



In view of unprecedented growth in the education sector, Franchise India, organised a two-day conference and awards ceremony, Education Congress 2012, at Surajkund, recently. The conference provided an opportunity to industry experts and delegates to deliberate on the present and future trends in the field of education.

*Unveiling of Indian Education Report 2012*

# TIME FOR INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA SYNERGY

**T**HE Congress saw top policymakers, educationists, and corporate giants coming together to interact on a host of issues such as organisational leadership, educational entrepreneurship, blended learning, CSR, private enterprise, education consulting in the domain of early learning, K12, higher and vocational education practices, and regulatory issues in the field of education. They also discussed the pertinent issue related to the emerging trends in Indian education. Almost all segments in

the field of education were represented by the speakers, and over 300+ educationists and delegates took part in this conference. The magnitude of such a conference would have been quite inconceivable a few years ago. This underlines the fact that the education sector has come of age and all stakeholders are willing to enter into a dialogue and work together for seeking solutions to the existing problems in the sector.

In her opening address, Ritu Marya, Editor-in-Chief, Franchise India Media, laid stress on the fact that Indian schools were now being asked to do something they had never before attempted-succeed at teaching all students to achieve high standards in education. Educators, therefore, must consider their approach anew drawing upon some significant lessons from the world of business for improving the learning experience of their students.

Among the speakers on the occasion, Vineet Joshi, Chairman, CBSE, expressed happiness that the private sector was contributing to the growth of education in the country.

Dilip Chenoy, Chairman, NSDC, felt the need of vocational education in schools and institutions of higher education. According to him: "Vocational education is difficult to put into schools and also difficult to put in higher education. It has been missed somewhere, but thankfully it does not suffer from not-for-profit regime."



*Session in progress*



Dignitary lights the lamp



Session in progress

also wondered if the support instructional market was ready. Jonathan Marshall, MD, Plataris Learning Systems Australia, Amit Singh, SBU Head, EuroKids Preschools, Nesha O'Neil, Advisor, Childcare Association Australia, Jaisimha Jaithirth, Managing Director, Chrysaalis I-Maths India Pvt Ltd., and Manjula Pooja Shroff, CEO, Calorx, enlightened the audience with their views on the subject.

### K-12 education - Mandate for sustainability

Among other sessions, the one on K12 were insightful and witnessed heads and representatives of various schools and educational institutions debating on the issue of developing schools for new-age learning. Ashok Ganguly, Former Chairman, CBSE, chaired the debate. The speakers included Vanita Uppal, Secondary School Principal, The British School, Richa Agnihotri, Curriculum Head, International Curriculum, Step By Step School, Noida, and Anand Joshi, Regional Representative, The College Board.

Stressing on the importance of forums like the Education Congress, Pawan Agarwal, Advisor (Higher Education), Planning Commission, said: "Even if education is delivered through private-public institutions, there has to be a revenue model in place; there has to be a source of fund, and this forum, where people from the education community join hands with the business community, is very important."

In his inaugural speech, Amit Gupta, CEO, S Chand Group and Co-Chair, Indian Education Congress 2012, said: "If we wish to build a knowledge economy based on literate India, the most important aspect is that there has to be an interaction among multiple stakeholders. Partnerships need to be built and there has to be a system of integration, which needs to evolve among trusts, societies, schools, institutions, policymakers, states, the Centre, businesses, researchers, corporate entities, service providers, and financial institutions."

Amarjit Singh, Joint Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource and Development, felt that there was a need to integrate teacher education with overall educational development in states, especially in view of the mandate of the RTE.

The Congress formally began with the lighting of lamp by Gaurav Marya, President, Franchise India, along with other dignitaries present on the occasion.

