

« BHARAT JODO JATRA » : GANDHIAN PEACE PADYATRA

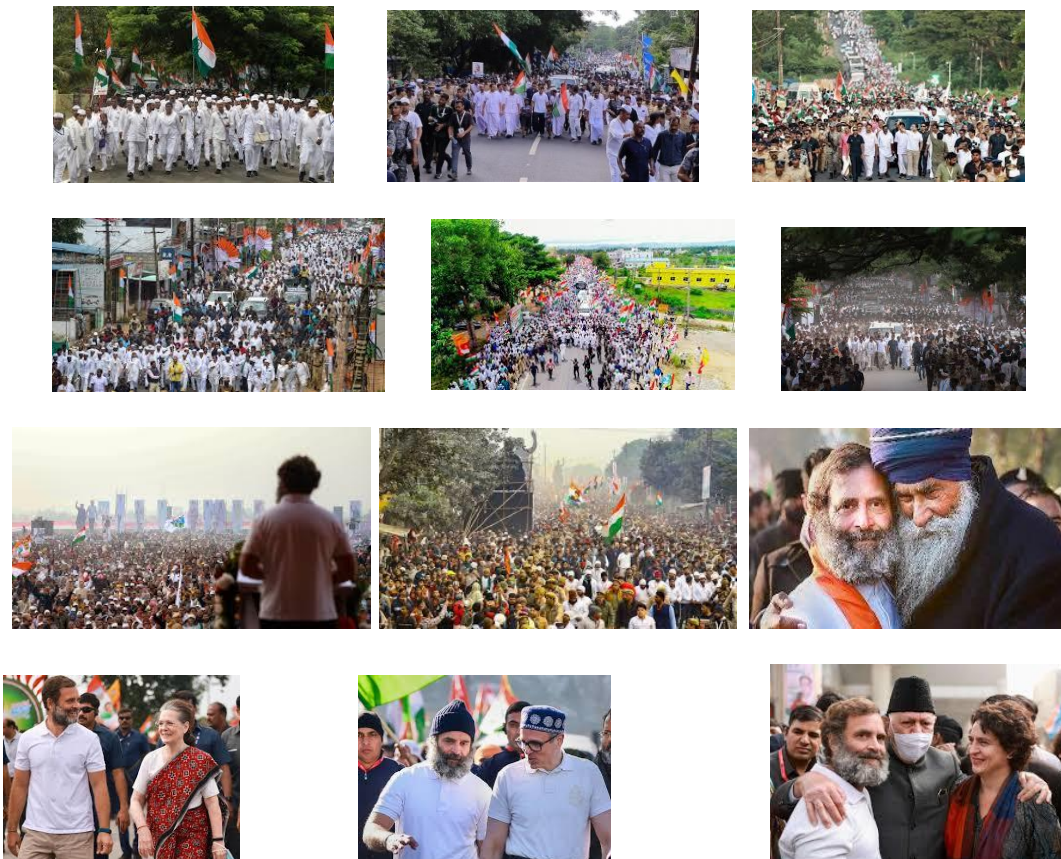
In 1931, the le Mahatma Gandhi started a peacefully non-violent Padyatra « SALT MARCH » to Dandi, who become one of the stronger event to permit our Country's Independence in 1947.



Mahatma Gandhi... Rahul Gandhi on the first day... throughout 14 States 5 months later.

From September 2022 to 31st January 2023, Indira Gandhi's son, the highest Congress leader of Indian opposition, started a similar March of 4080 km for Ahimsa, Peace and Unity of India. This pilgrimage of 300 Congress members, followed by thousands of other volunteers from every State crossed, reached millions sympathizers of all castes, faiths, associations, unions, federations and people from Civil Society, without any political aim, except HARMONY!

WE HAVE SEEN THE RESULT OF HATE, LET US NOW TRY THE RESULT OF LOVE!



DREADFUL TRIPLE REARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY AND SYRIA:
MORE THAN 53.000 DEAD!



