

Help the
Refugees.
AHUJA
SWADESHI STORES
Chandni Chowk, Delhi.

DELHI EDITION:
The Hindustan Times

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN NORTHERN, NORTH-WESTERN AND CENTRAL INDIA

QUALITY PUBLICITY
SERVICE
Model. Opt. Print. Motor. Car
Co. Commercial. Print.
NEW DELHI
DESIGNERS & PRINTERS

NEW DELHI: FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1947

INDIA INDEPENDENT : BRITISH RULE ENDS

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
TAKES OVER



NEW STAR RISES IN THE
EAST

LEADERS TELL NATION OF TASKS
AHEAD

The appointed day has come—the day appointed by destiny.

Memories of 15 August 1947

Colonel S Rangaswamy | C 222

The day dawned at 0001 hours with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's announcement of Tryst with Destiny at the Constituent Assembly all ears tuned to All India Radio. Shortly the march to Red Fort, a distance of about 10 miles, in the drizzle, to witness the historic, inspiring and memorable unfurling of the Tricolour on Red Fort by Pandit Nehru; culmination of the dream of “**Tiranga on Lal Quila**”.

The arrest of Congress leaders in 1942 followed by national turmoil, Netaji and trial of Azad Hind Fauj (INA), Gandhiji's prayer meetings, Nehru's public addresses, news and rumours of political agreements and disagreements, British cunningness with Cabinet Mission—all flashed in my memory; then a boy 12 years old. That awesome and inspirational moment was deeply embedded, maybe it erupted later in my joining the army.

From Red Fort, we hurried to school to receive the coveted plate with Ashoka lion emblem and sweets, watch a free movie and off to India Gate to watch the Retreat. A mammoth crowd had gathered and most of them had occupied all the seats reserved for VIPs—first feeling of Azadi. Prominent leaders such as Maulana Azad and others could not even get in. Pandit Nehru was at his best! Somehow Lord Mountbatten reached the venue. My younger brother was lifted by a tall Army officer to watch the proceedings; the officer was General Cariappa who too was stranded. Long march back to end an inspiring day and a well earned sound sleep—filled with dreams of future India.

Independent India

N. Ratnam | B 90

I was 7 yrs old at that time. To be honest, I did not actually understand the importance of Independence Day, at that time. My only memory is that my school, DTEA (Mandir Marg), distributed sweets to the children to celebrate the day. Massive crowds thronged Delhi, on August 15, for the ceremonies commemorating the transfer of power. But Hindu-Muslim tensions were at its

height in those days. At night time, people would keep vigil to protect themselves from any communal attacks. All these stories were told to me by my father in later years.

However, I was told by my relatives in the south that, in the villages and small towns, life was still same. They were never in much contact with Britishers, any way, before Independence and therefore hardly felt any difference in their lives after 1947.

What 1947 means to me

Jitendra Sondhi | B 55

I was eleven years old when India won independence from the British. I was born in a family that was in the forefront of the freedom struggle. My father and his elder brother were active freedom fighters and, during the struggle for independence, were each jailed by the British for over two years. Thus, Independence had a very special significance for our family. We felt that we had made a contribution to the freedom struggle and our efforts had borne fruit. In August 1947, there were celebrations and we had a feeling of being liberated. We dreamt and hoped for great things for our country when India's destiny would be in the hands of patriotic Indians. I remember listening to Nehru's famous and inspiring midnight speech “a tryst with destiny” on the radio. His message “The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity” inspired us.

I sang “**Sare Jahan se Achha Hindustan Hamara**” at my school. I truly believed that India was the best country in the world and independent India will bring prosperity and happiness for all Indians. However, the independence celebrations were short lived since we had to deal with millions of refugees. It was clear that we had paid a heavy price for the independence of our country.

In time, those who had celebrated 1947 were deeply disappointed with selfish and corrupt political leaders. I still hope that our leaders will emulate India's founding principles of sacrificing personal gain in the larger interest of the country and shall strive to make India a country of happy and prosperous people. **Jai Hind.**