



SIPA

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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

EDITORIAL

A BEFITTING FAREWELL - 50TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

It is now beyond doubt that the department of post did a commendable work while celebrating 50th anniversary of our independence so far philately is concerned.

The yearly celebration will be over on 15-8-98. We have still six months time available. At this stage I recommend the following:

(1) Our first three definitive sets viz. Archeological (15-8-49), Five year plan (26-1-55) and Map Series (1-4-57) are fine sets. The entire set of stamps was issued on a single day. Later all definitive sets are not sets as such, if you ask me. Watermark, paper and gum variations have puzzled many of us. Sometimes the dates of issue are also not confirmed. It's time the department should come out with a complete set on 15-8-98 and I suggest the following denominations in relation to postal rates.

1. 25 p - for prescribed size post card
2. 50 p - to combine with existing rate of printed postcard i.e.

Rs. 1-50 or Aerogramme Rs. 6.50

3. 100 p - Book Post - A.D. charge etc
4. 150 p - Printed postcard and other combined postage
5. 200 p - Envelope rate / certificate of posting
6. 500 p - General Purpose / combining with other rates
7. 600 p - Air Postcard rate
8. 800 p - Bookpost by Air to foreign countries / Air Mail to Pakistan Envelope
9. 1000 p - Registration
10. 1200 p - Current Air Envelope rate should be revised from Rs. 11/- to Rs. 12/-. This will also help in Registered Letters. (Rs. 10 & Rs. 2)
11. 1500 p - Local speed post / Foreign registration charge
12. 3000 p - Speed post (within 500 miles)
13. 4500 p - Speed post (over 500 miles)

If one feels that the list is too long, denominations at 4,12 and

13 could be dropped making a set of 10 stamps

2. Money Order form should be revised to 25p as some message do pass along with money. The current (or proposed) 25 p. Stamp should be printed on Acknow. Portion which the sender receives in the end. This new form of postal stationery will be a collectable item for all of us.
3. In a similar way the A.D. card should be made prepaid with current (or proposed) one rupee deno. stamp. Not only this will add colour in our philately but also the department staff will be more careful in returning these cards to the sender.
4. I do not know when our current bilingual Air Mail label was introduced. May be forty years back! countries like Australia, U.S.A. change them quite often and they are now sought after by philatelists. It's time we should do needful in this regard. With these few ideas. I request the department of posts with atleast examine them.

H. C. MEHTA
(Nadiad)

SIPA MEETINGS :

Second Sunday of every month Regular meeting at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road, Head Post Office, Chennai - 600 002. (10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.)

First and third Sunday of every month - Auction meetings at our Library Hall at 6 Nanian Street, Chennai - 3. (Timing 10.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.)

SIPA Library Open Tuesday & Sunday, 6 Nannain Street, Chennai - 3. (7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.)

TAMILNADU POSTAL CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

A Mini Exhibition was conducted on "Freedom Struggle" from 26 to 31 Jany. 1998 and Stamps on Gandhiji from 31.1.98 to 7.2.98 at Anna Road Philatelic Bureau by two Members of SIPA -- Mr. Roland Nelson and Sri C.S. Sankaranarayanan to promote Philately with active co-operation from the Postal Department under the able guidance of Chief Postmaster - General, Sri S.T. Bhaskaran and Miss Radhika Doraiswami, PMG (Metro).

Our Association conducted WORKSHOP on PHILATELY for School Children at the O/o Chief P.M.G., Tamilnadu Circle on 31.1.1998. All efforts were made for the success of the Workshop.

All assistance was given by the Postal Department under the able guidance of Miss Radhika Doraiswami, PMG (Metro) to Santhome Higher Secondary School, Mylapore for

conducting workshop on Philately and ten frames of material on stamps were put up.

(2) Provision of Special Cancellations & Special Covers:

- (a) On the occasion of National Youth Day on 12.1.98. A Special Album was presented to the Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi on the occasion;
- (b) On the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebration of Canteen Stores Department at Fort. St. George.
- (c) On the occasion of Hazrath Thabie Alam Badusha Natharvali Dhargha 1000th URS, at Trichinopoly; on 12.1.1998;
- (d) On the occasion of Platinum Jubilee of the Carmel Higher Secondary School at Nagarcoil on 31.1.1998;

During February, 1998 senior Members of our Association under the

able stewardship of our President Sri G. Balakrishna das a meeting was held with the postal official for the promotion of Philately;

A Commemorative Stamp on Sardas Vedarathnan was released at a Function arranged at Rajaji Hall by the Tamilnadu State Govt. on 25.2.1998. A Stamp Album was presented to the Chief Minister Dr. Karunanidhi by the Chief Postmaster General, Shri S.T. Bhaskaran;

A Special cancellation and Special Cover was released on 17.2.1998 on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Lions' Club, VRIDHACHALAM Post Office.

