

JAMNALAL BAJAJ

Jamnalal Bajaj (4 November, 1889 – 11 February, 1942) - The man who participated in each of Mahatma Gandhi's programmes of Independence Movement on the one hand; and Constructive Programmes on the other. He was among the stalwarts who gave of himself completely - mind, body and soul to India's freedom struggle and courted arrest on several occasions. Jamnalal Bajaj overreached himself in making words into deeds and played a stellar role in the implementation of various activities, be it for Khadi, Dalit - welfare, women empowerment, propagation of Hindi, village industries, ethics in business, or preservation of cattle-wealth through Goseva. Jamnalal Bajaj used the personal wealth he created for societal welfare to benefit the poorest of the poor.

Mahatma Gandhi adopted Jamnalal Bajaj as his 'fifth son' on Jamnalal Bajaj's behest. Mahatma Gandhi's idea of trusteeship was earnestly and deeply lived in life and practiced by Jamnalal Bajaj

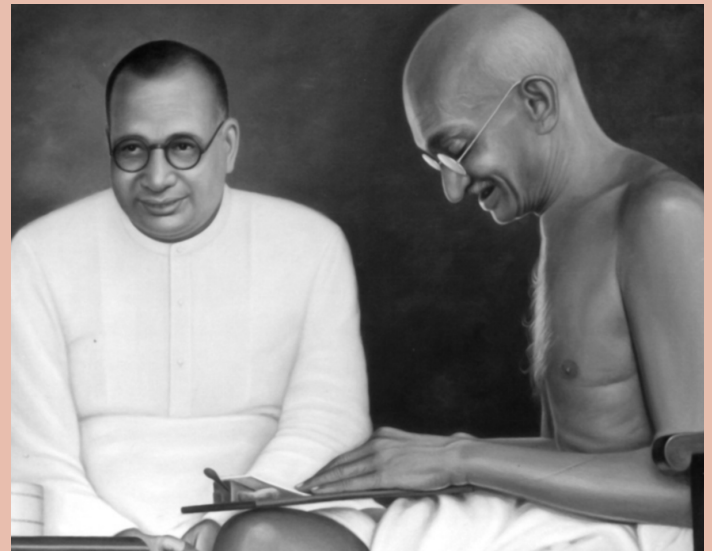
Following Jamnalal Bajaj's footsteps, his wife Jankidevi Bajaj, took to the path of renunciation, suffered imprisonment in the freedom struggle and dedicated her life to propagate Gandhian values. Jankidevi Bajaj was a committed social worker in her own right who undertook padyatras with Acharya Vinoba Bhave and was actively involved in the movements for Bhoodan (Land Gift), Koopdan (Gift of Well), Gram Seva (Village Service) and Goseva (Service of the Cows).

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Whenever I wrote of wealthy men becoming trustees of their wealth for the common good, I always had this merchant prince principally in mind.

Mahatma Gandhi
in Harijan (14.03.1942)

”



Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation

The Foundation was established in 1977 in the memory of Jamnalal Bajaj with the objective of serving the ideals for which Jamnalal Bajaj had dedicated his life and to promote Gandhian constructive activities.

Activities of the Foundation

Major activities include:

- » Significantly supporting several rural and certain urban development projects with emphasis on education, healthcare, sanitation, water management, environment protection etc. which are carried out especially in Maharashtra, Rajasthan as also many other regions across the country for the poor sections of the society.
- » Honouring outstanding contributions of people engaged in social welfare and trusteeship practices on Gandhian lines through the Foundation's four awards.

The Jamnalal Bajaj Awards

The four categories of Jamnalal Bajaj Awards are instituted to promote and propagate Jamnalal Bajaj's philanthropic vision as also Gandhian ideology of rural development. There are three National Awards and one International Award as listed below:

National

Award for Constructive Work

Recognizes contributions in the field of constructive work focussing on any of the eighteen development areas based on Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Programmes, creating a self reliant and sustainable community in rural India

National

Award for Application of Science and Technology for Rural Development

Felicitates the contributions in the field of application of science and technology for rural and tribal development which helps transform the economical, social and ecological conditions of the weaker sections of the society

National

Award for Development and Welfare of Women and Children

For contribution of a woman towards education, skills training, healthcare, literacy, livelihood activities, holistic development, advocacy etc. of women and children

International

Award for Promoting Gandhian Values Outside India

For contribution of work of a foreigner/an individual of a foreign nationality, outside India in promoting Gandhian ideologies and values of unity, peace, non-violence, harmony of human life with nature and moral conscience

Each Award comprises of a Citation, a Trophy and a Cash Prize ₹20,00,000/-

Commemorating the 100th Birth Anniversary of Ramkrishna Bajaj, Founder of Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, the Foundation had raised the prize money from ₹10,00,000/- to ₹20,00,000/- (its equivalent in foreign exchange in the case of the international award) in each award category, with effect from 2023.

