

CAT flaws: Candidates point at complete mismanagement

Leak Of Data Online Raises Question On Compromise Of Security

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Though IIM-Bangalore said on Monday that the leaking of the toughest section of last Sunday's Common Admission Test (CAT) for the Indian Institutes of Management and other prominent business schools on social media sites was an isolated incident that was being dealt with, some candidates have alleged "complete mismanagement" at the test centres.

Despite a non-disclosure agreement, images of questions from the "data interpretation and logical reasoning" section of the test leaked online by a candidate during the test (at 3.09 pm) were circulated on social media. This also raised the question of whether security had been compromised even though candidates were not allowed to wear shoes and socks while taking the test.

"There have been issues previously as well. But they were mostly about technical

GLITCHES MAR TEST

2009 | CAT became computerised-based test this year

➤ Major glitches disrupted test in many centres across 360 testing labs

➤ Prometric, then testing partner, blamed glitches on a virus attack — Conflicter and W32 Nimda

➤ Over 10,000 candidates were allowed retest of CAT 2009

2010 | Due to quarantine measures initiated by IIM Lucknow and Prometric, the test was comparatively smoother, but there were minor technical glitches

2011 | Minor technical glitches reported

CAT 2016 | Technical glitches with candidates alleging screens showing "pi" symbol instead of "square root" symbol & questions from Quantitative Ability (QA) in circulation on social media even when the second session (afternoon) exams were under way

2012 | CAT now entangled in score controversy

2013 | Post-results, it was found 95,000 candidates obtained '0' or negative scores. The controversy resulted in IIMs and test-conducting partner ordered by courts to share raw scores with candidates

2014 | Five-year association with US-based Prometric with IIMs ended

➤ Tata Consultancy Services bagged 5-year contract to conduct CAT

➤ While exams went off without issues, the announcement of CAT exam scores was met with anger as glitches prevented candidate from accessing scores online

glitches. But this (circulation of questions on social media while the exam was under-

way) is far too serious and demands a thorough review," said a mid-level executive of

an IT firm who took the test for the second time on Sunday.

"I came across candidates pointing out that some aspirants were allowed inside the test centres with watches and wallets. I haven't come across any personally, though, at my centre. Also, the question is how we can be sure there was just one incident (and one person), and not more," a candidate from Delhi said on condition of anonymity.

There were also allegations that some of the questions were wrong and that the score calculation for CAT 2016 was questionable. "For an exam as reputed as CAT, its recent history has been marred by blemishes of all kinds — technical glitches, wrong questions, questionable score calculations, and now even a leak that went viral," said Deekshant Sehrawat, director, Roots Education and an alumni of IIM-Kolkata.

The first computer-based CAT in 2009 was marred by technical glitches due to a virus attack that led to a retest for over 10,000 aspirants.