The Editor Deeply Regrets for the omission to give due acknowledgement to the Editor, IND Dak for having published their Editorial on the report of Indepex'97 by Y.R. Shah, International Jury, in our Nov/Dec. 1997 Issue of Sipa Bulletin.

WATERFALLS ON STAMP

The grandeur of Nature's beauty is evident nowhere so much as in a waterfall. Many artists have endeavoured to convey to stamps the spirit of that grandeur, from the ripple of the small cascade to the roar of the mighty cataract.

One of the world's highest waterfalls, the Kaieteur, can be seen on the 2 and 10 cents of British Guiana, 1898 (S.G. 217 and 220), and also on some later issues. These Falls, which are on the River Potaro, are in the heart of British Guiana and are 822 feet in height, or five times as high as Niagara. The Potaro above the Falls is about 120 feet wide, but becomes swollen to more than three times that width during the rainy season.

descends for a further 80 feet in the form of a cataract. Just above the cataract the continuous action of the water has worn a cavern, which is visible as a dark patch in the centre of the 1898 issues. The journey to the Falls from Georgetown takes five days, but it is well worth while, for, in the words of a famous traveller: "The Kaieteur valley is fairyland, and the Falls the penetralia of fairyland."

The Llandoverly Falls, which are to be seen on the 1d. of Jamaica, 1900 (S.G.31) are situated on the Llandoverly River. The Falls attract many visitors to the parish of St. Anne on account of their beauty.

On the 30 cents of the 1928-9 issue of Newfoundland (S.G. 179) appear the Grand Falls, which are in the River Exploits, close to the town of the same name. On the same river, about fifteen miles further towards its mouth at Exploits Bay, are the Bishops Falls. Lord Northcliffe, who inaugurated some of the first paper mills in Newfoundland in 1909, utilised both Falls for hydro-electric power. The Topsail Falls, shown on the 24 cents of the 1923-4 series (S.G. 162), are in the Avalon Peninsula, almost due south of Bell Island, and about ten miles from St. John's.

The Victoria Falls are portrayed on the series (S.G. 94-99) issued by Rhodesia in 1905 to commemorate the opening of the Zambezi bridge. They are also to be seen on several stamps of Southern Rhodesia, notably the Jubilee issue. The Falls are about the middle of the Zambezi, which at that point is over 5600 feet wide. As the bed of the river is level for a considerable distance above the Falls, the water does not gather speed as it approaches the drop.

There is a clear fall, almost vertically, of more than 400 feet. At the bottom the far side of the chasm checks the water and provides an opening only thirty yards wide through which the water is forced. It is thus subjected to enormous pressure, which creates a perpetual mist. The channel is clearly visible on the stamps and an attempt has been made to portray the mist. The narrow channel carries the water for about 200 yards, when it expands into the Grand Canyon, a huge and gloomy trough.

Several islands divide the vast mass of water on the crest of the Falls. To one side there is a cataract called Leaping Water; Boaruka Island separates this from the Main Falls which have a total width of more than 3000 feet. Livingstone



Kaieteur Falls.



Grand Falls,
Labrador.

The water drops sheer for the greater part of the distance, and then

Island, from which the explorer first saw the Falls on November 17th, 1855, divides the Main from the Rainbow Falls, themselves 1800 feet wide and the largest of the group. On the far side is the Eastern Cataract which resembles Leaping Water.

On the pictorial stamps St. Lucia, issued in March of the year, the 1½d and 3d. values show the Ventine Falls. These are really boiling sulphur springs, and are located about two and a half miles south-east of Soufriere, the second largest town on the island. The springs issue from the top of the rock and are not waterfalls in the generally accepted sense of the word.

The current 20s. stamp of South West Africa (S.G. 85) portrays the Okuwahaken Falls. These occur in the sand-hills on the northern boundary of South West Africa, in the territory of Ovamboland. They are in the River Kunene, about twenty miles from its mouth. The sand-hills above the Falls are about 300 feet high, and the river drops over a cleft which it has worn in the hills. This can be seen clearly on the stamp.



The 4d. of the 1899 series of Tasmania (S.G.234) depicts the Russell Falls. Consisting of a number of small cataracts, these Falls are on the River Russell, a tributary of the Derwent. The 6d. stamp of the same series (S.G. 236) illustrates the Dilston Falls, which, although not very large, are extremely picturesque. They are in a tributary of the Tamar River and, together with the town of Dilston, are about ten miles almost due north of Launceston.

The 5 pesos of Argentine, 1936 (S.G. 662), shows the Iguazu Falls which are situated on the Iguazu River (Rio Grande doe Curutiba), about twenty miles from its mouth. The Iguazu are sometimes called the Victoria Falls and are two and a half miles wide at their crest, being in this respect by far the largest in the world. Part of the great width of the river is split up into numerous cascades which fall in two consecutive cataracts, each 100 feet in height. The

other part of the river falls in a huge, unbroken sheet for the full distance. The Falls are on the borderland between Argentine and Brazil.

