

UPES Organises President's Cup; Celebrates Sports Excellence

Two-Day Event Strengthens Mentorship and Honours Sportspersons at UPES

Dehradun, 30 April 2025: In a vibrant showcase of sportsmanship, community spirit, and holistic development, UPES organised two landmark events this April — the inaugural **President's Cup** and the annual **Sports Excellence Awards**. Together, these initiatives reflected the university's evolving vision of creating a thriving sporting culture rooted in leadership, mentorship, and inclusivity.

On April 25, 2025, UPES hosted the 1st edition of the **President's Cup** at the modern Bidholi Campus Cricket Ground — a thrilling **T20 match between Student XI vs. Faculty & Staff XI**. Played under floodlights, the match provided an electrifying atmosphere, offering students and faculty a platform to engage on equal ground.

Graced by the presence of Dr. Sharad Mehra, Chairman, Hydrocarbons Education & Research Society (HERS), the sponsoring body of UPES, and Dr. Sunil Rai, President, UPES, along with senior university leadership, the event culminated with an awards ceremony where the rolling trophy was presented. They underlined the importance of sports in building a vibrant, connected university ecosystem, where learning extends far beyond the classroom walls.

Dr. Sunil Rai, President, UPES said, *"This initiative is a natural extension of our philosophy of learning beyond traditional hierarchies. The President's Cup acts as an advanced form of a flipped classroom, where students and mentors learn from each other through shared experiences. It is about building respect, collaboration, and community spirit, both on and off the field."*

The President's Cup also reflects UPES's significant investment in developing **world-class sports infrastructure**, including floodlit grounds, training facilities, and fitness centres, aimed at promoting year-round participation and professional standards in university sports.

Continuing the momentum, UPES hosted the **Sports Excellence Awards** on April 26, 2025, an evening dedicated to celebrating the passion, perseverance, and achievements of student-athletes. With proud parents in attendance, the ceremony honoured excellence across 9 women's and 12 men's sports disciplines, recognising Most Valuable Players (MVPs), Most Emerging Players (MEPs), and every participating athlete.

Aryan Kapoor (Cricket) and **Chitra Sharma (Volleyball)** were named **Best Athletes of the Year**, while the **Trident Titans** — a combined team from the School of Business and the School of Liberal Studies and Media — lifted the inaugural Inter-School Tournament overall trophy.

UPES is also committed to providing equal opportunities for both men's and women's sports, ensuring that participation is celebrated and encouraged at every level. As an example of promoting women's participation in sports, UPES has extended support to rising national stars like **Raghvi Bist** and **Nandini Kashyap**, who now represent the Indian Women's Cricket Team. This includes the provision of professional sports equipment and financial assistance.

The strengthening of the university's sporting culture has been shaped by a strong focus on **coaching and mentorship**, led by **Dr. Amrish Tony, Director of Sports, UPES**. He said, *"Our vision has been to create a robust environment where coaching is not just about winning, but about nurturing character, discipline, and lifelong skills. Through structured training and mentorship, we aim to build future-ready individuals who excel both in their sporting pursuits and in life."*

In line with this commitment, UPES also offers scholarships under **Project Vijay**, offering up to 100% tuition fee scholarships to talented student-athletes, ensuring that passion for sport is rewarded with opportunities for academic advancement and professional growth. Demonstrating its inclusive spirit, UPES also offers

scholarships to the kin of India's bravehearts, through an annual cricket tournament, reinforcing its belief in empowering individuals through the dual strength of education and sport.

Over the years, UPES has steadily built a reputation for sporting excellence, with its students and alumni making a mark at both state and national levels. Most recently, Aryan Kapoor, a current student, became the first from UPES to represent **Dehradun** in the **BCCI-affiliated CAU Senior Men's Inter-District League**, showcasing the university's focus on nurturing competitive talent.

Among alumni, **Deeya Chopra** and **Sejal Maan** earned Gold and Bronze medals respectively at the **18th Uttarakhand State Inter-College Shooting Championship**, while **Navneet Singh**, a **Commonwealth Games silver medallist**, attributes his success to the university's consistent encouragement and support for athletes.

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.