

CAT 2026 by IIM Indore: Exam Date November 29, Registration Numbers Fall to 2.84 Lakhs; Check Preparation, Result, Colleges - Download PDFs

CAT 2026 exam will be conducted by IIM Indore on Sunday, November 29, 2026 in three shifts. [CAT 2026 Registration](#) closed on Sept 22, 2026. According to IIM Indore, 2.84 lakh candidates have registered for CAT 2026. Last year, 2.95 lakh candidates had registered for CAT 2025. Hence, CAT 2026 registration numbers are 11,000 or 3.73% lower than last year's numbers. Check analysis of last 10 years of CAT numbers in the article below. With just few weeks to go for the exam, candidates must finalize their last 60 days CAT preparation plan. CAT 2026 exam pattern is expected to retain 68 questions with 120-minutes duration across three sections: VARC, DI & LR and Quant. Read CAT Syllabus 2026 and CAT 2026 preparation strategy below. CAT exam scores are accepted by all 22 IIMs (IIM Guwahati added) and top MBA colleges accepting CAT 2026 scores including FMS Delhi, SPJIMR Mumbai, MDI Gurgaon, IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi. CAT 2026 Result release date (official) is "first week of January 2027". Read this MBAUniverse.com CAT exam 2026 comprehensive guide that covers dates, eligibility, fees, pattern, syllabus, registration process, a 2 month CAT preparation plan, best books, free mock tests, cut-offs and 20-years CAT registration-trend analysis. Download free CAT Preparation Guide PDF from links below.



CAT Exam Guide 2026

**Complete guide to CAT 2026
Registration, Syllabus, Exam Pattern,
Preparation, Topper Tips, Mock Tests & PYQs**

What is CAT Exam? Common Admission Test Explained

The Common Admission Test (CAT) is a computer-based [MBA entrance exam](#) conducted every year by one of the IIMs on a rotation basis. The CAT exam lasts 2 hours (120 minutes), split into three 40-minute sections: Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension (VARC), Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR), and Quantitative Ability (QA). CAT scores are used for [MBA admission](#) in all 22 IIMs and hundreds of other top B-schools in India. As India's largest MBA entrance test, the CAT examination is the gateway to the 22 IIMs, FMS Delhi, IIFT Delhi, SPJIMR Mumbai, MDI Gurgaon, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and other leading B-schools.

- Eligibility: graduates with at least 50% marks (45% for SC/ST/PwD) are [eligible](#).
- Slots and centres: the exam is held in three slots on a single day, at [test centres](#) in about 170 cities.
- Marking: the CAT entrance exam awards +3 marks for each correct answer and deducts 1 mark for a wrong MCQ answer. TITA (Type in the Answer) questions have no negative marking. See the [CAT exam pattern](#).

For reference, CAT 2025 was conducted by IIM Kozhikode on November 30, 2025. A total of 2.95 lakh candidates registered and about 2.58 lakh appeared. CAT 2024 saw a peak of 3.29 lakh registrations, with 2.93 lakh candidates taking the test. CAT 2026 registration expected numbers are given in the article below.

Who is conducting the CAT examination in 2026? CAT 2026 will be conducted by **IIM Indore** on **Sunday, November 29, 2026**. Announcing the same, **Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director IIM Indore**, said, "It is a matter of great privilege for IIM Indore to conduct CAT examination in 2026 on behalf of the Indian Institutes of Management. We remain committed to ensuring that the CAT 2026 examination is conducted with the highest standards of fairness, transparency, security, and operational excellence".

CAT 2026: Exam Highlights

CAT Exam Dates 2026: IIM CAT exam will be conducted by **IIM Indore** on **November 29, 2026**. [CAT 2026 Notification](#) and **CAT Exam Official Bulletin 2026** was released on **July 26, 2026**. [CAT 2026 Registration](#) has started from August 3. CAT 2026 exam registration process is closed. CAT 2026 Registration last date was September 22 till 5:00 PM. CAT 2026 Fee Payment last date was September 24, 5:00 PM. Check complete details and highlights about CAT exam 2026 in table below.

CAT 2026 Exam Highlights

CAT Exam Particulars	Key Details
CAT Exam Full Form to CAT Full Form	Common Admission Test, popularly known as 'CAT'
Who Conducts CAT Exam?	CAT is conducted by one of the six older IIMs on a rotation basis — IIM Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Lucknow, Kozhikode, and Indore.