Belgium's 5 centimes Charity stamp of 1929 (S.G. C96) depicts the waterfall at Coe. The stream Ambleve is precipitated through two artificial gaps which were made in the rock in the eighteenth century. Although the flow of water is small, except in the spring, the Cascades de Coe are very pretty. On the 25 centimes of Belgian Congo, 1894 (S.G. 25), appear the Inkissi Falls. They are a series of cataracts in the Congo River, about forty-five miles south-west of Leopoldville, and are on the borders of Belgian and French Congo.

The Tequendama Falls can be seen on the 10 centavos Registration stamp of Colombia, 1917 (S.G. 730). They are on the River Runza, a tributary of the Magdalena, and are about twenty miles west of Bogota. The Falls are set in country which is noted for its wild and beautiful scenery, and are 475 feet high, having a volume of 240,000 cubic feet per minute. The wildness of the country, the beauty of the Falls and the height to which the spray is thrown are amply portrayed on the stamp, which is probably the best waterfall stamp ever issued.



Russell Falls.



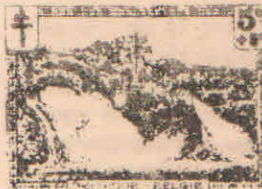
The Staubbach.

Estonia, on the 1 kroon of 1933 (S.G. 99), gives us a picture of the Narva Falls. Situated on the Narova River, the Falls are used for their driving power by the cotton, textile and saw mills, which can be seen on the banks of the river. The stamp also shows the insignificant height of the Falls, a mere 14 feet.

The 15 piastres of the 1930-2 series of Great Lebanon (S.G. 177) illustrates the Afka Falls. The district of Afka is the principal source of the River Adonis, which flows into the sea near Jebeil and was the scene of the mythical loves of Venus and Adonis. On a mound by the Falls stand the ruins of the Temple of Venus. Afka is probably the Biblical

Aphec (1 Samuel xxix, 1).

The Jajce waterfalls are to be seen on the 2 dinars 1934 Air Stamp of Yugoslavia (S.G. 302). The Falls are in the town of Jajce and occur at the junction at right angles of the tributary Pleva to the River Vrbas. The water descends in several arms from a height of 100 feet. From one of the houses overlooking the Falls steps descend to a cave in the rock. The cascade, which is illuminated at night, is a particular beauty spot, and is a favourite haunt of tourists. Calcium-chloride works, the greatest in Europe, utilise the power of the Falls.



Cascade of Coe



Narva Falls.

On the 50 centavos of the 1890 issue of Mexico (S.G. 273) are shown the Juanacatlan Falls on the Rio Grande Santiago. They are in the State of Jalisco, about fifteen miles from Guadalajara, and are the outlet of Lake Chapala which has an area of over 1200 square miles. The Chorrera Falls, portrayed on the 1/2 centesimo of Panama, 1915 (S.G. 318), are to the west of the Canal Zone. The town of Chorrera is about twenty-five miles from Balboa, and ten miles inland from the south.

Two beautiful Swiss Falls are depicted on the 1934 issue of Switzerland. On the 3 centimes (S.G. 355) are the Staubbach (Spraybrook) Falls, best known of the Lauterbrunnen, and the inspiration of Goethe's "Spirits over the Waters." The brook descends from a jutting rock in a leap of 980 feet, but most of the water is converted into spray before it reaches the bottom. A path and a rock gallery admit of passage under the Fall.

The Rhine Falls, on the 30 centimes (S.G. 361), are situated in the river about one and a half miles below the capital, Schaffhausen, of the canton of the same name. The river is about 350 feet wide at that point. The water drops vertically



Rhine Falls

for 60 feet and rapids add a further 40 feet to the height. Although small, the Falls are of considerable grandeur and they are exploited for hydro-electric power. A bridge crossing the Rhine above the Falls can be seen on the stamp.

"Thunder of Waters," or Niagara Falls, appear on the 25 cents of U.S.A., 1922-32 (S.G. 804), and also on the current 20 cents of Canada (S.G.349). The Falls are situated on the border between Canada and U.S.A. and are divided into two parts by Goat Island. The American Falls are about 1000 feet in width and 167 feet high. The Canadian Falls, down which fully nine-tenths of the water flows, measure over 2500 feet across their crest and are 158 feet high.



Magra Falls (?).

There is an Indian superstition that Niagara demands two human victims each year, and this average is more than maintained by the number of suicides and accidents. Niagara Country takes

550,000 h.p. from the Falls for its electrical works, while Canada derives 450,000 h.p. from nine turbo-generators. The volume of water is estimated at 12,000,000 cubic feet per minute.

