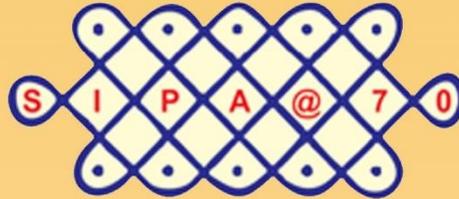


# Platinum Jubilee Thematic Philatelic Exhibition

## SIPA@70 – 2026



## Souvenir

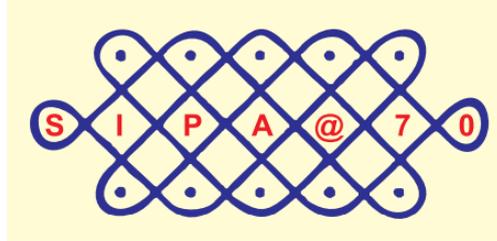


**South India Philatelists' Association  
Chennai**



**PLATINUM JUBILEE  
THEMATIC PHILATELIC EXHIBITION**

**SIPA@70**



**Venue :**

**Dharmaprakash Kalyana Mandapam  
10, Raja Annamalai Road, Purasaiwalkam  
Chennai 600 084**



**South India Philatelists' Association  
Chennai**





**Mr. Ajit Kumar Chordia**  
**Managing Director, Olympia Technology Park, Chennai**

**Patron of SIPA &**  
**Chief Guest of Inaugural Function of SIPA@70**





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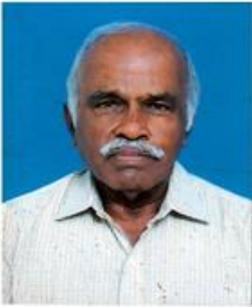
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## Office Bearers of South India Philatelists' Association



**G Amarchand**  
Past President, SIPA



**J. Rolands Nelson**  
President



**G Anil Kumar Reddy**  
Vice President



**Dilip Saboo**  
Vice President



**Mahesh Parekh**  
Secretary



**S.K. Lakshmanan**  
Joint Secretary



**C.G. Bhaskar**  
Treasury



## Executive Committee Members



**S. Balasundaram**



**P. Sreetharan**



**Mitesh Metha**



**E. Ramesh**



**P. Naresh Kumar  
Kanted**



**S.V. Ramakrishnan**



**Prakash Galada**



**S. Rajesh Kumar  
Rathore**



**C. Senthilkumar**



**B. Ravikumar**



## Venue of the SIPA@70 Exhibition

Hotel Dharmaprakash  
10, Raja Annamalai Road  
Purasaiwalkam, Chennai 600 084



Venue



Exhibition Hall



## **Members of the Jury**



**J. Rolands Nelson**



**S. K. Lakshmanan**



## GLIMPSES OF THE INAUGURAL EVENT

The South India Philatelists' Association (SIPA), Chennai, reverently commemorates its Platinum Jubilee with SIPA@70, a thematic philatelic exhibition held from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026. This auspicious occasion marks seventy years of SIPA's dedicated service to the cause of philately, fostering an appreciation of postal history, culture, and education. The exhibition features a distinguished display of thematic collections, reflecting the rich narratives and timeless values embodied in postage stamps.

The inaugural function held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 was honoured by the presence of the Chief Guest, Mr. Ajit Kumar Chordia, Managing Director of Olympia Technology Park, a distinguished industrialist and visionary leader whose contributions have significantly enriched Chennai's corporate and infrastructure landscape. A connoisseur of philately, Mr. Chordia values stamps as windows to history and culture, and his appreciation of the hobby underscores his commitment to preserving heritage and promoting knowledge beyond the realms of industry and commerce.

The Guest of Honour, Mr. G. Amarchand, former President of SIPA, is a senior and highly respected philatelist whose lifelong association with the organisation has been marked by exemplary leadership, dedication, and mentorship. His contributions have played a pivotal role in shaping SIPA's growth and strengthening its standing within the philatelic fraternity.

In keeping with cherished tradition, the inauguration commences with the invocation by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour, along with Mr. Rolands J. Nelson, President, SIPA; Mr. Mahesh Parekh, Secretary, SIPA; and Mr. Dilip Saboo, Vice President, SIPA, invoking divine blessings for the success of the exhibition and the continued prosperity of the Association.

SIPA@70 stands as a solemn and joyous celebration of SIPA's illustrious legacy, reaffirming its enduring commitment to the promotion of philately and to inspiring present and future generations of collectors.



**Dignitaries at Dias**



**Master of Ceremony – Mr. Ravikumar**



**Lighting the Lamp**



**Felicitation of Chief Guest**



**Felicitation of Guest of Honour**



**President's Welcome Address**



**Chief Guest's Inaugural Address**



**Vote of Thanks by Secretary**



**Chief Guest's Visit to Exhibits**



**Dealer Stalls**



**Participants at Inaugural Event**



**SIPA Members at Inaugural Event**





## GLIMPSES OF SIPA AMRITPEX 2022

The 16<sup>th</sup> national-level exhibition, titled SIPA AMRITPEX 2022” was organised by SIPA at Olympia Tech Park, Guindy, Chennai 600 032 from 13-15, Aug 2022 with the active support and cooperation of the Tamil Nadu Postal Circle. The exhibition was conducted to celebrate the 75 years of the India’s independence. Some of the events of the exhibition are shown below



**Inauguration of the Exhibition by Mr. Rajendra Kumar, Chief PMG, Tamil Nadu Circle**



**Mr. J Roland Nelson receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from Mr. G Amarchand, President, SIPA**



**Release of Special Cover on K Bashyam Arya**



**Visitors viewing the Exhibits**



**Quiz Programme by P S Seshadri**



**Jury at work**



## ACTIVITIES OF SIPA DURING 2025

SIPA Monthly meetings are regularly conducted on second Sundays with support from India Post at Anna Road HPO, Vagai Arangam (April – September) and at Philatelic Bureau Building (October – March).



**Monthly Meeting at Vagai Arangam**



**Monthly Meeting at Philatelic Bureau**



**Members sharing about their philatelic activities during monthly meetings**



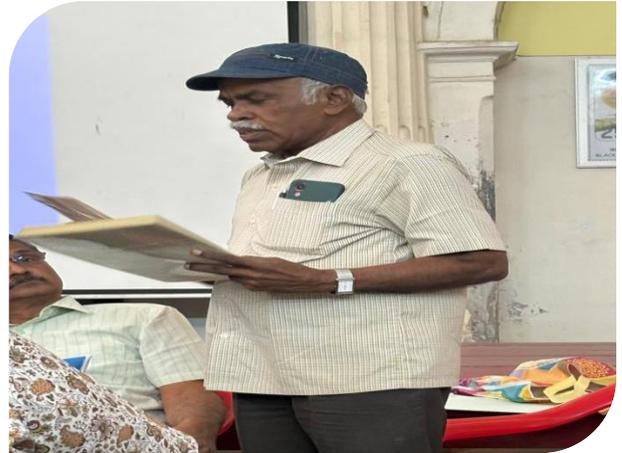
**Young members sharing their philatelic journey during monthly meetings**



Apart from philatelic activities of the month, members share on a philatelic topic. Snippets of such presentations by members are presented below.



**Mr. Ravikumar presented on Nilgiris Mountain Railways**



**Mr. Rolands Nelson presented on his invitee class exhibit at Ve(lu)rplex 2025**



**Mr. Anil Reddy presented about Joint Issue Stamps of India**



**Mr. Senthilkumar presented on journey of his book publishing**



**Dr. Arun presented on Half Anna 9 1/2 Arches – A Toxic Beauty**



**Mr. Parvesh Gupta shared about Ram Stamp from Laos**



**Mr. Ram Mohan presented on Art, Culture and Temples of Tamil Nadu**



**Mr. Senthilkumar presented on French Stamp Proofs during Engraving**



**Dr. Arun presented on 1854 Half Anna Group 6 Chignon touch up – a hair raiser**



**Mr. Rajagopalan presented on Exploring AI Tools**



**Mr. Mahesh Parekh presented on Registered Post Service in India**



**Mr. Rajagopalan and family shared about their exhibits at Viruthaipex 2025**



**Mr. Balasundaram receiving the first prize for the Quiz conducted in SIPA meeting.**



**Mr. J. Rolands Nelson at National Matriculation Higher Secondary School, St. Thomas Mount.**



**Mr. P.S Seshadhri at Kumbakonam Schools**



**Mr. Mahesh Parekh at Kola Saraswati Vaishnav Senior Secondary School, Kilpauk, Chennai – 10**



**Mr. Mahesh Parekh conducted Qualifying round of TANAPEX 2025 Quiz competition for Chennai City Region**



**Mr. Seshadhri Conducted Philately Workshop for different schools under the invite of Thiruchirapalli P.M.G**



**Mr. Rolands Nelson Released a set of Picture Post Cards during the Celebration of Guglielmo Marconi's 151st Birth Anniversary by Madras Post Crossing Commune**



**Mr. P. Sreetharan, Engaged with the Children who participated in the Philatelic Summer Camp organized by the Department of Posts, Chennai Region**



**Mr. CG Bhaskar during Postal Edifice Walk event to promote TANAPEX 2025 at Philatelic Bureau**



**Mr. Rolands Nelson Receiving the Commemorative cover 'Registered Post Merger with Speed Post'**



**Exhibit on First War Independence was Inaugurated by Mr. Mahesh Parekh at Anna Road Philatelic Bureau, Chennai**



**Madras Day Celebration at Chief Postmaster General Office, Tamil Nadu Circle, Chennai**



**Mr. B. Venkateswaralu Exhibited his collection during 'World Heritage Day' Celebration at Visakhapatnam**



**Historian Ms. Thirupurasundari and Mr. Mahesh Parekh gave a pep Talk at Anna Road Head Post Office during the 'World Heritage Day' Celebration**



**Mr. Markand Dave Presented a Display on the 'Rocket Mails of India' At RSPL Regional Meeting at Salisbury, United Kingdom**



**A Presentation on the 'Postal History of Portuguese India' was delivered by Dr. N.K. Saboo during the 'PCI Jury Training Program' at Pune**



**Mr. S. Vijakumar Delivered a Lecture and Showcased his Philatelic Collection at the Philatelic Club of Seethalakshmi Ramaswamy College, Tiruchirapalli**



**Mr. Mahesh Parekh gave a Guest Lecture on the Topic 'Philately' to the Anna Road Head Post Office during the Philately Day Celebration**



**SIPA Members at VI(RU)THAI District Level Philatelic Exhibition Held at Sivakasi**



**Mr. Anil Reddy Receiving a Pack of Picture Post Cards Titled 'The Hues of Tamil Nadu'**



**Mr. Anil Kumar Reddy served as a Jury Member at KANNURPEX 2025, the District Level Philatelic Exhibition held at Kannur, Kerala**



**Mr. C G Bhaskar served as a Jury Member at VE(LU)RPEX 2025, the District Level Philatelic Exhibition held at Vellore, Tamil Nadu**



**Mr. Devender Jain and Dr. N.K. Saboo at Khammampex 2025**



**Mr. Anil Kumar Reddy served as Jury member at GOAPEX 2025**



**Mr. S K Lakshmanan felicitated for his Invitee Class exhibit at GOAPEX 2025**



**Mr. Rolands J Nelson felicitated for his Invitee Class exhibit at VE(LU)RPEX 2025**



**SIPA at Sandesh Museum during One Frame Exhibition**



**SIPA Stall at TANAPEX 2025**



**Dr. Ramesh Kumar Exhibited his collections around Goa, Kerala and Karnataka and promoted philately**

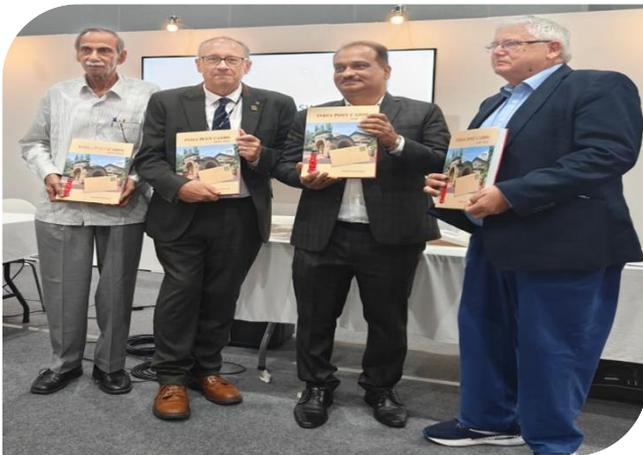




**Ms. Krithikka Shamugam gave a Presentation on Stamp Collection at 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Patriotic Quest**



**A workshop on 'Philately in Education' was conducted by Col. Akhil Kumar for students of St Lawrence School at Bengaluru.**



**Mr. Pratisad Nuergaonkar Released his Book Titled 'Indian Post Cards' at Philakorea 2025, International Stamp Exhibition, Seoul, South Korea.**



**Shri. Singhee Ji, past President of PCI was awarded Appreciation Medal by FIP President for his Meritorious Service as FIP Jury during the PHILA KOREA 2025, International Stamp Exhibition, Seoul, South Korea.**



**Release Function of Mr. C. Senthilkumar's Book Titled 'Guardians of Heritage' on G.I. Tagged Products**



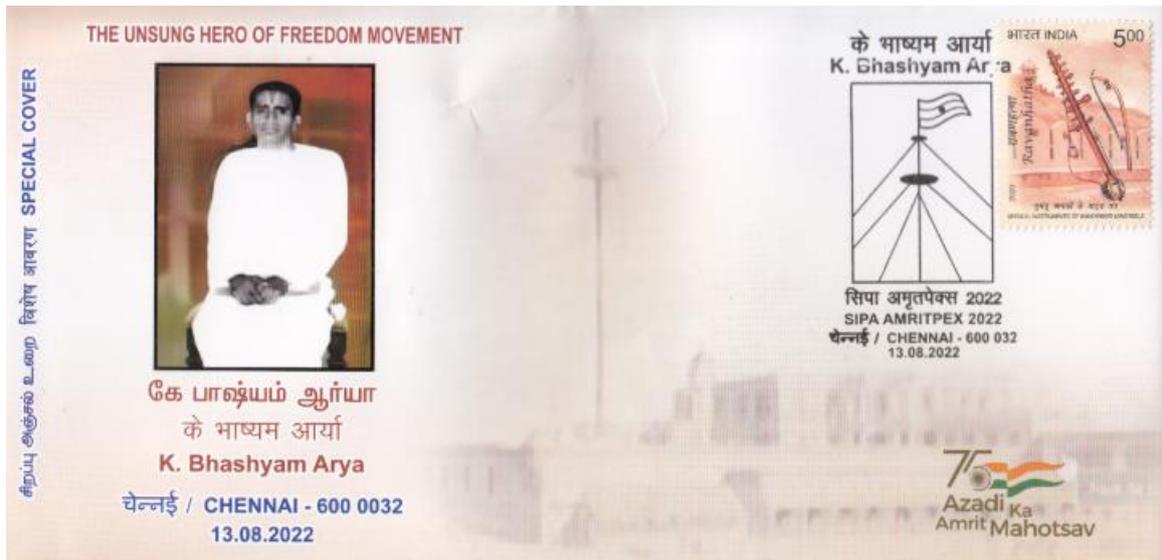
**Mr. M. Lokeshwara Rao Released his Book Titled 'Butterflies and Moths of India on Stamps'**



## SPECIAL COVERS SPONSORED BY SIPA SINCE 2022



**“Doyens of Philately” special cover depicting Das Brothers released during the State-level exhibition, DIGIPEX 2022**



**“Unsung Hero of Freedom Movement” special cover depicting K Bhashyam Arya released during SIPA AMRITPEX 2022**



## STAMPS ON MIGRATORY BUTTERFLIES

**Dr. M. Swamiappan**  
**Retd. Professor, TNAU**  
**Madurai - 625017.**

### **Introduction: -**

The evolutionary studies show Butterflies emerged as a group about 35 million years ago around when dinosaurs were extinct, whereas Moths evolved still earlier, 150-200 million years ago. There are about 19000 known species of butterflies in the World where as 1400 species occur in India. World over many butterfly species migrate from one country to another, from one region to another undertaking monsoon journeys.

