

# Janadesh News

November 2007

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## National Land Reform Policy Update

*It's been one month since the Indian Government acceded to the demands of the Janadesh yatees. What has happened since then?*

On November 5<sup>th</sup> P.V. Rajagopal, Ramesh Sharma and the Janadesh dialogue team met with the Rural Development Secretary in Delhi to discuss the selection of council members for the soon to be formed National Land Reforms Committee. Decision making power was divided into four sections:

1. 3-4 members from political parties will be suggested by the Rural Development Minister.
2. 3-4 members from the State Revenue Administration will be suggested by the Principle Revenue Secretary of the Government of India.
3. 3-4 members from social organizations will be suggested by Ekta Parishad.
4. 3-4 members from a selection of land experts will be suggested by Ekta Parishad.

All candidates' names have been submitted for approval and the National Land Reforms Committee, headed by the Rural Development Minister, is well on its way to being formed. A Terms of Reference for the committee and a draft of the National Land Reform Policy have also been submitted and an official announcement will be made in the next few weeks.

## Just in time for the holidays...

### JANADESH 2008 CALENDAR

Ekta Parishad has captured the spirit of Janadesh in a beautiful 2008 monthly calendar.

The calendar is being sold through friends of Ekta Parishad in Europe, North America, and Asia to help raise funds for continuing Ekta Parishad's work in the struggle for land.

For information on how to purchase your copy, please write to [janadesh2007@gmail.com](mailto:janadesh2007@gmail.com) and include your mailing address.

Calendar photos courtesy of Simon Williams.



## Janadesh Foreign Participants Follow Up: *Buddhist Monks lead Inauguration of World Peace Pagoda in Delhi*

On November 14th Delhi saw the inauguration of the Vishwa Shanti Stupa (World Peace Pagoda) at Indraprastha Park. Today there are more than 80 Peace Pagodas around the world, including several in Europe, Asia and the United States. A Peace Pagoda is built to provide a place for people of all backgrounds to unite in their search for world peace. It serves as a monument for peace and non-violence and is a source of inspiration for those who search for peace in their own hearts and minds. Ekta Parishad representatives were invited to attend the inauguration by the Buddhist monks that walked with Janadesh. Lead by Guruji, the monks walked each day at the front of the procession, steadily beating their drums. Their presence at Janadesh was a symbol of the support the yatrees received from around the world.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama was at the inauguration to offer his advice and blessings. His message was simple but powerful; we can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves, but before we can find inner peace we have to understand what holds us back. Hatred, fear and violence are the destroyers of inner peace. If we can practice compassion in our everyday lives, we can find the peace and tranquility we desire. The Peace Pagoda is meant to provide a space for an individual's search for inner peace.

To see an excerpt from the Dalai Lama's address, visit:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uEU\\_zAcoOs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uEU_zAcoOs)

## Upcoming Events...

From December 16 – 21, 2007, there will be a post-Janadesh review and strategic planning meeting at the CESC in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.



## Quick Links:

Watch **Concern International's** videos on Janadesh online!  
<http://www.concern.net/news-and-features/features/a1387/Janadesh-keeps-marching---video.html>

## NONVIOLENCE

*By Jack Santa Barbara*

*Originally published in Resurgence Magazine*

**Recognising this core value could strengthen the effectiveness of non-governmental organisations.**

THERE IS STRENGTH in numbers but the essence of such strength lies not in the numbers alone, but in the common values around which many people align themselves, providing a sense of shared vision.

Might it be that many progressive movements around the world are less effective than they might otherwise be because they have not articulated a common core value that unites them?

Nonviolence might be such a core value. If nonviolence is understood in its broadest sense, both in terms of avoiding harm and enhancing the general wellbeing of all, then it could serve as a core value for a wide range of seemingly unconnected movements.

*...article continues*

The full text of the article is available online at: <http://www.resurgence.org/2007/barbara245.htm>

# Highlights from Janadesh Media Coverage

26 NAT'L FEATURE ARTICLES 15 INT'L FEATURE ARTICLES 109 NATIONAL NEWS ARTICLES 57 INT'L NEWS ARTICLES

“About 10 km past Mathura on Thursday, on National Highway 2, the rally is a sight many would have never seen before. A kind of blend of pre-Independence *satyagraha* and 21<sup>st</sup> century *gandhigiri*. Emaciated old men and women with sticks in their hands, youth couples and teenagers walking in disciplined rows, holding green-white flags. They chant slogans, but not against the government. They only want their land back, their rights to livelihood protected.”

HINDUSTAN TIMES, OCTOBER 16, 2007

“The people who are going to be affected must be a part of the debate.”

Arjun Dev, activist

“Rural poverty, especially in tribal areas, remains obstinate to land ownership. That is what the tribals and Dalits draw the government’s attention to.”

“It was actually their Gandhian style that won them the enthusiastic support of Rural Development Minister Raghuvansh Prasad, who went out of his way to persuade the Prime Minister to give the *satyagrahis* sympathetic consideration.

“They walked, despite grave hardships, in true Gandhian style, totally peacefully, without creating chaos anywhere. It is our duty to give their demands due consideration because their demands are absolutely justified. Landlessness has emerged as a big problem in our country and it is our duty to tackle the problem at the earliest; otherwise it will breed discontent and violence in the rural areas,”

FRONTLINE MAGAZINE, NOVEMBER 16, 2007

“To be quiet is not to be ineffectual. Not if close to 25,000 people remain quiet

“I came here for my rights. If my feet get burnt or even if I die then it is worth it. Back home we can die from hunger – why not die fighting for our rights?” – *Malti Devi, marcher*

“Development cannot be for the benefit of the richest

“The message was nothing less than this: Don’t ignore us. We are neither so complex that you cannot understand us, nor so remote that you cannot reach us.

They came bearing what they called a ‘*janadesh*,’ meaning an order or command of the people, an ‘*adesh*’ which the people, the ‘*jan*,’ had waited long enough to deliver, and which they would now post on the door of the government if no one came out to meet them.”

THE ASIAN AGE, NOVEMBER 6, 2007

“India’s total area would be enough to allow the city’. ‘The question is not whether we have the moral courage.’” – *Balkrishna Renake*

“This is 21<sup>st</sup> century Gandhism reinvented”

NDTV, OCTOBER 22, 2007

and determined... With no violent extremism, this assertion of the moral has revived an almost forgotten a