

# GOLDEN JUBILEE

## SOUVENIR - 2006



**SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION, CHENNAI**  
**(FOUNDED - 1956)**



## SIPAGOLD' 06 STAMPS EXHIBITION



SOUVENIR



SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION  
CHENNAI  
(FOUNDED 1956)





राष्ट्रपति के प्रेस सचिव

*Press Secretary to the President*

राष्ट्रपति सचिवालय

राष्ट्रपति भवन

नई दिल्ली - 110004

*President's Secretariat*

*Rashtrapati Bhavan*

*New Delhi - 110004*



### MESSAGE

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, is happy to know that the South India Philatelists' Association is celebrating its Golden Jubilee and organising the National Level Philatelic Exhibition "SIPAGOLD'06" from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2006 at Chennai.

The President extends his warm greetings and felicitations to the organisers and the participants and sends his best wishes for the success of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations and the Exhibition .

PRESS SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

**Tmt. C.K. GARIYALI, I.A.S.**  
Ppl. SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR



GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT  
RAJ BHAVAN  
CHENNAI - 600 022  
Phone : (044) 22351700  
Fax : (044) 22350570  
E-mail : govsec@tn.nic.in



December 12, 2006.

MESSAGE

His Excellency Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala, Governor of Tamil Nadu is pleased to know that the South India Philatelists' Association is celebrating its Golden Jubilee and is conducting a National Level Philatelic Exhibition from 28-31, December, 2006 at Chennai.

His Excellency the Governor conveys his warm felicitations to the office bearers and members of the South India Philatelists' Association and wishes the Golden Jubilee Celebrations all success.

*C.K. Gariyal*  
13/12/06  
(C.K.GARIYALI)

To

Thiru G. Balakrishna Das,  
President,  
South India Philatelists' Association,  
76, Periana Maistry Street,  
I Floor, Periamet,  
Chennai - 600 003.



## PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA

Registered under Societies Registration Act 1860

**Dilip Shah**  
President

11/12/06

Dear Shri Balakrishna Das,

It is my proud privilege in conveying you my best wishes on the occasion of Golden Jubilee year of South Indian Philatelist's Association (SIPA). The efforts made by SIPA in the field of Philately is remarkable and P.C.I. will always be indebted to all the members of SIPA for their active support all the time to bring the P.C.I. to a respectable status.

I also wish all the very best for the grand success of SIPA GOLD - 06 exhibition.

With warm regards.

Yours Sincerely,

(Dilip Shah)  
President

To,

Mr. G. Balakrishna Das  
President,  
South Indian Philatelists Association  
Perianna Maisdry Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Perimet, Chennai - 600003

### Address

799, GOL BAZAR, JABALPUR - 482002 (M.P.) INDIA  
Phone : 0091-761 (R) 2312104



# The Philatelic Society Of India

Formed on 6th March, 1897, Hundred Years and More in Philately  
Affiliated to : The Philatelic Congress of India &  
Federation Internationale Des Societes Aerophilateliqes (FISA)

G.P.O. Box 145  
Mumbai - 400 001

11th December, 2006.

Shri G. Balkrishna Das,  
President, South India Philatelic Association,  
76 (old 41) Periana Maistry Street,  
Periamet, Chennai 600 003

My dear Balkrishna Das,

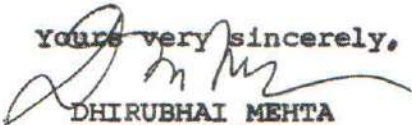
I am very glad to know that the South India Philateliots' Association is celebrating 50 years of its foundation. Please accept very sincere congratulations from the Society and myself and wish you many many decades of eventful existence.

Forming and founding an organisation is easy but its survival for five decades is a great achievement. This was possible due to the fact that the SIPA had the support and cooperation of dedicated, devoted and distinguished members and welwishers. In turn the SIPA has kept the Philatelic Flag flying high with its very active and promotional activities by holding regular displays, holding regular meetings and remained in the fore front in South India.

I wish that the exhibition and the celebrations will be well received in the philatelic world and will meet with all success.

With regards and remembrances to many of the old brigade who still continue to serve the hobby and the SIPA.

Yours very sincerely,

  
DHIRUBHAI MEHTA  
PRESIDENT.

## A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN, SIPAGOLD '06

---

South India Philatelists' Association has gained recognition as one of the respected philatelic societies in the country and has been rendering yeomen services to the cause of philately. It has gone a long way in keeping the philatelic flag flying for the past 50 years.

The Association with stalwarts like Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das, Mr. G. Balakrishna Das, Mr. G. Amarchand and the work of late Mr. V.N.S. Rao and Mr. V.S. Rajagopalan who have attained National and International acclaim, have been at its forefront.

It is the vision of all these icons which has resulted in the successful conduct of all the previous exhibitions conducted by South India Philatelists' Association. The last exhibition was held in the year 2001 and after a long gap of five years, SIPA is conducting SIPAGOLD '06 during the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

SIPA has been fortunate in having the utmost co-operation from the Department of Posts to popularize this hobby of stamp collecting at all levels, by involving the youth in educating them about this educative and pleasurable hobby. SIPA will continue to have very cordial relationship with the Department of Posts.

I thank the main Sponsor, Olympia Tech Park for their contribution in sponsoring Special

cover with the Information Technology theme. I also thank all the advertisers for their generous contribution towards advertisements in the Souvenir and Banners and Donations.

I take this opportunity to thank the management of C.U. Shah Bhavan for bestowing the special privilege of using their Auditorium for the National level Philatelic Exhibition; this is the first time that they have allowed an exhibition to be conducted in their premises. I also thank the Media - both print & electronic and others for giving wide coverage to the public.

In order to create awareness of stamp collecting to the school children, SIPA is holding exhibition on all Saturdays from April 2003 on various themes at the Exhibition Hall adjacent to the Philatelic Bureau at Anna Road Post Office. These exhibits are from SJPA members and widely reported in Press.

SIPA, with its past record and the dynamic office bearers under President Shri G. Balakrishna Das, have contributed their heart and soul for this Golden Jubilee SIPAGOLD '06 exhibition, which I am sure will be a grand success and will go a long way in promoting philately.

Ajit Chordia  
Chairman,  
SIPAGOLD '06

## A WORD FROM THE SIPA PRESIDENT

---

*The South India Philatelists' Association is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year by conducting a National level Thematic Stamps Exhibition titled "SIPAGOLD '06" at C.U. Shah Bhavan, No.4, Ritherdon Road, Vepery, Chennai 600 007.*

*I am confident that with hardwork and co-operation of our members, we can make the exhibition, a grand success, and will go a long way in promoting Philately in India.*

*It will be an occasion for all our members, all over India to exhibit their collections as well study and enjoy the exhibits.*

*In this connection, I should thank our Chief Post Master General, Tamilnadu Circle, and other Postal Officials for their fine co-operation extended to us.*

*I wish every one and all, a Happy and Pleasant New Year.*

*G. Balakrishna Das  
President, SIPA*

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# **SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION**

## **PATRON**



Mr. G. MADAN MOHAN DAS

### **DOYEN OF PHILATELY**

**(Held posts of Governing Council Member of PCI,  
Commissioner for various International Exhibitions,  
Advisory Member of Philatelic Advisory Committee, New Delhi  
and Member National Jury)**

## EDITORIAL

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*SIPAGOLD'06 is simply not yet another usual exhibition conducted by South India Philatelists' Association, but a very important one. It is a major part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations that is to take place from this day onwards. In fact South India Philatelists' Association which was established in the year 1956 will be entering in to its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary day on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2006.*

*The exhibition is titled as 'SIPAGOLD'06' and will be conducted as a National Level Exhibition at C.U. Shah Bhavan, 4 Ritherdon Road, Vepery, Chennai 600 007 from 28-31<sup>st</sup> August 2006.*

*The Association has been publishing Souvenirs in connection with all its previous stamp exhibitions. The practice is continued now also and the resultant effect, is this volume, Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 2006.*

*This Souvenir carries many articles of senior philatelists covering various aspects of Philately with good illustrations. The messages from the President of India and others are very encouraging. The Souvenir also carries a number of photographs covering all the activities of the Association. The first chapter is on "About Ourselves", which gives the complete history of the South India Philatelists' Association, which can surely reveal the consistent effort taken by the Association in building up this useful hobby of stamp collecting. This Souvenir was prepared with in a short period of 15 days and for its success I must specifically thank our young member Mr. S.B. Raja Seetharaman for his hard work.*

*I am sure and hope that this Souvenir will help gain more or refresh one's knowledge in Philately.*

*With best wishes for a Happy New Year.*

*M.T. Karunakaran,  
Chairman  
Souvenir - Editorial Committee*

## SIPA OFFICE BEARERS 2004 - 2006

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<b>Hon. Editor G. Madan Mohan Das</b>	

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HON. SECRETARY

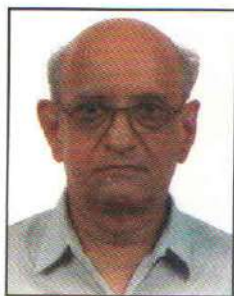


C.G. BASKAR  
HON. TREASURER



G. MADAN MOHAN DAS  
HON. EDITOR

## **SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS**



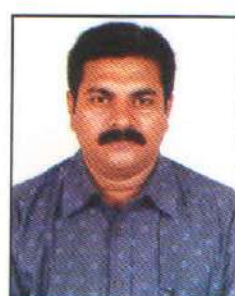
G. RAM MOHAN



B. MAHESH



S.K. LAKSHMANAN



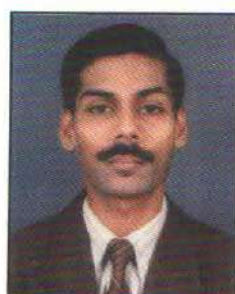
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HASTIMAL JAIN



DILIP SABOO



S.B. RAJA SEETHARAMAN



T. MURUGAVEL



M.V.N.S. MURTHY



V.K. MOHAN

### **PAST PRESIDENTS**



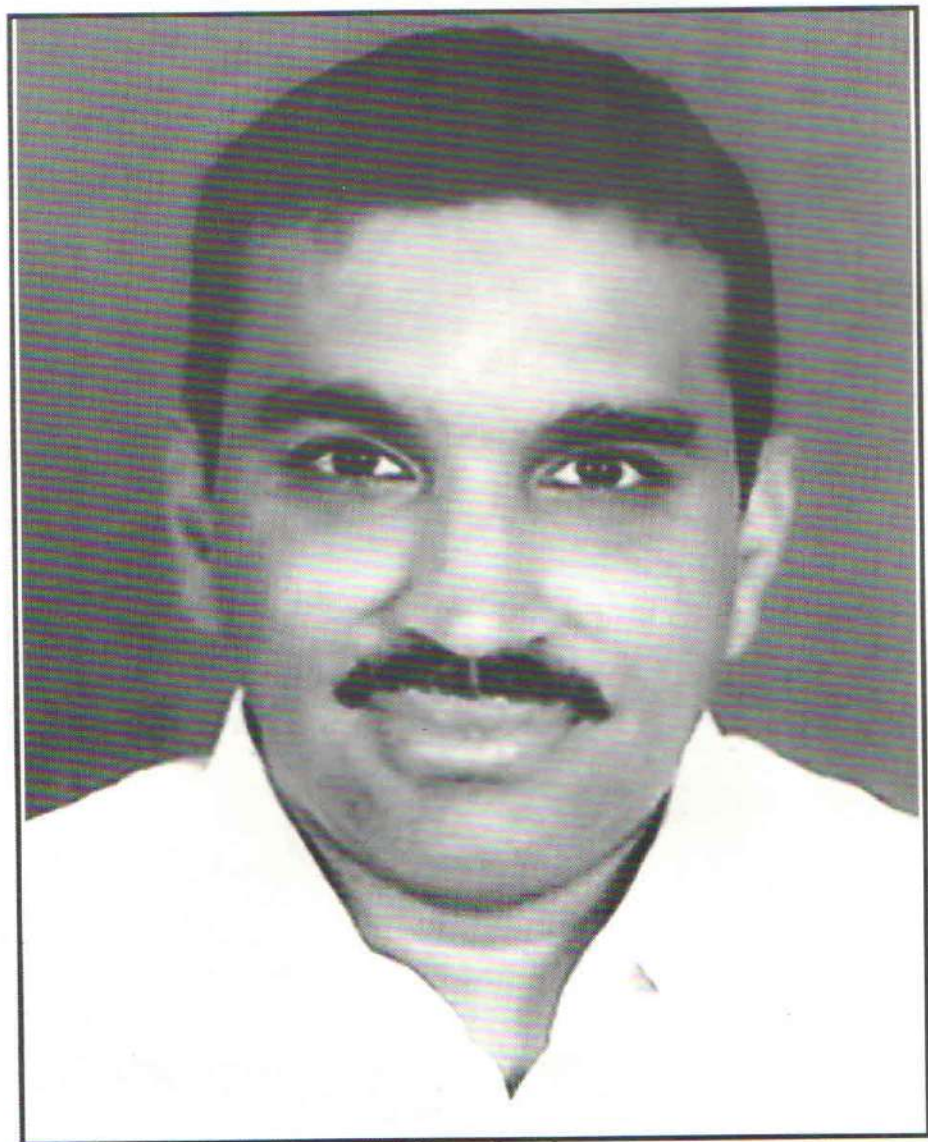
FREDUN P. SEERVAI



G. MADAN MOHAN DAS



D.H. RAO



Chairman  
SIPAGOLD '06

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Mr. D.H. Rao

#### **Members**

Mr. P.S. Seshadri

Ms. Vimala Oliver

**SIPAGOLD '06  
STAMP EXHIBITION VENUE**



**C. U. SHAH BHAVAN**  
CHENNAI - 600 007.

**SIPAGOLD '06  
ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

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CHIEF POST MASTER GENERAL, TAMILNADU CIRCLE**



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CHAIRMAN**



**G. AMARCHAND  
VICE CHAIRMAN**



**M.R. RANGANATHAN  
VICE CHAIRMAN**



**G. RAM MOHAN  
VICE CHAIRMAN**



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SECRETARY**



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SECRETARY**



**C.G. BHASKAR  
SECRETARY & TREASURER**

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PROGRAMME



G. BALAKRISHNA DAS  
PROSPECTUS / ALLOTMENT



M.T. KARUNAKARAN  
SOUVENIR



G. AMARCHAND  
DESIGNS / AWARDS



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DEALERS



G. ANIL KUMAR REDDY  
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SCHOOLS/WORKSHOP

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K. Prasad



G. Nemichand Chopra



S. Balasundaram



B. Mahesh



Mrs. Parsi Amarchand



A. Caroline Rajkumari



Mrs. Brinda Ranganathan



K. Hastimal Jain



S.K. Lakshmanan



Mohan V. Raman



T. Murugavel



C.S. Saravanan



P. Chandrasekaran



R. Ravindranath



R. Vaidyanathan

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A. Arvind



A. Rajendra Kumar



V.K. Mohan



C.T. Chidambaram



S. Viswanathan



K. Rajesh Kumar



V.R. Padmanaban



M. Mohan



D. Venugopal



Dilip Saboo



P. Sreetharan



M.S. Mohammed Noorullah



M. Lazar



A. Bhrito Rajkumar



Vasu Murari



A.M. Dorai

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K. Ramarathnam



A.V. Govindarajulu



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G. Ananth Kumar



P.S. Seshadri



T. Damodaran



V. Ethiraj



T. Dhanasekaran



M. Sendhil Kumar



Thumanivannan



N. Rajkumar



# SIPAGOLD '06

## NATIONAL LEVEL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION



28th ~ 31st December 2006

Timings :

10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

at



### C.U. SHAH BHAVAN

4, Ritherdon Road,  
Near Doveton Junction,  
Vepery,  
Chennai - 600 007.



## ADMISSION FREE ALL ARE WELCOME

Organised by :



### SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

Phone : 32001626, 32914769 Mobile : 9840645487, 9444491111

in association with

Department of Posts,  
Tamilnadu Circle

भारतीय डाक



# SIPAGOLD '06 EXHIBITION BROCHURE



Reproduction of Postage Stamps,  
by courtesy Department of Posts, Government of India.



## SIPAGOLD '06

National Level Philatelic Exhibition

28th to 31st Dec. 2006



**SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION**  
# 76, (Old #41), Penama Maistry Street, 1st Floor,  
Periamel, Chennai - 600 003.  
Phone : 32001626, 32914769  
e-mail : sipastamps@hotmail.com

# **SIPAGOLD '06 - CLASSIFICATION OF EXHIBITS**

Exhibits will be classified under the following groups :

A. Invitee Section

B. Non-competitive Section

C. Competitive Section (3-5 Frames)

Postal History

Post - Independence India

Thematics

Pre-Independence India

Rest of the World

Maximaphily

D. One Frame Exhibits - 50 Nos.

E. Juniors (1-3 Frames) General and Thematic Collections

F. Schools

# **THE JURY**

## **SIPAGOLD '06**



**Mr. DILIP SHAH**  
(Chairman)

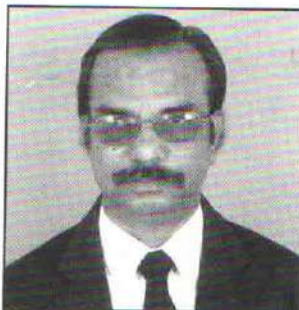
### **MEMBERS**



**Mr. M.G. PITTIE**



**Mr. G. MADHAN MOHAN DAS**



**Mr. S. BALASUNDARAM**

## SIPA PHOTOS - 1956 TO 2006



Mr. L.K. Narayanaswamy, P.M.G. addressing  
at Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras, 1961.



Dr. P. ST. C. Mitchell, President of SIPA addressing  
at Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras, 1961.



Mr. M.A. Namazie (Right) explaining his exhibit  
at Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras, 1961.



A.S. Rammohan receiving all award from  
Mrs. Jothi Venkatachalam, Minister of Tamilnadu  
at Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras, 1962.



Capt. V.T. Das receiving an award from Mrs. Jothi Venkatachalam  
at Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras, 1962.  
Mr.S. Ramaswamy, President of SIPA looks on.



Mrs. Sirkin presenting award to Mr. G. Balakrishna Das  
at Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras, 1964.



Dr. Albert B. Franklin, American Consul General for South India, presenting a First Day Cover to the Mayor of Madras Mr. S. Krishnamurthi at Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras, 1969.  
Others: Mr. S.R. Bashyam, P.M.G. Madras and Dr. P. St. C. Mitchell, President S.I.P.A



Mr. V.N.S. Rau introducing Major. V.S. Rajagopalan to Mr. Thomas Rocknagal, at Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras, 1969.  
Mr. H.K. Rao P.M.G. looks on.



Philatelists from Madras (Chennai) to attend an Exhibition at Delhi. From right to left, G. Madan Mohan Das, S.M. Doss, G. Amarchand, V.N.S. Rau, G. Balakrishna Das, Major S. Rajagopalan, Nemichand Chopra and others are seen.



A Group of Philatelists during a monthly meeting in the early days.



Major. V.S. Rajagopalan receiving a Souvenir from Mr. Stephen E. Palmer during the Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras, 1972. Mr. V.N.S. Rau, Mr. G. Balakrishna Das, Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das, Mr. S. Ramaswamy are also seen in the picture.



Mr. T.S. Sundaram receiving and award from Mr. Panrutti Ramachandran, Minister of Tamilnadu during SIPEX 81 Stamps Exhibition, Madras.



Mr. M.T. Karunakaran receiving an award from Mr. Panrutti Ramachandran, Minister of Tamilnadu during SIPEX 81 Stamps Exhibition, Madras.



Mrs. Pushpa Rao receiving an award from Mr. Panrutti Ramachandran, Minister of Tamilnadu during SIPEX 81 Stamps Exhibition, Madras.



Mr. M.S. Rangaswamy, PMG, Tamilnadu Circle inaugurating SIPEX 85 Stamps Exhibition. Mr. D.H. Rao and Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das are also seen in the picture.



Mr. U. Mohan Rao addressing during SIPEX 85 Stamps Exhibition.



Mr. K.C. Veeraraghavan explaining his exhibit during SIPEX 85 Stamps Exhibition.



Workshop on Philately being conducted for the school children during SIPEX 85 Stamps Exhibition.



His Excellency Dr. P.C. Alexander, Governor of Tamilnadu inaugurating BIOPEX 89 Stamps Exhibition at Madras.



Mr. G. Amarchand, Mr. P. Soundararajan (Trainee Jury), Mr. V.N.S. Rau (Jury Member), Mr. M.G. Pittie (Jury Member), Mr. M.T. Karunakaran (Trainee Jury), and Mr. R. Chittibabu during BIOPEX 89 Stamps Exhibition at Madras.



Mr. M.G. Pittie receiving a Souvenir from Mr. D.H. Rao during BIOPEX 89 Stamps Exhibition at Madras.



Mr. Raghu of TI Cycles, Madras inaugurating TIEPEX 2001 Stamps Exhibition.  
Mr. Ajit Chordia, Mr. Rolands Nelson, Mr. U. Srinivasa Raghavan and others also seen.



Mr. G. Balakrishna Das addressing during  
TIEPEX 2001 Stamps Exhibition.



SIPA members at the inaugural function of  
TIEPEX 2001 Stamps Exhibition.



Mr. P. Chandrasekaran receiving and award from Mrs. Prameela Menezes during BIOPEX 89 Stamps Exhibition at Madras.



Mr. M. Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, Indian Bank inaugurating ECOPEX 95 Stamps Exhibition, Madras.  
Mr. S. Brahmanandam, Patron of the Exhibition looks on.



Members of SIPA - Mr. S.M.K. Hameed Jalal, Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das, Mr. M.T. Karunakaran, Mr. Padmanaban and Mr. N. Narayanan during ECOPEX 95 Stamps Exhibition, Madras.



Mr. Balasundaram, Asst. Director of Posts giving an award to Mr. C.G. Bhaskar during TIEPEX 2001 Stamps Exhibition.



