

India's First AR/VR Legal Simulation Lab Launched at UPES School of Law

New Delhi, April 14, 2025: In a pioneering step towards transforming legal education in India and potentially across the globe, the School of Law, UPES, has launched the country's first *Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality (AR/VR) Legal Simulation Lab*. This state-of-the-art facility was officially inaugurated on April 10, 2025, by **Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Former Minister of Law & Justice, India** and a distinguished economist, jurist, and public intellectual.

The AR/VR Legal Simulation Lab at UPES is a first-of-its-kind initiative not just in India, but arguably in legal academia worldwide. Designed to revolutionize traditional legal pedagogy, the lab will offer immersive simulations for law students, helping them hone essential soft skills, develop courtroom acumen, and engage in high-impact experiential learning through realistic moot court and litigation simulations.

Speaking on the occasion, **Professor (Dr.) Abhishek Sinha**, Dean, School of Law, UPES, said, *"The legal profession demands not just theoretical knowledge but practical readiness, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills. With the launch of the AR/VR Legal Simulation Lab, we are pushing the boundaries of legal education and embracing a future-forward, technology-integrated approach to learning. Our students will now experience legal practice in a near-real environment, preparing them more holistically for the profession. This lab also reflects UPES School of Law's commitment to leading innovation in legal academia."*

Apart from student training, the lab will also serve as a platform for faculty development programs (FDPs), particularly in areas like communication, negotiation, counselling, and other soft skills crucial for effective legal practice and teaching.

Dr. Subramanian Swamy, said, *"It's a technology which I had no idea about and to see it at this stage amongst you people, I am very impressed. My generation was better than my father's generation and so the next generation is bound to be better than me. It took me by surprise. I congratulate your institution to be able to encourage people to do these things."*

The initiative is aligned with UPES's larger vision of integrating emerging technologies into education and creating next-generation legal professionals who are adaptive, empathetic, and future-ready.

About UPES

Established through the UPES Act, 2003, of the State Legislature of Uttarakhand, UPES is a top-ranked, UGC-recognised, private university. As per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, UPES has been ranked 46 among universities, with a rank of 28 in Law, 41 in Management, and a rank of 42 in Engineering. As per the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2025, UPES now stands in the 501-600 band globally and 7th in India, with a leap of over 300 ranks from 2024. In addition to this, the university has been ranked the No.1 private university in academic reputation in India by the QS World University Rankings 2025. It is among the top 2% of universities in the world.

UPES has also been accredited by NAAC with a grade 'A' and has received 5 stars on Employability (placements) by globally acclaimed QS Rating. The university has had 100% placements over the last five years. Forty-six (46) faculty members of UPES are among the world's top 2% researchers as per Stanford University list.

UPES offers graduate and postgraduate programs through its seven schools: School of Advanced Engineering, School of Computer Science, School of Design, School of Law, School of Business, School of Health Sciences & Technology, and School of Liberal Studies and Media with 16,000+ students and 1,500+ faculty and staff members.