



# ANNUAL PANJAB UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION DAY LECTURE 2023

*Forms a Part of Monthly Panjab University Colloquium Series*

## The University and the Nation

**SPEAKER: JATINDER KUMAR BAJAJ**

**Presided by: Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University, Chandigarh**

### ABSTRACT

In this lecture I shall present reminiscences of my long association with the Panjab University and speak about the great expansion of education in India that has happened within my own life-time, and about how much more still remains to be done. I shall also discuss the role of the University in nation-building and reflect on how the University can become an essential and integral part of the fast evolving story of India by carrying out intense micro-level research on the cultural and natural resources and potentialities of the region of Punjab, which now comprises several States and UTs.



**Padma Shri Dr. Jatinder Kumar Bajaj**  
Director of the Centre for Policy Studies  
Chennai and Delhi

**DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2023**

**TIME: 12.00 p.m.**

**VENUE: UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM**

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Born on March 21, 1952 in Punjab, Dr. Bajaj earned an M.Sc. (Honours) degree in 1973 and Ph.D. (Theoretical Physics) in 1978 from the Department of Physics, Punjab University, Chandigarh. During his research career in physics, he has worked at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and Bombay and at the University of Madras, Chennai.

In 1990, Dr. Bajaj along with a few colleagues founded the Centre for Policy Studies at Chennai with the objective of comprehending India from an Indian perspective. The Centre has produced an extraordinary corpus of work that places different aspects of the Indian situation today in historical and civilisational continuity with our past. In their seminal work, *Annam Bahu Kurvita* (अन्नं बहु कुर्वीत), Dr. Bajaj and his colleagues, poignantly invoke the classical discipline of producing and sharing food in plenty and invite the India of today to reclaim that heritage. In their detailed exploration of the Religious Demography of India, they urge us to be aware of and recover the demographic balance essential for maintaining social harmony and civilizational continuity.

Dr. Bajaj has conceived and led programme to prepare micro-level Resource Atlases that graphically document the distinct attributes of the land and people of every district and locality of India. Dr. Bajaj has served and continues to serve as a member of the Governing Councils and Advisory Committees of several apex organisations under the Government of India in the fields of education, social sciences and science and technology.

For his consistent work of national significance, he was conferred the Padma Shri in 2022.

**Coordinator**  
**Prof. Monica Munjial Singh**

**Co-coordinator**  
**Dr. Shweta Rana**

**ORGANIZING TEAM: Prof. Sushil Kansal, Prof. Pampa Mukherjee, Prof. Seema Kapoor, Prof. Ram Mehar, Prof. Kewal Krishan, Prof. Paru Bal Sidhu, Dr. Anu H. Gupta, Dr. Tejinder Pal Singh, Dr. Jaspreet Kaur, Dr. Archana Chauhan, Dr. Ravinder Kumar**