

# 31<sup>st</sup> convocation

December 10, 2022



**Convocation Address by**  
**Hon'ble Ms. Justice Belaben Trivedi**

**Judge – Supreme Court of India**  
**New Delhi**

*Please switch off your mobile phone*

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Namaskar,

1. Dr. Karsanbhai Patel, Chairman, Nirma Group of Industries and Nirma Education and Research Foundation, and the President, Nirma University;
2. Dr. Anup K. Singh, Director General, Nirma University;
3. Distinguished Members of the Board of Governors, and of the Academic Council
4. Trustees;
5. Deans of Faculties;
6. Directors of Institutes;
7. Faculty and Staff Members;
8. Graduating Students; their parents and family members; Alumni;
9. Invited Guests;
10. And Representatives of the media.

It is a special and memorable day not only for you, but for me too. It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to address this august gathering at a very reputed and multi-disciplinary University, founded by none other than Dr. Karsanbhai Patel, a globally recognized industrialist and a great visionary in the field of education. He belongs to a historical City-Patan, which incidentally happens to be my native place also.

I congratulate one and all, who have been today awarded the degrees in various disciplines. On this auspicious day, let me greet you with a well-known Shanti Mantra:

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः।  
सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चित् दुःख भाग्भवेत्॥

May All Be Happy and Prosperous, May All Be Free from Illness,  
May All see what is Auspicious, May No One Suffer,  
Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih ||

The motto of your university is “तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय” - “From darkness lead me to light”. This is part of a Pranav Mantra taken from the great Brihadaranyaka Upanishad. The whole Mantra is: असतो मा सद्गमय । तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय । मृत्योर्मा अमृतं गमय ॥ Here ‘Darkness’ means ignorance, and ‘Light’ means knowledge. So the symbolic meaning of the Mantra is – “Lead us from the state of ignorance to the state of knowledge.” Schools and Universities are the Institutions, which dispel the ignorance of the students and impart education – knowledge.

But, Life teaches you the lessons, which no teacher teaches you in the Schools or Universities. It is like a fast-flowing river. It passes through you, and its upto you whether to get a spoonful or a cupful, or a bucketful out of it. At every turning point, life unfolds its secrets and a new chapter begins. At the end of every chapter, there is a new beginning. A new beginning for our betterment, our upliftment, our amelioration. This understanding comes to us only when we are sensitive enough to realize it.

Today, one chapter of your life has ended and tomorrow a new chapter will begin, which will offer you innumerable opportunities and also many adversities. Again, it is upto you how to convert these adversities into the opportunities. Some of you would have graduated with flying colours and some with moderate results, nonetheless everybody has achieved the degree which is a very precious achievement in your life. However, passing out from a Prestigious University is only the tip of the iceberg, and you will have to pass out many more examinations in life, for being a successful professional and an ideal human being.

We, the human beings are a marvel of Creation, and are said to be the most evolved species on Earth. The universal truth as stated in our scriptures is that hunger, sleep, fear and procreative instinct are common to men and animals; but it is the Buddhi (discriminating faculty) that is special for mankind. It is through this Buddhi or discriminating faculty, and continuous introspection, that the human beings evolve towards the Ultimate Truth. Buddha’s last sermon to his disciples was “आपो दीपो भवः”. “Be the light unto yourself”. It is the “Light” within you which will enlighten your path.

In the process of facing innumerable challenges, you would have to face many failures also, but never ever get disappointed or frustrated with such failures. Such failures may turn out to be the pillars of success for you. What is apparent may not be real, and what is real may not be apparent. Nobody knows the Divine design of the Almighty. But please remember one thing - whatever good, bad or indifferent happens, it happens for the best. Never ever doubt HIS verdict. Have faith in

yourself and try to realize your own strength. Vinobaji used to say– “आत्मशक्तिर  
भानात अतः शासन मुक्ति” – “One would be free from outer domination only when  
one realizes one’s own inner strength.”

When I am talking about the outer domination, I am tempted to say a few words on  
the impact of fast changing Technology on the Education. Nowadays, this fast-  
developing Technology has opened up new vistas, and new horizons of  
knowledge. The students have access to countless online resources for availing  
the information and the knowledge. It has also expanded the opportunities for  
freedom of expression, and created new spaces for communication and  
socialization. The future scenario of Education has also become very  
unpredictable. There is a growing concern prevailing about the Technology  
replacing the Educators. In this era of technical and digital world therefore, the  
Educators also would have to better prepare themselves to educate the new  
generation of students, belonging to what is called “Digital Native”.

The university like Nirma University, which believes in continuously updating and  
improving its educational blueprint, would need to equip the Educators with better  
inter-disciplinary insights, creativity and social intelligence. The Educators can  
certainly play a very vital and crucial role in this current societal transformation. In  
my humble opinion, one should not be averse to the new ideas, new concepts, new  
thoughts, new technology, but its use should be very discreet and prudent. Lot  
many things may change in the field of Education, but one thing which should not  
change is the need for “Value- driven Education” that would contribute to the  
creation of a just society, a better place to live.

Gandhiji has beautifully said “I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and  
my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all lands to be blown about my  
house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any”.

I am indeed very grateful to the organizers of this event for giving me this wonderful  
opportunity to share my views.



#### **Nirma University**

Sarkhej-Gandhinagar Highway, Ahmedabad 382 481

Phone: 079-71652000, 02717-241911 to 15,

Email: [exe\\_registrar@nirmauni.ac.in](mailto:exe_registrar@nirmauni.ac.in)

Website: [www.nirmauni.ac.in](http://www.nirmauni.ac.in)