First of all let me pray for early recovery of Dr. Akbar Naqvi who was supposed to share his insights and thoughts with you particularly the graduating class which are going to miss that. I am a very poor substitute for Dr. Akbar Naqvi. I do not pretend that I have either the intellect or the knowledge of an intellectual of his standing so please bear with me if I try to be more mundane that he would have been.

Let me first congratulate the parents and the graduating students that all your hard work has come to fruition. I also want to thank the excellent faculty of IVS for their contribution in this journey which you have undertaken during the last two years at IVS.

I am very proud to be associated with IVS because in a very short period of time it has established an outstanding reputation in the field of higher education and you should always feel very proud that you were associated and got your education at this fine institution. And let me also give you a word of caution, the institutions are a product of the performance subsequent to the graduation by their Alumni, therefore your journey has just begun and you must realize that the values you carry to your professional life, the insights you have developed, the knowledge you have acquired during the last few years, has to be continuously applied not for your own personal gains but for the larger gains of the society and for the country.

This is extremely important and when I say that, you must realize that you are only one of the privileged 5 percent of your age group who have been fortunate to go for higher education, 95 percent of people in your age group have never seen the face of a college or university and therefore, it is very important that you come up to the expectations of the society and this country. You have to have three attributes which I consider are extremely important. First you should have competence in whatever you do whether you are a designer, whether you are an architect, whether you are or were an artist, whether you are a sculptor, whatever you do you do it to the best of your ability and your efforts, no shortcuts. We are very much used to finding shortcuts. We all want to become famous and rich overnight that's not the path you should take. You should work hard steadily and slow and steady will win the race. So please acquire competency in your field.

Second is commitment; if you are not committed to whatever profession you are in, then you will not be very happy and if you are not happy you will not be creative and the world around you in the future is going to be based on knowledge economy and knowledge economy requires creativity and innovation and therefore, if you do not bring in competence along with commitment, you will never be able to create and you will not be able to contribute to this country which has to compete with the rest of the world. And finally you must have compassion, if you do not have compassion for the poor for the underprivileged for the people who are living in miserable conditions then I don’t think this education has added any value to you, so my humble advice to you is that as you walk out of the corridors of IVS, you must try to renew this pledge that throughout your life you will be an extremely powerful embodiment of the values which I have described and you will bring a good name to IVS and you will perpetuate the brand
equity of IVS, so that fifty years later when you have the 50th anniversary of IVS, people would say what a fine bunch of alumni IVS has.

Thank you very much