GLOBAL INDUSTRY CONNECT 2026 - EVENT SUMMARY REPORT

Conducted by CDC for the MBA Department

Theme: *FinTech Frontiers: Digital Transformation Across Functions - Finance, HR, Marketing, and Logistics in the AI Era*
Date: 30th June 2026
Venue: Falconry Seminar Hall, New Horizon College of Engineering
Audience: MBA 2027 Batch
Organised by: Career Development Centre (CDC) in association with Industry Institute Interaction Cell (IIIC)

Event Overview

The Career Development Centre (CDC), in association with the Industry Institute Interaction Cell (IIIC), organised Global Industry Connect 2026, an industry-focused panel discussion centred on "FinTech Frontiers: Digital Transformation Across Functions - Finance, HR, Marketing, and Logistics in the AI Era." The session was designed to expose MBA students to the rapidly evolving business landscape shaped by Artificial Intelligence, digital transformation, and cross-functional collaboration.

The discussion brought together accomplished industry professionals representing technology, strategy, and people transformation, offering students practical insights into how organisations are redefining business operations. The session highlighted the increasing convergence of business functions and emphasised the competencies required for management graduates to thrive in AI-enabled enterprises.

Key Speakers

Mr Hemant Kumar Ravi

VP & Head - People Transformation & Employee Experience, Tenarai (Moderator)
An experienced leader in organisational transformation and employee experience, he moderated the discussion by connecting industry trends with the future expectations from management graduates.

Mr. Bipin Soni

Associate Director - Engineering, Razorpay
A technology leader specialising in large-scale digital platforms and FinTech innovation. He shared insights into how Artificial Intelligence is transforming financial ecosystems, automation, and business operations.

Mr Mahantesh C N

Chief - People, Culture & Strategy Officer, Neotech Global
A strategic HR and business transformation leader who discussed the importance of deployment-ready talent, organisational culture, leadership, and human-centric decision-making in an AI-driven workplace.

Event Highlights

The discussion commenced with an exploration of Industrial Artificial Intelligence and its growing influence on business functions. The panel emphasised that AI has evolved beyond automation and now serves as a strategic enabler across finance, logistics, customer operations, and enterprise decision-making. Modern organisations increasingly rely on predictive analytics, intelligent automation, fraud detection, and real-time business intelligence to improve operational efficiency, enhance customer experience, and accelerate business decisions.

A major focus of the session was the integration of business functions through digital transformation. The speakers explained that traditional boundaries between Finance, Human Resources, Marketing, and Logistics are rapidly disappearing as organisations adopt interconnected digital ecosystems. AI-driven insights enable departments to work together more effectively, resulting in faster business decisions, improved customer experiences, optimised resource utilisation, and greater organisational agility.

The panel also introduced the concepts of VUCA, representing Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity, and BANI, representing Brittle, Anxious, Non-linear, and Incomprehensible. The speakers explained how these concepts describe the rapidly changing business environment faced by organisations today. Particular emphasis was given to startups, where constant market shifts, technological disruptions, changing customer expectations, and economic uncertainty require leaders to make quick decisions while remaining resilient and adaptable. The discussion highlighted that understanding these frameworks enables future managers to anticipate change, respond effectively to uncertainty, and build sustainable organisations.

Another important discussion centred on deployment readiness. The panel explained that organisations today expect MBA graduates to contribute from the very beginning of their careers. Employers are looking for professionals who possess strong business fundamentals, analytical thinking, digital literacy, and the ability to interpret AI-generated insights rather than perform routine activities that can be automated. Students were encouraged to develop business acumen, critical thinking, and problem-solving capabilities that enable them to create value from day one.

The panel strongly emphasised the importance of developing a cross-functional mindset. Rather than working within isolated domains, future professionals must understand how engineering, commerce, and business complement one another in solving organisational challenges. Engineers need to appreciate business requirements and customer expectations, commerce graduates should understand technology-enabled business processes, and management professionals must effectively collaborate with technical teams to transform ideas into practical business solutions. The speakers explained that organisations increasingly seek professionals who can connect technical knowledge with commercial understanding and strategic decision-making to drive innovation and business growth.

