

CAT extended to December 8

feBureau

Ahmedabad, Dec 4: The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have extended the online Common Admission Test (CAT) by a day, till December 8. The exam was scheduled to run for 10 days from November 28 to December 7.

The IIM Directors Forum would also evaluate the performance of vendor Prometric, after which action against the US company would be decided.

The forum had awarded the contract for the online CAT to Prometric, a subsidiary of the US-based ETS, in April. The company had reportedly bagged a whopping \$40-million five-year deal with the IIMs beating contenders like Pearson VUE, Eduquity Career Technologies and Attest of the Aptech group. Prometric administers international online tests such as TOEFL and GRE.

Prometric also conducted GMAT till 2005. But the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), the owner and administrator of the exam, chose not to renew the contract. Some testing labs had experienced technical difficulties on account of viruses and malware. Majority of these issues have been identified and eradicated. However, Prometric, in partnership with NIIT, is continuing to monitor and assess all labs. In case testing is not possible for any session at specific labs, affected candidates will be contacted via SMS and email a day before. Rescheduling of exams for these candidates would then be initiated and new dates would be communicated again via SMS and email," the statement states.

Speaking to *FE*, CAT convenor Satish Deodhar of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, said, "We'll take a look at all the problems which have cropped up while administering the exam online. Before this comprehensive review, it's difficult to say what action would be taken." Deodhar seemed unaware of penalty clauses in the agreement inked between the IIMs and Prometric. "I am only in-charge of ensuring smooth administration of the test," he said, adding he was not aware of the details of the agreement. "However, all this would be looked into when we conduct the review after the exam," he maintained. "At present, our priority is to ensure that each candidate, who has suffered in the past few days on account of virus attacks or hardware, should be given a fair opportunity of taking the test."