

JAI JAGAT 2020

ON THE MOVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE



NEWSLETTER

30th November 2019

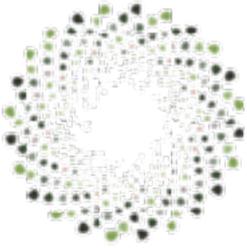


Note from the Editor

The Jai Jagat Yatra aims to build a global social movement for peace and justice. As you can see in this newsletter, the last 60 days of marching through five states of India and over 1000 kilometres has led to the meeting of thousands of people. This has included Sahariya tribals which is a large indigenous community, some pastoral communities, and many villagers. Along with marginalised people we have met people from all walks of life whether journalists, bureaucrats, community leaders, school teachers, politicians and the general public. This mobilisation gives the impression of the Jai Jagat becoming a global peace movement –at least in India.

It is being linked across borders to actions found in this newsletter, such as “Ponme cara. Da la cara” in Spain; and “From the Bottom” in Belgium, as well as the indigenous communities in Mexico, the womens walkers at Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the Caravan groups from Senegal, the youth climate group of Alternatiba in France and many others. Like the marchers in India, these groups are fledgling movements yet, when they converge with each other, they will become a global movement around a common vision of Gandhi. This will culminate in Geneva next year.

The Jai Jagat is interestingly enough also “a training program on the road”. There are many people coming and going; — right now we have nine persons in a Fellowship program from International Land Coalition -- and besides international friends, there is also dedicated training of local youth or what is called ‘new generation’ training that is going on every month. In addition, the core marchers are also experiencing learning informally through interactions with people, reflection time in tree shade meetings and even in occasional structured training programs. All of these are assisting people with the application of nonviolence and seeing the society in terms of the four pillars of Jai Jagat: (i) the reduction of poverty; (ii) the reduction of discrimination; (iii) the reduction of



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violence; and (iv) the reduction of the climate crisis.

“Training on the road”, is building a collective spirit and what may be most interesting to the reader, is to see different writings that show how the Jai Jagat is taking shape. This you will find in the following.

By Jill Carr-Harris

[Know More about Jai Jagat](#)

[Donate and Support](#)

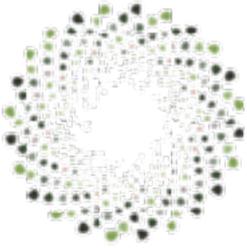


Memoire of the Marching Beings



1150Kms
Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
India

Delhi to Geneva march of Jai Jagat 2020 has completed 50 days, marched across 1000 odd Kms, touched more than 50,000 people; all through influencing the different meanings of nonviolence for the self and for the greater world. Overwhelmed by the response the journey is receiving from the local people, officials, politicians, children and elders; there is **a growing need in each of us to understand and practice *ahimsa* to greater extents.** Considering the diversity of people, culture, thoughts and personalities it is surely a difficult journey in hand but constant support from Jai Jagat’s global family of elders and co-travellers are heartening. Hereby, offering our sincere gratitude to **Reva Joshee and her group of Canadian teachers, Jagat Basnet (Nepal), Julius Reubke (Germany), Benjamin Joyeux (Geneva), Jean-Marc (France), Daniel (Geneva), Sonia (Mexico/Italy), Lopitha (Yaki Tribe, Mexico)** for marching with the group offering their insights and blessings. And a special thanks to David and Deborah (Canada) for leading the marchers through different meanings of *ahimsa* in their first nonviolence training.



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I remember an adivasi village,
Somewhere deep in Madhya
Pradesh
I even got the name
Kunvarpur

We went there by walking
Singing Jai Jagat songs and
slogans
Foot by foot
Mostly in lines

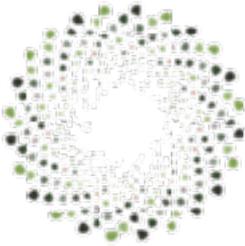
I remember three circles
Women and children in the
middle
Walkers around
Then men and young

Light atmosphere
Sharing smiles and happiness
Loving each there
No pain

I remember Kunvarpur
Is coloured and fresh painted
houses
Brightly pink, yellow and blue
Just like in a Mexican village

Dream became a reality."
- Rime Michel (Switzerland)





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“Ponme cara. Da la cara”

(Give me a face. Face the problem) Jai Jagat Action, 24th October, Burgos, Spain

A large group of homeless people, volunteers and workers from Caritas, CEIS and Casa de Acogida S. Vicente de Paúl took a nonviolent action in front of the Municipality of Burgos, Spain. Wearing a white mask, the aim was to make the administrators and walkers to discover the human face behind them, as well as their problems and needs. Everyone together recited a poem, and presented a petition to the Mayor of Burgos to discuss the possibilities of improving the commitment of the Municipality.

