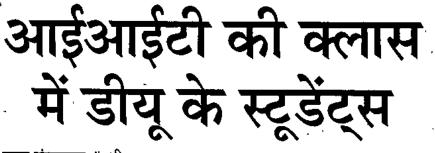
Newspaper Clips January 24, 2013

Nav Bharat Times ND 24/01/2013 P5



तीन जगह स्पेशल रिसर्च सेंटर बनेंगे वीसी प्रो. दिनेश सिंह ने बताया कि द्वारका, कड़कड़डूमा और ढका में रिसर्च सेंटर बनाए जाएंगे जहां स्टूडेंट्स रिसर्च के लिए जाएंगे। यहां मैनेजमेंट के गुर भी सिखाए जाएंगे, ताकि वे अपना बिजनेस भी शुरू कर सकें। किसी भी स्ट्रीम के स्टूडेंट्स यहां पर जा सकते हैं।

सिंह ने कहा कि डीयू में एक नए युग की शुरुआत हुई है। अब स्टूडेंट्स को नैशनल नॉलेज नेटवर्क का फायदा मिलेगा। आने वाले दिनों में 500 से ज्यादा एजुकेशनल इंस्टिट्यूशन इस नेटवर्क से जुड़ेंगे।

डीय इन नेटवर्क के साथ जुड़े हुए एजुकेशनल इंस्टिट्यूशन के साथ यूनिवर्सिटी टाईअप करेगी। दुसरे इंस्टिट्यूशन में शेड्यूल के मुताबिक डीयू अपने स्टूडेंट्स को विडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के जरिए क्लासेज अटेंड करने का मौका देगी। शुरू में यूनिवर्सिटी के इंस्टिट्युट ऑफ लाइफ लॉना लुर्निंग में ऐसा क्लासरूम डिवेलप किया जाएगा और वहां पर जरूरी उपकरण लगाए जाएंगे। जिन कॉलेजों में इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर बेहतर होगा और जहां पर आईएलएलएल की तरह विडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के लिए सेटअप तैयार किया जा सकता है, वहां पर डीयू यह प्रोजेक्ट शुरू करेगी। इस कोर्स को करने वाले स्टूडेंट्स आईआईटी मुंबई, आईआईटी दिल्ली व दूसरे इंजीनियरिंग इंस्टिट्यूट की क्लासेज अटेंड कर सकेंगे।

प्रमुख संवाददाता ॥ डीयू

दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी अब नैशनल नॉलेज नेटवर्क से जुड़ गई है और पब्लिक लेक्चर सीरीज के साथ इस नेटवर्क की शुरुआत हो गई है। यहां के स्टूडेंट्स को आईआईटी मुंबई, आईआईटी दिल्ली, जेएनयू व दूसरे एजुकेशनल इंस्टिट्युशन की क्लासेज अटेंड करने का मौका भी मिलेगा। इसके लिए स्ट्रेडेंट्स को डीयू से बाहर भी नहीं जाना पड़ेगा। दूसरी यूनिवर्सिटीज के स्टूडेंट्स भी डीयू की क्लास अटेंड कर सकते हैं। द्वीयू अपने सभी कॉलेजों को नेटवर्क से जोडने जा रहा है। इसका सबसे बड़ा फायदा स्कूल ऑफ ओपन लर्निंग (एसओएल) के स्ट्रडेंट्स को होगा और वे अलग-अलग कॉलेजों की क्लास भी अटेंड कर सकेंगे।

नैशनल नॉलेज नेटवर्क की शुरुआत में जो लेक्चर हुआ, उसमें प्रधानमंत्री के एडवाइजर डॉ. सैम पित्रोदा, हीयू के वाइस चांसलर प्रो. दिनेश सिंह और हॉवर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी के प्रोफेसर माइकल सेंडल ने स्टूडेंट्स के सवालों के जवाब दिए। आईआईटी मुंबई, आईआईएससी बेंगलुरू, आईआईटी गुवाहाटी, गुजरात विद्यापीठ, आईआईटी गुवाहाटी, गुजरात विद्यापीठ, आईआईएम कोलकाता, पुणे यूनिवर्सिटी और शिवाजी यूनिवर्सिटी, कोल्हापुर के स्टूडेंट्स ने सवाल पूछे और डीयू में कन्वेंशन हॉल से उनके सवालों के जवाब दिए गए। इंटरनेट के जरिए सवाल-जवाब का सिल्सिला काफी द्रेर तक चला। वाइस चांसलर प्रो. दिनेश

