CAT 2009 will not be scrapped: panel

No move to revert to pen-and-paper model: IIM-Ahmedabad director

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Despite the problems that candidates faced in taking the first online Common Admission Test (CAT) for the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), there is no move to revert to pen-and-paper mode. And, neither will this year's examination be scrapped.

This was announced by the CAT Committee here on Wednesday after a meeting with officials of the Union Human Resource Development Ministry. Briefing journalists, IIM Ahmedabad director Samir Barua said: "IIMs have decided to continue with the computer-based test for 2009. We also look forward to computer-based testing in future."

According to the Committee, a fresh test will be held for those who genuinely had a problem with the online examination that ran into trouble at many centres across the country. Given the fact that some candidates – who may have done poorly in the online examination – are using the publicised glitches as a pretext for demanding a retest, Committee members said the IIMs would put in place a system to identify the genuine cases.

As to whether the IIMs would revisit the contract with the American firm Prometric – which had been selected to conduct the online test – Mr. Barua said the priority right now was to ensure that no candidate suffered owing to the problems that crept into CAT 2009.

However, he did not rule out a review of the contract. The entire test would be reviewed to ensure that such problems do not occur in future, he said. About the charge that the online examination had developed problems because of overload, Mr. Barua said it had a capacity to accommodate 3,40,000 candidates. And, only 2,40,000 candidates appeared for it.