

## **Nandlal Master's Visit to Asha conference & USA chapters, June & July 2019**

### **Asha Conference Details (June 22):**

Agenda: <https://wiki.ashanet.org/display/COORD/Asha+28+Agenda>

Video: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1AZ7ir8VCTtyk5NYLkGkIEFa5TIDU5zNq>

Slides: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1mAFhmWxOf-PzxJcmMw\\_0Lz1ZhfewHU\\_1](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1mAFhmWxOf-PzxJcmMw_0Lz1ZhfewHU_1)

### **Atlanta Visit Details (from Anish Mukherjee, Asha Atlanta volunteer):**

Nandlal Ji was received at Atlanta airport on July 1<sup>st</sup> evening by one of Asha Atlanta volunteers. During his stay in Atlanta, Nandlal Ji was accommodated at the residence of one of the Atlanta volunteers who had gone out of station for an internship. His roommate was also an Atlanta volunteer. The next morning, Nandlal Ji was given a short tour of Midtown Atlanta and Georgia Tech's campus. Later that afternoon, he prepared for his talk in the evening. During his talk titled "Strengthening the Roots of Society", Nandlal Ji talked about his Lok Samiti project and his efforts on environmental conservation. He also gave us updates from Lok Chetana Samiti, one of Asha Atlanta's projects based in Varanasi. Following his talk, an engaging discussion followed between him and the audience.

The next day (July 3<sup>rd</sup>), he was taken for a tour of Downtown Atlanta and of Georgia Tech's campus. Later that afternoon, one of our volunteers interviewed him as well, link to which can be found [here](#) . On the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup>, Nandlal Ji was taken to see the Peachtree 10K Road Race finish at Piedmont park in Midtown (an American Independence Day tradition in Atlanta) as one of Asha Atlanta runners was participating in the race. The same afternoon, bunch of Asha Atlanta volunteers again gathered along with Nandla Ji at one of our volunteer's house for lunch. The same evening, Asha Atlanta volunteers along with Nandlal Ji headed to the residence of Mr. Amit Arora, a resident of North Atlanta who was interested in Nandlal Ji's works. The gathering was attended by a few Asha Atlanta volunteers from Greater Atlanta area as well. Apart from talking about Nandlal Ji's works, we also discussed avenues on expanding Asha Atlanta in Greater Atlanta area.

The next day we invited Nandlal Ji for a potluck at one of our volunteer's house. It was a small affair with a few volunteers who were eager to meet him and talk about his work. After lunch, we sat down together

to watch a documentary on his work. The documentary, titled “Holy Water”, featured his activism regarding the drying up of groundwater in different parts of India due to the activities of multinational corporations like the Coca Cola company. It was encouraging to see that the activism paid off in some areas, through either the factories shutting down or the government ordering them to supply fresh water to the locals. We talked with Nandlal Ji about his role in this effort and learned how he had actively campaigned for the local people, and even faced consequences such as spending jail time. I think we were all inspired, even if a little, by his stories of never giving up for a cause, even in the face of adversity! I am sure we all wanted to stay a bit more and talk with him, but he had a flight to catch next morning and we had to let him leave. We are, of course, in touch with him and we look forward to interacting with him and highlighting his stories to inspire many more people.

**Links to all the video and photos related to the visit -**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17jen89a9Nb2jgs3qeZiy\\_IzJo2pSDUJd](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17jen89a9Nb2jgs3qeZiy_IzJo2pSDUJd)