



PEACEFUL
DEMONSTRATORS
ARRESTED
IN CHHINDWARA

STRUGGLE AGAINST A PROJECT OF ADANI POWER : PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS ARRESTED

On Sunday 26th of June, in Chausra, a village in Chhindwara district (South of Madhya Pradesh), people were demonstrating peacefully against a project of Adani Power. The company is planning to establish a thermal power plant near the village, with two dams utilizing the water of the Pench River.

This project involves several injustices. First, local farmers will be deprived of water, because of the diversion of the river, and land as well. Secondly, the dislodging of farmers already started though the final environment clearance hasn't been granted to the company. Thirdly, the compensation for the farmers is very problematic: acquiring the land in the name of public welfare, the government is paying 10 000 Rs per acre to the farmers, and then selling it at 130 000 Rs per acre to the private company ! And finally, when farmers and activists are demonstrating peacefully against this project, they are incarcerated. During the demonstration on June 26th, 45 agitators have been arrested by the police with-

out any specified reason. Before that, on May 20th, Dr Sunilam and Advocate Aradhana Bhargawa, who support the struggle against Adani Power project, were brutally attacked.

Alerted by an activist, Mahesh Mishra, who has been detained, Ransingh Parmar, National Convener of Ekta Parishad alleged that this situation was highly unfair. Ekta Parishad condemns these attacks and arrests and demands that:

- The 45 arrested people be released immediately and all false charges against them be withdrawn.
- The National Human Rights Commission sends an investigation team immediately to look into the atrocities on the KSS activists in past two months and take action accordingly.
- The Ministry of Environment and Forest should not grant any clearance to the Adani Power Plant since there are a number of problems with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

RALLY AND PUBLIC MEETING FOR ACCESS TO LAND IN BIHAR



On June 7th, thousands of poor and landless people from villages across Bihar gathered in Patna, the State capital, to take out a rally and a public meeting organized by Ekta Parishad, in which representatives of many voluntary organizations and renowned social workers participated. People claimed control over land and livelihood, through different demands :

- Formation of a special Task force for implementation of D. Bandhopadhyya's recommendations (the land reform recommendations in Bihar).
- Ensuring 10 dismal homestead land for all homeless families.
- Recognition of tenant under Tenancy Act
- Ensuring forest land under Forest Rights Act 2007 for all tribal families
- Stop Agriculture land grabbing for non agriculture purpose
- Stop Corruption in pro-poor Development scheme

Bihar, situated on the south of Nepal, between Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, is one of the most populated states, but also one of the most backward in terms of economic and social development. 30,6% of the population of Bihar is living below the poverty line, and 30% is landless. Problems faced by the poor communities are numerous in this area. For example, as Jagannath Mishra, the former Chief Minister, told it during the public meeting, the Maha Dalits, who are one of the poorest communities, still didn't received the land they were supposed to get. Rajagopal PV who also attended the meeting condemned the government for favoring capitalist projects and neglecting the agenda of poor people. A few people are looting all the resources in the name of development, while the poor are being



thrown out from their land through violence. Rajagopal announced that this Satyagraha will continue until the poor get land in their ownership.

EKTA MAHILA MANCH, A VERY ACTIVE BRANCH

The women's wing of Ekta Parishad is very active in leadership building and in the preparation of the March Jan Satyagraha 2012. Several trainings have been conducted during the spring, and the coming months seem to be very busy as well. In August, several actions are planned: a training in Kukshi (Madhya Pradesh) from August 10th to 12th, and a training in Orcha (Uttar Pradesh) from 27th to 29th. Each training will involve about 20 participants, and will be about leadership and non-violent struggles for

justice. From August 17th to 19th, a cultural training program will also take place in MJVS Center in Katni (Madhya Pradesh). In the presence of leaders of Ekta Kala Manch (the cultural branch of Ekta Parishad), 30 women from Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh will be led to develop their artistic abilities in order to be able to use local songs, street plays and slogans to sensitize villagers to the March Jan Satyagraha 2012.

« Well being of the last for the well being of all »

EKTA MAHILA MANCH,
MANY ACTIONS
PLANNED TO INCREASE
WOMEN'S ROLE

A TRIP WITH TAMADI



We had a Tamadi group of 4 people in July coming from France for 15 days: Emilie, Justin, Thierry and Marie-Pascale. We visited Ma-

Umaria district, where the Gond Adivasis live. As last year, we had a great interaction with villagers: meetings with villagers and women's group, visit of agricultural activities around the village, including learning how to plant rice for Emilie and Marie-Pascale. Finally we visited the Taj Mahal in Agra and the Red Fort in Delhi.

