

IIM Ranchi Revolutionizes Management Education with AI-Powered Assessments

IIM Ranchi's innovative WAI initiative replaces traditional mid-term exams with AI-driven business problem-solving projects. This radical approach aligns management education with modern business demands, fostering practical experience in human-AI collaboration. While retaining end-term exams, it emphasizes a balanced educational framework integrating foundational knowledge and technology skills.

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Country: **India**

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In a landmark decision that could redefine management education, IIM Ranchi has unveiled an innovative approach by replacing its mid-term exams with AI-driven business projects. Dubbed 'WAI' (Working with AI), this initiative ushers in a new era of educational assessment at the institution.

According to Director Deepak Srivastava, this shift addresses the growing disconnect between traditional theoretical learning and the dynamic demands of the modern business ecosystem. The WAI initiative integrates artificial intelligence into the curriculum, enabling students to collaboratively engage with AI systems to address real-world business challenges.

While mid-term assessments undergo this revolutionary change, the institute will continue to conduct traditional hall-based exams for end-term evaluations, ensuring a holistic assessment system that balances academic knowledge with practical technological competencies.

Source: [Devdiscourse_06.08.2025_Online](#)

News

IIM Ranchi replaces mid-term exams with AI-powered projects under new 'WAI' model

Traditional hall-based end-term assessments will continue, ensuring that students also build strong analytical and theoretical foundations



Photo of IIM Ranchi campus (Image: IIM Ranchi website)

EdexLive Desk

Published on: 06 Aug 2025, 7:10 pm



IIM Ranchi has decided to do away with traditional midterm exams across all its programmes. Instead, students will now work on Artificial Intelligence (AI)-led real-world business projects as part of their evaluation.

The new initiative, branded as "WAI" (Working with AI), is designed to bridge the gap between classroom theory and real-world business demands, particularly in human-AI collaboration.

Highlighting the rationale behind this shift, Dr Deepak Srivastava, Director of IIM Ranchi, explained, "We recognised that the traditional model of isolated theoretical learning was increasingly disconnected from the dynamic needs of modern business. Our students needed to develop competencies that transcend textbook knowledge – they need to work collaboratively with emerging technologies to solve complex business challenges."

Why WAI?

According to an official statement, conventional tests often fall short in evaluating the critical skill of integrating technology into complex decision-making.

As part of the revamp, the institute has also modernised its classroom participation policy. The previous rule of compulsory attendance has been scrapped in favour of a flexibility-focused system, that encourages participation through positive reinforcement.

Students are incentivised to engage meaningfully, while also being given the freedom to pursue extracurricular learning paths.

Under the WAI framework, students will now be assessed through real-time collaboration with AI tools to solve business problems.

The goal is not just to understand the technology, but to develop practical abilities, such as selecting the right AI platforms, understanding their constraints, interpreting their outputs, and integrating those with human insights and judgement.

End-term assessments to continue

Despite this radical shift in mid-term evaluation, the institute isn't entirely moving away from conventional exams.

Traditional hall-based end-term assessments will continue, ensuring that students also build strong analytical and theoretical foundations.

Prof Gaurav Manohar Marathe, Chairperson of the Student Engagement and Development Committee (SEDC), said, "We are not discarding the strengths of traditional evaluation methods. Rather, we are building a well-rounded assessment ecosystem that equally values foundational academic knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge in real-world scenarios."

Source: [Edexlive_07.08.2025_Online](#)

IIM Ranchi replaces mid-term exams with AI-driven real-world business projects

IIM Ranchi scraps mid-term exams, launches AI-integrated projects under the WAI initiative to boost real-world, tech-driven management education.



By Anushka De



File image

Aug 07, 2025

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In a bold move redefining management education, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi has scrapped traditional mid-term exams across all courses in favour of AI-integrated, real-world business problem-solving projects, reported PTI.

The initiative, titled WAI (Working with AI), marks a fundamental shift in assessment methods, embedding artificial intelligence into the core of academic evaluation. The institute becomes the first among IIMs to adopt such a sweeping transformation.

“The traditional model of isolated theoretical learning was becoming increasingly disconnected from the dynamic needs of modern business,” said Prof. Deepak Srivastava, Director, IIM Ranchi. “Our students now collaborate with AI systems to

develop innovative solutions to real-world problems.”

The WAI initiative is designed not just to teach students about AI but to enable them to work with AI as collaborative partners, cultivating a key workplace competency in an AI-driven economy. The new format replaces mid-terms with project-based assessments where students must demonstrate applied understanding through AI tools and analytics.

