



By Love Serve One Another

JOTTINGS

Happy
Independence
Day!

Faith in God the Father Almighty
and in Jesus Christ His Only Son Our Lord and Saviour
and in the Holy Spirit

Purpose

- Promotion of the full development of women and girls through its programmes
- To develop a membership that is responsive through service to the changing needs of the community in a changing world.

For Private Circulation only

No. 235 August 2018

The Relevance of Independence Day in the Current Context

By Rekha Joshi

For any country, its journey into the future is influenced by the journey of its past and so it is important for the present generation to know and recognize the sacrifices that our forefathers made for the freedom of our great nation that we take for granted, well-mostly today.

“Be the change that you want to see in the world” are words the **Father of the nation-Mahatma Gandhi** uttered, motivating all Indians to contribute to this great nation.

These simple and yet powerful words remind us that unless we change first, it is pointless to seek change in others.

We need to remember and honour scores of women who contributed to the freedom cause in numerous unique ways. Most of them came from poor families but found unique ways of supporting the freedom struggle at a time when stepping out of the house itself was considered a ‘taboo’ for women.

History has done grave injustice to these women by ignoring their contributions. The road to our

freedom was built on the blood, sweat, tears and sacrifice of thousands of unsung men and women, most of whom missed out on the pages of history. So the least we can do today is to spare a moment of thought on the sacrifice they made for our motherland.

We need to give women **their rightful place in Indian society**, cutting across class, caste, religion and numerous obstacles that lie in the path of most women in India.

I am reminded of - **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, in his **‘Writings And Speeches: A Ready Reference Manual’**

“I do not want that our loyalty as Indians should be in the slightest way affected by any competitive loyalty whether that loyalty arises out of our religion, out of our culture or out of our language. I want all people to be Indians first, Indian last and nothing else but Indians.”

The significance of 15th August in 1947 and of that date today, remains the same, but its



relevance varies. The priority and focus of a nation being born in 1947 was different then, as India today prepares its priorities and focus based on current situations.

The challenges the nation faces today, threaten our core values of secularism, inclusiveness and democracy while stressing the need to stay united in fighting these forces.

The Constitution is the pillar on which our entire nation is built. *It is the foundation of our unity, inclusiveness and secular values today.*

Today more than ever before, our generation needs not only to hold on to *our rich heritage* and *freedom*, but also to imbibe modern science and technology in our goal of building a modern nation where all men and women will be treated equally 'without fear or favour'.

I will conclude with the prophetic words of our former Prime Minister, **Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri**

-"The preservation of freedom is not the task of soldiers alone... The whole nation has to be strong."

Are Some of us more Indian than Others?

(JMT)

On the 15th day of August each year we at the 'Y' join with fellow Indians throughout the land commemorating the nations' Independence. Enthusiastically we rise early, dress in patriotic colours to proudly raise the national flag and sing its anthem.

It is disturbing for our diverse population that insinuations and covert actions are now spreading division between communities. There are increasing fears that the diversity of customs and faiths (so strongly upheld in India's Constitution) is under threat.

No less a person than ex-Vice President Hamid Ansari has warned, since his retirement, that "the pluralistic view of nationalism and Indianness is being challenged by a view point depicting" purifying exclusivism through

the idea of 'cultural nationalism'. In plain language he and other national leaders, warn of increasing attacks on citizens' rights which polarize our unity.

Surely any such movement pernicious leading to suspicion and the weakening of social fabric.

For the sake of harmony, as we celebrate 71 years of freedom, it behooves us to ignore those wrong perceptions which suggest any inequality in citizenship. The freedom won in the last century was fought for by loyal men and women united in purpose for getting all distinctions.

Therefore, let all sons and daughters of India become one of this day as true patriots and without reserve, chant together '**Jai Hind**'

The Biblical Message on the Environment

(Shama Chatterjee)

The word 'Environment' encompasses all of God's most beautiful and awesome works.

We know God created the world and we are only the care-takers. The very first verse of the Bible says "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen 1:1). When we see

the world as a gift from God, we should do our best to take care of it and utilize it wisely and properly, instead of poisoning and destroying it.

We do not worship the earth, instead we realise that God gave it to us and we are accountable

to God for how we use or misuse it. The plants, the weather and the animals, are all part of the environment.

The following verses from the Bible speak about every section of environment:-

Psalm 96:10-13

Say among the nations, the Lord reigns. The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved. He will judge the people with fairness. Let the heaven rejoice, let the earth be glad, let the sea resound and all that is in it, let the fields be jubilant and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy, they will sing before the Lord, for He comes, He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the people His truth.

