

The Pursuit of Excellence

Chairman's Welcome Address

My dream that an IIMA alumnus addresses the convocation has come true. I am glad that the Director, the faculty and the students agreed to my suggestion of inviting a distinguished alumnus to be the commencement speaker. He is the youngest Chief Guest and the first alumnus of this institute to be a commencement speaker in the 40 years of this institute's history.

In the end, the quality of education at an institute can be measured by the success of its students. The achievements and success of our alumni bear testimony to the high standards of excellence at IIMA.

Need for more freedom

In the era of globalization, academic institutions must benchmark themselves with the best in the world.

Creating a world-class institution is not about greater investment, but about academic freedom, innovation, and the pursuit of excellence.

The pursuit of global excellence requires freedom to take risks and to foster new, bold initiatives for growth.

In the words of Oliver Goldsmith, "to aim at excellence, all must be ventured; to aim at the average, we run no risk, and provide little service."

Hence, we have to provide our high performing institutions with enough scope to bring global recognition.

Enabling change

My young friends, it is indeed a pleasure to participate in this landmark event in your lives. You are armed with a truly excellent education, which enables you to influence, and change our society. You must, therefore, see yourselves as leaders. Education creates responsibility to build a future that posterity can be proud of; and to bring about progress.

To create change, you have to set an example yourself. Let us remember what Mahatma Gandhi said: "Be the change you want to see in the world." Use your knowledge and your talent to make a difference, in whatever you choose to do. Let me quote Samuel Johnson, who said: "Our aspirations are our possibilities."

An inspiration to all

Our alumni must serve as an inspiration to you of what is possible. We are fortunate to have with us, such an accomplished person - an individual who is an eminent economist, academician, a brilliant thinker, and above all, one of us. He has brought glory to himself, his parents, his teachers and to all of us Indians. He has made us an inch taller.