Srivastava said the programme addresses a long-standing gap in business education: the lack of hands-on experience in human-AI collaboration. “By integrating AI into the assessment process itself, these skills are developed naturally, not just in elective or isolated tech courses,” he noted.

Despite this overhaul, end-term exams will continue in the traditional hall-based format, ensuring that analytical rigour and foundational knowledge remain integral to IIM Ranchi's pedagogy.

“We’re building a balanced assessment ecosystem,” said Prof. Gaurav Manohar Marathe, Chairperson, Student Engagement and Development Committee. “It’s not about discarding traditional methods, but enhancing them with practical, technology-driven learning.” The WAI initiative is expected to set a precedent for future innovations in the IIM system, as institutions adapt to the evolving demands of business and technology.

Source: [India Today_07.08.2025_Online](#)

IIM Ranchi shifts to AI based projects, ends old exam system

In a forward-thinking move to equip students with skills for the future, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi is set to eliminate conventional hall-based mid-term exams across all programmes.



News Arena Network - Ranchi - UPDATED: August 7, 2025, 06:56 PM - 2 min read



IIM Ranchi introduces AI projects in place of exams.

In a forward-thinking move to equip students with skills for the future, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi is set to eliminate conventional hall-based mid-term exams across all programmes.

Now, students will engage in business problem-solving projects that incorporate artificial intelligence (AI), under a new initiative titled *Working with AI* (WAI).

This progressive step is designed to narrow the divide between academic theory and real-world, tech-enabled business scenarios. By integrating AI into coursework, IIM Ranchi aims to lead the way in educational innovation.

This overhaul is part of the institute's broader strategy to realign its academic offerings with evolving industry demands. Throughout the last academic year, IIM Ranchi restructured its curricula to place hands-on problem-solving at the core of every course.

While mid-term evaluations will now revolve around AI-enhanced projects, traditional end-term exams will remain in place. This balanced model ensures that students continue to build critical thinking and analytical skills, alongside modern technological competencies.

The new approach is grounded in the principles of adult learning, which emphasise autonomy and engagement over rigid compliance. Students are encouraged to take greater control of their education while remaining accountable for mastering key skills.

IIM Ranchi Director Dr Deepak Srivastava emphasised the rationale behind the change: "Business today demands more than textbook knowledge. Our students must be able to solve complex problems using emerging technologies like AI."

He added that the WAI programme marks a thoughtful integration of AI into business education—not as a side subject but as a core skill. Students will now be assessed on their ability to work collaboratively with AI systems, preparing them for a workplace where such interaction is increasingly critical.

Source: News Arena India_07.08.2025_Online

IIM Ranchi To Replace Traditional Exam With AI Problem-Solving Projects For Mid-Terms

Curated By : [Education and Careers Desk](#) [News18.com](#)

Last Updated: August 06, 2025, 18:07 IST

The new approach will be applied to the mid-term assessments. IIM Ranchi stated that it will maintain the traditional hall-based examinations for end-term evaluations.



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IIM Ranchi has restructured its attendance policy. (File Photo)

IIM Ranchi has announced the complete replacement of traditional hall-based mid-term exams with AI-integrated business problem-solving projects across all courses. This initiative, termed “WAI” (Working with AI), aims to address a critical gap in traditional management education, where students often graduate with theoretical knowledge but lack practical experience in human-AI collaboration – a skill increasingly essential in today’s workplace.

“We recognised that the traditional model of isolated theoretical learning was increasingly disconnected from the dynamic needs of modern business,” explains Dr. Deepak Srivastava, Director, IIM Ranchi. “Our students needed to develop competencies that transcend textbook knowledge – they need to work collaboratively with emerging technologies to solve complex business challenges,” he added.

RECOMMENDED STORIES

The WAI model aims to ensure graduates are truly industry-ready. Traditional assessment methods, while valuable for testing theoretical understanding, often fail to evaluate students' ability to navigate complex, technology-enhanced business environments, the institute stated in an official press release.

Furthermore, IIM Ranchi has restructured its attendance policy, moving away from compulsory attendance to a flexible model based on positive reinforcement. Students will receive incentives for participation while maintaining the freedom to pursue additional skill development opportunities.

"We're creating an environment where students take ownership of their learning journey," notes Dean, Academics Prof. Tanusree Dutta. "This requires balancing freedom with responsibility – students have more autonomy in how they engage with content, but they're also held to higher standards in demonstrating practical competencies," Dutta added.

