

39th MBA Day - Milan: Batch of 1992 - 94

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Department of Management and Commerce

Venue: Institute Auditorium and MBA Classrooms (Brindavan Campus)

21 August 2024, Wednesday

Introduction:

The Department of Management and Commerce at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Brindavan Campus, celebrated MBA Day. The event was marked by the presence of distinguished alumni from the batch of 1992-1994, who completed their MBA three decades ago. These esteemed alumni were honored through a program titled "Milan." The day was filled with insightful discussions, addresses from eminent speakers, and interactive sessions aimed at enriching the students' understanding of management principles and practices. The entire session was effectively coordinated by Dr. Subramanian S. Iyer, who served as the Master of Ceremonies.



Welcome Address by Dr. Sayeemanohar Krishnamurthy, Associate Professor, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning:

The day began with Invocatory Vedam for which the alumni chanted the sacred "Ganapathi Atharvaseersham," setting a spiritual tone for the event. This was followed by the Welcome Address delivered by Dr. Sayee Manohar, who extended a warm welcome to the Vice-Chancellor, the Chief Guest, the Guest of Honour, the Dean of Academic Affairs, the Dean of Management and Commerce, the Director of the Brindavan Campus, Faculty members, and students.



Inaugural Address by Dr. Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning:

The Inaugural Address was delivered by Dr. Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Dr. Prasad provided an enlightening overview of management, emphasizing that, at its core, management is an application of pure common sense. He reminisced about the inception of the MBA program at the Institute 39 years ago in 1986, acknowledging the significant contributions of visionary faculty members, including Professor Radhaswamy, Professor U.S. Rao, Professor Suma Rao, Professor Bhagya, Professor Sudheer Bhaskar, and Professor Shiva Pandit. Dr. Prasad expressed his gratitude to these

pioneers whose efforts have elevated the program to its current standards of excellence.



Address by Chief Guest, Shri Alok Ohri, M.D. and President, Dell Technologies, India:

The Chief Guest for the occasion, Shri Alok Ohri, M.D. and President of Dell Technologies, India, delivered a compelling address to the students. Shri Ohri highlighted India's remarkable and enviable progress over recent years, attributing some of this success to the nation's demographic dividend. He underscored the importance of embracing emerging technologies such as Generative AI and Machine Learning, which are pivotal to staying competitive in today's dynamic environment.

In his address, Shri Ohri shared valuable life lessons with the students, articulated through insightful nuggets:

- Life is fundamentally about the choices one makes.
- Each individual's journey is unique and incomparable.

- One should never settle for ordinary goals; excellence is the pathway to progress.
- Integrity, ethics, and honesty are essential for success in both personal and professional realms.



Shri Ohri's talk was noted for its candid nature, delivered with sincerity and interspersed with subtle humor, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

Address by Guest of Honour, Shri R.J. Ratnakar, Managing Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust:

Following the Chief Guest's address, the Guest of Honour, Shri R.J. Ratnakar, Managing Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, took the center stage. Shri Ratnakar shared various anecdotes and experiences, illustrating how Swami connects people across the globe, using examples involving prominent figures such as the former Chief Justice of India and the External Affairs Minister of Mauritius. He expressed deep gratitude towards the alumni for their continuous efforts in enhancing the Institute's reputation and extending its glory internationally.



Shri Ratnakar also reflected on Swami's exemplary man-management skills, reinforcing the importance of gratitude, a theme echoed by Shri Alok Ohri earlier in the session as well.

The celebration continued with addresses by two illustrious alumni of the MBA department.

Address by Shri Pushkaraj Gumasthe, MD, Head of Corporate Banking Asia Pacific and Middle East, Barclays Bank PLC:

Shri Pushkaraj Gumasthe, Managing Director of Barclays for the Asia Pacific and Middle-East regions, spoke about the profound impact of the Integral Education System at the Institute. He emphasized that "Education is for Life and not just for Living," a philosophy deeply ingrained in the Institute's values. Shri Gumasthe also discussed the value system of Barclays, encapsulated in the acronym RISES—Respect, Integrity, Services, Excellence and Stewardship.

He provided clarity on contemporary buzzwords such as Attitude and Aptitude, Impact and Influence, and Passion, advising students to maintain their curiosity as they progress in their careers.



*Address by Shri V.V. Eashwar Prasad, Head - Solutioning and Service Readiness
Ericsson India Global Services Pvt. Ltd.:*

Shri V.V. Eashwar Prasad from Ericsson India shared insights from his reflections over the years. He spoke on the importance of self-inquiry, urging students to contemplate "Who am I?" regularly. He highlighted the value of introspection, particularly in evaluating the decisions made each day, as a tool for personal and professional growth.

Shri Prasad also advised on maintaining respectful communication with superiors, being friendly yet impartial, and the significance of adaptability, stressing that "Growth is Life and Stagnation is Death." He concluded by emphasizing the importance of a genuine smile, which reflects a bright and happy mind.

Conclusion of Morning Session:

The morning session concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Shri Rajeev Rajan, Associate Professor at SSSIHL.

Following the morning session, guests and faculty inaugurated the newly equipped MBA classrooms at the Brindavan Campus. These classrooms feature state-of-the-art furniture and Smart-Boards, representing the Institute's commitment to providing a modern and conducive learning environment.



Afternoon Case Study Discussions

After a delightful lunch, the event continued with case study discussions. MBA students from the Brindavan and Anantapur Campuses were divided into groups, each moderated by different alumni. The case study focused on "Bikanervala Foods Private Limited: Professionalization of a Family Business," providing a platform for students to apply strategic concepts and engage in discussions enriched by the real-life corporate experiences shared by the alumni. These discussions offered

invaluable insights, enhancing the students' understanding of business strategies and management principles.

Conclusion:

The MBA Day celebration at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning was a memorable and enriching experience for all participants. The presence of esteemed alumni and distinguished speakers, coupled with the insightful discussions and interactive sessions, provided students with a deeper understanding of the practical applications of management theories. The event successfully fostered a connection between the past and present, inspiring students to strive for excellence in their academic and professional pursuits.