Hindu ND 24/01/2013 P-2 DU scores another first

Connects live with 500 institutions for maiden public lecture

Vijetha S.N

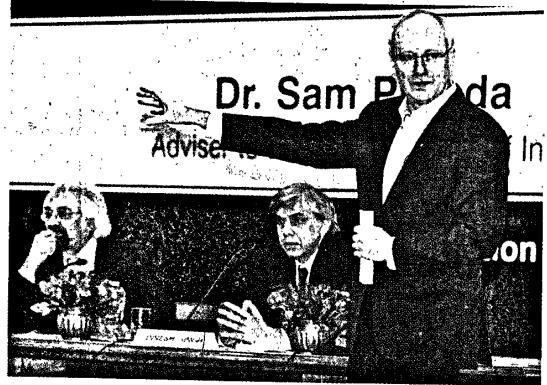
NEW DELHI: "The last time this happened... was...well, when language was invented," said Dr. Sam Pitroda waxing effusive about the wonders of the Internet and its massive impact on the way the modern world is connected and able to communicate. He was delivering Delhi University's first public lecture under the Network Public Lecture Series, where the University connected live with over 500 institutions here on Wednesday.

Excited audience

Big LCD screens connected an excited audience across educational institutions in Gujarat, Kharagpur, Kolkata. Pune and Bangalore where questions were posed live to the speakers who included Harvard University Professor Michael Sandel and Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Dinesh Singh. Among the institutions linked up were Las dy Shri Ram College . IISC -Bangalore, IIT Bombay, IIM Calcutta and University of Pune.

¹ Questions from Twitter as well as from the immediate audience in the University's convocation hall, which was overflowing with students and teachers, were also entertained.

The lecture, on "Democratising information, justice, equality, and the rule of law,"



NETWORKING INITIATIVE: Harvard University Professor Michael Sandel speaking at Delhi University's National Innovation Council & National Informatics Centre during the launch of 'The National Knowledge Network Public Lecture Series' on Wednesday, watched by Prime Minister's adviser Sam Pitroda and Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Dinesh Singh. - PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

had a lot of thought-provok- lawyers and civil servants, but some more equal than others. 'ing questions from the students which ranged from the ineffectiveness of legislations in the absence of an efficient policing agency to the need for a competitive exam for politicians. "We have the hardest competitive exam to

why is it there is nothing on. which a politician can be examined?" asked a student from IIT Bombay. He said the lessons they were taught as students -- that every citizen was equal in a democracy -were proved wrong in real life choose the best engineers, where, he felt, there were

Professor Sandel's talk centred round the rights and duties of a citizen where he said that to be a citizen in the true sense did not mean just having access to information but also to be able to act, agree or disagree on that information.

Economic Times , ND 24/01/2013 p-21

Salary Scales Tip in Favour of IIMs, not CAs

SREERADHA D BASU MUMBAI

Prema Jayakumar, an auto driver's daughter and an unlikely topper in the Chartered Accountancy (CA) exam results announced on Monday, has simple ambitions. She wants to participate in the campus placements — in February and March — and land a job "in a corporate firm or a good bank". She doesn't have any offers yet.

Abhishek Gupta, who topped the last CA exams in May 2012, is about to be inducted as a partner at B Chhawchharia Company. He earns 12 lakh per annum.

