



JAI JAGAT 2020

ON THE MOVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE



Q & A'S TO THE GLOBAL PEACE MARCH OF JAI JAGAT CAMPAIGN

What, Where, When, How and Who

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Q & A's To The Global Peace March of Jai Jagat Campaign

**Conceived By:
Rajagopal PV**

**Written By:
Pushpa Singh**

**Translated By:
Jigyasa**

**Edited By:
Jill Carr-Harris**



What is The Global Peace March (Yatra) ? And what is its purpose?

Jai Jagat Yatra is a foot-march, which would start on 2nd October 2019, from Delhi, India, and would end on 26th September 2020, in Geneva. This "Yatra" would cover 14,000 kilometers crossing 10 countries and reach Geneva a year later. The information about the goals of the Yatra (foot-march) would be shared with the local people at every camping site of the Yatra in each country. Their queries would be answered and their issues would also be heard and documented which would then be presented in the discussion to be held at Geneva. The condition of world peace and justice would be discussed during the Yatra.

In India the Yatra will be footmarch, traveling through seven states covering a distance of 2000 kilometers. Simultaneously there will be four other yatras: The yatra will start at the resting place of Mahatma Gandhi (Rajghat) and culminate at Sevagram (Ashram of Vinoba Bhave) Apart from the core walkers, local people from their respective countries would be joining the Yatra, and short-term workers would also join. Some larger events are being organized to discuss nonviolence and peace in the bigger cities of the countries. A dialogue for the same would be initiated with the government as well, in most of the countries visited.

As it's the 150th anniversary of Gandhi ji, one of the major goals of this Yatra is also to disseminate the Gandhian thought on peace in every corner of the world. It is very important at this point in time to spread Gandhian principles as the world is facing the issues like violence, poverty, global warming, and so forth. The United Nation's have set 17 developmental goals that are very much related to Gandhian ideas and thus they are being connected to international development. Challenging issues like eradication of poverty, conflict and war, the climate crisis are all to be discussed, and the general public would be made aware of their rights and responsibility towards these, and intentionally motivated to join the mission to curb these issues and make the world a better place in which to live.

What are the principles of Jai Jagat 2020?

The concept of Jai Jagat is "All for the Planet, the Planet for All." It's the apt time to think of well-being of the whole world and inclusion for everyone instead of thinking selfishly one's own interest and defeating others for self-advancement. We know it is not that easy a task in this era of nationalism and regionalism, to establish the concept of Jai Jagat. It is difficult to motivate self-centered people to divert their thinking and begin defending the well-being of all. In the current scenario where the world is surrounded with so much conflict, it is important that people rise above individualism, regionalism, and nationalism. The survival of the whole human race is threatened and we are fighting with each other. In such a situation only the concept of Jai Jagat can get us freedom from all these disturbances. Thus now it is important that we see the whole world as a family and work towards the well-being of everyone. The journey that is beyond individualism, regionalism and nationalism would prove to be beneficial for the survival of the natural world as well.

Why is it from Delhi to Geneva?

Delhi has been chosen because Gandhi ji's Samadhi (resting place) is in Delhi and it is the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi Ji. The organizing committee of this Yatra felt that the kind of issues that the world has been facing has a solution in the messages of Gandhi ji and if we honestly try to find the answers, we'll find the right path through his messages.

The second reason is that the messages of simplicity and nonviolence have been continuously been sent across the world by Buddha, Mahavir and Gandhi. If we understand and imbibe these messages properly, we will be able to get rid of this gruesome unrest and consumerism that has grown to epidemic proportions across the world.

Geneva has been chosen to conclude the Yatra because the head offices of many of the international organizations are in Geneva and the UN bodies have been formed with a purpose of bringing peace into the world. To name a few, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, World Bank, IMF, World Trade Organization and so forth. The purpose of the one year Yatra is that the representatives of youth, laborers, farmers, and deprived communities are able to present and discuss their issues with the representatives of these organizations.

The 17 millennium goals of sustainable development set by the United Nations is the need of the hour and discussions over implementing them is very necessary. This Yatra aims at awareness generation and motivation so that it results in people's participation in the implementation of these goals and ultimately leading to rightful assertion of natural resources like land, water and forest by the deprived communities. That is why though it is a difficult task to commence and continue a foot march across 10 countries, still the organizers took the challenge to do it with people's participation and ownership.

