

**HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj**  
**President & Spiritual Head, Parmarth Niketan Ashram**  
**Chief Guest – 2025**

A very beautiful and dutiful soul, Minal ji..., because of her devotion, dedication and for coming all the way to Rishikesh, I am here especially for this event. I am here because of these people who are doing amazing service to the community. Our beautiful soul, Pheroza Godrej, a wonderful family of this great city of Mumbai! Our beautiful soul, Triveni Acharya ji, she is not merely a teacher, but she is a touch, she is not a rescuer, but she is a refuge, also for her girls, she is not only a mentor, but she is a mother to all these 500 and many more girls. I have seen her in Rishikesh every year, we invite them. I said, Mumbai is your home, but Rishikesh is your Himalayan home. And they all love it. They come for 7-10 days every year. And believe me, before they leave everybody has tears in their eyes.

Let us give a big round of applause for these beautiful girls and the mothers.

And our very respected, a great scientist of this nation, Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar! We keep meeting at various occasions and last we met when we received the Lifetime Achievement Award where Dr. Mashelkar, Dr. V. K. Saraswat, me as well as our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, were present. Dr. Mashelkar is doing a great seva to this nation. In his age, when people just want to play golf, want to sit on the couch, eat potatoes and watch movies, and our man is still active, he's there, he's on.

Let us give a big round of applause for this great man.

A pillar of this Foundation, Shekhar Bajaj ji! Because of people like you, I feel that a lot is left. Keep saving it through this beautiful Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation.

Sitting with him is a beautiful human being! Did you notice? He was having a hard time reading his speech, but he has done great work. That's why this nation is saved. Work is not done through degrees but through devotion, through dedication. A man who could not even read his own speech has done tons of work. He is our Hasmukh Bhai! Applaud loudly and welcome our cheerful brother Hasmukh.

And our Iyengar ji, sitting here, Sudarshan Iyengar ji. Mahatma Gandhi was an amazing man. I have seen he was not only a great man of our nation, but also for the world. I have seen when I was in America 50 years ago. I went to the place of Martin Luther King and even had visited Pretoria, South Africa, and many other places where he lived. There was no discrimination on the basis of language, attire, food. When Sudarshan ji came on the stage, he was talking in Gujarati despite being a south Indian. We are all talking Gujarati also. And there is a message to those people who sometimes raise questions about language. We are all one. Our language can be different, our colours can be different, our food can be different, but we are all one and one family. This is the mantra given by our rishis, *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* - One earth, one family and one future. Thank you for being there, Dr. Sudarshan.

And our beautiful Sekacheva, Ya vas lyublyu. It means I love you in Russian language. I remember when I was in Russia, when Gorbachev, Hon'ble President of USSR, opened the doors for the world under the reforms of Glasnost & Perestroika. We were the first one to be there in Kremlin with the Vice President of America, Al Gore, myself, and many other scholars, scientists of the world because we were working for water, sanitation and hygiene including other areas. So, because of that, there was a Conference of Science and Spirituality. Can you imagine, the doors were open for the first time to the world. But I want to tell you one thing, that I learned a few sentences in Russian language because of Gorbachev. The moment I came to this event, I remember these lines since 1991,

and I shared with her, and she was so happy. The language brings people together. But the language of the heart, no matter where you go, always brings humanity together. Thank you for being here and welcome home.

Our very wonderful man who is serving this great foundation, great Gandhian thought, is our Rajagopal ji. And our Tamilian man who has changed the life of so many. It's wonderful, Murugesan, to have you here. And our Anil Gupta ji. And beautiful souls today, my sisters and brothers.

Firstly, I pay my respect for this thought of bringing people together, especially Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, and the man who had one thought... we are not the owners of this world, we are the custodians... caretakers... trustees. The thought was given by Mahatma Gandhiji that we are the trustee of this world. Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation and the entire family right from Jamnalal ji to Shekhar ji today as also the younger generation of beloved Sanjiv, Rajiv and the entire family have taken this thought forward.

Today, I just want to say that many people live for themselves but very few people live for the society. I am here because I love the man (Jamnalal ji Bajaj). The people who live for themselves die and nobody remembers. The people who live for others and for the society are remembered for thousands of years. That's why we have gathered here today to pay our tribute to him. The amazing work & projects he did in the field of education, healthcare, preservation of the nature, culture, philosophy and in many other areas, is helping humanity.

I would like to say this to respected, late Shri Jamnalal Bajaj ji, that wherever you are, you must be hearing this –

आप ने कदम ऐसे चले कि निशान बन गए,

You have taken such steps, that you have made a mark.

कदम ऐसे चले कि निशान बन गए,

Your great work, is your identity

काम ऐसे किये कि पहचान बन गयी।

For the sake of living, everyone lives.

