

Shekhar Bajaj
Chairman, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation

Namaste to our esteemed guests of the 47th Jamnalal Bajaj Awards function.

Welcome to each one of you gathered here for yet another year of recognising and celebrating the tireless work of some of the most dedicated members of our community.

I wish to begin by paying a special tribute to my younger brother, Madhur Bajaj, whom we lost to illness in April, this year. Many of you will remember his strong presence at the Jamnalal Bajaj Awards, year after year. His boundless enthusiasm, support and the special vote of thanks lit up this occasion every time. His absence today leaves a void we deeply feel.

I am happy to share with you all that the Foundation now has two new Trustees. One is our most revered and beloved Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, and another is our dear Minal Bajaj who has passionately and tirelessly worked to raise the Foundation's and its awards' profile, nationally and internationally.

Today, we are blessed and are very fortunate to have Param Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj with us.

Under his leadership, his ashram - Parmarth Niketan is not only a spiritual pilgrimage site, but also a centre which provides education, training, and health care to those in need.

His Divine Shakti Foundation helps and supports the education of abandoned and orphaned boys and girls, widows, and poor women.

Pujya Swami Ji founded the Ganga Action Family, a worldwide family of scientists, engineers, volunteers and devotees, committed to making the waters of Mother Ganga clean and uninterrupted.

He has addressed various forums like the Parliament of World Religions, the World Economic Forum, the Millennium World Peace Summit at the United Nations, amongst many others. Swami Ji has also organised peace walks around the world.

He has been honoured with numerous national & international awards & recognitions, for his humanitarian work as a spiritual leader. As a true Sanyasi of eternal truth, these honours have no impact on him, as he lives a life of renunciation.

Pranam & a very warm welcome to you Swamiji.

The Awards hold a very special place in my heart. They honour extraordinary individuals who devote their lives to truth, justice and service to humanity. In these times of growing challenges, they stand as a shining reminder of how values can guide us towards a fairer and more compassionate society.

The Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, established in 1977 by my father Ramkrishna Bajaj, was created to continue the legacy of his father Jamnalal Bajaj — a visionary industrialist, freedom fighter and close associate of Mahatma Gandhi. Jamnalalji dedicated his life to Gandhian ideals, rural development and social justice.

My father, Ramkrishnaji, carried this legacy through his ethical leadership in business and philanthropy. He believed industry must always serve the greater good of society and that values should take precedence over material gain. Through his vision, the Foundation continues to promote selfless service, ethical leadership and social responsibility.

Today, we come together to honour those who embody these timeless ideals in a world of rapid change. Their courage, dedication and spirit inspire us all. I extend my warmest congratulations to our awardees from India and abroad for their exceptional contributions...

Shri Hasmukh Babubhai Patel
Shri P. M. Murugesan
Smt. Triveni Acharya
Ms. Sekachova Lyudmila Leanidovna

“In a gentle way, you can shake the world”, said Mahatma Gandhi and all of you are doing exactly that.

I also wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the Council of Advisers and the Selection Committees for their wisdom, dedication and discernment in recognising such outstanding champions of humanity.

As Chairman of the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, I remain committed to preserving and strengthening the legacy of my predecessors - Ramkrishna Bajaj and then Rahul Bajaj. Together, we must carry forward the mission they entrusted to us.

This is a pivotal moment in history. Intolerance and a growing disconnect from our cultural and ethical roots threaten the very fabric of society. Therefore, the values we celebrate here are not just pertinent; they are vital. Gandhiji's principles of truth, non-violence and selfless service provide us with a way to restore integrity and harmony - both within our nation and across the world. Thank you all for being here and showing your faith in the same.

Our winners remind us of the heights that selfless service can reach. Yet their example also places a responsibility on us - to act with the same integrity and compassion in our own spheres of life.

Thank you.