



## **Convocation Address - IIM Ahmedabad**

**Prof Bharat Bhasker, Director, IIMA**

**60<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation | March 29, 2025**

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Honourable Dr. S. Somanath, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai Distinguished Professor and former Chairman, ISRO; Mr. Pankaj Patel, Chairperson, Board of Governors; Board members; faculty colleagues and staff members; family and friends of the graduating students; members of the media; and my dear graduating students – I welcome you all to the 60th Annual Convocation of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad.

It is a momentous occasion for the Institute as it carries forward 60 years of legacy of graduating some of the brightest minds who go on to shape and lead the future of our country and beyond. It is a proud moment to see a total of 630 students graduating from IIMA today.

It is not only you who are graduating from this prestigious institution today, but it is also a collective achievement of your family members, friends, well-wishers, and faculty members because they have also made equal efforts to encourage you to

follow your dreams, fight your fears, be the wind beneath your wings to materialise your ideas. I see each set of these eyes also beaming with great joy and pride on this evening.

### **Acknowledging the Chief Guest:**

On this milestone of the 60th Convocation of IIMA, it is our pleasure to have Dr. S. Somanath with us, who, as we all know, has made tremendous contributions in the field of space technology and led the team of brilliant scientists to make India leapfrog to the Moon. Not only this, but he also steered the National Space Policy and facilitated the activation of IN-SPACe, which aims to foster and develop the Indian space ecosystem, enable space activities of non-governmental entities, and accelerate the growth of the space economy. His life journey teaches us the significance of hard work, resilience in difficulties, and simplicity after reaching the top.

Dr. Somanath, it is our honour to have you with us this evening. I am sure that your words have inspired our graduating students to persist in order to succeed.

### **Institutional Highlights:**

In the past one year, IIMA continued to rise above and make a mark in different arenas. Let me give you brief highlights of the same.

## **Academics:**

On the academic front, the year was of several firsts:

- We welcomed the first batch of our newly launched Blended Post Graduate Programme in Management, popularly known as BPGP, which has been conceived for ambitious participants who wish to upskill themselves for career growth while continuing their professional commitments.
- We are the 1st IIM setting up an International campus in Dubai. The first programme will be launched in September 2025.
- Our PGP, PGP-FABM and PGPM continue to be recognized globally. The Institute maintains the 1st position in the Management category of NIRF ranking and also in all business magazines. On the global front, our rank in Financial Times has moved to 31st from 41st position globally. In the QS ranking, we stand at the 27th position. MBA-FABM has retained its number 1 position globally in the FABM category.
- A total of 242 Executive Education programmes were offered which trained nearly 8,900 participants, including 300 international participants, from about 2,000 companies and organisations. Our Executive Education Open Programmes are number 1 in India and 3rd in Asia in FT Executive Education ranking.

- We organized a programme for Panchayati Raj officials to bring elected representatives and bureaucrats into the same classroom, to harness their combined expertise for creating an impact in rural policymaking.
- A workshop on 'Leadership and Strategic Thinking' was organized for visually challenged working professionals, to equip them with essential management knowledge and leadership skills.

### **Placements:**

- Our final placements witnessed enthusiastic response with a multitude of firms participating from diverse sectors such as technology, banking, finance, consulting, analytics, and so on.
- A total of 6 students have opted for the 'IIM Aversicks Fellowship' this year to pursue entrepreneurship.

### **Scholarship:**

This year, our Institute is proud to offer an impressive 68 full scholarships and around 128 partial scholarships to students.

These scholarships are more than just financial assistance—they are a testament to our belief in your potential. We understand that education can be a significant

financial burden, and we are dedicated to ensuring that talent and determination can prevail over circumstances.

### **Faculty Research, Contributions, and Achievements:**

- In 2024 alone, our faculty members have published a total of 100 research papers in high-quality journals globally. They have presented papers at 61 international and 13 national conferences and published five books.
- Nearly 50 awards, recognitions, and appointments earned by our faculty members during the past year are a testament to our high calibre and reputation in India and globally.
- This year, our faculty members undertook around 93 consultancy projects for various clients, including government and corporate sectors. We also undertook around 26 research projects, out of which 21 are funded by national organizations and 5 by international organizations.

