Chairman's Welcome Address
Dr. Emandi Sankara Rao
Hon'ble Chief Guest, Shri K. V. Chowdary, Central Vigilance Commissioner, Central Vigilance Commission, Members of the Board of Governors; Prof. Atmanand, Director (Additional Charge), MDI Gurgaon and Director, MDI Murshidabad; our Deans, Prof. N. R. Bhusnurmath, Prof. Kanwal Kapil, Prof. P. C. Biswal from MDI Gurgaon and Prof. Debasis Chanda from MDI Murshidabad, invited dignitaries and distinguished guests, members of the faculty and staff at MDI Gurgaon and Murshidabad, alumni, parents and family members of our students, guests from the media and dear graduating students!

I am delighted to welcome you all to the Annual Convocation 2019 of MDI Gurgaon and MDI Murshidabad.

We are blessed to have amongst us Shri K. V. Chowdary, a man of mettle and tenacity. He has served Indian government in various capacities from Assistant Commissioner, Income Tax to Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes and other Government of India Services. The story of his achievements cannot be summarized by his enormous professional growth only but should include his landmark initiatives for the underprivileged and physically challenged sections of our society. I am thankful to you Sir, for having found time to bless our students on this momentous occasion of their career. The MDI fraternity feels honored and joins me in sharing the pleasure of having you with us today.

I also welcome our distinguished guests from the Government and the Corporate World who have constantly supported MDI in all its endeavors. Your presence here on this occasion would boost the morale of our students.

Dear students, another milestone achieved, finally hard work brought you laurels and achievements but this is just a beginning to a wonderful future set ahead of you all. We are gathered here to acknowledge your achievements and to wish you the very best for your life ahead.

MDI Gurgaon is an Institution that stands for excellence with its rich legacy of fostering talent, which has been built over a period of more than four decades. Established in 1973 by IFCI, MDI Gurgaon was built with a vision to create Thought Leaders and Change Masters in the country. The Institute has, since then, grown tremendously, in terms of both the number and the quality of programmes offered. Our long-term programmes have been developed over the years to effectively integrate academic knowledge, research, industry experience and international exposure to provide students a holistic learning experience. We have international partnerships with reputed universities and institutes from all over the world. These partnerships facilitate exchange of ideas and shared experiences between the global educational landscape and our students and faculty members. This exchange of knowledge and experience plays a significant role in broadening their horizons and worldview.

Strong relationships of MDI Gurgaon with the industry, built over several years, has enabled the institution in constantly enhancing the curriculum and making it more relevant for students aspiring to enter the dynamic corporate sector. We have several industry leaders participating in various roles and capacities, thereby further enriching the offerings. At the same time, the Institute's illustrious alumni have made immense contributions towards helping maintain its legacy of excellence through insights on industry expectations and preparing students to not just meet these expectations, but exceed them at each stage. MDI Gurgaon as an institute has created a strong image and a stellar reputation for itself, both at the national and international levels. MDI Gurgaon is accredited by Association of MBAs, U.K. and also by AMDISA, a SAARC recognized accreditation body and some programmes are NBA re-accredited. Surveys conducted by leading publications like Business World, Business Today and India Today, have ranked MDI Gurgaon among the top 5 B-Schools in India. The Times of India in its recent Times B-Schools Survey (2019), ranked MDI Gurgaon, number 1 under Top Private Institutes/B-Schools; number 3 under Top 100 B-Schools in the country and number 1 under Top 20 North B-Schools of India. The institute has also received the Business World Education Leadership Award for its contribution in management education.
MDI Gurgaon is a pioneer and market leader in continuing education in India. Management Development Programmes help executives broaden their understanding and improve their skills to face challenges at leadership positions. These programmes are carefully designed and customized to create value for the participants and to address their diverse needs. The Institute has the distinction of being involved in large, complex and high quality consulting projects in functional and cross functional areas not only for the government, public and private organizations but also for NGOs, social sector and international bodies. Faculty members at MDI engage in basic, applied and action centric research and thus contribute to the national goals of innovation, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.

At MDI Gurgaon a total of 106 companies visited the campus for recruitment, out of which 36 companies were first-time recruiters. The highest salary offered this year was Rs.40.79 lakhs per annum, while the average salary recorded during this season was Rs.20.13 lakhs per annum. MDI is one of the largest schools in India for training and development of managers and future business leaders. In the last 45 years, more than 90,000 managers have been trained by the institute through specially-designed executive development programs for various organizations.

MDI Gurgaon initiated the launch of short-term certification courses of three and six months’ duration each, through online and offline modes. The year 2018-19 saw the creation of Bloomberg Finance Lab with 8 Bloomberg Terminals. The Lab supports advanced applied research in financial markets and equips finance students/managers with the mathematical and conceptual theories.

MDI has enhanced its capabilities in Digital Infrastructure, from digitization of physical records, successful implementation of ERP in HR and Finance and upgradation of network infrastructure. MDI further has undertaken the RFID projects for library and asset management and project of modernizing classrooms.