What all programs would be conducted in Delhi?

The participants of the Jai Jagat Yatra would gather in Delhi on 2nd October, 2019. Apart from these participants, there would be other people coming from across India to support them. The Yatra would start at 2 PM at Gandhi's Samadhi (resting place) Rejghat. A seminar will be held at the Viswa Yuva Kendra with 250 participants on 3rd October where Gandhian thoughts and the purposes are to be discussed in relation to the Jai Jagat Yatra. The Yatra would begin on the 4th October by van to Palwal. The route chart in India over the next four months crosses 7 states. It is found in the Route Chart Book. The final program in India is on the 30th of January to the 3rd of February, 2020 and this will be held in the ashram of Vinoba Bhave (Sevagram). After this the team will begin the international yatra.

What would be the programs in Geneva?

The Yatra would reach Geneva on 26th September 2020. The Yatras from other countries like Senegal would also be reaching on the same day. Many people from Geneva and nearby towns (communes) would also be joining to welcome the Yatras reaching Geneva and joining in the programs held at the banks of Geneva lake. The Geneva Association and the Geneva Municipality are working on billeting outstation guests.

Discussions with the international organizations and different cultural activities would be held from 26th to 2nd October. A number of events will discuss the issues of peace and development and would be held throughout the week. On 2nd of October we would bid farewell after conducting a 'sarvadharm prarthna' (All religion prayers) in front of the statue of Gandhi Ji. We hope to establish good rapport with all the international organizations during these meetings of 26th September to 2nd October, 2020 where detailed discussions will take place on their future strategies and policies. The Jai Jagat Geneva Foundation and the Jai Jagat International Association (Belgium) will take this forward.

How many countries would participate in Jai Jagat Yatra?

Jai Jagat Yatra would be crossing 10 countries and thus civil society and government would participate in these countries. Around 8 European countries are initiating supportive foot-marches for which their preparations are going on with great enthusiasm. A footmarch from Marseille in the South of France would be commencing raising the issue water; the Belgium March is focused on agro-ecology and the one originating in Senegal is on small enterprises. There are other countries in Asia, Latin America and East and South Africa that will participate in the yatra or through actions locally. The Jai Jagat would only be a success if we are able to unite the whole world with a sense of urgent change brought about nonviolently.

You too are requested to spread a word about this Yatra to your friends and family to join in large number. The aim is to reach at least 150 countries on the 150th Anniversary of Gandhi ji through local actions but also through communication and social media.

What all issues would be raised in Jai Jagat Yatra?

The United Nations have set 17 developmental goals that we have tried to divide into 4 major 'pillars'. They are: poverty eradication, halting of conflict, eradication of exclusion and inequality, and re-dressal of the climate crisis. In order to understand and work upon these above-mentioned issues, we have initiated a study on 14 issues related to the conflicts around water; forest, land and livelihood that would be helpful in promoting further dialogues.

We would emphasize the creation of awareness on nonviolence amongst the people and the system. We think it is really important to view the current development paradigm in terms of its economic management and systems through the lens of nonviolence. This does not mean talking of national development in terms of 'growth and GDP' but in terms of human well-being, like the Happiness Index of Bhutan. Our motivation would be to promote and bring this nonviolence throughout our Yatra.

What all preparations are required to be done by the participants of the Yatra?

Fifty people would be present throughout the Yatra and some people would keep joining in between as per their convenience. These fifty core walkers need to be prepared physically, mentally, and intellectually. They are required to connect and communicate well with the regional people and the media. Knowledge about Gandhian thoughts, current developmental issues and processes would help the participants be an active part of the yatra and enjoy it more. Core walkers are also expected to pen down their experiences during the march and share it with people in their communities or across their networks.

The core walkers are expected to be mentally fit to bear and live happily in every situation. Foot marching everyday, eating different kinds of food, walking through the mountains and snow and suffer through difficulties with language are some of the challenges that they will be facing. If they are not mentally strong enough to deal with such challenges, they would be disappointed. Strong mental preparation to live in extreme conditions and different cultures will only be the reason that the core walkers enjoy the yatra. In preparing the physical needs, the core walkers are expected to bring along warm clothes, shoes, sleeping bag, torch, and medicines with them. It is expected that core walkers will not depend on anyone and be independent enough to take care of themselves. And the core walkers are also required to get a health checkup done before heading for the yatra and inform their family and friends about the journey and get their participation in it.

