



JRD TATA AWARDS 2025
Empowering Grampreneurs® for India's Economic Growth

Celebrating Excellence in Entrepreneurship

Tuesday, 29 July 2025 | India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

“What is exceptional about BYST is the fact that even a little bit of advice-technical, marketing and basic management from a business mentor will go a long way towards helping young people get a start in their business and in their lives.”

- JRD Tata



“For the last three decades, Lakshmi ji has carried forward the torch of JRD Tata’s vision for India with unwavering dedication. Though he may not be with us today, his flame continues to shine brightly through her hands and through BYST.”

-Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia



About the Event

The JRD Tata Awards 2025, BYST's flagship celebration of entrepreneurial excellence, was held on 29th July, 2025 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Hon'ble Minister of Communication and Minister of Development of North-Eastern Region, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and felicitated outstanding Grampreneurs® from across the country. The event brought together policymakers, industry leaders, civil societies, mentors, and entrepreneurs to honour and acknowledge transformative journeys that reflect the power of grassroots entrepreneurship in shaping India's economic growth.

Around 3,000 people joined the event both in-person and online from different parts of the country, including places like Kalahandi and Rayagada (Odisha), Ranchi and Ramgarh (Jharkhand), as well as Pune, Satara, Sriperumbudur, Hyderabad, Chennai, and more.

Jury Panel



Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran
Chief Economic Advisor
Government of India



Dr. Ashok Khosla
Founder and Chairman
Development Alternatives Group



Dr. G. "Anand" Anandalingam
Professor,
University of Maryland



Mr. Anand Deshpande
CMD: Persistent Systems Ltd. &
Founder Trustee:
deAsra Foundation



Mr. R. Dinesh
Founder:
TVS-Supply Chain Solutions



Mr. Sashidhar Jagdishan
MD & CEO:
HDFC Bank



Ms. Jennifer JordanSaifi,
CEO
Sustainable
Markets Initiative



Mr. Raj Chengappa
Group Editorial Director:
India Today Group



Ms. Shobhaa De
Columnist and
Social Commentator



Ms. Shereen Bhan
Managing Editor:
CNBC-TV 18



Mr. Shreekant Somany
Chairman & CMD:
Somany Ceramics Ltd

Nominees



Amruta Mangle
Hindavi Solutions



Deepti Korde
Rajdeo & Ko



G. Sampath
Shimi Designs



Mayur Hiwarkar
Urja Saur Electronics



Panchamirtham E.
Indo Tools & Dies



Ravi J
Reliance Diamond Tools



Sandeep Dabhade
Phoenix Industries



Sarika Patil
Vikas Agencies



Seema Agarwal
Choice Decors



Shekhar Sangwikar
Think Lean Prefab Systems



Siddharth Salunke
Bioera Life Sciences

Criteria for Selection

1. Entrepreneur of the Year Award

- Entrepreneurs must have a minimum turnover of Rs. 5 Crores and above
- Entrepreneurs must maintain a good working relationship with their respective mentor(s)
- BYST nurtured Entrepreneur

2. Women Entrepreneur of the Year Award

- Women Entrepreneurs with a minimum turnover of Rs. 2 Crores and above
- Entrepreneurs must maintain a good working relationship with their respective mentor(s)
- BYST nurtured Entrepreneur.

Winners of JRD Tata Awards 2025



Entrepreneur of the Year Award
G. Sampath, Founder of Shimi Designs



Runnerup, Entrepreneur of the Year Award
Mayur Hiwarkar, Founder of Urja Saur Electronics



Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award
Panchamirtham E, Indo Tools & Dies



Lifetime Achievement Award
J. Ravi, Reliance Diamond Tools

Special Plenary: Celebrating Excellence in Entrepreneurship

The Special Plenary on 'Celebrating Excellence in Entrepreneurship' celebrated the excellence in entrepreneurship. The highlight of the session was the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Minister of Communication and Minister of Development of Northeastern Region. Other dignitaries who graced the session were Mr. Subodh Bhargava, Chairman, Tata Communications, Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee, DG, CII, Mr. Harsh Pati Singhania, CMD, J K Paper Ltd., Ms. Lakshmi Venkataraman Venkatesan, Founding and Managing Trustee, BYST and Mr. Shreekanth Somany, CMD, Somany Ceramics Ltd.