By engaging students in working with AI systems to address real business challenges, the assessment process aims to transform into a hands-on training platform for practical skills. Students will acquire the ability to select suitable AI tools, recognise their limitations, communicate effectively with AI systems, and integrate AI-generated insights with human judgment, the IIM added.

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Despite these innovative changes to mid-term assessments, IIM Ranchi continues to use traditional hall-based examinations for end-term evaluations. This hybrid approach allows students to develop fundamental analytical and reasoning skills while also gaining practical technological competencies.

Prof. Gaurav Manohar Marathe, Chairperson, Student Engagement and Development Committee (SEDC), stated: “We are not discarding the strengths of traditional evaluation methods. Rather, we are building a well-rounded assessment ecosystem that equally values foundational academic knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge in real-world scenarios.”

Source: [News18_07.08.2025_Online](#)

IIM Ranchi to replace traditional hall-based mid-term exams with AI-integrated problem solving

NEW DELHI: (Aug 6) In a groundbreaking move that signals a fundamental shift in management education, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi has announced the complete replacement of traditional hall-based mid-term examinations with AI-integrated business problem-solving projects across all courses.

According to officials, the initiative, termed WAI (Working with AI), represents a radical departure from conventional assessment methods and positions the institution at the forefront of pedagogical innovation.

"We recognised that the traditional model of isolated theoretical learning was becoming increasingly disconnected from the dynamic needs of modern business," said Deepak Srivastava, Director, IIM Ranchi.

Source: [PTI News_07.08.2025_Online](#)

IIM-Ranchi to replace hall-based mid-term exams with AI-integrated problem solving

Under this model, students will work on live business scenarios where they must use AI tools as collaborative partners in problem-solving. “This approach ensures students develop AI competencies organically, not through isolated technology courses,” IIM-Ranchi director said.

By: [Education Desk](#)

New Delhi | Updated: August 7, 2025 09:26 IST

 NewsGuard

 2 min read



The IIM Ranchi initiative may signal a broader transformation in how business schools approach curriculum design and assessment. As organisations increasingly rely on AI-augmented decision-making, business schools face pressure to prepare students for this reality. (IIM Ranchi)

In a major move, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi has announced the replacement of traditional hall-based mid-term examinations with AI-integrated business problem-solving projects across all courses. The initiative, called Working with AI (WAI), aims to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and practical, technology-driven business challenges, positioning the institute at the forefront of pedagogical innovation, as per a statement by IIM-Ranchi.

“Traditional isolated theoretical learning is no longer aligned with the dynamic demands of modern businesses,” said Deepak Srivastava, Director, [IIM Ranchi](#). “Our students need to collaborate with emerging technologies to solve complex real-world problems. The WAI initiative makes AI a fundamental component of business education rather than a separate subject.”

