

Chairperson's Address for Convocation of Batch 2019-2021

Ms Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, members of the Board of Governors, parents, students, ladies and gentlemen:

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to the 9th annual convocation of IIM Udaipur.

It is a matter of great joy to welcome Ms Kiran Mazumdar Shaw as the chief guest at today's ceremony. A path-breaking entrepreneur and successful technocrat, Ms Shaw's outstanding work in healthcare and philanthropy makes her an inspiring leader not just in India but on the world stage. Founder, Chair and Managing Director of Biocon, India's leading Biotechnology enterprise, Ms Shaw is featured among the 'Forbes World's Most Powerful Women in 2020'. She, along with her husband, is among 'Asia's 2019 Heroes of Philanthropy'. Nature Biotechnology has also voted her as the 'Most Influential Bio-business person outside Europe and the USA'.

Ms Shaw chairs Karnataka's Vision Group on Biotechnology and serves on the Board of Science Foundation, Ireland. She presently serves on the Advisory Council of the Government's Department of Biotechnology. Ms Shaw has been instrumental in bringing government, industry and academia together to chart a clear and progressive growth path for Biotechnology in India. She is also part of the Prime Minister's Council on Trade & Industry in India and the US-India CEO Forum.

Ms Shaw is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including the Nikkei Asia Prize, 2009 for Regional Growth, Express Pharmaceutical Leadership Summit Award 2009 for Dynamic Entrepreneur, the Economic Times' Businesswoman of the Year', the 'Veuve Clicquot Initiative For Economic Development For Asia, Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Life Sciences & Healthcare, 'Technology Pioneer' recognition by World Economic Forum and The Indian Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award. Her most cherished awards are the national awards, Padma Shri (1989) and Padma Bhushan (2005), presented to her by Presidents of India, for her pioneering efforts in Industrial Biotechnology.

I want to express a sincere thanks to Ms Shaw for giving her presence at today's event.

IIMU challenges its students to expand their knowledge and their intellectual horizons, so they emerge transformed and prepared to impact the world of business and society at large. Nobody can provide a better example and inspiration for our graduates as you are a particular batch with completing your internships to finishing your course online. I understand that convocation is a landmark event for all of you. We have been working hard to host it in a blended environment. Unfortunately, with the second wave and spikes in the number of coronavirus cases, we had to do it virtually. I completely acknowledge and appreciate the participation of each one of you.

Last year was the most challenging time for the IIMU Community with the unprecedented global pandemic outbreak. However, the ambition to become a globally recognized management institution by 2030 has consciously created a culture that values collegiality and accessibility.

Fortunately, IIM Udaipur became the youngest school in Asia to be listed on the **QS 2021 Masters in Management Rankings** and the **Financial Times (FT), Masters in Management Rankings 2020** second consecutive year. Both these rankings are recognized globally as critical indicators of excellence for a B-school. I want to congratulate the entire IIMU community for making this possible.

In 2019, IIMU's Board member Mr D Shivakumar led the **Vision 2030** involving all the stakeholders. In our new vision, two core areas that have emerged are high-quality research and student transformation. This year The Institute had set up **five task forces** as, **Enhance research productivity, Improve Quality of Learning, Improve placement outcomes, Establish a source of distinctiveness for the Institute/brand building** and **Expand avenues of funding**. These task forces involved board members, faculty, staff and students. These task forces have worked on detail plan which would help IIMU achieve its ambitious vision 2030.

Taking the legacy forward of strengthening the industry associations further, the Institute has created two advisory boards for its one-year MBA programs. These Advisory Boards are composed of highly esteemed professionals and entrepreneurs who guide us with insights on strategic initiatives and development plans for our one-year programs.

Research is one of the critical factors for becoming a globally recognized management institution. This year too, our faculty members **Prof. Kunal Kumar, Prof. Shaleen Gopal, Prof. Anirban Adhikary** and **Prof. Tanvi Gupta** contributed to research that builds theory and inspires practice by publishing in the **Journal of Human Resource Management, Journal of Management Studies, Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science (JAMS)** and **Journal of Consumer Research (JCR)** respectively. All these journals are a part of the prestigious Financial Times Journal Lists. I would also like to mention a special congratulatory note to **Prof. Tanvi Gupta**, who published in the **Journal of Consumer Research** which is a part of three prestigious management journal lists: **Top 20 Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Top 50 Journals by Financial Times** and **Top 24 UT Dallas List**. Well done! All of you have made us proud of your achievements.

This year again, the Institute has upbeat its placement process irrespective of the pandemic situation. The enterprises' new attitude has shifted towards more eco-centric and purposeful business with high academic standards. With the increasing batch size and diversity, our students received offers for the most sought-after roles from prominent firms in India and abroad.

IIM Udaipur takes pride in the fact that our rigour and high standards from inside the classroom are carried to campus activities and community life outside the classroom. This year students took ownership and responsibility for themselves and for crucial aspects of student affairs, including organizing multiple events, implementing the new constitution, and continuing with the culture of collaboration.

In addition to its well established **one-year MBA in Global, Supply Chain Management** continued the tradition of excellence. I hope the learnings at IIMU have enabled students to understand the logistics, production and processes involved in global supply chain management. I wish the batch great success with enhanced career opportunities in logistics and supply-chain related sectors.

As an Institute, we have always strived to respond quickly to the needs of the industry. The recently launched first-ever **one year MBA in Digital Enterprise Management (DEM)** for experienced professionals is designed to develop leadership styles and

management concepts to lead the emerging digital business enterprises. The pandemic has quickly reaffirmed our judgement of digital being the way of conducting business and thereby giving further impetus to the concept of DEM. I congratulate the first batch graduating today who understood the realities of challenges and responded well to the program's demands.

IIMU's PhD program is designed for students with strong academic credentials who aspire to undertake demanding original research in management. I am happy to share with you that our doctoral scholars represent the Institute in international workshops and reputed conferences.

Recognizing the importance of educating mid-career professionals in companies, the Institute started a **Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration for Working Executives (PGDBAWE)**. In this program, participants attend classes during weekends and earn a management qualification without taking a break in their careers.

IIM Udaipur started its journey with a clear vision in place, which included a commitment to thought leadership in high-quality research and developing managers and entrepreneurs amply prepared to be tomorrow's leaders. From day one, the Institute has meticulously designed programs and processes that have helped us be where we are today. As you know, IIM Udaipur is completing a decade of its establishment; we will continue to aim higher.

Once again, I congratulate all our graduates on the auspicious day of your convocation. These two years were just the foundation for the transformational experience of meaningful things you will do in the future. I am grateful to acknowledge the painstaking efforts of surpassing the tribulations of initial stages of the pandemic, cancelled internships, online classes and revamping the new normal with high determination and dynamic spirit. I am sure you have learnt a lesson which will come a long way because management education gets valued more in difficult times. I hope the learnings at IIMU have helped increase your management skills to take on the 'golden crisis' like this.

Also, please accept my warm and best wishes for the continued success in all your future endeavours. I wish every one of you all the very best and Godspeed! Thank you!