CAT Exam Particulars	Key Details
CAT 2026 exam conducted by	IIM Indore
What is the date of the CAT exam in 2026?	Sunday, November 29, 2026
What are CAT 2026 exam timing?	Slot 1: 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM; Slot 2: 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM; Slot 3: 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM
How many questions will appear in CAT 2026?	68 Questions (expected)
How many sections will appear in CAT 2026 paper?	Three Sections: Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension, Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning, and Quantitative Ability
What is the Scoring Pattern for CAT 2026 exam?	CAT marking scheme is +3 for every correct and -1 for incorrect. There is no negative marking for TITA Questions.
What is the duration of CAT 2026 Exam?	CAT exam duration is 2 hours (120 minutes).
What is the Testing Mode of CAT 2026?	CAT 2026 will be held as Computer based exam at test centres across the country.
What is CAT 2026 Notification Release date?	CAT Notification 2026 was released on Sunday, July 26, 2026
Which are top MBA Colleges accepting CAT 2026?	Top MBA colleges accepting CAT scores 2026 are 22 IIMs, FMS, IIFT, MDI, SPJIMR, IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay
What is the age limit for CAT exam 2026?	There is no age limit for taking CAT exam 2026
How to Apply for CAT 2026?	Candidates can apply for CAT online on CAT official website iimcat.ac.in 2026
What is CAT exam fees 2026?	CAT 2026 fees for general candidates is Rs. 2700. CAT Fees for reserved category candidates is Rs. 1350.
What is CAT 2026 Official Website for CAT Form Filling?	CAT official website 2026 is iimcat.ac.in
How many candidates are expected to appear in CAT 2026 exam?	Based on past trends, around 2.75–3.00 lakh candidates are expected to appear in CAT 2026.

CAT Exam Particulars	Key Details
What is CAT 2026 result release date?	CAT notification says “by first week of January 2027” Based on past year trends, expected on December 23, 2026.
Who is the CAT 2026 Convener?	Prof Aditya Billore , Professor of Marketing at IIM Indore, is the convener of CAT examination in 2026.

CAT 2026 Important Dates & Schedule

CAT Exam Date 2026: CAT IIM exam will be held on Sunday, November 29, 2026 in three shifts. CAT Notification was released on July 26, 2026. CAT 2026 Registration last date was September 22. CAT 2026 Fee Payment Window was open till September 24, 5:00 PM, and is now closed. CAT Correction Window 2026 opened at 10:00 AM on October 5, 2026, and closed at 5:00 PM on October 6, 2026. Check [how to correct errors in CAT application form 2026](#). CAT exam 2026 dates for registration, admit card and result release and other events are given below:

CAT 2026 Exam Dates & Schedule

Event	Date
CAT Notification Release Date	July 26, 2026
CAT Registration Start Date	August 03, 2026 (10:00 am)
CAT Registration Last Date (Closed)	September 22, 2026 (5:00 pm)
CAT 2026 Fee Payment Window (Closed)	September 24, 2026 till 5:00 PM
CAT Form Correction Window	October 5 (10:00 AM) to October 6 (5:00 PM)
CAT Admit Card Release Date	November 4, 2026
CAT Exam Date	November 29, 2026 (Confirmed)
CAT Answer Key Release Date	December 3, 2026 (Expected)
CAT Result Release Date	December 23, 2026 (Expected)

CAT Notification 2026: Release Date and Key Information

CAT notification was released on Sunday, July 26, 2026 by IIM Indore on the official CAT website iimcat.ac.in. The conducting IIM releases the notification on the last Sunday of July every year. The CAT exam notification is the official document that has confirmed following important CAT examination details:

The CAT notification 2026 is the official document that confirms following critical CAT exam details:

- Official CAT Exam Date is Sunday, November 29, 2026
- Conducting IIM and CAT Convener 2026 name
- Registration start date and last date with exact timings
- Registration fee for all categories
- Form Edit Window dates and editable fields
- Admit Card download dates
- Result declaration date
- Eligibility criteria and reservation policy
- Score validity period
- Helpdesk contact details

For complete details, check [CAT 2026 Notification](#) page with updated details.

CAT Eligibility Criteria 2026

There is no change in CAT Eligibility Criteria. Before registering for CAT exam, candidates must carefully check CAT Eligibility Criteria 2026 given below.

Minimum Qualification

- Graduation: Candidates must hold a Bachelor's degree with at least 50% marks (45% for SC/ST/PwD) from a recognised University or Institution.
- Professional Degrees: Holders of CA, CS, ICWA (CMA), or Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries of India (FIAI) with required marks are also eligible.
- Final Year Students: Candidates in the final year of their Bachelor's degree can also apply. If selected, admission will be provisional until degree completion is confirmed.
- Age Limit: There is no age limit for appearing in the CAT exam.
- CGPA Conversion: If no conversion scheme exists, divide candidate's CGPA by maximum possible CGPA and multiply by 100.

Reservation of Seats

- SC Candidates: 15% seats reserved as per legal requirements.
- ST Candidates: 7.5% seats reserved as per legal requirements.
- NC-OBC Candidates: 27% seats reserved for non-creamy layer candidates.
- EWS Candidates: Up to 10% seats reserved.
- PwD Candidates: 5% seats reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities.

Read complete details on [CAT 2026 Eligibility Criteria](#)

CAT Registration 2026: Process, Steps for Form Filling

CAT Registration 2026 is closed as the last date was September 22. CAT Fee Payment window is also closed as the last date was September 24, 5:00 PM. CAT registration fee was Rs 2,700 for General/EWS/NC-OBC candidates and Rs 1,350 for SC/ST/PwD categories. For your reference, know how to fill CAT Application Form 2026 below.