From the Bottom! - Jai Jagat Gathering in Belgium

Inspired from the 1st Forum of **From the Bottom** in Spain, the movement Luttes Solidarités Travail, the Association Mouvement d'Action Paysanne and Les Amis de la Terre came together in Naimur, Belgium on 9th and 10th November. They shared stories, reflections and dived deeper into discussions of building bottom up alternatives to the unsustainable production practices which generates more poverty as well as an ecological disaster.



Gandhi 150 yatra - Chennai to Kanyakumari, India - 2nd Oct'19 to 22nd Oct'19

A group 15 youths marched across 23 districts of Tamil Nadu, India organising village meetings, photo exhibitions, film screenings and street corner dialogues in 73 schools, 67 colleges, public spaces and villages spreading the message of Gandhi. Six delegates from



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Canada led by Reva Joshee joined the march for a few days and shared their learnings from Gandhi from a global perspective. The march was concluded with a peace meeting organised in Kanyakumari which was joined by Gandhians, Human rights activists, Hindu, Muslim and Christian religious leaders.

[Find more about the yatra in the report attached]



Learning Nonviolence on the road

Nonviolence is a way of life and for the marchers the road is their classroom. How? Each step is an engagement in the continuous struggle of overcoming our inner violence. For Gandhi, *Satyagraha* (translated as “truth force”) was to find an inner power to overcome obstacles and bring about external change. His mantra of nonviolence and individuals improvement in the interests of the collective good are the cornerstone of the Jai Jagat.

Gandhi’s idea of *Sarvodaya* (“progress for all”) envisaged encouraging people to overcome the great challenges in their lives through collective action. Each and every marcher goes through churning of varied kinds. For Veronique understanding and accepting the cultural differences has been a constant challenge while for Dominique language acts as a barrier. Similarly for Jay Singh accepting the new generation lifestyles has been a process, for Dharamdas perceiving himself as an equal amongst the “educated” is a task of constant growth and for Riya the piles of garbage is emotionally taxing. But a commitment to personal change, nonviolent social action, global citizenship, justice, human rights, democracy, to protect earth’s life sustaining systems and to lead a nonviolent life enables the individuals to face these uncomfortable situations both





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individually and collectively. These commitments are helping everyone harness their inner powers for greater external transformation.

(Photographs from top to bottom - Veronique, Dominique, Jai Singh, Dharamdas)

[\[Read the Jai Jagat Manifesto for a deeper understanding of the guiding values, here\]](#)



Alternatives of Nonviolent Change

Alternatiba, France



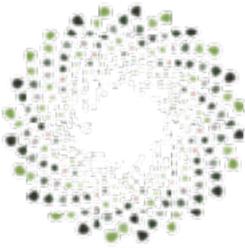
For four months in 2018, the Alternative Bike Tour covered almost 5,800 Kilometres as part of the struggle for climate justice. It was managed by young people, and was a popular mobilisation organised by French civil society organisations, including Alternatiba, Friends of the Earth and ANV-COP21. Forty-one partners, ranging from community and voluntary organisations to solidarity businesses, pledged

support to the tour.

The tour began in Paris on 9th June and reached Bayonne on 6th October. Two hundred stops were planned on the way, in France and its neighbouring countries. The three and four-seater bikes, emblems of the movement's collective strength, stopped in big cities such as Toulouse, Grenoble and Nantes, but also in rural areas and iconic places of resistance, to finally arrive for the huge *Village des alternatives* in Bayonne.

