

Reminder on... Ekta Parishad & Janadesh 2007

India connection

Since the declaration of Janadesh in 2005, a lot has been done in terms of advocacy and mobilisation. Now that Janadesh is only 4 months away, Ekta Parishad has decided to strengthen the international communication. We will be focusing on it and through this newsletter we will inform you about Janadesh events and update you on the latest preparations, directly from Dehli.

*Long live Janadesh!
Janadesh Zindabad!*

"**Ekta Parishad** is not a trade union, a political party or an NGO; it is a mass organisation. As such, the Parishad makes micro changes in people's lives through mass action, but it also operates at the macro level and tries to influence policies, programmes and agenda of governance. This is achieved by opening up channels of communication and dialogue with the state through Ekta Parishad's links in the bureaucracy, politics, journalism and other fields.

Ekta Parishad also favours networking for solidarity action at the national and international level to positively affect policies and programmes."

Amitabh Behar, in Peoples' Social Movements: An Alternative Perspective on Forest Management in India.

Janadesh 2007 is an ultimatum to the Government of India to resolve the land issue or face non-violent direct action. 25000 landless, deprived people will undertake a 340 Km foot march to Delhi in October 2007, to demand right to land and livelihood. The right to **life** and **dignity** is the core issue; access to natural resources and equal distribution of resources is also a main focus. The state cannot deprive people from having access to land and it cannot keep giving it away to certain powerful lobbies. In Janadesh 2007, about 70% of the yatrees (people marching) will be **tribals** coming from 11 states all across India.



Across the country, especially in states where Ekta Parishad is active for many years, several programs are taking place such as Cycle Yatra, Foot march, Sit-in and protests. People are keeping pressure on the state authorities and showing their support to Janadesh 2007.

Latest events:

- State committee meeting at Bhopal on 30th April 2007.
- National Consultation on Land Reform in New Delhi May 2007.
- Sit-in in Bihar.
- Sit-in in Bhubaneswar (Orissa) started on 8th march 2007 (80 days completed!).
- 3rd Civil Society Review on National Common Minimum Program May 2007.
- Training of 500 local leaders for Janadesh by Rajagopal in Gwalior.
- Cultural programs all along the Janadesh Route to inform the village people of the future Foot March.
- Contact making with public authorities, school / college students... are going on all over India.
- Creation of the International Committee of Janadesh followers.
- The Vice-President of the European Parliament (Mr Onesta) has written a letter to the Indian Prime Minister requesting him to look in to all the issues raised by Janadesh Process.
- Meetings in Janadesh Office Delhi with local and international media.

Contents:

Reminder on Ekta Parishad and Janadesh 2007 1

Latest events in India around Janadesh 2007 1

Following Rajaji's tracks on the Janadesh Route 2

Review of Janadesh Monthly newspaper 2

Events coming soon 3

European involvement 3

How to participate? 3

Janadesh Route Map 4

Following Rajaji's tracks on the Janadesh Route

A few days ago, we followed Rajagopal P.V. for 2 days of field meetings in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan...

Leaving from Delhi early morning, we reach **Morena** (on the Janadesh route) after a 4-5 hours train journey. As soon as Rajaji steps on the platform, a crowd of 30 activists greet him with powerful songs and cover him with flowers. We are then taken to the office of a **local newspaper** where Rajaji counts many friends who immediately feed us with typical North Indian sweets while they start interviewing him. Immediately after, we are driven to a village, through the dry landscapes of **Chambal Valley**. In this barren area, the ravines around us are highly unfriendly, but we can still observe some agricultural activities. The public meeting has gathered hundreds of men from the surrounding villages in spite of the dreadful heat. They have brought dozens of **bags of wheat** as their contribution to the Janadesh effort, they are pleased to deposit them in front of the Gandhian activists assembled today.

Later on, we reach a beautiful temple thanks to a road that was constructed in the 1970's by the hand of the first Ekta Parishadians... We end up the day in **Gandhi Seva Ashram** (in Joura village) after stopping to greet some old friends and supporters of Ekta Parishad. The Gandhians living in this Ashram produce their own Kadhi fabric and honey. After a generous dinner, the day is not finished: some logistic points of Janadesh are being discussed seriously by the leaders...

After a windy night under the stars, on the warm roof top of the Ashram, the day starts with the moving testimony of Bahadur, a former **Dacoit** (outlaw) converted to non-violence by Rajagopal and Subba Rao. The round starts again and we are invited to meet several local families supporting Janadesh: lawyers, politicians, journalists, local activists, middle-class business men... We even have a successful appointment with the **Superintendent of Police** of Morena District, who ensures us of his full support when the 25 000 landless poor people will march through his District.