With an intention to impart quality management education and nurture local talent, MDI launched its Murshidabad campus in 2014 at Jangipur, Murshidabad, West Bengal. Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGPm) offered by MDI Murshidabad is recognized and accredited by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi. On academic progression, MDI Murshidabad campus is actively mentored by MDI Gurgaon. Students also get the opportunity to interact with reputed faculty from other top institutions in the region like that of IIM Calcutta, ISI Calcutta, Jadavpur University, Calcutta University to name a few. Distinguished personalities across India in the field of academics, industry, business, government, culture and international relations, pay frequent visits to MDI Murshidabad to address and interact with the students. MDI Murshidabad constantly endeavors to organize Industry symposiums, guest lectures and simulations to maintain strong industry interface along with profound academic rigor.

MDI Murshidabad has begun with the Centers of Agri-Business & Food Processing, Entrepreneurship & Startups and Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning. These centers at the Murshidabad Campus not only expand the research perspectives of students but also mark the beginning of a new era and a transformed Industry 5.0 in the making. MDI Murshidabad has set up state-of-the-art Bloomberg Finance Lab powered by 4 Bloomberg Terminals in December 2018 to support advanced applied research in financial markets and equip finance students to learn conceptual theories and best practices in financial markets. Various online certificate courses in management are being started to develop job-specific needs of the working executives. The Institute has incorporated social entrepreneurship as part of the institute’s curricula to enable would-be corporate professionals with the entrepreneurial vision to align business interests with the creation of long-term social value. The students are nurtured to become “change agents” capable of bringing about revolutions through simple innovations.

CRISIL, the premier rating agency has certified A* (A star) grading to MDI Murshidabad at National Level and A*** (A triple star) grading at State Level. Association of Management Development Institutions in South Asia (AMDISA) confers membership to MDI Murshidabad for a period of five years effective from April 2019 to March 2024. A total 113 students had been admitted with diverse academic background to the Post Graduate Programme in
Management (PGPM) for the year 2018-20. The final placement of MDI Murshidabad for the batch of 2017-19 has completed in record time with 100% success rate. MDI Murshidabad saw an increase in recruiters by 64%, who recruited students in varied industry domains.

MDI Gurgaon and MDI Murshidabad have strong reputation for themselves with the help of extremely talented, knowledgeable, and committed faculty and supportive staff that truly understand what goes into providing quality education and strive to help in achieving those benchmarks. I congratulate the faculty and staff at MDI who have contributed towards bringing glory to the Institute and helped reach where it is today. I also congratulate the proud parents and family members of the graduating batch and thank them for inculcating the right values which have supported their ward’s growth both at a personal as well as at an intellectual level.

I would now like to say a few words to our remarkable students graduating today. We appreciate your hard work and applaud your achievements. You have been fortunate to have received the finest of the education from your dear parents and teachers. I strongly urge you to carry forward the legacy of MDI by striving to do everything with all honesty and dedication, since you will henceforth be representing the Institute and the education you have acquired here, at a global level. Blending both social and business principles with a humanitarian touch, you as new generation of management graduates will be able to navigate the complex global landscape and create valuable business and social solutions to build a sustainable world for future generations.

My dear students, today is a special day as you stand on the threshold of a new life, moving away from the protected and predicted environment of the business school, to the complex and unpredictable challenges of the business world. The challenging business environment offers numerous opportunities and infinite possibilities to experiment with new ideas. With a consistent GDP 7% plus growth, “enormous population, favorable demographics and high catch-up potential” India is one of the fastest growing large economies in the world. The startup culture created around combined with various Government initiatives to boost employment and economic growth has provided a fertile ground for you to be pivots of change. In this competitive environment, you can only stand apart if you create a difference by taking a path less travelled. You may experience difficulties but this should not deter you as you are now endowed with competencies to help you charter a path for yourself. I would like to remind you that great changes in the world have often been brought about by young and passionate people. The time is now, for each one of you, to seize the opportunity at hand and create your own legacy. You are the business leaders of tomorrow and you have immense responsibility towards your organization, society and country. I am sure your education at MDI would help you create a niche for yourself in all your endeavors.

Dear students, there will be many more milestones in your lives and every time you celebrate them, just remember that we will rejoice equally at your accomplishments, because for MDI, you will always be a family. We have complete faith in your ambitions and in your ability to fulfill them. I wish you the best of luck and a great future ahead.

You are naturally endowed with the power to hope, to dream and to act upon your dreams. Here, I would like to remind you that great changes in the world have often been brought about by young people with a passion driving them. The time is now, for each of you to seize the opportunity at hand and create your own legacy.

Lastly, I take this opportunity to also thank my colleagues on the Board for their whole-hearted support and cooperation in all the endeavors.

Once again, my heartiest wishes to all of you!

Thank you

Dr. Emandi Sankara Rao
Chairman
MDI Board of Governors