What would be total expenditure of the March and who would bear those costs?

Around four-and-a-half crore rupees is required for 50 Yatris for food and accommodation for one year. It is estimated that around 7.5 lakhs would be spent on each core walker. Appeals for raising funds are being sent to individuals and organizations. Gradually we are raising the funds: to date we have enough for India and traveling to Iran. We are still hoping that we would get more donations and assistance before Geneva. Even the participants are expected and requested to raise as much funds as possible. We are even trying to get certain material items donated like sleeping bags, and tents. It is requested that all core walkers, their friends, supporting organizations to help collect the required budget for this March.

What would be the outcome of the Yatra?

Jai Jagat Yatra would bring a wider understanding and awareness on the issues of poverty eradication, reduction of conflict, climate change and create more social inclusion in the world. The world would get to know the way to reach solutions to these issues is through nonviolence. A clearer perspective towards the strategies, policies towards sustainable development and their implementation would be advanced. Jai Jagat Yatra would disseminate Gandhi ji's thoughts on human's role and responsibilities in the overall development of the world and the parameter of success is reaching to the most deprived people. We are hoping that the dialogue that we have with Geneva-based economic and business organizations around those ideas will help determine the future direction of development. One of the successes of Jai Jagat Yatra will be that all organizations of the world that believe in dialogue would together and work nonviolently. This would enhance and strengthen the stream of nonviolence in the world. We are confident that Jai Jagat Yatra will be successful in setting policy directions along with shifting public opinion that deals with the climate crisis and inequity.

Why is your participation so important?

Only 50 people would be continuously marching by foot in the Jai Jagat but by the time this group reaches Geneva the number of people in attendance may reach up to 2000-3000 persons coming from outside Switzerland. The success of the march does not solely depend on the 50 core walkers; it is also all those people supporting the Yatra through different mediums. Anyone can contribute by spreading the message about the march in terms of Gandhi's nonviolent methods and the aims of the march. Media persons can be motivated to write or speak about the march; local friends can play an active role in collecting materials/resources for people's accommodation and food. Young people can act to connect friends between the participants and those in other countries. In short, the success of the march is largely dependent on people's voluntary association and active participation with a notion that this is your campaign. Finally if it is possible to join the march and participate in a nonviolent training, this would be great.

How much risk/danger is involved in this Yatra?

Local people within the countries, through where this Yatra will be crossing, would always be present to extend a helping hand. Still there could be problems of food and accommodation and weather. We will be travelling within India in the months of October to the end of January, and the winters would be starting in the month of November and it gets cold December and January where the weather goes to sub-zero temperatures in these months. We hope by the time we cross Iran and reach Armenia in the month of March, the weather would become pleasant. The weather would be hot by the time we enter Italy. Needless to say that there are countries where the situations are stressful like Iran. Similarly, many countries between Bulgaria and Italy are facing conflict situations. We are supposed to be disciplined enough not to speak anything or act in a way that demeans or disrespects people's local culture and beliefs. We are also expected to abide by the rules and regulations set for the participants of Yatra and remain disciplined throughout. Misconduct of a single person can land all of us into big trouble but if we manage to follow everything in a disciplined manner than problems will be minimized.

What would be the follow up to the Geneva Program?

The Geneva program would end on 2nd October, 2020. We do not believe that the issues we are going to raise in Geneva will be over by the end of the Yatra. Issues like poverty eradication, climate change, nonviolence are very serious long-term issues and they require continuous efforts to solve. The Jai Jagat campaign is being formed with a vision to work continuously on these issues with the Gandhian ideology. The International Jai Jagat Association has been constituted in Brussels. A group of youths in Europe have already started preparing to spread the message of Jai Jagat 2020. We believe that continuous efforts will continue in every country on the issues raised in Geneva so that its results can be seen in the lives of poorest and deprived communities. We would also like to see a change in the current domain of development so that the human race with the help of their changed lifestyles and behavior rid themselves of the environmental dangers of pollution and climate change. We believe that the Geneva yatra will succeed in bringing altitudinal change that is the first step towards a better healthy world with peace.

Who is the leader of Jai Jagat 2020?

