

'Tech is triggering mass revolution in education'



Nandan Nilekani, Chairman, EkStep, and Non Executive Chairman, Infosys, at the FoL event at IIM-B on Monday

OUR BUREAU

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"Today, 2.5 billion people have smartphones and they have options in terms of data, apps and capabilities. This has an impact on education too," said Nandan Nilekani Chairman, EkStep, and Non-Executive Chairman, Infosys.

Inaugurating a three-day conference on 'The Future of Learning' (FoL) here on Monday, hosted by IIM-B in collaboration with IIT-Bombay, Nilekani said: "Digital unbundling leads every sector, including education, to go from mega to micro and creates new ways to mix and match."

FoL 2018 is the first in the series of annual conferences alternating between IIM-Bangalore and IIT-Bombay for the next three years. In his presentation, 'Micro is the New Mega', Nilekani focused on how to learn in a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) world.

The question and answer session following Nilekani's address revolved around the forces that are driving the change in the education sector, such as increasing globalisation (fiercely competitive domestic and international student markets), greater global mobility (of academics, students and academic brands), an intensifying clamour for democratisation of knowledge and access, and the emergence of disruptive digital technologies that drive innovations and offer leapfrogging opportunities.

In his opening remarks, Prof Deepak B Phatak from IIT-Bombay, who is co-chair of FoL 2018, highlighted disruption in the education sector and spoke of the need to bring the different silos together and focus on creative disruption.