Step 1: Register for User ID and Password (Closed)

Visit the CAT official website iimcat.ac.in and register for getting your User ID and password.

Step 2: Login to CAT Website (Closed)

After receiving your User ID and password, log in to the CAT website using your User ID and password.

Step 3: Complete CAT Application Process 2026 (Closed)

How to fill CAT Application Form? CAT Application Form 2026 filling can be completed by entering these details:

1. PERSONAL DETAILS
2. ACADEMICS
3. WORK EXPERIENCE
4. PROGRAMMES
5. TEST CITY
6. DECLARATION

List of Documents Required for CAT Registration

- Valid email address & mobile number for entire exam duration
- Passport size photograph, as specified by IIM CAT Registration Guide 2026
- Scanned signature (within 80mm x 35mm, < 80 KB)
- Educational qualification details (SSC, HSC, Bachelor's, Master's, etc.)
- Valid EWS/NC-OBC/SC/ST certificate (if applicable)
- Valid PwD certificate (if applicable)
- Caste/Tribe certificate (for reserved category candidates)
- Additional documents as per the selected category, if applicable

Candidates should visit CAT official website IIMCAT.ac.in to view formats of the certificates and forms required such as: CAT Scribe Affidavit, CAT Identification Affidavit, CAT Final Year Certificate, CAT NC-OBC Certificate, CAT EWS and SC/ST Certificates, Disability Certificate (PwBD) (Form – V) and other related documents.

CAT Form Correction Window 2026

CAT Application Form Correction Window 2026 is closed now. CAT Application Form Correction Window 2026 date time was 10:00 AM on October 5, 2026, till 5:00 PM on October 6, 2026. Candidates should carefully review their CAT application and make any necessary changes within the CAT edit window. No further extensions will be granted beyond the deadline. Candidates who have successfully registered for CAT 2026 and paid the required registration fee are eligible to make changes in the following fields

- Photograph
- Signature
- Test State/City Preferences

List of IIMs Accepting CAT 2026 Scores with Programs

CAT exam scores will be accepted by 22 IIMs (IIM Guwahati is latest new IIM) for more than 50 general and specialized MBA programs. Check list of IIMs accepting CAT scores with their Post Graduate Programmes in Management (PGP) programs and website in table below. Please note that Admission process for each IIM is independent of CAT exam. While performance in the CAT examination is an important component for consideration in IIM admission process, each IIM has their own eligibility criteria including academic cut-offs and relative weights and follow different selection processes.

List of IIMs with MBA Programs

IIM	Programmes	Website
IIM Ahmedabad	PGP, PGP-FABM, ePGD-ABA (ePost Graduate Diploma in Advanced Business Analytics)	www.iima.ac.in
IIM Amritsar	MBA, MBA-Business Analytics, MBA-HRM, EMBA, M.Sc. in Data Science (MSDSM) jointly offered with IIT Ropar	www.iimamritsar.ac.in
IIM Bangalore	PGP, PGPEM, PGPBA, PGPPM	www.iimb.ac.in
IIM Bodh Gaya	MBA, MBA (Digital Business Management), MBA (Hospital and Healthcare Management), Executive MBA (EMBA)	www.iimbg.ac.in
IIM Calcutta	MBA	www.iimcal.ac.in
IIM Indore	PGP, PGP-HRM, MSDSM (Master of Science in Data Science and Management), PGPMX	www.iimidr.ac.in
IIM Jammu	MBA, MBA (Healthcare), Executive MBA	www.iimj.ac.in
IIM Kashipur	MBA, MBA (Analytics), EMBA, EMBA (Analytics)	www.iimkashipur.ac.in

IIM	Programmes	Website
IIM Kozhikode	PGP, PGP-BL, PGP-FINANCE, PGP-LSM, EPGP-IL, EPGP Kochi	www.iimk.ac.in
IIM Lucknow	MBA, MBA-ABM, MBA-SM, PGPWE, Blended MBA	www.iiml.ac.in
IIM Mumbai	MBA, MBA (Operations and Supply Chain Management),	www.iimmumbai.ac.in
IIM Nagpur	MBA, Executive MBA(Hybrid)	www.iimnagpur.ac.in
IIM Raipur	MBA, MBA in Public Policy and Governance	www.iimraipur.ac.in
IIM Ranchi	MBA, MBA-HRM, MBA (Business Analytics)	www.iimranchi.ac.in
IIM Rohtak	PGP, EPGDSM, PGPx	www.iimrohtak.ac.in
IIM Sambalpur	MBA, MBA-BA, Executive MBA, MBA for Working Professionals	www.iimsambalpur.ac.in
IIM Shillong	PGP, PGPEX, PGP(WE)	www.iimshillong.ac.in
IIM Sirmaur	MBA, MBA (Tourism Management), MBA (Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Management), ExMBA, PGPEX-LSM, ExMBA (Digital Transformation & Analytics)	www.iimsirmaur.ac.in
IIM Tiruchirappalli	PGPM (MBA), PGPM-HR (MBA-HR), PGPM (MBA for Working Executives in Chennai)	www.iimtrichy.ac.in
IIM Udaipur	MBA, MBA-DEM (Digital Enterprise Management), MBA-GSCM (Global Supply Chain Management), Executive MBA (Online)	www.iimu.ac.in
IIM Visakhapatnam	PGP, EMBA, PGPMCI, EPGDPM, PGDMEx	www.iimv.ac.in
IIM Guwahati	MBA	https://www.iimg.ac.in/

