CAT 2009 will not be scrapped

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: This year's computerised common admission test (CAT), which was marred by technical glitches, will not be scrapped, the exam committee announced on Wednesday. The CAT committee, which comprised IIM Ahmedabad director Prof Samir Baruah, IIM Bangalore director Prof Pankaj Chandra and a few other professors, made this announcement after meeting with senior human resource development ministry officials here.

STAYS AFLOAT

"IIMs have decided to continue with computer-based test for 2009. We also look forward to continue the CAT through computer-based testing in future," Baruah told reporters. The computer-based test has drawn flak from many quarters as a few thousand students failed to appear in the test owing to the disruptions caused by virus attack and other technical glitches. A fresh test would be held around mid-January for those genuine students who could not appear in the test, which is conducted by US firm Prometric. IIMs will put in place a system to identify all the genuine students who failed to appear in the test during the testing period that continued from November 27 to December 8.

CAT will be cleaned up of glitches

New Delhi: This year's computerised CAT will not be scrapped, the exam committee announced on Wednesday. Asked whether the IIMs will review the contract with Prometric, IIM Ahmedabad director Prof Samir Baruah said the focus of the IIMs is to complete the test in a fair manner.

But the entire test will be reviewed to ensure that such problems do not occur in future. IIM-Bangalore director Prof. Pankaj Chandra said minor verification will be conducted to identify and ascertain the genuine students who have failed to take the test.

Nearly 2.4 lakh students had registered for the test for admission into IIMs and a few other B-schools. However, 2.16 lakh students have completed the test so far, CAT convenor Prof Satish Deodhar said.

"It is indeed our regret that a number of candidates faced difficulties during this test window and the execution of the exam has not been flawless," he said. About 24,000 students did not show up for the test at the first instance, he said. Another 2,000 candidates, who were rescheduled from the first testing window remain to be tested, he said.

There was divergent of views within the IIMs about whether to scrap the computer-based system for this year. Prometric presented detailed data to the IIM directors on Sunday, explaining the nature of problems faced by students.

"After analysing the fresh data, we could know the nature and extent of the problem. We are convinced the test has been done in a fair manner," Baruah said. Based on data, feedback from students, site and audit reports, the CAT committee said the problems faced by the students include complaints of premature exit through the exit/end button, slowness of computers while reviewing and refreshing questions, rebooting of computers and disruptions, missing graphics and data.

Baruah said adequate precaution was taken before going ahead with the computerised test. Mock tests were conducted involving 500 dummy students.