

K.J. SOMAIYA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
Somaiya Vidyavihar University
VIDYANAGAR, VIDYAVIHAR (E), MUMBAI – 400 077

Directors Speech for Inaugural Function – MBA Batch 2021-23 - 3rd July 2021 –
Online - @ 11am to 1:00pm

A Very Good Morning to all of you.

On behalf of the Honorable Chancellor of Somaiya Vidyavihar University Shri Samir Somaiya, Honorable Vice Chancellor of Somaiya Vidyavihar University Prof Rajasekharan Pillai, Secretary of the Somaiya Vidyavihar Trust, Retd Lt. Gen. Jagbir Singh, Programme Coordinators and Co Coordinators for the MBA programmes, my faculty colleagues, staff, students and alumni of K.J. Somaiya Institute of Management, it gives me great happiness to welcome all the incoming students and their parents - to the inaugural ceremony for the MBA Batch 2021-23 / MBA International Business (IB) / MBA – Retail Management (RM) / MBA – Financial Services (FS) / MBA – Communications (COMM) / MBA – Healthcare Management (HCM) / MBA – Human Resources (HR) / MBA – Sports Management (SM) and the first batch of MBA Data Science and Analytics to start from today onwards.

I welcome our Chief Guest Ms. Sulajja Firodia Motwani, Vice Chairman of Kinetic Engineering Limited and Founder & CEO of Kinetic Green Energy & Power Solutions Limited.

This is a momentous occasion for all of us and I would like to thank the admissions committee that worked day and night to bring the best of you to our Institute. The batch comprises of 39% female students and 61% male students from all over India,

with 85 % of the students in the age group of 21 to 26 years of age and diversified educational qualifications and work experience. We started the preparations to welcome and inaugurate the MBA Batch 2021 since the past few months. This is the second batch of MBA under the Somaiya Vidyavihar University, which was formed in August 2019. I'm sure in the days to come all of you will know each other and all of us – though I'm quite sure you must have already checked on quite a few of us and also have your informal networking groups in place.

Im proud to inform you of another milestone achievement and that is that your Institute has stepped into its 40th year of existence and has been conducting management programmes since 1981. It is a moment of great pride for all of us to be a part of the Institute's journey and take it forward in the years to come.

As we look back at the past 40 years that started with the inauguration of the Institute in 1981 at the hands of Honorable ex Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh, the Institute has grown from strength to strength and is among the top 25 business schools in India and among the top 10 private business schools in India. We are among the very few Institutes in India to offer cutting edge domain specific and multi disciplinary programmes in management along with customized training programmes for industry executives – for both in the private and public sector - and many of the companies are marquee corporate brands. This has been possible because of the highly qualified and experienced faculty base of the Institute and the committed non teaching staff members.

We are an industry facing academic institution and now building our focus on research and applied research. With this focus on research, the Institute is poised to provide new management knowledge and paradigms in the years to come, and act as

an important agent of change management providing intellectual capital for Industry 4.0 and beyond.

A quote by Albert Einstein says “ In the middle of difficulty lies the opportunity”.

I believe that our institute’s journey has just begun as we reinvent ourselves on our 40th year since establishment. There is a long way ahead of us – the journey has just begun.

Despite of being online during the entire of the last academic year during AY 2020-21, faculty members presented more than 45 papers in various National and International Conferences, 17 Papers were published in International Journals and 1 in National Journal, 3 Books & Chapters in books were published, awards were won by four faculty members. Our Institute journal Business Perspectives and Research, which is a Sage Publication with 3 issues per year, is now a Category C publication under the ABDC 2019 listings and ABS 1 under the 2021 listing with an international editorial board. The rejection rate of the research papers received by the journal is 85% and more, which speaks about the quality of the journal. Our Institute won the “Best Institute Award” by the Bombay Management Association in March 2020. We will receive the award once the lockdown gets over. We unfortunately lost 2 of our faculty colleagues last year and it was a big setback for the Institute.

Through the lockdown due to the pandemic, the Institute worked tirelessly and has successfully launched the MBA in Data Science and Analytics from AY 2021 with 30 seats. We have also launched our doctoral programme in management studies under the Somaiya Vidyavihar University with 21 PhD scholars.

