



Mr. Shekhar Bajaj
Chairman, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation

Namaste, our cherished guests. A heartfelt and warm welcome to the 45th Jamnalal Bajaj Awards function of the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation.

I extend a warm welcome to our Chief Guest, Hon'ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Chandrachud ji.

Chandrachud ji, who is the Respected Chief Justice of India, requires no introduction. His advocacy was marked by championing causes such as the right to privacy, the rights of HIV+ workers, and more. Serving as a judge on the Supreme Court of India, Justice Chandrachud ji has delivered seminal judgments, addressing issues like the decriminalization of homosexuality, the declaration of privacy as a fundamental right, and environmental law.

His noteworthy judgement mandated the grant of permanent commissions to women in the armed forces. In his role as the Chairperson of the e-committee of the Supreme Court of India, Justice Chandrachud ji is at the forefront of leading a digital transformation of the judicial system, ensuring access, transparency, and accountability. Since assuming the position of Chief Justice of India, he has spearheaded numerous reforms on both the administrative and judicial fronts. His initiatives aim to reduce structural barriers, making the justice system more inclusive and accessible, especially for marginalized communities.

This year holds a special significance as we celebrate the centennial anniversary of my father, Ramkrishna Bajaj, the visionary behind the establishment of the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation in 1977. Today, I feel honoured to share reflections on this remarkable occasion and on the enduring legacy of my father.

In the tapestry of my earliest memories, my father emerges as a principled and soft-spoken man who embraced a life of simplicity. His values of forgiveness, equanimity, and

a deep-rooted desire to do good for others not only shaped his role as the beloved head of the large Bajaj family but also defined his legacy as an industrialist with a profound love for philanthropy.

Born in Wardha and nurtured under the guiding light of Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave, my father's journey was steeped in the ethos of the Swadeshi Andolan. His participation in individual satyagraha and leadership in various youth groups, including the All-India Student Congress and the National Union of Students, showcased his early commitment to the ideals of simplicity and sacrifice.

As the torchbearer of the Bajaj Group from 1952, my father emphasized ethics over profits and highlighted the integral connection between business goals and societal good. His steadfast commitment to these led to the establishment of the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation with a clear purpose – to recognize those individuals, in India and abroad, who embody the principles of sacrifice and simple living set forth by Jamnalalji and Gandhiji.

Today, we also pay tribute to the commitment of my father and, after his passing in 1994, Rahul Bajaj, who steered the foundation for 28 years. Continuing their legacy with the same dedication, I assume the role of Chairman with a great sense of responsibility, aspiring to follow in their illustrious footsteps.

Our gathering today is to felicitate and congratulate four exceptional awardees – Dr. Regi George & Dr. Lalitha Regi, Dr. Ramalakshmi Datta, Sudha Varghese, and Raha Naba Kumar. Their uniqueness lies not just in their accomplishments but in their freedom from external pressures, ego, and material attachments.

They embody the ideals that inspired the creation of the Jamnalal Bajaj Awards by my father 45 years ago. In a world often troubled, our awardees stand as beacons of hope, demonstrating that more than financial resources, it is the human will and character that shape outcomes. Your work reinforces the purpose behind these awards. – recognizing those who lead lives dedicated to constructive change.

I express deep gratitude to our Chief Guest, awardees, and the Council of Advisers and Selection Committees for their invaluable contributions. Let us now come together to felicitate and celebrate these extraordinary individuals who illuminate the path toward a better tomorrow.

Thank you and let the spirit of positive change continue to inspire us all.

