CAT to be rescheduled for affected candidates

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: Prometric, the firm responsible for conducting the Common Admission Test, has stated that it is in the process of identifying candidates who were not able to take the test. Soumitra Roy, Managing Director of Prometric, in a press release, said that the firm would contact the affected candidates soon to reschedule the test.

More than 2.15 lakh candidates successfully took the test, he claimed in the release. Over the course of 11 days, tests were administered on

- More than 2.15 lakh candidates have taken the test

- Prometric to identify those who could not take CAT

17,000 computers in 361 temporary testing labs at 104 centres in 32 cities across the country.

"Prometric deeply regrets that some candidates encountered difficulties and need to reschedule or retake the test. We would like to thank the IIMs for providing us with the opportunity to ensure that all affected candidates can take the test in the same testing environment as their peers," Mr. Roy said in the release. Computer-based testing has a transformative impact on education by expanding access, enhancing the test development process, and producing results.

While there were difficulties on the first days of the test, Prometric and NIIT operated the network at a very high standard during the final five days of the administration.

IIM professor found dead at home on campus

Staff Reporter

BHOPAL: A professor of the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, was found dead lying in a pool of blood at her house on the campus on Friday. The police said Amrita Panchauli, 32, who hailed from Udaipur, Rajasthan, used to teach organisational behaviour and human resource management. She was lying in a pool of blood, with multiple stab wounds. "There was no security breach as everyone entering and exiting the campus is registered at the entrance," said V.K. Gupta, dean (administration). "The police are investigating and anything conclusive can be said only after the post-mortem report," he said.

IIMs say 96 p.c. candidates completed CAT

'Only 2,000 aspirants, who have been rescheduled, remain to be tested in January'

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: Citing statistics and trends, the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have now categorically stated that 96 per cent of those who appeared for the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2009 successfully completed the test. The exercise, it may be recalled, had famously suffered glitches as it was the first ever to be done on the computer instead of paper.

In a joint statement, the IIMs said of the total 2.42 lakh candidates who registered for the test, 2.16 lakh completed it. However, some 10 per cent of the registered candidates (nearly 24,000) did not turn up for the test. The IIMs claimed that the percentage of absentees is similar to that in the previous years. Citing these statistics, the IIMs said only 2,000 candidates, whose test had been rescheduled, remained to be tested. The test for these candidates and those who faced genuine problems while taking test would be conducted on the second half of January 2010, the release stated, and added that the process of identifying genuinely affected candidates is under way.

Button problem

Meanwhile, the IIMs have said that only 500 candidates faced a problem with "End" button during the 11-day test window. They have clarified that by pressing it, one does not exit automatically it first alerts the candidate if there are unanswered questions and asks whether the candidate really wants to exit. "Moreover, the cursor will sit on "No" and the candidate has to move it to "Yes" in case they want to exit," the release stated. As for complaints that questions were repeated, the IIMs said that by design the test included a few that were common in at the most two tests. This is a standard practice followed by tests offered over multiple days such as GRE, GMAT, TOEFL and so on to develop equivalence in terms of difficulty between two tests. "These may have given the impression that questions have been repeated when that may not be true."

The IIMs said Prometric, which conducted the test, uses a virus-proof, robust, encryption technology to upload all data. "We have been assured that computer data on the test from all candidates have been successfully uploaded from all the labs."

The release stated the review of the CAT carried out by the IIMs have been shared with the officials of the Ministry of Human Resources Development during a meeting held on December 16.