जीने को तो जिंदगी यूँ सभी जी लेते हैं,

Live life in such a way that life becomes a light,

जीने को तो जिंदगी यूँ सभी जी लेते हैं,

a phenomenon,

जिंदगी जी तो ऐसी जी की जिंदगी एक मशाल बन गई,

life becomes an example.

जिंदगी एक मिसाल बन गई।

A loud applause for him, his family and for this Foundation.

Mahatma Gandhi. When I heard the news (*about Delhi car bomb explosion near Red Fort*) about what happened in New Delhi I thought that's why we need the Gandhian thought that hatred, violence, creating pieces in the community is not the way but peace is the way. And the choice is ours.

We have to think very seriously today whether we want to live in peace or in pieces and that is our choice. We want to become a better community, better society, better nation or a bitter society or bitter community. Hatred is not the way. Violence begets violence. Anger increases anger. Hatred never benefits anyone and love never harms anyone. This is the truth.

When our Russian sister was reading her speech, she mentioned that Mahatma Gandhi said education is the way to bring change in the community and in the society. I was thinking, they (*attackers*) were all educationists & doctors. It means education only is not the way. I think value-based education is the way. If you have education but no values, like a bank without money, like a river without water then what is the use.

Today morning when I left, I had a meeting with the doctors from Australia, America, England, Nepal, India and New Zealand. They all came for 2 weeks to Parmarth Niketan to serve those communities who have no fortune, no opportunity, no hope to get operated by such amazing doctors. They came all the way. One of the doctors was

80 years old. I asked, 'You are here in your 80s?'. He said, 'I wanted to come as my father was also a doctor, and he was serving till he was 95 years old. Till the last day he went to the hospital. He said that service is the way. Keep doing. And I am following his footsteps.' There are doctors coming all the way from America, Australia, New Zealand and many other countries. What is different? They said, our parents gave us the values - how to live, how to have a better life and not a bitter life. Bitterness is like a virus in the computer; it spoils the whole program... it spoils your whole life.

It means, in our families we must bring these values. Stay connected to your roots, stay connected to your origin, stay connected to your values. Valuables are great, but values are greater to have in our life.

Mahatma Gandhi said so beautifully, what is the point of that fast speed which has no direction? Speed is there but direction is lost. That's why we also today need this Gandhian thought that how to bring that direction. Gandhiji gave direction to the world. Direction of - *satya, prem and karuna* (truth, love and compassion). We need compassionate hearts today, we need truthful leadership today, we need loving community and society today and that's why we need Mahatma Gandhi.

We are living in an artificial age, AI age. But in India, our ancestors, our seers and the sages so beautifully explained us. And I call that vision or wisdom of artificial age AI to RI - Artificial Intelligence to Rishi's Intelligence where they so beautifully said, worship your own and respect all. This was Gandhian thought also. Let all the noble thoughts come from all directions. This is Rishi Intelligence which keeps you together, which keeps you there, which keeps community in peace, not in pieces.

"*Aano bhadra krtavo yantu vishwatah*", let all the noble thoughts come from all directions and respect all, love all. Why did he say all this? Because he knew if we lived in hatred that would lead to destruction, if we stay with love then there would be light in our lives and even in the world. There are so many wars happening around the world, everywhere there is war. India didn't focus on war, but on Buddha. We didn't just focus on intelligence; we focused on purity also. Currently there's too much intelligence. At the moment look at our children, look at our youngsters, young people. They come out from their unis, they get amazing degrees, and they are earning in 6-7 figures, but they are losing their own figure. Not happy. Everything is set but they are not set. This education, this money was not just to hold more, have more and enjoy. Here is a family which understood the values that life is not only to have more, but life is also to be more. And being more is sharing more, giving more, caring more, serving more. This is the way to live. And thank you Bajaj Foundation. The work that you are doing is excellent. A big round of applause for such a Foundation.

At that time, Gandhian thought flourished in the entire family. When Mahatma Gandhi said, there should be a centre in Maharashtra. Immediately, Jamnalal ji and Jankidevi. Jankidevi ji; she was the first recipient of Padma Vibushan. First lady, first woman. Immediately she said, 'Why not in our own village?'. She gave the entire village. She gave the house, village, property. And from there the movement of independence started with great force. This is what you need. When you understand, when you teach your children that life is not only to hold more or have more, but life is to be more.

Everybody now loves speed. Speed thrills but, kills if there is no direction. That's why Mahatma Gandhi ji said, have a speed but have a direction also. Internet today is giving us amazing speed. Being here and you are being watched all over the world. This is internet. Through internet you can earn so much. Today, look at the IT companies. There was a time, there was a business. Then the oil came, then the computer technology came. And now, this is AI, another revolution. All the IIT-ians are all over the world, with their brain, with small chips how much they are earning! It is great! But alone internet is not enough. You need inner-net. Through internet, you can fill your shelves of your almirahs, you can earn more and more. But if shelf is full and self is empty, no use. We

need shelf and self together. Very important. Internet and inner-net, both should go hand in hand. Together they should form a bridge.