In August, 2 groups will do the same tour, and in September Tamadi will inaugurate a new tour in Himalaya!

More info about Tamadi on : <http://www.tamadi.org>



hatma Gandhi Seva Ashram in Jaura, a social center created by Rajagopal in the seventies. Then we went for 2 days to Khor, a village inhabited by Sahariya Adivasis in Gwalior district, where we had a very nice welcome by the village people. This is a new village for the programme, and it is promising.

We also visited the tourist place of Orchha, south of Jhansi, before going to Manoj Vikas Jivan Samiti (MJVS), an agricultural centre near Katni. Then we spent 2 days and 3 nights in Maraikala village in

PUBLICATION : « QUEST FOR GANDHI : A NONKILLING JOURNEY »

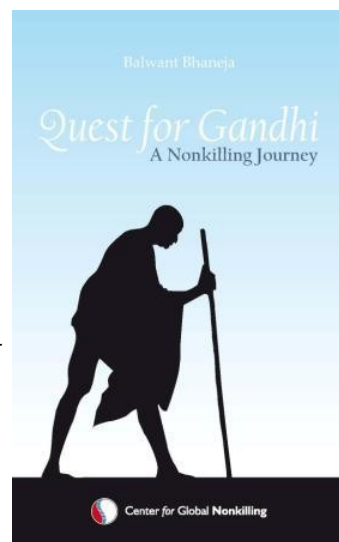
"In "Quest for Gandhi: A Nonkilling Journey" published by IGINP-CESCI, its author Balwant Bhaneja has given a colourful and vibrant account of a trip to his native India after his retirement from the Canadian Foreign Service. His interest--in the search for Gandhi in the present day--is inspired by his work for Department of Peace Initiative in Canada and other peace work here. He describes his encounter with several present day Gandhian thinkers--Dr. S. Jeyapragasam, Dr. N Radhakrishnan and the playwright, Vijay Tendulkar, all in very lively terms with an eye to how Gandhian thought is continuing to percolate. He then goes on to describe his encounter with the Gandhian activists, PV Rajagopal and Madhu Kishwar. These accounts provide a wonderful introduction to the state of Gandhian activism in India today. The book is rounded out with accounts of his visits to the former Prime Minister I. K Gujral and the philosopher, Dr. Dharendra Sharma.

In conclusion, there is a very-well written and clear account of the key aspects of Gandhi's thought which are still so vital to the twenty first century. This account opens out a very good bridge to understanding Gandhi on a range of concerns and struggles that are ongoing in North America (e.g., pluralism, violence, peace education etc.). Combining both the personal touch of the traveller and the thoughtfulness of a Gandhian activist, this account provides a very helpful introduction to the Gandhian scene in India today. I thoroughly enjoyed it."

Paul Schwartzeneruber

The above book may be ordered through:

Professor S. Jeyapragasm,
International Gandhian Institute for Nonviolence and Peace
and Centre for Socio Cultural Interaction,
Majagram, New Natham Road,
Chattrapati P.O.
Madurai 625014
Tamil Nadu (TN), India.
email: majabetsy@gmail.com



International mobilization conference on The Right to Land and Livelihood

Gateway to livelihood security and sustainable development
in a non-violent global economy
12-13 September 2011, Geneva (Switzerland)

Information and registration (before September 1st) :

ektaeurope.org/conference

Conference organized by Ekta Europe Network and Ekta Parishad



TRAVELLING
WITH TAMADI,
ANOTHER WAY TO
DISCOVER INDIA:
www.tamadi.org

CONFERENCE IN
GENEVA,
12-13 SEPTEMBER
EKTAEUROPE.ORG/
CONFERENCE

NEXT EVENTS

SIT-IN IN DELHI
2-5 AOÜT

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIOLENCE
IN TRIBAL AREAS
7-9 AOÜT
RANCHI
(JHARKHAND)

DAL NAYAK
TRAINING
10-11 AOÜT
GAYA (BIHAR)

NATIONAL
CONSULTATION
20-21 AOÜT
(GUJARAT)

YOUTH CAMP
29-31 AOÜT
BILASPUR
(CHHATTISGARH)