Eventually, we drive up to Dholpur, **Rajasthan**, where a **cultural programme** has been going on during the past days, led by Gauri and the music of Ekta Kala Manch (cultural team). Village people have been informed of Janadesh and today is the first Ekta Parishad meeting in this region. We are impressed by the large number of people gathered and especially the involvement of **village women**. The meeting is very lively and after Rajaji's speech, each woman wishes to exchange a few words with him. Before leaving back to Delhi, we sit one last time with a handful of motivated students to establish new activities in Rajasthan. A famous lawyer offers us a delicious late lunch before we jump into the crowded train that carries us back to Delhi. Even then, we work part of journey: no waste of time, there is always a matter to discuss!



« *Between Silence
and Violence,
There is active
Non-violence.* »
Rajagopal P.V.

Review of Janadesh monthly newspaper

Since November 2006, a group of young journalists from Delhi are writing articles each month about Janadesh and the ongoing activities in each state. A monthly newspaper is edited and distributed to around 2000 people. **Here are some of the subjects developed recently:**

- The necessity of rectifying past mistakes: A new Act on forest and tribal can help to stop displacement and recognise tribal rights.
- One more war on land: Rajagopal PV explains that land reform is increasingly becoming a central point of social conflict in India and around the world.
- After 58 years of independence, government has still not clearly stated how to provide justice for tribals and indigenous subjected to exploitation and atrocities.
- Even Dehli is concerned by land issue. Lifestyle and culture of the 400 villages settlement have been destroyed and land has been grabbed by mafias.
- Hunger and migration is the destiny of Tribals in Chambal region (Madhya Pradesh). They are forced to migrate in search of sources of livelihoods.
- Nandigram, West Bengal: How this traditionally left state is grabbing the land of the poor; explanations on the Social Economic Zones and new industrial policies.



« *Well being of the last for
the well being of all!* »

Coming soon... in India

To continue the advocacy effort across India, many large events will take place in the coming weeks:

- 3 States Padyatra (in Orissa, Jarkhand and Chattisgarh) where the states are competing to get more and more investment by inviting national and multinational companies to have access to their natural resources.
- Vehicle Yatra starting from Bhubaneswar (Orissa) on 28th May in support to the sit-in.
- Training of 500 local leaders for Janadesh by Rajagopal, in Raipur (Chattisgarh) 2-3 June 2007.
- 100 days sit-in in Delhi (Jantar Mantar square) as count down to Janadesh 2007.
- Women based rallies in 5 districts of Madhya Pradesh in June 2007.
- Parallel march to Janadesh 2007 in Andhra Pradesh (starting 2nd October 2007).



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Events in Europe, in support of Janadesh

The Indian landless who will participate in Janadesh will be accompanied by around **250 foreigners**, among whom we will count some partner NGOs, journalists and various types of supports. At the moment, the European partners of Ekta Parishad are working actively to promote Janadesh and mobilize more support.

For example, some partners are preparing newsletters, publishing books, organizing conferences, contacting media (press, TV, radio) in their own country.

We encourage all partners to inform us on their campaign in order to realize a review of actions around the world!

How to participate?

Beside the 25 000 people marching, the entire Janadesh process will involve a total of 150 000 people through different actions:

- 25 000 Indians as well as 25 000 people from across the globe are going to write a letter to Prime Minister of India;
- 25 000 well documented land claims are under preparation. This will also be handed over to the government;
- 25 000 children will bear the friendship band;
- A crowd will be waiting for the padyatra in Delhi;
- Ekta Parishad is also requesting 25 000 people across the globe to sponsor those who will be walking.

A lot more still needs to be done in terms of fundraising, water facilities and sanitation on the route, organization of health cares & provision of pharmacy items for the yatrees...

Apart from these suggestions, you can also **support Janadesh 2007** by communicating about this event around you or during public meetings.

Please feel free to **contact us** for any suggestion or any information at janadesh2007@gmail.com and we will be glad to answer you!