CAT Exam Pattern 2026

[CAT 2026 Exam Pattern](#) is divided in three sections: Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension, Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning, and Quantitative Ability. Each section can be further divided into sub-sections. Overall, CAT pattern has become more focused on conceptual clarity, time management, and logical reasoning ability. Over the last five years, the CAT pattern has undergone several notable changes in its pattern, as highlighted below.

1. Total Number of Questions:

- In 2019 and 2020, CAT had 100 questions (VARC: 34, DILR: 32, QA: 34).

- From 2021 onwards, the number of questions was reduced to 66 (VARC: 24, DILR: 20, QA: 22), making the test shorter but more intense. This pattern continued till CAT 2023.
- Total number of questions in CAT 2024 and 2025 exam were increased to 68.

2. Time Duration:

- Until 2019, CAT had a 3-hour duration (60 minutes per section).
- From 2020 onwards, the exam duration was reduced to 2 hours, with 40 minutes per section, which increased the pressure on time management.

3. Sectional Pattern & Difficulty Level:

- **VARC section** has seen a greater emphasis on Reading Comprehension, with fewer Verbal Ability questions.
- **DILR Section** has become more reasoning-focused, with tougher logic-based sets and fewer straightforward data interpretation questions.
- **QA Section** has shifted slightly towards Arithmetic, making it more accessible for non-engineering background candidates.

4. Question Types – MCQ vs. TITA:

- The TITA (Type in the Answer) questions have fluctuated but generally make up 25-30% of the total paper. Check break-up of CAT 2025 in the following section.
- The number of MCQs has reduced, making the paper more unpredictable, as TITA questions do not have negative marking.

5. Slot-wise Variations & Normalization:

- Since CAT is conducted in multiple slots, the level of difficulty has varied across different slots, requiring score normalization to ensure fairness in percentile calculations.

Check CAT exam pattern 2026 in the table below.

CAT Exam Pattern 2026 (Expected)

Section No.	Section Name	Duration	MCQs	TITA	Total
I	VARC	40 min	20	4	24
II	DI and LR	40 min	11	11	22
III	QA	40 min	14	8	22
Total		120 min	45	23	68

CAT Exam Pattern 2026 PDF Download

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CAT Pattern 2026: Section Wise Break Up

The CAT pattern is divided into three sections, each of which can be further categorized into sub-sections. Since the exam is conducted in three different slots, there are minor variations in the exam pattern within the sections across slots. Check CAT Section wise composition for Slot 1 of CAT 2025 exam.

CAT 2025 VARC Slot 1: RC Passages, Topics, and Weightage

Area / Questions	No of Qs.	Type
Reading Comprehension	16	MCQ
RC 1: Alienists and the art of diagnosing mental disorders	4	MCQ
RC 2: Income inequality and economic growth	4	MCQ
RC 3: Objections to Electronic Music as a musical genre	4	MCQ
RC 4: Complex Systems and the dynamics of tail events	4	MCQ
Verbal Ability	08	MCQ & TITA
Paragraph completion	2	MCQ
Summary	2	MCQ
Odd Sentence Questions	2	TITA
Jumbled Paragraphs	2	TITA

CAT 2025 DILR Slot 1 Analysis: Set-wise Distribution & Question Types

Area	Set Description	No. of Questions	Question Type
1. Data Interpretation	Performance rating of 6 employees	5	4 TITA
2. Data Interpretation	Import-Export data of 5 countries	4	4 MCQ
3. Logical Reasoning	Circular arrangement set involving 4 persons and 7 chairs	5	4 MCQ 1 TITA
4. Logical Reasoning	Five persons tapping yes and no	4	2 MCQ

Area	Set Description	No. of Questions	Question Type
			2 TITA
5. Logical Reasoning	Train movement from stations A to E	4	4 TITA
Total No of Questions		22	

CAT 2025 Quant Slot 1 Analysis: Topics, Weightages

Sub-section & Module	Description	No. of Questions
Number System	Factors 1, Digits Based 1, Set Based 1	3
Algebra	Log 1, Linear Equations 2, Functions 2, Inequality 1	6
Arithmetic	TSD 1, T&W 1, SI CI 1, Percentage 1, Ratio 1, PLD 1, Mixture 1, Maxima & Minima 1	8
Modern Math	P&C 1	1
Geometry & Mensuration	Circle 1, Polygon 1, Coordinate Geo 2	4
Total		22

CAT 2026 Syllabus

CAT syllabus is not officially defined or released by IIMs. Instead, CAT syllabus 2026 is based on the topics covered in CAT papers from the last 10-15 years. Read the following overview based on the last few years' exam papers. Also use [CAT 2026 Syllabus PDF Download link](#) below to prepare.

