

Janadesh 2007 - Fact Sheet for the participants

➤ What are Ekta Parishad and Janadesh 2007?

- **Ekta Parishad** (meaning "united forum") is a mass based organization based on Gandhian non-violent principles of action. It has a membership of approximately 150,000 people across India, and around 35 institutions support Ekta Parishad as a mass movement.

- **Janadesh 2007** (meaning People's Verdict) is an ultimatum to the Government to resolve the land issue or face non-violent direct action. In December 2005, an assembly of the Deprived agreed a set of demands on land and livelihoods. If the Government of India does not meet those demands by October, 25,000 landless people will undertake a foot march (padyatra) to Delhi. Please check our website for more information: www.janadesh.net

➤ Who will be marching in Janadesh?

25000 landless people, well organized in groups of 1000 people from several regions of India will participate to Janadesh. This includes poor and marginal farmers, forest dwelling communities, landless, Dalit and tribal groups. All of them are committed to non-violence and they will be guided by the leaders of Ekta Parishad and many other Gandhian activists. Approximately 250 foreigners have also decided to walk with the landless marchers.

➤ What are the proposed mandates?

Ekta Parishad is focussing mainly on access to natural resources, especially land, water and forest. They have presented 3 demands to the Indian Government:

- The first effort should be to resolve existing land issues in India by forming a 'National Land Authority' since around 70% of India's people depend on land for their livelihood.
- Fast Track Courts should be established across the country to deal with land disputes between the departments and also between individuals.
- Finally, the government should set up a 'Single Window System' for common man to deal with all problems related to land and livelihood issues.

➤ When and where will Janadesh take place?

The starting day of Janadesh will be 2nd of October 2007 (birthday of Mahatma Gandhi) and will end when we reach the capital of India on 28th of October. The foot march will start from Gwalior in the state of Madhya Pradesh (near Taj Mahal in Agra). The march will produce a plan that will be mailed to you prior to the event. It will cross 5 states: Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.

➤ When can we come?

Foreigners are not compelled to march the full duration of the march. It is expected that a minimum of 50 foreigners will be marching throughout. You can join the foot march at any time so please register when you are coming by 15th September at janadesh2007@gmail.com.

➤ How and where to come?

In order to participate to the foot march, you should arrive at Delhi Airport / New Delhi train station. From there, a team based in Gandhi Peace Foundation, will provide you information and transportation to join the march at any place between Gwalior and Delhi.

➤ What will happen in Delhi while the march is going on?

During the Padayatra, around 200 people supported by freedom fighters, social activists and people who are honoured because of their moral tenacity will hold a sit-in and in some cases use the spinning wheel (Charkha) in the same manner that was done throughout the Freedom Struggle. Also simultaneously a committee of experienced people will be constituted to pressure the government to act on the proposed demands.



➤ What will happen to the marchers when they reach New Delhi?

After the marchers reach Delhi, there will be a 3-day fast. If the government favourably agrees to the three demands, there will be a staging of a big conference at Ramlila Maidan. Following that the participants would leave for their respective home-towns along with their group.

➤ Where will we sleep during Janadesh?

Foreign participants to the foot march will sleep either in hotels (2 to 4 different hotels will be booked each night, along the Janadesh route) or in some families' houses (rural area). It is important you indicate the nights you want to book accommodation, so that this can be arranged in advance. Daily transport from the foot march to your hotel and return will be by bus provided by Ekta Parishad.

➤ What food will be there?

In the morning and in the evening, you will get food from the place where you will stay. During the day time, food will be prepared and distributed, along with water among the foot march. The type of food provided will be Indian food, it will be simple and vegetarian.

➤ What should we pay?

Those who wish to sleep in ordinary hotels or Indian families will be asked a participation of 40€ / 57\$CAN / 54 \$US per day, which will include their accommodation, food, transportation from Delhi and daily transportation from hotel to the yatra.

Those who are demanding any special arrangements (nicer hotels, specific food) will have to pay 80€ / 114\$CAN / 108\$US per person and per day.

➤ Who to contact?

The office of **Ekta Parishad – Janadesh 2007** is located in New Delhi at this address:

2/3 A Basement, Jangpura A-Block

New Delhi 110 014 – India

Phone: (+91) 11-32550801 or (+91) 11-24373998

The international communication is coordinated there by Anais and Sam. Please feel free to email them at janadesh2007@gmail.com if you have any question.

In Europe you can contact:

- Germany: Julius Reubke (KJReubke@t-online.de)
- Switzerland: Margrit Hugentobler (hugentobler@arch.ethz.ch)
- UK: Ivan Nutbrown (ivan@actionvillageindia.org.uk)
- France: Dorothee Lebret (contact@solidarite.asso.fr) / Bénédicte Roget : rep@fdh.org

And from North America, the communication is coordinated by Faruq Faisal (ffaisal@web.ca) and Jill Carr-Harris (jillcarrharris@gmail.com).

We also give you another important address in India: **Gandhi Peace Foundation**

221 - 223, Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg

New Delhi 110 001

Phone: (+91) 11-23237492

For the purpose of the foot march, Ekta Parishad has also established 7 base camps along the Janadesh Route. Ekta Parishad has designated resource persons in these camps and you can find the contact numbers on the web-site www.janadesh.net.

➤ What about side tours?

Ekta Parishad will be responsible for you only during your participation in the foot march. However, if you wish to visit any other places during your stay in India, we recommend you contact:

Rajinder K. Balla, Northwest Travels Pvt. Ltd in New Delhi

Email: sales@northwesttravels.com / Website: www.northwesttravels.com

Office: (+91) 11-41840095 / 32924118 / Fax: (+91) 11-25130495 / Cell: (+91) 9810354946.

