

Winner of the coveted Gaja Capital Business Book Prize announced

Sonu Bhasin's *Entrepreneurs Who Built India—Lala Shri Ram: The Man Who Saw Tomorrow*, took home the Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 2024.

Sonu Bhasin, a respected business leader and family business historian's book, is a biography that explores the life of Lala Shri Ram, a pioneering entrepreneur who transformed DCM into one of India's largest business houses by the 1950s.

Speaking at *Gaja Talks 2024*, Bhasin said, "I am delighted to receive the award. This is an excellent initiative by Gaja Capital and goes a very long way in encouraging authors, especially business authors. I dedicate this award to the memory of Lala Shri Ram, a true visionary, and to all family business owners who are the unsung heroes of our country. Thank you Gaja Capital."

Held at the Four Seasons in Mumbai, the *Gaja Talks 2024* event saw a dynamic gathering of leading industry professionals, entrepreneurs and thought leaders. The event featured an insightful panel discussion with the shortlisted authors—Sonu Bhasin, Bhagwan Chowdhry, Anas Ahmed, Shashank Mani Tripathi, Kamal Shah and AR Venkatachalapathy—that covered subjects like entrepreneurship, economics and India's rich business history. It also celebrated the impactful contributions of Indian business leaders. This year's prize comes with an enhanced prize money of ₹ 20 lakhs, further solidifying its position as India's most prestigious business book honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Gopal Jain, co-founder and managing partner of Gaja Capital said, "This year's winner intricately weaves India's



Left to right: Manish Sabharwal, Arindam Bhattacharya, Bhagwan Chowdhry, Shailesh Haribhakti, Anas Ahmed, Shashank Mani Tripathi, Sonu Bhasin, Kamal Shah, A.R. Venkatachalapathy, UK Sinha, Prithvi Haldea, Gopal Jain, Ranjit Shah, Imran Jafar.



Left to right: Sonu Bhasin and Gopal Jain.

rich history, entrepreneurial spirit and evolution over the decades with Lala Shri Ram's journey, visionary leadership, and profound societal impact. Sonu Bhasin's work not only honours Lala Shri Ram's legacy but also inspires future generations of leaders to

dream big and act boldly. The Gaja Capital Business Book Prize remains committed to promoting such narratives that enrich our understanding of the business landscape and encourage young entrepreneurs to pursue their vision. We dedicate this year's edition of the

business book prize to the memory of Ratan Tata. It is fitting that the Gaja Capital Business Book Prize debut award in 2019 was given to Girish Kuber and Vikrant Pande's book on the remarkable legacy of Tatas—*The Tatas: How a Family Built a Business and a Nation*.

Manish Sabharwal, chairman of the jury, commented, "*Entrepreneurs Who Built India—Lala Shri Ram: The Man Who Saw Tomorrow*, is an extraordinary book that goes beyond mere storytelling. Sonu Bhasin captures Lala Shri Ram's incredible journey and lasting influence on India's business world. It underscores how resilience, innovation and social responsibility are vital to the entrepreneurial spirit that defines our nation. This book will inspire future generations of leaders."

The jury for the sixth edition included eminent figures from industry, investments, public policy, and governance: Manish Sabharwal, vice-chairman at TeamLease (chairman, jury); Imran Jafar, co-founder and managing partner of Gaja Capital; Aarthi Subramanian, group chief digital officer at Tata Sons; Arindam Bhattacharya, senior advisor and emeritus partner at BCG; Dr Lakshmi Venu, MD of Sundaram-Clayton (SCL); Dr Sangita Reddy, joint MD of Apollo Hospitals; Neelkanth Mishra, chief economist, head of global research and board member at Axis Capital; Prithvi Haldea, founder chairman of Praxis Consulting; Shailesh Haribhakti, founder and managing partner of Shailesh Haribhakti & Associates; and UK Sinha, former head of the RBI Expert Committee on MSMEs and former chairman of SEBI.

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