TRUSTEES

Shekhar Bajaj, Chairman

Kailash Satyarthi

Dr. R. A. Mashelkar

Minal Bajaj

(Trustees are ex-officio members of the Council)

Council of Advisers

The Foundation has constituted a Council of Advisers to advise and guide in the policy and operational matters in the scheme of the Awards. The Council represents a multidisciplinary, cross-section of society comprising Members who are multidimensional and eminent personalities from the field of Social Service, Science & Technology, Education, Industry etc.

Composition of the Council of Advisers

Chairman

Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, FRS Former Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

Members

Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar	Former Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Vidyapeeth and Professor, Gandhian Philosophy
Anami Roy	Former Director General of Police, Maharashtra & Founder Chairman, Vandana Foundation
Dr. Anil Gupta	Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala	Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT, Chennai
Dr. Pheroza Godrej	Chairperson, Godrej Archives Council
Prof. Vandana Chakrabarti	Ex-Pro Vice Chancellor, SNDT Women's University
Anu Aga	Retired as Chairperson, Thermax Limited
Rajagopal P.V.	Founding Member, Ekta Parishad & Managing Trustee, International Gandhian Initiative for Non-violence and Peace
Amit Chandra	Chairperson & Founder, Bain Capital – India Office & Co-Founder, A.T.E Chandra Foundation
Sanjit (Bunker) Roy	Founder & Director, The Social Work and Research Centre
Supriya Sule	Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Director, Yashaswini Abhiyan
Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar	Principal Director, Symbiosis and Pro Chancellor, Symbiosis International University
Minal Bajaj	Trustee & Hon. Director, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation
Shubhangi Karkannavar	Secretary, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation
Shyam Maniyar	General Manager, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation

PROCESS OF SELECTION

- 01 ➤ To invite nominations of individuals for the Jamnalal Bajaj Awards, the Foundation annually communicates to institutions and individuals associated in areas such as:
 - Sarvodaya Movement
 - Gandhian Constructive Work
 - Appropriate technology that empowers people at the grassroots
 - Applied research in agriculture and other areas for rural transformation
 - Women's development and child welfare
 - Global propagation of Gandhian principles and work
- 02 ➤ The Foundation also corresponds with all the central & state government ministries, various universities, journalists, foreign diplomats and Indian missions abroad, among others.
- 03 ➤ Advertisements to invite nominations are also published in leading and regional newspapers/dailies in India as well as posted on various digital platforms and NGO portals.
- 04 ➤ The Chairpersons of the Selection Committees (of the four categories of the award), facilitated by the Hon. Director and the Foundation's Secretariat, carry out the screening process of all the nominations received by the Foundation, which are prima facie eligible for consideration.
- 05 ➤ The screened list of the nominees is drawn up for the scrutiny of the Selection Committee of respective award category.
- 06 ➤ Every screened nomination is then discussed and analysed by the concerned Selection Committee to further shortlist the nominees based on the criteria and objectives of the award. The shortlisted nominees are then interacted online. After which the Selection Committee further shortlists the nominees for visits based on the outcome of the online interaction.
- 07 ➤ The nominees shortlisted for 3 years consecutively may not be considered further and is at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- 08 ➤ Based on the decision of the Selection Committees, assessment visits are made to the shortlisted nominees to see their journey of life and work first hand and for further detailed interactions. These visits are conducted only for the national award categories.
- 09 ➤ Subsequent to the above process of assessing the work of the shortlisted nominees, the Selection Committees recommend a panel of three names in each category of the Awards along with their assessment report to the Council of Advisers to select the final name in each category.
- 10 ➤ A presentation of the panelled nominees is made to the Council of Advisers followed by intensive discussions and evaluation sessions on each one. Based on which, a unanimous decision leads to selection of a finalist in each category of the Awards.
- 11 ➤ The Bajaj Family's role is of a facilitator and nothing beyond during the whole process. The Chairman of the Foundation may intervene if need arises with the sole objective to safeguard the values and vision of the Foundation and its Awards.
- 12 ➤ The selected names are then recommended by the Chairman of the Council of Advisers to the Board of Trustees of the Foundation to seek its final approval on the names of the four winners.
- 13 ➤ Thereafter, the winners are officially informed about their selection.

