

## D-100: Starting Countdown!

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### The 3 Janadesh Requirements

1- A **National Land Authority** to provide a clear statement of land utilization in India, identify the lands available for redistribution and strengthen pro-poor laws.

2- **Fast Track Courts** to settle past and future conflicts related to land.

3- A **Single Window System** so that farmers can resolve easily and freely the land issues, without wasting time, money and energy.

The first Janadesh Newsletter in English produced and circulated with the support of Anais and Sam, our French volunteers in Janadesh office, got very interesting response. Many of our friends across the globe felt closer to the process as they knew what is happening in India and how things are progressing. This is a very crucial period for Ekta Parishad and many other partner organizations in India since we are heading to Janadesh in about 100 days. 2<sup>nd</sup> October is the day of the beginning. This year, 2<sup>nd</sup> October is even more important as this has been declared as a day of non-violence at the international level by the United Nations. As you know, this is the hundred year of Satyagraha, exactly hundred years back, when Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was thrown out of a train in South Africa just because he was black he decided to



fight back the injustice. This was a time when Gandhiji invented this word called Satyagraha, which means desire for truth or fighting against injustice. This word has become very popular now and many people all over the world, not only use this word but also try to practice it by promoting truth and fighting injustice. In a globalizing world, where the disparity is increasing, more and more people are trying to take to Satyagraha. Because Satyagraha is a non violent way of addressing the problems, this has become a relevant tool for today's world.

On 25<sup>th</sup> of June, Ekta Parishad is planning to organize one day Satyagraha

in Delhi to remind the government of India that there are hundred days left for them to act before the Janadesh march will begin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October. We are inviting about 500 people from all over the country to participate in this day-long program. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, an exhibition on people's struggle will be inaugurated by a well known Gandhian leader, Mr Subba Rao, and a press conference will be organized in which the villagers will give their testimony to the media. On

the 25<sup>th</sup> morning, the Satyagrahees will sit in Jantar Mantar for the whole day and will walk to the Parliament in the evening to submit a memorandum. The countdown for Janadesh will begin from the 25<sup>th</sup> of June. Interestingly, 25<sup>th</sup> June was a day when Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, a Gandhian leader was arrested because he did voice against the emergency that was declared by Indira Gandhi in 1974. Let me take this opportunity to express my thanks to everyone in the national & international level who are taking keen interest in the Janadesh process. Janadesh is important, not only because we are fighting against an unjust system, but it is also important from a point of view that in a globalizing world, everyone of us will have the responsibility to promote an all-inclusive model of development, that will create happiness for all, not only for a few.

**Rajagopal P.V.**

## 100 years of Satyagraha... 100 days for Janadesh

To celebrate these anniversaries, Ekta Parishad organises a 3-days mass event in the heart of Delhi. Hundreds of activists will mobilize urban people and present one more time their ultimatum to the government.

### Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup>

Inauguration of a photo exhibition on Indian Struggles (Ekta Parishad among others) in Jantar Mantar. 100 persons will be there, notably Subba Rao Ji.

### Monday, 25<sup>th</sup>

Sit-in and fasting in front of the Parliament from morning to end of the day. 700 social activist are expected out of which 300 coming from out of Delhi.

In the afternoon: meeting with Rural Development Minister and transfer of a Memorandum to Prime Minister / Parliamentarians. Press Conference will be held during the afternoon.

### Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup>

Conclusion of the meetings and the *Dharna* (sit-in and fasting).

Also, in the coming weeks, Rajagopal will meet the 25 leaders of 1000 marchers in Gwalior. On 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> July, they will travel all together by bus up to Delhi and discuss every logistic point.

## Some burning actual cases of Land deprivation

Here are some examples of land issues taking place nowadays in North India. The concerned village people will be part of Janadesh:

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, land was acquired from the farmers at the rate of about 6000 Rs per *bigha* (less than a quarter of hectare) to set some factories. Today, about 80% of the factories are shutdown and the factory owners are trying to sell the land to subsidiaries. Consequently, the farmers are now demanding the land back and tension is continuously building up as nobody answers their requirements.
- In **Chhattisgarh**, Daldali (60 Km from Kabeerdham) is under Scheduled Area. A Bauxite mine has covered the entire area of 3 tribal villages through illegal land grabbing. As usual, none of the affected people have received any compensation.
- In **Orissa**, a village called Barpali (30 Km from Raurkela) is under Scheduled Area. On each side of this village, there is a Sponge Iron Plant, which produces dust and pollutes deeply the surrounding agricultural lands. The affected farmers have received no compensation from the 2 plants so far, which is creating conflicts between the factories and the villagers.



## Let us test your knowledge of Gandhian notions!

- 1-Ekta Parishad fights for "Sarvodaya" but what is it?
- 2-Why are we demanding "Jal, Jungle & Zamin"?
- 3-What is "Ahimsa"?
- 4-Why is this newsletter called "Zindabad"?
- 5-Why do Ekta Parishad people greet themselves with a "Jai Jagat"?

...Answers on the last page!