Mr. P.S. Seshadri, conducting Philately workshop to school children during TIEPEX 2001 Stamps Exhibition.



Mrs. Vimala Oliver garlanding Mrs. Noorjahan, PMG of Tamilnadu Circle during TIEPEX 2001 Stamps Exhibition.



SIPA Felicitates, Mr. M.R. Ranganathan, Chairman, ABK AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre on his obtaining the Order of the rising sun, Golden Silver Rays, conferred by the Emperor of Japan.



Mr. V. Srinivasaragavan, honoured by SIPA when he became Member Secretary, Dept. of Posts. SIPA members present are Left to Right Mr. G. Balakrishna Das, Mr. M.R. Ranganathan, Mr. P.S. Seshadri, Mr. Mohan V. Raman, Mr. G. Ram Mohan, Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das, Mr. C.J. Baskar, Mr. J. Rolands Nelson, Mr. G. Amarchand and Mrs. Brinda Ranganathan.



SIPA and the Sivaji Prabhu Charities Trust have brought out several Special Covers with Postal cancellations connected with Pioneers of Indian Film Industry. This is one such occasion where Mr. G. Madhan Mohan Das - SIPA patron along with Mr. Sivaji Ganesan, Mr. Kamalahasan and others.

# THE INDIAN STAMPS OF 1854-55

COL J DUTTA, MD

The first stamps for all India use, were issued on 1 October 1854, under the authority of the East India Company. These were in four denominations viz 1/2 anna, 1 anna, 2 annas and 4 annas. Except for the 2 annas they were printed by lithography from stones engraved by Muniruddin (spelling uncertain) at the Office of the Surveyor General of India in Calcutta, under the supervision of Capt HL Thuillier, the Deputy Surveyor General. The 2 annas stamp was printed at the Stamp Office in Calcutta by typography from plates made at the Calcutta Mint.

All these stamps were printed on paper having a watermark with the Coat of Arms of



the East India Company. The 1/2 anna and 1 anna stamps were in sheets of 96 (8x12) and 2 annas stamps in sheets of 80 (8 x 10). Initial printings of the 4 annas

were in sheets of 12 (4x3) stamps with blue wavy lines separating the stamps from one another and rosettes at the crossing lines. Subsequent supplies of the stamps were made in sheets of 24 (6x4). The overall size of these sheets was the same as in the earlier issues but the stamps were printed close together and the wavy separating lines were omitted. In the close setting arrangement there were two types namely medium setting, where the individual stamps were spaced a little apart and close setting where the stamps were very close set.

All stamps were imperforate and while

selling these stamps the post office officials had to cut round the stamps with a pair of scissors. Hence it is very rare to find stamps in used condition with marginal inscriptions or in the case of 4 annas wide setting stamps with the wavy lines. Majority of specimens especially the 4 annas are cut to shape with frame lines often cut into. Thus specimens of stamps with a good margin on all sides or 4 annas cut square command premium prices today.

The 1/2 anna, 1 anna and 4 annas has decorative sheet borders with rosettes at the corners with marginal inscription. For example the instruction around the margins of the 1/2 anna sheets reads:

"Ninety six postage stamps, price three rupees per sheet. Four annas per row half anna each stamp. Stamps of the required amount to be cut off and affixed towards the right hand corner of the letter on the address side."

All sheets carried the name of Capt H L Thuillier, under whose superintendence the stamps were printed and the month and year of printing. Sheets of the 2 annas, which were printed at the stamp office, did not, however have a decorative border, though they carried the inscription 'Eighty two anna postage stamps' on the top or sheets.

All stamps were on ungummed paper with watermark of the Arms of the East India Company in the sheet ie., sheet watermark. The watermark is sideways in 1/2 anna and 1 anna while it is upright in 4 annas.

The design with the profile bust of Queen Victoria was made by H M Smith. The request

for the steel dies be made at England was refused by the Board of Directors. Capt Thuillier printed 300 treble sheets (900 single sheets) in English vermilion of the 1/2 anna value. These were prepared and never put into use. These are the famous 9 1/2 arches stamps. After printing 900 sheets in English vermilion the ink ran out. Fresh plates were made and refined Bengal indigo blue ink was used, since it was locally available.

There were 3 dies of 1/2 anna. Stamps of Die I were printed between 5 May and 29 July 1854. The total printing was 30 millions. Stamps of Die 2 were printed between 1 and 12 August 1854 with some sheets on or before 2 November 1854. The total printing was 2,006,304. Stamps of Die 3 were printed between 3 July and 25 August 1855. The total printing was 4,687,776.



With the experience gained after the first printing of the 1/2 anna stamps Capt Thuillier began work on the 1 anna value. As in the case of 1/2 anna the 1 anna stamps are also printed using 3 dies. Stamps of Die 1 With the experience gained after the first printing of the 1/2 anna stamps Capt Thuillier began work on the 1 anna value. As in the case of 1/2 anna the 1 anna stamps are also printed using 3 dies. Stamps of Die I were printed between 26 July and August 1854. A total of 4,250,000 were printed. Stamps of Die II were printed in August and September 1854. A total of 3,500,000 were printed. Stamps of Die III were printed between 7 July and 25 August 1855. A total of 1,520,000 were printed.

In 1935, the eminent philatelist late C D Desai made a startling discovery in the 1 anna denomination, known as substituted transfer. This variety is known in Die I 'A Stone'. Owing to a faulty transfer due to damage in the printing stone, the top 48 stamps of the stone were erased and in its place 48 impressions of the lower half of the same stone were substituted. Thus the stamps 1 to 48 are the stamps with stone flaws 49 to 96 i.e., of the lower half of the sheet.

Since Capt Thuillier's hands were full in



printing the 1/2 anna, 1 anna and 4 annas stamps the printing of the 2 annas was entrusted to RH Snell, the Superintendent of Stamp at the Mint. At the mint Col Forbes prepared a new design. The plate contained 80 (10x8) stamps which were printed by typography on paper No3. The entire lot of 7 million were printed on 3 October 1854 and put on sale in November 1854. Two plates are known to print the stamps. It is estimated that out of the 7 million stamps printed, 3 millions were destroyed. The stamps are known in a number of shades; the most are being emerald green. Mr CD Desai also made another discovery of finding stamps printed on non-scheduled 'Stamp Office - one anna' paper These are rare.

The 4 annas stamps were printed in two colours blue and red. These were the first bi-coloured stamps of the world printed by lithography. They were released in Calcutta on

15 October 1854, in Madras on 10 November 1854 and in Bombay on 23 November 1854. They were initially issued 12 to a sheet and later 24 to a sheet. There were 5 printings of the 4 annas. The details of the printing are as under:

Printing	Die	Frame	Date	Quantity	Setting
Head					
1	I	I	13-18Oct1854	2,06,040	12(4x3)
2	II	I	1-13-Dec1854	3,93,360	12(4x3)
3	II	I	10Mar-2Apr1855	10,000	12(4x3)
				20,00	
	IIIa	I		25,000-35,000	
	III	I		80,000-90,000	
	III	II		5000	
			Total	1,38,960	
4	III	II	3Apr-9May1855	5,40,960	24(6x4)
5	III	II	4Oct-3Nov1855	3,80,064	24(6x4)

It was in the 4 annas stamps that two of the rarest stamps of Indian philately were discovered namely the head printed double and the head inverted. Only 28 examples of the inverted head have been recorded of which 3 are known cut square and rest cut to shape. The Tapling Collection (now in the British Library) has a pair of inverted heads on cover, while single inverted head on cover is in the collection of Dr Site Bhateja of Bangalore.

The lithos has held the fascination of great many philatelists and we are sure the last word is yet to be written about them.

## Die - Variation in '1854' issues 4 annas (blue & red)



Die I



Die II



Die IIIA



Die III

a) Chignon	upper part strongly shaded	practically no lines in upper part, a strongly drawn 'comma-like mark'	no 'comma like' two short vertical curved lines in N.E. corner	more lines in upper part
b) Shading in band of diadem	Strong long lines	worn long lines	few short lines	few short lines
c) Eye-brow	curved and long	curved and long	short	short

## India's First Stamps



*1/2 a blue*



*1 a red*



*2 a green*



*1/2 a Vermillion (9 1/2 arches); prepared for use but not officially issued*



*4 a blue & red*



*First four stamps of India on cover to Ireland via Bombay and Southhampton (Ex David Feldman)*



*4 a wide setting used (Ex David Feldman)*

## The Inverted Heads



*Royal Philatelic Collection*



*British Museum*



*National Philatelic  
Museum, India*



*N. R. Ruia*



*S. C. Sukhani*



*Ex P. Gupta*



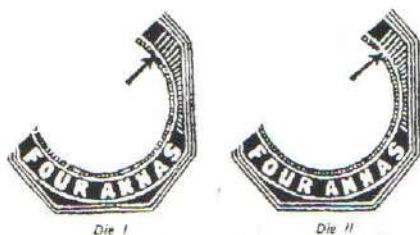
*Surjit Gongvatana*



*Ex Dilip Shah*

Courtesy: Journal of the Army Philatelic Society, 2006

### Die- Variation in '1854' issues 4 annas (blue & red)



*Die I*

*Die II*

Frame dies

	<b>Die I</b>	<b>Die II</b>
a) Outer frame lines	weak	strong
b) Dots in 'R' and 'A'	very small	large
c) White lines at upper right side	separated from inner white circle line of colour	break into inner white circle

# INDIA'S 9½ ARCHES IN TWO DIFFERENT INK

D. N. Jatia, F.R.P.S.L.

A battle royal between the Court of Directors and the Government of India was raging for a decision on whether the first postage stamps of India; should be printed in England or in India for the quick implementation of the report of the Post Office Commission, 1850. The Governor-General, Lord Dalhousie, mentioned in his Minutes dated 7th February, 1854, of the failure on the part of Col. Forbes of Calcutta Mint in producing a satisfactory standard for printing Indian Stamps by the required time. The task was thereafter entrusted to Capt. H. L. Thuillier of the Government Lithographic Press, Calcutta, for printing by Lithographic process. Capt. Thuillier submitted four designs of ½ anna, 1 anna, 4 annas and 8 annas stamps on 22nd February 1854 hurriedly drawn on transfer paper along with his comments.

Subsequently, Capt. Thuillier reported on 28th April to the Government of India on the various steps taken by him to achieve the objective. He mentioned of attaining a satisfactory representation of Her Majesty's head drawn on transfer paper with "INDIA" at the top and "HALF ANNA" at the bottom. With this set standard he laid off sufficient transfer upon a stone to form a continuing block of 120 stamps i.e., 12 rows with 10 stamps in each and covering 3 such blocks on to the stone

to print on approved paper watermarked with Coat of Arms of the East India Company.

In his report, he further mentioned of having been able to print successfully a few hundred sheets after initial trials with very small quantity of English Vermilion lithographic ink which he happened to have with him. The 300 treble sheets or 900 single sheets so printed were sent to Bombay on 5th April. This was in compliance with the letter dated 13th March, 1854 from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Director-General of the Post Office of India which also contained instructions to print stamps by lithography.



The unissued half anna vermilion

Fresh supply of ink apparently of similar quality and colour obtained was,

according to Capt. Thuillier, "found entirely to destroy the impressions on the stone, the proof coming off thick and smeared and losing the uniformity of the likeness, so much so to render the stamps unserviceable. Other attempts were then made to prepare the colour in this office and a series of experiments have been made under my immediate supervision, but from the properties of the mineral substance in the vermilion and from repeated and the most careful trials, it is now evident that it will be impossible at such a season of the year, to produce the half anna stamps in the quantity

required in that colour. Even those printed from the English prepared colour become too indistinct after a few hundred impressions, to permit of the same stone being used longer..."

In this respect the letter of 8th April 1854 from Capt. Thuillier to Supdt. of Stamps (published in PJI 1923) is very pertinent. He states that the vermilion supplied by the Superintendent of Stamps "found to be ill-adapted for lithographic purposes, owing as I suspect to wood oil existing in the varnish with which it has been rubbed up, I have the honour to solicit the favour of your supplying me with a quantity of the vermilion powder to enable me to mix up the colour with some English Lithographic Varnish which I happen to have by me."

He had to clean off all the stones so prepared. In order to secure a good standard to be primarily relied upon, he got engraving of the design done on a copper plate by an Indian, Muanuruddin and blocks were again formed in the stone by transfer process in 12 rows x 8 (totalling 96 stamps). In the meantime, attempts were being made for preparing transfer material, printing ink and varnish from the purest ingredients obtained from dispensary of the East India Company. Fresh printing trials were made in Thuillier's office with the copper plate transfer in black from printing ink, in blue (from refined indigo) and in cobalt blue.

The entire supply of 300 treble sheets sent to Bombay was ordered to be destroyed by telegraphic message of 23rd April sent to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay. In his memorandum of 28th April, Capt. Thuillier stated of having submitted demi-officially samples to the Director General of Post Office and also to the Court of Directors. Among the

known examples, the upper half of 60 stamps of Block I was presented to the then Prince of Wales by the India office in London in 1904. The lower-half containing 60 stamps was at one time in the India Government collection in a bad state and the same was reported stolen. Block No. II has been illustrated in Hausburg's book in plate 2 from which the stamps with English Vermilion can be seen.

On 12th July 1949, a mild stir was caused among the Indian Philatelists (reported in ISJ June 1950) when Mr. Hiralal Banker of Saurashtra walked into the office of the late Mr. Jal Cooper with a complete triple sheet of the famous "9½ Arches" essay. Till today this discovery is surrounded with mystery. However, it then passed on to the Mecca of Philately, London through Harmers where it has been broken and being sold currently in singles, pairs and blocks.

Stanley Gibbons have catalogued this "9½ Arches" issue as SG 1. ½ a Vermilion. If one examines carefully these stamps, he would find a very glaring difference in the colour as well as in the printing and the wear of the stones. Between the two stamps, one is from the original sheet which was printed earliest from the English Vermilion ink which Capt. Thuillier had with him and the other is from the ink sent by the Supdt. of Stamps from which the Hiralal's triple sheet was printed. English Vermilion print is deep blood red, shining having sharp print, while the other one is dull vermilion worn out in printing. It is evident that the concerned stamps were printed from two totally different supplies of ink and as such need separate cataloguing. The prints of the deep red English Vermilion ink are much rarer and deserve better attention than those of dull vermilion of which a full triple sheet was found.

# FRENCH INDIA

Noren Singh Nahar, Puducherry  
G. Balakrishnadas, President, SIPA

## INTRODUCTION

French rule was established in Pondicherry towards the end of the 17th Century (1699). French India comprised Pondicherry, Mahe, Yanam, Karaikal and Chandernagore.

Postal system of **FRENCH INDIA** started functioning from early 19th Century. Letters were carried either by Ship or through British India (via) Madras. These are known as pre-stamp covers with Postal Markings and Rubber Stamps affixed by the forwarding Agents. These were followed by letters carrying stamps of General Issue of **FRENCH COLONIES** with cancellation lozanges of dots  $9 \times 9 = 81$  or with "INDE" in the middle of the **CANCELLATION** or with date stamp these came into use as early as 1860. The first issue was **AIGLE (1859-65)**. Second issue was **NAPOLEON III (1871-72)** and subsequent issues were **CERES (1871-77)** and **SAGE (1877-86)**. All these stamps were imperforated (except 1881 issue) and were used till 1892.

**FRENCH INDIA** issued her own stamps with value in **CENTIMES** from 1892 onwards.

## SIX Types of Overprints

FRANCE LIBRE

FRANCE  
LIBRE



FRANCE LIBRE



FRANCE  
LIBRE

FRANCE LIBRE  
1 cache



FRANCE  
LIBRE

3 fa 3 ca

Local currency in **CACHE, FANAM & ROUPIE** were overprinted from 1923-26 on stamps of 1914-22 issues and directly printed from 1929 onwards. All issues were printed at French Government Printing Works, Paris.

The French administration was a great admirer of **HINDU** Culture. This is reelected in the **1914 BRAHMA & TEMPLE** series, in **1942 LOTUS** issues and in **1948 HINDU DEITIES** series.

The British Post Office, established in the year 1798 was under the control of the superintendent of post offices, at Fort St. George of Madras.

Following the Treaty of Berne, and agreement on May 5th 1876 enabled reorganisation of the exchange of letters between the French Colonies and the British. From then on the French Postal System and the Imperial Postal System existed side by side in French India. French offices located in all regions were under the control of Post Master General, Madras.

In World War II France lost the battle and an appeal for the liberation of Motherland was made by General De Gaulle of Free France Movement in 1940 to its people. French India joined in the Free France Movement by detaching all links with Vichy Government and overprinted her stamps with **FRANCE LIBRE** diagonally & in two lines, **FRANCE TOUJOURS** with **LORRAINE CROSS** in a circle, **FRANCE LIBRE** with **LORRAINE CROSS** and **FRANCE LIBRE** with **LORRAINE CROSS** & Value Surcharged. The study of these overprints is most absorbing for collectors.

Stamps of French Committee of National Liberation put off sale after landing in **CORSIA**, later in liberated areas of France and in many of the French Colonies from November 1944.

**Currency - 1929 - 100 Centimes - 1 Franc**

**1923 - 192 Ca-8 Fanams -1 Rupee**

**FRENCH INDIA merged with INDIA on 1.11.1954.**

**FRANCE LIBRE OVERPRINTED ISSUES 1941 - 43**

The historic appeal of **General De Gaulle** addressed to all citizens of France on 18 June 1940 from London : "**FRANCE HAS LOST A BATTLE but FRANCE HAS NOT LOST THE WAR .... OUR COUNTRY IS IN DANGER OF DEATH. LET US ALL FIGHT TO SAVE IT**" evoked an overwhelming response from French Overseas Territories also. **FRENCH INDIA** was one of the first Overseas Territories to join movement for the **LIBERATION** of the

Motherland, cutting all links with the **VICHY GOVERNMENT** in **France**. The local authorities decided to overprint its stamps with the word "**FRANCE LIBRE**". This series put on sale on **6th Feb 1941**, was followed by several other series of overprints.

These overprints constitute the most interesting chapter of the Postal History of French India stamps.

**Monsieur LOUIS BONV7N**, Governor of French Settlements in India, Member of the Defense Council of the Empire issued Official Circulars (G.O) and the execution of printing was carried under the direct supervision of the then Chief of the Postal Services, **Mr. F. ANCLA** of French Post Offices at Government Printing Press, Pondicherry. Due to War available inks of various quality and shade were used, and also due to poor execution there were many **Varieties & Errors**. As the accountability was strict, entire stamps were put on sale to public across the counter even though there were varieties and errors..

All the Government Notifications and the Official Circulars were gathered by Monsieur Philippe Barbier de St. Hilaire, Secretary General of the Mother, Sri Aurobindo Ashram of Ponicherry, in-charge of the **DEPARTMENT OF PHILATELY**. Mr.KA.Neelkant and Mr. C.Krishna Reddiar, all Philatelists of repute made an in-depth study and preserved the Circulars, Notifications and Decrees in French issued by the then Governor of French India. The present Curator of the Department of Philately of Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Mr. Noren Singh Nahar to whom the Exhibitor is thankful for his guidance and making available the reference material.

**1941 - 43 CROSS Of LORRAINE and FRANCE LIBRE overprint in a  
171/2 mm Circle. Released for Sale on 15th May 1941**



Y&T No.	S. G. No.	Stamps	Overprint	Qty. Issued
<b>A - Stamps of 1923 - 26</b>				
230A		15ca/20c Black & Vermilion	Red	200
230B		18ca/30c Black & Carmine	Red	100
230C		1fa 3ca/35c Black & Chocolate	Red	200
<b>B - Stamps of 1929</b>				
230D		2ca Black & Purple	Red	200
230E		3ca Black & Chocolate Brown	Red	200
230 F		6ca Grey Green & Green	Red	200
230G		12ca Olive Green & Green	Red	200
230H		16ca Black & Blue	Red	200
230K		18ca Vermilion & Carmine	Red	100
230L		20ca Green Blue/ Azure	Red	200
230M		1fa Grey Green & Carmine	Blue	200
230N		1fa6ca Black & Red	Red	200
230P		1fa 12ca Blue & Deep Blue	Red	200
230Q		1fa 16ca Carmine & Green	Red	200
230R		2fa 12ca Chocolate & Mauve	Red	200
230S		6fa 6ca Black & Violet	Red	200
230T		1 R Deep Blue & Grey Green	Red	200
230U		2R Black & Carmine	Red	200
230V		3R Lilac & Grey Black	Red	200
230W		5R Black & Carmine/ Greenish	Red	200
<b>C. Commemorative Stamps of International Exhibition, Paris 1937</b>				
230X		8ca Bright Violet	Blue	200
230Y		1 2ca Green	Red	200
230Z		16ca Carmine	Blue	200
230AA		1fa 12ca Sacral	Blue	200
230BB		2fa 12ca Blue	Red	200
<b>D. Commemorative Stamps of New York World Fair 1939</b>				
230CC		1fa 12ca Lake	Blue	200
230DD		2fa 12ca Ultramarine	Red	200

**Note :** Inverted, Reverse, Sideways and Double overprints exist in this series. Another point to note is that overprint impressions are not uniform. Some are sharp but mostly they are smudged.

The official decree issued on 6th March 1943.

The majority of the stamps were either been postally used or cancelled to order. Stamps in *Mint* condition is difficult to obtain.

# Pre - Stamp Cover

1845 Pondichery to Marseille (France)



1845 entire letter 11 Oct 1845 via madras with Madras Steamer Letter - 1845 Oct 18 cancellation for Steamer Postage paid at Madras to the Red Sea route. The Steamer letter charges of 8 Annas (In manuscript) collected from the dispatcher by the Forwarding Agent "A.E. Decolon & Co., Pondichery" indicating letter from Pondichery. The letter was carried by "Hindustan Steamer via Marseille. The manuscript 10 (Decimes) postage from Alexandria to Marseille paid by the recipient. The delivery cancellation in Red 18 Nov 1845.



