

# Jai Jagat Launch

Report of the flag off ceremony of the Jai Jagat 2020 march  
2nd, 3rd, 4th October 2019 - New Delhi, India

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## Executive Summary

Commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma and Kasturba Gandhi, a unique amalgam of diverse people from different parts of the world came together to begin the one year long foot march from New Delhi to Geneva with the vision of realising "**Planet for all, all for planet**" - **JAI JAGAT** a reality.

**On 2nd October**, a group of 400 (approx..) people came together for the flag off ceremony of Jai Jagat at Rajghat, the resting ground of Mahatma Gandhi, New Delhi. After a brief prayer meeting, the group walked from Gandhi Smarak Nidhi (Mahatma Gandhi National Memorial Trust) to Rajghat, **symbolising the official launch of this global march which was followed with a prayer led by Shri S N Subba Rao, thus commencing the journey with Mahatma Gandhi's legacy.** The group later gathered at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra for the premier of the the movie - Gandhi, by Ramesh Sharma.



**Yes, Gandhi is universal. On 3rd October**, through the ears of 400 people and the walls of Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, International Youth Centre, New Delhi, this feeling echoed constantly, after an intense conference of thoughts, practice and dialogues. The day concluded with a soulful and deeply touching Kathak dance performance - Krishna Ensemble, led by Shama Bhate and her group.

**We are grateful to the following dignitaries for offering their blessings, thoughts, experiences and solidarity thus giving us hope and affirmation for our year long Yatra :**

- S.N. Subba Rao (Gandhian Leader),
- Bal Vijay (Gandhian Leader)
- Achan Sulak Sivaraksa (Engaged Buddhist, Thailand)
- Vishnu Vasu (Gandhian Activist from Sri Lanka)
- Hembhai (Gandhian Leader from the North East of India)
- Anna Malai (Director, Gandhi Museum, India)
- Rajendra Singh (Waterman of India)
- Ramin Jahanbegloo (Gandhian Philosopher)
- Prahalad Singh Patel (Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, GOI)
- Shashi Tharoor (Former Senior Leader of UN, MP of India,)
- Ramya Haridas (Member of Parliament, India)
- Ram Madhav Rao (General Secretary, BJP)
- Jairam Ramesh (Former Minister of Environment, GOI)
- Sharad Chand Behar (Former Chief Secretary to Madhya Pradesh CM)
- Ashok Sajjanhar (Former Ambassador for India)

After two days of deep connections and learnings, it was time to celebrate **Vasudhaiva Kutumbukam (one world family)** and with that began the journey from New Delhi. **On 4th October, the core marchers were felicitated and blessings were showered by partner organisations and friends.** The Asian Land Coalition forum joined offering their full solidarity. Thus marking the coming together of the one big family. Celebrations were followed by a 3.3 kilometre walk from Vishwa Yuvak Kendra to Birla Mandir, where Gandhi was assassinated, to commemorate, pray and begin the yatra from New Delhi. From there, the marchers went to their next location - Palwal, Haryana.

## **2nd October, Day 1 - Jai Jagat Flag Off!**

Why have 50 people, in today's world and time, dedicated their lives for the next 1 year, embarking on this life changing journey? Because this march fills them with an optimism of seeing their dream come true, **"A world where love, compassion, truth, peace, ethics, values, morals and justice are above money, weapons, power, lies, hatred, inequality and violence. All for the planet and a planet for all."**

All the eminent speakers on the day of Flag off offered their diverse yet powerful messages and blessed these marchers for their journey of 365 days from New Delhi to Geneva, covering 10,000 kilometre across the world.

As Shashi Tharoor said, "Gandhi is a man who is easier to admire than to follow", the journey is following Gandhi's footsteps. **And we echo Bal Vijay's words of blessing - "I**



**pray that God gives us all strength, intellect, wisdom, faith and hope to follow Gandhi's philosophy of love, peace and nonviolence.”**

**With the power of youth and nonviolent action, it is possible to work towards a nonviolent economy and society; a world based on ethics and justice.** The main components of the campaign are nonviolence trainings, have people join the movement and the Global March. Quoting Gandhian Leader, PV Rajagopal, "Whatever we do locally will have impact globally and whatever we do globally will have impact locally”.



*"Nyayi ka vidhan ho, sabka hakh saman ho, sabki apni ho jameen, sabka aasaman ho"* - Vinobha Bhаве's song of Jai Jagat was sung with captivating energy and zeal as the groups marched for peace and justice.

