

JAN SATYAGRAHA



March for Justice

September 2012 | Ready to walk

2012



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A word before the march



I understand from Altaï that there will be a special edition of our newsletter in the middle of September. I am tempted to say hello to all our friends through this newsletter as I know that during the last part of September and the entire month of October I'm going to be very busy. At the moment the Jan Satyagraha team is involved in a tridimensional coordination.

I am directly involved in the year-long yatra. In the last leg of this yatra we are travelling through Uttar Pradesh. We have just completed Western Uttar Pradesh and will systematically cover all districts before ending in Jhansi. Response in UP is very good. Media is very positive and the people in general are keen to support the yatra. As you know, Jan Satyagraha yatra will walk through Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, UP, Haryana before entering into Delhi. We will be on the road of Uttar Pradesh for 10 days, and it is very

important to have the support of farmers, intellectuals and media of UP.

Ransingh ji and team are looking into all matters related to logistic. Listening to Ransingh into the level of detail in planning (food, health, all the transportation, sanitation, water sources) is mind-boggling. With very limited resources he has to get into every detail. He is also collecting wheat from villages. At the time of writing this note, we are far behind compared to what we need to feed 100 000 people. It is possible that the yatra will begin with the 50 000 and slowly build up to 100 000. The number of trains available from different directions may not be sufficient to bring so many people to Gwalior for the 2nd October. Anyway these are all matters in which Ransingh and team are putting their mind.

The third dimension of our efforts is dialogue with state, media, etc and is being handled by Ramesh and Aneesh. I went to Delhi for a meeting with the Planning Commission of India. Other windows of dialog are also slowly opening. It is too early to say anything about how the government will respond to Jansatyagraha. I hope by the time we walk into Delhi the government will be in a position to offer something concrete. I know Jill and Ravi are working on the global project with the support of Ekta Europe, and are trying to have various parallel and support actions in other parts of the world.

I want to thank you from the depth of my heart for everything you have done or will be going in the coming days to support millions of marginalized communities through Jan Satyagraha. I will remain grateful to all of you for what you have done to us. I will talk to you again soon after Jan Satyagraha, and I hope I will have many interesting and positive things to share with you.

In solidarity,
PV Rajagopal

From the Jan Samwad Yatra to Jan Satyagraha

After covering about 80 000 km across 24 states and 350 districts, the Jan Samwad Yatra, started nearly one year ago, on 2nd October 2011 from Kanyakumari, will reach its final step, Jhansi, on September 18th.

Through smooth highways or bumpy roads, every day the yatris came to meet people who are struggling for their rights. They met groups struggling against the nuclear plant of Koodankulam (Tamil Nadu), villagers of Allapad (Kerala) still waiting for rehabilitation since the tsunami of 2004, fisher folks of Chilka Lake (Orissa), who are losing access to the lake because of prawn culture, tea tribes of Assam, struggling for better working conditions in tea gardens, slum dwellers demanding right to a proper housing, and, everywhere, people facing eviction from their land.

All along the year, the yatris met people affected by various problems and trying to solve them. Among them, several led successful struggles: people of Plachimada (Kerala) kicked out a Coca-Cola plant which was exhausting water resources of the region; women of Khairatkala (Maharashtra), aware of the fact that alcoholism was a threat for the village, had the liquor

shop shut down; inhabitants of Koel-Karo rivers area (Jharkhand) prevented a dam project from taking their land away, etc. There are many examples showing how non-violent action can be an efficient tool to seek justice and to bring a positive change in the life of people. After a year of discussion, analysis and mobilization, it is time to walk !





Jan Satyagraha 2012, Join the Movement !

Jan Satyagraha 2012 needs a strong support, in India and around the world, to achieve its goal of providing justice to the poor and marginalized communities of India and raising awareness on landlessness and poverty at the global level. After 4 years of preparation, people are ready to walk ! This is the time when your support is the most needed.

There are many ways to join the movement :

Help with the logistics through donation

Organizing a one-month march of 100 000 people is a great logistic challenge ! We need to gather tons of food, tankers of water, thousands of blankets, a variety of medicines, etc.

You can help us on this through financial donations which will allow us to purchase all the necessary:

- ✓ through our Swiss partner CESCI on [Ekta Europe website](#)
- ✓ through the French website (till September 30th) [Babeldoor](#)

Raise your voice

One key of the success of Jan Satyagraha is lying in our capacity to mobilize great number of people in order to put pressure on policy makers. There are many ways to raise your voice :

- ✓ Participate to an online discussion on the Land Portal until September 24th: “The global need of non-violent struggle around land rights: a path for change?”. www.landportal.info
- ✓ Sign the [declaration of solidarity](#),
- ✓ Send a [letter to the Prime Minister](#) of India, Mr Manmohan Singh,
- ✓ Add the [virtual badge](#) to your email signature, or your social network profiles, newsletters, websites...