Isaiah 43:20-21

God declares.....the wild animals honour me, the jackals and owls, because I provide water in the deserts and streams in the wastelands, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praises.

Job 37:14-18

God says...listen to this Job...stop and consider God's wonders. Do you know how God controls the clouds and makes His lightning flash. Do you know how clouds are balanced? Do you know how you feel hot in your clothes when the winter breeze blows? Can you join Him in spreading out the sky, which is strong, and as a molten looking-glass.

Matthew 6:26

Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Isaiah 24:4-6

The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes, the exalted of the earth languish, the earth is defiled by its peoples, they have

destroyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse consumes the earth, its people must bear their guilt.

Today, the rampant environment degradation taking place worldwide is one of the moral issues which must be taken seriously. Nature occupies a special place in the heart of God, so if, God cares so much about nature, it is our bounden duty to take the responsibility on a war-footing.

As the data continues to come in, we are beginning to see more clearly the real connection between environmental pollution with worsening health and livelihood, both at local and global levels.

The reason to be concerned as a Christian is that the human greed is destroying God's creation and damaging the lives of people both now and in the future.

Dear Members,

Cloth bags of various sizes are available at YWCA of Bombay, Byculla Branch.

(Please note- We manufacture bags with logo of the individual organisation, subject to bulk orders. Orders can be placed for conference, workshops too.)

Members are requested to submit their articles for Jottings before / on 15th of every month. This should be sent to Staff, Mildin - ywcajottings@gmail.com or a hard copy at Byculla, YWCA.

Birthdays for the month of August

2nd August	Sharon Solomon	Andheri	17th August	Dr. Lata Clements	Andheri
3rd August	Komal Oberoi	Andheri	18th August	Joyce Pereira	Andheri
4th August	Vinita Reuben	Andheri	20th August	Lily Joseph Sebastian	Andheri
4th August	Alpana Banerjee	Chembur	22nd August	Gissy Jacob	Byculla
5th August	Nancy D'Cruz	Andheri	23rd August	Saroj Melville	Chembur
8th August	Eileen Rodrigues	Byculla	25th August	Priscilla Albuquerque	Andheri
11th August	Michelle M. Vas	Bandra	26th August	Aneesha Reuben	Andheri
14th August	Jeniffer D'Souza	Fort	27th August	Rajitha Chandran	Belapur
15th August	Kamal Juneja	Andheri	31st August	Ammia L Dias	Andheri
16th August	Rekha A Joshi	Byculla			

"Be happy! Today is the day you were brought into this world to be a blessing and inspiration to the people around you! You are a wonderful person!"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, We love you!!!

Sweet Notings

(Sharon Pires)

Every day starts with some 'expectation' but every day ends with some experience ... this is life, so enjoy the day... and don't forget to thank God for it.

How true... and this applies to all of us and to every day of our lives. We have plans for our day, for the people we care about, for the tasks we want to complete, the people we want to meet and the lessons we want to learn. At times we may be able to achieve some of these things but ever so often many things would get carried forward to our next day's 'To do' list. We may expect to receive some good or bad news or we may receive some unexpected news. Often we do not know how the day will unfold. We end the day with experiences some good, some not so good, but definitely there has been learning and growth from these. If we start our day by placing it in His hands and end the day by thanking Him for everything, we can live a happy, fulfilled and peaceful life knowing that

we are not alone but that God accompanies us on our journey.

We get so worried about being pretty... ..

Let's be: pretty kind, pretty funny, pretty smart, pretty strong.

It is said, 'Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder'. Who does not want to be appreciated for being beautiful? The world recognizes beauty on the outside, skin colour, features, lustrous hair, complexion etc. That is why we have so many beauty pageants, models etc. Do not our beauty pageants also address the beauty from within quotient? Pretty is what we all want to be let's work on our value system of being pretty from within - with kindness, humour, smartness and strength that has grown through experiences, that have built our personalities and made us more loving, caring and sensitive women- truly women of substance!

ASHA KIRAN : 53, J. P. Road, Andheri West, Mumbai-400 058
e-mail: ywcaandheri@rediffmail.com

Ph. : 26702831/ 26702863
Telefax: 022-26280577

Women's Development Unit

Health

Byculla: 56 service users participated in a General Health Check-Up Camp conducted by L & T Health Centre on 19th June.

