

## **Convocation address – IIM Ahmedabad**

**Dr. Pankaj R. Patel, Chairperson, IIMA**

**58th Annual Convocation, April 02, 2023**

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Our distinguished Chief Guest, Mr. N. R Narayan Murthy, Founder, Infosys, Director IIMA, Members of the Society and the Board of Governors, Faculty, Staff Members, Press, Parents, Students,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Welcome to the 58th Annual Convocation of IIM Ahmedabad.

I'd like to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Class of 2023 and also to the faculty, the Directors and all the stakeholders who have come together to celebrate another milestone. I see the bright, enthusiastic faces of the students here, who are waiting to go out and shine in the world and that fills us with a lot of optimism for the future. The new world that is shaping up needs your enthusiasm, energy and radiance.

As you prepare to enter the world, there can be no greater inspiration for you than our distinguished chief guest for today. It is an honour to have with us Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan Mr. N. R Narayan Murthy, Founder, Infosys. As we all know Mr. Murthy has been called as the 'Father of the Indian IT Sector' by the Time magazine and CNBC. Under his leadership, Infosys has grown to become one of the biggest IT conglomerates in the world with more than 70,000 employees and over 3 billion dollars in revenue and 500 customers globally.

On this occasion, I would like to begin by thanking our faculty members for shaping yet another generation of leaders who will be stepping out of this great institution. To show someone the path of wisdom and honing the talent until it shines through is a task of great responsibility. The faculty at IIMA has been a lighthouse, leading the students on the path of learning which is interesting, challenging and a process of discovery.

I would like to thank my fellow Board Members and the Director of IIM-A for their leadership and guidance. It is always the vision and the direction that is crucial for a journey's success and with all of your support, IIMA is constantly evolving as a great institution for a voyage of learning.

The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) continues to be acknowledged as one of the top management institutes, nationally and globally. The Institute continues to maintain its EQUIS accreditation and its membership of the AACSB. We believe these recognitions are an endorsement of the excellence in teaching and research as well as the calibre of the faculty and students at IIMA. These international rankings also enhance IIMA as a brand globally.

The academic year 2022 -2023 saw the campus come back to life as we witnessed a complete revival of student-led activities including festival celebrations, sports tournaments, speaker sessions and knowledge events. It was certainly very heartening to have the buzz around the campus after the pandemic years.

At IIMA we have always strived to open the door to a diverse range of talent. This year, we welcomed 140 working professionals into the PGPX 2022-2023 batch. From a chef to a film-maker and a nuclear scientist, they all brought in different skills and imagination to the learning sessions. The students successfully completed the International Immersion Programme (IIP) in October 2022 with support from our partners ESCP Business School, France and Esade Business School, Spain who conducted sessions under the theme of Doing Business in European countries.

This year, 397 students joined the MBA-PGP and 47 joined the MBA-FABM programme. About 33.5 per cent of the MBA-PGP batch comprised students from diverse backgrounds – a remarkable turnout for us.

IIMA's constant and close industry engagement gives us the advantage of understanding and anticipating the requirements of the industry as well as professionals. To ensure that the students' learning experience is current and relevant, we continue to monitor and revise our curriculum by introducing new courses and electives from time to time. Besides offering our globally acclaimed pedagogy, we offered our students as many as 75 electives and 13 new courses to the PGPX batch. During this year, we included a total of 19 new electives into our curriculum for PGP and FABM. The MBA-FABM class comprised students from Food, Agriculture, and allied backgrounds. We saw 32 companies offer 38 roles to the students who passed out of this course.

Placements for our other courses were equally robust. In this year's MBA PGP placements, 188 firms participated, offering around 280 job roles which included PPOs. For the PGPX batch, 96 firms have participated so far in the placement process.

With over 200 programmes offered each year, IIMA's Executive Education Programmes portfolio is perhaps the most expansive management in India. Each IIMA programme is carefully designed to address the distinct needs of specific executives at various points in their careers, helping them up-skill and progress.