Placements Data:

For a business school, the proof of the final outcome is in its placements. Although the economy was passing through a challenging phase, we were able to leverage our past successes and our credibility in the industry with our extensive pool of recruiters for ensuring that they hired from KJ SIM in AY 2020-21.

Final Placements

For the Final Placements for AY 2020-21 - 98 % students are already placed as on date and the process is still on to place the balance few students.

- Highest salary : Rs. 29.75 lacs pa.
- Average salary: Rs. 9.32 lacs pa.
- 201 recruiters visited our Campus for Final Placements.
- 67 new recruiters were added to the pool for final placements.
- 4 students received offers from dream companies (got 2 offers each).

Many students have already got on-boarded onto their companies for final placements though some companies have delayed their on-boarding a bit. The Career Management and Corporate Relations Team are in regular contact with our recruiters. And as per information available, it is expected that 80% of the students should be on-boarded by 31st August 2021 period.

The PGDM Batch 2018-20, PGDM-Executive Batch 2019-20, PGDM-FS Batch 2018-2020 and PGDM-RM Batch 2018-20 students have achieved 100% placements.

Summer Internships

The summer internships for the first MBA Batch 2020-22 under the Somaiya Vidyavihar University comprising of 552 students seeking summer internship projects were confirmed by the first week of March, 2021. But due to the onset of the next

wave of COVID 19, by April 2021, all internships were required to be done in the virtual mode.

- 192 recruiters hired Summer Interns from KJSIM.
- Of the above 76 were new recruiters were added to the pool.

Our CMCR team, Recruiters and Students were at home in far-flung areas of the country and coordination of placements activity online was a tremendous operational challenge. However the team rose to the occasion and delivered.

The Institute showed great agility and resilience and as the lockdown started in March 2020, we very quickly got onto the various digital platforms to adhere to the academic schedules and complete the important tasks of admissions, placements (both summers and final), conducting online exams, meetings, organizing panel discussions, guest sessions, planning for the next academic year and so on. Attendance was compulsory in online mode too and rules for examinations were being followed in the online proctored environment too !

Our Institute is located in a beautifully landscaped 50 acre campus right in the heart of Mumbai and we are all waiting for campus classes to begin. We hope that the unprecedented situation of lockdown due to the COVID pandemic gets over quickly.

We are committed to providing management education that is grounded in our values and traditions and is contemporary and holistic and prepares you for the new business environment of Industry 4.0 and beyond. The pedagogies that are followed are a mix of chalk and talk, case studies, simulations, experiential learning opportunities, projects, assignments, master's thesis, guest lectures, technology tools based teaching like Bloomberg labs, holistic self-management classes, and sports and so on. The on

campus incubation centre RIIDL will help you to hone your entrepreneurial ambitions. You will get exposed to all of this from today afternoon itself !

Our pedagogy and subject lists are continuously updated through our illustrious Board of Studies and Academic Council to ensure that students are in sync with the new Industry 4.0 + requirements. Faculty are trained at premier institutes in India and abroad and expand their knowledge and competencies through research and consultancy projects.

Another important focus area for the institute is **on developing international quality standards**. The Institute is ISO 9001:2015 certified from Bureau Veritas and is in the process of acquiring the US based accreditation for business schools which will put us on par with the best institute's globally – the AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) – having started this quality journey in AY 2012 and now have reached the penultimate stage of the accreditation process. The Institute has developed a network of international university partners, and regular guest sessions and international teaching assignments have been happening in the online mode.

We have had illustrious guest speakers in online mode from international universities, industry professionals and ambassadors.