4 Feb 1943 1st Print & 6 Mar 1943 2nd Print Pref.: 14 x 12 1/2

Brahma and Temple issues of 1914 stamps overprinted with CROSS OF LORRAINE OVER "FRANCE LIBRE" in two horizontal lines and "FRANCE LIBRE" in one diagonal line.



1st Print Brahma - 18 Ca on 30C - 2,000, 2 Ca - 2,000, 20 Ca - 2,5000 each

Temple - 12 Ca - 2,000, 1 Fa - 4,000, 2 Fa 12 Ca - 3,000 each

IInd Print Brahma - 3 Ca, 6 Ca, 16 Ca and 18 Ca - 20,000 each each

Temple - 1 Fa 6 Ca, 1 Fa 12 Ca, 1 Fa 16 Ca, 6 F Ca - 20,000 each

Inaugural Flight Cover from Paris to Pondicherry 17 Jan 1930



Commandants Girier and Weiss flew from Paris to Pondicherry in a Breguet - Bidon RG to establish air link between France and French India. They took off from Istres on 17th January 1930 and flew to Souttoukeny airport Pondicherry via Tunis, Benghazi, Alexandria, Bagdad, Bushire and Karachi, a distance of 8850 Kilometers, in 8 stages and landed on 28 Jan 1930 at Pondicherry in 12 days carrying 476 registered letters a few unregistered letters. The pilots affixed a rectangular 19 x 50 mm violet cachet on the above covers.

## Inaugural Flight Cover from Pondicherry to Paris 4-2-1930



1930 4th February. French India's first air mail flight. The above cover was flown from Pondicherry air field on the Girier and Wesis first flight opening up the airmail route to France 550 letters were flown, 298 were registered, 252 unregistered. Their route was: Pondicherry to Karachi. Karachi to Bouchir. Bouchir to Aleppo. Aleppo to Athens and Athens to Rome, where the flight was abandoned partly due to a combination of a heavy landing and bad weather. The pilots took the mail on to Paris by rail arriving on 10th February.

# INDIAN POST OFFICES IN FRENCH INDIA

- Naren Singh Naher  
- Ashram, Pondicherry

**T**he first Indian post office, at Chandernagore, was opened by 1784 to be followed by offices in the other four settlements. By an agreement with the French, dating from 1814, these offices handled mail destined for British India, Great Britain, the British Empire and most other foreign destinations except France and the French Colonies. In later years the system was expanded by a number of sub-offices and it continued to operate until the French territories were absorbed into India on 2 May 1950 (Chandernagore) or 1 November 1954.

These offices used unoverprinted stamps of India.

**Chandernagore : Open by 1784. Used numeral cancellations "B86" or "86".**

## **Sub-Offices :**

Gondalpara (opened 1906)  
Lakhiganj (opened 1906)  
Temata (opened 1891)

**Karikal : Open by 1794. Used numeral cancellations "C147", "147" or "6/M-21".**

## **Sub-Offices:**

Ambagarrattur (opened 1904)  
Kottuchari (opened 1901)  
Nedungaon (opened 1903)  
Puraiyar Road (opened 1901)  
Settur (opened 1905)  
Tirumalrayapatnam (opened 1875)



Authorising the transfer of French Settlements to India

**Used numeral cancellation "6/M-21/1"  
Tiramilur (opened 1898)**

**Mahe : Open by 1795. Used numeral cancellations "C192" or "9/M-14"**

**Yanaon: Open by 1876. Used numeral cancellation "5/M-4"**

**Pondicherry : Open by 1787. Used numeral cancellations "CIII", "111" (also used elsewhere), "6/M-19" (also used elsewhere) or "6/M-20".**

## **Sub-Offices :**

Ariyankuppam (opened 1904)  
Bahoor (opened 1885)  
Mudaliarpur (opened 1897)  
Muthialpur (opened 1885)  
Pondicherry Bazaar (opened 1902)  
Pondicherry Railway Station  
(opened 1895)  
Olugarai (opened 1907)  
Vallinur (opened 1875)  
**Used numeral cancellation "M-19/1"**

# INDIAN CONVENTION STATES

G. Balakrishna Das, President, SIPA

The Government of India have entered into POSTAL CONVENTIONS with the Hill States of **"CHAMBA"** (Jany.1887) the four Cis-SUTLEJ Sikh States of **"PATIALA"** (1.10.1884); **"NABHA"** (1.7.1885), **"FARIDKOT"** (19.1.1887), **"JHIND"** (1.7.1885) and with **"GWALIOR"** (1.7.1885)

By the terms of the Convention, the British Indian Post Office supplied overprinted Indian Issues, to the State Administrations charging them the actual printing charges of DE LA RUE, LONDON plus the freight charges and the charges cost of local printing, who in turn had to confirm the number of conditions covering the issue of stamps, rate of postage and the exchange of mails. Until 1927, the overprint was done at the Government Printing works at Calcutta and afterwards that both Stamps and overprints were produced at NASHIK Security Press, Nashik. These Overprinted issues were valid for postage within the state of issue, to other Convention States and to destinations within British India.

The early Overprints of Patiala, Jhind and Nabha (issues were in that order) were in Curved type, later all States except Gwalior confirmed to the Horizontal two line overprints in black. The Gwalior Overprints shows the State name both in English and Hindi while the Service Stamps bear only Hindi Character.

The **FARIDKOT** and **JHIND** issued stamps of its own before it adopted for the

Convention and the home made stamps issued earlier were used for Court Fee and Receipt purposes. These stamps ceased its usage from August 1888. The usage of these overprinted stamps discontinued from 15th August 1947 except Faridkot which discontinued from 31.3.1901.

S.No	State Name	Area	No. of post office
1.	Chamba	3126 sq. miles	8
2.	Faridkot	643 sq. miles	2
3.	Gwalior	25846 sq.miles	117
4.	Jhind	1268 sq.miles	6
5.	Nabha	938 sq.miles	15
6.	Patiala	5951 sq.miles	23

Patiala 5951 sq.miles, largest in the Cis-Sutlej State and the premier State among the so called "Phulkian State", entered into its postals arrangements, that the idea of Conventions of Native States was the outcome of the wishes of Patiala.

## STATIONERIES :

BRITISH INDIA STATIONERY - Post cards, envelopes, registered covers and wrappers were printed with the respective states name with their emblems. A selection of this is represented in this collection highlighting the major minor varieties on stamps of local printing a study by itself.



CHAMBA



CHAMBA STATE



INDIA POSTAGE COVER OVER PRINTED AS FARIDKOT STATE ALONG WITH STATE EMBLEM



GWALIOR  
(IN ENGLISH & HINDI)



PATIALA STATE  
SERVICE



NABHA



JHIND STATE



JIND STATE



JIND



NABA : POST CARDS OVERPRINTED WITH STATE NAME & EMBLEM



OVERPRINTED : SERVICE PATIALA STATE

# THE DISTRICT POST OFFICES OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY

L.G. Sheno

## INTRODUCTION

The Postal system of, what was then, British India has earned a glamorous position in the history of communications. A parallel system which existed side by side with the postal system during the nineteenth century, however, has drawn comparatively little attention from the students of the history of posts. This was the District Dawk system variously called District Post, Zamindary post, District Tapal, Taluk Tapal etc. The system was abolished by 1st April 1906.

## DETAILS OF THE SYSTEM

2. The 'Story of the Indian Post Office' has this to say about this system :-

"As the General Post, in its early stages, did not cover the entire area occupied by the Hon'ble East India Company's Government, another organisation, the District Post was developed, connecting the headquarters of each district with internal police and revenue stations, in accordance with the local requirements of the District.

This localised postal system established for official purposes and known as the 'District Post' was manned by the District Officers or other local subordinates. And the expenditure on the service was met by a cess levied on the zamindars in Bengal and the North Western Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh), or on the local people in other areas, supplemented by Central grants-in-aid. The cess on zamindars was the off-shoot of an earlier arrangement, by which

landholders were responsible for undertaking the conveyance of official correspondence. This was later commuted into money payments by Act VIII of 1862. When the money received on zamindars' cess amount fell short of the actual requirements for the maintenance of the District Posts, the deficit was met by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Government. Nearly in all cases, the revenue from cess had to be supplemented by these Imperial grants-in-aid. In the absence of a central authority to co-ordinate the activities and lay down uniformity of procedure, the services were extremely unsatisfactory and varied from areas to areas and there was no cohesiveness in the postal system as a whole. The delivery of the letters received by the District Posts, was effected through the police and the village chowkidars, who had no inclination to take pains in discharging their responsibilities and delivered the mail 'in quite a leisurely manner.' Although the primary object of the District Post was to deliver district and other official correspondence and parcels, it also undertook on behalf of the Imperial Post Office to provide for the collection and distribution of private correspondence not only in the town areas, but also in villages which they served at intervals. As could be expected under such arrangements, a sixth of the covers sent to the police and other subordinates for delivery in the interior villages were returned by them as undelivered."

3. The system was organised and operated by the Presidencies/Provinces. The first

legislation to regulate the functioning of the system was enacted by the Government of India in 1854.

4. The Post Office Act of 1854 stipulated that: 'It shall be lawful for the Governor-General of India in Council to frame Rules for the management of all or any Zamindaree, Thannah or other District dawks, and to declare, from time to time, what portions of this Act shall be applicable to such dawks and to persons employed in connection therewith,' General Rules relating to the receipt, despatch and delivery of letters by District posts were approved on 12th August, 1854. The following are some extracts from these rules :-

1. "Whenever any local establishment may be maintained for the conveyance or delivery of the police, revenue or other official communications, it shall also be made use for the conveyance and delivery of private correspondence, and be designated a District Post.

3. "Such Police stations and other public Offices as may be selected by the local Government shall be constituted District Post Offices.

6. "Any person wishing to post a registered letter at any District Post Office can do so. One anna of the registration fee will be allowed to the person registering the letter, the remaining three annas must be sent with the letter by the same day's despatch to the nearest Post Offices.

9. "Fifteen minutes before the hour at which the despatches of the office are usually made up, the letter Box will be opened and the letters in it taken out. Those addressed to places to which there is a direct communication through the District Post will be separated from all other

letters sorted and packed in covers addressed to the Officers in charge of the District Post Office from which they will be delivered. The remaining letters will be made up into one packet and addressed to the nearest Post Office with which he has communication."

5. It would be relevant here to mention that the Post Office Commission appointed by the Governor General-in-Council to go into the working of the postal system and recommended measures for improvement of the system had, inter alia, recommended that the District Posts be transferred to the regular Posts. However, it was considered that the time was not ripe for such transfer. The subject was, however, under constant consideration. "The introduction, in 1862, of new police arrangements, and the revision of judicial and revenue establishments in many parts of the country, brought home to the Government the necessity of placing the District Post on a more satisfactory basis. Any attempt to amalgamate the District Post, maintained by the local authorities, and the General Postal Services run by the centre, was considered untimely and the Government felt that the objective would be more effectively and appropriately realised by a graduated process of centralisation. The Provincial Governments had first to place the district postal services on an efficient footing and, if it proved selfsupporting, the local service was to be taken over by the Imperial Post.

The District Post in Madras was the third system to pass under the jurisdiction of the Imperial Post Office. In this service, prior to 1867, the arrangements for village delivery of correspondence were very primitive. Correspondence was delivered by subordinate village officials, who not only took no interest in the delivery of non-official correspondence, but even went to the extent of extorting illegal fees

for delivering private letters. There were no letter boxes and no orderlines in the system, either in the matter of delivery or collection. The money grants were rarely spent in their entirety. In 1867 one district was transferred to the Imperial Post as an experimental measure but, by 1873, eleven more districts had passed into the hands of the Imperial Post.

## DISTRICT POSTS IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

6. District Post system was organised in the Madras Presidency at the same time and more or less on the same model as in other Presidencies. The Madras Presidency at the time consisted of most of the present territory of Tamilnad, part of the present day Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa States. The District Posts were variously designated as Talook Tappal (T.T.), District Tappal (D.T.) and District Post Office. The history of these posts comprises three stages :

(1) when they were solely under the control of the local government; (2) when some offices were managed by the Indian Post; (3) when they were managed entirely and subsequently taken over by the Indian Posts.

7. Postal historians of India such as Renouf and Jal Cooper have recorded that the earliest type of a District Post Cancellation was the dumb Circle of Bars. The earliest example of a District Post Cover in my collection, is of 21 June 1855. It was posted at Villupuram district post office and addressed to Madras. It appears that a half anna stamp was affixed to it, but it was removed by a 'stamp collector'! The letter addressed to Madras was sent to the regular post office at Tindevanum for onward despatch to Madras, where it was received on 23rd June. The semi circular datestamp of the district post office had inscribe in two lines S.A.T.T. and

VILLUPURAM with space in between for writing the date of despatch, in this case 21.6.55 (please see Illustration 1). S.A.T.T. stood for South Arcot Talook Tappal. Renouf has recorded the use of N.A.T.T. (North Arcot Talook Tappal) in respect of Naggery district post office.

8. My second cover was posted in Manarcoody district post office on 23 December 1855 and was addressed to England via Marseilles. (See illustration 2). The cover was sent to Tanjore P.O. and from thence to Madras enroute to England, where it arrived on 1st February 1956. The letter was stamped with one anna stamp (upto 31st January 1856 letters could be sent 'Bearing' only, the sender paying the inland postage only). The stamp was cancelled by the dumb Diamond of Dots obliterator. It is difficult to say whether the stamp was cancelled by the district post office or Tindevanum P.O. The date stamp used by the district post office is elliptical with TANJORE along the upper curve and TALOOK TAPPAL at the bottom curve with the name of the d.p.o. (MANARCOODY) along the axis. The date of despatch has been written in manuscript under the office name.

9. The third cover in my collection was posted in a district post office in or near Madura in June 1856. The 1/2 anna stamp affixed to the letter was cancelled by the dumb Circle of bars obliterator. The office date stamp is a circular key-hole type handstamp with provision probably for writing the name of the office and perhaps the date. Unfortunately the manuscript writing is missing. (Please see illustration 3). The letter was forwarded to Madura P. O. from where it was sent to Madras on 30th June arriving there in 3rd. July 1886.

10. The fourth letter in my collection is

one sent from Punjamal, near Palamcottah, on 26th February 1856, and bearing a half-anna stamp. The office stamp used by Punjamal, obviously a d.p.o., was a rectangular handstamp (like the ones used by regular Po's at the time) with the PUNJAMKL (office name) at the top and POST PAID below. The stamp was cancelled by the Madras type 6 obliterator with C/135 inset, the number allotted to Palamcottah P. O.

11. My next cover is one sent from Tiruvaiuru d.p.o. on 18th April 1863 to Negapatam p.o. from where it was sent on 19th April to Madura via Trichinopoly. The stamp was cancelled by a Madras type 6 obliterator, obviously used by Nagapatam p.o. The office stamp of the d.p.o. was a semi-circular handstamp with TANJORE along the circumference, the letters T.T. immediately below and TIRUVAIURU along the base. I have seen similar semi-circular handstamps emanating from the Andra region using the letters 'D.T.' (District Tappal) in place of T.T.'

12. In the meantime efforts were being made to improve the service efficiency of the District Post. The Government of Madras was extremely reluctant to hand over the supervision/management of the District Postal system to the Imperial p.o. After repeated efforts, the Madras Government gave their consent during 1866-67 to the District Post arrangements of one District (Zillah) being placed experimentally under the control of the Postmaster General of Madras. The District chosen was Trichinopoly. The experiment proved a success and a request for transfer of other districts to the imperial post was made. The Madras Government, however, was not eager to hand over other districts. It was only during 1874-75 that d.p.o.'s of twelve more districts were placed under the control of the

Postmaster General. By 1875-76 all district post offices in all districts except Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Cuddapah and Kumool were controlled by the PMG. The remaining district post offices were transferred by 1878.

13. The number of District Post Offices in the Madras Presidency during the period 1975-81 were as under :-

Year	No. of District Post Offices
1975-76	277
1976-77	306
1977-78	296
1979-80	6
1980-81	6

14. From about 1865, it appears that office numbers were allotted to District Post Offices and they were provided cancellers incorporating the office number, instead of the old dumb canceller. The cancellation was triangular in shape filled with rows of dots or dashes framing in the centre the letter 'D' (District Post) over a number.

15.. The first cover in my collection with this type of cancellation was sent from VALLAM d.p.o. (Tanjore District) on 4th March 1866 to Trichinopoly via Tanjore. The cancellation has D inset with a number below, which is not very legible due to over-inking. It may be 214 (See illustration 4). The back stamp is of semi-circular type with TANJORE along the circumference, with T.T. in the centre and VALLAM along the base line. D. R. Martin in his book on 'Numbers in early Cancellations' has stated that VULLUM in Tanjore Didtrict became an imperial p.o.. in October 1866 and was allotted the identifying numer 219. It is

apparent that the Vallam d.p.o. was converted into VULLUM p.o.

16. The few d.p.o.'s with D numbers identified by Martin were as under :-

Name of D.P.O	'D' No.	Year
Aroopocottah	127	1867
Gundalur	213	1866
Chirambady	219	
Koviladi	385	1871
Trivalore	398	1865
Ramnad	425	1866-67
Nedumangalam	696	1866

17. The Ramnad d.p.o. mentioned above appears to be a wrong identification, as Ramnad was a very old P.O. in Madura District from 1855. Of course, it is quite possible that the Ramnad in the above list was some other place; but it is quite unlikely. Out of the others, Nedumangalam (Tanjore) became a P.O. in July 1866 with the identifying number 220, Trevellore (Vellore) a P.O. in October 1866 with number 183 and Aroopocottah (Madura) a P. O. in October 1868. Villoopooram (Cuddalore) was made a P.O. in October 1866 with the number 209.

18. My second cover with the 'D' cancellation is one sent from Tinnevely District Post Office in October 1869. The inset is D/450. The office stamp is a double lined elliptical handstamp with inscriptions in three horizontal lines. Tinnevely in the 1st line, Dist. Post Office in the 2nd line and Paid in the third line. (See illustration 5).

19. The third item with the 'D' cancellation I have is a portion of a cover addressed to Cork, Ireland, bearing 12 half anna stamps making up 6 annas rate via Marseilles. The stamps have been cancelled by the triangular cancellation with the inset D/101. Unfortunately, the despatch office name is not known. The cover was received in Cork on 28 September 1877.

20. The knowledge we have of the operations of the District Post system is still scanty. This is because very few items of mail processed by the district Post have come to light so far. The writer of this article has undertaken an in-depth study of the system. In case any one reading this has examples of the mail handled by the District Post Offices, he would be grateful if the postal history details of the same, preferably with xerox copies of the items, are sent to him, the address being 190, Sixth Main, Defence Colony, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560 038.

Courtesy : Signet, Oct-Dec 1993



# **A WITNESS TO THE CHANGING TIMES**

## **A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE**

(Excerpts from, "Keeping the people posted", by  
Shri. Inamdar, Retd. Presidency Postmaster, Chennai GPO)

**I**ts service has stood the test of time ... Its unflinching commitment to delivery upkeep has resulted in blistered feet, lungs panting for breath, dizzy heads and tired limbs ... Its never-say-die attitude has reduced months to days, days to hours and hours to minutes ... or, should we say seconds ... The selfless act of the postal staff over the decades has indeed been the harbinger of a new social order ... and, the Chennai General Post Office today stands tall as an epitome of service, bearing testimony to the changing times !

A bold experiment was undertaken by the Postmaster General to provide the much-needed postal facilities to rural areas through what came to be known as TalookTapals or DistrictTapals. The postal services were managed by the tahsildars at the village level and by the collectors and military officers (as ex-officio postmasters) at the district level. The Gazette says that Collectors of South Arcot, First Magistrate, Cochin and Military Officer, Trichinopoly acted as ex-officio postmasters in 1850 ... truly, a positive step in the development of rural postal services !

### **Growing by the day!**

In the beginning, the Madras GPO was open from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. for delivery of mail and from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M. for despatch. By 1834, receiving houses (town post offices) were opened in Vepery, Royapettah, Triplicane and Mount Road, and by 1854, three deliveries

were effected at 7 A.M., 11 A.M. and at 3 P.M. All city postmen were provided with bells to announce their arrival. A circular issued by the PMG on September 3, 1840, tells us that the public were to draw his attention to any postman who fails to ring the bell... indeed a true measure of responsibility and public concern of the PMG !

### **Amazing stamps and red-paint letter boxes !**

The first of the postage stamps were introduced in 1854 and letter boxes were placed at the GPO. The first letter box in the city was installed at the Police Station in Mowbrays Road on September 19, 1855.

### **Fluttering flags and thundering guns!**

Yet another innovative measure from the PMG, Madras, was to hoist flags to announce the arrival of foreign mail. The Fort St. George Gazette of 1845 tells us that Flag No. 7 was hoisted on the arrival of foreign mail and chequered blue and white flag hoisted, when mails were ready for delivery.

These fluttering flags were replaced by the roar of gunshots in 1855. However, as the city expanded horizontally, the gunshots could hardly be heard in far-flung areas and hence, the PMG hit upon the idea of exhibiting placards at various post offices to indicate arrival of foreign mail.

## **Mail by sail to Her Majesty!**

By 1855, there was fortnightly despatch of mail to England. The mail left Madras on the 13th and 17th of every month, and from England on the 4th and 20th. Should a ship sail from Bombay, mail was despatched by Express Despatch, so as to match the timings of the steamer at Bombay. Strict instructions were issued to ensure prompt delivery of mail, notwithstanding the time of the day or night! It is recorded in the 1870 Gazette that foreign mail was issued for delivery at 11 P.M. Special arrangement was made by the PMG for receiving foreign letters for despatch, by exhibiting a signboard in English, Tamil and Telugu vide Fort St. George Gazette of August 8, 1855.