Prema's starting pay may not be much higher. This is a far cry from the ₹1-crore plus salaries that a few students at the top IIMs walk away with. Though the two professions are not comparable, auditing and finance as professions

have traditionally been far less lucrative than management, at least in the initial years. The competition is high in both. Approximately 60,000 students appear for both groups of the CA final exams, held twice over a oneyear period; only about 8,000-8,500 make the cut. Over 1.9 lakh students vied for the 3.200-odd IIM seats available this year. "We recruit both CAs and MBAs and it's impossible to make a comparison since the professions are so different," says P Thiruvengadam, senior director. Deloitte India.

"Both have different career paths except where they may converge at a management level. So a chartered accountant, who moves into industry in a management role, can get a salary comparable with that of an MBA," he adds.

Prema is currently drawing a salary of ***6**,000 per month at

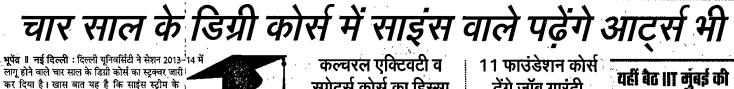
.

Kishor Sheth & Co during her articleship. After placements, she stands to earn anywhere between ₹3 lakh and going up to ₹14 lakh (among the highest offered last time by ITC.) Average starting salaries hover at around 77 lakh, says Subodh Kumar Agrawal, vice-president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Fresh IIM grads, on the other hand, can start off with ₹12 lakh to ₹15 lakh on an average, with₹25-lakh packages not so uncommon.

ITC, Nestle, ICICI, TCS, Infosys, Wipro, Deloitte and SR Batliboi & Co are among the companies that are regulars at the CA placements.

P1 Nav Bharat Times ND 24/01/2013

डीय का जया प्रयोग 中 कोर्स का स्ट्रक्चर जारी, केमिस्ट्री के 20 पेपरों के साथ पॉलिटिकल साइंस के 6 पेपर पढने का भी ऑप्शन



कर दिया है। खास बात यह है कि साइंस स्ट्रीम के स्टूडेंट्स को कॉमर्स और आर्ट्स स्ट्रीम के पेपर भी पढ़ने को मिलेंगे, जिसका पोस्ट ग्रैजुएशन में उन्हें बड़ा फायदा मिल सकता है। डिसिप्लिन 1 में 20 पेपर और 2 में 6 पेपर

अंगर स्टूडेंट कॉमर्स, केमिस्ट्री, या अन्य किसी सब्जेक्ट में प्रैजुएशन 'करना चाहता है तो उसे उस मेन सब्जेक्ट के 20 पेपर पढ़ने होंगे और डिसिप्लिन 2 में किसी दूसरे विषय के 6 पेपर पढने होंगे। ये 6 पेपर संस्कृत के, पॉलिटिकल साइंस, हिस्ट्री या फिर किसी दूसरे सब्जेक्ट के हो सकते हैं। इसका फायदा यह होगा कि छात्र को पीजी लेवल पर दो सब्जेक्ट में से कोई एक चुनने का ऑप्शन रहेगा। यानी अगर कॉमर्स के 20 पेपर पढ़े और 6 हिस्ट्री के तो एमकॉम या एमए (हिस्ट्री) किसी भी विषय में अपनी चॉइस अनुसार एडमिशन ले सकता है। पहली बार ग्रैजुएशन लेवल के कोर्सेज में रिसर्च के पेपर को भी शामिल किया गया है। 7वें व 8वें सेमेस्टर में रिसर्च और प्रोजेक्ट वर्क के पेपर होंगे।

साउथ कैंपस के डायरेक्टर प्रो. उमेश राय ने बताया कि स्टूडेंट्स को अपनी पसंद के हिसाब से कोर्स चुनने की आजादी दी जा रही है। डीयू की कोशिश है कि स्टूडेंट्स एक सब्जेक्ट तक ही सीमित न रहें, जब वे ग्रैजुएट होकर निकलें तो उनके पास कई सब्जेक्ट्स का नॉलेज हो. इससे जॉब मार्केट में भी उन्हें फायदा होगा। 🕨 पेज 5



Business Line ND 24/01/2013 p-17

IIM-Ranchi expects work experience to fetch better jobs for students

Shobha Roy ---Kolkata, Jan. 23

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi is banking on its current batch profile, comprising a majority of experienced candidates, to tide over the slowdown in hiring this year.

