

# Online vs. tradition

Should all exams be taken on the computer? Some say yes, others get irritated

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## DIFFERENT STROKES

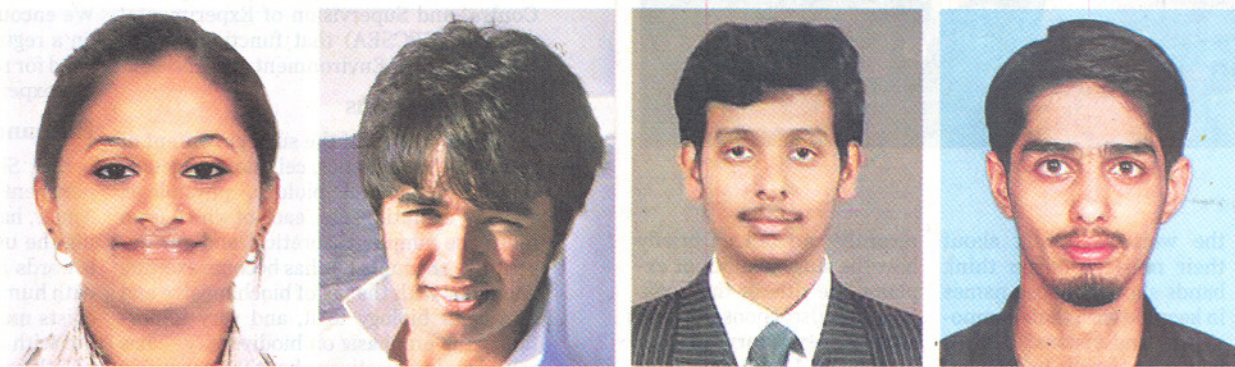
Amidst the technical snags that hampered the computerised avatar of Common Admission Test (CAT), students of Bangalore have split opinion on the idea of shifting other examinations from the conventional paper and pencil/pen format to computer-based ones. While some favour the idea, others are strongly against it. They have their own reasons to justify their stand.

Despite the computerised CAT exams raising a lot of questions, IIMs have decided to continue with the format, which has influenced many other institutions to consider shifting to the computerised format.

The Hindu spoke to a cross-section of students to find out what they had to say.

**Arman Reet (Christ College):** Exams should be retained in the conventional format. I have taken online tests and found that the level of difficulty varies a lot among different shifts of the same exam. Many people fear the online format of the exams, but retention of the traditional format doesn't mean that they need not acquire computing skills. If you have to make progress, you will have to learn it.

**Anaswara Radhakrishnan (Manipal College for Media and Entertainment):** Even though both formats have their own pros and cons, I will favour the online format. In this competitive age, what is better than a computer? It makes it easier for both the students and the



**WINDS OF CHANGE:** (Top) The traditional format of holding exams may not continue for long; (above) Anaswara, Nishil, Prashanth, Hareesh

institution to check the papers. But yes, the centres should be well equipped and better servers need to be in place. Also, the government should incorporate computer education as an integral part of the education system, so that students don't fear exams.

**Nishil Seth (People's Education Society for Information Technology-PE-SIT):** The exams should go online. It's eco-friendly, you

don't need go for a paper and a pen as the computer will serve the purpose better. But, subject exams should be held in the paper and pen format as not every one is well versed with computers.

**Prashanth R. (Christ College):** Yes, it's great going online. It leaves little margin for errors. In the present era, when everything is going online why not exams? In my opinion it's a good step. But yes, the problems that ham-

pered online CAT should not be repeated. The centres should be checked for their proper functioning.

**Sanjana (University Law College):** No, exams should be retained in the traditional format only. We saw what happened with the CAT fiasco and how it affected the year-long preparations of the aspirants. Even though the online format is having its own plus points, the paper and pen format will be more safe.

**Hareesh Upadhyay (Christ University):** Taking online exams is much more convenient than the traditional format.

The only thing that needs to be taken care of is that it should be well planned and executed. People do complain that it is not friendly for those who don't use computers. But in my opinion, the instructions given before the exam are sufficient enough to handle it.