We offer a broad portfolio of over seventy-five Open Enrolment Programmes every year with durations ranging from three days to up to one and a half years. This year we offered 54 Open Enrolment Programmes, 147 Customised Enrolment Programmes and 13 Blended Learning Programmes. We had a total of 7,869 participants across these programmes from 1865 unique companies and 152 international participants.

On the infrastructure front, we inaugurated Dorms 36 to 43 in the new campus which accommodated students of our PGP1 and PGP2 batches. All PGP1 and PGP2 classes and corresponding programme offices were also moved to the new campus.

IIMA prides itself on being a research-focused management institute. In addition to teaching, our faculty are actively engaged in producing cutting edge- research, consulting industry and contribute to policy making initiatives based on their research. The Institute has a vibrant research culture, and our faculty are engaged in several research projects. Research seminars, paper presentations and speaker sessions are a regular feature on campus. During this year, the faculty members have presented their research papers at 36 national conferences and 15 faculty have presented in international conferences and collaborated with faculty from leading B schools across the world. We had three faculty members joining the institute this year. Our research centres are also closely engaged with the industry and working on several real-world projects supporting the industry through consulting, teaching and research.

Many of our faculty members are regularly invited to be part of crucial government committees in several areas. I am proud to share that their contributions have been appreciated by all.

The faculty had undertaken around 37 Research Projects funded by various organizations including Government Organizations, International Research Advisory Institutions, Independent Philanthropic Institutions, NGOs / Not for Profit Companies, Startup Incubators and Private Organizations. The Research Projects varied from Research on Energy Sector, Environmental Study, Healthcare, Consumer Research, Organizational Leadership, Food & Nutritional, Logistics Management, Women Empowerment, IBC Code, Renewable Energy, Education, Talent Management etc.

During the year from April 2022 to March 2023, the institute faculty had undertaken around 60 consultancy projects for various clients including Government Organizations, International Organizations, NGOS / Non-profit organizations, Private Organizations and Public Limited Companies / Stock Exchanges etc.

The Endowment Fund office has been engaged closely with the alumni and the industry as part of its comprehensive portfolio of fund-raising activities. The fund-raising activities included, donations from Individual alumni contributions, Batch donations, corporate and CSR funding, setting up Chairs, etc. The Board of IIMAEF approved deployment of the general corpus through the 'Best Start-Up Pitch Contest' for IIMA students, with INR 1 Crore going to the winning idea - the first and highest ever such initiative for students, announced on campus till date. The funds will also be used to institute a range of scholarships.

At IIMA our aim through various learning approaches is to educate and nurture leaders of institutions and entrepreneurial organizations and support them in their efforts to create high-quality talent and value.

As students of this institutions there is no doubt of the talent that you possess and the value that you will bring to the institutions that you will join or set-up. The expectations from you are many. Take this knowledge that you have learned through your academic pursuits and keep building on them and sharing them whenever opportunity presents itself.

A defining feature of any advanced learning experience is the diversity of thoughts and process of inquiry that it stimulates. We hope that you will continue to stay on this path of exploration and keep that instinct alive of questioning, being curious and finding great joy in discovering things.

As an alumnus of this prestigious institution, please stay connected with us. Let us know about your accomplishments. Share your expertise and encourage others to follow your footsteps here at the IIMA. The Alumni and External Relations Office at the IIMA has been doing wonderful work by conducting a plethora of internal and external events involving alumni across chapters. From instituting scholarships to holding speakers' sessions, inter-collegiate, events and meetings of Special Interest Groups, our alumni have been extremely active in their contributions to the Institute, the alumni network and the external world. This year we held alumni reunions for 12 batches celebrating the 10th year to the 55th year. Yet another significant event was the speaker session with the Honorable External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar which was initiated by our alumni as part of the inter B-School Joint research and projects initiative. We do hope to welcome you back here as an alumnus with new ideas and initiatives that will enrich IIMA.

Congratulations once again to the Class of 2023.

My best wishes to you all!

Jai Hind