



JP WITH JANAAGRAHIS



Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, National co-ordinator of Lok Satta, (A.P.) interacted with Janaagrahis at Bangalore for a two - day "Taking Stock" session

AbHaya - Forum for Collective Voice

Abhaya, the fourth federation of Residents Associations, commercial establishments and institutions, in the country (Ward 54), was inaugurated on Feb 1, in a well organized function at Vivekananda School, Kathariguppe main road.

Three federations - Abhyudaya (Ward 55), Supraja (Ward 50) and Citizens Forum (Ward 72) were launched last year.

Shri D. Venkatesha Murthy, Corporator of Ward 54, Shri Ramesh and Smt. Swathi Ramanathan from Janaagraha were the

chief guests, who gave valuable advise and guidance on carrying the federation forward.

They also assured their whole hearted support and cooperation in all the activities of Abhaya, aimed at the welfare and progress of Ward 54 residents.

Abhaya is intended to be a collective voice of individuals, Associations, Institutions and commercial establishments in Ward 54, towards the common objective of citizen participation in civic administration.

Janaagraha movement emphasizes the need for citizens constant interaction with elected representatives and administrative machinery at all levels, both in terms of rights and duties.

As against individual attempts, only the collective movement can be effective, efficient and purposeful in accomplishing the common objectives concerning groups of citizens. Abhaya intends to do exactly

this.

An adhoc committee has been formed to initiate the preliminary activities. It is intended to follow the constitutional pattern of Rotary International institutions in establishing the committees procedures and other formalities. (Contd... Page 3)

ABHAYA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Rs. 101/- for individuals.

Rs. 201/- for assns., and institutions.

Rs. 301/- for comm., establishments.

INSIDE PAGES

Page-2 : Janaagraha Calender

Page-3 : Participate; Don't Complain and ABHAYA Photos

Page-4 : JP Speaks Out

Harvest Rain Water

It is well known that Bangalore now suffers from water shortages in summer, while floods in rainy season wash away vehicles and pedestrians in drains. Storm water heavily damages roads.

These can be avoided if the government makes rain water harvesting compulsory for all house-owners and apartment residents and imposes severe penalties on those persons failing to harvest water and discharging rain water from their premises on to the road.

Rain water harvesting, besides replenishing the ground water table, will also prevent damage to roads and expenditure on maintenance of public vehicles (as potholes will not be formed).

- P R Balakrishna, Bangalore

Let's Join Hands

Gaining technical skills and reading syllabus books is not only ones responsibility of youth and children (Students) in a deonocretic country. Things like moral education, caring our city/country is also important, which makes our country/ city develop. That's what today Janaagraha is doing. Let us join hands and be part of movement.

- Nirmala Girish, Lecturer, MSRIT

LETTERS

Rama Rajya?

Who do I vote for? This is a big question and it always bothers me at election time. I am a senior citizen and have cast my vote in many elections.

I am not interested in reading the election manifesto of any party because the parties have been promising Rama Rajya in our state and country, which never seems to materialise! It is too much to expect them to establish Rama Rajya as long as they continue to nominate candidates who are corrupt, uncultured and probably uneducated. What is worse, many of them have criminal records.

There are thousands of sincere, educated persons who can convert our country into a Rama Rajya if they decide to enter politics. But without money and muscle power they cannot contest an election and win.

The only way out in this situation is unity of the honest people, including industrialists who are donating money for good causes. They should pool resources and contest elections in large numbers.

- S R Venkataram, Bangalore

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Janaagraha Calendar

(FEBRUARY 1 - MARCH 15)

- Feb 4 : Janaagraha Taking Stock with Jayaprakash Narayan (9 am to 6 pm) @ Bowring Institute.
- Feb 5 : Janaagraha Taking Stock continued; (9 am to 1.30 pm) @ Janaagraha Office.
- Feb 14: SJSRY Partner NGO Meeting (11 am) @ Janaagraha Office.
- Feb 28: Bala Janaagraha Convocation 2003-04 (4 pm to 6 pm) @ St. Josephs' Indian High School Grounds (Next to Mallya Hospital).

SHG Meetings

- Feb 17: Hatti Mariyamma SHG - Ward 50 (2 pm) @ Anganawadi Ctr., Parvathipuram.
- Feb 19: Moula SHG - Ward 55 (3 pm) @ Yakoob's House, Kadirenahalli, BSK.
- Feb 20: Sugandha SHG - Ward 54 (3 pm) @ Dilsha's House, Avalahalli.
- Feb 23: Jagruthi SHG - Ward 74 (2.30 pm) @ Babashseheb Tailoring Ctr.
- Feb 27: Aishwarya SHG - Ward 100 (1.30 pm) @ Anganawadi Ctr., Geddalhalli.
- Feb 28: Ganga SHG - Ward 54 (5 pm) @ Anganawadi Ctr., Manjunath Colony.