## **Chuk Chuk mail and palanquin officers !**

With the introduction of railway, mail was despatched to Bombay by train - a journey that consumed 78 hours. Late fee letters were received by a clerk at the Royapuram Terminus from 6 P.M. to 7 P.M. Mail was conveyed to Bangalore from 1864. In addition to transportation of mail, the Postal Department was assigned the responsibility of carrying officers in palanquins ... strange but true ! Postal runners once again stole the limelight, being available on hire to carry the officers. This came to be known as the Dak Bearer system. A set of Dak bearers comprised of 12 carriers, one masulchy and a coolie. The charges were three pies (half a paisa) for each bearer per mile !

## **Back in a place where it truly belongs!**

Originally, the Madras GPO was located in a building on the beach of Fort St. George square. It was shifted to an old bank building in 1837 and then to Pophams Broadway in 1856. It finally moved in 1884 to where it truly belongs

- the red brickwork building known as Abercrombie Battery. In 1874, the construction of this building was entrusted to R.F. Chisholm, a consulting architect to the Madras Government.

After delays, the building was finally completed in a span of ten years, thanks to the timely help of the Madras Chamber of Commerce... the budget-a whopping Rs. 6,80,850! To this day, the Madras GPO - renamed as the Chennai GPO - stands tall as a true epitome of public service, apart from being a prominent landmark in the city's Parry's Corner area.

## **A jewel in the national crown**

The Madras General Post Office (GPO) holds the unique distinction along with the Calcutta and Bombay GPOs, to be termed a Presidency Post Office. The network of these three GPOs laid the firm foundation for the Indian Postal Organisation.

Twelve years after the Calcutta GPO (1784) and two years after the Bombay GPO (1794), a fledgling Madras GPO started functioning from June 1, 1796. The nucleus for the development of postal services in the entire southern region was formed.

## **Tapal and Tappies**

Leafing through the pages of history in the Tamilnadu archives, one finds John Burlton, a civilian of the East India Company, suggested to the Government, "to establish a regular tapal upon a plan similar to that of Bengal for receipt of letters, which may from thence be conveyed to every part of this settlement." Interesting to note, till then all letters of the Company's employees were despatched free of cost by the Government. Burlton suggested that the

employees pay for their letters so as to enable savings on the expenditure thus incurred. -\*

The Governor then sought information from Bengal about its Dawk establishment and directed one Thomas Lewin to submit a proposal for establishing tappies in the premises of Fort St. George.

The tappies were formed in three divisions -originating from Madras, the first was up to Ganjam (700 miles) ; the second was up to Anjengo (500 miles); the third was up to Vellore (100 miles). For every stage of 12 miles, three harearas (relay runners) were appointed with a masulchy (torch bearer). Where necessary, a drummer was also appointed to scare away wild beasts. A Postmaster General (PMG) took charge of the entire administration. Thus was born the Madras GPO, with an allocated establishment budget of 2,233 pagodas (about Rs. 7,800).

### **The PMG and his organisation**

A.M. Campbell stepped in to don the role as the first appointed PMG, with one Robert Mitford nominated as his deputy. This, then, was his team of able and dedicated staff:

One writer or native assistant  
Five sorters (clerks)  
One head peon  
Ten peons (postmen)

This apart, a Deputy Postmaster was also appointed at Masulipatnam, Ganjam, Tanjore and Anjengo.

### **To Bombay in 17 days flat!**

Mail for Bombay, which was till then sent from Anjengo by sea, now took an overland route through Masulipatnam, which served as

a transit office. The year 1790 saw the introduction of regular weekly despatches to Bombay, by which letters were conveyed in 17 days and to Calcutta in 19 days.

The postage for a single letter of 2V2 tolas (about 25 grams) was one fanam (about 7 paise) for every 100 miles. The same year saw two globe lamps adorn and illuminate the GPO, as a result of innovation on the part of the then PMG, Mr. Colt.

### **Relay runners rested at last!**

With the increasing volume of mail, bullock carts and horse coaches replaced the relay runners. The Fort St. George Gazette of December 17, 1855 tells us that a hackney coach was introduced from Madras to Eluru - a distance of 300 miles. About 160 horses were hired for this phenomenal operation at Rs. 16 per horse.

This was perhaps the longest mail coach line during those days ! Mail to Bangalore was sent by jhatka (horse cart). Bullock cart service was in vogue from Palghat to Calicut.

### **Leading by example**

Right from the day of inception, the Madras GPO was recognised as exceptionally efficient and oriented towards public service. Its charges were lower than that of Bengal and Bombay till 1827 (when uniform rates were introduced in all presidencies).

It also holds the rare distinction of introducing window delivery first in the GPO in 1850. Its staff strength was then much bigger than the Bombay GPO.

*By Courtesy  
Chennai City Postal Directory*

# A HUMBLE MAN WHO CREATED HISTORY TWICE

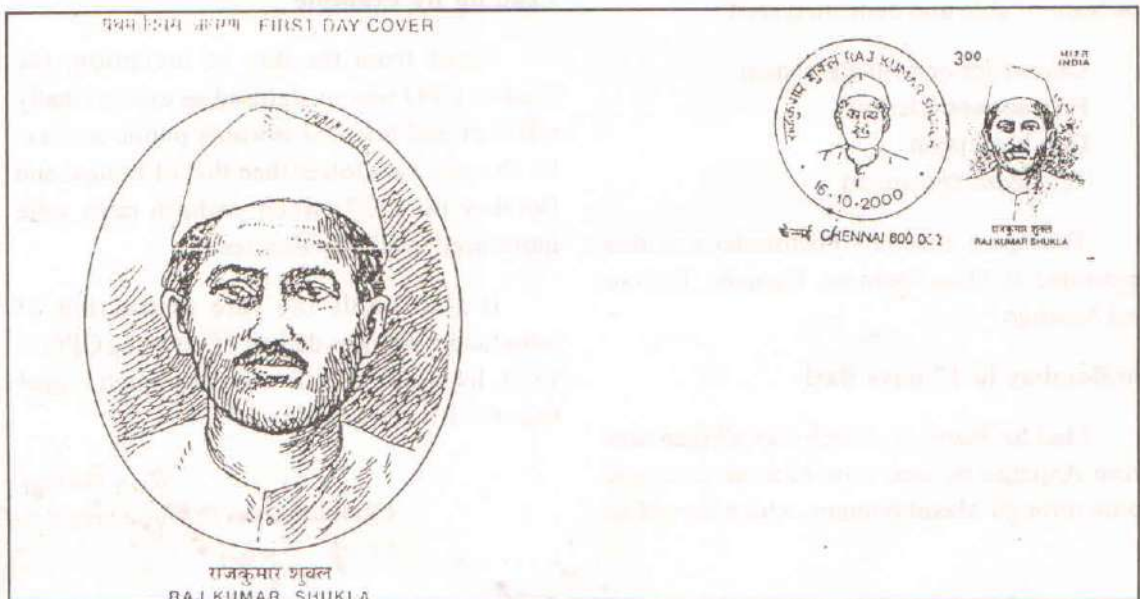
G.Ram Mohan

It is well known to philatelists, and may be even to members of the general public, that nowadays personality stamps dominate Indian commemorative issues. What used to be a gentle trickle of three or four personality stamps per year has now grown into a virtual flood. Of the sixty odd commemorative stamps issued each year recently, over thirty have been on personalities.

Indian personality stamps are not popular with philatelists. There are many reasons for it. For one thing, many of the stamps are of persons not well known even within the country. Most of such stamps are also of indifferent quality and of very limited visual appeal. There is no possibility of such stamps having any value internationally. Except for some thematic collectors interested in themes such as Indian freedom fighters, Indian poets, artists and such,

these stamps are usually ignored by the general collectors. There is however one group of collectors who are forced to buy all the Indian personality stamps. They are those interested in Indian country collection wishing to keep their collections full without any gaps. They have to collect every Indian stamp issued. It is with such a group of collectors that a certain personality stamp issued by the Indian Department of Posts on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2000, created history.

The stamp in question was the commemorative issued to mark the 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of one Raj Kumar Shukla, who was described in the earlier press notification issued by the Department of Posts as a 'freedom fighter'. But it was a name unknown even to ardent students of history of India's freedom struggle



Who was Raj Kumar Shukla? There is a very interesting story behind him that is worth recounting. He was a fighter alright, but cannot be described as a freedom fighter. He was fighting for a single cause, in one far corner of north Bihar on the Indo-

Nepal border. It was during the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was a poor starving farmer struggling as a tenant farmer in an indigo plantation owned by a European planter in Champaran district of Bihar. The indigo plant yields a high quality vegetable dye. Earlier, during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, indigo dye was in great demand in the textile mills of Europe, and indigo was a very valuable cash crop that paid rich profits to the planters. But with the invention of artificial chemical dyes by about 1910 the demand for natural indigo fell drastically. The planters, who were all European adventurers, were no longer making big money. But they were not willing to give up the luxurious lifestyle they had got used to. To make up for the drop in their income they heartlessly cut down on payments to their poor Indian tenants and farm labourers. They would not also permit the farmers to grow alternative foodgrain crops on the land in order to atleast feed themselves. The already poor peasants were thereby reduced to utter misery and starvation.

Raj Kumar Shukla had heard that an organization called the Indian National Congress was then fighting for better rights for Indians under British rule. He had also heard that the



Congress was holding its annual session in Lucknow in December 1916. So to Lucknow he went, accompanying as a servant, an active Congress worker of Bihar named Brajkishore Prasad. Prasad got a resolution passed at the session expressing sympathy for the poor peasants of Champaran. And that was all Prasad could do.

Shukla was thoroughly disappointed. He could see that practically nothing had been done to save the peasants. He wanted some sympathetic leader to go to Champaran to see things for himself. Among the delegates at the session he saw a certain youngish junior delegate who, he was told, had just returned from South Africa. Perhaps his rustic instincts told him that that was the sympathetic leader he was looking for. The delegate's name was Mohandas K. Gandhi.

Shukla then started pursuing Gandhiji. His request was that Gandhiji should visit Champaran to see things for himself. He virtually chased him from place to place and right upto Gandhiji's Sabarmathi ashram. Gandhiji finally had to accede to Shukla's request and went to Champaran in April 1917. The condition of the peasants he saw there shocked

Gandhiji. He stayed on in Champaran and launched a satyagraha campaign demanding justice for the farmers. The colonial administration at the District and Provincial levels, which had till then blindly supported the European planters, was shaken by Gandhiji's campaign. They quickly passed laws declaring the planters' actions illegal, and relieved the ryots from their misery. The battle was won. By being instrumental in the launching of the first satyagraha campaign in India, Raj Kumar Shukla - or 'The Gentle Bihari' as Gandhiji called him - created history.

Over 50 odd years after his death Raj Kumar Shukla created history again. This time it was philatelic history. As said earlier, on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2000 the Department of Posts issued a commemorative stamp to mark his 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary. It is a quite a non-descript type of two-colours stamp, in chocolate and pale buff, carrying a portrait of Shukla. The First Day Cover and the cancellation carry the same portrait. For some undisclosed reason the Department printed only 0.1 million of the stamps. This was quite a deviation from the normal figure of 0.4 million which was the minimum number printed of any personality stamp issued till then. All the other personality stamps issued that year had followed that norm. In fact, 1.4 million stamps had been printed of a Gandhiji commemorative issued on 1<sup>st</sup> January that year, and one on N.T.Rama Rao issued on 28<sup>th</sup> May had 0.8 million printed.

To make matters worse, a substantial number of Shukla stamps were sent to Champaran and adjacent areas, leading to serious shortages in philatelic counters in other parts of the country. Indian country collectors

in large numbers were unable to get the stamp to meet their full requirements. The premium charged by dealers was increased, and the situation has still not eased. For once there is a high demand and a high premium charged for a recent Indian personality stamp. History has been made again!

There are a few other Indian philatelic materials available on Champaran satyagraha. The 2 rupees stamp in the se-tenant block of four stamps issued on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1998 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi,



has a picture of farmers harvesting indigo crop. The text reads "Peasants' Welfare". The picture of Gandhiji in the stamp shows him in youthful appearance in Kathiawari dress, which was the way he looked when he went to Champaran in 1917.

During his stay of over a year in Champaran during 1917 and 1918

Gandhiji also worked for the social upliftment of the illiterate and ignorant peasants. Kasturi Ba, and many inmates from Sabarmathi Ashram joined him in this work. He set up training centers to teach the men and women basic literacy, hygiene, child upbringing, spinning and weaving and such other skills. The biggest and best known of such centers is the Bhitheharwa Ashram near Motihari. The ashram serves the local people till today. On the occasion of the BIPEX 94 philatelic exhibition conducted in Patna, a special cancellation was used on 16.11.1994 which shows the Bhitheharwa Ashram.

Historic events such as the Champaran satyagraha need to be commemorated in philately from time to time. But there can be no justification for creating scarcity of such philatelic material since that would affect genuine collectors.

# STAMPS AND THE SILVER SCREEN

S.Theodore Baskaran

The first postal stamp was introduced in 1840 in England and the very next year stamp collecting as a hobby had begun. A few decades later, philatelists realized that there were thousands of stamps in the field and it was impossible to collect all. So they began collecting stamps on different subjects. They began specializing in topics such as birds or Christmas and this branch came to be known as 'thematics' that is, collecting by a topic or subject. The first thematic display was held in London in 1890 in which a philatelist exhibited his stamps featuring Queen Victoria. A new dimension was given to stamp-collecting.

In India also thematic collection quickly caught on. The stamps on varied subjects, are arranged imaginatively, providing adequate background information for the topic. The themes can be anything, trains or ships or paintings; there are collectors who specialize in stamps of one of the former Princely states such as Travancore Cochin. There are some who collect stamps on computers. India has issued more than five computer related stamps. One of the recent themes getting popular among philatelists is Cinema. Many countries including the United States have issued stamps on film personalities like Alfred Hitchcock. African countries like Zambia and Tanzania which do not produce films, have issued stamps on Hollywood stars who are popular there.. One screen luminary who has been honoured by many countries, including India, have issued stamps on Charlie Chaplin. Cartoon character Micky Mouse has also been honoured in stamps.

India issued its first stamp on cinema in

1971, in 20 paise denomination. It was released on 30<sup>th</sup> April featuring Dada Saheb Phalke, the man who made India's first feature film *Raja Harishchandra* in 1912. We had to wait for a full six years for the second stamp on cinema, it came in 1977 to mark the International Film Festival. In India Cinema as a subject has been looked down upon by the educated class and so it took a long time to honour film folks. Slowly, more film personalities and institutions were featured in stamps.

The stamp honouring V.Shantharam featured him as he appeared in the film *Do Anken Bara hath*. *Raj Kapoor* stamp depicted him as a character in *Awara and Mera Nam Joker*. One of the most well-designed stamps in this subject in our country is that of Satyajit Ray brought out in 1994 and it featured, in addition to his portrait and the Oscar trophy, the famous train-watching sequence from his first film *Pather Panchali*. This stamp was of unusual design, called *se tenant*, two stamps of different denominations joined as one. A rare philatelic honour, earlier this was given to Gandhiji in the year 1980 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Dandi march. I consider this as the best designed Cinema stamp in India. Unfortunately the stamps on M G R and Sivaji Ganesan were brought out in great hurry and they turned out to be plain and unimpressive. Imagine how attractive Sivaji's stamp could have been had it featured a scene from *Parasakthi* or shown him as *Veerapandia Kattabomman*.

If you decide to collect on this subject, then a little bit of background study is needed. You

have to learn about the history of cinema, about the persons involved in its growth. You can think of ways of building up your collection on this theme. You can include S.Satyamurthy because he was President of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce and also Rukmini Arundale as she danced in the film *Raja Desingu*.

(1936). One of Rajaji's well known stories *Thikatra Parvathi* was made into a film of the same title and so he would also find a place in the cinema collection. So would C.N.Annadurai who wrote the script for quite a few films including the legendary *Nallathambi* featuring N.S.Krishnan.

In India, there are a number of philatelists collecting stamps on cinema and well known among them is Mohanram of Chennai. Himself being an actor adds a different dimension to his collection. A serious student of performing arts, he is an activist in the field of Philately, lobbying for First Day covers and Stamps to honour film personalities. Hopefully we will see his collection exhibited soon.

Here are some websites your could visit on the thematic stamps.

Dogs <http://www.kristull.com/stamps.htm>  
Cinema <http://www.ctv.es/USERS/manuelf>

(Courtesy: THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS)



# OUR JOURNEY INTO PHILATELY

Postage Stamps depict the history, geography, culture, heritage, places of interest and noted personalities of a particular country and people. Stamp Collecting is known as the king of the hobbies and this hobby has a widespread collectors of heterogeneous variety ranging in all age groups.

We in ABK-AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre, an Organisation dedicated in Promoting, Technology, Culture, Business & Trade, between India & Japan, started our journey in Philately in a small way wherein we went on collecting various stamps, putting them together in our own way, not knowing to arrange them in order. We owe our sincere thanks to Mr. Balakrishnadas, President - South India Philatelists Association who had been our mentor and who had aroused our interest and enthusiasm in Stamp Collecting.

Sooner our focus turned into the collections of stamps of a particular country - Japan with whom we have been associating ourselves all along. Meanwhile we saw a great deal of improvement in our stamp collection only because of the able guidance by South India Philatelists Association (SIPA) and we have improved up to 60% in the philately.

We made our maiden effort in the year 2002 being the 50<sup>th</sup> year of India Japan Diplomatic Relationship wherein we were able to display the Japanese Stamps in a small way on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> April 2002, to commemorate the Philatelic week of Japan celebrated during the April

every year at Japan. And from the year 2002 onwards we were conducting this thematic exhibition of Japanese postal stamps annually during the month of April for the past 5 years.

In order to cater to our needs for displaying the stamps we have made identical Panel Boards in large numbers so that our valuable collections can be displayed.

As the year 2007 has been declared as India - Japan Friendship year, we wish to celebrate this year with two exhibitions one to commemorate the Philatelic Week of Japan and other to commemorate the Letter Writing day of Japan. We have in our collection more than 8000 stamps ranging from themes A to Z of Japan, Philatelic Week of Japan, Imperial Family, International Letter Writing Day, Letter Writing Week, the Regional Stamps, Railway Bridges, Children Day, Engineering Achievements, Japan Heritage Services, Sports, Culture, Nature Heritage Services, Birds, Animals, Flowers, Japan Medical Series, Japan Legal System, Japan and its International





Relations, Latest Science and Animation series etc. In the year 1999, Japan came out with beautiful self adhesive stamps on different themes which have become very attractive to all collectors.

In the last 2 years, the self adhesive stamps are brought out periodically as summer and winter greetings stamps.

The forthcoming National Level Philatelic Exhibition organized by the South India Philatelists Association (SIPA) to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> year of its origin, which is to be held from 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 at C.U.Shah Bhavan No.4, Ritherdon Road, Vepery, Chennai - 7 will be a feast for the eyes of the people who will be thronging in the above exhibition to see & feel the growth of Japan & her people.

**M.R.Ranganathan**  
**Chairman-ABK-AOTS DOSOKAI,**  
**Tamilnadu Centre**  
**Vice Chairman - SIPAGOLD'06**

# SOME NEW YEAR PHILATELIC RESOLUTIONS

G. MADAN MOHAN DAS

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I thought this might be a very good time to review a listing of a stamp collector's possible New Year's resolutions. I'm not sure too many of us take the time to make New Year's resolutions, so think as my holiday gift to you: a no-hard-work-for-you-to-think-of set of stamp collecting, resolutions for the New Year of 1997.

Obviously, you don't have to choose all of those listed here, but I hope you will enjoy reading the list, find it helpful and actually adopt one or more as your own.

Here they are, with explanations about each one's importance:

1. I will set aside some special time on a regular basis to work on my stamp collection.

Explanation: In these difficult economic times, and with the stress of the world news each day, day to day pressures and activities sometimes overwhelm us.

For more than a 100 years, one of the finest selling points of stamp collecting has been the marvelous ability of these little pieces of paper to magically carry us away from our everyday concerns.

In 1997, now more than ever, stamp collecting is a rewarding and relaxing hobby. Pick a time, may be Tuesday evenings, Sunday nights or whenever, but set aside some time that you know is dedicated to working and playing with your stamps. You will find guaranteed stamp time each week a rewarding

thing to do.

2. I will handle all of my stamps and covers with care.

Explanation: This is actually more complicated than the simple promise seems. Many of us tend to innocently mishandle stamps because we are in a hurry, because we don't have time to find the right tools or because we say to ourselves, "well, this is a cheap stamp, anyway."

Promise never to handle mint stamps with your hands. Get in the habit of using stamp tongs whenever you handle stamps. In this way, you won't accidentally handle a stamp with your hands, and thereby damage it with moisture, bending, or tearing.

Store all of your stamps and covers neatly, using proper storage methods. Never leave stamps and covers lying around, especially in the Kitchen area.

Always put all stamps and covers safely away when you are finished working with them.

3. I will take proper precautions to safeguard my collection from theft.

Explanation: Stamp collectors often tend to be very private people when it comes to the contents of their collections.

Many collectors downplay the size and scope of their efforts, so as not to give the impression that they own many valuable stamps. They are afraid that this information in the wrong

hands could lead to burglary and theft. It was for this reason, for instance, that in 1980 the American Philatelic Society stopped publishing an annual directory listing all of its members.

Stamp collectors want anonymity from the general public in order to protect their collections. Be aware of who may be listening if you are describing the value of your collection.

Use caution in public places if you are carrying or telling about parts of your collection.

Keep albums and stock books in plain-looking containers, perhaps even brown, supermarket bags. Never joke in public as you never know who may be listening.

4. I will become active in my local stamp club.

Explanation: Many readers belong to local stamp clubs. Only a few attend meeting of the clubs on a regular basis and fewer take an active role in making things happen at the club.

If you would like to find even greater enjoyment from your stamps in 2007, make a promise to yourself that this year you'll make some specific contribution to the club. Consider chairing a committee or holding an office. If that's not your speed, volunteer to present a program on your favorite collecting topic.

Write something for the club newsletter. If you can't do this by yourself, call another member and do it together. Help strengthen your local stamp club in 2007.

5. I will Start a fun collection to supplement my main collection.

Explanation: An exciting recent trend in our hobby has been the development of fun collections and fun exhibits. These involve using as much creativity and imagination as you have,

and often creating your own stamps and covers.