According to M.J. Xavier, Director, IIM-Ranchi, nearly 44 (approximately 65 per cent) of its batch of 67 students heading for campus recruitments this year have prior work experience. These students are eligible for lateral placements offered to management graduates with prior work experience.

BETTER OFFERS

This is the second batch to graduate from the three-year old institute. Its first batch

ž

(2010-12) had 44 students, nearly half of whom had work experience.

"This is a tough year as far as recruitments are concerned. However, candidates having prior work experience are getting lateral offers and are, in fact, better placed when compared to a fresher," Xavier told Business Line.

The average work experience duration for the current batch ranges between 12 months to more than 36 months, he said.

CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

IIM-Ranchi has been undertaking several corporate engagement programmes, including an HR Conclave, apart from getting in touch with corporates from diverse sectors to ensure smooth placements for its increased batch of students this year.

The institute has received good response from financial sector companies, particularly banks. IIM-Ranchi, Xavier said, has been approached for roles in corporate as well as retail banking and in credit research too.

The institute is also focusing on emerging areas such as the KPO (knowledge process outsourcing) to facilitate campus recruitment.

"Apart from the traditional sectors such as finance and consulting, we are targeting the KPO segment. We feel our students have an edge in business analytics and this will be an advantage in KPO firms," he said.

shobha.roy@ thehindu.co.in

Business Standard ND 24/01/2013 p-8

सैलरी के मोर्चे पर CA टॉपर भी IIM पासआउट से पीछे



कारनामाः इस बार के चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट एग्जाम में 🔒 मुंबई की प्रेमा जयकुमार ने टॉप रैंक हासिल किया। ऑटो ड्राइवर की बेटी का यह कारनामा लोअर मिडिल क्लास के स्टूडेंट्स को प्रेरित करेगा। फोटोः एजेंसी

रही हैं। प्लेसमेंट के बाद उन्हें 3 लाख से 14 लाख रुपए (पिछले बार ऑफर की गई सबसे ज्यादा रकम) सालाना तक की सैलरी मिल सकती है। इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट्स ऑफ इंडिया (आईसीएआई) के वाइस[े] प्रेसिडेंट सुबोध कुमार अग्रवाल के मुताबिक, सीए की एवरेज शुरुआती सैलरी 7 लाख के आसपास रहती है। रहता है। सीए फाइनल के दोनों ग्रुप के एग्जाम में हर दूसरी तरफ, फ्रेश आईआईएम ग्रैजुएट्स औसतन 12 लाख

से 15 लाख सालाना सैलरी पाते हैं। 25 लाख का पैकेज भी कॉमन ही कहा जाएगा। सीए प्लेसमेंट में नियमित तौर पर शामिल होने वाली कंपनियों में आईटीसी. नेस्ले, आईसीआईसीआई, टीसीएस, विप्रो. डेलॉयट, एसआर बाटलीबॉय आदि शामिल हैं। इनमें से ज्यादातर कंपनियां आईआईएम से भी भर्ती करती हैं।

फ्रेश चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट्स खुद से या कैंपस प्लेसमेंट के जरिए जॉब हासिल कर सकते हैं। साथ ही, ये खुद का

लेवल पर दोनों मिल सकते हैं। लिहाजा, जो सीए प्रैक्टिस भी शुरू कर सकते हैं। तिरूवेंगदम कहते हैं, मैनेजमेंट रोल में इंडस्ट्री में आते हैं, उनकी सैलरी 'जो सीए अपना फर्म शुरू कर आंत्रप्रेन्योर बन जाते हैं, वे लॉन्ग टर्म में एमबीए के मुकाबले ज्यादा पैसे कमा प्रेमा फिलहाल किशोर सेठ एंड कंपनी में अपनी लेते हैं।' जयकुमार अगर इस सलाह पर अमल करती

आईआईएम के मैनेजमेंट ग्रेजुएट को 1 करोड़ तक का शुरुआती ऑफर, जबकि सीए को सिर्फ 12 लाख