### **Monarch Butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*:**

It is a long-distance traveller from Canada in summer to Mexico to spend winter flying from one geographic region to another in response to adverse climate (or) in search of food and habitat Monarch butterflies travel for 4000 kilometres in millions. They breed four generations and the new generation fly back to Canada wherefrom they migrated.

Besides Monarch butterflies, around 250 species of butterflies are found migrating in different countries undertaking a short distance (or) a long-distance travel.

### **Stamps on Migratory Butterflies:**

In many countries stamps have been issued on species of migratory butterflies. For a single species, Monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus* more than 100 countries issued stamps, such as Antigua, British Virgin Islands, Cambodia, Canada, China, Cuba, Liberia, Mexico, Montserrat, Mozambique, Nevis, New Zealand, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, USA

### **Migration of Butterflies in India:**

In India Butterfly Species like Blue tiger, Common Indian Crow, Lemon Emigrant and Plain tiger undertake monsoon journeys depending on monsoon rains in India. They migrate in heavy monsoon season from Western Ghats to Plains of Eastern Ghats and from Eastern Ghats to Western Ghats when rain recedes, in large numbers. In India another type of movement is called as dispersal from areas of early monsoon when they breed in large numbers and disperse in search of food plants for their caterpillars.

In one occasion, during 2020 the butterfly species like Common Blue tiger, Common Crow, Emigrant migrated in large numbers from Eastern Ghats during heavy N.E monsoon moving towards Western Ghats during September to November.



In 2024 during monsoon season the migration of Blue Tiger in thousands and thousands was recorded from Eastern Ghats and travelled through Connor, Tamil Nadu to Bangalore, Karnataka and then to Western Ghats then to Kerala and even up to Sri Lanka.

But unfortunately, no stamps were issued on these migratory butterflies in India. The stamps issued World over on Migratory Butterflies are displayed in this article. The images of stamps are very beautiful, fascinating for butterfly Stamp Collectors.

### Stamps on Migratory Butterflies Monarch Butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*



Canada



Mexico



Cuba



China



St. Vincent



Antigua



Mocambique



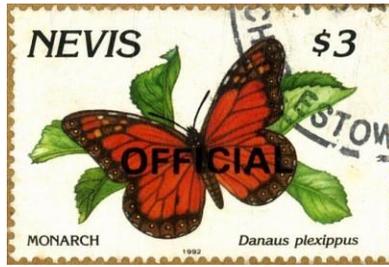
New Zealand



Montserrat



St. Kitts



Nevis



Cambodia



Liberia



USA



British Virgin Islands

### Other Migratory Butterfly Species

#### Crow Butterflies:



Kampuchea



Malaysia



### Cynthea Cardui



Republic Du Benin

### Painted Lady Vanessa



### Plain Tiger, Danaus Chrysippus



Vietnam



Republic Du Benin



Republic Sahara

### Blue Tiger, Tirumala limniace exotica



South Africa



Australia



### About the author

**Dr M Swamiappan**, retired Registrar and Professor of Entomology, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University. Developed an interest in philately since 1978 and is now the President of MAPNA. Dedicated himself in encouraging young children in inculcating the hobby of stamp collection and organising stamp exhibitions in schools and colleges in and around Madurai for several years. Collected a large number of stamps on butterflies and participated in District, State and National-level exhibitions and has won several awards.



## HONOURED BUT NOT REMEMBERED

**Rolands J Nelson**  
**President, SIPA**

Chennai can be termed as a city of statues. One can see at every junction of roads, a personality had been honoured with a statue. Can anybody who is living in Chennai for a long time and roaming around on work or otherwise, can say assertively where a statue of well known Tamil poet Suratha (Subbu Rathina Thasan) is placed to honour him. May be except one or two, may not know, all the great men and women honoured with statues. Such is our remembrance of people whom we have honoured.

Likewise, two eminent philatelists who have done yeomen service in the early days philately in India and the world have been honoured by India Post with stamps of special kind (Block of four and on the borders of a M/s. on jewellery). This tradition of honouring well known philatelists through commemorative stamps could have continued – at the least one in ten years – and raised the status of philately with more awareness to all citizens of our country. Anyway to make the current generation of 90's kids and 2000 Gen-z know more about these two gentlemen philatelists, I am mentally pressurised to put these few pages in our souvenir editing a few articles paying my heartfelt courtesies to those eminent writers and the majestic magazines of philately.

Senior collectors and serious collectors will immediately recognize those two philatelists as

- Mr. Jal Cooper, Bombay and
- Mr. Deoki Nandan Jatia, Calcutta.

The first gentleman was the man who laid strong foundation for Indian philately and the second gentleman made the flag of Indian Philately flutter high at the top of the world philately.

Let me move to the details of their biography and achievements, taking the senior among the two, Mr. Jal Cooper first.

### **Mr. JAL COOPER**

Mr. Jal Cooper came from a humble but respectable Parsi family of Bombay and Matriculated from the Sir J. J. School. In his early years he worked with a British Insurance Company which gave him the opportunity to travel across the vast Indian sub-continent. He was during this period trading in stamps on a part-time basis and ultimately in 1939 he achieved his cherished ambition of being a fulltime stamp dealer.

He had dealings with well-known foreign houses and quickly established a world wide reputation for honesty and integrity; these foreign dealers with years of experience were amazed at the young Indian's extensive knowledge of stamps, sharp wit and brilliant conversation and even in those years when India was still a part of the British Empire, they respected him.



His weekly articles in the illustrated weekly of India which, was the only general magazine in India having a page – though a solitary one – on philately were admired by many during that time. His ‘Stamps of India’ the first serious attempt by an Indian to write a volume on Indian Stamps.

In October 1940, Mr. Cooper took over and edited the ‘India’s Stamp Journal’ – an hitherto unknown house organ of the Swiss firm of “Philatelic Orient”, Bombay and in spite of the “Infant mortality” amongst the Indian Philatelic Magazines, he continued this labour of love successfully for 32 years till his demise on August 2, 1972 by which time it had become a world famous magazine on Indian philately.

He was one of the first dealers to hold regular stamp auctions in Bombay. He succeeded in popularizing such specialist studies in philately as Indian Stamps Used Abroad in foreign exotic lands, Early Indian Cancellations, Essays, Proofs and Specimens, Hand-struck, Pre-Adhesive stamps, Postal History etc., which had been long neglected by Indian collectors.

He was always inspiring young philatelists to do serious research in the various aspects of Indian philately and many an expert of today owes much to Mr. Jal Cooper’s initial encouragement.

He encouraged youth and did not desire that the hobby be mono-polished by ‘rich old foggies’, as he used to say. He was also responsible in exposing a number of philatelic frauds and forgeries. He was instrumental in establishing the first ‘Philatelic Bureau’ in the country at the G.P.O., Bombay in June 1940.

In 1941, Late Mr. Cooper founded the “Empire of India Philatelic Society” to give a fresh impetus to the Philatelic life of India and Bombay, in particular, although it had an old and long established Philatelic Society.

As a distinguished and dynamic philatelist, he did yeoman service to his country in promoting this luring hobby through, at times he took cudgles with the Government and the Postal Authorities for their Philatelic lapses. He was instrumental in setting right the National Postal Museum at Delhi.

He has written numerous book on Indian philately which are master-pieces and which will remain a fountain of knowledge in the years to come, viz., “Stamps of India”, “India Used Abroad”, “India Used in Burma”, “Early Indian Cancellations” (Originally published at Rs.10/- now fetching ten to fifteen times more at auctions), “Catalogue of Indian Rocket Mails”, “Catalogue of Indian Airmails” and “Pigeon Programmes”, and “Catalogues of Indian Stamps” etc.

There are many instances which one may quote when he had sacrificed his money and, more important, his time to the cause of philately in India.

It may not be known to many that Mr. Jal Cooper was ‘also a numerologist, an interesting general writer and a regular contributor to various Foreign and Indian Journals.

In 1973, “The Empire of India Philatelic Society” launched a ‘Jal Cooper Memorial Fund’ for perpetuating his fond and cherished memory and gave a Grand Prix Award at Indipex ’73-the ‘International Philatelic Exhibition’ held at Delhi in November 1973 and other State and National Exhibitions. At INPEX ’77 and ASIANA ’77 also the Society gave awards.



In 1977 PCI requested India Post to commemorate Jal Cooper with a stamp for which India Post responded twenty years after in 1997 with the block of four shown herewith.



### SHRI. D.N. JATIA.

Shri Deoki Nandan Jatia comes from a family renowned as connoisseurs of art. His grandfather, the late Sir Onkarmull Jatia K.T.O.B.E., had carved a niche for himself and his family. The family collection of clocks and cut – glass is outstanding. The house is like a museum today – attended by a host of timekeepers, the clocks still tick and chime. His father, the late Kanailal Jatia, excelled in gardening and was an active member of the Horticultural Society, Calcutta.

He was a student of St.Xavier’s College Calcutta, his early interest ranged from football to golf. He joined family business at an early age of 18 and guided by his father, looked after the various business of edible oils, flour milling, cotton mill, pharmaceuticals and fertilizers. He has held the positions of Chairman of Calcutta Flour Mills Association, Chairman of Roller Flour Millers Federation of India and Advisor, International School of Milling (CFTRI).

It was Father Leo Vanbuynder, SJ his school teacher, who initiated him into stamp collecting and Indian Thematic Philately. Soon, guided by the late J.N. Sengupta a family friend a doyen and expert in India Lithographs that soon he switched over to Indian Classics.

Indian Stamps Centenary Exhibition in 1954 was his first exhibition attempt, but his real success came from the first National Stamp Exhibition in 1970 at which he was awarded two Gold Medals. Then onwards he had a meteoric rise both at home and abroad and won many firsts to his credit, viz.

- i) Awarded Grand Prix in National Class at Indian International Philatelic Exhibition of 1973 at New Delhi.
- ii) Was the first Indian to win Gold with special prize at any international Exhibition abroad, in Switzerland in 1974 and thereafter in several other World exhibitions.



- iii) Was the first Indian to be invited to be a member of International Philatelists Jury at ARPHILA in Paris in 1975 followed by U.S.A., Italy, Czechoslovakia, Canada, Austria, Japan, France, Belgium including the then most prestigious Exhibition in the world of Philately at London in 1980.
- iv) Was the first Indian to be invited to present a paper and give a talk at the Royal Philatelic Society, London as at Collectors Club, New York in 1980.

He was invited to be a member of International Jury at ARPHILA held in Paris in 1975, another first for any Indian. Mr. Jatia subsequently, judged over 40 world exhibitions in USA, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Canada, Austria, Japan, France, Belgium, London and many other countries. He presented papers at Royal Philatelic Society, London and the Collectors Club, New York in 1980. He was conferred fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society, London in 1974.

He was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1983, the highest honour bestowed upon a philatelists. He was the first Indian to be honoured with this crowning glory. Since then, he was invited in the Board of Directors for selection of R.D.P. world over. The Roll was instituted in 1921 by British Philatelist Federation and H.M. King George V was the first to sign the Scroll.

He was the first person outside Europe to hold the prestigious post of President of Federation International de Philately (F.I.P.) in 1990 after serving as a member of the Board of Directors from 1980 and also served the second term of Presidentship of the F.I.P.

He was Conferred with highest honour “Order of Sofia” during Bulgaria 89 for his dedicated work and contribution to the World Philately. The medal was presented by the Mayor of Sofia during “Bulgaria 89” World Philatelic Exhibition.



Mr.D.N.Jatia signing the Role at Bath on the 7th Oct 1983 in presence of Mr. Leon Rapkins and Mr. R.A.G. Lee of British Philatelists Association

Over the years, his contributions and guidance has influenced many philatelists, events and organizations. He was were a moving spirit behind the formation of Philatelic Congress of India by unanimous choice to be its Founder President.

He became the President of Inter Asia Philatelic Federation (FIAP) in 1980 and also served as a member of the Philatelic Advisory Committee of the Indian Posts & Telegraph Department till 1980.

Among his notable achievements under the FIP banner, have been to get recognition of philately as a potential source of revenue for the Postal Administrations from Universal Postal Union (UPU) and in turn acknowledgement for the International Philatelic Organisations.



It is a fitting tribute given by India Post to the Crown Jewel of Indian Philately too commemorate on the miniature sheet issued for jewellery on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2000.



**Resources:**

- (1) Delhi's Stamp Magazine, 1977.
- (2) Ind Dak, May 1983.
- (3) Signet, July – Dec 2000.



**About the Author**

**J Rolands Nelson**, retired Chief Engineer of Tamil Nadu government is the President of the South India Philatelists' Association, Chennai. A senior philatelist, editor of the SIPA Bulletin and author of a book on Princely States of India, he served as a member of the Philatelic Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Communications, Government of India.



## SWAMI VIVEKANANDA AND TAMIL NADU

**Abhijit De**  
**Life Member, SIPA**

### INTRODUCTION

The famous patriot, Hindu monk, philosopher, Vedantic scholar, author and spiritual leader, known popularly as Swami Vivekananda, left our world by the age of 39 years, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1902, but before that he had implemented many initiatives and ideas, in order to enhance the status of India, and uplift the condition of our people, during the British Raj. His legacy continues to benefit our country and people. A well-known quote of his was 'Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached'.

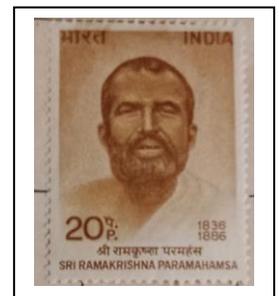
Two of these initiatives found its beginnings in geographical areas that are today part of Tamil Nadu State. I write this article based on stamps involving Swami Vivekananda, and other stamps associated with his history. In addition, some of the stamps issued on Swami Vivekananda have information of philatelic interest attached to them, which are also analysed where applicable.