The U.S.A. depicts also the Vernal Falls on the 1 cent of the National Parks series (S.G. 906). The Falls are in Yosemite Park, which was established in 1905. Yosemite Creek dashes over the precipice formed by the enormous Yosemite Point. Altogether there are three Falls with drops totalling nearly 2500 feet, the upper Falls being 1430 feet in a sheer plunge. Yosemite Valley was discovered by Captain Boling in 1851. Yosemite means "Grisly Bear," and the valley was the stronghold of the Red Indian tribe of that name.

The 18 centavos of the 1932 series of the Philippine Islands (S.G. 148) bears an alleged portrayal of the Pagsanjan Falls. Actually those depicted are the Vernal Falls in Yosemite Park. The Pagsanjan Falls are in the municipality of that name in Luzon, and are situated at the junction of the Pagsanjan and

Botocan Rivers. The Falls are about 200 feet high and are one of the largest in the Philippines.

On the 1896 issue of Salvador the 24 centavos (S.G. 211) depicts a waterfall. There is no consensus of opinion as to its name.

Magra and Atehausillas are the main suggestions. On these names, however, the Encyclopaedia Britannica is uncommunicative; guide-books as silent as the grave; the Royal Geographical Society (despite intensive research) was not helpful; the British Museum's library void of information; nor could help be obtained from the Salvador Legation. Perhaps some kind reader can help, and thus earn the gratitude of two harassed journalists, and the thanks of the Royal Geographical Society.



Vernal Falls.

By N. and M.W. Williams

STAMP NEWS

ELEVENTH GORKHA RIFLES

2.1.98 0.7 Million 400 P



In the annals of arms the Kirantis have a place of honour. To these Khukri wielding hill men soldiering comes almost natural. They are a class by themselves and have held their own in the Indian Army.

The Eleventh Gorkha Rifles, is the first infantry and only Gorkha Regiment to have been raised post independence. Raised on 01 Jan. 1948 with two Battalions, the Regiment has grown to a six battalion group and one Territorial Army Battalion.

During the 50 glorious years of its existence the Battalions have underlined their presence by taking active part in the major operations engaged in by our country such as in the 1948 operations, the Regiment participated in the fore-front and thereafter did magnificent work during the swift police action in Hyderabad. During the 1965 operations the Battalions of the Regiment acquitted themselves well with exploits of valour.

Once again during the 1971 Indo Pak War, all Battalions took active part in some of the major and decisive battles. While the Battalions won theatre honours, the Second and the Fifth Battalions were awarded Battle Honours-Shingo River Valley and Bogra, respectively.

The Regiment has excelled not only in the theatre of war, but also in counter-insurgency operations and as part of Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka. The First and Second Battalions have been awarded the Unit Citation by the Chief of the Army Staff in recognition of their service in counter-insurgency operations. They have been in the lead in

adventure sports having had their men atop challenging peaks like Everest, Kamet, Noukun, Devban amongst others.

The Regiment primarily recruits Rais and Limbus while Tamangs, Pradhans, Sunwars, Bhutias, Sherpas and other Gorkha tribes make up the balance. Their battle cry caused trepidation in the hearts of their foes and they have always risen to their motto "Nisswarth Kartavya" or "Self-less Service".

NANAK SINGH

10.1.98 0.4 Million 200 P



Nanak Singh was a modern Punjabi novelist.

Born in a Hindu family, as Hans Raj in village Chak Hamid, Tehsil Dadan Khan, District Jhelum (now in Pakistan) on 4th of July 1897 young Nanak Singh embraced Sikhism and was carried away by the contemporary patriotic atmosphere and fervour. Nanak Singh's colossal pen and gentle personality had a tremendous impact on his vast number of readers, even including those who were not familiar with Punjabi writing as such. Starting his literary career as a poet, Nanak Singh got initiated into the genre of novel by reading Prem Chand. With unparalleled zeal to change society, and with his idealistically reformist vision, he wrote novel after novel leading to a sudden spurt in the literary world of Punjab in the decades 1920s to 1960s. Nanak Singh's intense desire to contribute to society and the country saw him put behind the bars in 1922. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919 spurred him into writing a long poem called "Blood-stained Baisakhi". The book was banned due to patriotic and revolutionary appeal. Such was his

sweep and devotion to the pen that during his life time, no other writer could measure upto his stature nor has anybody else been considered as coming close to him even after.

Nanak Singh's writings have been highly lauded by eminent personalities. To quote a few-

Renowned Hindi Scholar, the late Dr. Hazari Prasad Dwivedi hailed Nanak Singh "Not a writer in Punjabi alone but as a great writer of India".

Nanak Singh wrote 38 novels and dozens of other books in different genres. He was honoured by the Government of Punjab (Department of Language) in the early 1960s, and in 1962 he was the recipient of "National Sahitya Academy Award" from Shri Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, the then President of India, for his contribution to the Indian Literature.