Participate to a support action

Participate to one of the numerous action of support organized in the coming weeks around the world. An excellent way to raise awareness of people, put pressure on governments and encourage the 100 000 marchers ! (see the list of solidarity actions on next page).



Stay informed !

In order to keep you informed of the progression of the march, several means will be used :

- ◆ **Special Newsletters** : exceptionally, you will receive several newsletters during October to stay updated regularly on the events.
- ◆ **Websites** : follow the action through articles, press releases, pictures and videos on :
www.ektaparishad.com
www.jansatyagraha.org
www.ektaeurope.org
- ◆ **Facebook page** : [Jan Satyagraha 2012](#)

For additional information, do not hesitate to contact us :

About the march in India : Altaï de Saint Albin, jansatyagraha2012@gmail.com

About solidarity actions : Marie Bonher, marie@organisehumanevents.com

International coordination, Global Movement 2012, Delhi office : 011-41528688



List of solidarity actions around the world (from September 15th, 2012)

THE MEAL	15 September	33 cities around the world	People will share a meal all around the world to support Jan Satyagraha.	www.the-meal.net / info@the-meal.net
Support March to Ekta Parishad	21 September	Angers (France)	Support march to Ekta Parishad organised by the group Peuples Solidaires Angers.	monique.batard@numerica ble.fr
March Le Croisic - Paris	21 September to 17 October	Le Croisic to Paris (France)	Solidarity March organised by La Paix en Marche, Gandhi International and others.	Gilles Changeon : lapaixenmarche@live.fr
Support Marches	22 - 23 September	Belgium	Several marches organised with the ECOLO party to support Ekta Parishad and local workers and farmers.	Bastian Petter : commis- sion.nordsud@ecolo.be
March Montpellier-Carcassonne	22 to 28 September	Montpellier to Carcassonne (France)	Solidarity March organised by MAN (Mouvement pour une Alternative Non-violente)	Christian Boury-Esnault : c.bouryesnault@free.fr
Forum Peuples en Marche	22 to 30 September	Carcassonne (France)	Workshops, conferences, debates, concerts, films.... Organised by Nature & Progrès and Gandhi International.	Np11.cantines@gmail.com http://forum- terre.np11.org
Walk for Land	27 September	Loughborough (UK)	A march organised by Christian Aid and other English organisations will walk to support Jan Satyagraha 2012.	Martin Gage : Mgage@christian-aid.org
Exhibition : Walking, a dialogue between art and social movement	27 September to 7 October	Habitat Center, New-Delhi (India)	Exhibition of contemporary art coordinated by Fran Wilde UK and presenting the works of Simon Williams UK (photographs), Vikram Nayak IN (installation/video) and Nesa Gschwend CH (installation/video)	www.ektaparishad.com / www.nesagschwend.ch / www.vikramnayak.in / www.simonwilliamsphotoğrafy.com
Support march to Ekta Parishad	30 September	Bordeaux (France)	Support march to Ekta Parishad organised by the group DESC 33 of Peuples Solidaires.	peu- pleso.desc33@laposte.net
Solidarity Marches around UK	September / October	UK	Various solidarity marches around UK organised during the year 2012 by Christian Aid UK and Action Village India.	Ivan : ivan@actionvillageindia.org .uk
MARCHES FOR JUSTICE	6 October	Norwich and Bury St Edmunds (UK)	Marches for justice organized by Chritian Aid in support to Ekta Parishad.	Mark Lewin : uksox@yahoo.co.uk
Support week-end around Jan Satyagraha	6 - 7 October	Offenburg (Germany)	Various activities organised around Jan Satyagraha and non-violence : a conference, a nice evening, a march from Laach to Offenburg and a march from Offenburg to Strasbourg.	Stefan Walther : docteur@drwalther.eu
Week-end of solidarity around Jan Satyagraha and land-grabbing	6 - 7 October	Strasbourg (France)	A week-end of solidarity with various activities around Jan Satyagraha and global land-grabbing (information stand, films, march from Offenburg to Strasbourg).	Alain Fabre : yvesalain.fabre@gmail.com
Arrival of the March Le Croisic - Paris	17 October	Trocadero Square, Paris (France)	Arrival of the march and gathering of people for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and in solidarity with Ekta Parishad.	Gilles Changeon : lapaixenmarche@live.fr
Development week	November	Montpellier (France)	Presentation and discussion on Jan Satyagraha during the Development week in Montpellier.	Christian : c.bouryesnault@free.fr
Evenings on India	2011 - 2012	Switzerland	A "package" for evenings around India / Gandhi / Ekta Parishad and Jan Satyagraha is proposed and usable in various cities in Switzerland.	Küde Meier : k.meier@gmx.ch

This list may not be exhaustive. Check the map of solidarity actions for updated information : www.ektaeurope.org/solidarity-actions

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Questions or commentaries ?
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