Since this article focuses on the initiatives that forms part of his history involving Tamil Nadu, the focus of this article can be said to fall under the following areas-

- I . Swami Vivekananda's journey and famous Speech at Chicago, USA
- II. His initiative to create a service organization called Ramakrishna Mission.

Swami Vivekananda's original name is Narendranath Datta, and he was born on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1863, into an aristocratic family of Kolkata (then Calcutta). He showed an early inclination towards religion and spirituality. During and after his studies for a Degree from the University of Calcutta, he had been meeting the Spiritual leader and Monk, Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa, who is called Sri Ramakrishna by his disciples and followers. Swami Vivekananda became his devoted disciple by the age of 18, and shortly thereafter he took the vows of a sannyasi, thereby travelling and living on charity and donations he received.

Following the death of his Guru, Sri Ramakrishna in 1886, (The stamp issued in 1963 is shared here. Sri Ramakrishna was a faithful devotee of Goddess Kali and lived as a priest at the Kali temple at Dakhineswar, near Kolkata. where he spread his message using parables and discourses. Derived from the many mystic experiences he had undergone, he advocated the unity of all religions), Sri Narendranath, travelled extensively across the Indian sub-continent as a sannyasi, including during his first visit to Madras.



The details and history about Swami Vivekananda are very extensive, and therefore this article focuses only on the 2 subjects given here above, apart from some relevant information of interest to philatelists.



To honour the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Centenary of Swami Vivekananda this Miniature Sheet {MS} was issued in 2013. which has been issued as 2 se-tenant blocks of 4 stamp sets within the M.S.

It shares the following information about him-

1. The first stamp shows a portrait of Swami Vivekananda, with the Dakhineswar Kali temple, where his Guru had lived and served as a devoted priest, in the background
2. the second stamp shows him as a wandering monk during a period he preached and explored most of India
3. the third stamp shows Swami Vivekananda at the Parliament of World Religions, at Chicago, USA; and



4. the fourth and last stamp, shows Swami Vivekananda at the Belur Sri Ramakrishna Mutt, located near Kolkata (then Calcutta), which is the H.Q. of both the Ramakrishna Mutt/Math and Mission, and was established by Swami Vivekananda and other close disciples of Sri Ramakrishna in January 1897.

The design reflects a combination of various architectures, to reflect that the Ramakrishna Movement is open to all religious thoughts. This M.S., containing 2 se-tenants of the same 4 stamp set, and is of philatelic interest as it is the only one of this type issued by India Post (There are India Post sheet-lets of this type, but not MS es). You can make out it is a single MS because the signed portrait of Swami Vivekananda on the left integrates the M.S. and the 2 se-tenant blocks of 4 into a single unit.

Most M.S. es have only one or one set of stamps (normally stamps of anyway between 1-6 se-tenant or non-se-tenant stamps per issue) in them, but there are cases where the postal authorities are confident about the popularity of the theme, so a few are issued with two sets of the stamps included in the same M.S. .

There aren't too many of such M.S.es, but sets I have come across, or are in my collection, are as follows

- a. A 2005-year British Stamp M.S. set for the Royal Wedding of Prince Charles with Mrs. Camilla Parker Bowles (set of 2 stamps);
- b. 2018 issued British stamp set M.S. for wedding of Prince Harry with Meghan Markle;



- c. 2011 issued Britain stamp set M.S. on the Royal Wedding of Prince Williams and Kate Middleton; and also
- d. A 2011 M.S. and stamp set from Antigua for the Royal Wedding of Prince Williams with Kate Middleton. (set of 2 stamps form MS es in b,c,and d.)
- e. Samoa World Wildlife Fund M.S. issued in 2011 with 2 sets of 4 stamp se-tenant about endangered “Coloured Fruit- Dove”;
- f. Guyana W.W.F. MS issued in 2011 with 2 sets of 4 stamp se-tenant on endangered Bush Dogs;
- g. Year 2007 issued Grenada MS for W.W.F. with se-tenant sets of 2 x4 stamps for Clymene breed of Dolphins. (A4 x 4 Se-tenant set sheet-let was also issued, which is not to be confused with this MS)
- h. A MS issued in 1984 by New Zealand which has 6 stamps totally, with 2 stamps on each of 3 different horse breeds featured. therefore, making it 2 Se-tenant sets of these stamps. The top and bottom margin designs here integrate this MS as a single item.

Four of the MS es that have been mentioned, are shown here under to enable philatelists to get a clearer idea about each of the different formats used for such multi-stamp se-tenant M.S.es -





## II. SWAMI VIVEKANANDA AND HIS TRAVEL TO AND SPEECH AT CHICAGO.

An article in the Times of India newspaper of March 26, 2023, reports that Swami Vivekananda's first visit to Madras (now Chennai) was in 1892, when he was a wondering Monk, and he stayed at Santhome, but very little beyond that is known. His second visit was in 1897, by when he had become a famous Swami ji after his Speech at Chicago, and his last visit was in 1899.

The impetus given for the visit of Swami Vivekananda to America to attend The Parliament of All Religions, was created when he was visiting "Rajarishi" Bhaskara Sethupathi, who is shown on the stamp shared here. His ancestors, the Sethupathy Royal Family were the rulers of Ramanathapuram since time immemorial. They are entrusted with the protection and preservation of the Sri Ram Sethu, and the temple at Rameswaram (seen on the third stamp here), where Sri Ram had worshiped Lord Shiva. There is a stone slab in the Ramanathapuram Palace, displayed for important ceremonial occasions, which gives information about Sri Ram installing the ancestors of Sethupathis of Ramanathapuram as the Trustees. Bhaskara Sethupathi, due to his position, had received an invitation to attend the Parliament of All Religions, and had made plans to attend. However, around that time Swami Vivekananda was his guest and their discussions convinced Sethupathi that Swamiji was the correct person to represent India at his international event. Thereby, he and his many contacts took the initiative to make the visit of Swami Vivekananda possible, despite Swami Vivekananda's reluctance.

With the famous speech at Chicago, starting with "Brothers and sisters of America" in 1893, Swami Vivekananda attracted much attention. Adequate funds were contributed by his new admirers from USA and Europe thereafter, thus enabling him to continue travelling, addressing conferences and writing in the USA, UK and parts of Europe for almost 4 years, before his return to India.

On his return journey, he first landed in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), and shortly thereafter on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1897, he first stepped ashore in India at Pambam near Ramanathapuram, at the invitation of the Raja Bhaskara Sethupathi, who had become his devoted fan. This spot where he landed is now called Kunthukal, which means "setting foot".

Sethupathi said that he was proud to be the first to welcome Swamiji back to our Motherland on his return, and that too on the shores sanctified by the great Hero and revered Lord- Sree Bhagavan Ramachandran. The Sethupathi praised the eloquence of his Chicago speech, through which not only had he spread the message of India to the World, but also to many in India who were unaware of the richness of our motherland, among other things.

In his address Swami Vivekananda replied "...India and every country where my work has been done owe much of it to you, Raja of Ramnad. For it was you who gave the idea first, and it was you who persistently urged me on towards the work..." A monument had been erected at Kunthukal for this landmark visit.

There after he travelled by train through Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram, Paramakudi and Manamadurai, and arrived at Madurai on February 2, 1897. His journey was met with unprecedented public adoration, with events like cannons being fired, triumphal arches erected and people pulling his carriage.



After he had arrived in Madras, the people of Madras famously took the place of horses to pull the carriage that transported him. During his short stay at Madras, he had given 4 public lectures. This visit was a continuation of Swami Vivekananda's ongoing connection with Madras, because one cannot overlook the spontaneous and enthusiastic contributions made by many middle-income followers and disciples from Madras, towards his trip to Chicago, once they got to know about Swamiji's plans.

Others who helped him with funds in Madras, included Sir S. Subramania Iyer, judge of the Madras High Court, and Mr. Manmathanath Bhattacharya, Deputy Account- General of Madras. A key follower in Madras, who helped co-ordinate the collection of the funds, was Mr. Alasingha Perumal, who even later, when more funds were required, organized and sent such funds, including from his own salary.



*Stamps on Founders of Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Vivekananda, Rameswaram Temple and Bhaskara Sethupathy, Patron of Swamiji's American tour*

While on the second leg of his journey to the West Coast of USA, from Yokohama ,Japan ,Swami ji found Sir Jamshetji N.Tata, the Indian industrialist and philanthropist was on board the ship, and the discussions in between them sowed the seeds for creating an advanced Indian institute for scientific studies , which finally resulted in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. A se-tenant stamp issued in 2008 celebrating I.I.Sc centenary year , the Rs. 20.00 half of which is shown here (the other half features the main building on a Rs. 5.00 stamp), therefore features both Sir J.N.Tata and Swami Vivekananda on the stamp.

The third stamp shared here, was issued in 1993, to mark the anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's Speech at Chicago. It was designed by the famous designer of more than 50 of India Post's commemorative stamps, Shri C. R. Prakash, who had worked hard to ensure authentic depictions of the venue of the Speech and of Swami Vivekananda. The final design depicts Swami Vivekananda with the backdrop showing the Art Institute of Chicago, where the Parliament of the World's Religions took place.



**Stamps on Vivekananda and Tesla**

This joint issue for 70 years of Diplomatic Relations in between India and Serbia issued on 15th September 2018, shows Serbian born, US citizen, scientist and inventor and mystic, Nikola Tesla, and Swami Vivekananda. The India Post Brochure informs us that during Swami Vivekananda's lecture tours on subjects like Vedic Philosophy, he met Tesla in New York and thereafter ,in the many letters he wrote in 1895, he said that he recognized Vedic Cosmogony (the ancient Indian framework for understanding the universe) in Tesla's scientific works.



### III. INITIATIVE TO CREATE A SERVICE ORGANIZATION CALLED RAMAKRISHNA MISSION.

In December 1892, Swami Vivekananda had swum to the then isolated rock at Kanyakumari, which one can consider the southernmost tip of mainland India, where the 3 seas - Arabian sea, Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean meet- and meditated there for 3 days. The enlightenment, as a sannyasi he found there was the start of his vision for creation of a national service and many nation building reforms, including the restoration of individuality which the British had suppressed; including serving the nation by going from village to village to progress education and provide social services.

To implement these ideas, his vision envisaged “strong, vigorous, believing young men, sincere to the backbone” who will be the agent of change. In short, the results of his meditations envisaged that his core mission was National rejuvenation, by uplifting and reviving our ancient National Identity and Spirit. This resulted in the near future of the close disciples of Sri Ramakrishna starting Ramakrishna Mutt/Math and Ramakrishna Missions, with Chennai being the first among these, outside Bengal.

They in turn trained the future generations of Swamiji’s who would continue these initiatives. It is possible that when he had arrived in Madras in 1892, the goodwill he created among the fishermen he interacted with in the Santhome area, including with friendly wrestling matches, made his long journey along the coast to Vavathurai possible with the contacts among them. The last stretch to the Rock in those stormy waters however had to be swum by himself thereafter.

After his exposure to other countries and receipt of funds in larger amounts, Swami Vivekananda finally was able to execute his vision, and he created the Ramakrishna Missions from 1st May 1897, in North Calcutta, in the house of Sri Balaram Basu, a disciple of Sri Ramakrishna.

The Ramakrishna Mission started in Madras, in 1897, along with the Ramakrishna Mutt, at the building previously called Ice House or Castle Kernan, Triplicane, and now called Vivekanandar Illam. This initiative, along with the setting up of the Ramakrishna Mutt/Ashram was initiated by Swami Ramakrishnananda, a learned, committed direct disciple of Sri Ramakrishna, who had been specially selected and sent by Swamiji, after he had promised his many disciples of Chennai that he would take action as requested by them, before leaving for Calcutta in 1897.

After Ice House had been sold by the original owners, a disciple, Thiru C. Ramaswami Iyenger, helped set up an orphanage on 17th February 1905, which started with 5 boys in a small building in Mylapore. As the number of inmates expanded, in 1916, Sri S.G. Srinivachariyar made a generous donation of a building and 11 grounds to the Ramakrishna Mission in Mylapore.

This is their earliest education institution in South India, which has since expanded across the length and breadth of the Peninsula of India. Swami Ramakrishnananda was succeeded after his death in 1911, by Swami Brahmananada, a direct and close disciple of Sri Ramakrishna, thus strengthening the Tamilnadu initiative further. Swami Brahmananada later became the first President of the Sri Ramakrishna Order, at the HQ. in Calcutta.



Swami Vivekananda's third visit to Chennai, took place at a time when plague was rampant in Calcutta, so he was not permitted to land, but addressed his disciples who had approached on boats. A container containing Ganga jal, which he had brought for the Mutt at Chennai, was presented, which is still preserved there.

Currently there are several Sri Ramakrishna Mission schools, including well known institutions like the Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College and The Ramakrishna Mission Residential High school, both situated in Mylapore, The Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya College of Education, near Coimbatore etc.



In order to memorialize the enlightenment of Swami Vivekananda at the Rock at Kanyakumari, which stands about 500 meters from Vavathurai which is the point located on the mainland, after many failures, the Vivekananda memorial, shown on this stamp and FDC, was constructed in between 1964 and 1970, and was inaugurated on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1970 by President V.V.Giri .

The stamp issued on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1996, for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kanyakumari Vivekananda Memorial, is a longer than standard stamp issued by India Post at that time. It measures 8cms x 2.5 cms. , where as the standard rectangular stamps measurements were 4cms x 2.5 cms. (Since then the width of certain rectangle stamps, including the larger sized se-tenant stamp in some cases, have increased in width to 3 cms. Recently, a few non-setenant rectangle stamps have also been issued with dimensions of 6x 4 cms.)

The earliest stamp issued on Swami Vivekananda is this 15 naye paise [N.P] stamp issued on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1963 for his Birth Centenary, showing him wearing the clothes most people associate with him, and The Sri Ramakrishna Order. It is one of the Indian stamps that carries the signature of the person honoured. Another one is the M.S. on Swami Vivekananda discussed earlier.



Some of the other stamps bearing Indian leader's signatures are (Philatelists may find this list useful to create exhibits on this theme)

- a. The first such stamp was issued in 1961 for a stamp issued for Nobel Laureate Rabindra Nath Tagore's Birth Centenary, designed by film director Sri Satyajit Ray.
- b. 1964 - A 15 NP stamp, out of 2 issued, for the Birth Centenary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose;
- c. 1964 - A 15 NP mourning issue for Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru;
- d. 1970 - First death anniversary of Thiru C.N. Annadurai (signature in Tamil).
- e. 1971 - 1st Death Anniversary of Nobel Laureate Dr. C.V.Raman;
- f. 1972 - Birth Centenary of a leader who is associated with the creation of A.P- Sri T. Prakasam
- g. 1973 - Birth centenary of Mr. A.O. Hume, founder of the Congress Party
- h. 1973 - Stamp on cricketer Shri K.S. Ranjitsinhji;
- i. 1978 - Politician Shri Syama Prasad Mookerjee.
- j. 1980 - Social Reformer Shri Keshuv Chandra Sen.
- k. 1980 - Birth Centenary of author Shri Prem Chand.
- l. 1981 - Poet Shri Nilmoni Phukan
- m. 1988 - 0.60 p stamp for Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Birth centenary has his initials-based signature.
- n. 1989 - Re. 1 stamp on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru also carries his initials as signature.
- o. 1992 - 50th Anniversary of Quit India Movement, with message and signatures of Gandhiji both in English and Hindi.
- p. 1994 - Mr. J.R.D. Tata with signature.
- q. 1995 - Gandhiji and India- South Africa cooperation- 2 stamps with signature in English in one and Hindi in the other.
- r. 1997 - 47th Death Anniversary of first Union Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhai Patel has his signature.
- s. 1997 - Indepex 97- Mother Teresa Speed Post MS with her signature at the bottom of stamp within MS.
- t. 1998 - Goa's Freedom fighter Dr. Tristao Braganza Cunha.
- u. 2001 - Freedom Fighter Shri Jayaprakash Narayan.
- v. 2005 - Birth Centenary of Shri P. Singhanian.
- w. 2008 - Birth centenary of film Director Shri B.N. Reddy.
- x. 1995 - President Gyani Zail Singh.
- y. 2005 - Poet Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai;
- z. 2000 - President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma;
- aa. 2003 - Poet Shri Harvansh Rai Bachchan;
- bb. 2003 - Shri Mukut B.Bhargava;
- cc. 1966 - Poet Acharya Mahavir Prasad Dviwedi (signature in Hindi);
- dd. 1978 - Social Reformer Periyar E.V.Ramasami (in Tamil);
- ee. 2011 - Guruji Rabindra Nath Tagore - Signature on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rs. 5 stamp;
- ff. 2015 - Chakra stamp set- Gandhiji stamp set of 2 stamps - Signature on MS;
- gg. 2018- 150 th Birth Anniversary of Gandhiji, (Signature on M.S.)

[Please note that this list does not include FDCs with signatures].



## CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Ramakrishna Mutts /Math and educational and social service Sri Ramakrishna Missions we see in Tamil Nadu today , would not have been possible without the large base of committed devotees of Swami Vivekananda and their generous donations. Among the many achievements is that the Sri Ramakrishna Mission in Mylapore is the largest producer, publisher and seller of Vedantic literature in India.

I would like to acknowledge the role of the many stamps issued by India Post on Swami Vivekananda in helping to shape and support this article, and also support the philatelic analyses included as part of this article. The stamps used here have therefore been utilised to support the article's narration.

Some other stamps and Special Covers, on Swami Vivekananda, have been left out to ensure this article is focused and compact.

For information used in this article, I am grateful to the following sources:

- The Times of India issue dated March 26, 2023, Article called “The Monk and Madras”.
- Various India Post Information Brochures related to the Swami Vivekananda stamps, are shared here.
- Wikipedia articles on Sri Ramakrishna Math/Mutt, Chennai, and Sri Ramakrishna Mission.
- Newsroom Post's article entitled “Swami Vivekananda and Rajarshi Bhaskara Sethupathi “ by Dr.Vinay Nalwa.
- 2 volume Book titled The Life of Swami Vivekananda, published by Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai.



### About the Author:

**Abhijit De**, a Life Member of SIPA, has been in to stamp collection since his school days and became a philatelist after retirement from a Public Sector Undertaking. He has done research beyond stamps, which includes studies on FDCs, Cachets, Information brochures, stamp designing and printing techniques and contributing articles to philatelic journals and bulletins.



# PLATINUM JUBILEE OF INDIAN INLAND LETTER CARDS

## *A Philatelic Study of Designs and Evolution*

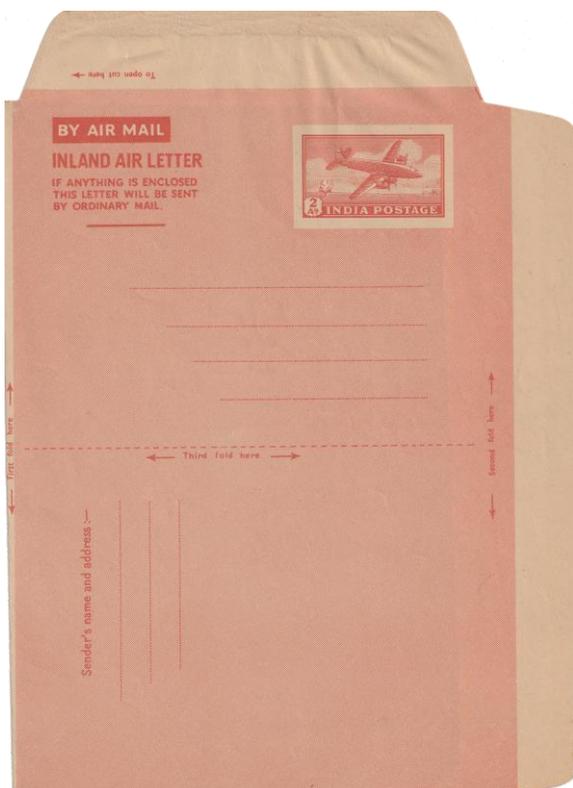
**Senthilkumar Chandrasekaran**  
**Life Member – SIPA**

In the vast chronicle of Indian postal history, few items have served the common citizen as faithfully and affordably as the Inland Letter Card (ILC). Introduced to streamline domestic correspondence, the ILC has undergone several transformations since its inception in 1950—mirroring the growth and evolution of incredible India.

In the evolving tapestry of India's postal history, the Inland Letter Card (ILC) holds a unique and sentimental place. More than just stationery, it became a vital bridge across the vast expanse of a newly independent nation—conveying messages of love, news, and official communications alike.

Since its inception these Inland Letter cards have undergone significant transformations in terms of tariff, motifs, shape and colour reflecting the nation's changing socio-economic policies, cultural identity, and technological advancements. For philatelists, ILCs serve as fascinating collectibles that document India's postal history. This article delves deeper into their evolution, highlighting key changes and some interesting variations on its 75th year of inception.

### THE PREDECESSOR – TWO ANNAS INLAND AIR LETTER CARD



The Two annas Inland Air Letter—modeled closely on the Six annas Aerogramme—holds the distinction of being the first postal stationery of Independent India.

It was initially issued on 15 September 1948 at select major post offices including Bombay (now Mumbai), Calcutta (now Kolkata), Delhi, and Madras (now Chennai) and became available across the rest of the country from 1 October 1948. Printed on greyish paper with a brick-red overlay of vertical lines, this Inland Air Letter featured a two annas imprinted stamp and an Angled Flap at Top and Sides.

The utility of the two annas Inland Air Letter was short-lived, but its significance in India's postal history is profound. With the introduction of the All-Up Scheme on 1 April 1949, the exclusive inland airmail service ceased to be necessary, reducing the relevance of this Air Letter.



However, the format and functional layout of this pioneering postal stationery directly influenced the design philosophy of the new Inland Letter Card that followed. The experience gained from its compact folding pattern, imprinted stamp placement, and economy of paper ultimately paved the way for the introduction of the 1½ anna Inland Letter Card on 2 October 1950.

### **BIRTH OF THE FIRST INLAND LETTER CARD**

Exercising the powers granted under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 (VI of 1898), the Government of India—through the Ministry of Communications (Posts & Telegraphs)—formally authorized the issuance of the Inland Letter Card from 2 October 1950. With this, the ILC was accorded the same postal facilities and status as letters and postcards, marking an important step in modernizing India’s domestic postal communication in the early years of independence.



The design of this inaugural Inland Letter Card was both functional and symbolic. It featured an imprinted stamp depicting the Ashokan Lion Capital—India’s national emblem—printed in a dull green shade that conveyed dignity and simplicity. The card carried a denomination of one and a half annas.

Both the text and the characteristic overlay pattern were printed in the same dull green color, creating a harmonious visual identity. Produced on yellowish buff paper, the first ILC embodied a balance of economy, clarity, and national representation. Its clean layout and emblematic stamp design set the stylistic foundation for subsequent generations of Indian Inland Letter Cards.

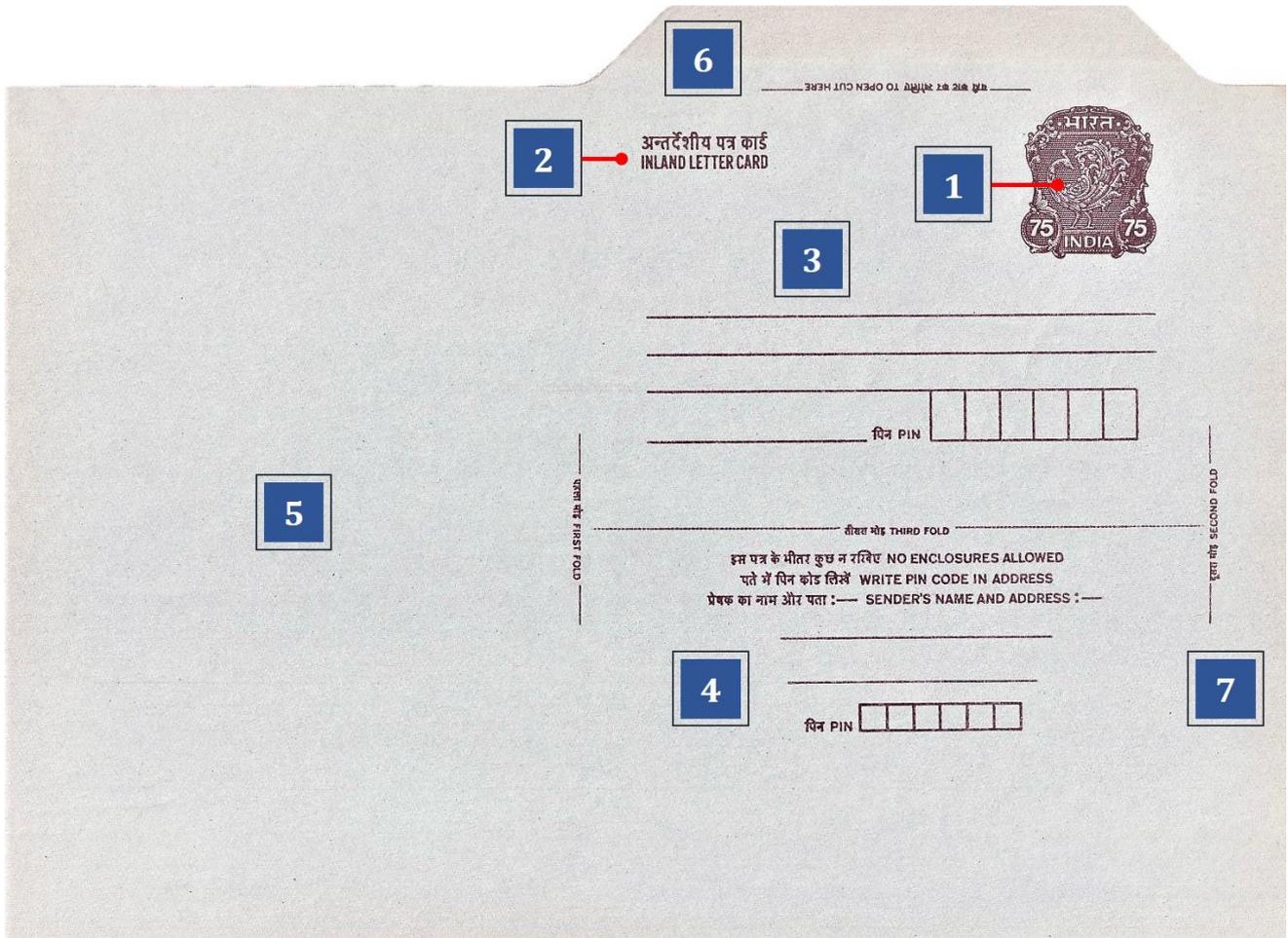


## ANATOMY OF INLAND LETTER CARD

Before tracing the evolution of Inland Letter Cards (ILC), it is essential to first understand the basic anatomy of the ILC itself. Each card follows a carefully structured layout—comprising the imprinted stamp, designated address panel, folding flaps, message area and sealing lines—all of which define its functional identity.

These elements dictate not only how the card is used but also where and how motifs could be incorporated by designers. Recognizing this foundational framework allows us to better appreciate how aesthetic choices evolved over time and how form and function worked together in shaping the Inland Letter Card's distinctive designs.

Ref. No	Title	Description
1	Motif	Motif collectively refers to the design of the imprinted stamp, denomination, country name, stamp description and bar code as applicable. This is one of the key elements of the design and study of motif designs is an important step in understanding the evolution of the design of ILC's
2	Title	This area identifies the Title of the Postal Stationary
3	Address Panel	Address Panel is mainly for the receiver's address details which includes Address Lines and the space of Pin Code.
4	Senders Details	Sender Details provides few instructions to the Sender and captures the address of the Sender.
5	Message Area	This is continuation of the message area and based on the fold instructions, this part will remain concealed after the ILC is folded.
6	Top Flap	All ILC's will have a Top Flap which is gummed and helps in sealing the ILC finally.
7	Side Flap	Side Flap design providing interesting variations and some of them are gummed and few are not gummed depending on the fold instructions



## Variation in Design

Variations in design of Inland Letter Card apart from the colour of the paper used could be accounted to the following

- Variations in Shape and Format
- Variations in Denomination – Rate Changes
- Variations in Imprinted Stamp Design and Motif
- Variations due to Title
- Variations in Flap Design and Gumming
- Variations in design aspects of the Front Panel and Back Panel
- Variations in Address Panel Details
- Variations due to Printer Details and Year of Printing



## Variations in Shape and Format

Inland Letter Cards have generally adhered to a broadly similar concept throughout their existence—a single sheet of paper folded in a prescribed sequence to create an envelope-like form. However, both the shape of the sheet and the folding pattern have undergone notable evolution over the decades. Changes in postal needs, printing technology, and design efficiency gradually influenced how the card was cut, arranged, and folded. These developmental shifts allow the entire range of ILC designs since inception to be categorized into four major Types, each representing a distinct stage in the structural and functional evolution of the Inland Letter Card. The characteristics of these four Types are outlined below.



**Type 1 – Two Fold, Angled Message**

Message Panel Slightly Angled for ease of folding. Top Flap is Gummed for sealing. Side Flap used only as support.



**Type 2 – Two Fold, Short Side Flap**

Message Panel is Flat. Side Flap only covers the Address Panel. Both Top and Side Flaps are Gummed for Sealing.



**Type 3 – Two Fold, Flat Message, Full Side Flap**

Message Panel is Flat. Side Flap covers both Address Panel and Senders Panel. Top Flap is Gummed for sealing. Side Flap used only as support.



**Type 4 – Three Fold, Three Flaps**

Message Panel is below Sender's Details Panel. Two Short Flap on both sides of Address Panel. All Three Flaps are Gummed for Sealing.

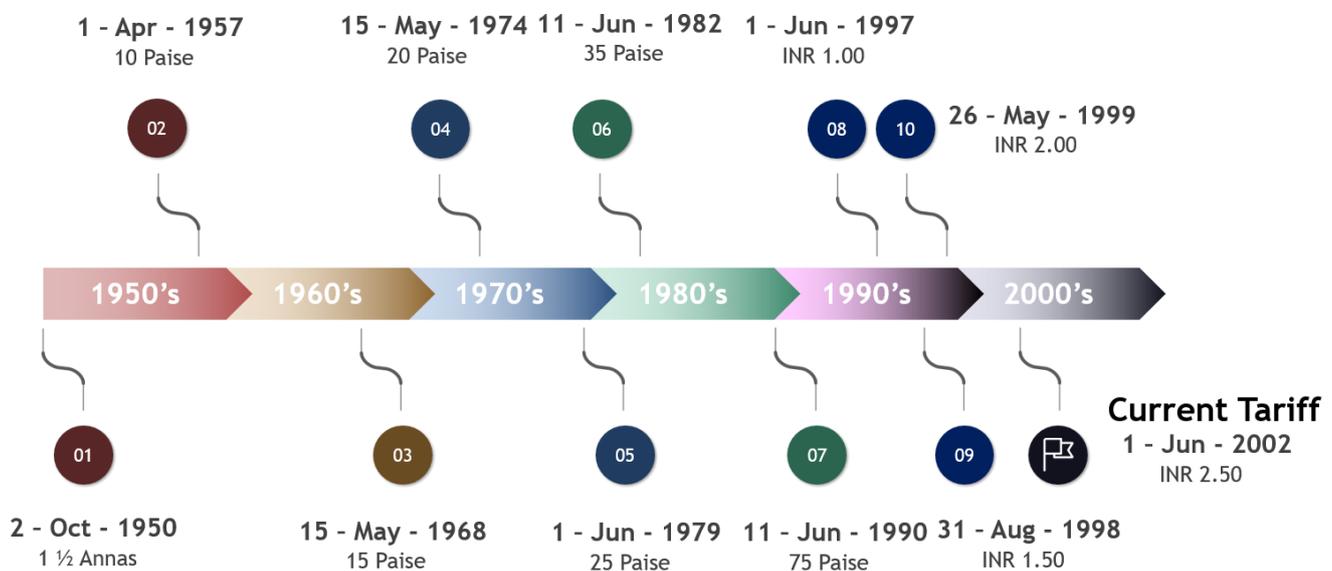


## Variations in Denomination - Rate Changes

The first Inland Letter Cards were priced at 1½ annas, issued during the era of India’s Standard Coinage System, which remained in use from Independence until 31 March 1957 (16 Annas = 1 Rupee).

With the introduction of the Decimal Coinage System from 1 April 1957, the currency shifted to 100 Naya paise = 1 Rupee. Over the decades, the tariff for the Inland Letter Card has been revised multiple times to reflect changing economic conditions and postal costs.

At present, the Inland Letter Card is priced at ₹2.50. The major rate changes over the years are summarized below.



## Variations in Imprinted Stamp Design and Motif.

This segment examines the diverse designs of imprinted stamp used on Indian Inland Letter Cards, tracing their historical progression, design refinements, and changes in denomination panels over time.

The first one being the Ashokan Emblem (**Type – A**), derived from the famed Lion Capital of Ashoka that once crowned the Mauryan emperor’s pillar at Sarnath. Adopted as the National Emblem of India, this symbol became a defining feature of early postal stationery and appeared prominently on the imprinted stamp of several Inland Letter Card issues.

Presented below are some of the notable design variations that incorporate the Ashokan Capital motif, illustrating how its portrayal evolved across different printings and postal periods.

In the first variant of the design employing Ashokan Capital, the imprinted stamp is framed within a simple white rectangular giving it a clean and formal appearance. The word “POSTAGE” appears at the top left.



The denomination is shown in English on the lower left, while its Hindi equivalent appears on the lower right. The word “INDIA” is boldly printed at the bottom center.



**Type A1**

Value 1 ½ As.  
Dull Green Colour



**Type A2**

Value 1 ½ As.  
Green Colour



**Type A3**

Value 10 N.P.  
Green Colour



**Type A4**

Value 10 nP  
Green Colour



**Type A5**

Value 10 nP  
Dark Green



**Type A6**

Value 10 nP  
Yellowish Green

In the next design variation, a clean rectangular inner frame surrounds the emblem, while the outer area features a simulated perforation pattern, giving it the appearance of a traditional adhesive stamp.

Other details of the design remained the same.

In the next variation, textured background pattern is used which enhanced the visual depth of the central emblem. The central vignette is enclosed within an ornate rectangular frame with decorative corner flourishes. This adds a more refined, classical look compared to the plain rectangular frames of other varieties. The value is shown in separate decorative oval panels. Both panels integrate scrollwork that blends aesthetically with the main frame.

At the top, the word “INDIA” is prominently displayed in bold serif lettering, set within a curved ornamental cartouche.

At the bottom, the Hindi word “भारत” (Bharat) is printed in a matching cartouche, giving a balanced bilingual presentation.



**Type A7**

Value 10 P  
Blue



**Type A8**

Value 15 P  
Greyish Green



**Type A9**

Value 15 P  
Greyish Green



**Type A10**

Value 15 P  
Green

In the next design variation to the Ashokan Emblem imprinted stamp, at the top, the Hindi word “भारत” (Bharat) is prominently display in an ornamental cartouche.

At the bottom, the word “INDIA” is set within a matching ornamental cartouche. giving a balanced bilingual presentation.



**Type A11**

Value 15 P  
Blue



**Type A12**

Value 15 P  
Greyish Green



**Type A14**

Value 20 P  
Blue



**Type A15**

Value 20  
Blue



**Type A13**

Value 15 P  
Greyish Green

Value 5 P  
RRT Stamp \*  
Greyish Green

\*The Refugee Relief Tax, introduced in 1971, was applied to postal items in India as part of a nationwide effort to raise funds for refugees during the Bangladesh Liberation crisis.

Effective from 26 June 1971, this mandatory surcharge was added to the existing postal rates. The tax remained in force until 28 February 1973, after which it was withdrawn as the immediate humanitarian need subsided.

This two stamp design ILC was introduced from 01 December 1971, which featured the Refugee Relief Stamp in Greyish Green Colour with bilingual text भारत INDIA on Top and शरणार्थी सहायता Refugee Relief Tax on Bottom.

After withdrawal of the RRT Tax, the remaining stock of such ILC's were used with deletion of RRT Stamps by “X” marks or word “Cancelled” in blue or black hand stamps.



Next design of the imprinted stamp (**Type B**), commemorates the centenary of Postage Stamp (1854–1954). Printed in a rich plum shade with no simulated perforation or border, it depicts traditional modes of mail transport: a postal runner with his spear and satchel, a camel rider, and a bullock cart laden with mail. The denomination shown is 1½ annas, with inscriptions in both English and Hindi. The design pays tribute to the evolution of India’s early postal routes and the diverse means by which communication once traversed the subcontinent.

The next design of imprinted stamp features a beautifully stylised peacock (**Type – C**), one of India’s most iconic cultural and artistic motifs. Rendered in a fine line-engraved style, the design showcases intricate ornamental scrollwork that frames the peacock in a traditional, almost heraldic pose. The denomination appears prominently on both sides, while the inscriptions “भारत” and “INDIA” anchor the design with bilingual clarity. This graceful design marks a shift toward more decorative and culturally expressive imprinted stamp designs, reflecting India’s artistic heritage through postal stationery.



**Type C1**  
Value 20  
Blue Colour



**Type C2**  
Value 25  
Greyish Blue



**Type C3**  
Value 35  
Violet



**Type C4**  
Value 35  
Greyish Green



**Type C5**  
Value 75  
Brown Colour on Blue



**Type C6**  
Value 75  
Red Colour on Pink



**Type C7**  
Value 75  
Brown Colour on Buff



**Type C8**  
Value 100  
Red Colour



**Type C9**  
Value 150  
Green Colour



**Type C10**  
Value 200  
Blue Colour



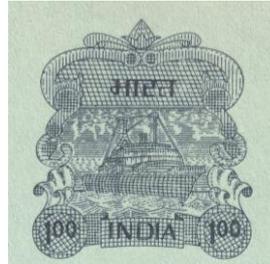
The next design of the imprinted stamp features a finely rendered ship motif (**Type – D**), symbolising maritime connectivity and India’s expanding communication links. The design is enclosed within an ornate, scroll-like frame incorporating delicate line patterns. The denomination appears on both sides, while the bilingual inscription “भारत INDIA” anchors the base of the design. The stamp’s intricate engraving and stylised waves give it a dynamic sense of movement, making this more visually distinctive designs.



**Type D1**  
Value 75  
Red Colour



**Type D2**  
Value 75  
Grey Colour



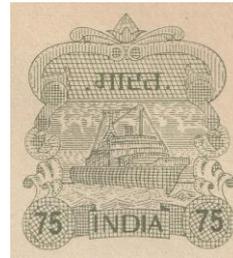
**Type D5**  
Value 100  
Bluish Grey



**Type D6**  
Value 150  
Bluish Grey

In few Inland Letter Cards, the hindi word for India were misspelled and printed wrongly as मारत (**Type D3**) instead of भारत (**Type D4**).

Once the error was noticed, this design was withdrawn within few days, however remained in circulation for atleast a week. Denomination is 75 and Stamp is printed in Light Green Colour. Subsequently rectified design was issued. (**Type D4**)



**Type D3**  
मारत  
Withdrawn



**Type D4**  
भारत  
Rectified.

The next design of imprinted stamp features a striking winged lion (**Type -E**) motif rendered in fine line engraving, giving it both a mythical and heraldic character.

The creature sits poised on a textured pedestal bearing the bilingual inscription “भारत INDIA”. The denomination appears prominently at the upper left.



**Type E1**  
Value 150  
Greyish Blue



**Type E2**  
Value 200  
Blue



Next imprinted stamp design depicts the Indian one-horned rhinoceros (**Type F**), an iconic species from Kaziranga National Park in Assam.



**Type F1**  
Value 150

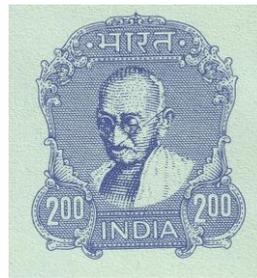


**Type F2**  
Value 200

Rendered in a blue half-tone style, the rhino is shown walking through tall grass, symbolizing the park's rich wildlife heritage.

The bilingual inscription “भारत INDIA” appears at the upper left, with the denomination printed at the upper right. This design was used on Inland Letter Cards to promote India's natural heritage and conservation efforts.

The next design of the imprint stamp portrays Mahatma Gandhi within an ornate decorative frame. The design showcases Gandhi with delicate cross-hatch detailing that enhances depth and texture.



**Type G1**  
Value 200  
Blue



**Type G2**  
Value 200  
Royal Blue

The denomination “200” appears symmetrically on both lower sides of the frame, while the bilingual inscription “भारत INDIA” is placed prominently along the top and bottom respectively.



The next design of imprinted stamp on Inland Letter Card features the iconic Ellora Caves (**Type – H**) of Maharashtra, rendered in a detailed line-engraved style. The design showcases the majestic rock-cut architecture, including sculpted pillars and temple facades, capturing the grandeur of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The denomination “200” appears prominently within a vertical panel alongside the emblem for UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the bilingual inscription “भारत INDIA” placed below it. The bilingual text “एलोरा – महाराष्ट्र / ELLORA – MAHARASHTRA” is placed below the central vignette. The simulated perforation border completes the classic stamp-like appearance of this architectural motif.



The next design of the imprinted stamp on Inland Letter Card features the famed temple complex of Pattadakal (**Type – I**) in Karnataka, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its exquisite Chalukyan architecture. The monochrome design showcases the iconic stone structures with their characteristic pillars and stepped platforms, framed within a simulated perforation border.

The denomination “200” appears at the upper right, while the bilingual inscription “भारत INDIA” is placed at upper left corner and “पट्टाडकल – कर्नाटक / PATTADAKAL – KARNATAKA” is printed along the lower edge. This design highlights the cultural and historical significance of this architectural masterpiece.

The next design of the imprinted stamp motif features the Panchmahal of Fatehpur Sikri (**Type – J**), a five-storeyed architectural marvel built during the Mughal era. Rendered in a single light-blue shade, the design highlights the building’s tiered pavilions, elegant columns, and symmetrical layout.

The oval vignette is framed by a stylized perforation border, with “भारत INDIA” at the top corners and the denomination appears on both the sides. The inscription “पंचमहल फ़तहपुर सीकरी PANCHMAHAL FATEHPUR SIKRI” appears below, making this motif a distinctive representation of India’s rich Mughal architectural heritage on Inland Letter Cards.



**Type J1**  
Value 200  
No Bar Code



**Type J2**  
Value 250  
No Bar Code



**Type J3**  
Value 250  
13 Bar Codes

Thirteen short horizontal bars printed beside the imprinted stamp are limit markings to facilitate correct postmarking in an automated canceller machine.



The next design of the imprinted stamp features a fine depiction of the then Sansad Bhavan (Parliament House) (**Type – K**) in New Delhi, presented within an oval frame and surrounded by a simulated perforation border. Rendered in a single shade, the design highlights the building’s iconic circular colonnade and grand architectural symmetry.

The bilingual inscription “भारत INDIA” appears at the top corners, while the denomination “200” is printed on both lower sides.



The next design of the imprinted stamp motif (**Type – L**) depicts the famous Rock-Cut Rathas of Mahabalipuram, part of the UNESCO-listed Pallava heritage site on the Tamil Nadu coast. Executed in a single deep-grey shade, the design highlights one of the monolithic temple structures along with the iconic lion and elephant sculptures carved from a single rock.

Bilingual text inscription “भारत INDIA,” appears on the upper right corner and the denomination “250” on the upper left corner.



**Type L1**  
Value 250  
13 Thin Bars



**Type L2**  
Value 250  
18 Thick Bars

The caption in bilingual text “ROCK-CUT RATHAS, MAHABALIPURAM” vertically frame the vignette on the left side.



In the next design variation of the imprinted stamp, a dignified portrait of Mahatma Gandhi (**Type M**) is featured, enclosed within a frame that includes simulated perforations to resemble a traditional adhesive postage stamp. The bilingual inscription “भारत INDIA” appears vertically in a single line at the upper left, while “महात्मा गांधी MAHATMA GANDHI” is printed along the bottom in both Hindi and English. The denomination is positioned at the top right corner, maintaining visual balance within the layout. To the right of the portrait, the design incorporates 18 thick bars codes.



In the next design variation of the imprinted stamp, a dignified portrait of former Prime minister of India, Indira Gandhi (**Type N**) is featured, enclosed within a frame that includes simulated perforations to resemble a traditional adhesive postage stamp. The bilingual inscription “भारत INDIA” appears vertically in a single line at the upper left, while “इन्दिरा गांधी INDIRA GANDHI” is printed along the bottom in both Hindi and English. The denomination is positioned at the top right corner. To the right of the portrait, the design incorporates 18 thick bars codes.

The next variation in the series features a set of Heritage Postal Buildings (**Type – O**), marking a shift toward more detailed and architecturally themed imprinted stamps on Inland Letter Cards. Each stamp presents a multi-coloured illustration of the respective GPO building, enclosed within a frame of simulated perforations to evoke the appearance of a conventional postage stamp.

The name of each building is printed in a single bilingual line at the bottom, offering clear identification (details provided below). The denomination “250” appears prominently at the upper right corner, while the bilingual inscription “भारत INDIA” is positioned at the upper left, maintaining consistency with



contemporary design standards. This series highlights India Post’s rich architectural legacy through vibrant and visually engaging imprinted imagery.



**Type O1**

कोलकाता  
जी.पी.ओ.

Kolkata GPO



**Type O2**

शिमला  
जी.पी.ओ.

Shimla GPO



**Type O3**

दिल्ली  
जी.पी.ओ.

Delhi GPO



**Type O4**

पटना  
जी.पी.ओ.

Patna GPO



**Type O5**

मुंबई  
जी.पी.ओ.

Mumbai GPO



In the next design variation of the imprinted stamp features a portrait of Swami Vivekananda (**Type – P**), rendered in a fine-line engraved style. The figure is set against a distinctive radiating dot-pattern background, symbolizing his impact, energy, and spiritual influence. The portrait shows Swami Vivekananda in his iconic turban and robe, capturing his calm yet powerful presence.

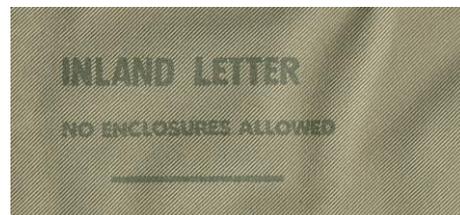
The stamp is enclosed in a simple rectangular frame with simulated perforation edges to resemble a traditional adhesive postage stamp. The bilingual inscription “भारत INDIA” appears in two line at the upper right, while “स्वामी विवेकानंद SWAMI VIVEKANANDA” is printed along the bottom in two lines. The denomination 250 is positioned at the top left corner. To the right of the portrait, the design incorporates 18 thick bars codes.

**Variations due to Title**

In the earlier issues, few design variations can be found based on combination of the imprinted stamp and the language of the text, till bilingual text became standard. The following are such variations.



Title Text only in Hindi



Title Text only in Hindi



Bilingual Title Text  
'INLAND LETTER'



Bilingual Title Text  
'INLAND LETTER CARD'



### Variations in Flap Design

Due to variations in Flap Design, few combination of design variations can be obtained based on the motif design and other combinations.

Top Flap Design variations are summarized below.



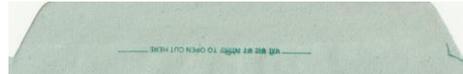
Rounded Top Flap (Type TF1)



Angled Top Flap (Type TF2)



Square Top Flap (Type TF3)



Curved Angle Top Flap (Type TF4)

Side Flap Design Variations are summarized below



Both Rounded Side Flap (Type SF1)



Both Angled Side Flap (Type SF2)



Both Squared Side Flap (Type SF3)



Angled Top and Squared Bottom Side Flap (Type SF4)

Few variations to Gumming on the Flap are summarized below



Normal Gum (Type FG1)



Dotted Gum (Type FG2)

Variations can also be due to style of text printed on the Flap



Normal Flap and Normal Text at Corner. Text Colour matching stamp colour



Flap with Outlay and Text in Box at Corner



Flap with Outlay and Text in Box at Center



Text in Different Colour



## Variations in design aspects of the Front Panel and Back Panel

There are few variations in printing design aspects of the Front Panel and Back Panel of which with combination of other variations lead to different designs. These variations are as summarised below.



Front Panel and Back Panel with Outlay Design



Front Panel and Back Panel with Outlay design. Border based on hatched Loozengas on Front Panel



Front Panel and Back Panel with Outlay design. Border based on Solid Loozengas on Front Panel



Front Panel and Back Panel without any Outlay

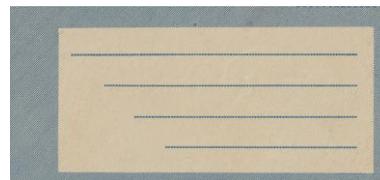
## Variations in design in Address Panel

There are few variations in design of Address Panel which with combination of other variations lead to different designs. The other variations in address panel are due to style of line used for Address, number of address lines and Style of Pin code Boxes. Variation in Address Panel design are summarised below.



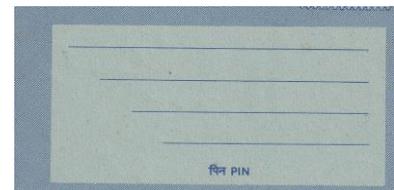
### Type AP1

Four Dotted Lines  
Each Line Size Different  
No Clear Box. Only Outlay



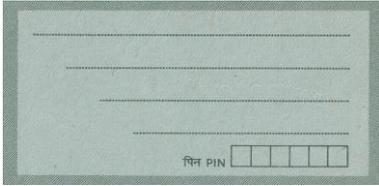
### Type AP2

Four Dotted Lines  
Each Line Size Different  
Clear Rectangular Box



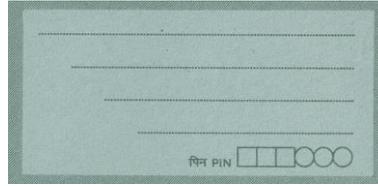
### Type AP3

Four Dotted Lines  
Each Line Size Different  
Clear Rectangular Box  
Bilingual Tex पिन PIN for  
Pincode below 4<sup>th</sup> Line



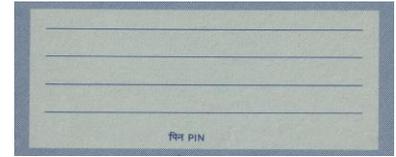
#### Type AP4

Four Dotted Lines  
Each Line Size Different  
Clear Rectangular Box  
Bilingual Tex पिन PIN for  
Pincode below 4<sup>th</sup> Line with  
Six Square Boxes



#### Type AP5

Four Dotted Lines  
Each Line Size Different  
Clear Rectangular Box  
Bilingual Tex पिन PIN for  
Pincode below 4<sup>th</sup> Line with  
3 Square & 3 Circular Boxes



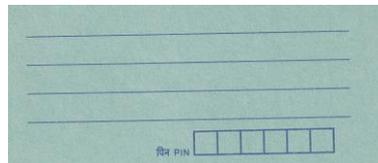
#### Type AP6

Four Dotted Lines  
Uniform Line Sizes  
Clear Rectangular Box  
Bilingual Tex पिन PIN for  
Pincode below 4<sup>th</sup> Line



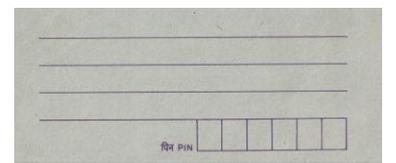
#### Type AP7

Four Solids Lines  
Uniform Line Size  
No Outlay. No Box.  
Bilingual Tex पिन PIN for  
Pincode below 4<sup>th</sup> Line



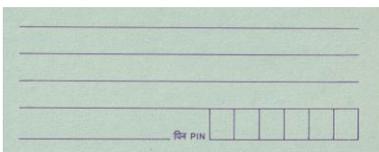
#### Type AP8

Four Solids Lines  
Uniform Line Size  
No Outlay. No Box  
Bilingual Tex पिन PIN for  
Pincode below 4<sup>th</sup> Line with  
6 Square Boxes



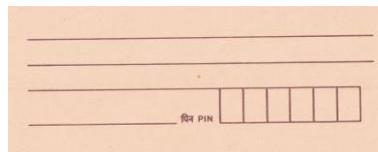
#### Type AP9

Four Dotted Lines  
Uniform Line Sizes  
No Outlay. No Box  
Bilingual Tex पिन PIN for  
Pincode below 4<sup>th</sup> Line.  
6 Rectangle boxes aligned  
with line



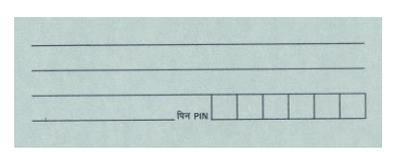
#### Type AP10

4 Solid Lines & 1 Short line  
Uniform Line Sizes  
No Outlay. No Box  
Bilingual Tex पिन PIN for  
Pincode below 4<sup>th</sup> Line.  
6 Rectangle boxes aligned  
with line.



#### Type AP11

3 Solid Lines & 1 Short line  
Uniform Line Size  
No Outlay. No Box  
Bilingual Tex पिन PIN for  
Pincode below 3<sup>rd</sup> Line.  
6 Rectangle boxes aligned  
with line.



#### Type AP12

3 Solid Lines & 1 Short line  
Uniform Line Size  
No Outlay. No Box  
Bilingual Tex पिन PIN for  
Pincode below 3<sup>rd</sup> Line.  
6 Squar boxes aligned with  
line.



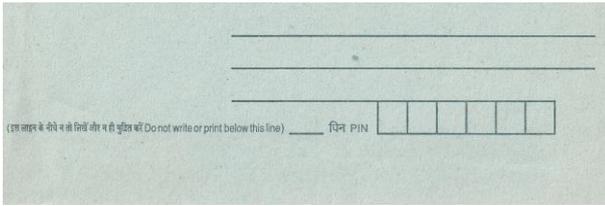
### Type AP13

3 Solid Lines & 1 Very Short line

Uniform Line Size

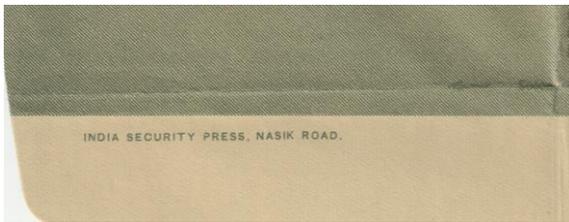
No Outlay. No Box

Bilingual Text पिन PIN for Pincode below 3<sup>rd</sup> Line. 6 Squar boxes aligned with line.



Automatic mail processing Instructions in Bilingual Text "( इस लाइन के नीचे न तो लिखें और न ही मुद्रित करें Do not write or print below this line)" printed below the third address line aligned with Pin Code Box. This panel design is currently in use.

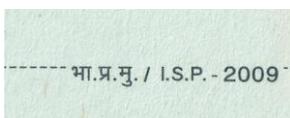
### Variations due to Printer Details and Year of Printing



Although the First Inland Letter Card issued had printer details on the Side Flap, subsequent issues did not had the printer name.

From 1992 onward, the printer's name began appearing on Inland Letter Cards for the first time, starting with the Ship imprinted-stamp design produced by CSP (Calcutta Security Printers, Kanpur) and MSP (Madras Security Printers, Chennai).

Beginning in 1999, the marking was further expanded to include both the printer's name and the year of printing. A few representative examples are shown below. These inscriptions create multiple identifiable combinations of printer and year across the various ILC designs, adding an additional dimension of collectability and classification.



Indian Security Press, Nashik



Security Printing Press, Hyderabad



Madras Security Press, Chennai



Calcutta Security Press, Kanpur

### Commemorative Inland Letter Cards

To commemorate specific events, special sets of Inland Letter Cards (ILCs) are issued by India Post. In these commemorative releases, along with the standard ILC title, additional information such as event details, dates, or logos is incorporated in the address panel. Beyond their regular postal function, these



cards also serve as promotional material for the events they represent, making them particularly valuable to collectors. As a result, such commemorative ILCs hold an important place in Indian postal stationery and philatelic-exhibition memorabilia. Some examples of commemorative Inland Letter Cards are shown below.



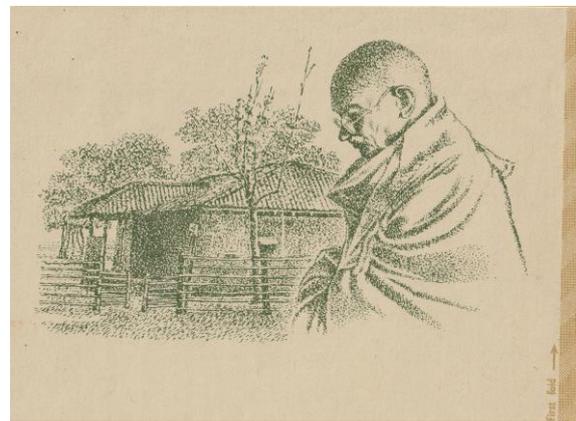
This commemorative Inland Letter Card was issued in 1954 to mark the Centenary of the First Postage Stamps of India (1854–1954). Title had text only in Hindi script.

Next commemorative Inland Letter Card was issued on 02<sup>nd</sup> October 1969 to mark the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi (1869–1969).

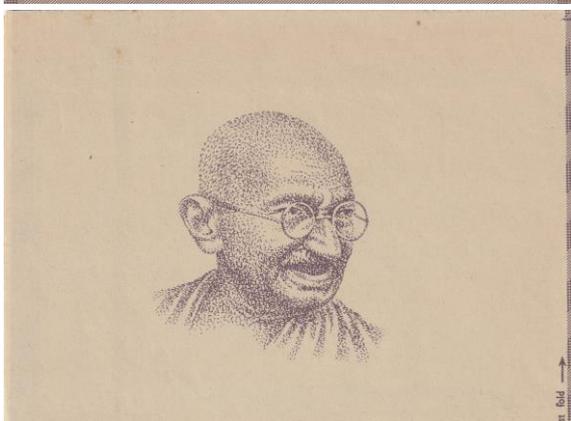
Three different designs were issued which features an imprinted 15 paise Ashokan Lion Capital stamp.

The front and back panel had outlay with decorative diagonal pattern (loozengas).

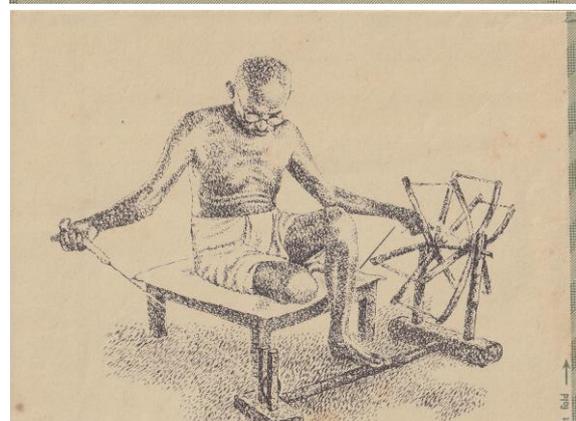
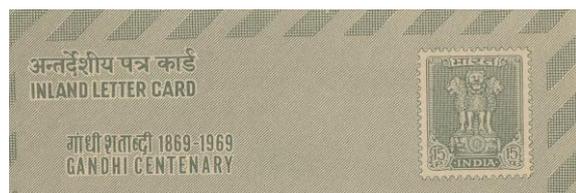
The message panel had pictures of Mahatma Gandhi. Bilingual inscriptions highlighting the occasion, reading “Gandhi Centenary 1869–1969” were printed below the title in the front panel.



Outlay and Stamp in Bistre Colour with image of Gandhiji and Sabarmati Ashram in Green Colour.



Outlay and Stamp in Violet Colour with Portrait of Gandhiji in violet Colour.



Outlay and Stamp in Green Colour with image of Gandhiji spinning wheel in Violet Colour.



Next commemorative Inland Letter Card was issued to mark INDIPEX 73, International Philatelic Exhibition hosted in India conducted between 14-23 November 1973 . These ILCs are printed on Greyish Paper with Greyish Green colour outlay and 15-paise Ashoka Lion Capital imprinted stamp on the right. Two different designs were issued to commemorate the event.

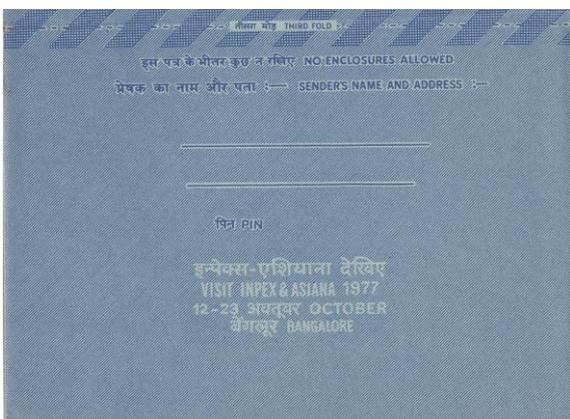


Issued on 01<sup>st</sup> April 1973 with only Exhibition Logo. To the left, a special INDIPEX 73 emblem and bilingual inscription highlight the event, integrating the exhibition logo with the numeral “73.”

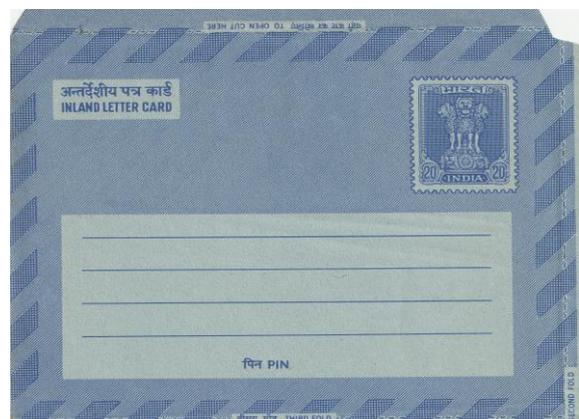


Issued on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1973 with additional text “Visit Indipex, Hall of Nations, New Delhi 14-23 Nov 1973 in English set vertically below Indipex label and same text in Hindi on the back panel.

The next commemorative Inland Letter Card was issued to mark Inpex - Asiana 1977, a philatelic exhibition held from 12–23 October 1977 in Bangalore. This ILC was issued on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1977 and printed with a distinctive blue outlay on blue paper with blue colour imprinted stamp design of Ashokan Emblem and 20 P Denomination. The commemorative text is prominently overprinted in white, in both Hindi and English, announcing the event and dates in the space on the back panel, whereas the front panel remained with standard design.



Back Panel details

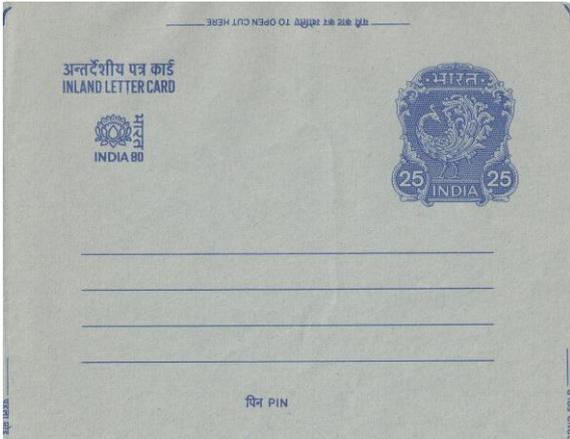


Front Panel Details

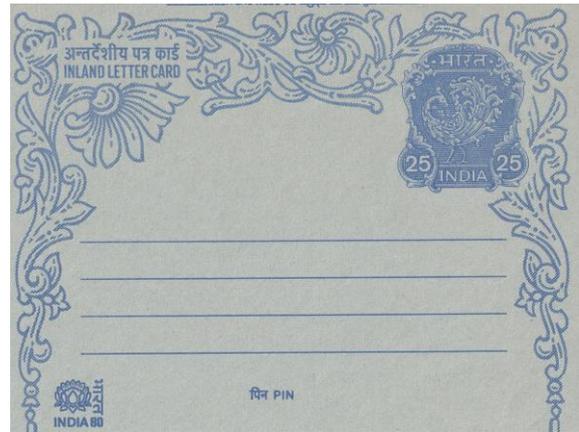


The next commemorative Inland Letter Card was issued for INDIA 80, the World Philatelic Exhibition held in New Delhi between 25 January- 3 February 1980. The card features the 25-paise peacock-motif imprinted stamp on the right. INDIA 80 exhibition emblem—depicting a stylized lotus with the bilingual inscription “INDIA 80”—highlighting the event was printed on the front panel.

There are two designs issued to commemorate this event.



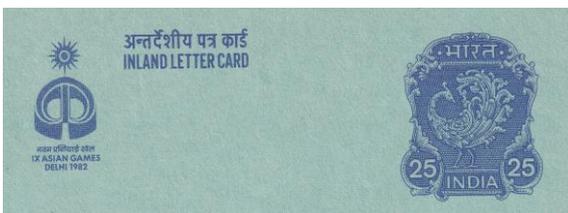
Issued on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1979 with no decorative framing. INDIA 80 logo was placed on left below the title “INLAND LETTER CARD”.



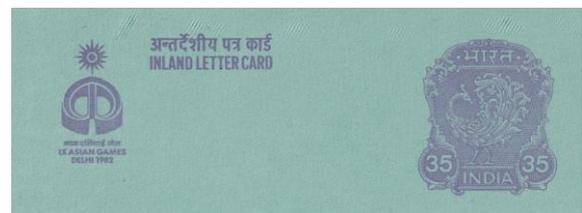
Issued on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1979 with decorative design framing front and back panels in blue colour. INDIA 80 logo was placed at lower left corner on front panel.

Next commemorative Inland Letter Card was issued to mark the IX Asian Games held in New Delhi between 19 November to 4 December 1982. On the left appears the official emblem of the 1982 Asian Games—the image of Mishra Yantra, one of the four distinct astronomical instruments of the Jantar Mantar, New Delhi observatory—along with the bilingual inscription IX Asian Games, Delhi 1982.

There two different designs with respect to the denomination and colour of printing. Based on back panel design and flap variations there are many variants.



Issued on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1981 with 25 P Denomination in Blue Colour



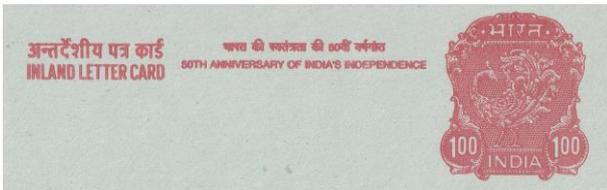
Issued on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1982 with 35 P Denomination in Violet Colour



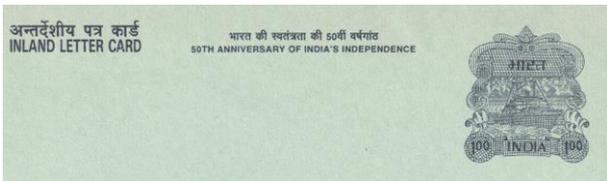
The next commemorative Inland Letter Card was issued in 1997 to mark the 50th anniversary of India's Independence on 15 August 1997. These ILCs were released at a 100-paise denomination and featured three distinct variants based on the front-panel design. Additional combinations also exist, arising from differences in flap shapes and printer's imprints, making this issue an interesting collectible series for postal stationery enthusiasts.



Imprinted Stamp is based on Stylised Peacock design. It featured the multicoloured logo for 50th Anniversary of India's Independence.

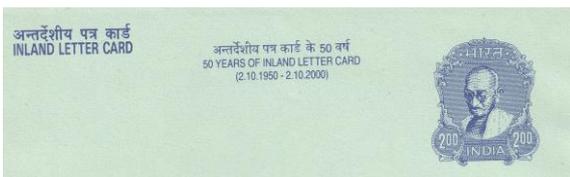


Imprinted Stamp is based on Stylised Peacock design. It featured only the bilingual text 50th Anniversary of India's Independence.



Imprinted Stamp is based on Stylised Ship design. It featured only the bilingual text 50th Anniversary of India's Independence.

Next commemorative Inland Letter Card was issued to mark the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the Inland Letter Card in India (2.10.1950 – 2.10.2000). The stationery bears a special bilingual inscription celebrating the golden jubilee of the service. The imprinted 200-paise stamp features the classic portrait of Mahatma Gandhi within the traditional ornamental frame used for Indian postal stationery which is used only for this commemorative issue. Variations in shade and printing ink are known for this issue, as seen in different blue tones.



Blue on Bluish Paper printed at MSP  
Issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2000



Royal Blue on Bluish Paper printed at CSP  
Issue on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2000

Next commemorative Inland Letter Card was issued on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2000 to mark Indepex Asiana-2000, the Asian International Philatelic Exhibition held in Kolkata from 7–12 December 2000. The card features a special blue cachet with the Indipex Asiana emblem and bilingual inscription welcoming visitors to the exhibition.



The imprinted stamp depicts the traditional 200-paise peacock-design used on Indian postal stationery.



Next commemorative Inland Letter Card was issued on 13 May 2002 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Parliament of India, established in 1952 after the first general elections. The card bears a special inscription in Hindi and English noting the golden jubilee milestone.



The imprinted 200-paise stamp depicts the then iconic circular Parliament House designed in a distinctive magenta colour.

Next commemorative Inland Letter Card was issued in 2011 to mark INDIPEX 2011, the World Philatelic Exhibition held in New Delhi under the aegis of India Post and the FIP.

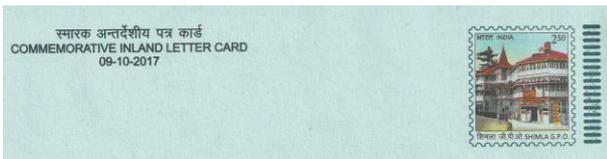


The card features the INDIPEX 2011 emblem printed alongside the standard 250-paise imprinted stamp depicting Indira Gandhi.

Next commemorative Inland Letter Card was issued as a set of 5 ILCs on 09 October 2017 to celebrate India's rich postal heritage. These Inland Letter cards highlights India Post's efforts to honour historic postal structures that have served as vital communication hubs for over a century. Issued on World Post Day, it stands as a tribute to the architectural and cultural legacy of India's postal network.



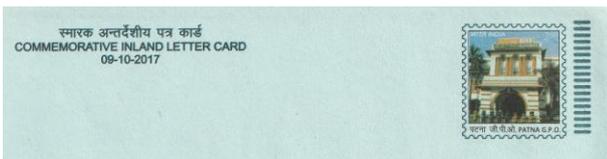
The imprinted stamp features the iconic Kolkata G.P.O renowned for its majestic dome and classical architectural style.



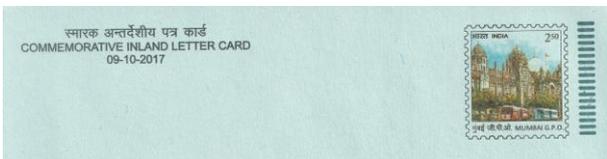
The imprinted stamp features the Shimla G.P.O. known for its distinctive British-era hill architecture with its sloping red roofs and timber-framed design.



The imprinted stamp depicts Delhi G.P.O. showcasing its colonial-era architecture with its arched windows.



The imprinted stamp depicts the Patna G.P.O. featuring its distinctive arched entrance and striped façade, characteristic of early 20th-century architecture.



The imprinted stamp features the iconic Mumbai G.P.O. showcasing its Indo-Saracenic architecture.



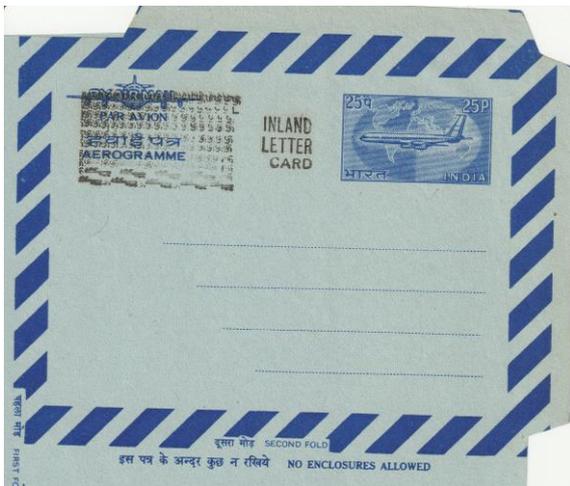
## Special Variants

Apart from variations due to design details, there are few variations which is due to other factors. Such examples are furnished below.

### Overprinted 25P Aerogramme

The 25 paise Aerogramme was originally issued in 1968 and was valid exclusively for air letter correspondence to Pakistan, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), and the Maldives. In 1971, the postal tariff for the Maldives alone was revised, but major changes followed in 1975 and 1976, when the minimum airmail letter rate was increased to ₹1.40. As a result of these tariff revisions, large quantities of the 25P Aerogramme remained unsold in postal stock.

To utilise this surplus, India Post re-issued these aerogrammes in 1980 by locally overprinting the existing text. The words “Aerogramme” and the “Par Avion” airmail logo were replaced with the inscription “INLAND LETTER CARD”, converting them for domestic postal use.

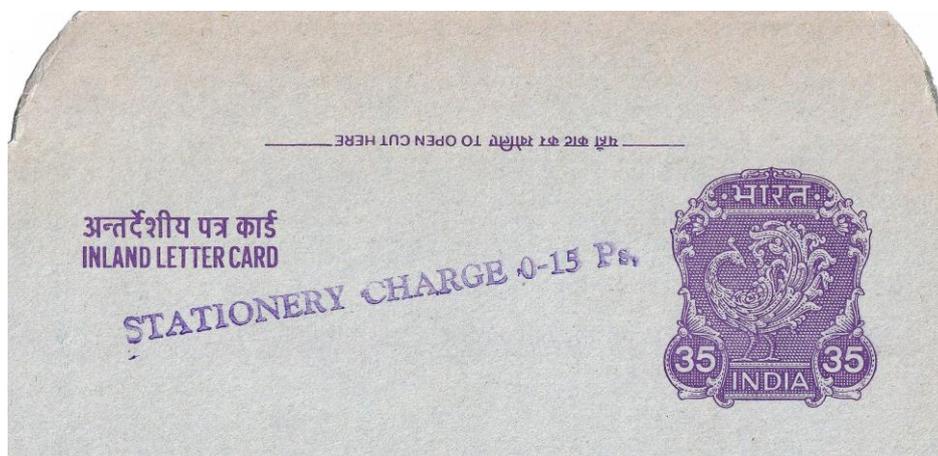


Because the overprinting was carried out at local postal depots rather than at a central press, numerous varieties exist.

