

# Newspaper Clips

November 19, 2011

STATESMAN ND 19/11/2011

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## NIT fee waiver for AIEEE toppers

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 18 NOV: Top ranking students in the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) will soon be given tuition fee waiver if they get admission in the National Institutes of Technology (NITs).

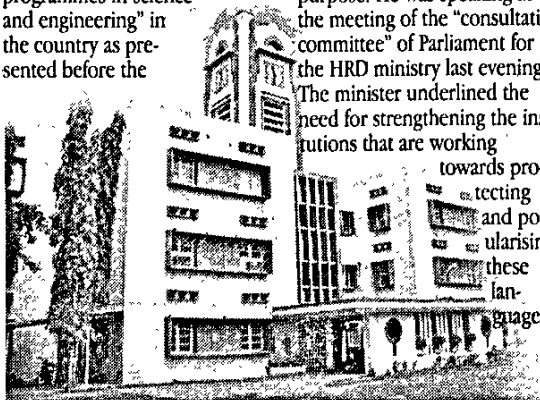
This is after the Council of NITs today accorded "in-principle" approval for introduction of revised NIT merit award. The tuition fee waiver on graded basis will be given to all those students who were ranked in the top bracket of the AIEEE examination conducted by the CBSE and who took admission in the NIT. The revised merit award system is expected to be put in place from the academic year 2012-12. The Council also endorsed the proposal formulated by the Dr T Ramasami committee on "alternate system for admission to undergraduate programmes in science and engineering" in the country as presented before the

Council of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

A spokesperson of the human resources development (HRD) ministry said there was a consensus in the Council that this proposal envisages a judicious mix of school and national level test performance. It was of the view that it will usher in an alternative admission system wherein multiplicity of tests and dependency on coaching would get reduced in a great measure, aligning the testing process to class XII syllabus. The Council also decided that four-tier flexible system for faculty appointment, as existing in the IIT system, be introduced in NITs as well.

**Classical languages:** The HRD minister, Mr Kapil Sibal, has expressed concern that the budget allocated for development, protection and preservation of endangered and classical languages is not adequate for the purpose. He was speaking at the meeting of the "consultative committee" of Parliament for the HRD ministry last evening. The minister underlined the need for strengthening the institutions that are working

towards protecting and popularising these languages.



Pioneer ND19/11/2011

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## NITs favour single test for science/tech UG admissions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After the IITs, National Institute of Technologies (NITs) have endorsed a proposal for a single entrance test across the country for admission to undergraduate programmes in science and engineering.

The Central Advisory Board of Education will take a final call before the single entrance aptitude test is put in place by 2013-14 academic session, HRD officials said.



The chairpersons and board of governors at the NIT council meeting here on Friday, chaired by HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, also agreed for a revised NIT merit award with waiver in tuition fee to all those who are ranked in the top bracket of the AIEEE examination.

On the issue of a CET, the meeting arrived at a "consensus that the system, which envisages a judicious mix of school performance and the performance at proposed test, will usher in an alternative admission system which will reduce the multiplicity of tests and dependency on coaching," said a statement issued by the HRD Ministry.

**HindustanTimes**

**Title : NIT council nod to fee waiver for outstanding students**

**Author :**

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**Article Date : 11/19/2011**

**NIT council nod to fee waiver for outstanding students**

**NEW DELHI:** The National Institutes of Technology (NIT) Council on Friday accorded in-principle approval for the introduction of tuition fee waiver on graded basis to all the students who ranked in the top bracket of the AIEEE conducted by the CBSE and joined the NIT. It also decided to give special scholarships to students belonging to SC/ ST and other backward classes who get admission in NITs.

Hindu ND 19/11/2011 P-1

# Health care, education services out of tax net

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Government has opted to keep services such as health care facilities, education, non-AC train travel, metro and taxi out of the tax net.

Releasing the revised concept paper on 'Taxation of Service based on Negative List' here on Friday, Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) Chairman S.K. Goel said services provided by the government as also the private sector would attract tax at 10 per cent. Among the 10 services provided by the government and private sector entities are insurance, security, port and airport.

While the earlier draft proposed 27 services on the negative list, the revised concept paper has 22. However, the timing of implementation is yet to be finalised. "The negative list of services should be implemented immediately or we should wait... it is a matter of debate," Mr. Goel said.

At present, the Centre imposes 10 per cent tax on 119 services. The CBEC has invited feedback, views and suggestions on the revised paper by December 15.

Included on the negative list in the revised draft are services such as funeral, burial and mortuary agencies, interest paid on bank deposits,

services provided by independent journalists, dividend on investments and public passenger transport. Others on the list are copyright, dramatic and artistic work, services provided by recognised political parties, advertisements other than those published in newspapers and broadcast over radio or TV or displayed in other electronic media.

