UPES hosts conclave on the future of business education

SHARE · AA · FOLLOW US

Prof. Rahul Nainwal, Director, UPES School of Business, addressing the audience at the event.

UPES hosted an insightful conclave, focusing on the next era of business education. This significant event brought together leading experts, industry practitioners, educators, and students to explore how technology and innovation shape the future of business education, emphasising the importance of adaptability and equipping students with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

Held at the prestigious India International Centre, the conclave featured keynote addresses from prominent figures in the industry, including Kiran Karnik, Former President of NASSCOM and Chairman of Tech Mahindra, and Anju Chaudhri Srivastava, Founder & Managing Director of Wingreens Farm.

Anju Chaudhri Srivastava, Founder & Managing Director, Wingreens Farm, discussing the importance of ethical leadership.

Themed "Disrupt or be Disrupted," the event sparked engaging discussions about the radical shifts in teaching approaches necessary to future-proof students. Organised in a World Café format, the conclave facilitated dynamic round-table discussions, enabling participants—ranging from industry experts and advisory members to alumni, students, and faculty—to share insights and perspectives in an open and interactive environment.

Kiran Karnik, former President of NASSCOM and one of the foremost voices in technology, delivering the keynote.

Key discussions centred around the integration of ethical leadership into the curriculum and the essential concepts that students need to grasp in an AI-dominated world.

Prof. Rahul Nainwal, Director of UPES School of Business, set the tone for the event by stating, "We cannot remain confined to traditional boundaries while contemplating thought leadership and management education. To facilitate meaningful change, we must develop effective strategies that promote collaboration and encourage institutional transformations for more sustainable models. Business schools must engage proactively with corporate and public decision-makers and embrace pragmatic, action-focused thought leadership."

Industry leaders deliberating on the evolving role and future of business education.

Keynote speaker Kiran Karnik reinforced the need for a technological shift in education, stating, "To enhance students' learning experiences and outcomes, they must be trained in the use of AI tools. Understanding AI as a fundamental aspect of business is crucial. In this new technological era, faculty members must guide students in leveraging AI to boost productivity and performance."

Karnik emphasised that faculty must evolve from traditional lecturers to facilitators in the classroom, effectively guiding students through the complexities of this new technological landscape.

Anju Chaudhri Srivastava, added, "In today's dynamic business environment, it is crucial for educational institutions to foster an entrepreneurial mindset among students, empowering them to innovate and lead with integrity. Furthermore, embedding ethical considerations into business practices is essential to prepare students to navigate challenges responsibly in an ever-evolving marketplace."

The conclave also featured a lively panel discussion, moderated by Hoshie Ghaswala, comprising key industry leaders and academicians. The panel addressed pressing issues such as the necessary curriculum changes for future readiness, the importance of preparing students for the realities of the business world, and the need to disrupt existing industry relationships to drive real change.

As the conclave concluded, participants left with renewed insights and actionable strategies to redefine business education for the future, fostering an environment

About UPES

Established in 2003, UPES is a multidisciplinary, research-focused university that offers future relevant training to students across undergraduate to research levels and equips them to be change makers for this brave new world of radical ideas and even more radical technologies. The university is a state private, not-for-profit university, accredited with one of the highest grades by India's national accreditor NAAC, and is ranked 46th in India in the university category, 28th in law, 41st in business, and 42nd in the engineering categories by the NIRF 2024. It is also ranked among Top 3 Private Universities and among Top 10 institutions in India by Academic Reputation in the QS World University Rankings 2024. UPES is also ranked among World's Top 2% universities by being in the 501-600 rank band globally and 8th in India by the THE World University Rankings 2025 and is also ranked among world's top 3% universities by the QS World University Rankings 2025. UPES has been ranked 4th among India's and 10th among Asia's Great Mid-Size Workplaces as per Great Place to Work 2024 Survey.

The university has about 16,000 students, from almost every state of India, of which about 30% are young women. Their schools, such as Advanced Engineering, Computer Science, Design, Business, Health Sciences and Technology, Law, Liberal Studies, and Media, engage deeply and widely with societal concerns such as health, education, technology, environment, identity, etc., to create individuals who have the ability to not just transform the world they are a part of, but in the process create an inclusive and sustainable future. The university was set up in a rural area and has since then become a growth pole for the region, creating livelihood opportunities for thousands of families in the neighbourhood and hopefully would create an ecosystem like university towns such as Oxford and Cambridge.

To know more about UPES, please click here.