160.000 building, destroyed many having 5 to 7 storeys!



Trying to extract their dear ones with bare hands: "I hear my mother...my child...my wife calling... 3 days...6 days...then deafening silence! Especially in N.W. Syria. Some thousands survivors saved, **some after 278 agonizing hours after some 11 days**, with the help of hundred of countries emergencies' relief agencies.... Indian army (200 specialists) were among the first to reach. And were lauded when they left after 10 days;

But in some NW Syrian places, **NO RELIEF COULD REACH**, because of political problems: political Western sanctions against dictator Assad, closure of borders by Assad and his Russian allies, United Nations paralyzed, Kurds totally helpless, etc...

One more huge humanitarian scandal and shame for the world! And now, some 5.7 million people houseless in the winter cold and often foodless! Billions of funds for Ukrainians weapons, millions of funds by many countries for victims' families...already partially forgotten!

« NIGHT FIRE AT ICOD ! »

Around 9.30 PM, sudden shouting behind the boys' Home:" **Fire, fire! Help!"**



A real inferno is raging, along around 100 m, in a forest not far from the river.



15 m. flames licking the high coconut trees and mahogany's , branches, calcifying scores of plaintain-trees! Aon night at ICOt very few valif men: only Jaganath, in-charge of the boys, took immediately some initiatives(sihouettes first pic) Gopa, the Secretary, phoned desperately everywhere. (her sihouette on la s pic): Binay arrived, with two workers living close-by.



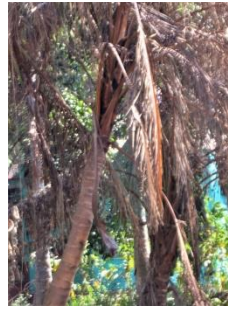
Binay (white pants) organized immediately the watering pipes, then pumping system, taking electric connection from the so close House of Prayer. Even girls and young boys made a chain of water buckets. When policemen arrive, five of them helped to beat the flames down and places where sparks started again. Around 2 AM, the fire was brought under control. Happily, Kashmir's wind, alive during the whole day, was starting again at 4AM. Unless, it would have been quite worst!

**Only I was absolutely useless on my wheelchair except to encourage others not to be afraid!
On right, the flames are seen through a window of the Prayer room at midnight**

DAMAGES

Several feet' soles burnt, a dozen of banana trees carbonized, two large coconut-trees that will not survive, one Mahogany damaged...and a new place to start ground clear and proper compost.





Mahogany, coconut trees. And burnt down banana trees...



TRANSFER OF 25 MENTALLY SICK WOMEN FROM MOTHER TERESA'HOME;

In the ex-old men home, we have cut the Home with large tarpaulins to create a road for small lorries going to the place where new building is started. Women will remain here some 3-4 months. Curiously, they have been no complaints, even for those who are here since more than 20 years!



DIPALI, responsible and assistant nurse trained in Belari by Sukeshi. Her husband is paralyzed, but her 17 years old son is looking after. The tarpaulin door is temporary!



Courtyard is seen from the entrance, and seen from the opposite wall along the road.



We are all laughing a lot in this Home !

The black lady down the first pic is dumb from Kerala, but was found at Pilkhana. With the violet shawl, Lucky is here from 26 years! Last with white shawl, is leaving us this Monday. She is cured and has a 4years old girl. The best of our lot! Sitting on the bench, Josna has a boy with us (Class XI) but has no other family.



Left. 1. Red lady has two children: on 14 y. girl in other Home. One 19 boy was with us 10 years and now working outside. 2. Woman on the side is 98% spastic. It takes her 10 minutes to salute someone. Her old father is with us. Her mother and brother both dementia; dies at ICOD. 3. Right: Shandha is paralyzed and blocked in this position since 10 years (with us)She is our only inmate never to smile. One does understand her! Gopa and I visit everyone them twice daily, often more. We laugh a lot and joy is permanent, despite their loneliness and various sufferings. Some are here since 28 years!