This march would be led by 50 persons who would begin the Yatra on 2nd October, 2019, from Rajghat Delhi. These 50 participants include experienced social activists, some youth and grassroot workers. Mr. Rajgopal PV would be responsible for keeping the participants motivated throughout the Yatra whereas the coordination at the international level has been taken up by Jill Cor Harris. Apart from this, there will be several roles and responsibilities that would be arising from time to time and the leadership would keep changing as per the requirement. And as this march is conceptualized on the methods of Gandhi ji, the leadership is seen in a different perspective, rather than concentrating on an individual leader, here the leadership is shared by the whole group. We want to disseminate the message of sacrifice through Jai Jagat march. Still to name a few people who would be representing in the different countries, their names are found in the International Advisory Committee on the www.jaijagat2020.org website.



Have such events been held before?

This is not the first ever foot-march that has been held. Though considering the distance covered, it is longer. The perennial peace marches like Dandi march held by Mahatma Gandhi and the march to Selma taken up by Martin Luther King against racism have had great significance in the history. And if we talk about the longest footmarch in history, it was carried out by Vinoba Bhave ji lasting for 13 years in which he covered 80 thousand kms and succeeded in getting 4 million acres of land in donation for the poor.

Many a people have done bicycle trips across the world in the past but as the science and economy is advancing, these countries are not becoming closer, but further apart. Satish Kumar and EP Menon did a foot march in the 1960s starting from Rajghat Delhi to New York via Moscow to press for the halting of nuclear weapons. They did not face any problem without money as people from across these countries welcomed them, provided them with food and accommodation. In fact they did not have any visas to these countries, so if compared to today, traveling out of India overland is impossible. And this is why Jai Jagat is very important, so that at least a few people can walk and try to demolish these walls of hatred and ignite the love for people across borders again. The success is not the concern, it is finding the right direction that matters the most at this point in time.

How did the preparation for this Yatra start?

The Jai Jagat Campaign was conceptualized in the year 2013. In order to check the possibilities of its realization, we travelled to a dozen countries. We concluded during these trips that the condition across the world is more or less the same. It was recognized that the solution to some issues are regional, some are national and some are global.

In today's world of globalization where capitalism and technology have reached every corner of the world, the solution of the problems lies globally too. In order to do something people need to come together and figure out solutions to the global issues. Jai Jagat Campaign was put forth as the means of doing this. Within the last 5-6 years, many people have put a great deal of hard work into this project. Jai Jagat committees were formed in many regions, Jai Jagat was discussed at many global platforms, and many organizations came forth to support the campaign. Even many municipal corporations and political parties have supported this campaign. Many workshops have been conducted to orient the youths across the world. Many committees, organizations have been formed across the world and many seminars have been conducted to discuss Jai Jagat.

Surprisingly many people have put their energy, hard work to make this campaign a success. Few contributed to collecting funds, but there have been a lot of voluntary effort. Though we haven't collected as much as we require, we still hope our efforts will be rewarded. A great example set by Anita Behen of Rajasthan, who donated her savings of years of Rs. 200,000 for Jai Jagat. Along with monetary support, some have contributed in-kind support. We have succeeded in creating a positive environment much before the Yatra starts and it's a great achievement. And we believe that by the end of the Yatra, we would be able to take small steps towards answering the large global issues, like poverty, exclusion, conflict and the climate crisis.



Charter of Commitment



Everywhere the desire grows for profound change in our way of life. In the wake of the deepening economic, social and environmental crises, the Jai Jagat campaign ("Long Live the Planet!") is working to achieve a caring world for all living beings based on human rights.

MISSIONS

- To promote Gandhi's message of nonviolence, as a global transformation strategy and a way of living together.
- To promote the Jai Jagat marches as a tool of change makers working together to transform individuals, institutions and societies.
- To recognize the knowledge of women, young people and the poor and to ensure that they are empowered as the main actors of this campaign.
- To raise awareness on how local solutions contribute to global change.
- To build on the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) through the fulfilment of four central pillars: eradication of poverty, elimination of social discrimination, climate action, and nonviolent reduction of conflict.

VALUES

- Act peace to attain peace: "Be the change you want to see in the world."
- "Practice sharing and caring."
- Propose rather than oppose; pre-empt "us and them" relationships.
- Respect the ideal of openness, cooperation and inclusion of Jai Jagat in the service of the common good.



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contact@jaijagat2020.org