

Experiences of the JT Yatris:

Gautam Sagar, Sahyogini, Bokaro

Just Transition Yatra in Jharkhand: Ground Realities and the Way Forward

The Just Transition Yatra in Jharkhand was a deeply impactful journey, amplifying the voices of millions whose livelihoods depend on coal mining. The yatra facilitated meaningful interactions with affected communities, workers, and local stakeholders. Street plays and public meetings, organised with local organisations, labour unions, panchayats, and civil society, fostered dialogue and community engagement.

Key Learnings from the Yatra:

Fear of Livelihood Loss: Communities and mine workers worry about sustaining their livelihoods if coal mines close.

Dependence of the Informal Sector: Thousands around mining areas are indirectly employed (coal pickers, transporters) and risk being overlooked in transition planning.

Land and Rehabilitation Concerns: Communities seek not just compensation, but dignified rehabilitation and long-term security.

Future Programmes- Four Pillars:

1. **Skill Development:** Reskill workers for renewable energy and manufacturing sectors.
2. **Economic Diversification:** Promote agriculture, tourism, and small-scale industries to reduce mining dependence.
3. **Social Security:** Create a dedicated Transition Fund for economic support during crises.
4. **Participatory Governance:** Include local panchayats and labour unions in policymaking.

Future Strategy for Jharkhand:

Scientific Mine Closure: Repurpose old mines as eco-parks or water conservation sites.

Green Energy Investment: Set up solar plants in Dhanbad, Bokaro, Ramgarh, and Chatra to maintain local employment.

Women's Empowerment: Link women with alternative livelihoods through SHGs, leveraging local resources.

Gulab Chandra Prajapati: Convenor of Just Transition Yatra

The Just Transition Yatra covered 13 districts of Jharkhand, concluding at Ulihatu, Khunti. The yatra was a collective effort to understand the present and future of Jharkhand, focusing on the impacts of climate change, the need for a just transition, and the role of local communities.

The yatra engaged with communities in villages and urban settlements directly affected by climate change, mining, displacement, and livelihood crises. Listening to their experiences, concerns, and suggestions was the yatra's greatest value. Its hallmark was mutual cooperation, collective participation, and ground-level dialogue,

reaching communities honestly and effectively.

This initiative represents a strong step toward preparing a roadmap for Jharkhand's future, strengthening livelihoods, conserving water, forests, land, and natural resources, and promoting inclusive development. It marks a promising beginning for realizing the spirit of "Abua Participation – Abua Future."

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Suresh Kumar "Shakti"

Secretary, Banvasi Vikas Ashram, Giridih

The Just Transition concept offers a humane path in the face of climate change, environmental degradation, and livelihood crises, ensuring development that protects workers, tribal communities, farmers, and marginalized groups.

The Just Transition Yatra, (5-12 November 2025) began from Bhognadih, the birthplace of martyrs Sidhu-Kanhu and Chand-Bhairav, and concluded at Ulihatu, the birthplace of Birsa Munda. I had the privilege of being a Sarthi on this historic journey.

Before the yatra, we visited Bhognadih, interacting with villagers and meeting the martyrs' descendants. The support and enthusiasm of the community assured us of the yatra's success.

The journey included meetings, public gatherings, and street plays in districts like Giridih, enabling dialogue with families affected by coal mining and the energy transition. Communities shared their concerns, fears, and aspirations, providing valuable insights for future planning.

The yatra was not just a physical journey, but a collective effort to understand and communicate Jharkhand's present and future, ensuring no community is left behind in the shift to a green economy.

I am proud to be associated with Banvasi Vikas Ashram and the Sarthi network, contributing to this effort for equitable change. Despite challenges like expenses and coordination, collective effort and commitment ensured the journey's success.

Heartfelt thanks to all friends and colleagues in the Sarthi network. Let us move together as companions toward an equitable and sustainable future.

Sanjeev Kumar Bhagat

Secretary, Lok Kalyan Seva Kendra

Just Transition Yatra: Experiences and Hopes

The concept of Just Transition offers a humane and equitable path in the era of climate change, environmental degradation, and livelihood crises, aiming to ensure development that protects the environment while safeguarding the rights, employment, and dignity of workers, tribal communities, farmers, and marginalized groups.

The yatra journey aimed to foster understanding that no community should be left behind in the transition to a green economy.

As a member of the Saarthi network, our organisation, Lok Kalyan Seva Kendra,

actively contributed to this effort, ensuring affected communities' voices and participation were included in planning and discussions. Months of preparation involved dialogues and workshops in villages, hills, and settlements, weaving the aspirations of communities into the yatra's strategies.

The journey was not just physical, it was deeply inspiring. Interactions with children in Litti Pada, women, farmers, and workers from remote areas reminded us of our responsibility to nurture hope and rebuild dreams for a just future. While the yatra concluded geographically, its lessons on collective action, commitment, and social justice continue to guide us.

A heartfelt call to all participants, community members, students, and youth: let us continue as companions on this path of equitable change, advancing together for a better tomorrow.

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Safroj Khan

Damodar Bachao Abhiyan

Just Transition Yatra: Empowering Communities for a Sustainable Jharkhand I participated in the yatra from Bokaro and Hazaribagh districts. All participants were enthusiastic and committed, engaging with local representatives to share the yatra's objectives and discuss the future. The journey was not just a travelogue but a collective effort to understand and communicate Jharkhand's present and future, particularly the impact of climate change on livelihoods and potential new employment opportunities.

The most valuable aspect was listening to people's experiences, questions, and suggestions. The yatra progressed through mutual cooperation, collective participation, and ground-level dialogue. It highlighted the importance of conserving water, forests, land, and natural resources while promoting development for the local communities.

This initiative has raised awareness about "Abua Bhagidari- Abua Bhavishya" and strengthened people's resolve to participate in building a just and sustainable future.