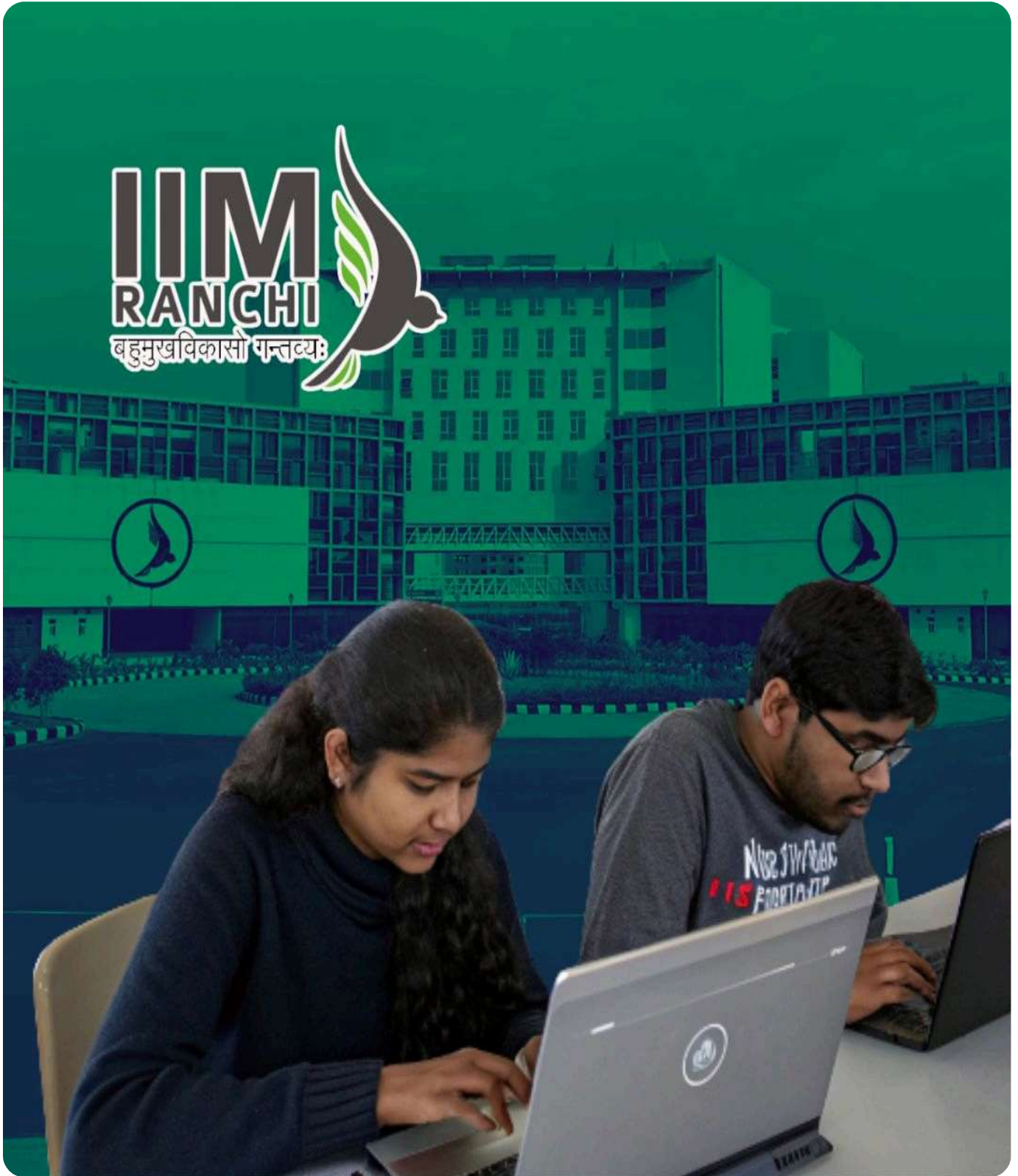
The director added that WAI addresses a critical shortcoming in conventional management education—where graduates often lack hands-on experience in human-AI collaboration, a skill increasingly vital in today’s workplace.

Under this model, students will work on live business scenarios where they must use AI tools as collaborative partners in problem-solving. “This approach ensures students develop AI competencies organically, not through isolated technology courses,” Srivastava said.

While mid-term assessments will undergo this transformation, IIM Ranchi will retain traditional hall-based exams for end-term evaluations.

“We are not discarding traditional methods; we are building a balanced assessment system that values both academic knowledge and practical application,” said Gaurav Manohar Marathe, Chairperson, Student Engagement and Development Committee. “This hybrid model nurtures analytical reasoning alongside technological fluency.”

Source: [The Indian Express_07.08.2025_Online](#)



iimranchi/X

NEWS

No More Hall Exams: IIM Ranchi Adopts AI Business Projects for Student Assessment

IIM Ranchi innovates mid-term assessments by integrating AI-driven business problem solving to bridge theory with practice.

August 7, 2025

Indian Institute of Management Ranchi (IIM Ranchi) has introduced a groundbreaking shift in its assessment system by replacing traditional hall-based mid-term exams with AI-integrated business problem-solving projects under the "Working with AI" (WAI) initiative.

This transformation applies across all courses starting this academic term, aiming to better prepare students for the evolving demands of the modern business landscape by embedding artificial intelligence at the core of their evaluations.

Innovative AI-Integrated Assessment: Bridging Theory and Practice

The WAI initiative enables students to work collaboratively with AI systems on real-world or simulated business challenges. Instead of pen-and-paper exams, students must demonstrate their ability to use AI tools for applied problem-solving, evaluating logic, ethics, and practical thinking.

Institute officials, including Director Dr Deepak Srivastava, emphasized that traditional theoretical learning alone no longer suffices; students need hands-on experience partnering with AI to solve complex challenges.

Chairperson Gaurav Manohar Marathe explained that this hybrid model balances foundational academic knowledge with technological fluency, nurturing analytical reasoning alongside practical competencies.

Context and Background: Responding to Modern Educational Needs

This reform is part of a wider global and national trend toward educational modernization, where assessment systems are evolving to integrate technology and focus on skill-based learning. Recognizing that conventional exams often fail to test complex decision-making involving AI, IIM Ranchi has become a pioneer among management institutes in India by formally institutionalizing AI-powered assessments.

