

## Convocation Speech- ePGP and e-PGD-ABA, IIM Ahmedabad

Mr Pankaj R Patel, Chairman, IIMA Board of Governors

10<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

Good evening,

**My dear learners who are graduating today, Mr. Errol D'Souza, Director, IIM Ahmedabad, Members of the Board of Governors, respected faculty members and my dear friends.**

It is a pleasure for me to be present here with all of you on this very special day, which is the convocation ceremony for the e-PGP and e-PGD-ABA students.

The world around us is transforming at an accelerated pace. We have been fast-forwarded into a new orbit with digitisation as its core. Right from education to health and wellness, we are using digital technology much more than ever before. In fact, it has empowered us, simplified our lives, and made us more connected. In the world of learning, digitalisation is helping students pursue their dream with a seamless access to knowledge. There was a time when professionals had to take sabbatical from work or put their careers on hold if they wish to pursue their studies once again. Digital learning has been a boon in many ways. Today, one no longer needs to take a break or sacrifice their career progression to upskill themselves. One can continue working or transacting their current jobs or businesses while gaining knowledge from a world class institution.

E-Learning exposes the learners to a large breadth of information and makes learning more engaging and interactive in real-time, while providing flexibility. With the rapid pace of developments which are transforming the world every day, a professional working in the industry needs to be abreast with the latest trends. This makes upskilling the most important factor for career development and organisational growth.

As you graduate today, let me present before you a scenario of how the future of workplaces will look and how one can shine through in this competitive space.

### **Integration and Collaboration**

The pandemic effectively demonstrated why collaboration is extremely important. It is because of collaboration that we could effectively tide over the pandemic. The workplaces of the future will be driven by highly productive teams powered by motivated employees. It is important that we enable our peers to perform while we deliver our best. The more insights we receive the better the understanding and outcomes can be. Individual excellence has to contribute to the team's outcomes and that's where the real growth lies. The ability to integrate efforts and fuse them

together in a way that enhances the productivity and efficiency will be a critical factor. As effective professionals and leaders in tomorrow's world, you need to be a catalyst shaping the strategies to make this happen.

### **Diversity, a great enabler**

Where there is always diversity of thoughts, insights, and perspectives in a team, you will find a unique culture taking root. A truly diverse team is the one which values the different ideas and approaches. This is a great motivating factor that will create high performing teams and engage talent. As you celebrate diversity there is an ever-broadening horizon of respect, trust, openness, inclusiveness and integrity that automatically comes in.

### **Think out-of-the-box**

We are already in a world where disruptive approaches are shaping futuristic workplaces. I have always believed that Innovation is a game changer like no other. There can be no development or growth unless we move beyond the obvious and look at things differently. What will also get added to this is the lightening pace of change, the agility in us to adapt and how we bring in dynamism in executing these ahead-of-the-curve ideas. Our vision to anticipate change, an appetite for risk, clarity of focus and ability to bring in convergence of thoughts and actions will be important as new growth opportunities emerge.

### **Digital technologies the way ahead**

When we speak of disruptions and futuristic approaches, digital technologies have been at the core. It's a silent revolution that is sweeping across that will lead to a new era of how we live, work, and think. The speed with which we embrace this change will give us an early mover advantage. The power lies in knowing how it can transform our businesses and enabling organisational transformation so that the larger organisation too is in sync with the change. A robust culture of learning and upskilling can bridge the divide and take the enterprise to the next level of expertise.

### **Keep reinventing**

Just as all of you have had the advantage of learning new insights and gaining new dimensions to your already existing knowledge and capabilities, the learning curve should never remain static. Where there is learning there is dynamism and there is growth. When we reinvent ourselves there are many new opportunities that emerge which challenge and excite us at work. When we do this, we find that there are new spheres where we can excel and contribute. I believe that this is a great motivator and confidence builder.

I am sure that the learning which this great institution has imparted will help you raise the bar in whatever you do. You will find that the knowledge and viewpoints that you have gathered here will help you open up your world to newer possibilities. As you integrate these insights, ideas and knowledge skills to your work, there will be a new wisdom that emerges. This will not only add value to your organisations and create best practices, but it will also enhance your professional stature and contributions.

I wish you all the very best for your endeavours ahead.

Thank you