

Process to look into CAT 2009 initiated: IIMs

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With the pressure mounting on them to bring a satisfactory closure to the computer-based Common Admission Test (CAT), the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have announced a procedure to look into the wrong-doings of the first online edition of the test this year.

"Candidates have reported the nature of disruptions faced which include pressing of 'end' button prematurely, malfunctioning of computers, missing graphs and charts, etc. We have put in place a process to identify and assess the impact of these disruptions, which are being addressed to ensure fairness in testing," said a statement from the institutes.

"We would also like to state that the test papers have been designed by experts to ensure that no one gets an unfair advantage. Statistical methods are commonly used to equate difficulty levels across test papers," it said.

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In the last one week, the IIMs and Prometric (the company contracted to conduct CAT) have made numerous attempts to assuage the anxiety of the student community.

Originally supposed to run for 10 days, the exam schedule had to be extended by a day to accommodate students who couldn't take the test due to technical glitches. But a few thousand students still couldn't take the test despite the extra day. "A new test will be announced in a fortnight's time for these students," the IIMs said.

"Most candidates complet-

ed the test successfully in the first slot allotted to them. Others have already been accommodated in another slot. However, there are still some candidates who could not take the test due to genuine reasons and test has not been rescheduled for them yet.

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Calling CAT 2009 a "mammoth task that was being attempted for the first time", the IIMs added the exam was an instance of computerised testing for the largest number of candidates. The tests were delivered through 361 labs, in 104 locations spread across 32 cities. Every edition of the test involved use of over 17,000 computers.

Overall, it has been a fortnight the top management institutes would like to forget. Their maiden attempt to make the test a computer-based one ran into rough waters when demands to scrap the test altogether were made by students and coaching institutes.