



Raha Naba Kumar
Recipient

International Award 2023 for Promoting Gandhian Values outside India

Honourable President of this auspicious occasion Shri. Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Chairman, Council of Advisers of the Foundation, Honourable Chief Guest, Honourable Mr. Shekhar Bajaj, Chairman, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, Honourable Mr. Madhur Bajaj, Trustee, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, Master of Ceremony – Ms. Minal Bajaj, Hon. Director, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation and Shubhangi Karkannavar who continuously communicated with me and all the members of Jamnalal Bajaj Family, Excellencies, dignitaries, Ladies and Gentlemen: and the audience here today.

My regards and heartiest thanks to you all.

It is a great honour for me to be here today to receive the most prestigious award of the world the “Jamnalal Bajaj Award” for the practitioner who is working to promote Gandhi ideology in India and outside India. I am from Noakhali, Bangladesh where Gandhiji visited after a terrible communal riot in 1946 to restore peace and harmony among the Hindu and Muslim Community of the area.

I am very much delighted and excited that the world famous Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation selected me for this prestigious award. I want to thank the panel of juries and selection committee as well as I want to thank Dr. Girish Kulkarni, the founder of Snehalaya of Ahmednagar who proposed my name for this award. I am thankful to my colleagues in Bangladesh who worked with me to make my missions a success.

About 34 years back I joined the Gandhi Ashram. Gandhians like Shri Charu Chowdhury, Shri Viswa Ranjan Sen, Reddi Palli Satyanarayan, Smt. Jharna Dhara Chowdhury inspired me on Gandhi and his works. From then I am working to promote Gandhi ideology in Bangladesh. Initially my journey was not so pleasant. Sometimes it was life threatening. I had to cross so many obstacles but finally community people choose me as their friend. Once those who created obstacles for me, now they come to support us in our all sorts of programs. Now if anyone go to any village of Noakhali and ask about Gandhi Ashram, obviously they will say that “it is our organization”.

But still long way to go for the sustainability of our activities. I have a plan to establish an educational institute where people will receive higher study on Gandhian studies, peace, non-violence, etc. I have a plan to establish a hospital for the most disadvantaged people and there will be a unit for naturopathy treatment. At the same time, the community services needs to be continue so that the poor and marginalized people can get better services and can establish their right and title and can live with dignity and peacefully.

The honour you give me today could so easily go to so many organizations, or worthy individuals, who struggle in their own society. But clearly, you have made a choice to recognize me. I am grateful for that. My pronam to all the senior citizens here and my love and best wishes to others. Thank you.

Jai Jagat, Jai Bangla Jai Hind