JAMNALAL BAJAJ AWARDS : CHIEF GUESTS

Presentation of the Awards

The Jamnalal Bajaj Awards is presented at a special function, which is held on or around 4th November, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Shri Jamnalal Bajaj. The Awardees are invited by the Foundation to receive the Award in person.

In the past, the Awards have been presented at the hands of prominent luminaries and eminent dignitaries.

Jamnalal Bajaj Awards Function – The Chief Guests

- 1978** Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, President of India
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- 1981** Acharya Dada Dharmadhikari, Gandhian Thinker & Sarvodaya Leader
- 1982** Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India
- 1983** Dr. Norman Borlaug, Agricultural Scientist & Nobel Peace Laureate
- 1984** The Right Honourable James Callaghan, former Prime Minister of England
- 1985** R. Venkataraman, Vice President of India
- 1986** Justice M. Hidayatullah, Chairman, JBF Council of Advisers
(on behalf of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Home Minister Government of India)
- 1987** Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Vice President of India
- 1988** Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India
- 1989** Swami Ranganathananda, Vice President, Ramakrishna Mission
- 1990** Dr. Herbert Schambeck, Vice President, Federal Council of the Republic of Austria
- 1991** C. Subramaniam, Governor of Maharashtra
- 1992** K. R. Narayanan, Vice President of India
- 1993** C. Subramaniam, Chairman, JBF Council of Advisers (on behalf of Shri J. R. D. Tata, Chairman, Tata Group)
- 1994** Pandurang Shastri Athavale, Founder, Swadhyaya Pariwar
- 1995** His Holiness The Dalai Lama
- 1996** H. D. Deve Gowda, Prime Minister of India
- 1997** Manohar Joshi, Chief Minister of Maharashtra (on behalf of Shri I. K. Gujral, Prime Minister of India)
- 1998** Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister of India

Jamnalal Bajaj Awards Function – The Chief Guests

- 1999** Dr. P. C. Alexander, Governor of Maharashtra
- 2000** Krishna Kant, Vice President of India
- 2001** Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Union Finance Minister, Government of India
- 2002** Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice President of India
- 2003** Viren Shah, Governor of West Bengal
- 2004** Dr. L. M. Singhvi, Chairman, JBF Council of Advisers (on behalf of Jagadguru Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya)
- 2005** Prof. Amartya Sen, Economist, Philosopher & Nobel Laureate
- 2006** N. R. Narayana Murthy, Chairman & Chief Mentor, Infosys Technologies Ltd.
- 2007** Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Founder, Art of Living Foundation
- 2008** M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India
- 2009** Swami Baba Ramdev Maharaj, Founder, Patanjali Yogpeeth
- 2010** Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India
- 2011** Morari Bapu, Spiritual Leader
- 2012** Dr. Justice C. S. Dharmadhikari, Gandhian Thinker & Chairman, JBF Council of Advisers
- 2013** Pranab Mukherjee, President of India
- 2014** Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate & Founder, Bachpan Bachao Andolan
- 2015** Prof. Rajmohan Gandhi, Historian, Biographer & Peace Builder
- 2016** Dr. Justice C. S. Dharmadhikari, Gandhian Thinker & Chairman, JBF Council of Advisers
- 2017** Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Government of India
- 2018** M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India
- 2019** Sadhguru, Founder, Isha Foundation
- 2020** Jamnalal Bajaj Awards was cancelled due to Coronavirus pandemic
- 2021** Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate & Founder, Bachpan Bachao Andolan
- 2022** Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, FRS, Former Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Chairman, National Innovation Foundation & Chairman, JBF Council of Advisers
- 2023** Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India
- 2024** Dr. Abhay Bang, Founder & Director, SEARCH (Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health)
- 2025** HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj, President & Spiritual Head, Parmarth Niketan Ashram