[श्रीराधा डी बसु *मुंबई*]

इस बार की सीए टॉपर प्रेमा जयकुमार की एक ही हसरत है। वह फरवरी-मार्च में होने वाले कैंपस प्लेसमेंट में किसी कॉरपोरेट फर्म या बड़े बैंक में जॉब हासिल करना चाहती हैं। फिलहाल उनके पास कोई ऑफर नहीं है। मई 2012 के सीए एग्जाम में टॉपर रहे अभिषेक गुप्ता बी छाबड़िया कंपनी में पार्टनर के तौर पर शामिल होने वाले हैं। उनकी कमाई 12 लाख रुपए सालाना है। प्रेमा की शुरुआती सैलरी भी करीब इतनी रहेगी। यह रकम आईआईएम के 1 करोड प्लस ऑफर से काफी कम है। आईआईएम के कई स्टुडेंट्स को 1 करोड़ से भी ज्यादा के ऑफर मिलते हैं।

ऑडिटिंग और फाइनेंस का प्रोफेशन आमतौर पर शुरुआती सालों में मैनेजमेंट के मुकाबले कम आकर्षक

बार तकरीबन 60,000 स्ट्रेडेंट्स शामिल होते हैं । इनमें से सिर्फ 8,000-8,500 स्टूडेंट्स ही सफल होते हैं। दूसरी तरफ, इस साल आईआईएम की 3,200 सीटों के लिए 1.9 लाख से भी ज्यादा स्टूडेंट्स ने टेस्ट दिए।

डेलॉयट इंडिया के सीनियर डायरेक्टर पी तिरूवेंगदम ने बताया, 'हम सीए और एमबीए दोनों तरह के प्रोफेशनल्स की भर्ती करते हैं। दोनों प्रोफेशन अलग हैं, लिहाजा इनकी तुलना करना संभव नहीं है। दोनों की राहें अलग-अलग हैं। हालांकि, मैनेजमेंट

एमबीए करने वालों की तर्ज पर हो सकती है।'

आर्टिकलशिप के तहत 6,000 रुपए महीने की सैलरी पा 🛛 हैं, तो भविष्य में काफी अच्छा करेंगी।

ंचार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट का करियर

फ्रेश चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट्स_् खुद से या कैंपस प्लेसमेंट के जरिए जॉब हासिल कर सकते हैं। साथ ही, ये खुद का प्रैक्टिस भी शुरू कर सकते हैं

जबरदस्त ऑफर्ट, इस प्लेसमेंट सीजन में अब तक बैंक 1 करोड़ सैलरी के 3 ऑफर दे चुके हैं

IIM प्लसेमेंट में बैंकों ने खोली तिजोरी



[टीम ईटी] आ देशाईएम के प्लेसमेंट सीजन में इस बार बैंक सबसे आगे हैं। इस सीजन में अब तक बैंक 1 करोड़ की सैलरी के 3 ऑफर दे चुके हैं। सूत्रों के मुताबिक, डोएचे बैंक ने अपने लंदन ऑफिस के लिए आईआईएम अहमुदाबाद में ऐसे 2 ऑफर दिए हैं, जबकि मॉर्गन स्टेनली ने आईआईएम कोलकाता के एक स्टूडेंट को 1 करोड़ का ऑफर दिया है। ज्यादातर ग्लोबल और भारतीय बैंक पिछले साल से ज्यादा भर्तियां कर रहे हैं। कई बैंकों ने इस बार सैलरी पैकेज में भी 10-15 फीसदी का इजाफा किया है।

इकनॉमिक टाइम्स के आकलन के मुताबिक, टॉप 5 कंसल्टिंग फर्में एक बार फिर आईआईएम में अपनी मौजूदगी का अहसास कराने जा रही हैं। ये कंपनियों इस साल 200 से भी ज्यादा लोगों की भर्ती करेंगी। बीसीजी के 60-70 स्टूडेंट्स की भर्ती करने की संभावना है, जबकि मैंकिंजी इससे थोड़ा ज्यादा लोगों को नियुक्त करेगी। इन लोगों की सैलरी 18-20 लाख की रेंज में होगी। इसके अलावा, उन्हें 1.5 से 2 लाख का बोनस भी मिलेगा। दिलचस्प बात यह है कि पिछले कुछ साल में इसमें ज्यादा

