

We will face huge challenges in the short-run



“If there is a power cut at some centre during the test, the back-up power supply may have a battery life of only 60 minutes, while the test itself is of two-hour duration. This is a very uniquely Indian problem, which needs to be thought of when planning online tests.”

V Vaidyanathan, placement officer, Indian Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore

The Indian Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) has been successfully conducting online entrance exams across the country for two years now. On an average, 2,000 candidates sit for the IIITB entrance test every year and it is held over a period of four to five days. So far, the test has been conducted without any technical snags. V Vaidyanathan, placement officer, IIITB shares his insights on the testing experience with *Jayalakshmi Venugopal*.

What has IIITB's experience been in online testing sphere so far?

We have been conducting online entrance tests over the last two years. We partnered with MeritTrac, a company that already had experience in the testing sphere in India. So far we haven't had infrastructure or technology-related problems. We only had some process-related issues because candidates were new to the online testing format and were prone to making some errors. We also handle smaller volumes of around 2,000 candidates every year than CAT2009 which is being taken by over two lakh aspirants .

What are the challenges of conducting an online test in India?

I think the large volume of candidates contribute to the load on servers. Prometric, which is responsible for conducting CAT2009, has a lot of experience conducting assessments, but they are a relatively new player in the country.