



**Department of History
&**

**School of International Relations and Strategic Studies,
University of Mumbai**

CELEBRATING AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

**Western Women in Colonial India: Situating Reformism,
Nationalism and Transnational Movements**

By

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On Zoom Link:-

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You are cordially invited to join us

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Abstract

This paper assesses the role of a variety of Western women in colonial India. There were women who travelled to India in the 19th century as reformists, Orientalists and philanthropists, women religious, these included women such as - Mary Carpenter; Sister Nivedita. The other wave brought women like Annie Besant to India. She represented a remarkable transformation in nationalist politics. She developed a network of women around visions of a reformed Indian society where women were agents of evolving constitutional nationalism. The third variety represented intersection, mostly between nationalism and feminism where women's demand for political freedom directly trained them for suffrage rights campaign, ban on child marriage ,women's property rights and economic independence for women. The paper also looks at the recent historiography on the subject of Western women's work in colonial India.