HT Lucknow

बदलाव देखने को नहीं मिला है। हालांकि, ई-कॉमर्स फर्में इस बार भर्ती में सुस्त पड़ गई हैं। पिछले प्लेसमेंट सीजन में ई-कॉमर्स फर्मों ने जमकर भर्तियां की थी। हालांकि, अभी प्लेसमेंट का शुरुआती सीजन है और अगले महीने इसके पीक पर पहुंचने के आसार हैं। इस साल 13 आईआईएम से तकरीबन 2,800 स्टूडेंट्स जॉब मार्केट में प्रवेश करेंगे। एचएसबीसी बैंक ने पिछले साल टॉप आईआईएम संस्थानों से 17 स्टूडेंट्स की भर्ती को थी। इस बार बैंक 30-40 फीसदी ज्यादा लोगों की भर्ती करेगा।

पिछली बार जहां बैंक ने मैनेजमेंट ट्रेनी के लिए 15.5 लाख रुपए सालाना का ऑफर दिया था, वहीं इस बार यह बढ़कर 16.5 लाख सालाना रुपए हो गया है। एचएसबीसी के एक सीनियर बैंकर ने बताया, 'हम अपने ट्रेजरी बिजनेस के लिए आईआईएम से टैलेंट लाने की तैयारी में हैं।' स्टैंडर्ड चार्टर्ड बैंक भी इस साल पिछले साल के मुकाबले ज्यादा स्टूडेंट्स की भर्ती करेगा। सूत्रों के मुताबिक, बैंक ऑफ अमेरिका मेरिल लिंच के भी इस साल ज्यादा भर्तियां करने की उम्मीद है। आमतौर पर बैंक ऑफ अमेरिका मेरिल लिंच तीन आईआईएम-अहमदाबाद, बंगलुरु और कोलकाता के स्टूडेंट्स की भर्ती करता है।

IIT-R professor takes over as Birbal Sahni Institute director LUCKNOW: Prof Sunil Bajpai of department of earth sciences, IIT-Roorkee took over as the director of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow on January 23.

P-13 Hindu ND 24/01/2013 'Wealth does not lead to world-class institutions'

Pushkar

There is little to disagree with many of the observations made by Ajay Gudavarthy and Nissim Mannathukkaren in their article "Comparing Harvard apples with JNU oranges" (The Hindu, Op-Ed, December 27, 2012) that: world rankings of universities do not give us an accurate picture of higher education in India and elsewhere, an overwhelming majority of top-200 universities are in rich countries and that the solution does not lie in emulating Western models.

They are right in asserting that there are different ways to evaluate higher education institutions. They mention "intangible features" such as access to education and give the example of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) as an institution which has served this cause for students from backward regions. Castebased reservations in our institutions have served a similar purpose. At the same time, they concede that representation has come about at the cost of quality.

However, they evade or downplay several troubling issues and take up somewhat frivolous ones. Let me begin with their complaints about the problems and unfairness of the U.S. higher education system. They lament the commercialisation of education and growing student indebtedness in the U.S. First, it is not our problem. Second, India has done very well in commercialising higher education without emulating the U.S. model. They claim that American students are not trained to become "critical thinkers" but "foot soldiers of the establishment." Agreed. Now how about asking this: what are we training our students to become?

Issue of context

Their biggest omission is context. They mention "different material realities" and "different starting points" of different countries but do not consider the same for India.