Nanak Singh is one of those rare Indian writers who, by sheer vision, breadth and devotion to the cause of humanity, transcends the narrow linguistic boundaries. His versatility, acumen to communicate with the common reader, faith in the might of pen, enabled him to transcend the confines of Punjab and Punjabi readership. He eventually emerged into a towering literary personality of India in the 20th Century. Almost all of his novels have been translated into Hindi and several other Indian languages as well as in Russian, Tajik and other foreign languages.

Nank Singh breathed his last on 28th of December, 1971 at Preet Nagar.

VISHNU SAKHARAM KHANDEKAR

19.1.98 0.4 Million 200 P



Vishnu Sakharam Khandekar was born on 19th January 1898 at Sangli. He passed the Matriculation examination of the Bombay University in 1913 and stood eighth among the successful candidates in order of merit.

In his distinguished career as a creative writer, he has received many awards and prizes and his contribution to the development of Marathi literature has been recognised not only in Maharashtra but also in other parts of India. His novel YAYATI was given an award by the Sahitya Akademi which later on also conferred its fellowship on him. The award of Padmabhushan was conferred on him in recognition of his services to the world of literature. He is the first Marathi writer to receive the coveted Jnanpith Award. From 1919, Khandekar began publishing poems and articles on a variety of subjects.

The eighteen years of his life which he spent in Shirode proved crucial : since his stay in a village made him aware of the appalling poverty and ignorance of the people around him. Basically a true romanticist, he became aware of the grim reality and always made a sincere attempt to probe the human predicament in all its depth. The Satyagraha campaigns launched by Gandhiji in the early thirties and particularly the Satyagraha offered by some of Khandekar's colleagues and friends at Shirode from 12th to 15th May 1930 left lasting impressions on his restless mind. Since then he has represented the consciousness of a whole generation in Maharashtra that saw the emergence of the Gandhian mode of the freedom struggle and of the socialistic ideology. Moreover, he moulded the sensibility of several generations of readers and writers in Marathi and, thanks to his popularity through translations, of readers in various other Indian languages as well.

His sympathetic understanding of the limitations of an artist and above all his uncanny gift of discovering new talent gave him a unique position in the field of Marathi literature. All his writings are marked by the flights of his poetic imagination. In his formative period, he seemed to be carried away by the torrent of his own epigrams and the sheer beauty of his smiles. He was responsible for the establishment of the modern Marathi short story as a literary form and contributed to the growth of the then emerging Marathi personal essay. He developed an

altogether new form of story which he called Roopak Katha. It is not a fairy tale or a fantasy. It is much more than a mere allegorical tale. It resembles more a poem in prose. Published in 1959 when Khandekar was sixty one years old, the Award winning novel 'Yayati', represents in some ways a trend-setting departure in the Marathi novel.

MAHARANA PRATAP
19.1.98 0.4 Million 200 P



Maharana Pratap was born on the 9th May 1540 A.D. On his father's death he succeeded to the throne of Mewar on the 28th February 1572 A.D.

Maharana Pratap valued liberty and decided to face the challenge of Emperor Akbar the great Mughal ruler who had already captured Chittor and was on his way to crush Mewar. Maharana Pratap motivated his men and in the finest traditions of Rajput chivalry decided to meet the forces of Emperor Akbar with courage and valour. During the fierce battle of Haldighati, Maharana Pratap and his courageous soldiers fought valiantly. Being heavily outnumbered he ultimately left the field saving himself from being captured. He later continued his struggle against the Mughals and several attempts by the Mughals to crush Maharana Pratap were foiled, resulting in hardship to the invaders. Such deeds of valour and superhuman courage made Maharana Pratap a legend among the tales of Rajput chivalry and this legend still survives.

Maharana Pratap was a leader who preferred a life of struggle rather than sacrificing his ideals of freedom and self-respect. He was a great warrior devoted to noble causes and he will be remembered as the most shining example of courage and valour epitomizing in himself the highest traditions of Rajput chivalry. Maharana Pratap passed away on 19th January 1597 A.D.

BHARAT PARYATAN DIWAS

25.1.98

0.7 Million 1000 P



In the 50 years since Independence, Tourism in India has emerged as a major socio-economic and cultural venture flourishing continuously and earning foreign exchange for the country. Tourism helps in preserving vocations, crafts, arts, heritage and monuments. Tourism also prevents migration from backward areas to the cities and plays a major role in advancement of women. International tourists in India and domestic tourism combine to help in building an environment of harmony, of amity and in promoting national integration.

India offers a variety of destinations to tourists. Snow-clad mountains, deep blue sea, deserts and sand dunes, vast stretches of plains with gushing rivers, temple monuments, fairs and festivals, skiing, river rafting, trekking, luxury hotels and heritage destinations - India has it all. India stands out as one nation with countless destinations.

In this the Golden Jubilee year of India's Independence it is but appropriate to mark this "BHARAT PARYATAN DIWAS" (INDIA TOURISM DAY) - on 25th of January. This was the day in 1966 when tourism was officially recognised as a separate subject by the Government, hence the significance of 25th January as "BHARAT PARYATAN DIWAS".