Many collectors have taken to "fun in philately" by creating collections and exhibits of their own liking. Starting a fun collection of your choosing is a relaxing and fun-filed challenge, and highlights the lighter side of stamp collecting.

6. I will take a non-collecting friend to a stamp show and or stamp club meeting for a couple of hours.

Explanation: You know that stamp collecting has a wide and broad appeal. At the same time, however, most of your close friends and associates are not currently, involved in stamp collecting.

The next time you are planning to attend a stamp show or club meeting, call a friend who is not a collector and invite him as your guest. Promise that you will explain the basics of what's going on, and that you will take him out for a great snack afterwards.

It's also a good time and a good way to be able to tell this friend more about your own collecting interests. Who knows, you might even recruit a new collector.

7. I will think of purchasing appropriate philatelic gifts for non-collecting relatives and friends.

Explanation: The world of gift giving grows ever greater, with more and more speciality shops popping up all the time.

You can help promote the hobby and have fun at the same time if you will think about appropriate philatelic gifts for your non-collecting friends. Looking through the ads. in the pages of SIPA can help stimulate ideas.

T-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, watches and

books with a stamp theme make great gifts. Many of the recent Indian postal service products appeal to non-collectors.

A topical collection, which you put together for a special someone, can be a magnificent gift. Purchasing a small, leather-bound stock book, and presenting a favorite person with

stamps about their profession, heritage, or interest is also a great idea.

So there you have it. Seven promises for 2007. I hope you will choose at least one of them. My wife joins me in wishing you a happy, healthful and above all peaceful New Year.



# STAMP COLLECTING ATTRACTIONS

G. Madan Mohan Das

When we talk about stamp collecting, those who have never been exposed to it get a vague idea that the world's most popular avocation is simply a matter of filling the blank spaces in an album with haphazard abandon. That is one reason why non-collectors sometimes look with disdain at those who know what philately is all about, thinking it is just the innocuous pastime of only children or adults who are not intelligent enough to engage in "something more practical."

But how absolutely wrong they are!

There is n't another avocation known to mankind which is more pleasureable, recreational and, Educational. As one who devoted a long life time to the collection of the world's postage stamps, I can assure readers of this wordage that this is absolute fact. I began the hobby a few months before I entered primary school. While taking shirts and collars to the Chinese laundry-man for my father, I was intrigued by some stamps on a letter on old gentleman's counter. I could not read the queer characters of the inscriptions, but those green, red and blue stamps were facinating. One had a picture of a harvester in coolie hat, reaping rice in a paddy in front of a temple; the others had pictures of a junk sailing across the waves.

It was not only the stamps that attracted my attention. It was the fact that there was a letter that had been mailed on the other side of the world-from distant China, a place which in those pre-World War I days was as far from INDIA as the Moon, Mars and Venus seen today. So when I was given the envelope I must

have been the proudest and happiest youngster in all my neighbour-hood.

Other shopkeepers subsequently gave me envelopes and stamps they received in the mails from Germany, France and England and that started me on the road to becoming a real stamp collector.

Fortunately, my educated father knew what it is all about and encouraged me in my new found hobby. In addition he helped me in identifying stamps and whence they originated, aiding me in putting them into an inexpensive paper note book, besides giving me other important advice. One of the first things he urged me was that stamps could teach me many things if I but would carefully examine the pictures on them. Every picture used for a postage stamp design, my father explained, had a very definite reason for being there. A nation usually boasts of its industries, way of life, famous heroes, culture and arts, so proudly depicts them on its postal paper.

A very famous Canadian Governor General once told - "POSTAGE STAMPS ARE LIKE CLEAR WINDOWS THROUGH WHICH A COLLECTOR CAN SEE FAR AWAY PLACES AND WATCH HOW THEIR CITIZENS LIVE, WORK AND ENJOY THEMSELVES."

That is the secret of STAMP COLLECTING. They haven't the foggiest idea of what interesting and often fantastic stories their pictures have to tell. Ever so many people know only the market price of stamps. Take the NICARAGUAN stamp issued in 1937

showing a map of Centra] America. The artist who make the map knew more about drawing than he did about cartography, for in making it he shows as part of his native Nicaragua, some territory which Guatemala, considered its own. When letters franked with these stamps reached Guatemala, some angry students marched on the Nicaraguan Embassy in protest. Violence erupted and before long about a dozen persons lay dead in the streets and hundreds had been injured. All because of stamp!

It's not only a stamp's picture that gives the collector so much interesting knowledge. Stamps also teach geography and history.

By checking an atlas each time one gets a new stamp from some different nation, the young collector soon learns where the land is, by what neighbours it is surrounded and what are its capital and major cities. I recall that when I was only about 11 or 12 years old, I took part in a contest and was the only one of more than 200 boys who could accurately identify the capital of every country on earth!

President Roosevelt made a practice of checking his atlas to locate cities whose post marks were on stamps collected. That stood him in good stead when America entered the War.

Late Ernest A. Kehr who had the privilege of knowing FDR and often "talking stamps" with him in the White House and Hyde Park. FDR once told him that early in the war he was discussing plans for sending American troops to the Pacific to combat the Japanese, with his top military and naval aides as well as high officers from New Zealand and Australia. Very important was the selection of a staging base and Walter Nash, New Zealand's deputy prime minister suggested a certain Pacific Island. President Roosevelt said that this might be OK,

but he thought that Mangareva would be better because it was many times nearer the target.

None of the officials present had ever heard of Mangareva so naturally were surprised that the President of the United States would know about it. They called for charts and checked them. Sure enough, Mangareva was exactly where FDR said it was.

I remember a history examination I was TALKING during my high school day. One question asked for the territories which united to form the kingdom of ROMANIA. After failing to remember my class room instruction or homework, I called upon my stamps.

I visualized the Romania pages of my album and remembered the earliest stamps came from Wallachia and Moldavia, and that is what I wrote as my answer.

Days after the examination our teacher told us that since she had not touched on the subject, no student would be penalised for failure to supply an answer to this question on the examination. She did say I was the only student who answered correctly and that I would be given extra five marks.

One can never tell when some bit of information one learns from stamps will come in handy at some future time. Not long ago a TV quiz contestant was asked a tricky question about the first steam-boat to cross the Atlantic. I answered correctly without hesitation, then added that I had a stamp which commemorated this event.

Of course one doesn't have to own a stamp collection to accumulate a mass of facts. An encyclopedia can do the same thing. But there is one big difference. Reading an encyclopedia is hard, tedious and often dull

work. Learning from stamps is FUN because one is enjoying a hobby while picking up useful bits of information. So, when you are adding a new stamp to your album, take a good look to it. The artist who made it had reasons for the pictures he selected for its design. If the picture is not self-explanatory, take some time out to read a book that will give you the biography of the person portrayed, or a description of a scene. Once you know what the stamp tells you, you will not only add to your own knowledge, but that stamp becomes something more than a small piece of pretty, colourful paper.

When you approach stamp collecting that way you will discover that the album is a treasure house of information and a companion for the rest of your life. Some people might tell you that a valuable stamp collection is one composed only of very rare and costly stamps. That is not true at all. What good is a stamp collection if all its owner knows is only the price tag of its specimens? On the other hand, one composed of only common, inexpensive stamps can be extremely precious if its owner allows himself to be taught by their pictures.

Once you have learned as much as you can from your own album of Indian stamps, let me suggest that you continue by learning more about foreign countries in the same way. You would be surprised how well you will become acquainted with lands and peoples beyond India's vast borders all over the world.

One more piece of advice. When you start collecting stamps you will hear a good deal about mint or unused stamps being more valuable than cancelled ones. Don't you believe it.

It is true that they may COST more. But cost doesn't determine VALUE. The true value of your stamps will be represented by what pleasure, satisfaction and knowledge your

stamps can give you and in this respect a cancelled stamp tell you as much - or more - than an unused one.

In the first place, used stamps are generally much easier to obtain. With a little diligence and effort you can obtain such specimens without cost from business firms and friends who get lot of mail from India and foreign countries without spending a paisa. Such duplicates as you get in this way can be used to swap with other collectors. For the first 15 years I was a collector I got all of my stamps in this way. And before I ever spent money for additional ones I had built a collection of more than 20,000 different stamps of the whole world!

There is another reason why I collected used stamps. In my opinion (and that is shared by many other collectors) a postage stamp was made to pay postage on mail. Until it has done its duty it is merely a piece of coloured paper. It's pretty much like buying a good book, then putting it on a shelf without ever reading it. Moreover, by reading the post mark you can learn exactly where it was put on a letter that was carried by the postal service.

The most important reason I prefer postally used stamps is that so very many countries-especially those in Africa and Asia that received their Independence within the last 20 years hire professional promoters to design, produce and sell their "stamps" to dealers and collectors rather than for real postal service.

Ghana, Togo, the Maldives Islands and Yemen, for example, issue hundreds of fancy colourful and odd shaped stickers even though very few people (natives) of those lands even use them on mail because they are illiterate or have friends to whom they want to send letters.

In addition there are places-particularly in

Arabia that issue stamps (through New York, Beirut, London or Paris exploiters) even though they don't have any postal service at all. All these stickers that look like stamps are made for sale (at high prices) to unsuspecting and gullible collectors. There are thousands of stamps around, that have been legitimately issued by genuine nations like India, the United States, Switzerland, Holland, Sweden, Norway,

and scores of others. You can devote years of your energies for getting such real postage stamps, so why waste time and money to buy what the experts call "philatelic junk or wall paper?"

With these few bits of advice, I hope that you will have good deal of fun, pleasure and learning, just as I have enjoyed for more than half a century. GOOD LUCK TO YOU!



## A COVER TO COMMEMORATE A SPECIAL EVENT

D.H. Rao

Many a time, a philatelist, specialist in a theme, gets frustrated to see an 'EVENT' gets no response from the Postal Department, nor from authorities celebrating the 'EVENT', by non-issue of a special cover. On the other hand some institutions bring out beautiful cover with special cancellation on flimsy grounds. The reason is failure of the Postal Department's to educate people at large, about the issue of special covers and special cancellations for those 'Unique Events' that take place in their environment. Being a Naval (Indian) Philately Historian, I find practically no special covers with special cancellations are produced during commissioning of our war ships, by the Navy nor by the Ship Building Yards. Even though there are philatelic knowledgeable Naval personnel, in the Navy, they do not take any initiative for the special cover.

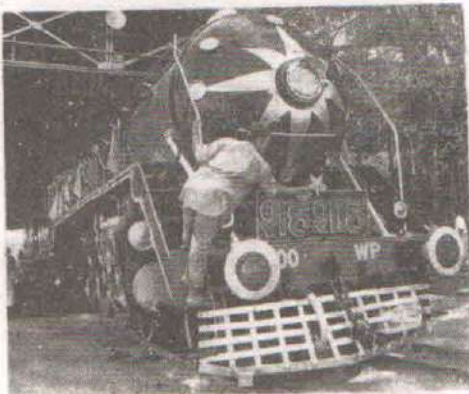
About the Ship Building Yards, less said the better. Few years ago, one could get nice covers from Garden Reach Ship Building Yard, Kolkata, thanks to a philatelist, and his superior, who encouraged such a measure. But once, the superior retired, no such covers from Garden Reach. Mazagaon Dock, which builds many large ships, just brought one cover during the commissioning of INS KIRCH. I had written many letters to the Chairman of the five Ship Building Yards about Commemorating such events by issue of a cover. As usual no reply from all the five. Indian Navy, also to be blamed, in the sense, they too never inform a Commission of a ship early enough for us philatelists to send cover to the respective post offices of the Ship Building Yard for a Humble Date Cancellation. I feel, even a Date

Cancellation on a cover will suffice for our theme. So, whenever I come to know about Commissioning or De-commissioning of a ship well in advance, I send cover to the nearest post office of the Ship Yard for the Date cancellation. Later, I get these covers autographed by the VIP who commissioned this ship, along with the Commanding Officer.

One of the latest, cover for an unique event, was from Visakhapatnam, when our President Sri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, took a sortie in a submarine on the 13th February 2006 - the first one by our President. I got the cover cancelled at Vishakhapatnam Post Office, and autographed by the FOC-in-C (Eastern Fleet), Commanding officer of the 'Submarine and is waiting for an opportunity to get Sri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's autograph to complete the cover. This cover has a photograph of the submarine.

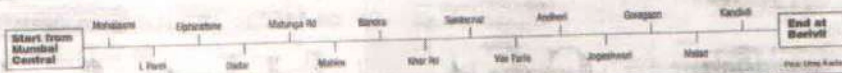
My another interesting cover relates to the 508th anniversary of Vas Co Da Cama's landing at Kappad, near Calicut. It took me one year to get this cover cancelled with the Date 20th May 2006 (cover sent in 2005). Immediately, I sent this cover to the Zamorin Sri PKS Raja, for his autograph, who readily obliged. He is 93 years young. It is the Zamorin of Calicut, who gave permission to Da Gama for trading in spices etc. in 1498.

Another, interesting cover, which took some months, was on the 151st anniversary of Western Railway - Bombay Baroda & Central India (BB & CI) Railway, which was celebrated on the 9th April (Sunday) with a run of a Heritage Train from Bombay Central to



THE KING OF KINGS: A railway worker gives the 58-year-old beauty a good cleaning as it is decked up to run the 50-odd kilometres between Mumbai Central and Borail on Sunday

*by  
Gopin Vish  
Pish  
Gurmal*



*Handwritten signature and text:*  
Superintendent  
Borail Central H. O.

*(M. H. Rodge)*  
Senior Post Master  
Mumbai Central H. O.  
Mumbai-400 008.

<b>D.H. RAO</b>	Ph : 044-23770172
	Cell : 9840870172
"Nirupam" 8, Illango Nagar Annexe, Virugambakkam, Chennai (Madras) PIN 600 092. INDIA	



leaving Lisbon Fleet

rounding Cape

arriving Calicut

meeting Zamorin

1498 - 20th May - 2006



*Handwritten signature and text:*  
ZAMORIN RAJA OF CALICUT

<b>D.H. RAO</b>	Ph : 044-23770172
	Cell : 9840870172
"Nirupam" 8, Illango Nagar Annexe, Virugambakkam, Chennai (Madras) PIN 600 092. INDIA	

INS BHIM, tug, Commissioned by  
VADM J S Bedi, at Chennai.  
Built by Tebma shipyard, 25tonne,  
bollard pull tug with SS propellers  
Cummins KTA 38 M2 -two engines of  
1200bhp each, 12kts.



*J S Bedi*  
VADM J S Bedi  
Controller of warship production  
& acquisition  
*P. S. Srinivasan*  
(RM YADWAD)  
CDR  
COY MUMBAI  
D.H. RAO  
8. Illango Nagar Ase  
Chennai 600 092

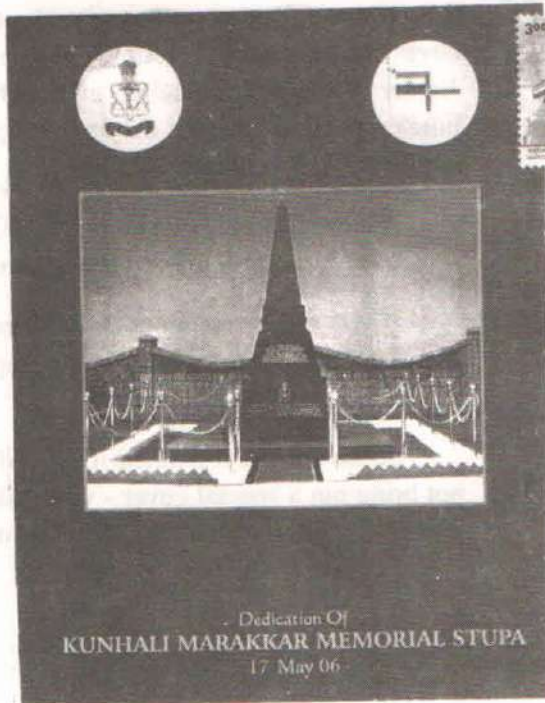


CHENNAI  
THE HINDU • SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2005

## A rare grouping of Venus, Jupiter in the skies

Phenomenon will be visible next few days

D.H. RAO  
8. ILLANGO NAGAR ANNEXE  
Virugambakkam  
CHENNAI 600 092



*Adhahad*  
 Adm Arun Prakash  
 Chief of Naval Staff

<b>D.H. RAO</b>	Ph :	044-23770172
	Cell :	9840870172

"Nirupam"  
 8, Ilango Nagar Annexe,  
 Virugambakkam,  
 Chennai (Madras)  
 PIN 600 092. INDIA



*Adhahad*  
 Adm Arun Prakash  
 Chief of Naval Staff



राष्ट्रपति द्वारा वे



Boriville. The 'Event' being on a Sunday, I opted a date cancellation of the 10th (Monday) from the Bombay Central RMS post office and Anderi RMS (which was the termination station originally planned). I got the autographs of the Postmasters and the Station masters of these two stations and sent to the Headquarters of Western Railway, for the autograph of the Heritage Steam Engine driver, who was based at Jaipur. After a lot of phone calls and five months wait I received two beautiful covers all neatly autographed and with four heritage steam engine and wooden carriage picture post cards. Had the Western Railway planned earlier they could have brought out a nice cover. Railways are not ignorant of the importance of such events. Recently, South Eastern Railway,

which is Forty Years brought out a nice cover at Hyderabad, along with a Heritage Run.

If one collects on astronomy, here is one cover showing a rare grouping of Venus and Jupiter in the sky, cancelled at the philatelic bureau post office - and duly autographed by the Birla Planetarium Director.

A meter franking of Navy Office, Chennai shows the commissioning of INS Bhim.

If you are a maximum card collector try to get good picture cards on the stamp issue, like the one on INS VIRAAT.

So do not get frustrated if post office do not bring out a special cover - you make your own and get immense pleasure out of it.

# OVERPRINTS FULFILL MANY DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS

When a new postage stamp is needed in a hurry, postal authorities sometimes alter an existing stamp to suit their needs.

This is commonly done by applying an overprint.



**Figure 1.** The 28c stamp of Barbados from 1979 (left) was surcharged in 1982 to change the value to 15c. A surcharge is any overprint that changes the face value of the stamp.

An overprint is any printed marking or text (other than a postal cancellation) that is applied by postal authorities to unused postage stamps with the intention of modifying the original.

The most common form of overprint is one that changes the face value of the stamp. This specific type of overprint is called a surcharge.

The two stamps shown in Figure 1 illustrate a typical surcharge.

In 1979 the island nation of Barbados issued a set of definitive stamps showing birds. The 28c stamp at left in Figure 1 depicts a blackbird and is cataloged as Barbados Scott 503.



**Figure 2.** Numerous U.S. stamps were overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. Shown is the 1922 \$1 Lincoln Memorial issue (top) and an overprinted example.

Nearly three years later the same stamp was overprinted (or surcharged) with a new denomination of 15c. The new surcharged stamp, Scott 570, is shown at right in Figure 1.

Postal authorities printed the new denomination to the right of the original denomination and added a large black block to obliterate the original.

Stamps overprinted with surcharges to fulfill a sudden need for a new postage denomination are also known as provisional issues.

Some stamps are overprinted to reduce waste by giving new life to stocks of otherwise obsolete issues.

Some stamp collectors have complained that certain countries surcharge or overprint stamps simply to sell additional issues to collectors, but often there is a genuine postal need for the overprinted stamp.

Note that the surcharge on the Barbados stamp in Figure 1 is less than the original value.

Overprints are often simple in design and easy to counterfeit. Most postal authorities choose to surcharge stamps by overprinting a high-value stamp with a lesser value to discourage counterfeiters from creating fake overprints that illegally increase the face value of the stamp.

There are, however, many surcharged stamps that properly increase the face value of the stamp.



**Figure 3.** Overprints are sometimes used to change a service designation. The 1973 50c Butterfly stamp of Tanzania saw use as a regular issue (left) and as an Official stamp.

Many of these overprints were created during the 1920s, when rampant economic inflation took its toll on some European nations.

As an example, Germany surcharged dozens of stamps in 1923 with ever increasing values as inflation overwhelmed the country and postage rates skyrocketed.

As an example, stamps originally printed with a 30-pfennig denomination were surcharged to be 8,000 marks.

Because overprints can be easy to duplicate or alter, collectors should use caution when purchasing overprinted stamps of great

value. Such items should be authenticated by an expert to verify that they are genuine.

Envelopes and postal cards are also known with surcharges. The United States began surcharging stocks of 3c envelopes in 1920 to meet reduced postage rates that went into effect the year before. U.S. postal cards were also surcharged in 1920, changing their value from 2c to 1c.

Another common use of overprints is to authorize the use of postage stamps originally printed for use in another area, region or country.

During the period 1904-79, the Canal Zone was under the jurisdiction of the United States government, but mail from that region was sent using stamps bearing a Canal Zone inscription.



**Figure 4.** Overprinting may be used to add a commemorative inscription to an issued stamp. Shown are 1984 Issues from the Cayman Islands. Both were issued for postage.

On several occasions, U.S. stamps were overprinted for use in the Canal Zone.

The top illustration in Figure 2 shows the \$1 Lincoln Memorial definitive stamp, Scott 571, from the 1922 fourth Bureau issue. Below it is the overprinted stamp created for use in the Canal Zone. The latter stamp is cataloged as Canal Zone Scott 95.

This overprinting technique has also been used when one country maintains post offices within another country.

An example are Germany's stamps for its post offices in China from 1898 to 1913. The name "China" is overprinted on numerous German stamps of that period.

Overprinted country names can also proclaim new independence (such as the Estonian issues of 1919), or reflect military occupation (such as Germany's stamps for its 1940 occupation of Alsace and Lorraine in France).

Overprints are regularly used to designate a new function for a previously issued stamp. Most often, this change is reflected by the imprint of a single word.

Figure 3 shows two stamps from Tanzania issued during December 1973. At left is the 40c definitive postage stamp (Scott 40) and at right is the same stamp overprinted for Official use by government departments (Scott O20).