Alongside academic innovation, the institute has revised its attendance policy to promote flexible, positive engagement, encouraging students to take ownership of their learning journey through freedom paired with responsibility.

The integration of AI in assessments also encourages critical thinking, collaboration, and adaptability among students, preparing them not only for current challenges but also for future innovations in the business ecosystem.

Impact on Student Learning and Future Preparedness

The WAI model encourages students to organically develop competencies in human-AI collaboration, a crucial skill in today's workplaces. Students acquire practical abilities such as selecting appropriate AI tools, interpreting AI-generated insights, communicating effectively with AI systems, and integrating technology with human judgment.

This hands-on experience addresses a long-standing gap where management graduates often lacked practical exposure to AI collaboration. Importantly, end-term exams continue in the traditional format, preserving analytical rigour while complementing it with technology-driven applied learning, thereby creating a balanced evaluation ecosystem.

IIM Ranchi's AI-driven assessments promote practical skills, ethical AI use, and industry collaboration, enhancing employability while addressing challenges like equitable access and continuous curriculum improvement.

The Logical Indian's Perspective

The Logical Indian views IIM Ranchi's bold move as a necessary and progressive step toward education that aligns with the demands of a digital, interconnected world. By embedding AI collaboration into core assessments, the institute promotes empathy towards human-machine synergy and ethical judgement, values critical for harmony and coexistence in society.

As educational reforms advance, it is vital to ensure equitable access to AI tools and embed ethical principles in their use to foster inclusive social progress. This comprehensive shift at IIM Ranchi not only modernizes assessment but also cultivates responsible, capable professionals prepared for AI-augmented business environments.

IIM Ranchi replaces mid-term exams with AI-driven business projects in major curriculum revamp

The transformation builds upon IIM Ranchi's ongoing commitment to making its learning philosophy relevant to contemporary business challenges.



IIM Ranchi. (File Photo)

Updated on: 07 Aug 2025, 1:06 pm

RANCHI: In a bid to provide future-ready education to students, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi is all set to replace traditional hall-based mid-term examinations with AI-integrated business problem-solving projects in all courses.

The initiative, called Working with AI (WAI), aims to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and practical, technology-driven business challenges, positioning the institute at the forefront of pedagogical innovation.

The transformation builds upon IIM Ranchi's ongoing commitment to making its learning philosophy relevant to contemporary business challenges. Over the past academic cycle, the institution has systematically revamped its entire course structure

placing real-world business problem-solving at the centre of every curriculum component.

"We have recognized that the traditional model of isolated theoretical learning was becoming increasingly disconnected from the dynamic needs of modern business," said IIM-Ranchi Director Dr Deepak Srivastava, further adding, "Our students needed to develop competencies that go beyond textbook knowledge – they need to work collaboratively with emerging technologies to solve complex business challenges."

According to Srivastava, the WAI initiative reflects a sophisticated understanding of how artificial intelligence is reshaping the business landscape. Rather than viewing AI as a disruptive force to be managed separately, IIM Ranchi has integrated it as a fundamental component of business education.

Students are now required to demonstrate their ability to work alongside AI systems to develop innovative solutions for real business problems. This approach addresses a critical gap in traditional management education, where students often graduate with theoretical knowledge but lack practical experience in human-AI collaboration – a skill increasingly essential in today's workplace.

The initiative goes beyond simply learning about AI to actually working with AI as a collaborative partner in problem-solving processes. By embedding AI collaboration into the assessment process itself, students develop these competencies organically rather than through isolated technology courses.

Despite the revolutionary changes to mid-term assessments, IIM Ranchi maintains traditional hall-based examinations for end-term evaluations. This hybrid approach ensures that students continue to develop fundamental analytical and reasoning skills while also building practical technological competencies.

This approach reflects a mature understanding of adult learning principles, recognizing that motivated engagement produces better outcomes than mandated compliance. The policy change acknowledges that students may benefit from pursuing complementary learning experiences outside the classroom while maintaining accountability for core competency development.

According to Dean (Academics) Prof. Tanusree Dutta, the institute is creating an environment where students take ownership of their learning journey. "This requires

balancing freedom with responsibility – students have more autonomy in how they engage with content, but they're also held to higher standards in demonstrating practical competencies," she said.

Chairperson of the Student Engagement and Development Committee (SEDC), Gaurav Marathe, said the institute is not discarding the strengths of traditional evaluation methods, but rather building a well-rounded assessment ecosystem that equally values foundational academic knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge in real-world scenarios.