It is certainly true that 21st century India is still a poor country whether we use the "Third World" label or some other. At the same time, India, like China, is not just another poor country. It is certainly not Somalia (not my example)

even though in parts of the country, people live in worse than Somalia-like conditions. The country has witnessed high rates of economic growth for over three decades so that it now counts among the largest economies in the world. At least some of that growth has occurred due to the country's ability to tap into the global knowledge economy. The country and its peoples have also become more connected to the outside world - whether through trade, travel, technology or other means - over the past two-three decades. India has the world's largest pool of college-age young women and men, and more women are taking to higher education. The country loses immense more of its own technologies and priamounts of for-

exchange eign as thousands of and affluent meritorious students head abroad each year and far too

few of the meritorious ones return.

It makes little sense to discuss higher education in India within the old frameworks of "rich," "poor" or "Third World" countries. China and India belong to a different category of nations not just because they are growing economies but because they are large and populous. They are rich and poor, developed and underdeveloped, modern and traditional and everything else in between in different ways. They are countries that have arrived as global players or will do so in

Ajay Gudavarthy and Nissim Mannathukkaren respond:

. Pushkar grossly misreads the central arguments of our article. First, we do not argue "that vast disparities in wealth between the West and the rest explains why third-rate institutions are found in poor ountries.'

We clearly state, "while resources are crucial, they should not become an excuse for the abysmal standards of Indian universities.'

We then discuss the crucial

the coming future. Clearly, they are quite different from other low- and middleincome countries.

Given this context, the higher education sector has immense relevance and issues of quality and comparison of India's institutions with those in rich countries is more than a matter of "time Further, substantial improvepass." ments in the quality of higher education are necessary for India's economic growth and further development in ways that are both interdependent and less dependent on rich countries. It is only with a solid base of higher education that India will be able to design and develop

oritise invention and innovation to move forward.

Then and now

India's higher education needs to aim much higher than a

typical poor country. If global comparisons are not fair, other measures of qualindependent of

government-created evaluation bodies or the print media - need to be devised. If it is not fair to compare India's universities with those in rich countries, how about comparing them with what they were like two or three decades ago? Have the same universities become bet-

Other than providing access to higher education, have there been improve-

culture" which he has completely ignored. Second, if we believe, as Dr. Pushkar thinks, "India must wait to get rich before dreaming to build worldranked institutions", certainly, we would not have cited the example of JNU, or pointed to the "degenerating commercialisation of education" in the wealthy Western countries. Wealth is important, but not the only determinant. Hence we argued the need to reflect on the "ends of education" while seeking academic excellence. Third, India and China

ments in their quality? If the majority of engineering colleges or management schools are as bad as employers say they are, why not rank them in comparison to our own leading institutions, whether JNU or others?

If one takes their reasoning - that vast disparities in wealth between the West and the rest explains why third-rate institutions are found in poor countries to its logical conclusion, India must wait to get rich before dreaming to build world-ranked institutions. This reasoning flies against the commonsense view that a larger number of world-class institutions, whether ranked globally or not, can contribute enormously to India's economic growth and dynamism in the coming decades. Instead, Gudavarthy and Mannathukkaren apply a version of the age-old modernisation theory which posited a positive link between wealth and democracy - to higher education: that wealth leads to the creation of world-ranked institutions. Wealth has not brought democracy or world-class universities to oil-rich Middle Eastern countries. Arguably, precisely because these countries are not democratic, it is unlikely that their universities will ever, with or without the help of NYU or American University, reach the heights

of western universities. (Pushkar has a PhD in political science from McGill University. He previously taught at the University of Goa, Concordia University, McGill University and the University of Ottawa.)

might have emerged as global players, but that cannot, yet, wish away a First versus Third World divide in education Dr. Pushkar does not tell us why there are only four Third World universities in the Times top 200.

Finally, we do not "concede that representation has come about at the cost of quality," instead, we argue, reservations should be used to create new "new knowledge systems."

(Ajay Gudavarthy and Nissim Mannathukkaren are with Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Dalhousie University, Canada, respectively.)