The Congress discussed a host of issues pertaining to the Indian education scenario. The discussion on 'Building a Serious Business case for Early Learning' elicited a lot of international vision for bringing standardisation and accreditation to build an integrated learning platform. The discussions also addressed the problem of how to measure effectiveness of preschool programmes. Engaging families in early childhood education was felt necessary. The dignitaries

The dignitaries also felt the need to marry quality, consistency, and scale of teaching for enhancing the learning of individual students. They further discussed the necessity to invest in training of principals so that they could become CEOs, organizational managers, and innovative decision makers. Entwining vocational proficiency with mainstream education was also discussed. Among those who expressed their views on the subject included Madhulika Sen,



**VINEET JOSHI,**  
IAS, Chairman, CBSE

**"We realized that in order to implement any change in the education system, the most important thing required is to bring about the changes in the examination system. Continuous and comprehensive system was to be set up in its place, if the Class X exams is to be done away with."**



**PAWAN AGGARWAL,**  
Advisor (Higher Education),  
Planning Commission, GOI

**"In India, we are seeing a trend, which gives freedom to the educational institutions with accountability so that they serve the public purpose. A revenue model for an academic institution is as important as any other business entity."**



Session in progress



Awards ceremony in progress

Principal, Tagore International school, Gulraj Shahpuri, Founder, Promise, Andy Gray, Head, Governing Council, EuroSchool, Anuradha Sen, Shiv Nadar Schools, Neeraj Manchanda, Managing Partner, NMA, Ashok Kumar, CEO, Indian High School Group & Principal, The Indian High School Dubai, Jayant Hari Har Lal, Former Deputy Headmaster, The Doon School, Rita Wilson, Head of Business, Develop Schools, Abhinav Dhar, Head, K12 initiative Educomp, Anshu Sahi, Principal Army Public School, Dhaula Kaun, Sandra Swaroop, Principal Arwachin International School, Dilshad Garden, Kalpana Kapoor, Head of DPS Ghaziabad.

### Tech strong education

Digitalization of education was another significant area that attracted attention of the dignitaries. They felt that while sectors like healthcare and manufacturing have become tech



**SHANTANU PRAKASH,**  
CMD, Educomp

“Global research has shown over the 98% of money that is invested on technology, only 15% of the technology is used, which means 85 % of technology is not used in the process of education. How can

we marry technology to education. What is the killer application to make technology and education blend.”



**AMARJIT SINGH,**  
Jt Secretary, Ministry of HRD

“There is a need for expansion of capacity of teacher education institutions, especially in some of the deficit states of the east and north-eastern region, and also to link elementary teachers' education with the higher education system.”



**DILIP CHENOJ,**  
MD & CEO, NSDC

“Out of the 700 million working population in 2022, there will be 200 million graduates. India is a land of extremes, one model does not fit every state; as education and skill is in the concurrent space, it is indeed a challenge to take it forward.”

strong, the education sector continues to remain heavily reliant on "chalk and talk" conducted in traditional settings. A case for digital education "Smart Classrooms for future" was taken up by Shantanu Prakash, CMD, Educomp Limited, who emphasised that the future of digital education is bright. Such an education will harness digital technology in education curriculum, and enhance both teaching and learning through the use of technology in classrooms.

Sushil Prakash, Senior Consultant, National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology, underscored the need for making available e-knowledge content, free of cost to all learners. He stressed the need for leveraging the strengths of ICT to multiply the government's efforts for enhancement of the gross enrolment ratio in higher education by 5% in a five-year period.

The Conference attendees met several entrepreneurs and corporate members who are striving to overhaul Indian education with the help of technology.

### Bridging the employability gap

Deliberating on 'Making Higher Education Deliverable-Bridging the employability gap', Prof Rameshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor, JNTU Hyderabad, Dr JD Singh, Director General, Jaipuria Institute of Management, Shobha Mishra Ghosh, Director Education, FICCI, Prof (Dr) KK Dwivedi, Vice-Chancellor, Apeejay Stya University, and Prof Sanjeev Swami, Dayalbagh Education Institute, Agra, agreed that there was a need for an institute-corporate commitment. Prof Swami lamented that the research culture was missing in Indian higher education system. The panel also felt that degree courses like engineering would comeback in a new avatar to rebuild the existing structures of education for higher efficiency as also to arrest 'brain-drain' by upgrading the third-generation Indian universities and making them more connected to business, the community, and the world.

A session on 'Creating Vocational Initiatives' was also held, which was chaired by Prof V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, EVP and Principal Secretary, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology & Environment chaired. Ian Gordon, Director, VET Quality Compliance, Larry Anderson, Director, International Business, Gold Coast, Institute of TAFE, Australia, Jatinder Singh, Head of Education & Skill Development Committee, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Salil Pande, CEO & Founder, V Mock, and Lt-Col Rohit Agarwal (Retd), Principal Consultant, Global Knowledge Network Society dwelt on the need for building

government guidelines for institutionalization of vocational skills, scaling up of vocational education and skill training through open schooling, and creating a landscape to encourage participation of international vocation skills training and service companies. This will pave the way for quality and consistency by creating a competitive environment.

However, all efforts to reform education in India will become an exercise in futility if no attention is paid for 'Preparing Teachers for Change'. The dignitaries addressed the question of how better teachers are a result of their connections to the real world. The issue was discussed by Dr H S Srivastava, Former Dean, NCERT, Gulraj Shahpuri, Founder, Promise, Andrew Mowat, Principal, Group 8 Education Consultancy and Research institution, and Neenu Puri, Director (Education), S. Chand Harcourt (India) Pvt. Lt. A discussion on 'Lessons in Scaling-up' highlighted business growth strategies for educational businesses. Col. Gopal Karunakaran (Retd), Project Director (Schools), Shiv Nadar Foundation, Deep Mishra, MD, Everstone capital, and Seema Jhingan, Senior Partner, Lex Counsel Law, took part in the discussion.

### Indian Education Awards 2012

The occasion also witnessed the prestigious Indian Education Awards 2012, which felicitated achievers, innovators and suppliers who have made significant contributions to the growth of the education segment. The awards were presented across 23 categories for which over 700 nominations were received.



**SANJEEV PANDE**  
MD, SMART technologies,  
South Asia

**"India's literacy rate is growing 1-2% every year, almost have 70% literacy in India. There are a lot of things that have been done right**

**and we are getting the right visibility, the right results, growth attention job and going forward there is huge opportunity**

For more highlights and details of the show visit  
<http://www.educationbiz.in/2012>



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### Award's list

Industry	Company
Contribution in student Counselling	Brain Wonders
Best Infrastructure & Resources Provider	Orego Biz Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
Architect / Design firm for the year	Neeraj Manchanda Architects
Best Education Webinar Series	WizIQ.com (authorGEN Technologies Limited)
Best Innovative Learning Tools	Maths Lab by S. Chand Harcourt India Pvt. Ltd.
Best Education Sector Magazine	Education World
Best Edutainment Program	Roboticwares Pvt Ltd
Best Educational use of Social Media	www.mytestbuddy.com
Teaching Excellence - K-12	Dr. Shreesh Bhardwaj G D Geonka Public School, Faribabad
Best Licensing Program in Education	Destination Success by S. Chand Harcourt India
Best innovative K-12 school	Indian High School Dubai
Best innovative K-12 school (National)	The Millenium School
Best Vocational Training initiative	VLCC
Best Community Initiative in school	Sahodaya Indore
Excellence in Distance Learning education	Sikkim Manipal University
Most emerging Higher Education Institute of the year	Babu Banarasi Das University, Lucknow
Teaching Excellence - Higher Education	Galgotias University
Innovation in Early Learning/Child Development	Mother's Pride Pre School
Innovation in Learning	Shanti Educational Initiatives
Emerging K-12 chain of the year	EuroKids International Limited
Best Private University	Amity University
Most Impactful PPP initiative in Skill Development/Elementary Education/Adult Education	Manipal Global Education Services Private Limited
Policy maker of the year	Mr. Pawan Agarwal
Policymaker of the Year (State Government)	Dr K.K Khandelwal
Outstanding Contribution in building school communities	Mr. G.P.Gupta, President, Independent School's Federation of India
Outstanding Contribution by a Trust	Maneckji Cooper EducationTrust, Mumbai
Best Education company to work with	Educomp Solutions Ltd
Education Leader of the Year	Mr. Ashok Kumar, CEO, Indian High School, Dubai
Education Entrepreneur of the year	Ms. Lina Ashar
Lifetime Achievement Award	Prof D V Sharma