We are in a world seeking peace and Gandhi is its icon. Shashi Tharoor blessed us with wise words - "Most of us should try to live up the ideals and values of Gandhi to see progress in India, to see the world just like Gandhi had envisioned. The land has betrayed him in so many ways, but it's not too late to come together and fully realise his vision."

## 3rd October, Day 2 - Yes, Gandhi is Universal

It is interesting to know and understand that this is a people's movement. Almost all the members are working voluntarily and various communities are coming together to fund the march. Wondering why? Well, **because Gandhi inspires the world, inspires the rich and the poor, the influential and the marginalised. His legacy of ahimsa (nonviolence) and swaraj galvanised the world 100 years back and yet he continues to do so.** Gandhi's message of truth, nonviolence, love, compassion, ethics and pragmatism gives us all **feelings of hope and strength to move towards changing today's development paradigm for the better.**

The first peace conference of Jai Jagat 2020 movement was hosted today at Vishwa Yuval Kendra, New Delhi, on 3rd October. The conference was inaugurated by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Government of India. Giving us the message, "It's only through explorations and learnings from life that would answer all our questions towards our goals & nation. Tourism should not only be for fun, but one should learn and explore through this living."

Magically all discussions, sessions and sharing of the day reinforced the fact that Gandhi is universal. Quoting Ashok Sajjanhar, "there doesn't seem to be any country in the world where Mahatma Gandhi is a stranger. His statue is present everywhere. He is indeed a global phenomenon." **Georgia, Tunisia, South Africa, Ukraine, USA, Serbia, Armenia, France, Hong Kong, you name it and there is Mahatma Gandhi. How did this happen?** He believed and lived the words "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - the earth is one family". The core values that holds a family together are mutual respect and love. Gandhi practiced it in all his relationships - with earth, people and self. **In fact one can very well say that Mahatma Gandhi internalised "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".**

And as Bal Vijay said, "this idea of one family is what the world needs today."  
**Gandhi is not just a person; his life, words and experiences aren't just mere elements; Gandhi is a legacy that gifted us directions.**

*"..Le kendo par saara aakash sar ko utakt chale. Hum Vishwa ki marial 21st century ki aur chale... aasani se bhool gaye vo humne uttaye sadiyon se shram, jan jagriti ki picole sadi se jaag utte hum jaag utte, aao milkar naye vishwas se le hathon mein haath chale hum Vishwadhaa ki marial 21st century ki aur chale..."*

Grassroots social women activists - Shraddha Kashyap, Shobha, Kasturi and Manju were awarded "Women of the year" by the United nations for their work in women empowerment in their nonviolent struggle for peace and justice. **It is indeed the women of every house showing us the way to nonviolence.** Let us not forget the contributions of women, towards sustaining peace and justice.

For Sharat Chandra Behar, Gandhi is one of the most unique thinkers of our world who is not just holistic but is beyond the whole. Gandhi operates from the space of cosmic combination guided by his inner spirit. He says, **“for Gandhi, spiritualism is to explore, know and love the world - the environment, people and himself.”**



What else contributes to Gandhi’s prominence and relevance in the world? As Ramin Jahanbegloo pointed out, **"Gandhi combines political pragmatism with ethical courage"**. Probably this is precisely why Gandhi was never an enemy for the British, he was a friend who wanted his country out of the pitiful condition it was in. It is indeed this balance of ethics and pragmatism, that we need now. And today, as Jairam Ramesh says, "the biggest issue in today's world is that we no longer have dialogues; freedom of speech and our ability to disagree has lost". **Gandhi focused on dialogues and that for him was one of the best nonviolent tools.**

Meanwhile, Rajendra Singh shared his understanding of who or what did Gandhi worship. **Gandhi's god is truth and that to him is bhoomi, jal, Vayu, Agni and Akash - the panchmahabhut. We echo Rajendra Singh when he says that connecting with these 5 elements of our existence is the only solution to today's issues of climate crisis, conflict,**



**poverty and inequality.** For the Waterman of India, the Jai Jagat movement brings our civilisation back in connection with these elements of our existence.

