

**Address by Prof. Samir K Barua, Director, IIMA**

Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Chief Guest of the convocation; Her Excellency, Governor of Gujarat, Dr. Shrimati Kamala; Honourable Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri. Narendra Modi; Dr. Vijaypat Singhania, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Institute, Members of the IIMA Society, Members of the Governing Board of IIMA, colleagues from the Institute, family members and friends of the graduating students, the graduating students, ladies and gentlemen, my warm greetings on the occasion to all of you.

I recall my meeting over six months ago with Honourable Prime Minister at Delhi. He accepted my invitation to be the Chief Guest for the convocation, and said, "I am an academic, I would come". Our heartfelt thanks to you, Sir, for accepting our invitation and keeping the promise to be with us today. Thank you for your inspiring address on the occasion. I would also like to thank Her Excellency, Governor of Gujarat for her gracious presence on the occasion. We are also immensely privileged to have with us Honourable Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri. Narendra Modi. When we met him at Gandhinagar to invite him for the convocation, his reassuring words were, "I would come, it is a matter of pride for us to have a great institution in the state". Our heartfelt thanks to you, Sir, for being with us this evening. Thank you for your words of wisdom on the occasion.

About five decades ago, the Government of India and the Government of Gujarat joined hands as co-promoters of IIM Ahmedabad. The presence of Prime Minister, the Governor and the Chief Minister of Gujarat at the convocation today reaffirms the commitment of both the governments to support the Institute in its endeavour to become an iconic management institute in the world known for thought leadership in management.

In the last few years, the Institute has taken significant steps towards global recognition. In 2008, it became the first management school in the country to acquire EQUIS accreditation, for the quality of its academic processes. In 2010, two other milestones were reached. The two-year Post Graduate Programme, the PGP, was ranked 8 globally among the Masters Programmes in Management by the Financial Times. In the same year, the young programme, the One-Year Post Graduate Programme in Management for Executives, the PGPEX, was ranked globally at 11 by the Financial Times among the executive MBA programmes in management. The Institute continues to be ranked among the top one hundred schools in management by the Economist.

While such global rankings and accreditations are indeed important, what makes us particularly proud at IIMA is not these but the achievements of our graduates. They have made us proud by significant contributions made to a variety of organizations and institutions including several that make a difference to the lives of millions of less privileged in society. On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee year, I would like to acknowledge their significant contribution to the economic and the social development of the nation.

To the graduating students: As you sit with your colleagues in the presence of your loved ones with dreams unlimited, I would urge to close your eyes and feel the magic in the air. Commit this moment to your memory about the Institute that you would carry for the rest of your lives. Do come back whenever you can to relive such magical moments that you have experienced on campus.

Only time will tell where you would be and what you would be in the years ahead. I wish you the very best as you start on your life's journey of a thousand miles into uncharted territories.

Thank you.