

# Will CAT '09 dump the mouse?

## IIMs Mull Holding Test Again, But In Paper-Pencil Format

Seethalakshmi S | TNN

**Bangalore:** Are IIMs mulling over holding another CAT for admissions 2010? Stung by nationwide criticism on CAT bungling, the IIMs want to put the mouse away and go in for the paper-pencil format. It is learnt that those within the IIMs have suggested to the directors to consider holding another test before the HRD ministry thrusts it on them. The big question: will the ten-day exercise (computerised CAT) that concluded on Tuesday be declared null and void?

At a meeting of the IIMs of Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta last week, there were clear indications that the B-schools may have no choice but to conduct another test in the interest of thousands of IIM aspirants.

"Our main interest is in ensuring

### WHAT WENT WRONG?

- Despite Prometric's advisory, staff bypassed processes and used pen-drives to install software. These carried viruses which deleted executable files upon login by students
- Use of college internet access for downloading test — this led to virus attacks at several places. With students pressing END buttons inadvertently to screen going blank, there were disturbances in several labs
- Security was tight with biometric ID and photo being generated at the test centre. As a result, students were asked to arrive two hours ahead of time
- There were start-up delays at several centres as each was logged in individually by proctors.

that we give each candidate a fair chance to write the test and the test at the end is a fair one. We always have an option of holding another one. The CAT committee has already prepared additional tests," sources said.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal too is unhappy. "He has cited the example of his predecessor M M Joshi who cancelled the test five years ago after a question paper leakage. The directors may well take a decision before the ministry directs them to do so. That will be embarrassing for the premier IIMs."

The IIMs have privately admitted that they could not conduct the computerised CAT 2009 in a foolproof manner as desired. The test was organised in 32 cities, 106 centres and 361 laboratories.

► CAT climax yet to come, P 2

# Nail-biting, but no climax to drama yet

TOI



**SUSPENSE IN THE AIR:** CAT candidates' fate hangs in the balance

## Candidates In Limbo As CAT Concludes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore:** "Will I get a call?" CAT 2009 is packed with suspense for hundreds of students. Their fate hangs in the balance as they are yet to receive the rescheduled date from Prometric, even as CAT concluded on Tuesday. Many wonder if they will receive any communication at all.

**CAT DAY 11  
CHAOS**



Sivani Munipalli, final year B'Tech student, appeared for the test on December 5. "When I started to write the test, the server suddenly crashed. We waited for nearly six-and-a-half hours for the test to commence again. We were informed to speak to the IIMs and Prometric for further rescheduling of dates. The helpline was constantly busy. On Tuesday, I went to the centre and the supervisor said a rescheduled date would be announced," she said.

### GOOD DAY FOR OTHERS

On the other hand, on the last day of CAT 2009, no hiccups were reported in any centre. Praveen Kumar, a software professional who appeared at CMR Institute of Man-

agement, was happy with the way the test took place. "Things were quite smooth and there were no glitches. This was the rescheduled date for me. Fortunately, everything worked well," he said.

As it was with Apoorva, a final year student who appeared at Garden City College (GCC) on Tuesday. "This was my second rescheduled date. The first time I was allotted at a centre in Koramangala. Unfortunately, there was a technical snag in that centre too. Finally, I wrote CAT. It's over and I am glad," he added.

### DOUBLE TENSION IN ANDHRA

Tension in Hyderabad has created tension among CAT takers. With violence prevailing in parts of AP, students are unable to attend CAT. Mitalee Mulpuru, a telecommunication engineering student, had her centre in Hyderabad. "Since there was a bandh, there was no public transport and all petrol bunks were closed. Hence, I couldn't even take my four-wheeler. I was worried about taking my two-wheeler," she said.

She called the Prometric helpline and informed them about the situation and asked for a new date. "After giving the number, I asked them to repeat it. To my horror, I found they got the number wrong. I have no clue what will happen now," she added.

For Nivedita M, the test on December 5 was cancelled due to a snag. "The authorities told me the test was cancelled due to technical glitches. When I called Prometric, they told me I had already taken the test. I was shocked!" she added.