- **CAT 2025 exam syllabus covers three sections:** Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension (VARC), Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR), and Quantitative Ability (QA). While IIMs do not release a fixed syllabus, the CAT exam syllabus can be derived from CAT exam pattern.
- **The VARC section includes Reading Comprehension (RC),** Paragraph Completion, Summary Writing, and Odd Sentence questions, testing candidates on their reading speed, comprehension, and verbal reasoning. The DILR section assesses analytical and problem-solving skills through data-based caselets, logical puzzles, seating

arrangements, tournaments, and graphs/charts-based interpretation.

- **The Quantitative Ability (QA)** section focuses on mathematical concepts, with questions from Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Modern Math, and Number Systems. Arithmetic topics such as Percentages, Ratios, Profit & Loss, and Time & Work form a significant portion of the QA section. Algebra includes Linear & Quadratic Equations, Inequalities, and Logarithms, while Geometry covers Circles, Triangles, and Mensuration. Modern Math topics like Permutation & Combination and Probability also appear in the exam. Check complete details in tables below.

Read more about [CAT 2026 Syllabus](#) for different sections.

CAT Syllabus 2026 PDF Download

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CAT Preparation: Last 60 Days Plan (Week-by-Week)

With CAT exam just 60 days away, based on 100+ [CAT toppers interview](#) with IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Calcutta and IIT Delhi MBA students, MBAUniverse.com has prepared last 60 days CAT preparation plan. Candidates should start with a diagnostic mock, spend the first three weeks on high-weightage topics such as Arithmetic, Algebra and Reading Comprehension, then take two full mocks a week with an error log. Once the admit card is out, practice at your slot time, solve previous-year papers, and revise lightly in the final week. CAT Preparation last 60 days plan (below) assumes that you have covered the basics at least once. If you have not, follow the same sequence but give Weeks 1 to 3 more time for concepts and take fewer full mocks.

CAT 2026 Last 60 Days Plan at a Glance

Week	Dates	Main focus	Full mocks
Week 1	Sep 28 – Oct 4	Diagnostic mock, Arithmetic, daily RC	1 (diagnostic)
Week 2	Oct 5 – Oct 11	Algebra, VA, timed DILR sets	1
Week 3	Oct 12 – Oct 18	Close high-weightage gaps, start error log	2
Week 4	Oct 19 – Oct 25	Mocks, sectionals, Geometry and Number System revision	2
Week 5	Oct 26 – Nov 1	Fix section-wise attempt strategy	2
Week 6	Nov 2 – Nov 8	Admit card; mocks at your slot time	2

Week	Dates	Main focus	Full mocks
Week 7	Nov 9 – Nov 15	Previous-year CAT papers	1 + 2–3 past papers
Week 8	Nov 16 – Nov 22	Light revision, formulas, sleep cycle	1 (final mock)
Exam Week	Nov 23 – Nov 29	Rest, logistics, exam day	None

Read complete [CAT 2026 last 60 days plan](#) and download CAT Preparation Guide 2026 from the link below.

Download CAT Preparation 2026 Guide PDF

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Best CAT Preparation Books 2026

The best books for CAT preparation 2026 that are recommended by toppers are written by Authors Arun Sharma (How to Prepare for Quantitative Aptitude) and Nishit Sinha (Quantitative Aptitude for CAT). Arun Sharma CAT books have been widely used by CAT toppers. From 2026 onwards, Arun Sharma CAT books 2026 are converted as 'Courseware' that combines traditional books with digital learning tools like videos and mock tests. For example, Arun Sharma Quantitative Aptitude for CAT 2026 (13th Edition) include print edition of the book along with 4000+ practice questions, 200+ videos, and solved CAT 2023–25 papers. Check list of best books for [CAT 2026 preparation](#) in the table below. Also read this complete guide to [CAT 2026 preparation best books](#).

Best Books for CAT Preparation 2026

Section	Book & Edition	Author
Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension	How to Prepare for VERBAL ABILITY & READING COMPREHENSION (13 th Edition)	Arun Sharma & Meenakshi Upadhyay
	Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension for CAT	Nishit K. Sinha
Quantitative Ability	How to Prepare for QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE (13 th Edition)	Arun Sharma
	Quantitative Aptitude for CAT	Nishit K. Sinha

Section	Book & Edition	Author
	Quantitative Aptitude	R S Aggarwal
Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning	How to Prepare for DATA INTERPRETATION (10 th Edition)	Arun Sharma
	How to Prepare for LOGICAL REASONING (9 th Edition)	Arun Sharma
	Data Interpretation for CAT	Nishit K. Sinha
	Logical Reasoning for CAT	Nishit K. Sinha

CAT Toppers Strategies & Tips

Along with above prep tips, also read useful CAT preparation strategies and tips, shared by CAT toppers with MBAUniverse.com.

