

*FEDERATION OF THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH OF CANADA*  
*RESOURCES FOR*  
*THE GLOBAL COORDINATING GROUP CALENDAR*

During the **SECOND** week of **JULY**, we *listen to the heart of the world* and hold in our prayer the Sisters of St. Joseph and the people of **INDIA**.



India, a country in South Asia, is the seventh-largest country by area, the second-most populated country, and the most populous democracy in the world. It is bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the southwest, and the Bay of Bengal on the southeast. It shares land borders with Pakistan to the west; China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the northeast; and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east. In the Indian Ocean, India is in the vicinity of Sri Lanka and the Maldives. India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands share a maritime border with Thailand and Indonesia.

The Indian subcontinent was home to the urban Indus Valley Civilization of the 3rd millennium BCE. In the following millennium, the oldest scriptures associated with Hinduism began to be composed. Social stratification, based on caste, emerged in the first millennium BCE, and Buddhism and Jainism arose. Early political consolidations took place under the Maurya and Gupta empires.

In the medieval era, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Islam arrived, and Sikhism emerged, all adding to the region's diverse culture. Much of the north fell to the Delhi sultanate; the south was united under the Vijayanagara Empire. The economy expanded in the 17th century in the Mughal Empire. In the mid-18th century, the subcontinent came under British East India Company rule, and in the mid-19th under British crown rule. A nationalist movement emerged in the late 19th century, which later, under Mahatma Gandhi, was noted for nonviolent resistance and led to India's independence in 1947.

Following market-based economic reforms in 1991, India became one of the fastest-growing major economies and is considered a newly industrialized country. However, it continues to face the challenges of poverty, corruption, malnutrition, and inadequate public healthcare. A nuclear weapons state and regional power, it has the second largest standing army in the world and ranks fifth in military expenditure among nations. India is a federal republic governed under a parliamentary system and consists of 29 states and 7 union territories. It is a pluralistic, multilingual and multi-ethnic society and is also home to a diversity of wildlife in a variety of protected habitats.

The official languages are Hindi and English. Population: 1.3 billion (Information taken from Wikipedia)

## *Sisters of St. Joseph*

The Congregation of Annecy has 308 sisters presently living in India. Sr. Justine Senapati of Annecy, our CSJ UN representative will be returning to India at the conclusion of her work in January 2019.

Here is a video of Justine at work: once you click on, scroll down the page

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=sr.+justine+senapati&qs=PF&cvid=81e0217f4bd540f890036ebd569faa91&cc=US&setlang=en-US&ru=%2fsearch%3fq%3dsr.%2bjustine%2bsenapati%26form%3dEDGHPT%26qs%3dPF%26cvid%3d81e0217f4bd540f890036ebd569faa91%26cc%3dUS%26setlang%3den-US&view=detail&mmscn=vwrc&mid=8880D75F9170EBEBAF2F88>

The total number of CSJ's in India is 1079. This includes the Annecy, Chambéry and Lyons congregations. Ministries include: empowerment of women, girls and children; legal aid to promote women's rights; pastoral work, adult literacy, health care in hospitals, clinics, village dispensaries, AIDS work, education, assisting drop outs from school, vocation animation, street children, working in slums, pastoral and parish work, prison visits, evangelization, faith formation, social action, justice and peace, human rights, and inter-religious dialogue.

### **A Mentors Workshop was held in May/June 2018**



The mentors of the program 'Leaders as Leaven – India' from the three congregations of St. Joseph: Chambéry, Annecy and Lyons, gathered in Bangalore, Vizagapatam and Bhopal for a two-day workshop organized and conducted by Sr. Barbara Bozak, CSJ, from the United States, the director of the leadership training program. Eight mentors from Chambéry and Lyons gathered at the provincial house of the Lyon sisters in Bangalore on 17 and 18 May, 2018. Thirteen from Annecy and Chambéry were in Vizagapatnam, on 24 and 25 May and eighteen, from Chambéry and Lyon gathered in Bhopal (Tanmaya) on 4 and 5 June.

In the first session 'Leadership through the lens of Scripture,' Barbara focussed on the servant leadership style of Jesus and that of two women from the Old Testament namely Abigail and the Hebrew midwives in Exodus: Shiphrah and Puah, which highlighted the leadership of these women in ordinary life situations. The video on servant leadership gave the participants a broad understanding of leadership as seen today by big companies. The second session considered 'Leadership as seen in Gandhi and the Spirituality of Medaille.'

On the second day Barbara explained to the group The Leadership Circle Profile and what is expected of the mentors for the leadership training program in India. Mentors were given time to reflect and share about their creative and reactive tendencies with the help of the videos and the input. The participants received a clearer understanding of the type of leadership program Leaders as Leaven is, and what is expected of the mentors in this context. (Written by Navya Neelam, Pachmarhi Province)

For more events in India click on; <http://www.csjchambery.org/provincias>

For information on the founding and continued mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyon in India click on: <http://www.stjosephlyon.org/index.php/en/where-are-we/india>



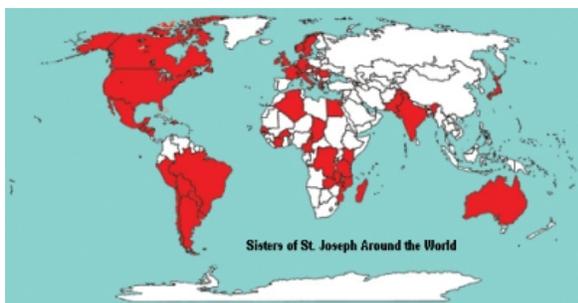
### *In Canada*

The Sisters of St. Joseph of **Sault Ste Marie** ventured into mission in India. During the mid-1990's Sr. Gaye White, and in 1984 and 1993 Sr. Sharon Miller served in education, addictions education and intervention.

Photo: Sr. Gaye White

In 2018 representative from the CSJ **Toronto** Congregation visited projects in India that they have sponsored through SOPAR. See:

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/f139acc49b3d50c6d77aea90b/files/bc45ea7a-b9fb-430a-8f5e-5535b821a461/ING\\_India\\_Visit\\_UpDate\\_Feb8\\_2018.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/f139acc49b3d50c6d77aea90b/files/bc45ea7a-b9fb-430a-8f5e-5535b821a461/ING_India_Visit_UpDate_Feb8_2018.pdf)



*United in prayer the Global Joseph Family, 11,000 sisters in 54 countries, listening to the heart of the world.*