Renew Yearly
Subscription of Rs. 100/-
Life Membership
Rs. 1000/-

MAHATMA GANDHI - 50TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

30.1.98 0.4 Million 200 P; 600 P; & 1100 P; 1000 P



"I have that implicit faith in my mission that if it succeeds - as it will succeed, it is bound to succeed - history will record it as a movement designed to knit all people in the world together not as hostile to one another but as parts of one whole."

- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

On 30th January, 1948, Mahatma Gandhi, "Bapu", as he was affectionately known to the people to India, fell to the assassin's bullet as he walked to his evening prayer, plunging the entire nation into mourning. The nation's grief was best expressed by the words of the first Prime minister, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. "The light has gone out of our lives and there is darkness everywhere.... The light has gone out, I said, and yet I was wrong. For the light that shone in this country was no ordinary light. The light that has illumined this country for these many many years will illumine this country for many more years....it represented the living, the eternal truths reminding us of the right path....".

Gandhiji shaped and led the national struggle that brought freedom for the Indian people. His philosophy and ideals, (which perhaps, gave rise to the title of Mahatma meaning great soul), his gospel and technique of non-violence are the imperishable gifts to humanity. Some of the social ideals and programmes that

he strove to inculcate among generations of Indians have been symbolized through the composite design of the set of four stamps issued by the Department of posts as a tribute to Bapu on the 50th anniversary of his martyrdom.

Gandhiji went to Champaran, Bihar in 1917 where peasants were suffering under an oppressive system established by European indigo planters, that compelled them to grow indigo on their land and part with the whole crop for rent. The Police Supdt. ordered Gandhiji to leave the district and on refusal, he was summoned to appear in court the next day and arrested. He has to be released without bail because he refused to furnish bail. The case was later withdrawn and the Government of the day was obliged to set up a Committee of Enquiry, of which Gandhiji was a member. The Committee's report led to the abolition of the system of compulsory, planting of indigo. This, the first experiment with non-violent protest in India was indeed a turning point in the struggle for freedom, ushering in a new element into the political struggle for independence by involving the common people.

Gandhiji's passionate concern for socio-economic upliftment of the deprived sections of society, whom he called the children of God was an important element of his social philosophy. He insisted that freedom was to be measured by the well-being of the millions who lived in the villages. "India lives in her villages, not in her cities", he said, "When I succeed in ridding the villages of their poverty, I have won Swaraj."

Gandhiji believed firmly in opposing that which was morally unjustifiable and he could, in his own inimitable way, give expression to such a protest. His opposition to the salt tax imposed by the British, was thus elemental and yet effective in rousing the nation. It was on 12th March, 1930 that Gandhiji set off for Dandi and began the Salt Satyagraha which history records as a unique protest - so simple and yet so telling in its effect.

Gandhiji travelled from village to village barefoot, to contain the outbreaks of communal violence which followed in the wake of the country's partition at the time of independence - "I have only one object in view and it is a clear one: namely, that God should purify the hearts of Hindus and Muslims and the two com-

munities should be free from suspicion and fear of one another." Perhaps, the best description of Gandhiji's part in maintaining communal peace in Bengal was made by Lord Mountbatten, when he referred to Gandhiji as, "The one-man boundary force, who kept the peace". What Gandhiji achieved by his personal effort at this crucial junction in the history of the sub-continent is now a part of history.

This set of four stamps with a composite design includes symbolic glimpses of these significant aspects of Gandhiji's toils for the country. The Department of Posts joins the nation on the 50th anniversary of Gandhiji's martyrdom and is privileged to issue this set of stamps as its homage to the Mahatma.

SARDAR A. VEDARATNAM

25.2.98 0.4 Million 200 P



Born in Vedaraniyam on 25th February 1897 in an orthodox Saiva Vellala community. A. Vedaratnam Pillai was deeply influenced by Gandhiji, Vallabh Bhai Patel, Vinoba Bhave, Avinasingam Chettiar, N.M.R. Subbaraman, O.P.Ramaswami Reddiar and C. Rajagopalachari whom he accepted as his political guru. Impressed by the evocation call of the leaders of the National Movement, he joined the movement at the age of 19. He spun cotton for personal use, joined the Khadi movement and actively participated in the foreign cloth boycott. He closed down his own cloth shop and exhorted his people to take to Khadi and boycott foreign cloth. Vedaratnam Pillai at this young age, began to take an active part in the Congress agitations and courted arrest several times. His most outstanding contribution came in 1930. When Mahatma Gandhi launched his famous salt Satyagraha, Vedaratnam Pillai led the march in Vedaraniyam at a great personal risk. This

march was the first of its kind in the South. Vedratnam Pillai incurred the wrath of the government which confiscated and auctioned his salt lands. He was also arrested, tried and sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs.200/- in 1931, he attended the meeting of the agriculturists in Tirunelveli when he was given the title of SARDAR to felicitate him on his part in the freedom struggle, particularly Salt Satyagraha.