Topper Name & College	VARC	DILR	Quant
<u>Shubham Bajaj, IIM Calcutta Student</u>	1. Attempt 80% with 80% accuracy, much better than 100% attempt with 50% accuracy 2. VARC is not a lot about having a very good vocabulary knowledge or extremely great grammatical skills. It is more about comprehending what you are reading	1. Learn better methods for solving a particular LRDI set 2. Use Elimination Option, you can easily eliminate 2 options out of four and for the remaining 2 options, you need a little bit careful attention	1. Found Rodha YouTube playlist on Quants quite helpful 2. Referred to Prepzone daily events 3. Attended free workshops organized by CrackU on YouTube
<u>Nandan Goel, IIM Calcutta Student</u>	1. VARC is one section which requires existing acumen and little of current preparation 2. I solely focused on mocks and sectional tests	1. Refined my basics using the material I had by attempting some questions from some chapters	1. Completed the material (TIME books) and had for 3 times, attempted each

Topper Name & College	VARC	DILR	Quant
	3.I made a point of attempting every question in this section, unless I can't understand the meaning of a problem.	2.Major preparation was through sectional tests and mock exams 3.There was no test in my student portal which was not attempted by me	and every question. 2. Took sectional tests on a regular basis

Read more [CAT Toppers Interviews](#) on MBAUniverse.com

CAT Mock Tests 2026

Toppers recommend that taking CAT 2026 Mock Tests and [CAT 2026 Sample Papers](#) are of utmost importance as it is a very important preparation tool. If you are seriously preparing for the exam and wish to score high percentile, it is necessary to attempt more and more Mock Tests to get ready for the exam day. If you are looking for free high quality CAT Mock Tests, check [MBAUniverse.com CAT Mock Tests](#). They are based on last 10 Years' actual CAT papers (based on CAT 2024, CAT 2023, CAT 2022, CAT 2021 and other previous year's CAT paper). You can take them free online after a simple registration. You can also download CAT Mock Tests from the link below.

CAT Previous Years Question Papers

CAT Previous Years Question papers are also very important preparation tools. IIMs release CAT question papers every year since 2017. CAT previous papers are of great help and serve as CAT exam preparation guide. MBAUniverse.com has prepared series of CAT Previous Year Question Papers with Solutions. Download a few CAT Previous Year Paper pdf from the links below. Visit [CAT previous years papers](#) for last 10 years papers. You can also download CAT Previous Years Papers PDF from the link below.

CAT 2025 MOCK TEST PAPER – 1

[Download PDF](#)

CAT Official Mock Tests 2026

CAT Official Mock Tests 2026 is expected to be released on November 10, 2026 on CAT official website iimcat.ac.in. The objective of CAT official mock test 2026 is to familiarize the candidates with different types of questions generally asked, and the exam interface. All questions are based on previous year CAT question papers.

Candidates should note that CAT Official Mock Test will not have answers and solutions. Check how to take [CAT 2026 Official Mock Test](#).

Top CAT Coaching Institutes 2026

Choosing the right CAT 2026 coaching institute is critical for serious aspirants. Based on aggregated student feedback from over 1,000 CAT aspirants, **top offline CAT coaching institutes** for 2026 include TIME (Rs 60,000–75,000) known for its rigorous AIMCAT mock series, IMS CATapult Classroom Pro (Rs 61,329) with its SIMCATs and 100% money-back guarantee, and Career Launcher (Rs 55,000–70,000) with strong GD-PI preparation.

For online preparation, **top online CAT coaching institutes** are IMS Online Programs (Rs 18,160–35,950) with 5 different program options, Rodha (Rs 18,000–25,000), Cracku (Rs 15,000–20,000) for value-for-money mocks, Elites Grid (Rs 28,000–35,000) for DILR specialisation, and MBA Wallah (Rs 10,000–15,000) as the most affordable option.

Section-wise specialists like Gejo Srinivasan (VARC1000) for Verbal Ability, Shahzar Sir (Elites Grid) and Raghu Sir (2IIM) for DILR, and Rodha for Quantitative Ability are also widely recommended by CAT toppers. Most coaching institutes offer 25–30% discounts during May–July 2026, with MBAUniverse.com readers eligible for an [exclusive 40% discount on IMS programs](#). Free CAT preparation resources including the official IIM mock on iimcat.ac.in, MBAUniverse.com mocks, Rodha YouTube, and Cracku daily tests can effectively supplement paid coaching. **CAT coaching fees 2026** ranges from a few thousand to more than Rs 50,000.

Read the complete [Top CAT Coaching Institutes 2026 guide](#) for detailed comparison, city-wise options (Delhi, Mumbai), section-wise recommendations, Top 10 combined ranking, ROI analysis, and free CAT resources. Also check best [CAT 2026 Online Coaching Institutes](#).