Explaining the basis of changes from the earlier draft, Mr. Goel said: "There has been some change in the way we define economic activities like hobbies, awards and religious activities. Hence we have reduced the list."

While only a limited number of services are currently under the tax net, the government proposes to impose the levy on most of the services on the basis of a new negative list which will not be taxed.

Accordingly, the list excludes insurance and postal services other than post card, money orders and inland letters —where the government is competing with private companies.

Also, business promotion or business support services, construction, trade fair, port or airport services and warehousing will not be on the negative list and thus be subject to tax.

INDIAN EXPRESS ND 19/11/2011 p-16

# CERN study closer to confirming that particle travels faster than light

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
GENEVA, NOVEMBER 18

THE chances have risen that Einstein was wrong about a fundamental law of the universe. Scientists at the world's biggest physics lab said Friday they have ruled out one possible error that could have distorted their startling measurements that appeared to show particles traveling faster than light.

Many physicists reacted with skepticism in September when measurements by French and Italian researchers seemed to show subatomic neutrino particles

breaking what Nobel Prize-winning physicist Albert Einstein considered the ultimate speed barrier.

The European Organisation for Nuclear Research said more precise testing has now confirmed accuracy of at least one part of the experiment. "One key test was to repeat the measurement with very short beam pulses," the Geneva-based organisation, known by its French acronym CERN, said. The test allowed scientists to check if the starting time for the neutrinos was being measured correctly before they were fired 730

km underground from Geneva to a lab in Italy.

The results matched those from the previous test, "ruling out one potential source of systematic error," said CERN. Still, scientists stressed that only independent measurements by labs elsewhere would allow them to declare that the results of their experiment were a genuine finding. "A measurement so delicate and carrying a profound implication on physics requires an extraordinary level of scrutiny," said Fernando Ferroni, president of Italian Institute for Nuclear Physics. "The positive

outcome of the test makes us more confident in the result, although a final word can only be said by analogous measurements performed elsewhere in the world."

According to Einstein's 1905 special theory of relativity, nothing is meant to be able to go faster than the speed of light 2,99,792 kilometres per second.

But the researchers said in September that their neutrinos traveled 60 nanoseconds faster, when the margin of error in their experiment allowed for just 10 nanoseconds. A nanosecond is one-billionth of a second.

Business Line ND 19/11/2011 P-5

## Rich potential in B-schools, Gen Y for HR capacity-building: NHRDN's Siddiqui

Our Bureau

Bangalore, Nov. 18

The National HRD Network (NHRDN) has identified three high-potential areas for corporates that will help in HR capability building.

Mr S.Y. Siddiqui, the National President, NHRD Network, said that the 12,000-strong network of HR professionals was working at three levels to reach out to potential young HR managers.

The first is at the B-school

level, where NHRDN has designed the HR course for MDI Gurgaon. This includes course curriculum design, the industry interface and building a mentor-mentee relationship with each of the 60 students of the school. "We have complete ownership of the PG students and have made them 70 per cent industry-ready." NHRDN is now ready to replicate this in other B-schools, he said.

The second initiative is at NHRDN's learning centre at

Gurgaon which disseminates the 'right kind of HR learning among young people'. The centre would also start skill-building programmes for entry-level employees in the manufacturing and services sectors. The Network plans to roll out a franchise model for the learning centre with well-known B schools across the country.

The third level of involvement would be through initiating a change in leadership styles to suit the temper-

ament of Gen Y, he said. Mr Siddiqui, who's also the Managing Executive Officer (HR and Administration), Maruti Suzuki Ltd, said the auto major was following a reverse mentoring process with a group of 24-30-year-olds in the organisation. For instance, the company's latest performance management programme was designed in consultation with this group. "This has brought about a high sense of ownership and involvement," he said.

Financial Express ND 19-Nov-11  
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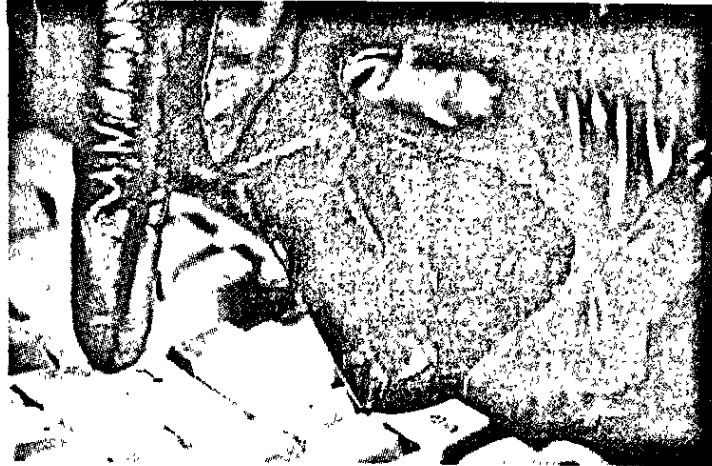
# IT cos wary of shifting to cloud: Study

**Shruti Ambavat**

**Singapore, Nov 18:** Most IT firms in the Asia South region had security as the top concern when moving over to cloud computing, according to 2011 State of Cloud Survey conducted by security and storage solutions firm Symantec Corporation. Many firms in the region were also not equipped to shift to cloud-based services as they were short of trained staff.