Capacity Building

- *Awareness session on 'Save the Environment' with 30 youth and adolescent members conducted by Rita Magar (Para social worker) on 7th June at Kurla Community.*
- Neeta Dabre and Shoba Philip conducted a session on Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) for 100 staff of Lilavati Hospital on 29th June at Bandra



- Certificate distribution programme of Tailoring and Beautician Courses was conducted by NMMC at Belapur Y on 11th June. Nisha Misal, Sulbha Gopne attended the programme. 33 girls and women received the certificates. Ms. Sarika Devlekar, Supervisor, gave information of courses runs by NMMC.



- A session on 'Domestic Workers Rights' was conducted by Deepika Tambe on 30th June with 10 women. She gave information about importance of SHG and savings.

- Kiran Patil attended an exhibition organised by BMC on 'Ban on Plastic' on 23rd June at NSCL Worli. Alternatives for plastic and its disposal were discussed.
- Neeta Dabre attended Sexual Harassment case at K west ward of BMC at Andheri on 13th June.

Senior Citizens' Group

- Senior citizens' group met thrice a week at Fort, Byculla and Belapur centre. Each group has more than 15 members who exercise regularly. Documentary film on senior citizen rights was screened for them. Social workers taught them how to make newspaper bags.
- Monthly meetings with senior citizens' group at all community centres were held in the month of June. Topics covered were 'Monsoon Diseases' and 'Plastic Ban'.

Youth Group

Monthly meetings with all Youth Groups were conducted by Para social workers. Following topics were covered;

- Job Fair organised by CIDCO on 29th June at Belapur.
- Importance of Sports
- Career Guidance
- Save the Environment
- Plastic Ban and Save the Earth
- Planning for Cleanup Drive programme at Mankhurd Community.

Adolescents Group

Monthly meetings with all Adolescent groups were conducted by Para social workers. Following topics were covered;

- Information on Girls' Safety

BELAPUR : Anugraha Hostel, Sector 8, CBD-Belapur, Navi Mumbai-400 614.
e-mail: ywcabelapur@gmail.com

Ph. : 27570786

- Career Guidance
- Learning Community Project and their activities
- Eve teasing and Importance of Education

Sustainable Livelihood

Monthly meetings with all SHGs were conducted by Para social workers. Following topics were covered;

- Discussion on stalls for AGM
- Importance of SHG and their benefits.
- How Women can become best Entrepreneurs with small amounts of Investments.
- How to make Paper Bags.
- Benefits of Govt Scheme.

Staff Capacity Building

- All WDU staff attended training on POSH, a session on Waterborne Diseases was conducted by Dr. Ubale on 26th June at Byculla.
- Kiran Patil, Rita Magar and 10 community girls attended workshop on yearly planning of Learning Community Project at Akshara NGO on 23rd June.



Success Story

A lady from Belapur completed Basic Beautician Course and secured a job at Seema Beauty Parlour drawing a salary of Rs 4,000/- per month.

Information's:

- Vaishali Shinde referred five candidates from Mankhurd Community for Kotak Education Training
- Free Nutrition food for 50 study class children of Mankhurd Community was received from Ratna Nidhi Trust.
- A girl from Belapur Community was referred to NMMC for an education scholarship of Rs 4,000/-
- Eight students from Nirmala Niketan and eight from TISS have been placed in our different community centres.

Education

- A girl from Mankhurd Community was referred by Vaishali Shinde to YCMOU for F.Y.B.A class.
- Sulbha Gopne referred two girls from Belapur Community for pre-preparatory exam of YCMOU

Output: Self-Help Group women and Tailoring Group from Byculla Community sold different Masalas and cloth bags with YWCA logo



and slogan on social issues worth Rs 1,450/- at the AGM.

Asha Kiran Programme and Activities

- a. Self-Help Group meeting was held on Thursday, 21st June. Ms. Sarita Pawar,



Insurance Advisor, spoke on 'Insurance Policies'. She talked about securing our life through Insurance policies.

b. Yashwant rao Open University Classes started from 3rd July, with 11 students at the Creche area. The teachers are Ms. Harshita Mahale and Ms. Rajlakshami.



c. Paper bags were made by Day Care Seniors in June, 10 kg @ Rs. 40 = Rs. 400.



d. Cloth bags made by SAKHI and SHG Group were sold and a total of Rs.1045 collected.

e. 14 ladies including Beautician, Tailoring, Study Center and Crèche teachers and PSW's attended the Teachers Training Session held on 20th June. The session conducted by AK Committee member Flory D'Souza was interactive and informative.