Family earned wealth also and they also invested that wealth not on themselves but for their people, people who don't have anyone. They embraced all such people also. Such earnings like in Vedas it is beautifully said, 'Earn with 100 hands, but share with 1000 hands.' And this Foundation is following this. I am very happy. We have to ask ourselves, where do we stand? Where does our life stand? End of the day, that will matter. Are we living in peace or in pieces? Am I happy or unhappy? For peace or happiness, for fun we go to the beaches, we go to the movies. Movie is over, happiness is over. We go to shopping mall, buy something not feeling good, to feel good eat ice cream, ice cream is over and that happiness is over. But our *rishis* (sages) said, 'You need a permanent happiness. Not from outside, but from inside. You are the source of that happiness and peace. Go to that source. Find yourself'.

In this speed, we have lost ourselves. We have everything but we ourselves are lost. That's why Mahatma Gandhi said, 'Start with yourself. You can be the change. What you want to see in your family, in your children, in your communities, you be the change'. Today, we go on Facebook, nothing is wrong in it. But I want to tell my younger generation, go on Facebook but end of the day before you sleep face your book. Face your book, face your heart. Can you face your heart end of the day? Are you doing everything right? Can you answer to yourself? Forget about the parents for a while because we hide from them, but can you answer to yourself? Can you answer to the Divine that what I am doing is right?

For that, we need that connection because we must understand, we have to make them understand life is not only to have collection, but also life is a connection. Today, we are losing connection with ourselves, connection with our parents, connection with our society. That's why at the end of the day before we sleep, we should introspect why petty, small things trigger and we become tiger. It means that we are not having our remote in our hands. People in parties sitting together, I watch every time that they start fighting over petty issues. Husband asks his wife, 'What happened to you?'. She says, 'You happened to me'. This is what is happening. Who happened to whom, is a question to think upon.

Mahatma Gandhi used to say, do everything but remain spiritual. Today, there is a great need for this. And spirituality means connecting to yourself. This is spirituality. Maybe for people who believe in religion, they can go to the temple, they can worship there... That is also great. Somebody told me, 'I don't believe in rituals. I said, 'Great'. But when we love somebody, given a time 5 o'clock and we go there, somebody is having a bouquet and waiting for you. 5 minutes late like now you have a mobile, you can text but those were the days when there were no texts, no mobiles and people kept waiting. The moment you meet, you give a bouquet, and you feel so happy. And later on, what happens, when you are in love? After that bouquet, then you book yourself, bouquet is over. But in the beginning, what was that? That was ritual. When you are meeting each other, taking that bouquet showed I love you. Same way, rituals are started by us to make ourselves feel spiritual to say that 'God, I love you' with those flowers, those pujas. But, at the end of the day what matters is that spirituality, that connection that you become one with the Divine. Doesn't matter which name, and in which form. God loves diversity. Whoever you are, whatever name and form you take, he is one.

So, connection is very important. For that, end of the day, before you sleep, watch your own film to know where you stand, whether you are becoming bitter or better every day. Small, small things trigger you, you stay calm, composed, connected or you feel rejected from yourself even. In that case, there will not be reaction, but there will be reflection. You will think.

If you just keep this in mind, then I'll consider my coming from the banks of Ganga is successful. That's true, otherwise what do I have to do. I want to say this to you all, last but not the least, before you start your day...

meditate. The doctors today in America, in England, in many other countries are giving this advice that if you want a calm mind, meditate. And my experience is more meditation, less medication. Now doctors have also started saying this if you are stressed. A few days back some young girls came to me in Rishikesh, saying ‘Oh! Can you tell me something?’. I said, ‘What happened?’. ‘I am so stressed out’. I said, ‘How old are you?’. She said, ‘I am 11’. 11-year-old girl stressed out! That’s why meditation. Start with meditation and end your day with introspection, watch your own film. At the end of the day that film will work at the end of the day that file will work. Profiles are for others, they will stay in the laptop, they will stay here. When people leave, no profile goes with them, only the file goes with them. The kind of *karma* (deeds) we do, that will go with you and nothing else.

That’s why a few days back I wrote a few lines, which I will sing and end here.

काम करते रहो, काम करते रहो। जो आप सभी कर रहे हैं।

काम करते रहो, नाम जपते रहो।

सेवा करते रहो, काम बन जायेगा।

काम करते रहो, नाम जपते रहो।

सेवा करते रहो, काम बन जायेगा।

नफ़रत से बचो, प्रेम सब से करो।

नफ़रत से बचो, प्रेम सब से करो।

बांट ते ही रहो, साथ क्या जायेगा।

Keep working, keep working. Whatever you all are doing.

Keep working, keep chanting the name.

Keep serving, the work will get done.

Keep working, keep chanting the name.

Keep serving, the work will get done.

Avoid hatred, love everyone.

Avoid hatred, love everyone.

Thank you.