

Mr. Narayan Murthy, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIMA, said: "it is indeed a great privilege that we have here with us an individual who has successfully steered one of India's leading companies, an Indian with a strong focus who, embodies simplicity, and believes in ethics."

He also welcomed Dr. V. Kurien, founder of the milk cooperative movement in India and the father of the white revolution, members of the faculty and staff, the Board of Governors, parents and students. Mr. Narayan Murthy thanked the Government of India and the Board of Governors of IIMA for appointing him Chairman of the Board. He said, "I decided to accept this responsibility for two reasons. First, I started my professional career right here at IIMA. Thus my association with the Institute goes back to the early '70s. This responsibility provides me an opportunity to discharge a small part of the debt that I and more importantly, it gives me a chance to work with the Institute to help it realize its full potential. The Institute has achieved a great deal already, but I think it can do much more".

"The Institute's founders proclaimed that the IIMA is an institute of management and not an institute of business management. In fact, we must pay a tribute to the founders for not restricting the Institute's field of activities. They emphasized that being a professional school, the Institute must tirelessly strive for achieving the ideal through the actual. They stressed that the thought is the essence of action. Based on this philosophy. The Institute's faculty has made the problems of the practicing world central focus of their academic pursuits. In studying these live problems, the faculty members make use of the immense knowledge and the analytical skills they possess. However, what is note-worthy is that in studying these problems, the faculty scrupulously avoid the analysis by paralysis syndrome," said Mr. Narayan Murthy.

He went on to say, "the Institute can leverage its strengths in addressing the opportunities and threats that globalization is posing to our nation. It can help in clarifying the role that the governments must play in a world that is fast shrinking and changing, while at the same time the demand for good governance is gaining momentum all over the globe. Further, the Institute can address the problem of corporate governance. Moreover, we need to ensure that the students have frequent interaction with people working in the industry in order to gain real life experience. We need to make use of the Institute's huge alumni network to provide mentoring as well as other support."

Mr. Narayan Murthy told the graduating students, "your teachers have taught you a lot in these two years. I have nothing to add in the area of academics. However, let me urge you all to become world class leaders and worthy citizens of whatever country you chose to live in and uphold the image of India. For those of you who choose to live in India, remember that our democracy, our secularism and our tolerance of minorities are all that we have got in this country. If we lose this, we will soon become barbarians and destroy the great culture of this country. Please stand up for these values when you come across a minority of misguided people who will try to engender hatred and bigotry."