(The above has been reproduced from the Jai Jagat Manifesto)

[\[Find more here\]](#)



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Observations from dialogues with the Saharia Tribals of India

The Saharia's are one of the first inhabitants of India. This ethnic group of tribals are primarily forest dwellers whose source of food, water, timber, medicines etc are from the forests. While visiting and interacting with the many Saharia villages of the Madhya Pradesh, India, the marchers came

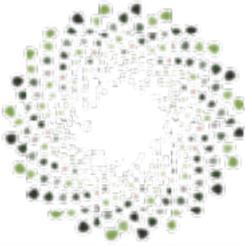


through with few vital points of observations. They noticed that even though the economic situation in the different villages were quite similar, there were significant differences in the wellbeing and happiness between the villages. Some are satisfied with what they have, are in interdependent and symbiotic relationships with ecology, have

ownership over their forest lands, had a more holistic understanding and connection with Mother Earth, had good degree of knowledge of the forest plants, herbs etc, women are more empowered leaders of the communities and above all, had good wellbeing of community amongst themselves. Then there are the others who are not just disconnected from the forest but have also lost their traditional knowledge systems of the natural resources and mostly didn't have their land ownership. In addition, these communities are majorly dispersed, are in dispute amongst each other and the women are lot more weaker and exploited. And it is interesting to note that the "happy and good wellbeing" communities are mostly located farther from the cities when compared to the other communities who are inching more closer to urbanisation.

It would be interesting to know what happiness is and how much of material (money) possession aids in ones wellbeing.

[[Read more about these tribes here](#)]



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Mount Kilimanjaro Women's Walk : Dialogue with Governments on Land Rights

Thousands of women from across the African continent converged at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania for a three-day action to demand land rights. Some women scale the mountains, reaching the peak.

Uniting behind the social media campaign #Women2Kilimanjaro, the women demanded that

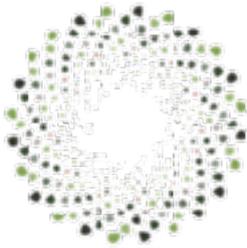
governments implements laws and policies to reverse the barriers women face in accessing land rights, such as early marriage, poor access to information and unfair inheritance practices. Women are responsible for 80% of agricultural production in the continent, but they own only 1% of the land, a problem that has roots in the colonial era.

(The above has been reproduced from the Jai Jagat Manifesto)

[\[Find more here\]](#)

Some questions from the common man for the present development paradigm to ponder. These were discussed during the youth training programme in Lalitpur (India) on 9th and 10th Nov :

- 1) Despite many laws and policies in place for women empowerment, why is their condition still so bad?
- 2) Why are the majority of the world's population still poor inspite of the years of pro-poor development work carried out?
- 3) Why is it that that poor man who fought for the common man and came to power, now ignores the poor and participates with the corrupt upon receiving power?
- 4) How can the middle class better work to uplift the poor?
- 5) How to free oneself from fear and greed?
- 6) How do we implement the many pro-poor laws and policies set up?



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Upcoming Jai Jagat Events



JAN UTSAV-YOUTH CONCLAVE; 30th Nov'19 to 2nd Dec'19 ; Bhopal, India

Jan Utsav - festival of oneness, brings to you a 3-day youth conclave, as a part of celebrating the arrival of Jai Jagat 2020 Global Foot March in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. This conclave aims to bring 30 Speakers with diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise to engage in interactions around Jai Jagat's Four Pillars of Change.

[Register here](#) | [\[Find more here\]](#)



POUR QUE VIVE LA TERRE!

THE CARAVAN OF RURAL AND URBAN ALTERNATIVES

In the spirit of the Jai Jagat, the association **Gandhi International** is preparing a caravan which will go through *Senegal, Morocco, Spain, and France until reach Geneva, from January to September 2020.*

People are aim to stay five days in each place to offer conferences, screenings, shows, parties and workshops.

Click [HERE](#) to see more details

This newsletter has been prepared by Riya Rachel Simon and Mónica Elizabet with inputs from Jill Carr-Harris and Nabil Singh. Credits of photographs from the Delhi to Geneva march : Shahbhaz Khan

Jai Jagat

For any queries, suggestions or letters to the editor, please connect with news@jaijagat2020.org

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