JAMNALAL BAJAJ AWARDS

SELECTION COMMITTEES

Constructive Work

Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar (Chairman)	Former Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Vidyapeeth and Professor, Gandhian Philosophy
Anami Roy (Co-Chairman)	Former Director General of Police, Maharashtra & Founder Chairman, Vandana Foundation
Adv. Ashutosh Dharmadhikari	Advocate, High Court, Nagpur & Vice President, Varadaan, Indian Association for Promotion of Adoption and Child Welfare
Bharat Mahodaya	Chairman, Gandhi Sewa Sangh, Sewagram
Chetna Sinha	Founder, Mann Deshi Foundation
P. Sainath	Journalist & Founder - Editor, People's Archive of Rural India (PARI)
Rajni Bakshi	Founder, Ahimsa Conversations, a Platform on YouTube
Shama Pawar	Founder and Secretary, The Kishkinda Trust and Convener, INTACH Anegundi Hampi Chapter
Venkat Chary	Chairman, Board of Directors, Multi-Commodity Exchange of India Ltd.
Vibhay Sinha	Senior Consulting Partner, DNA Global Consulting Network
Minal Bajaj	Trustee & Hon. Director, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation
Shubhangi Karkannavar	Secretary, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation

Application of Science and Technology for Rural Development

Dr. Anil Gupta (Chairman)	Visiting Faculty, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
Prof. Ashok Jhunjunwala (Co-Chairman)	Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai
Dr. Anil Rajvanshi	Director, Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute
Prof. Kirti Trivedi	Visiting Distinguished Professor, IIT Indore
Rajendra Singh	General Secretary, Tarun Bharat Sangh
Shloka Nath	CEO, Council of Philanthropies for Climate Action
Dr. Soumya Swaminathan	Chairperson, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation
Dr. Ulhas Jajoo	Director, Professor and Head, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences
Minal Bajaj	Trustee & Hon. Director, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation
Shubhangi Karkannavar	Secretary, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation

SELECTION COMMITTEES

Development and Welfare of Women and Children

Dr. Pheroza Godrej (Chairperson)	Chairperson, Godrej Archives Council
Prof. Vandana Chakrabarti (Co-Chairperson)	Ex-Pro Vice Chancellor, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai
Amit Chandra	Chairperson & Founder, Bain Capital – India Office & Co-Founder, A.T.E Chandra Foundation
Ashok Bang	Director, Chetana Vikas and Alternative Agriculture Resource Centre
Kiran Rao	Director, Kindling Pictures
Sr. Lucy Kurien	Founder Director, Maher
Mukul Upadhyaya	Consultant, Bajaj Archives
Pradip Shah	Chairman, IndAsia Fund Advisors Pvt. Ltd.
Prof. Dr. Roopa Kulkarni	Retired Professor, Head of Sanskrit Department, Nagpur University
Prof. Dr. Rupa Shah	Former Vice-Chancellor, SNDT University
Saumya Roy	Author and Co-Founder, Vandana Foundation
Zarina Screwvala	Co-Founder, Swades Foundation
Minal Bajaj	Trustee & Hon. Director, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation
Shubhangi Karkannavar	Secretary, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation

Promoting Gandhian Values Outside India

Anu Aga (Chairman)	Retired as Chairperson, Thermax Limited
Rajagopal P. V. (Co-Chairman)	President & Founding Member, Ekta Parishad and Managing Trustee, International Gandhian Initiative for Non-violence and Peace
Amb. Ashok Gokhale I.F.S. (Retd.)	Former Foreign Secretary, Government of India
Amb. Bhaswati Mukherjee I.F.S. (Retd.)	Former Indian Ambassador to The Netherlands & UNESCO, Paris
Dr. Kirit Parikh	Director, Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute
Amb. Lakhan Mehrotra I.F.S. (Retd.)	Chairman, Integrated Research & Action for Development and Former Member, Planning Commission, Government of India
Amb. Navdeep Suri	Former Foreign Secretary, Government of India and Founder Secretary, National Media Centre Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation
Dr. Pramath Sinha	Founder & Trustee, Ashoka University and Founding Dean, Indian School of Business
Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna	Chief Functionary, Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance
Dr. Smita Jassal	Visiting Professor of Social Anthropology, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Ashoka University
Vijay Gokhale	Former Foreign Secretary & Distinguished Professor, Symbiosis International
Minal Bajaj	Trustee & Hon. Director, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation
Shubhangi Karkannavar	Secretary, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation