

Newspaper Clips

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Education, a driver for growth

Top minds from the education industry and academia recently came together to discuss the role that education will play in the growth of the country, and how it's imperative that the teachers are trained right to teach right

MAYURA MATHUR

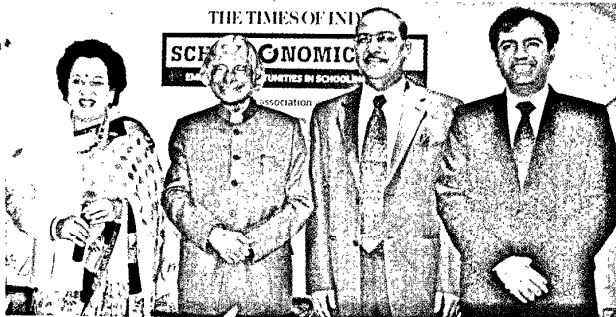
Despite having the largest education market in the world, the Indian education system is driven by a distinct social preference when it comes to choosing a school or an institute. And, while all parents want their child to be admitted to the best school, they also fear whether their ward will receive quality education or not. With this discussion of quality education becoming a bigger issue, it is no longer only a subject for parents to ponder, but also for academicians from across the nation to think about.

And, while there are many academicians who advocate in favour of the growing education industry in India, there are several of them who are worried about the quality of education that is being provided to the multitude of students across the country.

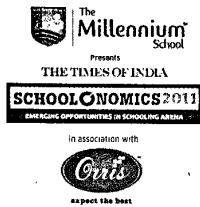
To discuss concerns like ethics of the education industry and the quality of education disseminated by public, as well as private schools, and how these factors together will impact India's future, The Millennium School in association with Orris organised The Times of India Schoolonomics 2011 on December 19 in New Delhi.

The seminar got off to a start with Dr. Shayama Chona, Noted Educationalist and Recipient of Padma Bhushan, sharing her thought provoking remarks. She started the seminar by posing a crucial question to the audience, "Why is the Indian education system not at par with the global education standards? Is it our government which falls short in formulation of adequate policies and initiatives that can fuel our education system; or does our education system not have the right number of qualified teachers to provide education or is it that we academicians are compromising on our value system," she questioned.

Rendering some more insight to Chona's thought, Mr. R.P. Agrawal, Chairman of The Board of Governors, IIT-Delhi, mentioned, "A sound education system is the best gift a nation can give to its citi-



(From L to R) Dr. Shayama Chona, Noted Educationalist and Recipient of Padma Bhushan; Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India; Mr. R.P. Agrawal, Chairman of The Board of Governors, IIT-Delhi; Mr. Shantanu Prakash, CMD, Educomp Solutions Ltd at the one-day seminar organised in Delhi



zens. The GOI plans to provide the nation with over 500 million trained professionals by the year 2020, but sadly the allocated budget for the same has still not been spent, with over 1/3rd remaining untouched."

Further stressing on the growth potential of the education industry, Mr. Shantanu Prakash, CMD, Educomp Solutions Ltd, opined, "The time has come when education is looked at like an investment option. It is time when private players join hands with government organisations and bring in public-private partnership projects into this segment." Also present at the occasion was Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam,

Former President of India, who was the Chief Guest of the seminar. While addressing the audience on the growth potential and quality education, he shared, "Education has always had one mission, which is capacity building. The only thing that gives credibility to a school is a teacher. To build a strong foundation, it is crucial for any school to have quality content and excellent teachers. Schools must build moral leaders, entrepreneurial leaders, autonomous learners and establish self organising networks."

Further discussing the schooling system, which focuses on 'Reach All, Teach All' concept, Dr. Amarjit Singh, Joint Secretary-EI, MOHRD shared, "In government schools quality of education is poor and therefore the dropout rate is even higher. The schools overall only emphasise on getting higher admission numbers, but no one has any retention plans. Also in our zeal to add more teachers to the system, we have over 0.7 million teachers, out of a total of 5 million, who don't have the required level of expertise." Taking his argument forward, Dr. Shabnam Sinha, Sr. Education Specialist, The World Bank, added, "We should also look at innovative

mechanisms and encourage CSR initiatives in the field of education."

Mr. Narayanan Ramaswamy, Partner and Head, Education Sector, KPMG, shared, "We can add the concept of open schools and standardised curriculums. These can be channelised via NGOs who can reach the slum areas and this would increase the educational penetration to the weaker sections of the society."

Ms. Abha Sehgal, Principal, 'Sanskriti School' shared "We are living in dynamic industry. It's a phase when must unlearn and relearn. Thus we have to be open to change."

Further discussing about reshaping the education industry by assessing and navigating the business implications in schooling ecosystem Mr. Amitabh Jhinghan, Partner and Education Sector Leader, E&T opined, "It is time that Indians realise the importance of entrepreneurship in education industry and this role must be made clearer, especially with concepts like K-12 becoming increasingly important." Adding to that, Mr. Abhinav Mittal, Sr. Principal-Emerging Markets Education

Practise, The Parthenon Group, said, "South East Asian nations and Middle Eastern nations are moving towards private education as parents feel that private schools have better facilities to offer, thus as investors, it is important to know, whether the schools are providing certain value added features to the parents or not. Therefore, it is important for schools to have smart class systems and curriculum should be customised."

While sharing his take on the lack of investments in the education sector, Mr. Partho Dasgupta, President Educomp Schools, mentioned, "Despite the fact that education is a sustainable industry, for some reason the investors are not keen on investing in this sector. I understand that there are numerous policy hang-ups that they fear, but then should there not be alternate routes to usher investments into the segment, or should the government not try and reform the existing policies?"

Talking about the investment possibilities in the education sector, Mr. Manjeet Singh, President-Legal, Orris Infrastructure Pvt Ltd, shared, "Real estate has come up with a unique investment option for this segment. We are providing infrastructure to schools and welcoming competent schools,

with global curriculums to establish their brands at our infrastructure."

Eminent speakers from the industry and academia like Ms. Abha Adams, Adviser-Education, Step by Step School; Ms. Lata Vaidyanathan, Principal, Modern School; Ms. Shikha Shamsu, Officer on Special Duty, MOHRD; Mr. Sumit Tayal, Director, Helix Investments Advisors India; Mr. Jetu Lalvani, Executive Director, Kaizen Private Equity; Mr. Imran Jafar, Partner, Gaja Capital Partners; Mr. Dhiraaj Mathur, Executive Director, Leader National Education Practice, PwC; Dr. Bindu Rana, Director, R&D, Educomp Solutions Ltd; and Dr. Abha Sehgal, Principal, Sanskriti School, highlighted the various steps needed to decode the new DNA and the rapidly changing landscape.

GURU SPEAK	
<p>"Education has always had one mission which is capacity building. A great building or larger than life-advertising can give no substance to a school. Only teachers give credibility to a school."</p> <p>DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM Former President of India</p>	<p>"We must understand the roadblocks that make nursery admissions even bigger than an Ivy League or Oxford admission."</p> <p>DR. SHAYAMA CHONA Noted Educationalist and Recipient of Padma Bhushan</p>
<p>"While the central Government spend on education has increased by 4.5 percent, the state expenditure has decreased by 3 percent. This has brought down the total spend by 3.7 percent."</p> <p>DR. R. P. AGRAWAL Chairman of The Board of Governors, IIT Delhi</p>	<p>"Schools must focus on content, credibility and creativity. This is the only way schools can aid innovative learning methods and meet global education standards."</p> <p>MR. SHANTANU PRAKASH CMD Educomp Solutions Ltd</p>
<p>"The schools only emphasise on getting higher admission numbers, but no one has any retention plans. Also, in our zeal to add more teachers to the system, we have over 7 million teachers, of the 5 million in total, who don't have the required level of expertise."</p> <p>DR. AMARJIT SINGH Joint Secretary-EI, MOHRD</p>	<p>"Today parents feel that private schools have better facilities to offer, thus as investors, it is important to know, whether the schools are providing certain value added features to the parents or not."</p> <p>MR. ABHINAV MITAL Sr. Principal-Emerging Markets Education Practice The Parthenon Group</p>
<p>"There is still a lot of work which needs to be done in the education sector. We should also look at innovative mechanisms and encourage CSR initiatives in the field of education."</p> <p>DR. SHABNAM SINHA Sr. Education Specialist The World Bank</p>	<p>"There is no doubt that slowly but surely the focus is shifting to teaching and learning, thus now it's becoming all the more important to revise our age old curriculums."</p> <p>MS. ABHA ADAMS Adviser-Education Step by Step School</p>
<p>"Schools have the responsibility to educate students in channelling the proper use of technology for building their future."</p> <p>DR. ARUN MOHAN SHERRY Director IIT-CDL</p>	<p>"Real Estate has come with a unique investment option for the education segment. By providing infrastructure, we are eliminating their major cost factor."</p> <p>MR. MANJEET SINGH President-Legal Orris Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.</p>

Times of India ND 23-Dec-11 P-21

New subatomic particle detected

Chi-b(3), A Boson Like the 'God Particle', Sighted By Large Hadron Collider

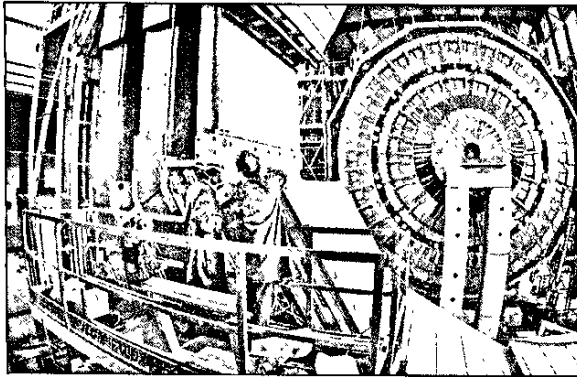
Paris: The Large Hadron Collider (LHC), famously engaged in the quest for the Higgs boson, has turned up a heavier variant of a sub-atomic particle first discovered a quarter-century ago, scientists reported on Thursday.

The newcomer is called Chi-b(3P), which was uncovered in the debris from colliding protons, according to research published in the online journal arxiv.

Like the elusive Higgs and the photon, it is a boson, meaning it is a particle that carries force.

But while the Higgs is not believed to be made of smaller particles, the Chi-b(3) comprises two relatively heavy particles, the beauty quark and its antiquark.

They are bonded by the so-called "strong" force which al-



A BIG BANG: The finding of Chi-b(3P) will help scientists understand better the forces that hold matter together

so causes the atomic nucleus to stick together.

The Chi-b(3P) is a heavier version of a particle that was first observed around 25 years ago. "The Chi-b(3P) is a parti-

cle that was predicted by many theorists, but was not observed at previous experiments," said James Walder, a British physicist quoted by the University of Birming-

ham in a press release.

Described by some as the world's largest machine, the LHC is located in a 27-kilometre ring-shaped tunnel near Geneva that straddles the Franco-Swiss border up to 175 metres below ground.

Streams of protons are fired in opposite, but parallel, directions in the tunnel. The beams are then bent by powerful magnets so that some of the protons collide in four giant labs, which are lined with detectors to record the subatomic debris that results.

On December 13, physicists at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) said they had narrowed the search for the Higgs — the so-called "God particle" that may confer mass.

The theory behind the Higgs is that mass does not de-

rive from particles themselves. Instead, it comes from a boson that interacts strongly with some particles but less, if at all, with others.

Finding the Chi-b(3P) is a further test of the powers of the LHC, which became the world's biggest particle collider when it was completed in 2008. "Our new measurements are a great way to test theoretical calculations of the forces that act on fundamental particles, and will move us a step closer to understanding how the Universe is held together," said Miriam Watson, a British research fellow working on the Chi-b(3) investigation.

A massive collaborative effort that brings in physicists from around the world, the LHC has cost more than \$4.5 billion. AFP

आईआईटी खड़गपुर में जुटेंगे दिग्गज उद्यमी

► अगले माह होगी एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप समिट

नई दिल्ली (वि.)। आईआईटी खड़गपुर के एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप सेल द्वारा 13 से 15 जनवरी 2012 तक ग्लोबल एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप समिट का आयोजन किया जाएगा। यहां जारी प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में आईआईटी खड़गपुर के एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप सेल की वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक प्राणिता पडालवर ने यह जानकारी दी।

उन्होंने कहा कि ग्लोबल एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप समिट (जीईएस) में प्रतिभागियों को विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के विशेषज्ञों के विचारों को सुनने का मौका मिलेगा। इनमें भारतीय मूल के अमेरिकी उद्यमी कंवल रेखी, फोर्ब्स में कालम लिखने वाले एस. मित्रा, सोशल एंटरप्रेन्योर इरफान आलम और हरीश हांडे, नौकरी डाट काम के संस्थापक संजीव भिकचंदानी समेत कई बड़े उद्योगपति शामिल हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इसके अलावा विभिन्न दिग्गज पेशेवरों के विचार सुनने का मौका भी प्रतिभागियों को मिलेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि अपना व्यवसाय चुनने वालों के लिए यह समिट भारत में अपनी तरह की एकमात्र समिट है जिसमें वैश्विक

► प्रतिभागियों को सुनने को मिलेंगे विभिन्न क्षेत्र के विशेषज्ञों के विचार

► युवा उद्यमियों को कारोबार शुरू करने में मिलेगी मदद

परिदृश्य को ध्यान में रखकर विभिन्न मुद्दों पर विचार-विमर्श किया जाता है। जिससे युवा उद्यमियों को अपना कारोबार शुरू करने में काफी सुविधा होती है।

उन्होंने बताया कि सम्मेलन में अमेरिका और ब्रिटेन समेत कई देशों के विश्वविद्यालयों व अन्य कालेजों के वरिष्ठ प्रोफेसर भी अपना विचार रखेंगे। इसके अलावा सम्मेलन में आईआईटी छात्रों को देश-विदेश के उद्यमियों से रूबरू कराने के लिए एक अलग सत्र का आयोजन भी सम्मेलन के दौरान किया जाएगा। इस सम्मेलन के बारे में अधिक जानकारी अथवा पंजीकरण कराने के लिए जीआईएस की वेबसाइट डब्ल्यूडब्ल्यूडब्ल्यू डोट ईसेल-आईआईटीकेजीपी डोट ओआरजी पर भी संपर्क किया जा सकता है।