THE HINDU

ity

ter over time?

contributory factor of "academic

Indian Express ND 24/01/2013 P-12 The Indian dream

Prema Jayakumar's story gives substance to the idea of aspirational India

IKE so many success stories in India, this one begins in a 🖌 village. Jayakumar Perumal moved to Mumbai from Tamil Nadu's Periyakollur village, found work as an auto driver and raised his family in cramped quarters in a Mumbai chawl. Today, his children are set to become chartered accountants. Daughter Prema topped the notoriously difficult CA exams and son Dhanraj also cracked them. From the village to the city and eventually to financial security ---this tale of personal courage and excellence is embedded in the ethos of aspirational India. The Indian growth story resides here, more than anywhere else, in the economic and social dynamism of its smallest constituents.

Prema Jayakumar's story is echoed by thousands across the country, young people who have overcome poverty, social discrimination and even political strife to succeed. The Kashmiri youth from Kupwara

who lost his father to the conflict but went on to become a doctor and clear the civil services examination in 2009, the son of the MNREGA worker who competed from Nazaiaffected areas and qualified for the IITs last year. Such stories also show the gruelling Indian education system in a softer light-much of Prema's education was funded by scholarships from the schools and the coaching institute she went to, hundreds of youth from BPL tribal families wrote the IIT entrance exams and the AIEEEs from a residential school-cum-coaching institute set up by the Chhattisgarh government.

The idea of aspiration has proved to be one of the most powerful binding forces in the country. In the process, it has acquired totemic qualities, garlic to the vampire of corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency and stultified politics. Stories such as Prema's give substance to this idea, making it reassuringly real once again.

Times of India ND 24/01/2013 P23

Minerals from asteroids to fuel future spacecraft? US Company Plans Earliest Probe For Mining By 2015

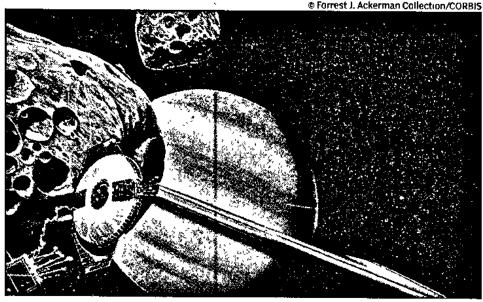
Washington: A US company plans to mine asteroids for metals, useful ores and minerals as they hurtle past the Earth using the first rockprospecting spacecraft by 2015.

Deep Space Industries says it wants to start sending miniature scout probes, dubbed "Fireflies", on one-way missions to near-Earth asteroids as soon as 2015. Company CEO David Gump said larger probes, "Dragonflies", that will bring back 50-to 100-pound samples from prospective targets could be on their way by 2016, CNN reported.

The goal is to extract metals, water and compounds that can be used to make spacecraft fuel from the chunks of rock that float within about 50 million kilometres of Earth. Gump said the ability to produce fuel in space would be a boon for Nasa, as the space agency shifts its focus toward exploring deeper into the solar system.

As much as 90% of the weight of a prospective months-long Mars mission could be fuel—and it costs between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per pound to put anything into space.

"If Nasa can launch just the hardware and tank up in orbit, where the fuel is cheap, that means we could get to the Red Planet a lot sooner than we currently expect," Gump said. It could also allow commercial satellite companies to



GOLD RUSH IN OUTER SPACE

Meteorite may hold evidence of 'alien life'

A lump of rock which crash-landed on Earth in a meteorite shower may hold evidence of 'alien life' within it, a UK scientist has claimed. The two-inch wide lump of space rock, that fell in Sri Lanka in December, is pitted with microscopic seaweed fossils similar to those found on Earth, said Chandra Wickramasinghe, a former head of Cardiff University's Centre for Astrobiology who is also known for his controversial theories that life on Earth 'seeded' from the outer space. "Our provisional assessment is that it was part of a comet. The stones look extremely unusual, and have a porous structure, with a lower density than anything we have on Earth," he said. PTI

extend the life of hardware that's now written off when fuel for manoeuvring thrusters runs out.

The announcement comes nine months after the unveiling of a similar project by Planetary Resources, a company backed by investors such as filmmaker James Cameron and Google executives Larry Page and Eric Schmidt. PTI