CAT 2026 Total Registration Drops by 11,000 Candidates

According to IIM Indore, 2.84 lakh candidates have registered for CAT 2026. Last year, 2.95 lakh candidates registered for CAT 2025. Hence, CAT 2026 registration numbers are 11,000, or 3.73%, lower than last year's figures. IIM Indore opened the CAT 2026 registration process on August 3, 2026. The extended last date for CAT form filling was September 22, 2026. For the first time in the history of the CAT exam, the official fee payment window was extended by two days, until September 24, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

Earlier, unconfirmed reports on social media claimed that total CAT 2026 registrations had crossed 3.20 lakh. MBAUniverse.com had cautioned candidates to wait for official data released by IIM Indore. With IIM Indore releasing the figures, we now know how many candidates registered for CAT 2026. A total of 2.84 lakh candidates registered for the CAT 2026 exam.

According to MBAUniverse.com's analysis of past CAT registration trends, the highest number of candidates registered for the CAT exam in 2024, when 3.29 lakh candidates registered. Check CAT registration trends for the last 20 years in the table below.

MBAUniverse.com Exclusive: 20-year CAT Registration Trend Data

CAT Year	Registered Candidates	Appeared Candidates
2026	284,000	2,50,000 (Expected)
2025	295,000	258,000
2024	329,000	293,000
2023	328,000	288,000
2022	255,501	222,184
2021	229,969	191,660
2020	227,835	190,144
2019	244,169	209,926
2018	240,338	209,405
2017	231,067	199,632
2016	232,434	195,679
2015	218,664	179,602
2014	196,988	170,000
2013	194,516	173,714
2012	214,000	195,000
2011	205,000	186,000
2010	204,000	185,000
2009	241,000	230,000
2008	290,000	276,000
2007	250,000	230,000
2006	191,000	180,000
2005	170,000	155,000

CAT Exam Centres 2026

CAT exam in 2026 will be held across 170 cities in more than 300 test centres in India. CAT 2025 was held on November 30, 2025 at 339 test centres in 170 cities in India. When filling the CAT application form, you should enter your preferred CAT Test City where you will like to take the CAT exam. Candidates have to fill 5 different Test Cities as per their preference from the drop-down menu. After the last date of registration, one among the 5 preferred test cities will be allotted subject to availability. [Check list of CAT Exam Centres 2026.](#)

CAT Admit Card 2026

The CAT Admit Card 2026 is the official hall ticket issued by the IIM conducting CAT and is a mandatory document to appear in the exam. CAT admit card also contains details such as the candidate's name, registration number, category, photograph, signature, exam date, time slot, reporting time, and exam centre address. CAT Admit Card 2026 will be released on November 4, 2026. Candidates can download it by logging in with their registered user ID and password. To access it, visit iimcat.ac.in, click the "Login" tab, enter your credentials, and go to the "Admit Card" section. Download the file and take multiple printouts. On exam day, carry the admit card along with a valid photo ID to the test centre. Read complete details on [how to download CAT 2026 admit card](#).

CAT Exam Analysis 2026

CAT test 2026 will be held on November 29, 2026. MBAUniverse.com will publish in-depth CAT Exam Analysis 2026 on exam day for all three slots. Meanwhile, to improve your CAT preparation, read in-depth analysis of previous years' CAT papers. CAT 2025 was conducted by IIM Kozhikode on November 30, 2025. There was no change in CAT 2025 Exam Pattern with 68 questions. CAT 2025 exam difficulty level was higher than CAT 2024 paper. Read detailed slot-wise [CAT exam analysis](#) by IMS, Career Launcher, Cracku and other experts.

CAT Answer Key 2026

Candidates who appear for the exam can download their response sheet and official answer key to check their performance and estimate their scores before the CAT result release. The CAT answer key helps candidates verify correct answers, calculate raw scores, and raise objections in case of discrepancies. CAT Answer Key 2026 and CAT Response Sheet 2026 is expected to be released by IIM Indore in early December 2026. Read complete details on [CAT 2026 answer key](#) release date and link to download.

CAT Result 2026

The official notification of CAT exam says that the result will be released in the "first week of January 2027." However, going by previous years' trends, CAT exam result expected date is December 23, 2026. This may change by a few days. The results will be released on CAT Result Official Website iimcat.ac.in. Candidates can login with their CAT ID and Password and download CAT 2026 Result PDF. CAT Result 2026 Download Link will be available on CAT official website and MBAUniverse.com. Check how to download [CAT 2026 result scorecard](#).

Top MBA Colleges accepting CAT 2026 Scores

Apart from IIMs, some of the prominent MBA colleges excluding IIMs which will accept CAT score for MBA admission are given in table below.