When the leaders were arrested in the 1942 movement he carried on

Gandhiji's constructive programme. In 1944, on the death of Kasthurba Gandhi, he took an active part in raising funds for the Kasthurba National Memorial Fund and organised several Women's Welfare Centres and Child Welfare Centres. In 1946, he founded in Vedaraniyam, the Kasthurba Gandhi Kanya Gurukulam, a residential school for poor girls, to provide basic education with free board and lodging. For his service in the field of Harijan Welfare he was awarded a Gold Medal by Government. He was thrice elected as a member of the Madras Leg-

islative Assembly, during this period he never missed a single session. He donated all his salaries as MLA, to Shri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya at Coimbatore. Sardar A. Vedaratnam as he came to be known, continued to work for abolition of untouchability, women's right and reforms like widow remarriage and women's upliftment. His Kasthurba Gandhi Kanya Gurukulam was founded for the purpose of women's upliftment during 1946. As a nationalist he was opposed to regionalism and advocated the study of Hindi as the unifying language.

A CHECK LIST OF INDIAN FIRST FLIGHT COVERS

Year	Field No.	Description of Flight	No. carried	Year	Field No.	Description of Flight	No. carried
1911	1a	Allahabad to Naini	24	1926	16a	Calcutta to Rangoon	45
1913	2	Calcutta Aerial Exhibition Flight	6	1926	16b	Calcutta to Melbourne (35 lost !)	38
1920	3	Karachi to Bomaby		1926	17	Calcutta to Allahabad	12
1920	3	Bomaby to Karachi		1926	17a	Calcutta to London	
1920	3a	Intermediate dates	2,729			(For His late Majesty K.G.V.)	1
1923	4	Ambala to Simla				Air Minister's Flight :	
1924	5	Karachi to Piper		1927		Croydon to Delhi	15
1925	6	Calcutta to Akyab	25	1927	18	Karachi to Delhi	27
1925	7	Ambala to Calcutta	14	1927	19	Karachi to London	48
1925	7a	Calcutta to Ambala	35			Karachi-Basra-Cairo Service :	
1925	7b	Calcutta to Nowsherra (covers)	64	1927	20	Rectangular cachet in Violet	
1925	7b	Calcutta to Nowsherra (cards)	25	1927	20	Rectangular cachet in Black	
		Anglo-Indian Survey Flight :		1927	20a	Circular cachet in Black	
1925	8 (i)	Calcutta to Akyab	34			Karachi-Delhi by Stack and Leete :	
1925	8 (ii)	Akyab to Rangoon	49	1927	21	Karachi to Delhi	900
1925	8 (iii)	Rangoon to Calcutta	32	1927	21a	Karachi to Lahore	60
1925	8 (iv)	Jalpaigvri to Calcutta	5			R.A.F. Pageant in Delhi :	
1925	8 (v)	Calcutta to Delhi (cards)	40	1927	22	Risalpur to Delhi	
1925	8 (vi)	Calcutta to Karachi (68 covers and 32 cards)	100	1927	22a	Kohat to Delhi	
1925	8 (vii)	Calcutta to London (87 covers and 31 cards)	118	1927	22b	Ambaha to Delhi	
1925	8 (viii)	Calcutta to Paris	3	1927	22c	Quetta to Delhi	
1925	9	Calcutta to Melbourne	93	1927	22d	Lahore to Delhi	
1925	10	Quetta to Hindubag	12	1927	22e	Peshawar to Delhi	
1925	10a	Hindubag to Quetta	12	1927	22f	Karachi to Delhi	
1925	11	R.A.F. over Calcutta (A large number destroyed)	3,000	1927	22g	Delhi to Risalpur	
		Calcutta to Risalpur by R.A.F. :		1927	22h	Delhi to Kohat	
1926	12	Calcutta to Patna	69	1927	22i	Delhi to Ambala	
1926	12a	Calcutta to Risalpur	51	1927	22j	Delhi to Quetta	
1926	12b	Calcutta to Rawalpindi	5	1927	22k	Delhi to Lahore	
1926	13	Karachi to Risalpur	40	1927	22l	Delhi to Peshawar	
		Danish Flight :		1927	22m	Delhi to Karachi	
1926	14	Calcutta to Rangoon	78			Amsterdam-Batavia by Geysondorffer and scholte :	
1926	14a	Calcutta to Bangkok	41	1927	23	Calcutta to Rangoon	48
1926	14b	Calcutta to Tokio	31	1927	23a	Calcutta to Batavia	31
		Spanish Flight :				Return Flight of the above :	
1926		Madrid to Calcutta (unchroniced)	1	1927	24	Rengoon to Calcutta	50
1926	15	Calcutta to Manilla	43	1927	24a	Calcutta to Karachi	15
1926	15a	Karach to Calcutta	26	1927	24b	Karachi to Baghdad	5
1926	15b	Calcutta to Rangoon	51	1927	24c	Karachi to Amsterdam	33
		England-Australia by Sir A. Cobham :				Flights over Calcutta by Moth Aeroplane :	
1926	16	Karachi to Calcutta	43	1927	25	Flown cover dated 27 June 1927	11
				1927	25a	Flown cover dated 2 July 1927	325
						Calcutta to Shillong by Capt. Vetch :	
				1927	26	Calcutta to Decca	19
				1927	26a	Calcutta to Cherrapunji	35

