

# New test date to be out in a fortnight

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore:** Students who couldn't appear for CAT 2009 due to technical snags, will get an opportunity to take the test again.

The Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B) director Pankaj Chandra on Thursday said a new date will be announced in a fortnight. "The first phase of computerized CAT 2009 concluded on December 8 in which most students complet-

ed the test successfully in the first slot allotted to them.



Students who couldn't complete the test in the first slot have already been accommodated in another. However, there are still some students (numbering a few thousands) who failed to take the test due to genuine reasons and that exam hasn't been rescheduled for them yet," a press release said.

## MAMMOTH TASK

CAT was conducted through 361 labs at 104 locations in 32 cities and involved over 17,000 computers. "It was therefore a mammoth task being attempted for the first time. We regret the inconvenience caused to students due to disruptions, particularly in the first three days of testing," the release stated.

Students reported various disruptions, including pressing of end button prematurely, malfunctioning of test computers and missing graphs and charts. "We have a process to identify and assess the impact of various disruptions noticed during the entire testing period. Test papers are designed by experts to ensure no one gets an unfair advantage. We'd like to assure all concerned the outcome would be fair to all," the statement added.

# **IIMs must conduct fresh CAT**

IIMs thinking about returning to paper-pencil format to conduct a fresh CAT this year will be a revival of dreams for thousands of students who suffered due to glitches in the online system. There were complaints that only one question could be viewed at a time on the screen. So, applicants have been denied the choice of taking a look at all questions to decide which ones to answer first. Browsing back and forth on the screen results in substantial loss of time. IIMs must announce fresh dates.

**K R Anandagopalan, VIA EMAIL**