The Refresher Course column published in the March 1 issue of Linn's Stamp News described the function of Official stamps.



**Figure 5.**  
**Some collectors consider U.S. precanceled stamps to be overprints.**

Overprints that name service designations sometimes can be difficult to interpret.

Danish stamps

overprinted "PORTO" and Ethiopian stamps overprinted "T" are postage due stamps.

Parcel post stamps of Belgium overprinted "JOURNAUX DAGBLADEN" are intended for use as newspaper stamps.

Regular postage stamps of Spain from 1909-10 overprinted "CORREO AEREO" were used as airmail issues in 1920.

There are many other examples of how overprints can change the intended purpose of a stamp's use.

Some countries have used overprints to commemorate a recent event when there may not be time to create a new postage stamp.

In such cases, existing postage stamp are marked with a message that announces the new subject.

Cayman Islands used this method in 1984 to note the meeting of the Universal Postal Union Congress in Hamburg, Germany.

At left in Figure 4 is the 50c Lloyd's List stamp released May 16, 1984, and cataloged as Scott 525. The overprinted issue at right appeared one month later and is listed as Scott 527.

Collectors of United States stamps will recall that this method was used in 1928 to remember Molly Pitcher on the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth. U.S. Scott 646 is a 2\$ carmine George Washington regular-issue stamp with the words "MOLLY PITCHER" overprinted in black.

Some collectors consider U.S. precanceled stamps to be a form of overprinting, while others argue that it is actually a form of cancellation and therefore not properly an overprint.

Figure 5 shows U.S. Scott 1054A, the 1960 1 1/4c Palace of the Governors coil stamp in unprecanceled form at top, and bearing a Grand Rapids, Mich., precancel at bottom.

The precancel is applied either by a local post office or by the stamp printer. Stamps with a precancel are intended for use by volume mailers. With precancels, a post office can avoid passing large quantities of mail through canceling machinery.



**Figure 6. An Inverted overprint is one type of error. A few of Greenland's 1995 surcharged stamps (left) were found with the overprint printed upside down.**

Overprint errors are an interesting collecting specialty.

Some are scarce and can be quite costly. In 1996 Greenland surcharged its 0.25-kroner Queen Margrethe II issue with a new value of 4.25kr.

Just a few of the stamps were accidentally overprinted with the surcharge upside down, as shown at right in Figure 6.

The stamp with the inverted surcharge is a highly prized error (that many collectors seek).

Some similar overprint errors from other countries are quite common and are not particularly valuable.

Another type of overprint error is the omitted overprint. In many cases, this can only be verified if the error stamp is attached to a properly overprinted example.

In some cases, though the stamp is only known in its overprinted form. When the overprint is omitted, the error can be verified because no stamps without the overprint were regularly issued.

The 1922 inflation issues of Germany again provide an example. Three of the surcharged stamps issued with roulette separations were never issued without, an overprint, so examples of the overprint-omitted error of these otherwise common stamps sell for hundreds of dollars.

There are numerous other examples of how overprints are used by postal authorities to alter postage stamps, and varieties of overprints can make an interesting collecting specialty.

Details about many overprints and overprinted stamps can be found in the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* or in specialised catalogs for specific countries.

by Courtesy, Linns.com



# MAN'S CONQUEST OF SPACE

V.R. Padmanaban

This article is intended mainly for new comers to the hobby of stamp collecting and to the children who are interested in this hobby.

Nowadays all the collectors of stamps cannot think of collecting classics without spending much money.

Even if one is capable of spending money must have a thorough knowledge of such items and time enough to spare for it.

Under the circumstances Thematic collecting of stamps gains more importance and the approach to it is found easier by the new comers, either old or young and the stamps are also available in plenty to gather and get pleasure out of it as they progress.

Here I have brought out the sequence of Man's Conquest of space in a brief style which if studied and linked with connected stamps would definitely serves as a good thematic subject for any one interested.

Man's conquest of space began with the testing of rockets. On 16<sup>th</sup> March 1926. Robert

H Goddard of USA successfully tested the world's liquid fuel rocket.

The Russians astonished the world by launching the first artificial statellite namely Sputnik - I on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1957.



USSR launched SPUTNIK - II on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1957. The hero was the Dog LAIKA - the first space traveler - spent 7 days in orbit.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration - NASA was established by the U.S Congress on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1958 and the question then was who would send man into the orbit - USA or USSR.

USSR launched VOSTOK - I on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1961 and the Russian cosmonaut "YURI. A. GAGARIN" orbited the earth for 108 minutes and became the first cosmonaut of the world.

On 5<sup>th</sup> May 1961 USA launched MERCURY rocket and the US astronaut "ALAN SHEPARD" orbited the earth.

The following is the list of Space Missions that followed during 1962-63.

Date	Country	Mission Name	Astronaut
20.2.1962	USA	MERCURY - 6	JOHN GLENN
24.5.1962	USA	MERCURY - 7	CARPENTER
11.8.1962	USSR	VOSTOK - 3	
12.8.1962	USSR	VOSTOK - 3	
03.10.1962	USA	MERCURY - 8	SCHIRRA
15.5.1963	USA	MERCURY - 9	COOPER

On June 16<sup>th</sup> 1963 "VALENTINA. V. TERESHKOVA" of USSR became the first

woman in space. USSR launched VOSKHOD - I the three men craft on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1964.

VOSKHOD - II was launched on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1965 and the USSR cosmonaut "LEONOV" made his first walk in the space.

Between 23.03.1965 and 11.11.1966 TEN GEMINI two men crafts were successfully tested by USA. From 11<sup>th</sup> October 1968 NASA started 3 men flights of APOLLO series.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July 1969 the historic launch came on schedule and the unprecedented odyssey of APOLLO - 11 had begun. CREW: NEIL ARMSTRONG, EDWIN E. ALDRIN, MICHAEL COLLINS

On 20<sup>th</sup> July 1969, a concept of science fiction became fact when "NEIL ARMSTRONG" took man's first step on the moon surface at 1 hour 47 minutes and 40 seconds IST. That "One step for man became one giant leap for mankind".

The two astronauts "Neil Armstrong" and "Edwin Aldrin" lived on the lunar surface for 21 hours and 27 minutes and collected 47 pounds of moon rocks and soil samples for scientific analysis. They also planted a USA flag.

From 14.11.1969 to 07.12.1972 the three men flights of APOLLO 12,13,14,15,16 and 17 continued.

Since 1981 NASA designed and introduced seven men space craft namely SPACE SHUTTLE to deploy satellites into space. It is reusable for space flights and can carry a load of 65 thousand pounds. It can fly 100 or more times. Some of the space shuttle designed by NASA are COLOMBIA, CHALLENGER, DISCOVERY and ATLANTIS.

Space shuttle COLOMBIA was launched by USA on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1981. It took off as a rocket worked as a space craft and returned to earth as an Airplane.



The second launch of COLOMBIA took place on 12.11.1981. The US Space shuttle ATLANTIS thundered into space on 03.10.1985 to deploy air force communication satellite.

"Rakesh Sharma" was The First Indian Cosmonaut and his Soviet colleagues in SOYUZ T - 11 were blasted off into space by USSR on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1984 at 18.38 hrs IST. They returned to earth on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1984.

"JOHN GLENN" orbited the earth thrice on 20.02.1962. In connection with 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NASA in October 1998, a special space flight was arranged and at the age of 77 John Glenn wanted to participate in the flight. He and his crew mates blasted off into space on 29.10.1998 through the DISCOVERY shuttle.

On 23.07.1999 "Ms.EILENN COLLINS" became the first woman to command a space mission in space shuttle COLOMBIA.

"KALPANA CHAWLA" was the first Indian-American woman in space and her maiden space flight was on 19/11/1997.

On 16/1/2003 the U.S Space shuttle Colombia was blasted off into space with seven astronauts. While returning to earth on 01/02/2003, the space shuttle broke up over Texas killing all the astronauts including Kalpana Chawla. Kalpana Chawla proved that woman can rise to the pinnacle of success.

**SPACE TOURISM - 2001** "Mr. DENNISS TITO" became the world's first space tourist for the International Space Station (ISS) on 28.04.2001. He stayed for 10 days at a cost of 20 million US Dollars. He was followed by "Mr. MARK SHUTTLE WORTH" of South Africa to the ISS on 11.05.2002.

GREG OLSEN of New Jersey became the world's third space tourist.

### FIRST WOMAN SPACE TOURIST

MS. ANOUSHEH ANSARI blasted off on a Soyuz rocket to the ISS on 18.09.2006.

She was the FOURTH paying tourist for the ISS. She has paid \$ 25 million for the 10 days flight including a stay aboard the ISS. She returned to the Earth safely on 29.09.2006

Discovery blasted off to the ISS on 26.07.2005 with seven astronauts and glided back to the Earth at Edward A.F. base California on 09.08.2005. M. S. Eileen Collins became the first woman commander.



Space Shuttle Atlantis - STS - 115 blasted off to the International Space Station on 09.09.2006 for a 12 day mission and landed safely at Kennedy space center in Florida on 21.09.2006.

### INDIA - CRYOGENIC STAGE TESTED SUCCESSFULLY

On 28.10.2006 India successfully tested a cryogenic stage for 50 seconds at the Liquid Propulsion systems centre LPSC at Mahendragiri in Tirunelveli Dt Tamil Nadu.

### DISCOVERY LIFTS OFF

Discovery and its crew of seven lifted off from the Kennedy space center on 10.12.2006 at 07:17 A.M IST.

Sunita Williams became the second woman of Indian origin after Kalpana Chawla to venture into space along with six other astronauts on board Discovery STS - 116. Sunita will stay behind at the ISS for a six month period.



### CONCLUSION

Since 4<sup>th</sup> October 1957, a number of experiments were made on the Moon, Outer space, Skylab, SOYUZ, SALLYUT-6, SALLYUT-7 Scientific Stations and a Permanent International Space Station for space research was established and deployed a number of satellites into space for domestic, medical, communication, space research and military purposes. All the best results of space flights were immediately transferred to medicine - Electronics and computer for public use.

Unmanned missions to MARS - JUPITER - VENUS - MERCURY and SATURN are being sent by USA and USSR.

Man's conquest of space continues and it will continue for ever.

The Postal departments all over the world are issuing more and more stamps on the subject of Man's Conquest of space that one can be sure of making a good collection, stamps covering all aspects of the space travel.

# MAHATMA GANDHI IN INDIAN PHILATELY

S.B. RAJA SEETHARAMAN

The interesting world of Philately has seen numerous changes in the last few decades. From quantity accumulation to traditional country collection, to early cancellations, to pre-stamp covers etc., today, theme based collection is the hot word in philatelic world which is doing rounds in every philatelist's collection. By collecting thematically, a person can justify, enjoy, be thorough in the topic and, get, recognition and peace for what he is doing. Though there are many themes available for philatelists, it is clear that "Mahatma Gandhi" is an all time, the most respected and popular theme. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1869 at Porbandar, Gujarat in India. He is affectionately called as Mahatma Gandhi and known as the Father of the Nation. It was through his efforts, India attained freedom from the British rule through non-violence, without shedding a drop of blood and an army to drive them out in the battlefield. He was the first, to conceive Satyagraha as a non-violent weapon for fighting injustices imposed by the high and the mighty against the weak and powerless. He tirelessly worked for the compassion of the downtrodden and eradication of Untouchability. His teachings for guidance is most suited at every hour of crisis. His philosophy was based on an abiding faith in the underlying goodness of the human conscience. Albert Einstein has correctly said on him that "*Generations to come will scarcely believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth*". Though there are many valuable quotes by Mahatma Gandhi on various topics like Life, Faith, Equality, Freedom, Democracy, Untouchability, Service, Truth, Education, Bravery, Confidence, Satyagraha, Soul Force,

Duty, Honour, Love, Character, Prayer, Non-Violence, Woman, Man, World, etc., his quote "*Only Truth will endure and all the rest will be drifted away by the tide of time*" certainly stands strong for the centuries to come. The constructive programmes which he devised were to achieve the goal of self reliance and were not mere political struggles. On 30<sup>th</sup> January 1948 while in a prayer meeting, he was assassinated at Birla House, New Delhi.

India and other countries, have paid and are constantly paying rich tributes to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi by bringing out various philatelic collectables honouring him. The philatelic material includes Mahatma Gandhi stamps, (perforate and imperforate), Stamp Brochure, Colour Trials, Sheetlet (perforated and imperforated), Booklets, Setenant Pairs, Souvenir and Miniature Sheets, Deluxe Sheet, Gutter pairs, First Day Covers, Special Covers, Envelopes, Ordinary Post cards, Picture Post Cards, Maxim Cards, Inland letters, Aerogrammes, First Day, Meter Franking and Pictorial cancellations, etc., which are brought out on various occasions on events related to him. There are also various other collectable items like Cindrella, Misprint/Errors, Labels, Medals, Tokens, Badges, Telephone cards, Coins, Banknotes, etc., on him. No other leader has been honoured with such collectables mostly related to philately. By collecting such items on this great leader, a person has an opportunity to know more about him, his idealism, messages, etc., which refines a common man to have a focussed ambition / goal in his life. The collector also comes to know about the countries of the world and about their culture, monetary system, etc. Several

philatelic exhibitions devoted to Mahatma Gandhi (Gandhipex, Mahatmapex, etc.) have been held in our country. Many philatelic exhibitions carry Mahatma Gandhi's exhibits as a common entry which shows the philately strength on the leader. Moreover, many post offices across the country have been named after him. Since there are lots of collectables on Mahatma Gandhi, no doubt, it has become a very popular theme among the collectors.

Many commemorative stamps are specially issued to celebrate historical and political events, birth or death anniversaries of national and international personalities. It is very common that the great personalities find their place on the stamps of their own countries. But, as an exception, there are only few who have been commemorated by other countries too. Around 92 countries have issued stamps on Mahatma Gandhi. In 1961, USA became the first country in the world other than India to issue postage stamps (4 cents, 8 cents) in honour of Mahatma Gandhi. Breaking several traditions, Great Britain issued a Mahatma Gandhi stamp (1/6 d) in 1969, who became the first foreigner ever to appear on a British stamp. African countries top the list in design and number of stamps issued to honour Mahatma Gandhi. The stamps issued by other countries honouring him deserves special mention for the beautiful designs, different postures and pictures on him, of various sizes, and the use of multi colour printing. Many countries have issued multi coloured Sheetlets featuring Mahatma Gandhi along with other world leaders and personalities. The following are the countries who have issued postage stamps / philatelic items honouring Mahatma Gandhi on various occasions.

- 1) Antigua & Barbuda 2) Afghanistan
- 3) Brazil 4) Belgium 5) Bernera Islands (Scotland)
- 6) Benin 7) Burkina Faso (Upper Volta) 8) Bhutan 9) Chile 10) Costa Rica

- 11) Cameroun 12) Central African Republic
- 13) Chad (Tchad) 14) Comoros 15) Congo
- 16) Congo (Democratic) 17) Cyprus 18) Cuba
- 19) Dominica 20) Davaar Islands 21) Djibouti
- 22) Egypt 23) Easdale Island (Scotland)
- 24) Fujeira 25) Germany 26) Gibraltar
- 27) Great Britain 28) Greece 29) Guyana
- 30) Guinea-Bissau 31) Grenada 32) Grenadines of Grenada
- 33) Gabon 34) Gambia 35) Ghana
- 36) Hungary 37) Ireland 38) Iso Sverige (Swedish Island)
- 39) India 40) Iran
- 41) Kazakhstan 42) Khor Fakkan (Gulf of Oman)
- 43) Kyrgyzstan 44) Liberia 45) Mexico
- 46) Montserrat 47) Macedonia 48) Malta
- 49) Madagascar 50) Mali 51) Mauritania
- 52) Mauritius 53) Morocco 54) Mozambique
- 55) Maldives 56) Marshall Islands
- 57) Micronesia 58) Mordovia 59) Nevis
- 60) Nicaragua 61) Niger 62) Oman 63) Poland
- 64) Palau 65) Panama 66) Romania 67) Senegal
- 68) Sierra Leone 69) Somalia 70) South Africa
- 71) St. Thomas & Prince Islands 72) St. Vincent & Grenadines
- 73) Suriname 74) Sanda Island (Scotland)
- 75) San Marino 76) Staffa (Scotland)
- 77) Sharjah 78) Sri Lanka 79) Syria
- 80) Tadjikistan 81) Turkmenistan 82) Tanzania
- 83) Togo 84) Trinidad & Tobago 85) United States of America
- 86) Uruguay 87) Uganda
- 88) USSR 89) Venezuela 90) Yemen Kingdom
- 91) Yemen (South) 92) Zambia

Various philatelic material such as special cancellation, special cachet cover on Mahatma Gandhi was issued by Burma, Czechoslovakia, Fiji, Luxembourg, Manama, United Arab Emirates and Norway. These countries did not issue stamps on Mahatma Gandhi.

### **MAHATMA GANDHI IN INDIAN PHILATELY SCENARIO :**

Though foreign countries have issued various philatelic materials on Mahatma Gandhi, India has not left herself far behind honouring the Father of the Nation. From the early

1920's till 2006, India has paid very rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, by bringing various philatelic materials honouring him from time to time. Before the first Mahatma Gandhi stamps were issued by India in 1948, Mahatma Gandhi's propaganda English slogan "Communal Harmony Will Save Gandhiji" and the Hindi slogan "It is only through Communal Unity that Mahatma Gandhi can survive" were used by the Delhi and Calcutta post offices during the last of Mahatma Gandhi's many "fasts". The Indian postal administration used these slogans as a propaganda tool, stamping all incoming mail to Delhi, with pleas for communal harmony. The powerful slogans raised by Mahatma Gandhi like Buy Swadeshi, Be Indian Buy Indian, Truth Alone Will Endure, Truth Is God, True Source Of Right Is In Duty, Buy Handloom Fabrics, Boycott British Goods, Customer Is Never Wrong, Free India Stands For World Peace, Full Effort Is Full Victory, Jai Hind, Jai Bharat, Jai Bapu, Leprosy Is Curable, Leprosy Is Not A Hereditary Disease, Service Is Worship, Support Indian Industries, Untouchability Is Crime Against God And Man, Ask Not - Tell Not - Think Not Of Caste, Iswar Allah Tero Nam - Sab Ko Sanmati De Bhagwan, Freedom Demands Respect For The Freedom Of Theirs, etc., were highlighted promptly on various postal material and labels, honouring him. Moreover, his image was printed on various types of letterheads, envelopes, and on postcards for communication.

Privately printed bazaar postcards featuring many leaders, deities, etc., were in circulation in early years which required adequate stamp to be affixed on it. Patriotic Mahatma Gandhi postcards were in circulation way back in 1922. A card featuring Mahatma Gandhi wearing a cap, charka, and also a Congress Flag was used by the people for nationalism. Another card was also in circulation which featured Mahatma Gandhi and his

political predecessor, Tilak. On 9<sup>th</sup> November 1924, a picture postcard was in circulation featuring Mahatma Gandhi as Mahatmaji. Similarly postcards, with the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi were in circulation in 1925, 1930, 1931, 1932, and 1942. Hand stamped impressions of the portrait of Gandhi on various postures (Mahatma Gandhi wearing a Turban, Gandhi smiling with folded hands, etc.,) were used on mail articles before the independence. The following Mahatma Gandhi's philatelic materials are listed yearwise for better understanding.

**1948 :** India released its first Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Postage Stamps on the first anniversary of our Independence on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1948. A set of 4 postage stamps commemorating Mahatma Gandhi were issued in 4 denominations - 1 ½ Annas (brown), 3 ½ Annas (violet), 12 Annas (grey green), and 10 Rupees (purple brown & lake) for all normal postal purposes like other postage stamps. All the stamps portrayed Mahatma Gandhi in a smiling face posture and these have been popular among all the philatelists. The printing quantity for the stamps were 25 million for 1 ½ annas, 2.5 million for 3 ½ annas, 3.75 million for 12 annas, and 0.25 million for 10 rupees. The stamps printed by Courvoisier S.A., La Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland in imported sheets of 50 stamps, 5 rows of 10 stamps each in all denominations, has really become a collector's item today. The stamps were originally intended to be issued on Mahatma Gandhi's 80th birthday (2<sup>nd</sup> October 1949), but were released prematurely six months after Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, on the first anniversary of India's independence. Until today, these are the only Indian stamps to contain descriptive text both in Devanagiri (Hindi) and Arabic (Urdu) script, reflecting on Mahatma Gandhi's relentless struggle for communal harmony and religious tolerance. Moreover, these are the only stamps printed outside India.

The above said four stamps were also overprinted "SERVICE" by lithographic process in black by India Security Press, Nasik for the exclusive use of the then Governor General C.Rajagopalachari's Secretariat and not for public use. Today these Service Stamps command a very good price and is really a collector's item for its value. Apart from the release of the above said memorial stamps, Special commemorative folders, designed to contain the new set of Mahatma Gandhi memorial stamps were also released on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1948. Specially designed Mahatma Gandhi Memorial First Day Covers were also released. Moreover, during the 55th Indian National Congress historical meeting in Jaipur, Rajasthan from December 4<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 1948, a newly christened name of Mahatma Gandhinagar (meaning Mahatma Gandhi-town) was used in regular and special cancels (both in English and Hindi) on covers on the first day of this meeting.

**1949** : On the first anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1949, post offices all over India used the popular hymn sung by Mahatma Gandhi "*Sabko Sanmati De Bhagwan*" on postcards, envelopes. The line was printed in Devanagiri script (Hindi), in a variety of designs.

**1951** : On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1951, a set of four picture postcards with different pictures of Mahatma Gandhi were issued by the Indian Postal Department. The release of these cards coincided with Mahatma Gandhi's 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. The first card had the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi (1939), the second card featured Mahatma Gandhi and Charka (1942), the third card featured Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturiba (1942), and the fourth card featured Mahatma Gandhi holding a child (1944). These were also the first Indian inland postal cards printed only in Hindi.