Year	Field No.	Description of Flight	No. carried	Year	Field No.	Description of Flight	No. carried
1927	26b	Calcutta to Shillong	55	1929	40d	Calcutta to Tokio	7
Paris to Salgon by Capt. Leon Challe :				Kabul Evacuation Flight :			
1927	27	Allahabad to Calcutta	4	1929	41	Kabul to Peshawar	7
Return Flight of the above :				1929	41a	Peshawar to Kabul	1
1927	28	Calcutta to Allahabad	19	Bengal Flying Club Inauguration Flight :			
1927	28a	Calcutta to Karachi	55	1929	42	Flown cards only	250
1927	28b	Calcutta to Paris	26	1929	43	Karachi to London via Persia, Iraq, Palestine and Egypt	
1927	28c	Calcutta to London	67	1929	43a	Karachi to Abadan	
England to Australia by Mrs. Keith Miller and Capt. Lancaster :				1929	43b	Karachi to Bagdad	
1927	29	Calcutta to Akyab	32	1929	43c	Karachi to Jaffa	
1927	29a	Calcutta to Rangoon	52	1929	43d	Karachi to Alexandria	
1927	29b	Calcutta to Singapore	12	Calcutta to Silliguri :			
1927	29c	Calcutta to Australia . 3 exist	3	1929	44	Covers cancelled at Calcutta prior to flight	64
Bombay to Colomo by Commander Cave-Brown-Cave :				1929	44a	Covers cancelled at Darjeeing on arrival	14
1928	30	Bombay to Colombo (cards only)	11	1929	44b	"Englishman" newspaper wrappers	
1928	31	Calcutta to Akyab	152	1929	44c	Return Flight : Silliguri to Calcutta	7
1928	31a	Calcutta to Rangoon	92	1929	45	Alcock commemorative flight	298
1928	32	Etawah to Calcutta by Capt. Koennecke	24	1929	46	Dum Dum to Naihati by Miss Joan Page	290
1928	33	Calcutta to Rangoon by Bert Hinckler	50	1929	47	Karachi to Genoa	
1928	34	Calcutta to Bundaberg (cards only)	6	First Day Covers with official air mail stamps :			
1928	35	Basra-Cairo with Indian Air Mail Labels inscribed "Air Mail" in white letters on a blue background		1929	48	With three annas value	
Paris to Akyab by Dolsy, Gonin and Carol :				1929	49	With four annas value	
1928	36	Calcutta to Rangoon (Plane crashed at Akyab)	121	1929	50	With six annas value	
Amsterdam to Batavia Experimental Flights :				1929	51	With eight annas value	
1928	37	Calcutta to Rangoon	111	1929	52	With twelve annas value	
1928	37(i)	Rangoon to Singara	35	1929	53	With two annas value for inland air service	
1928	37(ii)	Second Flight : Karachi to Bandoeng (cards only)	8	1929	54	Karachi to Athens	24
1928	37a	Third Flight : Calcutta to Rangoon (Plane crashed at Cawnpore)	143	1929	54a	Later flights	
1928	37b	Fourth Flight : Calcutta to Rangoon	96	Karachi Delhi Via Hyderabad (Sind) and Jodhpur :			
Berlin to Tokio by Baron Von Huenefeld :				1929	55	Karachi to Hyderabad	
1928	38	Calcutta to Bangkok	46	1929	55 (i)	Karachi to Jodhpur	
1928	38a	Calcutta to Tokio	47	1929	55 (ii)	Karachi to Delhi	
German World Flight Baron Von Koenig :				1929	55 (iii)	Hyderabad to Jodhpur	
1928	39	Karachi to Calcutta (cards only)	15	1929	55 (iv)	Hyderabad to Delhi	75
1928	39a	Tehran to Calcutta (cards only)	8	1929	55 (v)	Jodhpur to Delhi	75
1928	39b	* Karachi to Calcutta (cards only) (*Also one cover exists of this stage)	5	Return flight of the above :			
Return Flight of the above :				1929	55b	Delhi to Hyderabad	
1929	40	Calcutta to Akyab	41	1929	55b (i)	Delhi to Karachi	
1929	40a	Calcutta to Rangoon	58	1929	55b (ii)	Delhi to Croydon	
1929	40b	Calcutta to Bangkok	27				
1929	40c	Calcutta to Singapore	26				

(To be continued)