"The transformation extends beyond just examination methods. IIM Ranchi has simultaneously restructured its attendance policy, moving away from compulsory attendance toward a flexible attendance based on a positive reinforcement model," added Marathe. Students now receive incentives for participation while maintaining the freedom to pursue additional skill development opportunities, he said.

Source: [The New Indian Express_07.08.2025_Online](#)

IIM-R REPLACES MID-TERM EXAMS WITH AI-POWERED BUSINESS PROBLEM-SOLVING PROJECTS

PNS : RANCHI

In a bold step redefining management education, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi has done away with traditional mid-term hall examinations. Instead, it has introduced an AI-integrated model called "Working with AI" (WAI), requiring students to collaborate with artificial intelligence tools to solve real-world business problems across all courses.

This change reflects IIM Ranchi's long-term shift toward practical, technology-enhanced learning. Over the

past year, the institute has redesigned its curriculum to prioritize real-life business challenges over theoretical instruction. According to Director Dr. Deepak Srivastava, the traditional exam format was no longer aligned with the fast-evolving demands of modern businesses.

"Students today must learn to work with emerging technologies, not just study them. WAI is our response to that need," he said.

Merging Technology with Business Thinking

The WAI model integrates AI into the core of the learn-

ing and assessment process. It goes beyond merely teaching AI as a concept – students must now actively use AI tools in collaborative problem-solving, simulating what they will face in the workplace. This ensures graduates not only understand AI but also know how to apply it effectively in decision-making processes.

This method addresses a key shortcoming in traditional management education: the lack of practical exposure to human-AI collaboration, now a vital workplace skill.

Encouraging Ownership

and Flexibility
IIM Ranchi has also revamped its attendance policy. Moving away from mandatory attendance, the new system incentivizes class participation while giving students the freedom to explore learning opportunities outside the classroom. The approach is grounded in trust, balancing autonomy with accountability.

"We want students to take responsibility for their learning. They're given flexibility, but with an expectation of higher performance," said Prof. Tanusree Dutta, Dean of Academics.

A Balanced Approach
While mid-terms have shifted to AI-based projects, traditional end-term exams remain in place to test foundational knowledge. This hybrid model, according to Prof. Gaurav Manohar Marathe, ensures academic rigor while fostering practical skills.

By embedding AI collaboration into assessments, IIM Ranchi is not just teaching about technology – it's training students to thrive in it. This pioneering model could soon set the benchmark for business schools across India.



IIM Ranchi to replace traditional hall-based mid-term exams with AI-integrated problem solving

PTI

Updated: August 06, 2025 17:03 IST



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"Our students needed to develop competencies that go beyond textbook knowledge – they need to work collaboratively with emerging technologies to solve complex business challenges," he added.

Srivastava explained that the WAI initiative reflects a sophisticated understanding of how artificial intelligence is reshaping the business landscape.

"Rather than viewing AI as a disruptive force to be managed separately, we have integrated it as a fundamental component of business education. Students are now required to demonstrate their ability to work alongside AI systems to develop innovative solutions for real business problems," he said.

"This approach addresses a critical gap in traditional management education, where students often graduate with theoretical knowledge but lack practical experience in human-AI collaboration – a skill increasingly essential in today's workplace. The initiative goes beyond simply learning about AI to actually working with AI as a collaborative partner in problem-solving processes," he said.

By embedding AI collaboration into the assessment process itself, students develop these competencies organically rather than through isolated technology courses, he added.

Srivastava said despite the revolutionary changes to mid-term assessments, IIM Ranchi would maintain traditional hall-based examinations for end-term evaluations.

"We are not discarding the strengths of traditional evaluation methods. Rather, we are building a well-rounded assessment ecosystem that equally values foundational academic knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge in real-world scenarios.

"This hybrid approach ensures that students continue to develop fundamental analytical and reasoning skills while also building practical technological competencies," said Gaurav Manohar Marathe, Chairperson, Student Engagement and Development Committee.

(This story has not been edited by THE WEEK and is auto-generated from PTI)

Source: [The Week_06.08.2025_Online](#)

IIM Ranchi to Replace Traditional Hall-based Mid-term Exams with AI-Integrated Problem Solving

PTI | Updated Aug 7, 2025, 11:36 IST

Despite the revolutionary changes to mid-term assessments, IIM Ranchi would maintain traditional hall-based examinations for end-term evaluations.



(Representative Image)

Photo : iStock

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Source: Times now news_07.08.2025_Online