Some of the details of guest lectures and speakers are as follows:

1. Mr. Sven Cerulus, UC Leuven Limburg, Belgium (March 2021)
2. Dr. Carla Enslin, Professor, Vega school of Strategy and Brand Management, Capetown , South Africa (Feb, 2021)

3. Dr. Todd, Professor of Entrepreneurship, New Jersey City University (Feb 2021)
4. Dr. Evgeny Griva, Financial University of Russia, Moscow (Jan 2021)
5. Dr. Sergey Fandeev, Consul, Consulate of Russia in Mumbai (Jan 2021)
6. Dr. Prasanta Dey, Professor, Aston Business School, Aston University, UK (December, 2020)
7. Ambassador Gautam Bambwale, Professor, Symbiosis International University (October, 2020)
8. Ambassador Dr. Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Fellow, RIS, Delhi (October, 2020)
9. Dr. John Donellan, Associate Professor, International Business, New Jersey City University, USA (October, 2020)
10. Dr. Piki-Ish-Shalom, Prof. of International Relations, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (October, 2020)
11. Mr. Sujan Roy, Head International Business, Tata Motors, Mumbai (October, 2020)
12. Dr. Sue Henderson, President, New Jersey City University (Sept, 2020)

Alumni Relations

With 13,000+ alumni spread across the globe, and with many of our alumni becoming industry leaders, the institute takes pride in them and celebrates their successes. The Alumni Relations team engages alumni for various institute activities right from the admission process, mentoring students, as jury members for various events & competitions, etc.

During your induction program that starts from 3rd July 2021 itself, you will have 60+ alumni coming for guest lectures, experience sharing and other activities. Try to connect and learn as much as possible from their experiences.

Public Relations

This year being the 40th year of the Institute, the PR Team has been amplifying the milestone to all the stakeholders and others.

The Institute launched K J Simplifies, a help group on the telegram - with the intention of helping the employees, students, alumni and their families / friends who needed any sort of support and help during the COVID times. The response to this was outstanding and was highly appreciated.

Regarding the living experience on campus:

We have mess facility, gymnasium, laundry service, sports facilities, medical facilities, counselor and yoga practice facilities are available. Once you are on campus, you will be able to really take advantage of all the facilities that we have to offer. Medical Room is situated in the ground floor of the Maitreyi Hostel and can be used 24x7. We also have 2 counselors on board to help with any emotional issues.

The virtue of discipline in all aspects of our lives cannot be underestimated anymore especially in the new changed environment. We want you to imbibe this into your lives so that you can be amongst the best in your peer groups and make your parents and Alma Mater proud of you.

The 9 days induction programme starting from 3rd July 2021 itself has been prepared after much deliberations and covers a host of subjects like

1. Management Knowledge - Master's Thesis and experiential learning, Online Databases
2. Bloomberg Lab
3. Basics of Economics and Accounting
4. Critical Thinking - Case Analysis
5. Team Orientation - Debate

6. General Awareness - Guest Lectures, Orientation to Entrepreneurship, CPR- COVID aid
7. Ethical Responsibility - Social Media Responsibility online etiquette
8. HOLSEM - YOGA, Breathing exercises, counselling session , Mandal art work and dance fitness
9. Know about us- AACSB, International relations, Building world-class research culture at KJSIM, ALMA mater and RIIDL.

Apart from the above we have modules that address Self and Personality Development of the students which include HOLSEM, YOGA, Dance Fitness, Creativity Workshop and Etiquettes and Grooming.

I am sure you will really enjoy and appreciate the induction programme which will help you to assimilate into the institute activities. Your regular classes begin from 12th July 2021.

All learning resources like text books and e books will be provided to you soon, including soft copy of your Student ID card. Your programme coordinators, co coordinators and programme officers will help you with the settling in process.

And from here, we intend to move ahead with Swiftiness, Speed, Stability and Sustainability to tackle the complexities of the ever changing business, technology and social environment.

There is so much to learn and lots to discover. Another apt quote from Albert Einstein which should be the mantra for all of you to live by these 2 years and in future is and I quote : “I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious”.

FINAL INAUGURAL ADDRESS
MBA Batch 2021-23 – 3rd July 2021

The Institute is poised to take on the challenges and opportunities being provided by a new world that has been redefined by technology disruptions and black swan events like the global COVID pandemic and the disruptive forces in the education sector. The Institute is committed to deliver its best to help you build your careers and life ahead. We look forward to your cooperation in these difficult times.

There is a small welcome video prepared by the senior batch students and we will play it now. On behalf of all of us, I once again welcome all of you and thank you for reposing your faith in us.

Thank you.

Best wishes and warm regards,
Prof. (Dr.) Monica Khanna,
Director
K J Somaiya Institute of Management
Somaiya Vidyavihar University