



## **Speech for Special Convocation 2025- PGD-ABA, IIM Ahmedabad**

**Professor Bharat Bhasker, Director, IIMA**

**April 16, 2025**

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A very good evening to everyone present here!

Shri Ashank Desai, Principal Founder and Chairman, Mastek;

Members of the Board of Governors;

Faculty members and Staff;

and the graduating class of PGD-ABA!

It is our pleasure to host Shri Ashank Desai as the Chief Guest today. IIMA has a long-standing relationship with him, first as an alumnus of the Institute and secondly as a generous benefactor of the Ashank Desai Centre for Leadership and Organisational Development at IIMA. His journey is a testament to how grit and passion backed by technological and business acumen can turn your vision into reality. His valuable experience and demonstrated leadership capability in managing complex organisational issues are inspiring. Mr. Desai, I welcome you once again to IIMA and express our heartfelt gratitude for joining us today.

I also extend my heartiest congratulations to the PGD-ABA Class of 2025 on your graduation! It feels truly special to see a group of bright, talented, and determined individuals like you who are ready to make a mark in the next chapter of your professional lives.

Today is a celebration of your remarkable journey of completing a rigorous programme, laced with your hard work, resilience, and commitment to continuous learning while balancing your professional and personal commitments.

And this is what lifelong learning is all about: staying curious, staying relevant, and constantly upgrading ourselves in a world that is changing rapidly. It is this spirit of continuous learning that will empower you to not only adapt to change but to lead it - to transform uncertainty into opportunity. The learning mindset you have cultivated here will serve as your compass, guiding you through the evolving demands of your industries and roles.

In today's business landscape, where organisations increasingly rely on data to drive strategy and operations, the role of advanced business analytics has become more critical than ever before. Leaders are moving from relying merely on intuition and anecdotal evidence to actionable insights backed by real-time data. As businesses strive to stay competitive, data-driven decision-making has become all-pervasive and even a necessity today.

With its widespread adoption, advanced analytics is reshaping decision-making in firms across industries. It empowers organisations to uncover hidden patterns, predict future trends, and make informed decisions with confidence and speed.

As the volume and variety of data continues to grow, the ability to analyse and interpret this information effectively will be a key differentiator for successful organisations. To navigate this shift, today's leaders must develop a new skillset - one that combines business acumen with analytical thinking. Leadership today is not only about setting a vision but also about making evidence-based decisions, using data ethically, and fostering a culture of innovation.

In this context, advanced business analytics emerges as a strategic asset that fuels smarter decision-making, operational efficiency, and sustainable growth. What makes advanced data analytics truly powerful is its cross-functional impact. It demands more than just technical expertise. It requires a strong sense of responsibility- to use data with integrity, challenge assumptions, and ensure that the insights we generate serve both people and purpose.

And this is where your learning becomes vital. Through this programme, you have been equipped not only with tools and techniques, but also with the mindset to ask the right questions, challenge assumptions, and translate data into decisions. As graduates of this programme, you are ready to not just keep up but lead the way. You are the ones who will bridge the gap between technology and business.

The future of business analytics is bright, fueled by a growing significance of data, advancements in technology such as AI and machine learning, and the demand for data-driven decision-making. This will lead to wider adoption and the development of more sophisticated tools.

As you further grow in your careers, you will find that teamwork and cooperation are key elements to success. You don't have to have all the answers yourself, but the ability to learn from others and work together towards a common goal is a powerful asset. Surround yourselves with people who inspire you, challenge you, and support you in your growth. Your professional network, including your peers, mentors, and collaborators, will become one of your greatest resources.

And as you move forward, remember that your journey isn't just about professional success. It is also about personal growth. Your experiences, the people you meet, and the lessons you learn along the way will shape you not just as professionals but

as individuals. Take time to reflect on the lessons you have learned as a part of this institute and let them guide you as you make important decisions in your career and life. Stay true to yourself, your values, and your goals.

Always keep in mind that you have the power to make a difference. Your ideas, actions, and values can have a lasting impact. Whether it is through leadership, innovation, or simply being a good colleague or friend, your influence can have a ripple effect and inspire those around you. You have the ability to create positive change in your work and communities.

As you step into leadership roles, use your skills to not only solve problems but to anticipate them, to steer your organisations towards innovation and sustainable growth. Embrace the challenges that lie ahead with the confidence that you have earned here. Embrace the opportunities to leverage your newfound expertise to drive meaningful change.

As you rise higher in your careers, I have no doubt that each of you will achieve great things. You are prepared, resilient, and ready for the challenges of a dynamic business landscape.

Once again, congratulations to each one of you. I wish you all the best for your onward professional journey.

Thank you.