MRM Meetings

- Feb 21: Ward 73, Vimanapura (4.30 pm) @ Domlur Ward Office - Smt. Sunitha Nadhamuni (Ph : 36718064).
- Ward 100, Sanjayanagara (6 pm) @ RMV Club - Mr. R.C. Dutt (Ph : 23416906).
- Ward 54, Srinivasanagara (10 am) @ Ward Office - Mr. Y. Damodara (Ph : 26721457).
- Feb 24: Ward 94, Kadugondanahalli (4.30 pm) @ Association's Office, Pillanna Garden - Mr. Shivashankaran (Ph : 25463188).
- Mar 6 : Ward 55, Padmanabhanagar (10 am) @ Ward Office - Mr. Mukund (Ph : 26723538), Gopalkrishna.
- Ward 68, Egipura (5.30 pm) @ Ward Office, Koramangala, Opp. Suka Sagar Hotel - Mr. Anil Kumar (Ph : 25537619).
- Ward 74, Jeevanbeemanagar (4 pm) @ Ward Office, III Main, Defence Colony - Mr. A.C. John (Ph : 25281200), Mr. Akshay Mallappa (25254140).
- Ward 78, Vasanthnagar (5.30 pm), @ KSV Nilaya, Behind Photo Flash - Mr. Krishna Murthy (Ph : 22286411).
- Ward 96, Hebbal (10 am) @ Sumangali Sevashrama - Mr. Y.H. Rao (Ph : 23434183).

MRM : Monthly Review Meeting

SHG : Self Help Group

CDS : Community Development Society

PMA : Project Monetary Administration

DMA : Directorate of Municipal Administration



Corporator Shri D. Venkatesh Murthy, Shri Ramesh and Smt. Swati with Shri Damodara and Citizens of Ward 54 at Srinivasanagar on the launch day of ABHAYA

AbHaya

(Contd from Page 1)

Interested persons may kindly contact the following for additional information and for enrolment as members.

Shri Y. Damodara, # 318, II 'A' Cross, I Phase, Girinagar, Bangalore - 560 085. Ph : 26721457.

- L.M. Niranjana Murthy

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL
Shri Y. Damodara	President	26721457
Shri K.B. Gopala Rao	Vice-President	26792928
Shri L.M. Niranjana Murthy	Secretary	26691165
Shri S. Rajanna	Joint Secretary	26721923
Shri K.S. Narayana Shastry	Joint Secretary	26695840
Smt. Nanda P. Rao	Treasurer	26794204

There are individuals and organizations in and around Bangalore who have been silently and subtly doing contributions for the betterment of the society. Be it cleaning up the little area they reside, or be it spreading the message of creating a better society. A little contribution... a little achievement... this is all it takes to make our city an example for the rest of the country to follow. And that is going to make a whole lot of difference in the end.

An association which is in the course of creating a better society is the Kumara Park Resident Welfare Association. Started 2 years ago, the community believes in promoting fellowship and improving living conditions of the residents in the area.

Says the president of the association, Mr. Ramakanth, "The motto of our association is PARTICIPATE - DON'T COMPLAIN". Without active participation of the residents there shall be no development of the ward."

"Till June 1st the BMP was doing a direct garbage collection from homes in the area. There was always a shortage of resources in terms of people and trolleys. "But now due to the residents initiative, we have a full strength of garbage trolleys and enough manpower to look after the area are divided.

An individual from each house is responsible for the maintenance of the roads, which is divided in such a way that each household has to see at least 200-300 meters of the road, facing their residence. It is their responsibility to see that the area is kept clean, asserts Mr. Ramakanth.

The community has brought into practice the regular clearance of dustbins from the area. Dustbins are considered a headache and a big annoyance for residents near it. A solution for this is provided by the committee.

Each house shall pile up their wastes in front of their doors and the pourakarmis will come and take it away from there. So,

PARTICIPATE; DON'T COMPLAIN



N S Ramakanth

A little contribution... a little achievement... this is all it takes to make our city an example for the rest of the country to follow. And that is going to make a whole lot of difference in the end.

there is no litter on the roads with cows and crows feasting on it, and making the surroundings dirty.

For this the association, especially the president has been going door-to-door and requesting housewives and maids not to throw waste materials on streets. Asked about the success of this effort, Mr. Ramakanth is very positive. He says that 75% of the people in the area have been responsible enough to stop throwing wastes in the streets.

