

**Report of Invited Lecture on Empowering Minds: Cultivating Leadership  
Excellence in Universities on August 21, 2024**

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of Central University of Punjab successfully hosted an enlightening lecture today featuring Prof. (Dr.) A. K. Gupta, FAMS, the esteemed President of AIIMS Bathinda. The event, titled *"Empowering Minds: Cultivating Leadership Excellence in Universities – A Perspective from a Deemed Medical University of National Importance in India,"* was organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of CU Punjab.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty, students, and administrative staff. Prof. Gupta, a distinguished figure in the field of medical education, shared his extensive knowledge and experiences, offering deep insights into the importance of leadership in higher education institutions. With over 34 years of experience at premier institutions such as AIIMS New Delhi and PGIMER Chandigarh, Prof. Gupta is celebrated as the *'Teacher of Teachers.'* His expertise spans hospital administration, medical education, and health system enhancement, with notable achievements in quality improvement, operations management, and leadership in healthcare.

During his lecture, Prof. Gupta emphasized the critical role of universities in shaping the future of a nation, stating, *"A well-educated society influences the future of a nation. If you want to destroy the generations of civilization, destroy your university. Conversely, if society wants to be civilized, the university must be personified at the highest level."* He highlighted that leadership, motivation, change, reform, and ethics are fundamental to building a robust educational system that emphasizes responsibility, accountability, good governance, tolerance, and upholding high standards in teaching and research.

Drawing on the historical example of Nalanda University, Prof. Gupta underscored the importance of universities as pillars of civilization and the necessity of preserving and enhancing these institutions to ensure societal progress and development.



The event was part of CU Punjab's ongoing commitment to improving the quality of education and leadership at the university. The lecture was well-received, with participants appreciating the valuable perspectives shared by Prof. Gupta.

Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari, Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Punjab, in his concluding remarks thanked Prof. A. K. Gupta for this insightful lecture. He emphasised that his expertise and vision have made a lasting impact on the university community."

The event concluded with a Q&A session, allowing participants to engage directly with Prof. Gupta, further enriching the experience.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Sanjeev Thakur, Dean of Student Welfare. Prof. Monisha Dhiman, Director of IQAC, then introduced the keynote speaker. Towards the end of the event, Prof. R.K. Wusirika, Dean Incharge of Academics, expressed gratitude to both the speaker and participants, highlighting the university's commitment to organizing more events aimed at fostering academic and leadership growth.

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