Engaged Buddhist from Thailand, Achen Sulak Sivaraska, emphasised on the importance of respecting and connecting with Mother Nature which he says is equally important to connecting with ourselves. And the **“objective of education is liberation, there is no difference between education and life”** Says Achan Sulak. Diversity, compassion, environmental sustainability, *ahimsa* and nature based morality is needed for attaining peace. **To learn and explore should be the core of our education (life).**

As the group began their journey, Hem bhai offered motivation and blessings by saying **"We may not individually be able to do the great works of Mahatma Gandhi, Vinobha, Nelson Madela, Martin Luther Kind or Jayaprakash Narayan, but we can all together do their great work".**

## 4th October, Day 3 - Farewell of Love and Magic

Jai Jagat is a dream, a thought, an emotion and indeed a reason for celebrations. After two rich days of immersing ourselves in this movement for peace and justice, it was time to give farewell to the marchers and celebrate the Victory of the world on October 4th at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, New Delhi.



**Who are the core marchers of the yatra from New Delhi to Geneva?** This group of marchers is an amalgam of the marginalised, youth; social activists from India, France, Kenya, Switzerland, New Zealand, Canada and Spain. All the marchers were introduced and felicitated, while the Jai Jagat song played along; spreading positive energies and joy.

**Jai Jagat is a global movement organised, supported and partaken by many organisations from across the world. On this day, members from multiple partner organisation came forward offering their solidarity.**

**We thank the 40 members from Asian Land Coalition forum (International Land Coalition) for joining the launch, offering their solidarity, participating in the march sharing love and together creating magic.** For this was a time when all of us from India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Slovenia, France, Switzerland, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Kenya, Spain, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Italy, Mongolia and many more from the world marched together to Birla Mandir (place where Gandhi was assassinated) from Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, covering 3.3kms; thus beginning the march.

As Mike Taylor, Director, International Land Coalition, says, "...a person is a person because of people..." The day saw different people from across the world dance, sing songs and share stories together, thus rejoicing in our diverse world of colours, as one world family.

The gathering was made magical by the powerful and raw performance of Megha Singh Dalton, singing the traditional adivasi songs from Jharkhand that are written for Gandhi. Reinforcing the captivating energies the adivasi cultures bring to the table.

**Deep gratitude** to each one of our mentors, supporters, friends and family for their blessings and support. Special thanks to the following for sharing their messages of motivation and love on this day :

- Bharat Dogra, Environmental Journalist, India
- Ivan Nutbrown, UK
- Samboon Mo, Thailand
- Sharad Chand Behar, Former Chief Secretary to Madhya Pradesh CM, India
- Yatish bhai
- BK Renke
- Soma KP, Women's Grassroots Leader, Makaan, India
- Amitabh Behar, Director Oxfam India
- Sandeep Chachra, Director ActionAid India
- Samhita, Christian Aid and Change Alliance India
- Subash Lomte
- Vijay Mahajan, Rajeev Gandhi Foundation, India
- Vijay Pratap, India
- Vasavraj Patil, India
- Sanjay, Jal Jan Jodi, India



- Mike Taylor, Director , International Land Coalition
- Members of the International Land Coalition Asia forum from Thailand, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Slovenia, Bangladesh, SriLanka, Nepal, Philippines, Vietnam, Italy, Mongolia, Ecuador, India and Cambodia.
- Thaya, Sri Lanka
- Yves Berthelot, France
- Ela Gandhi, South Africa



## Felicitations

Over the course of the three days, the following members were felicitated for carrying out respective works for Jai Jagat :

- Book launch of - Survival Crisis - Planet in Peril - People's Response Only Way Forward, Protecting Earth for Children - Crucial Role of Next Decade, Earth Without Borders - One World for Protecting All, Man Over Machine - A Path towards Peace ( Gandhian vision on this issue) and more. These books are authored by Bharat Dogra who was later felicitated for his constant support for Jai Jagat.

- Launch of International Cartoon Competition, facilitated by Vikram Nayak.
- Book launch - Jai Jagat, by Vikram Nayak.
- Members from the Kerala community were felicitated for their support to Jai Jagat towards spreading the message and fund raising. We thank each one of them for their contributions through Jai Jagat pens, umbrella's and cartoon competitions, cartoons and for carrying out door to door awareness campaign for the cause.
- Gratitude to Father Zacharia for leading and composing music for the Jai Jagat movement.
- Youths from Kerala were felicitated for their initiative of carrying out a bike rally from Kanyakumari (southernmost point of India) to Kashmir (northernmost state of India) spreading the message of Jai Jagat.
- Book launch of the Ganga Sadhbhavna Yatra, authored by Rajendra Singh, waterman of India.



*This report has been prepared by Riya Rachel Simon with inputs from Jill Carr-Harris and Nabil Singh. We thank Shahbhaaz for the photographs and Nabil Singh for the translations.*