TRANSFER OF SICK WOMEN NOT PSYCHIATRIC
(At the second men's bungalow)



View of the backside of the bungalow, then of their large garden.



'Haru Masi'(here with a blind girl) is with me since 37 years(at Belari). She is in-charge of the Home and permanent since she is a bachelor. 1. The young girl in blue is a quadriplegic orphan from Pilkhana. She is in ICOD since 17 years. 2. White nightie: Orphan from Howrah station in 1997. 3. Blue lady: without family, paraplegic, with us since 8-9 years. Both are now mother and daughter, always together.



They go outside to walk up to the river or Praying Hall, forest or their large garden.



Orphan of 20 years old, looked after by a Muslim family...whose parents died. She has learnt tailoring and does all the sewing of the inmates. For the meals, it is a little bit narrow, but no real problems for them!

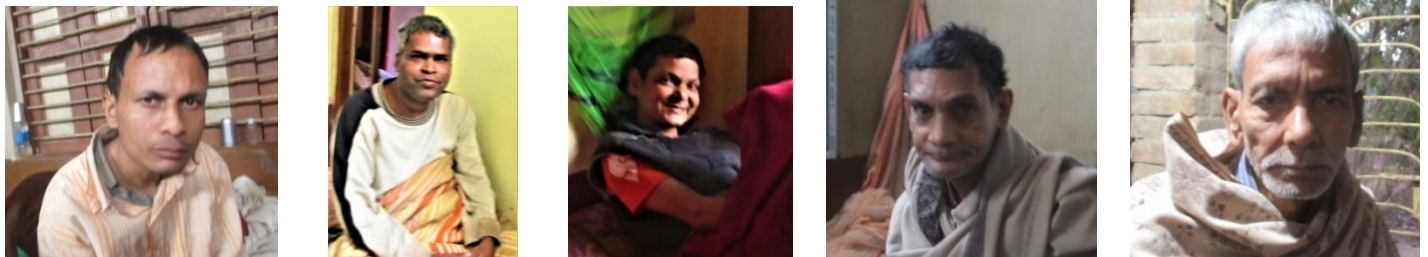
NEW HOME OF THE OLD OR SICK MEN



On the right is the Dispensary, then vegetable garden, then their building. Three rooms are on one side with three beds each, and four beds in the veranda.



3 responsible: NITAY, with us since 17 years. Sahib since two years, and the third was living at ICOD before we were coming. He works like a guardian with a stipend. He is quite reliable but is becoming a little too old. Like myself!



Four of them suffer from autism and the last is suffering of several ailments, the worst being is neurotic and sexual misbehavior and unbalanced mind. Despised by all, but he is a very poor but good boy! He doesn't need pity, but friendship and understanding.



The first, Bablu, is paraplegic and rather very sick. The second UDAY is one of the last polio case of India. He is living on his two knees day and night. I have put him in so many centers since 30 years. The third is the older of the lot (80?) but still is working in the fields...He is an ex Baul singer. His daughter is spastic and with us and his wife and boy died at ICOD.



Nanda, he first is diabetic last degree. Practically never moves. The second, PRODIP is the one who is always helping and laughing, despite his terrible chronic acute skin psoriasis and bones sufferings, including his multiple failed abdominal operations. His dream is every day to go to Heavens as soon as possible, with me if possible! The third one Garihat, from Manipur (border of Myanmar) brought by the police. At last, Binay could track his family, not keen to receive him. We will escort him (1500 km) with some policemen...

NEW CONSTRUCTION OF A PUCCA BUILDING FOR WOMEN
(Supported by an ONG (OFI) from Bangalore)



**Muslim team of strong workers for the demolition of roofing and wooden sub-structures
Most of them know Our Secretary Gopa since they have sent their families to our dispensary and given
even handicapped children!**



**Lorries of sand and stonships are coming from Burdwan. Smaller delivery-trucks are
carrying the material towards tu building site. Tarpaulins have been put to hide girls place.**



**All material is stocked in front of the animal sheepfold under the vigilant eyes of Binay.
Sometimes at 3 or 5 AM. All demolished wooden structures will be used further on.**



Our masons' team with Amitda of our Administrative Office and the engineer (right)

GREAT JOY FOR TWO INMATES RELEASED TO THEIR FAMILIES



Hella, brought by the police end of 2021, did not know her address, and during months, she was crying. With the cooperation of Midnapur police, Binay could find her. She is above with our responsible and her sick mother. Hope she will not flight her home again!



