



Mr. Kailash Satyarthi
Nobel Peace Laureate and Children Rights Activist
Chief Guest-2014

The speeches given by all the award winners and the judges were like musical compositions. I wanted them to keep speaking and not stop. I am not saying this because I am giving away these awards but I am really feeling very small to give away awards to these giants. If I sit by their feet and learn about humanitarian issues and Gandhian philosophy it will take me 15-20 years just to learn what they know.

I would like to thank Rahul Bhai for giving me this opportunity to present the prestigious Jamnalal Bajaj Awards. Our DNA is not only our link to our past generations it also our link to our thoughts. The DNA of Gandhian thoughts are visible in the people who are giving, receiving and administering these awards.

I will share one story I heard when I was a child. Once there was a fire in the forest and all the animals and birds were running away from the fire source. However a bird was flying in the direction of the fire. Seeing this, King of Jungle, the Lion, asked the bird, "What's wrong with you? Why are flying in that direction, you will burn and die?" The bird said, "I am carrying a drop of water in my beak and I will try to extinguish the fire with that. I will try to do what I can." These awardees are also like that bird in their own way. Whether the world comes with them or not, whether the leaders join them or not they will silently keep doing what they are doing.

Rahul Bhai presented me the idol of Gandhiji and told me to take care of it as it was very heavy. I told him it is easier to keep this idol with us but difficult to keep Gandhiji inside us. It is still easier for people like us to follow Gandhian philosophy but it was not an easy task for Jamnalalji, as an industrialist and a family man to follow Gandhiji. Jamnalalji followed Gandhian principles in thought and in action. He weaved the charkha, he fed the cows and he even went to jail during the freedom struggle.

Globalisation with human soul is needed to make a better world. Globalisation with human values and compassion will make a better world for the future. Economic growth and human development need to go hand in hand. Human values need to be advocated vigorously.

I know India is a nation of hundred problems but it is also a country with one billion solutions. The solutions are all around us, in me, in you, with in all of us. We just have to keep looking for them.

I work for children in India and 140 other countries and I feel sad when I see kids not going to school or working as child laborers. I appeal to all of you who are present here today to create a better world for our children and our next generation. I would like to request you, in the honor of Gandhiji, Jamnalalji Bajaj and all the Gandhian awardees sitting here today to ensure that we will make a crying child smile.

