

Director's Address for Convocation of Batch 2019-2021

Ms Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chairman Mr Pankaj Patel, members of the Board of Governors, my faculty colleagues, parents, students, ladies and gentlemen:

Ms. Shaw, thank you for accepting our invitation to be chief guest at IIM Udaipur's 9th convocation. This is a momentous occasion for the graduating students of Two-year MBA and One-year MBA in GSCM and DEM as they move to the next stage of their lives. In your address, you have given them the benefit of many decades of insight and experience. Your invaluable lessons will inspire and guide them as they deal with the many difficult decisions they will inevitably face in their careers and lives.

As mentioned by the chairman, the Institute understands that convocation is a landmark event for the graduating batch. 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. Let me reaffirm that the Institute is committed to creating a similar experience by conducting a physical event at a time that works for all of you. We look forward to a future event where we will not just be celebrating your accomplishments at IIMU but also learn where life has taken you after this graduating day.

It excites me that all the board members, faculty, visiting and adjunct faculty members, parents and family members are part of this event. I want to acknowledge the presence and thank each one of you for being with us today at this important moment.

Last year was the most challenging time for the IIMU Community with the unprecedented global pandemic outbreak. I remember talking to you when we decided to go online; we promised that we would make sure the quality of experience you have gone through will be comparable, if not better. I am convinced that we have delivered on that promise. We could fulfil that promise because collectively, all our faculty, staff but most importantly, all our students, took this as a challenge. I want to place on record my earnest appreciation to all the faculty members. They have worked tirelessly to exemplify the highest standards in their teaching in online format.

Finally all this would not not have been possible without the support of you, my dear students. You were supportive of your teachers and batchmates and showed resilience under great stress. We asked you to adjust and adapt in so many ways and you responded with maturity and absolute commitment. I was deeply impressed that despite all of the challenges you decided to hold the Leadership Summit and Audacity. Keep bringing the same level of initiative, perseverance and steadfastness to your careers and lives and you will surely achieve all the success you have been aspiring for. This graduating batch will remain a special batch for us as they helped us manage these difficult times without compromising the transformational experience quality.

I don't know if I have anything to share with the graduating batch which I haven't already or which is new. I have been agonizing over this issue for the last several days. So let me go back to my communication with you before you had joined IIMU. I had sent you a letter where I had mentioned, "As you celebrate and get ready to start your journey at IIMU, it is an opportune time for reflection. It is important to understand what being a part of IIMU means? What does IIMU expect from you? What do you expect from the Institute? what you expect from yourself. Try to find what you are passionate about. What are you good at? What can help you make money and at the same time allow you to contribute to society?"

I most sincerely hope that your time at IIMU has helped you to discover answers to these questions. I also hope the transformative experience at IIMU has given a sense of purpose and direction to your life. But as you will discover, these questions/reflections would remain valid as you progress in your career.

As we all celebrate your successes today, we want to say that you are capable enough to take on the world. We would like you to dream big. I hope that the expectations we have for you will not intimidate you and make you reluctant to take risks. These expectations are a sign of our confidence in you.

As you graduate today, one thing you should never forget is that a career is only one part of a fulfilling life. Please bear in mind the responsibilities towards your parents; they

deserve your utmost gratitude for having you supported to achieve your goal of obtaining one of the most challenging degrees. Make the right choices, so your relationship with your family becomes an enduring source of happiness.

The next few decades will be the most important ones in your professional journey, but they will also be defining years for the country and society. Always take with you the solid moral principles that IIMU has tried to instil in you. Inculcate the habits of ethics and values the Institute has guided you with at every step of your life. This is especially important given the economic instability which the world is currently witnessing. The world is undergoing a sea change. The critical factor of success in such a situation is adaptability and preparedness. Don't take shortcuts. Reorient your ways of functioning and thinking, and make sure you continue to acquire the relevant managerial skills. Remember that management is the most noble of professions if it is practiced well. No other occupation offers as many ways to help others learn and grow, to take responsibility and be recognized for achievement, and to contribute to society. Understand this gift that you have received and strive to be an exemplary leader.

Dear students, when you leave us today, you will become IIMU's ambassadors in all you do in your careers and your lives. Always remember that you own this Institute. You are not just the alumni but are stakeholders of the Institute. As your learning experience grows, you need to come back as mentors to future batches.

My dear students – but now my dear graduates – never stop dreaming. I wish each one of you success, stay safe and make us proud of your achievements!