## Review of Janadesh monthly newspaper in Hindi

Here are some of the subjects developed in the newspaper published in May about Janadesh and distributed to around 2000 people:

- Thanks to the increasing support that Janadesh is receiving, the Indian government is taking action: Rajagopal P.V. is invited to meet some officials before the beginning of the march; rounds are already in process with Chief Justice of Delhi.
- "We will not beg, we will order!", declared Rajagopal P.V.
- How Chhattisgarhi policies are killing the Adivasis.
- How the so-called development policies are marginalising people.
- "We are trying to get more land rights in the name of women."
- Across the state of Bihar, people are putting pressure for a land reform, the government is taking it seriously and changes are coming.
- National consultation on Land: for a New Vision of land reforms: Swami Agniwesh says "there should not be 25 000 people marching for Janadesh, but 1 Crore (ten million)!"
- We need a good coordination to avoid the accidents like those which took place in West Bengal.
- The Satyagraha going on in Orissa is giving awareness on Janadesh.



"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history."  
Mahatma Gandhi.

## Latest events in and around India

- During the 1<sup>st</sup> days of the month, the training of local leaders in Chhattisgarh gathered 1000 people in Tilda. Many Tribals came from all across the state and expressed their full support to Janadesh, through discussions, songs, dances... A French journalist was there and started a documentary on Janadesh, which will be broadcasted on "France 5".
- 6th of June: Meeting with students in Mass Communication and Cultural evening in Delhi to promote Janadesh.
- Meeting with Kerala association of Delhi to mobilize this important community living in the capital.
- Madhya Pradesh being the state where the march will begin, many meetings and rallies are organised.
- In Orissa, the sit-in is going on (more than 100 days!).
- The 3 states foot march (Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jarkhand) is now over.
- In Himachal Pradesh, a Campaign for a National Himalayan Policy for Mountain Development has been launched by many social activists. They gathered thousands of people across the State into several rallies to protest against the economic, industrial and tourist projects destroying environment and livelihoods. On 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June, Rajagopal P.V. took this opportunity to give support to their movement and invite them to join Janadesh.
- In Nepal, CSRC organized a foot march from the Indian border to the Bhutan border in order to protest for their land rights. 50 of them will also be part of the foot march in October.

## Answers... Gandhian notions!

- 1-*Sarvodaya* is a form of society aiming at everyone's well being.
- 2-*Jal, Jungle & Zamin* are the three resources demanded by Ekta Parishad and all Janadesh marchers to the Government of India: Water, Forest and Land.
- 3-*Ahimsa* means non-violence.
- 4-We wish "long life" to Janadesh, which is the meaning of *Zindabad!*
- 5-*Jai Jagat* is a Gandhian expression celebrating the victory of the World.

## Events in Europe, in support of Janadesh

- An International committee is launched to support Janadesh, day by day more important personalities accept to be part of it and to keep mobilizing national and international institutions. One of the member, M.Hugues Reiner, a famous conductor, will organise a musical programme on the 1st day of Janadesh where the 25 000 people will take part into a universal song.
- European Farmers Coordination along with Confédération Paysanne (French agriculture syndicate) is preparing a one-day demonstration in front of the European parliament in Brussels, on 10<sup>th</sup> of October.
- Other support marches will take place in Europe:
  - In September, a Land For Life yatra in Switzerland will start from Berne up to Geneva (for more information: [www.landforlife.ch](http://www.landforlife.ch))
  - In October, various yatras are planned in several regions of France: Bretagne, Touraine, Rhône-Alpes, etc.
- Since last summer, a Footprint operation has started: local groups of Frères des Hommes and Peuples Solidaires develop a playful action in France, consisting of collecting footprints on white banners that will be held during the march from Gwalior to Delhi (for more details: [www.peuples-solidaires.org](http://www.peuples-solidaires.org))
- A white & green Janadesh Caravan is also going to travel all across Brittany (especially during festivals and youth camps) to raise the public opinion on access to Land in Brittany and India.
- "The Truth Force" has been translated into German, French and Portuguese and is available along with traditional handmade Indian Scarves in the offices of Ekta Europe partners.
- In France, The NGO Solidarité is preparing a photo exhibition, a movie projection and a debate about Land struggle in India. It will take place in Toulouse in September-October 2007 (please check: [www.solidarite.asso.fr](http://www.solidarite.asso.fr)).
- Mobilisation in North America is also going on: the creation of an Ekta Canada is in process!
- The monthly French magazine *L'Express* will edit a special magazine in August for the 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday of India's Independence. One part will be dedicated to the heritage of Gandhi, with details about Rajagopal P.V. and Janadesh.
- Action Village India (UK) is printing and distributing 3500 postcards for the PM.
- To end this review, we are happy to announce that the list of foreign participants to Janadesh is growing fast and 80 people have already registered!



### Letter campaign to the PM

Frères des Hommes, Confédération Paysanne, CRIDDEV and Solidarité have launched the letter Campaign. They asked individuals to show their support to Janadesh by sending a letter to the Prime Minister of India (model available on our website). As EP Bhopal office is keeping a list of these letters, please inform Anil at: [ektaparishad@yahoo.com](mailto:ektaparishad@yahoo.com). We will keep you updated on the results of this action.

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