

Convocation Address delivered by

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On the Occasion of

Twenty Ninth Convocation on March 20, 2021

Mrs Nirmala Sitharamanji, Honorable Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India, the Chief Guest of today's function; Dr Singh, Director General of the University; distinguished members of the Board of Governors; august members of the Academic Council; guests; faculty and staff members; graduating students; their parents and family members; alumni; representatives of the media; ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure in congratulating the graduating students of the Institutes of Technology, Management, Pharmacy, Science, Law, Architecture, and Commerce and those who have successfully completed their programmes in different disciplines from the University. My special compliments to PhD graduates who have pursued serious scholarship. At the outset, I would like to praise the parents who have supported their children during their studies.

I am pleased to introduce Mrs. Nirmala Sitharamanji, the Chief Guest of the function. Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman is the current Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India. She is a member of the Rajya Sabha since 2014. She formerly served as the Defence Minister of India, thereby becoming the second female defence minister after Indira Gandhi, and the first full-time female Finance Minister.

She has served as the Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, and the Minister for Commerce and Industry with independent charge. Prior to that, she served as a national spokesperson for the Bharatiya Janata Party from 2010 to 2014. Sitharamanji has also been featured in the Forbes 2020 list of the 100 most powerful women in the world.

She received her Masters Degree in Economics from the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her

hobbies are travel, trekking, and music. She has been an inspiration to the youth of India, especially young women, by being one of the most respected women in governance today.

Dear graduating students, we are passing through a critical phase. The Covid-19 pandemic is adversely affecting human lives and livelihoods. World economies have shrunk and the incomes of people have decreased. This pandemic has disturbed the existing order, while the new order has not taken a shape. As a result, we are in search of a future that will bring prosperity and hope to us.

However, in these times of difficulties, the strength of the human spirit has truly emerged. Various countries and companies have collaborated to find solutions. Innovative methods have been developed to interact to keep life moving. Within a year, vaccines have been developed to manage the

pandemic. There is global cooperation to ensure that we do the best for managing the worst situation.

The University was badly affected by the pandemic. However, the teaching process was ensured through online teaching. The students cooperated in this process and the academic session was completed on time. It amply shows that humans can achieve results in the most difficult situations. You must not lose courage in adverse situations. Such situations test your patience and maturity. When you respond to them positively, we emerge as a winner. Testing times bring out the best in you. I am sure that you would be able to chalk out a meaningful path not for yourself, but also for the welfare of society.

I wish you success and progress in life.