Empowering Grampreneurs® through Technology, Quality and Sustainability

The session 'Empowering Grampreneurs through Technology, Quality and Sustainability' had Mr. Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India as Special Guest. The other dignitaries of the session were Ms. Nidhi Satija, Director, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Mr. Pramod Bhasin, Chairman, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), Mr. Gaurav Dalmia, Chairman, Dalmia Group Holdings, Mr. Harish Krishnan MD & Chief Policy, Officer, CISCO India & ASEAN and Mr. Chakravarthy T. Kannan Secretary General, Quality Council of India (QCI).



Excellence in Entrepreneurship

Focusing on the journey from vision to impact, the session highlighted diverse perspectives on nurturing excellence in entrepreneurship. The session was graced with the presence of Ms. Deepa Wadhwa, Chairperson, Indo-Japan Friendship Forum, Mr. Giresh Mohan, General Manager, Operations, Social Investments, ITC, Mr. Ashok Khosla, Chairman, Development Alternatives Group, Dr. Sunil Shukla, DG, EDII, Ms. Shobhaa De, Indian Novelist and Columnist, Dr. Anand Anandalingam, Professor, University of Maryland and Mr. Pankaj Pachauri, Founder, GoNews India.



Special Components

1. Release of Impact Journey Booklet

Chief Guest Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia unveiled a booklet, titled 'From Vision to Value, Grampreneurs® Shaping India's Economic Growth' showcasing inspiring journeys of successful grampreneurs®. The booklet highlights grassroots innovations and the transformative impact of BYST's mentoring-led entrepreneurship model.



2. Launch of 'Go Green for Sustainable \ Business Growth' Toolkit

Special Guest, Mr. Shombi Sharp launched the 'Go Green for Sustainable Business Growth' toolkit which aims to support Green Grampreneurs® with practical tips and guidance to integrate green energy practices into their businesses.



3. Launch of BYST Sustainability Club

Five Green Ambassadors (BYST Green Grampreneurs)- Arun Awatade, Hitendar Punyane, Jagadeesh Palraj, and Yogesh Gawande were given away certificates. They took pledge to think and act greener.

4. MoU exchange between BYST and CII-CEL

Mr. C. Banerjee, DG, CII and Ms. Lakshmi V. Venkatesan exchanged an MoU which aims to promote youth entrepreneurship and employment through joint initiatives in awareness, training, mentoring, and credit linkage.

5. MoU exchange between BYST and Quality Control of India (QCI)

Mr. Chakravarthy T Kannan, Secretary General, QCI and Ms. Arunavinodh Kumar, COO, BYST exchanged an MoU to promote quality-driven entrepreneurship by combining QCI's expertise with BYST's mentoring and grassroots enterprise support.

6. MoU exchange between BYST and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

Mr. Nitish Kumar, Co-Founder and Director, ONDC and Ms. Arunavinodh Kumar, COO, BYST exchanged an MoU to drive digital transformation for BYST-supported entrepreneurs by onboarding them to ONDC platform offering free digital onboarding, ongoing virtual support, and training sessions.

7. MoU exchange between BYST and Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII)

Mr. Sunil Shukla, DG, EDII and Ms. Arunavinodh Kumar, COO, BYST exchanged an MoU to promote entrepreneurship through mentoring, joint training programmes and shared resources.

Exhibition

An exhibition was organized as part of the event, showcasing products from thirty entrepreneurs across three themes—Innovation, Social Inclusion, and Green. The display featured a diverse range of items such as solar panels, eco-friendly cups and plates made from sugarcane mash, vermicompost, fish oil, artificial teeth, millet-based chocolates, precision cutting tools, blinder curtains, metal bushes, and more.

BYST in the News

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The Economic Times Hindi > /News > /Byst-Model-Startup-Grassroots-Entrepreneurs-Shine-In-Jrd-Tata

गांवों से निकले भारत के टॉप ग्रामप्रेन्योर : जानिए कैसे BYST मॉडल ने मेंटरशिप के जरिए बदली स्टार्टअप की तस्वीर

Compiled by ईटी हिंदी डेस्क The Economic Times Hindi • Updated: 7 Aug 2025, 4:56 pm

भारतीय युवा शक्ति ट्रस्ट द्वारा आयोजित जेआरडी टाटा आंत्रप्रिन्योरशिप अवार्ड्स में ग्रामीण उद्यमियों को सम्मानित किया गया। सम्पत जी को 'शिमी डिज़ाइन्स' के लिए मुख्य पुरस्कार मिला, जबकि मयूर हीवरकर ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में योगदान के लिए उपविजेता रहे। रवि जे. को लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवॉर्ड से नवाजा गया।