### **Centres**

- Case-based pedagogy is one of the cornerstones of learning and research at IIMA. On this occasion, I am glad to announce the establishment of 'Madan Mohanka Centre of Excellence in Case Method of Learning'.

- Our Brij Disa Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (CDSA) with the Wadhvani Foundation released a report titled “Labour-force Perception about AI - A Study on Indian White-collar Workers”.
- The Business Inflation Expectations Survey (BIES) is published by the Misra Centre for Financial Markets and Economy. Notably, the results of BIES are frequently referred by RBI and the Finance Ministry in policy-making.

### **Research and Practitioner Conferences and Other Events:**

- IIMA organized the 1st India Management Research Conference (IMRC 2024) on ‘Confluence of Growth Sustainability and Resilience’ which received more than 1200 abstract submissions from 21 countries, nearly 450 research paper presentations and more than 800 attendees which included research scholars, academicians and industry practitioners from over 600 institutions and organizations from India and abroad. The conference had 12 tracks reflecting the focus of all our research centres. A panel discussion of the Directors of 8 IIMs was also one of the highlights of the conference.
- The Institute has taken the initiative to make IMRC a globally renowned and sought-after International conference. We have already set the ball rolling for IMRC 2025 and you will soon get to hear more details on it.

- The Institute also hosted the second edition of the India Strategy Conference 2024 at the IIMA campus on the theme “Strategizing in an AI-Dominated World”. This conference is jointly organized by IIMA, IIMB and ISB.
- Apart from these, the second edition of the IIMA Healthcare Summit was organized on the theme ‘Advancing Healthcare for India @ 2047’.
- IIMA’s Centre for Management in Agriculture (CMA) organized the 5th International Conference on Creativity and Innovation at Grassroots, along with Honeybee Network. It had over 200 participants from 20 countries.
- IIMA’s Centre for Digital Transformation hosted a three-day Conference on Technology for Disabled Persons (CTDP) with the aim of exploring how technological innovations can foster a more inclusive environment for Persons with Disabilities.

### **Alumni Activities:**

IIMA is extremely proud of its alumni who have helped take the glory of the Institute far and wide through their professional achievements and societal commitment.

- Last year, the 9th edition of the Young Alumni Achiever’s Award ceremony was organised to honour 13 exceptional alums in four different categories.

- The Institute also launched the Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series to invite distinguished alumni, who have made an impact in various fields in India and globally.
- This year six reunions were organized on campus and many others in different cities through Synchrony 2024 events. These events showcased our strong alumni network bonds.

### **Key Engagements:**

We had the pleasure of hosting several international dignitaries and delegations visiting the campus in the past year to engage in meaningful dialogues and collaborations, including:

- A team of the Luxembourg School of Business led by Ambassador of Luxembourg
- A team of Alliance French Alliance led by Ambassador of France
- A delegation of the Singapore Management University.
- A delegation led by the President of Hiroshima University
- A team of 100-member Central Asian Youth Delegation.
- A team of journalists and content creators from countries of Central and West African regions.



### **Message to the Students:**

But in the heart of all these activities that we do, are our students.

Dear students,

As you step out of these hallowed halls and into the dynamic world of business, remember that your MBA is not just a degree; it is a foundation. A foundation built on knowledge, skills, and the invaluable connections you have forged here. The challenges ahead will be complex, the competition fierce, but within each of you lies the potential to innovate, to lead with integrity, and to make a meaningful impact. Embrace the uncertainty, learn from every experience, and never stop striving for excellence. The world awaits your contributions, and we, your faculty and the entire IIMA community, stand with immense pride as you embark on this exciting new chapter. Go forth, be bold, be ethical, and shape the future of business. Congratulations, Class of 2025!