PASI

• Workshop on 'Sexual Harassment at Workplace'

It was conducted by Adv. Aileen Marques and was attended by 30 NGO Representatives on 15th June at YWCA, Asha Kiran. She discussed various forms of sexual harassment (verbal, physical, visual). This workshop helped them to have a better understanding of sexual harassment and empowered them to prevent and challenge against any harassment in future.



Session covered aspects related to addressing complaints regarding sexual harassment and spreading awareness about gender-related issues and functioning of the Internal Complaints Committee. Participants found the topic very interesting and learned how to protect themselves from sexual harassment and legal measures against it. Along with that, the workshop provided awareness on the importance of protecting oneself from physical and psychological harassment.

• Poster Exhibition on 'Save the Environment' was held on the day of AGM at Y, Byculla.



FORT: Lady Willingdon Hostel, 18 Madame Cama Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001. E-mail: ywcalwh@rediffmail.com

Ph. : 22020122/ 22823411
Telefax:022-22822057

Programmes and Committee Meetings for August 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fort Area 11.00 am Fort</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 11.30 am, Fort</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 12.00 noon Andheri</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Andheri Area 03.30 pm Asha Kiran</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DDH Meeting 11.30 am Asha Kiran</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 4.00 pm Belapur</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Anugraha Meeting 4.00 pm Belapur</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chembur Area 03.30 pm Chembur</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bandra Area 2.00 pm Q Tube</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Byculla Area 11.00 am Byculla</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 11.30 am Byculla</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Belapur Area 04.00 pm Belapur</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 11.30 am, Fort</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WDU Meeting 11.00 am Byculla</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 12.00 noon Andheri</p> <p style="text-align: center;">International Centre 12.00 noon Fort</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 4.00 pm Belapur</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spiritual Emphasis 4.30 pm Fort</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PASI Meeting 11.00 am Andheri</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Asha Kiran 12.30 pm Andheri</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Membership Meeting 11.30 am Fort</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LWH Meeting 11.30 am Fort</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ABH Meeting 11.30 am Byculla</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 11.30 am, Fort</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holiday</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 12.00 noon Andheri</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General Hostels 11.00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Buildings 02.00 pm Byculla</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 4.00 pm Belapur</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Relations Meeting 2.00 pm Andheri</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jottings Meeting 11.00 am Byculla</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Personnel Meeting 12.00 noon Byculla</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 11.00 am Byculla</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 11.30 am, Fort</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Finance Meeting 11.00 am Fort</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 12.00 noon Andheri</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 4.00 pm Belapur</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Board Meeting 11.00 am Byculla</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 11.30 am, Fort</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 12.00 noon Andheri</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Fellowship 4.00 pm Belapur</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p>	

DROP IT IN

If you do not receive a copy of the JOTTINGS for the month please inform our Byculla office immediately.

BYCULLA : 75, Motlibai Street, Near Maratha Mandir, Byculla, Mumbai 400 008.
 Achamma Bhavan Hostel, Institute of Nutrition and Baking
 Vocational Training Institute. email : ywcajottings@gmail.com
 website: <http://www.ywcabombay.co.in>

Ph. : 23096544
 23096555
 23020469
 Tel-Fax : 23098066

Area Reports

General Secretary Shoba Philip along with Membership staff attended all the area meetings. The old committee was dissolved and a new committee formed. Following are the details:

Area	Members present	Day & Date	Chair person	Secretary	Treasurer	Committee Members
Andheri	37	Thursday 5 th July	Juliet Solomon	Rosa D'Souza	Smita Pathak	Dr.Usha Ubale Indira Jenna Lora Saldanha Renuka Reuben Meena D'Souza
Bandra	11	Saturday 7 th July	Jane Rodrigues	Esmeralda D'Mello	Maria Vaz	Elizabeth Rodrigues Jancy Simon Alice Panikar Gene D'Souza
Belapur	8	Wednes- day 4 th July	Chandra prabha Nundy	Myrtle Shipley	Aasiya Sayad	Yasmin Koshy Gissy Jacob Rajitha Chandran
Byculla	6	Monday 9 th July	Ovita Parulekar	Hilda Patrao	Swati Das	Rosy Sequiera Maria Aguiar Shanta John Jennifer Talwalker
Chembur	9	Friday 6 th July	Jaya Damodaran	Nisha Gopalan	Alpana Baneerjee	Jayanti Premkumar Lovey Pariyaram Satyam Balachandran Indira Menon
Fort	7	Wednes- day 4 th July	Brenda Nazareth	Teofilda Pinto	Elaine Fernandes	Beverly Bengali Anne D'Sousa Indira Pimento