

Delivering the convocation address, Mr. Russi Mody, Chairman and Managing Director of Tata Steel called upon the graduates to face the challenges posed by industrial development and environmental protection. He said that coupled with population explosion, pollution was the most difficult problem which had to be tackled in the future.

Expressing serious concern at the growing threat to environment from different sources, Mr. Mody said that if the world was to be saved, government, industry and other agencies must coordinate their efforts to devise ways of redressing the highly disturbed ecological balance. "And this had to be a global effort," he said.

He observed that never before had the world stood in greater danger of extinction than now. The widening hole in the ozone layer, the greenhouse effect, the acid rain and the mindless destruction of forests together posed a serious threat to the survival of all living beings. Since these phenomena did not respect national or international boundaries, their calamitous effects were bound to sweep across the globe, he warned.

Mr. Mody felt that management education did not stop at IIMA or similar institutions; the real education in fact, begins at the work place. He suggested a change in the management courses which should be preceded by a couple of years of work experience. Such an exposure would enable a student to understand better, both, the theory and the practice of management. At the same time, interaction with students with work experience would also lead to the enrichment of the teaching faculty's knowledge and understanding.

Regretting the steep decline in moral values, Mr. Mody said that there was no sphere of human activity which was not untainted by corruption. Nor were there many people whose sense of duty had remained intact. According to him, the disastrous consequences of all this were reflected nowhere more than in the service sector which has almost collapsed.

Mr. Mody felt that even. more alarming was the sharp erosion of the sense of nationalism. He found it odd that the same people who had sunk all differences of caste and creed during the freedom struggle were today tearing the country apart in the name of language, region and religion. Mr. Mody asserted that if India had to survive, the younger generation needed to discard this unfortunate tendency and set a better example than their elders.