SHOPON, 25 years, has also found her mother at more than 150 Km. Her with Novin our workers responsible. Quite nice boy, but who bnever went to school. His mother will employ him to look after the small cattle.



SOMA orphan who remained with us 6-7 years. She was unable to finish her school, as she is rather simple. She got married (how? We do not know!) and settled in an adivassi family, although she is Bengali. Pregnant, her mother-in-law requested us to keep her at ICOD up to delivery. She got a nice baby this 21st March. Pictures: special Bengali meal one week before delivery. Her picture one day before. The baby (named by her Sumitra) ... and the so happy grandfather with his 45-47th great child! She has left us after 21 days and lives happily with her new family!



**SHOMPA, orphan girl married at ICOD with her so delicate daughter, and the son of her daughter-in-law.
!**



One of our ex-orphan boys of Belari now specialized with kitchen installation. He could help us for our kitchen!



Raphael, and three Swiss nurses from Howrah South Point. I know their Indian responsible (in blue) since many years! They came to ask us if we can find the artist who has made such beautiful work at ICOD.



Our five children (four girls and one boy) leaving ICOD to start their first day of Madhyamik exams. They are quite afraid since they have not followed regular classes due to COVID during two years. Our teacher is with them.

DEBDUT GHOSH, 18, Class XII



He is the adopted son of Gopadi our secretary and my Godson.

He got a “CERTIFICATE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, FIRST” in grade XI (English 2022)

He just passed High Secondary exams (XII) The lady is her teacher who look after him since the time of his admission at 21/2 years(sic). He has always been considered has the best student of his School English medium founded by Muslims, El Bethel School.

JONAB MASTER



Jonab is my long date friend, in whose High Secondary Madrasa I have spoken spoken to his hundred girls. Now he has started a new school for girls close to ICOD.

« ALI BABA » with three Swiss nurses working at ABC. Here with Binay.



SPRING FLOWERS

Spring arrived on the third week of February. Very quickly 33-34°...and immediate flowering everywhere !



Scarlet Bauhinia The other rose Bauhinia has been destroyed by a storm..



The last picture is one orchid...that died after 7 days (instead of two months!) Practically 80% of our nice orchids have died. We can see the desiccated leaves due to the draught!

« THE HOUSE OF THE ABRAHAM FAMILY” INAUGURATED AT ABU DHABI.



From left to right :

1. **EL TAYEB MOSQUEE**
2. **ST FRANCIS (OF ASSISI) CHURCH**
3. **BEN MAIMON SYNAGOGUE**

Every building has the same aspect and the same size, and is ceremonially used for the prayers of every religion.

This is not to unify all religions, but to testify that one can find in his/her own faith a motivation

to meet the others and not to confront them,
to dialogue and not to reject
for peace and not for war.

This project is the fruit of the visit of **POPE FRANCIS IN 2019** with the great Sunni **Sheikh EL TAYEB** , and also the meeting with the Great Shia **AYATOLLAH AL SISTANI.**
A HINDU TEMPLE is under way for the first time at Abu Dhabi.

THIS IS ONE OF MY GREATEST INTERRELIGIOUS DREAM REALIZED!

I never believed that before my death, Christians, Muslims and Jews will accept to meet on the same level, especially since I have always met opposition or skepticism with what I have tried at India unsuccessfully.

Now, I am full of optimism that the coming of Pope Francis in India in 2024 could bear some similar fruits with the non-political **tri-millenary tolerant and peaceful Hinduism.**