As for the health factor the association has been co-ordinating with the health department for clearance of garbage. For engineering works the association is directly relating its problems concerning roads, drainage etc with the public works department. The process has been very systematic with a rule of fining the residents who do not follow the guidelines.

So, may be the contributions are meagre enough to just turn our eyes away from it, but the truth is that these people are moving forward, doing their part in keeping their surroundings clean

thereby making an involvement for a better Bangalore.

There is progressive developmental participation of citizens in this ward.

- Dewaker Basnet

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Q: You have said people need humility, trust, confidence, collaboration and a sense of strategy to build a successful people's movement. How do we build this trust?

JP: That is one of the challenges we have to take up in our country. We have a wonderful country with many strengths. Our culture basically teaches us contentment. We respect our elders. We take care of our family and even the poor people learn to be happy with not too much of tension and conflict. We resolve issues without much violence. These are wonderful attributes in any society.

But we have some negative qualities. There are 3 negative qualities.

1 There is no sense of equality. We do not question inequality because it is easier not to question it. Centuries of certain traditions have made us insensitive to the suffering.

2. There is no sense of trust. Each group is somewhat insular, clannish and across hierarchies it tends to manifest because you are angry of those above you and mistrustful of those below you. Even the management says that the manager must dictate, control. No one says that it must be a collective effort, a democratic effort, Most Indian managers tend to believe in theory X. They say that these fellows can't manage, they don't trust. It is a very Indian failure, a cultural failure.

3. There is no sense of common fate. Within a community, within a caste, within a family there is a sense of common fate. They respect each other. But across communities, across groups there is no sense of citizenship there is no sense of common fate.

The trust is certainly a big issue. But now we are learning to do that, people are learning to trust each other. It will happen when we realise one is not a threat to the other. It is a big country. To build societies, to build institutions to make things bigger and better. Let us rejoice, let us share and that is the only way to make things collectively better. It is happening slowly but it has to happen much more.

Q: How can we make people feel a sense of belongingness considering the fact that there are so many diverse groups and religions?

JP: It is a sense of common fate. And if you recognise the importance of citizenship and what is important for you

as a family as a community etc is absolutely necessary there is so much more that is important to everybody that is important to you also.

No one is self-contained. Public roads, collective behaviour, societies are as important as his own home, personal happiness, family etc. The awareness is not built in. This is not about selflessness, it is about enlightened selfishness. But that awareness has not become part of our consciousness in India. If you take the West it has happened over several hundred years over centuries. It did not happen overnight. In India this effort is being made only recently. So it is not so intensive.

Q: How will we make the people have confidence in the government?

JP: Well the government has failed in many respects. It is not a complete failure. It is much better of than it was 50 years ago. 30 years ago, 20 years ago.

(Firstly) Overall prosperity has improved. Actually we have made progress. It would be much better if we got this message across to more people. There is a gulf between expectation and reality, which causes a lot of anger, which is justified.

Secondly we own them. Government is not external. So we take responsibility.

Thirdly apart from ownership, when things are wrong what is the way out? The people must take over. Instead, we have become a system of freeloaders. We

JP is a Physician by training who went into IAS in the aftermath of the Emergency and the failure of the Janatha experiment.

Despite the 16 years of distinguished public service and a formidable reputation

in the State of Andhra Pradesh his experience in the government convinced him that faulty governance process was the biggest hurdle to achieving greater success. And in order to translate his vision into practical reality, he resigned from IAS in 1996, and worked with like-minded colleagues for the formation of Lok Satta, which has now emerged as India's leading civil society initiative for governance reforms.



JPSPEAKS OUT.

keep complaining, we think our work is over. We think somebody else will do it. No. I am saying we still have a responsibility. Frustration is not the answer.

Q: In India we elect and forget. How do we get the people to engage with the government?

JP: It is happening. All these things Janaagraha is doing in some ways and many other groups are doing is to make the citizen understand 2 things.

1. That he/she is the master. So he cannot vote and simply say, "I have voted" and after that sit back because he/she is not a passive partner but indeed a very active partner. In any case things will not improve in case you are not actively involved.

2. And no matter how wonderful the elected person is, unless you demand, the status quo will not improve. I think that awareness is now spreading we have another factor and that is, once the constitutional empowerment of local government is commissioned, they cannot be removed by any government or dissolved. Now pressure is going to come from the local government with greater engagement and we are moving in the right direction. We should have the humility to learn the best practices from other initiatives wherever they are in the country, adapt them to our conditions and make them bigger.