The study is based on 5,300 responses from 38 countries, of which 1,100 responses are from Asia South, including India, and the southeastern nations. The company, which features on the Fortune 500 list, generated \$6.2 billion in FY2011 revenues.

"Most of the organisations in the Asia South region were concerned that cloud services bring their own risks such as malware attacks and data breach from unauthorised use of cloud-based systems," said Anil Chakravarthy, senior vice-president, storage and availability management group, Symantec Corp. According to him, the only way to ensure success is when IT departments carefully select the applications that move to the cloud-based en-



vironment and closely monitor the security and cost of these services.

"Even though Europe and US are facing debt crisis and other issues, the companies are ready to invest in security solutions," Symantec president CEO Enrique Salem said.

The survey said 84% of respondents are confident that moving to cloud will improve their security, but 52% said their IT staff was not ready. Part of the reason for the shortfall in readiness is lack of experience, be-

cause just 30% of IT teams have experience in cloud. Less than 15% companies reported having completed implementing each of the cloud focus areas covered by the survey.

The survey discovered that companies that have implemented cloud technologies are not getting results as they had anticipated. Only 45% of the respondents in the survey said that cloud computing eased their allocation of computing resources.

Symantec feels shifting focus is of

prime importance to them now. The company believes it can no longer purely make money out of protecting devices. "Symantec is shifting its focus from device-centric protection to information and identification-centric firm," said Art Gilliland, senior vice-president, information security group, Symantec Corp.

Protecting information and data in an extremely mobile environment is a challenge for security and storage solution firms. Cyber criminals are targeting technology like smart phones and tablet PCs.

Angela Tucci, chief strategy officer at Symantec Corp thinks spear phishing is a bigger threat. Spear phishing is where hackers target individuals through their information available online like on social media accounts. They target important executives who handle sensitive data.

Symantec hopes to increase its market in Asia Pacific region in the next five years from the new focus on information and identification. The firm's 19% revenues currently come from that region.

*(Travel for the report was sponsored by Symantec Corporation)*

# HC reserves order on plea of students against IP University

PBD BUREAU/PTI

NEW DELHI, NOV 18

THE Delhi High Court today reserved its verdict on a plea alleging Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) adopted different criteria for promoting its professional courses students belonging to the colleges run by it, discriminating students of those affiliated to it.

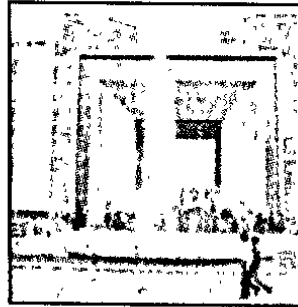
A bench of Acting Chief Justice A K Sikri and Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw reserved the judgement after it concluded hearing on the petition filed by over 200 hundred students of private colleges which are affiliated to the university.

The students of private institutes have alleged the "discriminatory" approach of the university towards them has been harming their careers.

Concluding arguments on behalf of students, advocate Geeta Luthra said the colleges, run by the university, are allowed to give maximum 40 per cent marks to students in internal assessments while colleges, which are affiliated and not run by the university, can give maximum 25 per cent marks to their students in internal assessments.

This practice was "irrational" and against the legal principles, she added.

The students, pursuing professional courses like B.Tech in affiliated colleges were being evaluated by the university on rest 75 per cent marks, she said.



While the students of university-run colleges are "better placed" as the varsity can evaluate them on the rest 60 per cent as the maximum limit of internal assessment is 40 per cent, she said.

The counsel for the university, however, justified the approach saying this was adopted to maintain the quality of technical education. Moreover, such rules were there and were never objected to before, he added. Earlier, the court had taken a serious note the issue saying "why do you (University) have two different standards for students?"

"The University cannot create two classes of students and the policy has to be based on uniform application and it cannot affect the same set of people in different manners," the students' petition has alleged.

More than 5600 students have been denied promotion in the current academic year because of the "discriminatory" rules, Luthra had said.

The petition has also raised the issue of credit system in which a student is required to "score overall 90 percent credit of previous years" to get promoted to the next academic year.

