

Towards a free society

THE GANDHIAN ALTERNATIVE



JANATA PARTY

WHY THE JANATA PARTY

That India's ruling party needs a strong and united opposition has always been acknowledged. Yet, never before as today, has the need been so acute, so gravely urgent. For the choice is now between democracy and dictatorship; between asserting the power of the people or abdicating it; between the Gandhian path and the way that points to dictatorship, instability, national ruin. It is under these circumstances that the Janata Party now emerges. A new national party built upon the common resolve of its constituents to establish an open Government in a free society.

THE JANATA PARTY: ITS AIMS

The Janata Party dedicates itself to :

- The values and ideals of Gandhiji. Of building up a democratic and socialist state in its real sense. A high degree of decentralisation of power, an independent judiciary, equality before law for every one. Re-establishment of fundamental freedoms — in effect, an immediate rectification of all the strictures and subjugations that the 19 months of Emergency, and the earlier decades, had imposed.
 - The Gandhian philosophy of Antyodaya — to reach every man. To raise every family above the poverty line within 10 years. To formulate and set into action a national incomes wages and prices policy, acknowledging the primacy of agriculture and the importance of small industry. Shift from the capital intensive to the employment-oriented technologies. Eventually, based upon every man's right to work, employment for all.
 - Eradicating social inequalities. The setting up of an integrated and comprehensive programme of social services : in the fields of education, health, housing and social insurance. With special opportunities provided for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and special focus on women, the youth and the minorities. The introduction of reforms and the implementation of special plans for backward areas.
1. Lift the Emergency;
 2. Restore the fundamental freedoms that have been suspended by Presidential Order;
 3. Repeal MISA, release all political detainees, and review all other unjust laws;
 4. Enact laws to ensure that no political or social organisation is banned without independent judicial enquiry;
 5. Seek to rescind the 42nd Amendment;
 6. Amend Article 352 of the Constitution to prevent its abuse in the interest of an individual or group;
 7. Move to amend Article-356 to ensure that the power to impose President's Rule in the States not misused to benefit the ruling party or any favoured faction within it;
 8. Introduce electoral reforms after a careful consideration of suggestions made by various committees including the Tarkunde Committee and in particular, consider proposals for recall of errant legislators and for reducing election costs, as well as for reducing voting age from 21 to 18;
 9. Repeal the amendment to the Representation of the People Act which redefines corrupt practices and places electoral offences by certain individuals beyond the scrutiny of the courts;
 10. Re-establish the rule of law;
 11. Restore the authority of the judiciary and safeguard the independence and integrity of the Bar;
 12. Ensure that all individuals, including those who hold high office, are equal before law;
 13. Assure the right to peaceful and non-violence protest;
 14. Abolish censorship and end all harassment to newspapers, journals, publishers and printing presses;
 15. Safeguard the freedom of the press by repealing the Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matters Act and restore the immunity that the press previously enjoyed in reporting legislative proceedings;
 16. Ensure that All-India Radio, Doordarshan and the Films Division are converted into genuinely autonomous bodies that are politically objective and free from governmental interference;
 17. Ensure that news agencies are completely independent of the Government and are not given the right to monopoly;
 18. Delete property from the list of Fundamental Rights and instead, affirm the right to work;
 19. Ensure that Government employees are not victimised, are freed of political pressure, and are not compelled to execute illegal orders and unlawful actions. Their right to access to Courts will be restored.

THE JANATA PARTY: ITS PROGRAMME POLITICAL CHARTER

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

ECONOMIC CHARTER

The Janata Party's Economic Programme envisages:

1. Deletion of property as a fundamental right.
2. Affirmation of the right to work and a full employment strategy;
3. Stress on Gandhian values of austerity, 'Antyodaya' and a decentralised economy.
4. An end to destitution within ten years;
5. Appropriate technology for self-reliance;
6. New planning priorities, notably the primacy of agriculture, agrarian reforms and more favourable terms of trade and higher allocations for the rural sector;
7. Narrowing down of rural-urban disparities and a new rural-urban nexus;
8. Emphasis on wage goods production for mass consumption;
9. Statutory reservation of spheres of production for small-scale and cottage industries;
10. A wage and price policy; raising the minimum tax exemption limit to Rs. 10,000 and exemption of land revenue on all holdings between 2.5 hectares;
11. Redistributive taxation and excise in lieu of sales tax;
12. Formulation of a national water policy and a national energy policy.
13. Environmental care.

SOCIAL CHARTER

The Janata Party's Social Charter will comprise:

1. Education reform with middle schooling for all within 12 years;
2. Eradication of illiteracy;
3. Safe drinking water for all;
4. Stress on community and preventive health, and measures towards group health insurance;
5. A New Village movement;
6. Low-cost building and mass public housing;
7. A policy regarding urbanisation;
8. A comprehensive scheme of social insurance;
9. Family planning as part of a larger population policy package, without coercion;
10. A new deal for the scheduled castes and tribes with special machinery to guarantee their rights and interests;
11. A Civil Rights Commission;
12. Automatic machinery for combating corruption;
13. Women's rights and youth welfare;
14. Legal aid and inexpensive justice;
15. Fostering people's initiative and voluntary action.

Q. Is the Janata Party really a new national party or an alliance of opposition groups?

A. One policy. One symbol. One purpose — to serve. This is the Janata Party, where the merging of many political talents has emerged as a unified whole; a solid unit, backed by the ability, the experience and the dedication of those who serve within it. Obviously therefore it is a national party, not a mere alliance.

Q. Post-elections, what future does the Janata party have?

A. Whatever the outcome of the elections, the real work of the Janata Party begins after the people decide which party will represent them. The real worth of the Janata Party will prove itself then, whether as the party in power — dedicated to serve in accordance with Gandhiji's principles. Or as a strong and united Opposition, a healthy Opposition — to safeguard democracy.

Q. Can the Janata Party sustain a stable Government?

A. Consider the decades before. The defections. The toppling of the ruling party in the States. The fights for power. The factions. The ructions and reactions. The impositions of President's rule. Consider too, the fact that the Janata Party's aim is service, not self-aggrandisement. The answer presents itself.

Q. In what way will this election differ from previous ones?

A. For the first time, there is a clear polarisation of parties, in the main it will be a two-party struggle — between Congress and Janata. Presenting a solid opposition, the Janata Party is bound to have a deep and significant influence on the polls. In previous elections several groups divided the opposition's vote between them. That is why, even with relatively fewer votes, Congress won a majority of seats. Example: in 1971, Congress had only 43% votes but over 70% of the seats. Whereas, in this election, Congress and Janata will meet head-on in a straight confrontation, in most instances; and in those constituencies where there are more elements, there is every reason to believe that the Janata Party will be at an advantage.



**VOTE JANATA PARTY
FOR YOUR VICTORY**