the newly minted graduates from these standalone institutions. But the IIMs' cherished autonomy is under threat. In June, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government unveiled draft legislation that would permit the institutes to award MBAs and PhDs but would also establish government control over the institutes. The proposal has prompted outcry from professors and graduates, who say such changes could undermine these bastions of educational excellence. In particular, they have taken issue loath clauses in the bill that say the IIMs would need government approval for all important board decisions, essentially stripping them of their freedom to innovate and run operations. Board members "will always have to look over their shoulders and guess what the government wants", says Bill Paul Abraham, academic dean of IIM-Calcutta. "My sense is they will not interfere in everything, but they could ask "was this done with our approval?" Even if there was no deliberate intrusion, the additional red tape could cause institutional stagnation, he argues. "If you have to request approval for each and every thing, things get delayed. It is unnecessarily constraining [and] will be a drag on decision-making and the ability to respond quickly." (Fonte: Financial Time 07-09-15)