

2000 Citizens award (aka 'Man of the Century' award) by Chemtech Foundation – DHA transcript

(RV, only audio OK) | Duration: 06m00s

[00:00:01]

Thank you very much for affection and for your generosity. The Chemtech Foundation and the chemical engineering world has done me a great honor. I am deeply moved. I am proud to be a part of chemical industry. It has made a great contribution in economic development. It has played a great role in improving the quality of life of common people. It has a great past, I believe, it has a greater future.

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Ladies and gentlemen, friends often praise me for being a doer. In fact, I take pride in being a dreamer. Big achievement follow if you dream big. Reliance is a proof of power of dreams. All of you are familiar with Reliance, name of the company, all of us admit, Reliance is also the message behind the dream.

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I have always believed, if you rely on people, you can do wonders. Trust them, you can achieve the miracles.

Lakhs of people joined me in building Reliance. Within us, there has always been one common bond: Reliance and trust. They placed trust in me, in return I stood by their trust without failing. Reliance is times of trust.

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I have also believed in the power of youth. I relied on them and they have never failed me. I have given them daunting challenges. They have always risen to the occasion. I set them to run on path full of obstacles. They have always overcome the obstacles and won the race. Greater the challenge, greater has been their achievement.

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More than anything else, I always have faith in our country. Even today I look ahead to the great _____ to future of the India. I dream big about India in new millennium. Often, people think opportunity as matter of luck. I believe opportunities are all around us. Some seize it, others stand and let it pass it by.

Today, we stand on doorstep of opportunities we never had before. As I look at India today, I think of an average Indian. I think of his needs, healthy food, good clothes, comfortable houses, quality education, healthcare, entertainment, _____ and recreation.

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I envision in taking India lakhs of villages to good roads. I envision every village in India having a telephone and are connected to internet. Put all this together and you see the enormous opportunity that lies before us.

Every Indian is a challenge, every Indian is also an opportunity. To converge this challenge and opportunity is our task. We are billion Indians, and India offers us a billion opportunities. Industry and businesses can seize the opportunities. They can make immense contribution in taking India forward.

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Ladies and gentlemen, this is not an honor to individual. It's an honor for large number of people, investors, managers, business associate, bankers and others. All of them are partners in Reliance's processes. Millions of Indians will be inspired and encouraged by your gesture. You are telling them to dare, and move forward. I accept this honor with all humility.

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As I do so, I dream that India will produce not one Reliance, but several. Several Dhirubhai Ambanis will emerge from our young people. I would like to be just one person in that crowd of great Indian achievers. Nothing will give me a greater happiness. Thank you very much gentlemen.