The discussion further highlighted the importance of adopting a T-shaped learning approach. Students were encouraged to build deep expertise in one specialisation while simultaneously developing a broad understanding of related areas such as analytics, technology, finance, marketing, communication, and business strategy. The panel explained that professionals with both specialised knowledge and cross-functional understanding are better equipped to adapt to changing business needs and assume leadership responsibilities.

Career planning in the AI era was another significant theme of the session. Students were advised to continuously upgrade their skills through certifications, internships, industry projects, and practical learning experiences. The speakers emphasised that continuous learning, adaptability, curiosity, and the willingness to embrace emerging technologies are essential for sustaining long term career growth.

An engaging interaction took place when MBA students presented their project problem statement addressing the challenges faced by retail garment stores due to multiple customer trial sessions. The students explained their proposed solution and sought industry feedback on its practical implementation. The panel appreciated the relevance of the problem statement and encouraged students to approach such challenges by combining market research, customer behaviour, business strategy, technology, and data-driven decision-making. They also emphasised that innovative solutions emerge when business knowledge is integrated with technological thinking and customer centricity.

The session concluded with a discussion on the human aspects of Artificial Intelligence. While AI continues to automate repetitive tasks and enhance business efficiency, the panel unanimously agreed that qualities such as emotional intelligence, empathy, ethical leadership, creativity, adaptability, negotiation, collaboration, and change management cannot be replaced by technology. The speakers concluded that the future belongs to professionals who can effectively combine technological capabilities with human judgment, enabling organisations to innovate while creating sustainable business value.

Panellist Feedback:

The panellists appreciated the enthusiasm, curiosity, and active participation displayed by the students throughout the session. They were particularly impressed by the innovative problem statements presented by the students, which reflected their willingness to address real-world business challenges. The panel encouraged students to expand their learning beyond the academic curriculum by regularly following market trends, understanding industry expectations, and staying informed about emerging business practices.

The panellists also emphasised that students should choose their specialisation based on their interests while considering future industry demand and career opportunities. They highlighted that technology and business environments are evolving rapidly, with significant changes occurring every few months, making continuous learning and adaptability essential for long-term success. Students were encouraged to develop the right mindset to embrace change, make the best use of every learning opportunity, and remain committed to building the skills required to achieve their desired careers.

Student Feedback:

The session provided students with valuable industry insights into the changing business landscape and the skills required to build successful careers in the AI-driven era. One of the key takeaways was the concept of T-shaped learning, where students understood the importance of developing deep expertise in their chosen specialisation while building a broad understanding of technology, business, analytics, and communication. The panel also guided students on selecting the right specialisation based on their interests, strengths, and future industry trends rather than following conventional career paths. This helped students gain greater clarity on making informed academic and career decisions.

Students also gained a practical understanding of how organisations approach problem statements by first identifying the root cause, understanding customer needs, and evaluating feasible business solutions before implementing technology. The discussion on logistics provided a new perspective on the strategic role it plays in modern businesses, highlighting how supply chains, customer expectations, inventory management, and data-driven decision-making influence business success. The interaction encouraged students to think beyond classroom concepts, develop a cross-functional mindset, and continuously learn to stay relevant in an evolving corporate environment.

Conclusion

Global Industry Connect 2026 successfully provided MBA students with meaningful exposure to the realities of a rapidly evolving digital business environment. The panel reinforced that while Artificial Intelligence is redefining the way organisations operate, long-term professional success will be driven by a combination of business knowledge, technological awareness, analytical thinking, adaptability, and human-centric leadership. The session served as an inspiring platform that strengthened the connection between academia and industry, equipping students with valuable perspectives to become future-ready management professionals.