Top MBA Colleges accepting CAT Scores 2026

MBA College	MBA Fee (in Lakhs)	Avg. Placement (in Lakhs)
FMS New Delhi	Rs. 2.32 Lakhs	Rs. 34.10 LPA
SPJIMR Mumbai	Rs. 26.50 Lakhs	Rs. 32.10 LPA
MDI Gurgaon	Rs. 30.60 Lakhs	Rs. 31.08 LPA
IIFT Delhi	Rs. 21.87 Lakhs	Rs. 27.30 LPA
IMI Delhi	Rs. 23.54 Lakhs	Rs. 17.91 LPA
IMT Ghaziabad	Rs. 23.00 Lakhs	Rs. 16.25 LPA
XIM University Bhubaneswar	Rs. 24.60 Lakhs	Rs. 19.53 LPA
FORE New Delhi & Gurgaon	Rs. 23.40 Lakhs	Rs. 16.40 LPA
GIM Goa	Rs. 21.45 Lakhs	Rs. 15.13 LPA
TAPMI Manipal	Rs. 19.50 Lakhs	Rs. 13.84 LPA

CAT Cutoffs 2026

CAT Cut Off is the percentile required to get shortlisted for the Personal Interview (PI) process at IIMs and other top MBA colleges. In general, top colleges have higher CAT Cutoffs (95%+ for IIMs), but some top MBA colleges like SPJIMR Mumbai keep cutoffs low to interview candidates with lower CAT scores (85%+) but excellent profiles and achievements. Check CAT Cutoffs for top IIMs in the table below. Read complete [CAT 2026 Cutoffs for all IIMs and top MBA colleges.](#)

CAT Cut Off 2026 Category Wise

IIMs	CAT Cut off Category Wise 2026					
	Gen	EWS	OBC-NC	SC	ST	PwD
IIM Ahmedabad	80	80	75	70	60	70
IIM Bangalore	85	75	75	70	65	60
IIM Calcutta	85	75	75	70	65	55
IIM Lucknow	90	82	82	65	60	60
IIM Mumbai	85	75	75	70	65	55
IIM Indore	90	90	80	60	45	45
IIM Kozhikode	85	75	75	65	55	55
IIM Rohtak	96	92	82	60	50	86

Who Conducts CAT Exam?

Many candidates are asking which IIM will prepare CAT examination in 2026? CAT is conducted every year by one of the six older Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), which are IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore, IIM Calcutta, IIM Indore, IIM Kozhikode, and IIM Lucknow. Although the IIMs have not officially announced a fixed rotation policy, the responsibility for conducting the exam has consistently rotated among these six institutes in last twenty years. Last six CAT exams were conducted by IIM Kozhikode (CAT 2025), IIM Calcutta (CAT 2024), IIM Lucknow (CAT 2023), IIM Bangalore (CAT 2022), IIM Ahmedabad (CAT 2021) and IIM Indore (CAT 2020). Based on this pattern, **CAT 2026 was expected to be conducted by IIM Indore**. The official confirmation was made on the [CAT 2026 official website](#). The table below shows the conducting IIM for the last six CAT exams that answers the question – who is going to make CAT 2026 paper?

CAT Exam	Exam Date	Conducting IIM
CAT 2026	29 November 2026	IIM Indore (Confirmed)
CAT 2025	30 November 2025	IIM Kozhikode
CAT 2024	24 November 2024	IIM Calcutta
CAT 2023	26 November 2023	IIM Lucknow
CAT 2022	27 November 2022	IIM Bangalore
CAT 2021	28 November 2021	IIM Ahmedabad
CAT 2020	29 November 2020	IIM Indore

CAT Convener 2026 Prof Aditya Billore of IIM Indore: Role, Responsibilities

Indian Institute of Management Indore (IIMI) has announced that Prof Aditya Billore, Professor of Marketing, is the CAT 2026 Convener. Prof Aditya Billore is a Fellow of the IIM Indore and also holds an M.Tech and a B.E. qualifications. Announcing the same, Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director IIM Indore, said, “It is a matter of great privilege for IIM Indore to conduct CAT 2026 on behalf of the Indian Institutes of Management.” Read this article to understand the [role and responsibilities of CAT Convening IIM and the Convener](#).

Summary: CAT Exam 2026 at a Glance

Common Admission Test 2026 will be conducted by **IIM Indore on Sunday, November 29, 2026 in three shifts**. CAT 2026 Registration is closed as the last date was September 22. CAT Fee Payment Window closed on September 24, 5:00 PM. CAT Edit Window 2026 was closed on October 6, 2026. CAT exam pattern is expected to follow CAT 2025 of 68 questions across three sections. Read complete [CAT 2026 last 60 days plan](#). CAT scores will be accepted by all 22 IIMs and 1,000+ B-schools including FMS Delhi, SPJIMR Mumbai, IIT Bombay, and IIT Delhi. Read complete details about CAT exam. Begin your CAT preparation now with MBAUniverse.com's free resources: [CAT Mock Tests 2026](#) and [CAT Sample Papers 2026](#).

Explore all other [MBA entrance exams](#) with registrations open including [XAT 2027](#), [SNAP 2026](#), [NMAT 2026](#)

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