Hindustan Times ND 19-Nov-11  
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The Washington Post

# New test finds neutrinos still faster than light

Brian Vastag

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**WASHINGTON:** A second experiment at the European facility that reported subatomic particles zooming faster than the speed of light - stunning the world of physics - has reached the same result, scientists said late Thursday.

The "positive outcome of the (second) test makes us more confident in the result," said Fernando Ferroni, president of the Italian Institute for Nuclear Physics, in a statement released late Thursday. Ferroni is one of 160 physicists involved in the international collaboration known as OPERA (Oscillation Project with Emulsion Tracking Apparatus) that performed the experiment.

While the second experiment "has made an important test of consistency of its result," Ferroni added, "a final word can only be said by analogous measurements performed elsewhere in the world."

That is, more tests are needed, and on other experimental setups. There is still a large crowd of skeptical physicists who suspect that the original measurement done in September was an error.

Should the results stand, they would upend more than a century of modern physics.

In the first round of experiments, a massive detector buried in a mountain in Gran Sasso, Italy, recorded neutrinos generated at the CERN particle accelerator

## A REVOLUTION?

- The discovery can lead to pathbreaking change in the world of physics.

- There might be change in much of modern physics - including Albert Einstein's famous theory of relativity - is built on that ultimate speed limit

- But scientists say that more tests are needed and on other experimental setups.

on the French-Swiss border arriving 60 nanoseconds sooner than expected. CERN is the French acronym for European Council for Nuclear Research. A chorus of critiques from physicists soon followed. Among other possible errors, some suggested that the neutrinos generated at CERN were smeared into bunches too wide to measure precisely. So in recent weeks, the OPERA team tightened the packets of neutrinos that CERN sent sailing toward Italy. Such tightening removed some uncertainty in the neutrinos' speed. The detector still saw neutrinos moving faster than light. "One of the eventual systematic errors is now out of the way," said Jacques Martino, director of the National Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics in France, in a statement. But the faster-than-light drama is far from over, Martino added.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Nov 19, 2011; Section: Times Nation; Page: 21;

# India slams climate goalpost shift

Nitin Sethi | TNN

New Delhi: India is against climate goalpost being shifted for the third year in a row, and has drawn the Major Economies Forum's attention to it during the ongoing meeting in Washington.

The MEF, hosted by the US, is a platform outside the UN process activated to sort out tricky climate issues among the bigger and more influential economies. The two-day meeting of MEF is the last opportunity to thrash out differences or at least find clarity on divergent views ahead the UN climate talks at Durban in end-November. The first day of the MEF meeting was devoted to the prickly proposal from the EU on kick-starting discus-

The Indian delegation at MEF objected to developed countries, which are party to Kyoto Protocol, putting up conditions for signing on to its second phase. India pointed out that this was a deviation from the understanding reached at Cancun and Bali

sions on a new global deal at Durban before it accedes to a second phase of Kyoto Protocol. The first phase expires this year, and the Durban meet is the last chance to keep it alive.

The Indian delegation at MEF objected to developed countries, which are party to Kyoto Protocol, putting up conditions for signing on to its second phase. India pointed out that this was a deviation from the understanding reached at Cancun and Bali.

The EU, as on previous

unofficial gatherings in recent months, found itself alone along with the US and other developing countries against a formal dialogue at Durban on a fresh deal.

The meeting saw China, India and Brazil bonding together on shifting goalposts, and the need to stick to the agenda instead of introducing new conditions. Union environment and forests minister Jayanthi Natarajan had on Thursday said here that India was not amenable to

taking more steps after walking the extra mile for the last couple of years as part of confidence building measures.

The MEF meeting comes against the backdrop of reports from reputed institutions in the West that the developed world had not only failed to deliver on its pledges for financing poor countries, but also found wanting in lower emission of greenhouse gases.

Their pledges for future actions too, multiple studies have shown, collectively add up to less than what the developing world has committed voluntarily, even though the latter has no legal obligations to cut emissions under the UN climate convention or Kyoto Protocol.



Asian Age ND 19-Nov-11

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## **IIT GRADUATE FALLS TO DEATH IN MUMBAI**

**Mumbai:** A 23-year-old IIT graduate, who was working in Mumbai, fell off the balcony of an 11th floor flat in Lalbaug in the early hours of Friday morning.

Police sources said that she was consuming alcohol at that time and lost balance in her inebriated state.

According to the Kalachowkie police, the incident occurred in Parel at around 2 am on Friday. The deceased, Varunie Shashni (23), was visiting her friend Karan Gupta (24) at his residence in the Vikas Pingle Towers in Ambewadi, Parel. She was sitting on the balcony of Mr Gupta's eleventh floor residence when she suddenly lost balance and fell to her death.