התחנות

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Date	Starting Point	Contact Village	Night Stay	Dist. (Km)	Contact Persons
02.10.07	Mela Ground	Gole ka Mandir ITI College, Gadai Pura Police Thana Baldevpura	IIT Jalalpur	06	Pritem Lodhi (09425307268), Gautampuri (09425115258), Rajvir Bansal (09425308757).
03.10.07	IIT Jalalpur	Ganga Malanpur Purani Cha- wani Jigsoli, Barua, Rairu	Sriram College, Bamora	13	Resource Center (0751-2491653), Dewan Singh (09300656473), Birbal Singh (09826221859), Kadamsingh Yadav (093011068998), Patiram Gupta (09425310081).
04.10.07	Sriram Col- lege, Bamore	Industrial Area Noorabad Tekri	Tekri	12	D S Gurger (07532-239383), Lakshmandas.
05.10.07	Tekri	Chonda, Morena, K S Mill, Jauri	Gharuna	13	Birendra Rajak (09301810677), Rakesh Yadav (09425126286), Naresh Sakya (09229749178).
06.10.07	Gharuna	Bandha, Hetampur Saraichola, Piprai	Devpuri	12	Shivraj.
07.10.07	Devpuri	Chambal River, Rajghat Sagarpara, Dhaulpur	Rico	10	Puran Bohra (09414026638), Madan (09413670908), Devendra (09252270870), Durgadas Sastri (09414027456).
08.10.07	Rico	Dariapur, Bilpur Maharajpur DubraTor, Suaka Bagh, Mania Biparpur, Biraunda	Hanu ta Chowki	12	Chandan Singh, Navalsingh Kushwaha, Damodar Kushwaha, Morarilal Kushwaha, Dharm Kushwaha.
09.10.07	Hanuta Chowki	Siapura, Bagchuli Khar, Sijrauli Nayapura, Bodhpura ,Baretha	Saniya- Jajau	10	Babulal Parashar (0561-3292032), Malkhan Singh (097191556230), Raman Bhai (09719252501), Manvendra Singh.
10.10.07	Saniya – Jajau	Dakhaliपुर, Tehra Farm, Tehra Bagia, Tehra Gaon, Virharu, Lahchura	Gadhi- Navobar	13	Compoter Singh (09398638649), Sanjay Singh (09897939452), Rajkumar (09412395126), Shivshankar (09412263244).
11.10.07	Gadhi- Navobar	Nagla Imli, Mubarakpur Baglasyamlal, Bad Surajpura, Bishara , Kuthawali Kabulpur Iteura, Rohta, Nagla, Nainana, Sevla Sarai, Gopalpura	Shaktinagar	12	Hoshiyar Singh (09412558672), Mansingh Pradhan (09897170184), Roller Singh (09412815066), Brijendra Singh (09897824772), Manoj Kumar (09759243510), Santosh Gupta (0562-2230497), Binod Singh (05622730496), Rambir Singh (0562-2730232), Om Prakash (09897211681).
12.10.07	Shaktinagar	Gopalpur Bundukatra, Sadar Pratap pura, Agra College, Sant Jons Hari Parvat, Madia Katra Billauchpura, Bhavana Tower, Shastrapuram Churha	Sastrapuram (Industrial Area)	17	Manorama Bahen (09412259491), Chandramohan (093580049320), Sahay Ji (09335216251), Sanjay Sachdeva, Pankaj Bansal (09319200105), Balmukund (09412724525), Subhash (09412165413), Om Prakash Parashar, Dr R N Sharma.
13.10.07	Sastrapuram	Runkuta, Udsena, Ketham	BMAS College Ketham	10	Rajen (09917222112), Ramakant (09927469950).
14.10.07	Ketham	Raipura Jat Sahapura , Hindustan College Sachdeva College	Salempura- Farah	10	
15.10.07	Salempura- Farah	Mahuan	Barari (Refinery)	10	
16.10.07	Barari (Refinery)	Refinery Baad	Jaigurudev Ashram	14	
17.10.07	Jaigurudev Ashram	Gobardhan Chaurah Krishna Nagar Dental Hospital	Kota Gaon	11	Ravi Chaddha (09337449838).
18.10.07	Kota Gaon	Chatikara, Jaitgaon	Chaumuha	10	
19.10.07	Chaumuha	Narisembri	Chata (Factory)	11	Saurav versheny (09412178489), Ramdev Rahi (05662242862), Prakash Verma (05662-242848), Arjun Jatav (09897197939), Ramesh Yaduvnsnhi (0983718157), Sri Ramgopal (09219121224), Charan Singh (09837028211).
20.10.07	Chata (Factory)	Dotana Ajitpur	Kosi (Overbridge)	12	Janadesh Center (Ravi) (09897913871), Puran Singh Chaudhary (09412278051), Rahul Saxena (09837768035).
21.10.07	Kosi	Pashupati Fiver factory, Sam- kan Factory , Kotban	Hodel (Rice Mill)	11	Madhav Das Maharaj (09837849751), Jabar Singh (09837849445), Shayam Sundar (09319974146).
22.10.07	Hodel	Mulwana, Umrala, Dehi gaon	Banchri (Farm)	10	Unis Bhai (09813249129), Ramesh Chand (09813535358), Pradhan Singh (01275270979).
23.10.07	Banchari	Mudkati Choki, Moroli, Man- pur, Sorai, Khaitela, Tumsara, Auragabad	Bamanikheda	12	Gaj Raj Singh (09813428542).
24.10.07	Bamanikheda	Beherola, Kusulipur, TikatiBra- haman	Sawanvihar- Palwal	9	Nehepal Singh (09255566888), Samal Babu (01275270264), Kunjswer Chaudhary (01275258482).
25.10.07	Palwal	Nangla Kalki Singh, Alampur	Baghula (Haryana Sanskrit Vidyapeeth)	10	Balvir Singh (09811752317), Ashawni (01292205953), Badal Ranji (09873121478), Sameer (09911149941).
26.10.07	Baghula	Prathola, Gadapuri, Sikari, Kel Gaon, Jhor Sethali	Ballabgharh	14	Sevaram Verma (09350008663), Devendra Sharma (09213211010), Govind Sarpanch (098111523131).
27.10.07	Ballabgharh		Faridabad (Maruti Showroom)	13/17	Vir Pal Singh (09899128921), Vidya Ratan (09811115560).