**1969** : On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Centenary on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1969, a set of four stamps with different designs and portraits of Mahatma Gandhi in the denomination of 20 paise (Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturiba), 75 paise (Mahatma Gandhi smiling bust), Re.1 (Mahatma Gandhi Dandi March, wood cut design), and Rs.5 (Mahatma Gandhi with Charka) were issued by the government. A very specially prepared Brochure containing the four Centenary stamps clearly explaining every stamp, was prepared and issued for the public. A Publicity card of the Centenary Stamps with bilingual Mahatma Gandhi slogans and special postal cancellation was also issued. Two kinds of Centenary First Day Covers were issued. A set of three postcards of denomination 10 paise, with different pictures of Mahatma Gandhi (Mahatma Gandhi smiling bust, Mahatma Gandhi at Sabarmati Ashram, Mahatma Gandhi Spinning) were issued. A set of three inland letters of denomination 15 paise with the same three different Mahatma Gandhi pictures were also issued on this occasion. The existing types of 25 paise and 85 paise aerogrammes were overprinted with Mahatma Gandhi Centenary and with the same three pictures of Mahatma Gandhi. The Indian Army Postal Service paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi by providing slogan postmarks (Jai Hind, etc.,) on the postcards.

**1972** : On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1972, Armed Forces Inland letters were overprinted with the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi and with inscription 'We salute the Father of the Nation'.

**1973** : On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1973, a new special 20 paise postage stamp featuring Mahatma Gandhi with Nehru was issued to commemorate the work done by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru for the country's freedom. A First Day Cover and a stamp Brochure were also issued on this occasion.

**1980** : On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1980, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the historical "Dandi March" and "Salt Satyagraha" a set of two stamps of denomination 35 paise were issued. The first stamp featured Mahatma Gandhi marching in Dandi March, and the other stamp featured Mahatma Gandhi picking a handful of salt. A First Day Cover, Special Cover (showing the route of the Dandi March) and a Postal Information sheet about the stamps were also issued on this occasion. Seven postmarks from the key places along the Dandi March route was issued. On December 1980 an inland letter with the denomination 25 paise carrying the Asian Games logo was issued along with Mahatma Gandhi's portrait and slogan "Untouchability is a crime against God and Man" in Hindi and English.

**1983** : On 9<sup>th</sup> August 1983, a new denomination stamp of 50 paise (featuring Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru discussing in the conference) was issued for India's struggle for freedom.

**1992** : On 9<sup>th</sup> August 1992, on the occasion of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "Quit India" Movement, two stamps in the denomination of 1 rupee and 2 rupees were issued. The 1 rupee stamp depicted the spinning wheel and 'Do or Die' mantra, and the 2 rupees stamp depicted Mahatma Gandhi's side face outline drawing and 'Do or Die' mantra. A First Day Cover and a stamp Brochure were issued on this occasion.

**1994** : On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1994, on the occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a Setenant horizontal pair of two stamps were released. The first square sized stamp having the denomination 6 rupees featured Mahatma Gandhi's smiling face while the other rectangular sized stamp having the denomination 11 rupees featured the important aspects of Mahatma Gandhi's life. Both the

stamps had the National Tricolour background with his theme "My Life is My Message". A First Day Cover and a stamp brochure were issued on this occasion. On 7<sup>th</sup> November 1994, during the Bombay GPO Bicentennial celebrations, the Maharashtra Circle, India Post issued a stamp booklet containing 8 Mahatma Gandhi Definitive stamps of Re.1.

**1995** : On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1995, a Setenant pair of two stamps of denomination 1 rupee and 2 rupees were issued for India-South Africa Co-operation. The 1 rupee stamp featured young Mahatma Gandhi as a barrister in South Africa and the 2 rupees stamp featured Mahatma Gandhi smiling in his old age. A Miniature Sheet of the two stamps were also issued simultaneously. A First Day Cover was issued on this occasion.

**1996** : On 25<sup>th</sup> March 1996, a postcard of denomination 15 paise was issued with Mahatma Gandhi's quote in Hindi "Untouchability is a curse on Humanity". On 30 April 1996, an inland letter of denomination 75 paise was issued with Mahatma Gandhi's quote "Drink is more a Disease than a Vice".

**1998** : On 30<sup>th</sup> January 1998, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a Setenant block of four stamps having the denominations Rs.2, Rs.6, Rs.10, Rs.11 were issued. The 2 rupees stamp featured Mahatma Gandhi in Peasants' welfare, the 6 rupees stamp featured Mahatma Gandhi in Social Upliftment, the 10 rupees stamp featured Mahatma Gandhi in Salt Satyagraha, and the 11 rupees stamp featured Mahatma Gandhi in Communal Harmony. A First Day Cover and a stamp brochure were issued on this occasion.

**2000** : On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2000, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Republic, a new stamp of denomination of Rs.3

was issued featuring Mahatma Gandhi's outline drawing as India. A First Day Cover and a stamp brochure were issued on this occasion.

**2001** : On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2001, a Setenant horizontal pair of two stamps in the denomination 4 rupees each were issued under the series "Man of the Millennium". The first stamp featured Mahatma Gandhi journey towards the eternal peace and the second stamp featured his side face portrait. A First Day Cover, stamp brochure and a specially prepared folder containing the two stamps were issued on this occasion. During Mahatmapex 2001, the Gujarat Philatelists' Association issued 2 picture postcards on Mahatma Gandhi with special philatelic cancellation.

**2002** : In 2002, the Philatelic Society of Rajasthan, Jaipur issued a Mahatma Gandhi picture postcard with a special cancellation. On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2002, on the occasion of customized Stationery Silver Jubilee year of Gandhigram Rural Institute, Deemed University, Gandhigram, a Special Cover with the postage prepaid, having Mahatma Gandhi's smiling bust within the value emblem of Rs.5, was issued. On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2002, on the occasion of 50 years of inland letter, a newly designed inland letter with the denomination of 2 rupees was issued with Mahatma Gandhi's bust within the value emblem.

**2003** : On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2003, two different picture postcards (Aga Khan Palace where Gandhi was detained, Yeravada Prison where Gandhi was imprisoned) were issued by the Deccan Philatelic Society, Pune. The Calicut Philatelic Bureau had also issued a set of 4 picture postcards on Mahatma Gandhi. On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2003, the Gujarat Circle, India Post, Ahmedabad had issued a stamp booklet (with Mahatma Gandhi's picture in line drawing) containing 20 Definitive stamps of Rs.5/- during Gujpex 2003.

**2004** : On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004, Mahatma Gandhi Formula Postal Stationaries were released during "Dak Bharati" – 2004 by Gujarat Circle, Ahmedabad. A Formula Post Card bearing the impression of 3 ½ annas Indian National Flag stamp of 1947, and Rs.5/- Mahatma Gandhi Centenary stamp (Mahatma Gandhi with charka) of 1969 was issued. Moreover, a set of 4 Special Speed Post Covers with Mahatma Gandhi's picture were also issued. The 1<sup>st</sup> cover featured Mahatma Gandhi with a garland and a stamp size picture of Mahatma Gandhi with Subash Chandra Bose. The 2<sup>nd</sup> cover featured Mahatma Gandhi's portrait and a stamp size picture of Mahatma Gandhi and child. The 3<sup>rd</sup> cover featured Mahatma Gandhi's portrait and a stamp size picture of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru. The 4<sup>th</sup> cover featured Mahatma Gandhi's portrait and a stamp size picture of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel. On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004, during Dak Bharati 2004, the Gujarat Circle, India Post, Ahmedabad issued a stamp booklet (with Mahatma Gandhi's picture in line drawing) for the Centenary of Stamp Booklet of India, 1904-2004 containing definitive stamps. During "NAINIPEX 2004", a Maxim Card on Mahatma Gandhi was issued. On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2004, a special cover was brought out for the 150 years of Indian Post at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Philately Festival and Exhibition 2004. The cover carried Gandhi's portrait along with a cancellation showing Gandhi's hand, with pen and his signature.

**2005** : On 26<sup>th</sup> February 2005, a stamp booklet was issued by the Chhattisgarh Circle, India Post, Bilaspur under the series "Our Heritage – Mahatma Gandhi, Celebrating 150 years of India Post". The booklet contained 6 stamps of Rs.5/-. The front side of the booklet featured Mahatma Gandhi spinning, while the backside featured Mahatma Gandhi's set of 4 stamps issued in 1948. On 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005, on

the occasion of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dandi March, a Setenant block of 4 stamps of denomination rupees 5 were issued. The first stamp featured Mahatma Gandhi and his followers on Dandi March. The second stamp featured Mahatma Gandhi and 1930 Bombay Chronicle article on Dandi March. The third stamp featured Mahatma Gandhi picking up a handful of salt at Dandi. The fourth stamp featured Mahatma Gandhi writing in a sitting posture. A Miniature Sheet featuring all the four stamps and the Dandi March route was also issued simultaneously. A First Day Cover and a stamp brochure was issued on this occasion. On the same day, the Indian National Congress, the Ernakulam Philatelic Bureau and the Philatelic Society of Rajasthan issued a set of 4 Maxim Cards on 75 years of Dandi March. On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2005, a stamp booklet was issued by the Calicut Philatelic Bureau, in commemoration of 75 years of Dandi March, containing a Setenant block of 4 stamps of Rs.5 each of 2005 Dandi March. On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2005, a stamp booklet was issued on the theme "Collect Mahatma Gandhi Stamps – Spread His Message" by the Rajasthan Circle, India Post. The booklet contained two Setenant blocks of 4 stamps of Rs.5 each of 2005 Dandi March issue and 4 different stickers in pair.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2005, 4 booklets were issued by the Gujarat Philatelists' Association and Gujarat Circle, India Post, Ahmedabad. The booklets featured different Mahatma Gandhi themes, Sab Ko Sanmati De Bhagwan, Speak no Evil, See no Evil, and Hear no Evil. Each booklet contained a Setenant block of 4 stamps of Rs.2, Rs.6, Rs.10, and Rs.11 of 1998 issue of the 50<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. All the 4 booklets were made available through a specially prepared cover for the public. In the same year, the Gujarat Philatelists' Association issued specially printed postcards. The first card was dedicated to Mahatma

Gandhi's 136<sup>th</sup> Birthday and the second card was devoted to the special set of coins issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2005 on 75 years of Dandi March. On the occasion of 75 years of Dandi March, the Indian National Congress and Mahatma Gandhi Foundation issued picture postcards featuring Mahatma Gandhi and a child. Moreover a set of 5 Picture Cards on Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March was also issued by the Indian National Congress and Mahatma Gandhi Foundation in 2005. A set of 4 picture postcards showing Mahatma Gandhi in different postures were issued by the Mahatma Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi in 2005. A set of 12 Mahatma Gandhi postcards were also issued, saluting him.

**2006 :** On 24<sup>th</sup> September 2006, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee 1956-2006 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, an inland letter card of denomination Rs.2.50 and an ordinary post card of denomination 50 paise were issued with Mahatma Gandhi's portrait in oval frame on it. On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006, on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday, a Special Cover on Mahatma Gandhi was issued by the Chief Postmaster General, Tamilnadu Circle, featuring Mahatma Gandhi's sitting posture line drawing.

## **MAHATMA GANDHI DEFINITIVE SERIES STAMPS :**

Apart from the Mahatma Gandhi commemorative stamps, India has also issued stamps featuring Mahatma Gandhi's portrait under the Special Definitive Postal Stamp series in various denominations. The 25 paise (small and big size portrait) stamp along with the First Day Cover was issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1978. The 30 paise stamp along with the First Day Cover was issued on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1980. The 35 paise stamp along with the First Day Cover was issued on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1980. The 50 paise stamp along with the First Day Cover was

issued on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1983. The 60 paise stamp along with the First Day Cover was issued on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1998. The 1 rupee stamp along with the First Day Cover was issued on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1991.

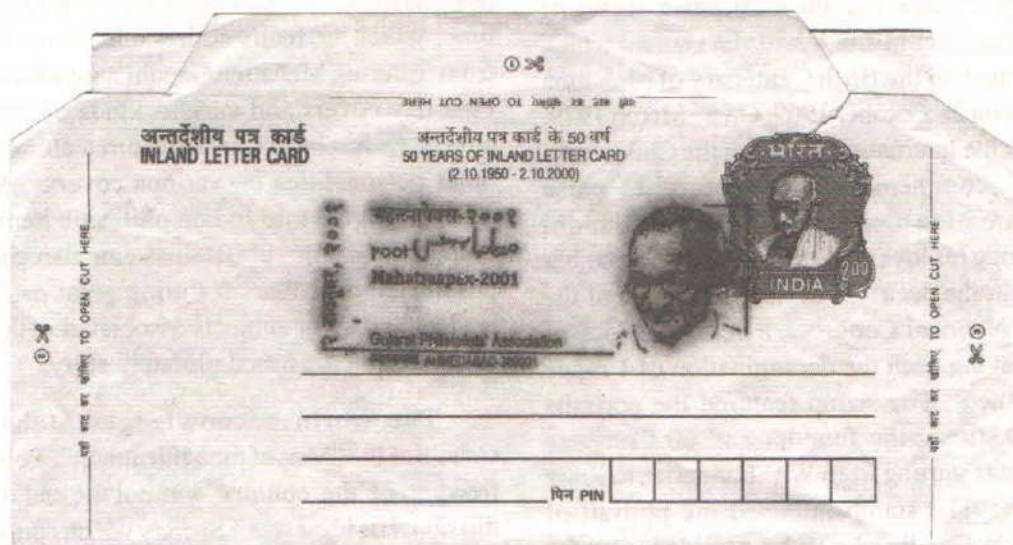
### **MAHATMA GANDHI'S PORTRAIT ON OTHER INDIAN STAMPS :**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1970, on the occasion of Indian National Philatelic Exhibition, a one rupee stamp was issued depicting two hands holding a magnifier on a 20 paise stamp of Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturiba Gandhi which was issued on the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1969. On 5<sup>th</sup> March 1979, to mark the International Year of the Child, India issued commemorative stamp of 25 paise denomination depicting Mahatma Gandhi showering his love on a child. On 28<sup>th</sup> December 1985, on the occasion of the Centenary of the Indian National Congress, a Setenant block of four, having each the denomination of 1 rupee was issued. The stamp featured the portraits of A.O.Hume, the founder and 60 Congress Presidents starting from W.C.Bannerjee to Rajiv Gandhi. The stamp included the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi also, who presided over the Congress in 1924 at Belgaum. On 20<sup>th</sup> October 1997 a 5 rupee multi coloured rectangular stamp was issued for Scindia School, Gwalior. The Setenant pair stamp depicts the students gathering for meditation at "Astachal" where the statue of Mahatma Gandhi inspires them. On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2000, a 3 rupees multicoloured stamp was issued for Jaglal Choudhary, torch bearer of Mahatma Gandhian values and a leader of the national movement in Bihar. The background picture of the stamp depicted Mahatma Gandhi walking along with his followers, while Jaglal Choudhary picture was printed on the front.

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 1961, a Special cover featuring Abraham Lincoln and Mahatma Gandhi was issued at Madras under 'Freedom Fighters' series for the Indo American Stamp Exhibition conducted by the South Indian Philatelists' Association (SIPA) along with USIS, Madras. Many Private Bodies / Stamp Clubs, Department of Posts, have brought out and are constantly bringing out innumerable varieties of Mahatma Gandhi related special covers with different postal cancellations, postmarks, on various occasions from time to time, which are really collectable items. Apart from featuring Mahatma Gandhi individually on First day covers and various kinds of Special covers, he has been jointly featured along with other personalities on various covers. Apart from the above said Indian philatelic items on Mahatma Gandhi, philatelists can also collect postal stamps, covers featuring great patriotic leaders and other subjects associated with him to make a theme based philately story.

The world acknowledges Mahatma Gandhi as the "Man of the Millennium". Political freedom of the country was not the end of his mission. His ideal was a Society which consisted of self regulated individuals, each performing his duty to others. So long as people continue to fight for truth against falsehood and non violence, the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi will be the guiding light for generations to come. By issuing various philately items on him, India has paid, and is paying rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. Even though he is not with us now, his memory will be perpetuated in everyone's heart through the various philately materials issued in his honour.

To conclude, "*Generations to come will scarcely believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth*".



विशेष आवरण SPECIAL COVER

A tribute to Father of the Nation.



१९२१ में गांधीजी का पुरी कि द्वीप यात्रा GANDHI'S FIRST VISIT TO PURI IN 1921

श्रीपेक्स SRIPEX - 2005



Washington 2006, is the tenth International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in the United States. Since 1913, when the first International Philatelic Exhibition in the United States was held in New York City, there has been one International Philatelic Exhibition in every ten years.

It is the most grandest of all the exhibitions held and was acclaimed as a wonderful success by everyone in the field of philately: collectors, dealers, general public and the postal authorities. The Organizers went out of their way to help all those who attended the exhibition on all days. There were clear instructions on the three Airports of Washington DC & route maps were posted at all major Metro and Shuttle Terminals.

The expanded categories reflected FIP's latest rules with significant changes. Following is the list of Entries at Washington 06

1. Championship class	-	184
2. Traditional	-	990
3. Postal History	-	1138
4. Aerophilately	-	736
5. Thematics	-	357
6. Maximaphily	-	37
7. Youth	-	214
8. Open Class	-	69
9. One Frame Exhibits	-	72
10. Literature	-	294

Indian presence was there only in Literature Class. Mr. Pradip Jain won Vermeil for his "Indian Airmails - Development and Operation 1911-1942". Mr. Surendra Kotadia won three Silver medals for [1] Indian Airmail Letter Cards with Advertisement & Slogan; [2] Indian Letter Cards with Advertisement & Slogan; and [3] Indian Inland Post Cards with Advertisement & Slogan

Other Exhibits of India interest at the Washington 2006 were:

1. British Indian Airmails 1911-1936 by Muhamed Arif Balgamwala of Pakistan [Large Gold]

2. Indian Ocean Routes Connecting with Overland Mail Suez-Alexandria 1838-1888 to European Destinations by Hasse Brocbehuus von Lowenhielm of Sweden [Gold Medal]

3. Jaipur State by Abihibo Koiwa of Japan [Gold Medal]

4. Indian Government Fiscal and Judicial Stamps and Stamp Papers by Stanley Blatt of U.K. [Large Vermeil]

5. Indian One-Half Anna Envelopes of 1902 and 1907 by Steven Zwilling of USA

6. Kuwait Postal History under Indian Postal Administration by Khaleed Abdul Mughni of UAE.

The Court of Honour and Invited Class included world's greatest rarities and displayed from the collections of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. His Majesty Prince Albert II of Monaco, Postal History of Jamaica, Inverted

Jenny, India's Four Annas Inverted Head among others. Some of the exhibits are reproduced for its pure classic nature.

There were four new issues during the exhibition from the United States Postal Service. 1) Wonders of America- Land of Superlatives 40 stamps sheetlet 2) Joint Issue with Canada, commemorating 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Samuel de Champlain 3) 3-Stamp Miniature sheet depicting the 1923 reproductions of Lincoln Memorial, U.S. Capital and Freedom Statue stamps in their original denominations and 4) 6-Distinguished American Diplomats sheetlet.

The Kids Zone, covering an enormous area inside the exhibition hall was a total success with lots of activities for the children. These include viewing the video Stamps in Motion, produced by History Channel on how stamps are being made; 3-D tour exhibit featuring the "largest, fastest, loudest, longest, deepest" Wonders of America featured in the Stamp sheetlet of 40 Wonders of America released during the exhibition; testing the geographical and language skills matching challenge game in finding the "home" for more than 200 worldwide stamps on a large-scale map; printing personalized stamps; designing your own stamps; crossword puzzles; a one year free subscription to young stamp Collectors of America membership with free starter bit for all the young visitors; and lastly each bid was given a Treasure Bag with philatelic treats like stamp album, stamps and a CD of Postman Pat.

As a side attraction, there was a full display of railroad with miniature working models of different types of railways and road activities, with click-on tracks, stations, track changers, signals, courtesy from Frank Scheer's Railway Mail Service Museum.

The United States stamp collecting world threw virtually everything it had into Washington 2006, and the result was fantastic - well beyond

everyone's expectations. Roughly 226,000 people attended. Some 6,000 of them were children, and judging by the happy looks of the kids, the hobby has won some of the recruits that it so desperately needs to help ensure the future of the hobby. This exhibition put slightly more than 1 million US dollars into the coffers of the United States Postal Service but the signal contribution was to reinvigorate the Department's view of stamp collecting as a hobby. With over 3500 competitive frames, Washington 2006 really set the standard for displaying the best exhibits, philately has to offer.

### **"ALEXANDRIA BLUE BOY"**

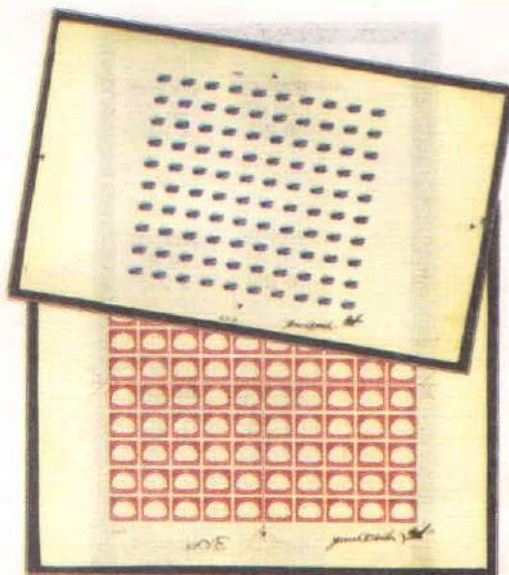
This is the envelope bearing the Alexandria, Virginia postmaster provisional stamp on a bluish grey paper, more popularly known as "Alexandria Blue Boy". This cover of 1847 is a great rarity and generally acknowledged as the most famous cover of the United States postal stationery. This is the only known example of the provisional stamp, on or off cover, printed on this colour paper.