इंडिया हैबिटेट सेंटर में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि केंद्रीय संचार और पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र विकास मंत्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया और भारतीय युवा शक्ति ट्रस्ट (BYST) की संस्थापक और प्रबंधन ट्रस्टी लक्ष्मी वी. वेंकटेशन ने सभी विजेताओं को सम्मानित किया

BHARATIYA YUVA SHAKTI TRUST

C/o Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
Core 4A, 4th Floor, Habitat Center, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003
Tel: (011) 2469 3079 Telefax: (011) 2468 2226
CII Board Line: (011) 2468 2230-35 Ext: 318, 500
Email: admin@bystonline.org Website: https://byst.org.in



HELPLINE NO.

1800-121-181-181

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JRD Tata Awards 2025: Empowering grassroots entrepreneurs through mentorship and vision

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia felicitated grassroots entrepreneurs at the JRD Tata Awards 2025, celebrating BYST's vision of mentoring-driven, inclusive economic growth across India.



Anoop Verma • ETGovernment
Published On Jul 30, 2025 at 07:26 AM IST



"This is an era where India has risen. And in that rise, our Grampreneurs are not passengers—they are pilots!"
Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

In a luminous convergence of legacy and grassroots innovation, the JRD Tata Awards 2025 unfolded today at the India Habitat Centre, celebrating the quiet revolution of India's hinterland entrepreneurs—its Grampreneurs.

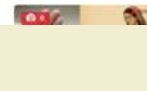
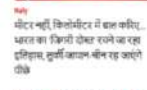
Instituted in 1995 in the

छोटे शहरों के बड़े प्लेयर, कैसे ग्रामोप्योर लोगों को दे रहे नौकरी; क्या है मॉडल?

Entrepreneurs in Villages: एक ग्रामोप्योर औरतान 10 लोगों को रोजगार देता है उसका बिजनेस गांव की स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था को मजबूत करता है

Written By: chetan Sharma | Last Updated: Jul 30, 2025, 04:52 PM IST

WhatsApp: 91 98 98 98 98



क्या है ग्रामोप्योर मॉडल?

Gram Entrepreneurs JRD TATA Award 2025: आज हम ऐसे लोगों के बारे में बता रहे हैं जिनका नाम शायद ही आपने कभी सुना हो लेकिन वो अब रोल मॉडल बनते जा रहे हैं. हम पहले एक ही शब्द सुनते थे आंत्रप्रन्योर. अब ग्रामोप्योर भी आगे बढ़ रहा है. ग्रामोप्योर वो लोग हैं जिन्होंने गांवों और कस्बों में रहते हुए खुद का कारोबार खड़ा किया और दूसरों के लिए भी रोजगार के रास्ते खोले.



Economy • 9 Min Read

Mentorship, micro-enterprises, and a movement: Scaling Grampreneurs, reimagining rural economy

Lakshmi Venkatesan, Founding Trustee of BYST, on how the JRD Tata Awards 2025 are spotlighting Grampreneurs—rural innovators transforming India's economy through mentorship and enterprise.



Anoop Verma • ETGovernment
Published On Aug 1, 2025 at 07:07 AM IST



Lakshmi Venkatesan, Founding Trustee of BYST

In an era obsessed with unicorns and startup valuations, it is easy to overlook the quiet revolution brewing in India's hinterland.

The 2025 edition of the JRD Tata Awards, organised by the Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust (BYST) on July 29,

turned the spotlight toward a different kind of innovator — the Grampreneur.



ETV Bharat / Bharat

Success Story: युवा उद्यमी कीर्तना ने सिर्फ 50,000 से खड़ा किया 2 करोड़ के टर्नओवर का कारोबार, अंतरराष्ट्रीय मंच पर मिल चुका है सम्मान - YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR KEERTHANA

युवा उद्यमी कीर्तना ने सिर्फ 50,000 से खड़ा किया 2 करोड़ के टर्नओवर का कारोबार, अंतरराष्ट्रीय मंच पर मिल चुका है सम्मान - YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR KEERTHANA



युवा उद्यमी कीर्तना (ETV Bharat)

By ETV Bharat Delhi Team
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5 Min Read