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Global conference at Suncity School discuss ways for inclusive education

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GURGAON: As many as 27 high school counsellors and principals from the country and across the globe, representing 17 cities, came together to discuss issues affecting the education sector at a pre-conference presidential forum hosted at a private school in Gurgaon on Tuesday.

Delegates from the United States, China, South East Asia, Latin America, Europe, Middle East and India took part in the conference.

The conference, hosted by Suncity School in Sector 54, aimed at bringing together stakeholders of education for a collaborative dialogue on issues that drive sustainable and inclusive counselling practices geared towards the success of students.

The key areas, including changing field of careers in the 21st century, increased interest in the liberal style arts education and cross-border educational partnerships, were discussed at the conference.

Around 12 senior global university leaders including presi-



■ **Raj Bilani, Denison University, US, addressed the conference in Gurgaon on Tuesday.**

dents, chancellors, vice-chancellors, 20 to 25 senior principals from schools such as La Martiniere, Shiv Nadar, Mahatma Gandhi International School, TERI Prakrati School, senior government officials and trade organisation leaders attended the conference.

"The event gave an opportunity for all stakeholders from the sector to discuss and deliberate on the recent trends in the education sector," said Rupa Chakravarty, principal, Suncity School.

Discussing the transitions in the education sector, professor C Raj Kumar, founding vice-chancellor, OP Jindal Global University, said, "I would like to challenge the proposition of relation between liberal arts and career readiness. Liberal arts will empower children to pursue a bright career as well. Currently, the mindset of the student, parents and other relevant stakeholders is the biggest hurdle."

Jindal said there is a need to

promote diversity and a plural mindset.

Vineet Gupta, pro-vice-chancellor, Ashoka University, said, "The term liberal is in itself misunderstood. In India, liberal arts is equated with humanities and social science while ignoring law and technology. Liberal arts helps you question stereotypes and develop the ability to communicate effectively."

The event was part of a three-day international career and college counselling conference.



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