This is a love story made special because of a stamp and it is so much more. There is a portrait of Daniel Bryan, who was the enterprising postmaster of Alexandria from 1821 to 1853 and the postmaster provisional stamps are the rarest group in United States philately.

"Burn as usual". It was at the end of a series of love letter written by an Alexandria resident to a lady visiting Richmond, who were married six years later. It was a simple instruction which was agreed to at the earlier times. But this letter was saved because on the envelope, it was found to be the only known example of the Alexandria, Virginia postmaster provisional stamp on blue paper. Their daughter kept the letter and the envelope until 1907 when she sold the entire cover to a dealer.



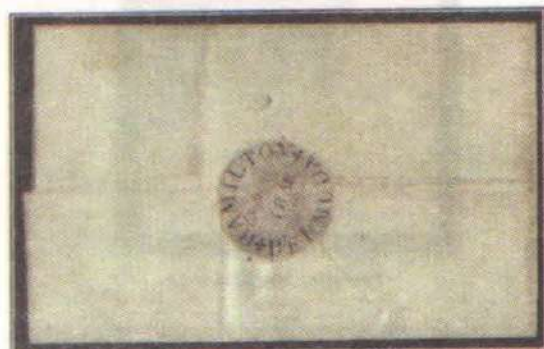
The Pony Express



The 1918 "Inverted Jenny"



"No taxation without representation":  
The Stamps That Caused the American Revolution



The 1948 Perot Postmaster's Provisional of Bermuda



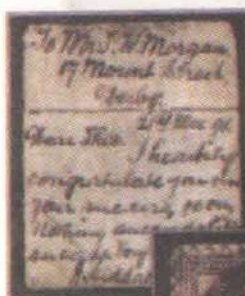
1867 Mauritius Post-Office Proof



Revenues Marijuana



Indian Office Use and Post Paid Revenue Stamp



— The World's Smallest Letter With a Stamp



The First U.S. Duck Stamp

# POSTMARKS

## INDIAN ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

Pradip Jain

Much of the bitterness which bedevilled the Anglo-Indian relations prior to independence began with the Amritsar riots of 1919. On 10th April that year General Dyer ordered troops to fire on an angry, but un-armed mob. As a result, 379 Indians were killed and many hundreds were wounded.

The ill-will which was so created led to the campaign of civil disobedience and passive resistance organised by Mohandas Gandhi who was leader of the Indian Congress Party. In 1927, the British Government set up the Indian Statutory Commission under Sir John Simon (later Viscount Simon) and this produced the 'Simon Report' in 1930, which recommended an increase in responsible government in the provinces and indirect elections for the central legislature.

However, in June 1929, the Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin, had returned to London for a conference with the new British Government the Labour Party under Ramsay Macdonald having been re-elected. On his return, Lord Irwin made an official statement that, 'the natural issue of India's constitutional progress is the attainment of Dominion status'. He also announced that the British Government had accepted the suggestion made by Sir John Simon for a Round Table Conference.

This announcement killed whatever

interest there might have been in the Simon Report and, when this was published on 27th May 1930, the Indian political parties, notably the Congress Party, rejected the report. The British Government then convened the Round Table Conference in London to discuss the matter of admitting the right of Indians to participate in the forming of their own constitution.



There were three sessions of the Conference: 1930/31, 1931 and 1932. The Congress Party boycotted the first and third sessions, although Gandhi attended the second session as the sole representative of the Indian National Congress.

### First Session

Held in London from 12th November 1930 to 19th January 1931, the First Session was inaugurated by King George V as Emperor of India and was presided over by Ramsay Macdonald. There were 89 delegates, of which 16 were British M.P.s., 16 were Princes of India and 57 were delegates from British India, nominated by the Viceroy. Among those in attendance were Dr B. R. Ambedkar and Srinivas Shastri. A special postmark was in operation during the session.

It was obvious from the start that without the support of the Congress Party, the Round Table Conference could not make any workable decisions and the session was recessed in January 1931.



## Second Session

A week after the adjournment, Lord Irwin ordered the unconditional release of all members of the Congress Working Committee. Shortly afterwards an understanding, known as the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, was reached and all political prisoners were released. In return, the Congress agreed to suspend their civil disobedience movement and to participate in the Second Session of the Round Table Conference.

This session was opened on 7th September 1931 and was open until 1st December. It was attended by Gandhi, accompanied by Pandit Malaviya, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and G. D. Birla. The special postmark was again in service and an example on the headed notepaper of the

Conference is shown in the figure. Two stamps showing pictures of Gandhi during this visit to London have been issued, one from Mauritius and the other from Antigua and Barbuda.

Despite much better relations on both sides, no firm decisions were taken and the session recessed again on 1st December 1931

## Third Session

This last Conference was again boycotted by the Congress Party and was doomed before it began. It opened on 17th November 1932 and closed on 1st December. There was no special postmark (or at least one has not been recorded) and there were only 46 delegates.

## India Act 1935

Following the Round Table Conference and a Government 'White Paper' in 1933, a new India Act was introduced to transform the Indian Empire into a federation which would include the Princely States as well as the provinces of British India. The Act gave greater authority to the provincial assemblies, allowing 11 of them fully responsible government within their areas. These came into force on 1st April 1937, but the divisions among the differing Indian communities delayed the start of a federal government before the outbreak of war in 1939. With the decision to give India Dominion status after the war, the federal section of the 1935 Act was never put into effect.

So even this simple postmark which can be found in collections and Dealer's boxes takes on a more important position when placed in its full historical context.

# BOYCOTT BRITISH GOODS LABELS

A.R. Singhee

The Viceroy, Lord Curzon came to India (1899-1905), with a strong determination to stem the rising tide of nationalism. The dominant note of his policy throughout this period was that India must remain a possession of England. He inflicted in almost breathless succession one contemptuous measure after another and it reached the climax, when in 1905, he announced the partition of Bengal, which was considered to be a subtle attack on the growing solidarity of Indian nationalism. It aroused a very strong nationalist sentiment in the whole of Bengal, as they felt humiliated, insulted and tricked. The discontent against the partition led to the swadeshi movement and amidst an unprecedented scene of enthusiasm a resolution was passed at a huge public meeting in Calcutta on August 7, 1905, to boycott British goods and adopt swadeshi. The call for swadeshi, an economic and political campaign, soon spread to the other provinces and made a tremendous impact on India as a whole.

The swadeshi movement gave the extremist group of Indian National Congress a long sought opportunity to act and do something to make the government angry. The British and Foreign goods were boycotted, shops selling Foreign articles and clothes were picketed and public burning and bonfire (holi) of Foreign goods took place. The 1905 Congress session at Varanasi (Benares) passed a resolution endorsing the swadeshi movement and the boycott of British and foreign goods. The moderates in the Congress, however, felt, shy of the idea of boycott, thinking that the term 'boycott' had a sinister meaning and implied a

vindictive desire to injure others, though they accepted the idea of swadeshi. But the extremists were of the opinion that the twin ideas of Swadeshi and Boycott were complimentary to each other, as one could not succeed without the other.

Later, the swadeshi movement widened from a mere boycott of British goods to a boycott of every thing British. Sri Aurobindo Ghose developed the concept of a four fold boycott : economic, educational, judicial and executive. In 1916, Tilak and Annie Besant formed the Home Rule League and started a spirited campaign for self government. During the post-war years, Mahatma Gandhi emerged as the foremost leader of the nationalist movement, which took the form of non-violent, non-cooperation movement. The non-cooperation movement was essentially revival of the swadeshi movement, it urged people to resign from government offices, shun the British law-courts, withdraw from schools and colleges and boycott the elections. On the positive side, there was a campaign for using indigenous goods, especially Khadi or home-spun cloth. The swadeshi movement was a great fillip to the Indian Industries.

Sometime during 1920's, the Indian National Congress issued the 'Boycott British Goods', 'Boycott Foreign Goods' and 'Patronize Indian Goods' labels to publicise the swadeshi and civil disobedience movements. The use of 'boycott' labels on postal articles was prohibited by Government notifications. The earliest reference, I have been able to find to these labels is in a note written by Mr. E. Franklin DeSouza, published in the September, 1930 issue

of the Philatelic Journal of India, as follows:

### **"BAN ON BOYCOTT STAMPS"**

"The protean activities of the Congress have found vent in the issue of labels which have been retailed at a pie cash and which have for some time now been used on postal articles side by side with ordinary postage stamps. Their status has attracted the attention of the authorities and a rule has been made under the India Post Act "prohibiting the transmission of articles having thereon, or on the cover thereof, any matter which is prejudicial to the maintenance of law and order, or which in furtherance of a movement which, in the opinion of the Governor General in Council, is prejudicial to the maintenance of law and order, or any matter which tends directly to cause loss or injury to any community or class of persons, whatsoever. Provision is made for the interception and disposal of any article which is found in the course of transmission by post to contravene the provisions of this rule."

"The notification will appear in the "Gazette of India" of August 9 and will take effect from that date."

"It is understood that letters or postcards bearing "boycott" labels, such as have recently been in evidence, are liable to be destroyed under this rule."

A further Postal Notice was issued by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs on 28th May 1936, prohibiting the use of these labels on the postal articles. However, the labels of unobjectionable character, such as 'Buy Swadeshi Goods' or 'Support Home Industries' or similar devices adopted for business purposes were permitted to be used. But some articles bearing these prohibited labels did inadvertently pass, through post, which are very scarce and much

sought after by the collectors.

These labels are relics of our national freedom struggle and are of considerable philatelic interest also. Here, some readers, may disagree with me, thinking that these are mere labels of no philatelic importance. But I feel that due to an official ban being put on their use on postal articles, these are of postal history interests.

These labels may be broadly classified in two groups: (1) Boycott British or Foreign Goods labels and (2) Patronize Indian Goods labels. I am listing below the different types of these labels known to me, only the main colours have been listed, as colour shades abound.

#### **(1) Boycott British or Foreign Goods labels :**

**Type 1-** Gandhi Portrait, with Hindi Inscription 'Swatantra Bharat' (Independent India) at the top.

**Type 2 -** Gandhi Portrait, with Gujarati inscription 'Vilayati Malno Bahiskar Karo' (Boycott British Goods).

(a) black

**Type 3 -** Gandhi portrait with flags on both sides, Hindi inscription 'Swatantra Bharat' (Independent India) at the top.

(a) Red-brown (b) Green

**Type 4 -** Similar to type 3, but with Hindi inscription 'British Mal Bahiskar Karo' (Boycott British Goods) at the top.

(a) Vermilion (imperf.)

**Type 5 -** Similar to type 3, but with inscription 'British Mal Ka Bahiskar' (Boycott British Goods) in Hindi and Urdu at the top.



*red-brown, lake-brown.*



*deep violet.*



*black*



*brown, grey, olive,  
and yellow-green.*



*vermillion (shades).*



*green, purple.*



*brown*



*red/green/black.*



*red/green/black.*



*sepia, mauve,  
brown, olive,  
yellow-green.*



*mauve*



*bright blue.*



*orange-brown.*



*reddish-brown.*



*blue.*

By Courtesy  
D.L. Sen, "The Indian Boycott Labels"  
THE PHILATELIST-P.J.G.B./NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1987

(a) Purple (b) Green

**Type 6**-Similar to type 3, but with Hindi inscription 'Videshi Mal Bahiskar Karo' (Boycott Foreign Goods) at the top.

(a) Red-brown (imperf)

**Type 7** - Nehru Portrait, with inscription in English only (a) Bright Purple

**Type 8** - Similar to type 7, but with Hindi inscription 'British Mal Bahiskar Karo' (Boycott British Goods) (a) Bright Purple

**Type 9** - Similar to type 7, but with Gujarat inscription "British Malno Bahiskar Karo" (Boycott British Goods)

(a) Blue

**Type 10** - Flag, with various inscriptions in Hindi.

(a) Scarlet, green and black.

**Type 11** - Map of India, with various inscriptions in Hindi.

(a) Scarlet, green and black.

(2) Patronize Indian Goods :

**Type A** - Gandhi Portrait.

(a) Yellowish Green

(b) Deep Olive

(c) Sepia

(d) Mauve

**Type B** - Lion and Map

(a) Orange - Brown

**Type C** - 'Bharat Mata' (Mother India) and Map.

(a) Reddish Purple

Any further information about issue of these labels and details of any other varieties unlisted above will be greatly appreciated.



# INDIA STAMP ISSUES OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

M.T. Karunakaran

South India Philatelist's Association is celebrating this year (2006) and its Golden Jubilee in a grand scale by conducting a National level stamps exhibition called, 'SIPAGOLD '06'.

In India and all over the world, events other than death and of sorrow are celebrated every year and is known as 'Anniversary Celebration'. When such events are celebrated for many years and when it comes to 25th year is called Silver Jubilee, the 50th year of it as Golden Jubilee, 60th year as Diamond Jubilee, 75th year as Platinum Jubilee and 100th year as Centenary and so on.

Normally such anniversaries are celebrated for important events such as major

achievements, Co-operation & Friendship among Nations, Establishment of Institutions etc.,

The Indian Postal Department has been very regularly issuing stamps for all such anniversaries and the stamp issues of 50th Anniversary and Golden Jubilee are very much relevant to our occasion of Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Such stamp issues of India are published here, as a list for the benefit of those who collect stamps of such anniversaries.

Infact, these stamps arranged in different classifications added with other related postal cancellations, stationeries, maxima cards, miniature sheets etc., can become an interesting theme for collection.

Sl.	Date	P.I. No	Title Stamp of Name	Denomination	Colour
1.	1.3.58	395	50th Anniversary of First Indegenous Steel Industry	15 np	Orange red
2.	15.3.68	586	50th Anniversary of Osmania University	20 p	Olive green
3.	11.4.68	587	50th Anniversary of International Labour Organisation (ILO)	20 p	Chestnut
4.	29.10.70	623	50th Anniversary of Jamia Milla Islamia University, Delhi	20 p	Yellow Green
5.	5.11.70	625	50th Anniversary of Indian Red Cross Society	20 p	Greenish Blue
6.	10.2.70	632	Golden Jubilee of Kashi Vidyapith	20 p	Blackish Brown
7.	24.12.71	653	Golden Jubilee of Visva Bharati University, Shantiniketan. W.B.	20 p	Sepia & yellow-brown
8.	30.1.72	657	50th Anniversary of International Union of Railways (U.I.C)	20 p	Multicolored

Sl.	Date	P.I. No	Title Stamp of Name	Denomination	Colour
9.	30.12.72	671	50th Anniversary of USSR	20 p	Light yellow & red
10.	9.10.73	698	50th Anniversary of Interpol International Criminal Police Organisation	20 p	Brown
11.	13.12.75	792	50th Anniversary of (India Security Press, Nasik)	25	Multicoloured
12.	23.4.77	847	50th Anniversary of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce of Industry.	25	Dull purple, brown orchre & buff
13.	29.10.79	948	50th Anniversary 13th Congress of International Commission of Large Dams	30	Lake - brown & deep blue green
14.	10.12.79	952	50th Anniversary of Flying and Gliding Movement in India	30	Black, Orange brown & blue
15.	30.09.80	983	50th Anniversary of Dandi March (Gandhi Defiance of Salt Tax Law)	35	Black, Turquoise blue & red
16.	30.09.80	984	50th Anniversary of Dandi March (Gandhi Defiance of Salt Tax Law)	35	Black, deep mauve & gold
17.	8.10.82	1053	50th Anniversary of India Air Force	100	Multicoloured
18.	30.10.82	1054	50th Anniversary of 'Civil Aviation' in India.	325	Multicoloured
19.	10.12.82	1067	50th Anniversary of Indian Military Academy, Dehradun	50	Multicoloured
20.	30.5.83	1086	50th Anniversary of Kenha National Park (M.P)	100	Multicoloured
21.	15.1.85	1150	50th Anniversary of Regiment of Artillery	100	Multicoloured
22.	1.4.85	1156	50th Anniversary of Potato Research in India.	50	Deep brown & grey brown
23.	15.12.86	1224	50th Anniversary of Corpeti National Park	100	Multicoloured
24.	15.12.86	1225	50th Anniversary of Corpeti National Park	200	Multicoloured

Sl.	Date	P.I. No	Title Stamp of Name	Denomination	Colour
25.	27.7.89	1378	50th Anniversary of Central Reserve Police Force	60	Brown
26.	1.10.90	1422	Golden Jubilee of 3rd & 5th Battalion of 5th Gorka Rifles	200	Black & orchre
27.	28.2.91	1440	Golden Jubilee of Tata Memorial Centre (Hospital) Bombay	200	Light brown & stone
28.	30.5.92	1504	50th Anniversary of Tele Communication Training Centre, Jabalpur.	100	Bistre
29.	9.8.92	1510	50th Anniversary of Quit India Movement 1942	100	Black & brown rose
30.	9.8.92	1511	50th Anniversary of Quit India Movement 1942	200	Black, lake, brown & grey
31.	10.8.92	1512	50th Anniversary of 60 Parachate Field Ambulance	100	Multicoloured
32.	28.2.93	1532	Golden Jubilee of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)	100	Maroon
33.	1.4.93	1533	Golden Jubilee of 9th Parachute Field Regiment	100	Multicoloured
34.	8.11.93	1552	Golden Jubilee of College of Military Engineering, Kirkee	200	Multicoloured
35.	31.12.93	1564	50th Anniversary of India National Army (I.N.A)	100	Slate green
36.	25.5.94	1593	50th Anniversary of Indian Peoples Theatre Association (IPTA)	200	Multicoloured
37.	15.1.95	1622	50th Anniversary of Prithivi Theatre	200	Multicoloured
38.	26.6.95	1630	50th Anniversary of United Nations	100	Multicoloured
39.	26.6.95	1631	50th Anniversary of United Nations	600	Multicoloured
40.	16.10.95	1640	50 years of Foods Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	500	Multicoloured
41.	22.2.96	1651	50th Anniversary (1995) of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Bomaby	200	Multicoloured
42.	15.8.97	1726	50th Anniversary Swatantra Bharat (Hindi Newspaper)	200	Multicoloured

Sl.	Date	P.I. No	Title Stamp of Name	Denomination	Colour
43.	11.9.97	1732	50th Anniversary of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palacobotany Lucknow, Fossils	200	Multicoloured
44.	11.9.97	1733	50th Anniversary of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palacobotany Lucknow, Fossils	200	Multicoloured
45.	11.9.97	1734	50th Anniversary of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palacobotany Lucknow, Fossils	600	Multicoloured
46.	11.9.97	1735	50th Anniversary of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palacobotany Lucknow, Fossils	1000	Multicoloured
47.	50.12.97	1762	50th Anniversary of Indian Armed Forces	200	Multicoloured
48.	2.1.98	1767	50th Anniversary of 11th Gorkha Rifles	400	Multicoloured
49.	8.3.98	1780	50th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights	600	Multicoloured
50.	16.4.98	1785	50th Anniversary of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington	600	Deep Carmine
51.	8.6.98	1793	Golden Jubilee of Air-India International Flight	500	Multicoloured
52.	8.6.98	1794	Golden Jubilee of Air-India International Flight	600	Multicoloured
53.	30.6.98	1796	Golden Jubilee of National Savings Organisation	500	Multicoloured
54.	30.6.98	1797	Golden Jubilee of National Savings Organisation	600	Multicoloured
55.	15.8.98	1803	Golden Jubilee of Independence	300	Multicoloured
56.	15.8.98	1804	Golden Jubilee of Independence	800	Multicoloured
57.	23.8.98	1806	Golden Jubilee of Youth Hostels Association of India	500	Multicoloured
58.	2.12.98	1820	50th Anniversary of Army Postal Service Training Centre	300	Multicoloured
59.	10.12.98	1822	Golden Jubilee of Indian Pharmaceutical Congress Association	300	Multicoloured

Sl.	Date	P.I. No	Title Stamp of Name	Denomination	Colour
60.	13.1.99	1834	50th Anniversary of Indian Police Service (IPS)	300	Multicoloured
61.	19.2.99	1838	50th Anniversary of National Defence - Academy (NDA), Khadakwala	300	Multicoloured
62.	5.3.99	1841	50th Anniversary of Press Trust of India (PTI), News Agency	1500	Multicoloured
63.	12.8.99	1856	50th Anniversary of Geneva Conventions	1500	Black & Red
64.	26.11.99	1885	50th Anniversary of Supreme Court of India	300	Multicoloured
65.	18.12.99	1892	50th Anniversary of Family Planning Association of India	300	Multicoloured
66.	27.1.2000	1898	50th Anniversary of Republic (1st Issue : Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi)	300	Black & Red
67.	28.1.2000	1899	50th Anniversary of Republic (2nd Issue): Gallantry Award Winners. Capt. Karan Singh Havildar Abdul Hamid, Lance Naik Albert Ekka, Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon, Capt. (In) Mahendra Nath Mulla	300	Multicoloured
68.	28.1.2000	1900	-Do-	300	Multicoloured
69.	28.1.2000	1901	-Do-		
70.	28.1.2000	1902	-Do-	300	Multicoloured
71.	28.1.2000	1903	-Do-	300	Multicoloured
72.	26.4.2002	2066	50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relation between India and Japan	1500	Multicoloured
73.	26.4.2002	2067	50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relation between India and Japan	1500	Multicoloured
74.	13.5.2002	2069	Golden Jubilee of Parliament of India	400	Gold

Sl.	Date	P.I. No	Title Stamp of Name	Denomination	Colour
75.	29.5.2003	2134	Golden Jubilee of Ascent of Mount Everest by Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary	1500	Multicoloured
76.	22.12.2003	2184	Golden Jubilee of Sangeet Natak Academy	500	Multicoloured
77.	22.12.2003	2185	Golden Jubilee of Sangeet Natak Academy	500	Multicoloured
78.	22.12.2003	2186	Golden Jubilee of Sangeet Natak Academy	500	Multicoloured
79.	25.4.2004	2198	Golden Jubilee of Indian Institute of Social Welfare & Business Management (HSWBM), Kolkata	500	Multicoloured
80.	21.12.2004	2251	50th Anniversary of Sahitya Academy	500	Multicoloured