These include differences in typeface, alignment, spacing, shade, and placement of the overprint—making this issue particularly interesting for philatelists and postal stationery collectors.

## Stationary Charges

With effect from 01 April 1988, Stationery Charge was introduced on the Inland Letter Cards by the Department of Post. Each Postmaster's were authorised to apply a rubber stamp impression for collecting this surcharge.

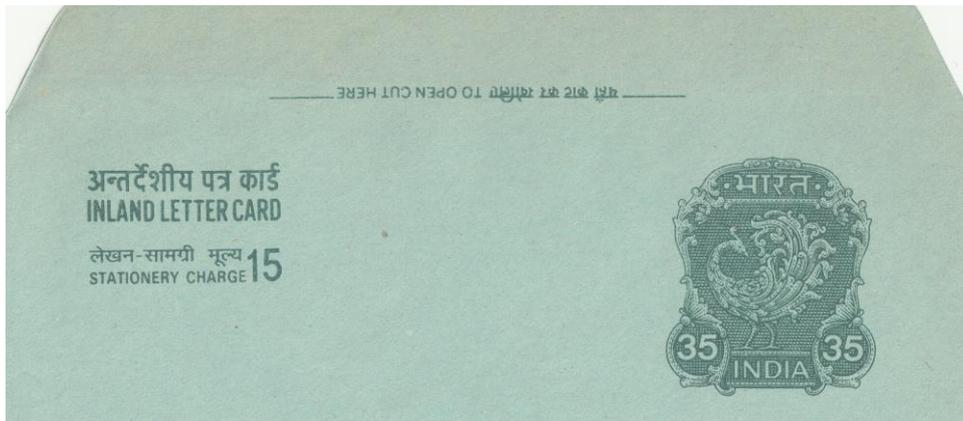




Since this was done locally at Postmaster level in each post office, there are significant variations in style of these rubber stamp making it an item for further study and collection by philatelists. Few of these variants are provided below.



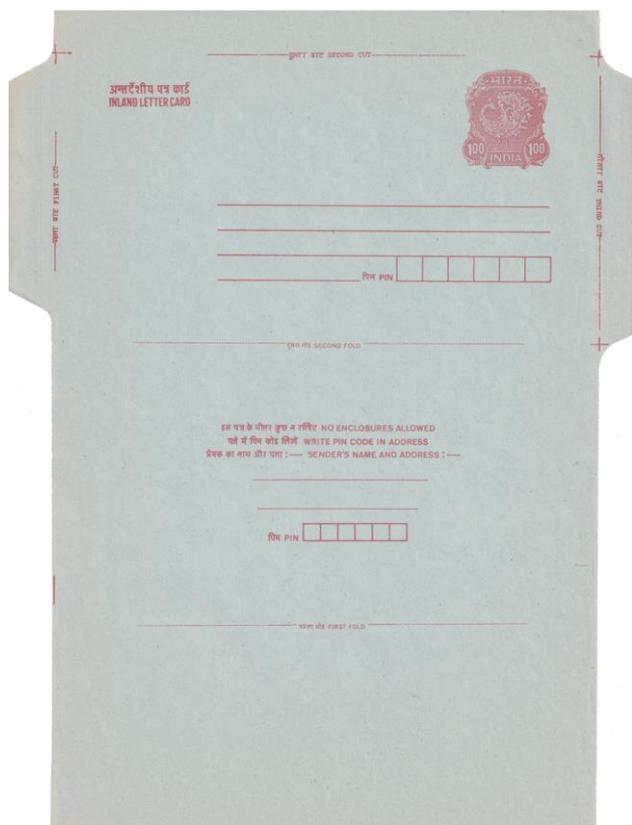
Subsequently on 15 July 1988, a new Inland Letter Card design was introduced wherein the Stationery charges of 15 P was inscribed as printed bilingual text below the INLAND LETTER CARD text title.



### 1998 Inland Letter Card – An Uncommon Aerogramme-Style Format

In October 1998, India Post introduced a new experimental Inland Letter Card format, which closely resembled an aerogramme in style and was significantly larger than the standard three-fold Inland Letter Cards. The front panel measured 171 × 91 mm, making it visibly distinct in size and layout. Issued only in limited numbers from Chennai, this item has since become one of the most sought-after pieces among postal stationery collectors.

The format displayed several unique design characteristics. The top flap was a flat square type—a style not seen in any other Indian Inland Letter Card. The side flaps were asymmetrical, with a short angled left flap and a slightly longer curved right flap, making this the only inland letter card with uneven side flaps.



The address panel featured three full lines and one short line, along with six square Pincode boxes aligned with the third address line.

The flap inscriptions also differed from regular three-fold ILCs. The instructions “First Cut,” “Second Cut,” and “Third Cut” appeared on the left, top, and right flaps respectively, printed in bilingual format, further distinguishing this experimental issue.

Because of its unusual format, distinctive design elements, and the very limited quantity released, the 1998 Aerogramme Style Inland Letter Card remains one of the most coveted items in the field of Indian postal stationery.

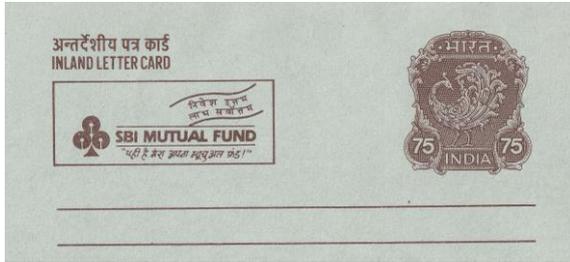
## Advertisement Inland Letter Cards

India Post officially muted the idea of using space at the back panel for advertisements in 1975. The first Inland Letter Card (ILC) carrying an advertisement was issued on 28 July 1975, featuring a promotion for State Bank of India’s Gift Cheques. The advertisement was printed on the back panel, just below the sender’s address area.



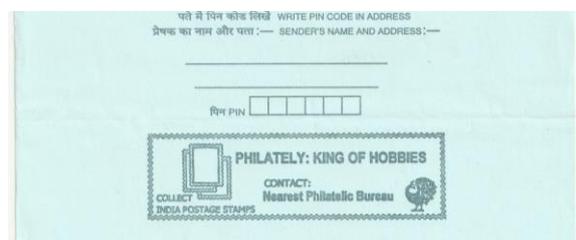


These advertisement ILCs display a wide range of variations in paper type, paper colour, printing style (from single-colour to multicolour), layout, setting, and language. Beyond philatelic study of their many varieties, these items form a fascinating field of modern postal stationery collecting, offering insights into government schemes, public-awareness campaigns, and social themes of the period.



While advertisements were predominantly printed on the back panel, a few examples exist where the advertisement appears on the front panel as well. Some representative advertisement ILCs are shown below.

Apart from paid advertisements at the back panel space, India Post began printing Philately-related promotional messages on the regular Inland Letter Cards from 2004.



### Formula Inland Letter Cards

Alongside the earliest Inland Letter Cards bearing the imprinted stamp design of the Ashokan Emblem, Formula ILCs—which featured a blank space in place of the pre-printed stamp—were also introduced. These formula issues were primarily intended for business users who relied on franking machines for prepayment of postage.

Supplied in bulk and without any postage affixed, they were made available in limited quantities through Postal Stock Depots at predefined rates. They could also be purchased individually, provided the appropriate postage stamp was affixed before use. Examples of such usage are shown in the figures below.



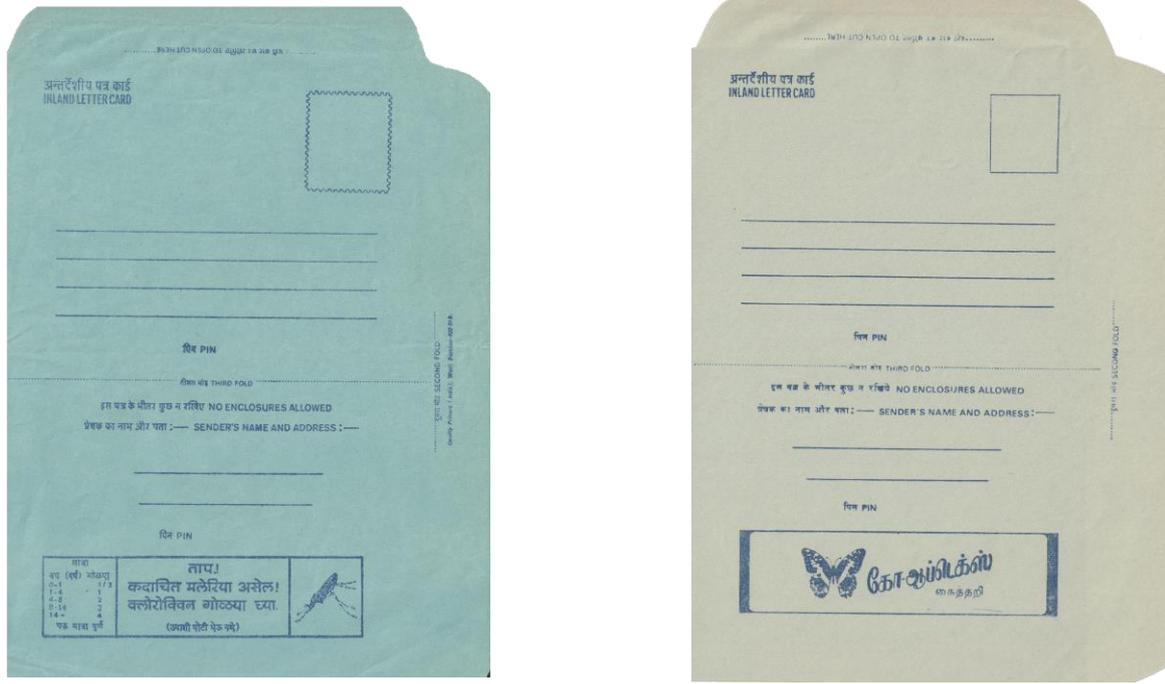
Image sourced from Internet Article by Mr. Ashok Kumar Bayanwala



During periods of exceptionally high demand, when Government Printing Presses were unable to keep pace with required production, formula ILCs were additionally printed by local printers to ensure uninterrupted supply.



These special, locally printed issues—produced at the postal circle level—exhibit numerous variations and have since become particularly interesting to collectors. A few such examples are illustrated below.



### Conclusion

As Inland Letter Cards gradually disappear from everyday use, they gain renewed significance in the world of philately—no longer just utilitarian stationery, but enduring testaments to India’s cultural and communicative journey. Their evolving motifs and design elements are far more than aesthetic choices; they are markers of changing priorities, technological shifts, and historical milestones, each contributing a thread to the nation’s broader narrative.

From the symbolic assertion of sovereignty in the early Republic to their quiet retreat in the digital age, Inland Letter Cards mirror the evolution of India itself—its languages, its governance, and its methods of connecting people across vast distances. Their many variations in imprinted stamps, denomination panels, address layouts, pincode boxes, borders, and flaps provide rich terrain for study, helping collectors trace specific periods of issue and printing practices with remarkable precision.

For the philatelist, the Inland Letter Card offers more than collectible value; it offers a story of nation-building, communicated one-fold at a time. Each subtle variation becomes a piece of history, inviting rediscovery, documentation, and preservation. In this way, the ILC continues to live on—not in letterboxes, but in collections, research, and the enduring legacy of India’s postal heritage.



### About the Author

**Senthilkumar Chandrasekaran** is a Chemical Engineer by qualification and currently employed as Senior GM & Head – Engineering at VA Tech Wabag Ltd. Post Independence Postal Stationary is one of his collection interests.

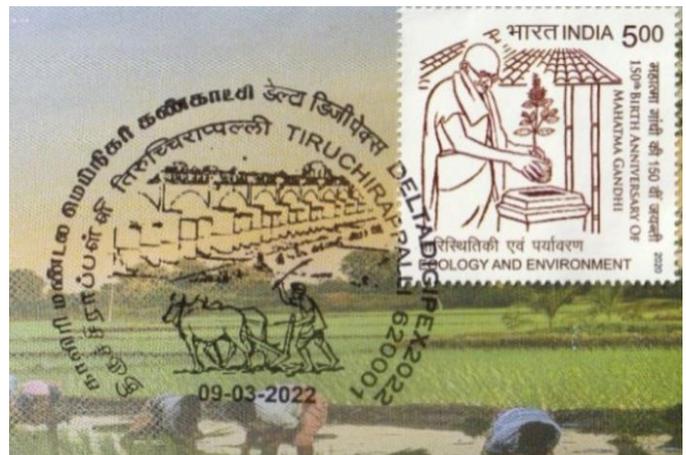
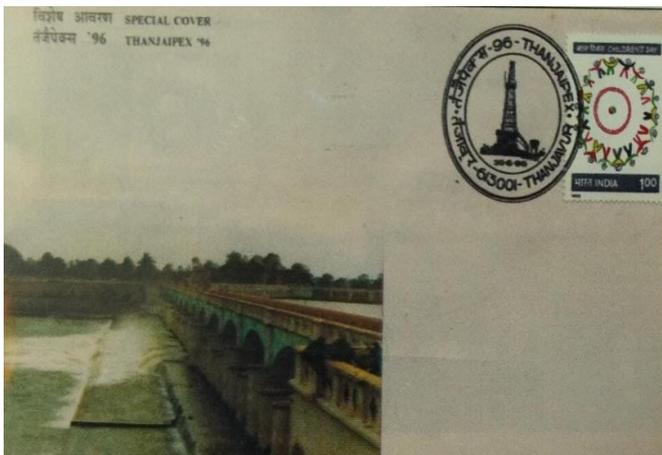


## Recognising India's Irrigation Structures for Water Management “World Heritage Irrigation Structures” (WHIS) of UNESCO

**S Balasundaram**  
Asst. Postmaster General (Retd.) &  
Life Member, SIPA

India has an ancient tradition of water management system from more than 5000 years. The testament to the collection of monsoon rainwater through reservoirs and wells can be seen in the Indus Valley civilisation (3000-1500 BC). Mohenjo-Daro, the largest city belonging to the Harappa culture, had open wells. The people of India possessed remarkable skills in the construction of dams, lakes, and tanks since old age. Their knowledge and expertise in water conservation systems enable them to conceive and implement more improved structures to effectively store the precious river water and monsoon rainwater.

Indians experimented with various kinds of dams, the simplest being the earthen embankment designed to create a reservoir or divert a stream. Downstream of the Srirangam island on the Kaveri (Cauvery) river, some 1,800 years ago, King Karikal Chola built a more ambitious structure, the *Kallanai* or Grand Anicut, which finds a mention in the Tamil epic *Shilappadikaram*. Still visible today (in restored form), at 320 m long and 20 m wide, it is an ingenious device which stops the Kaveri from emptying itself into its own northern distributary, the faster and steeper Kollidam (or Coleroon), preserving much of the river's water for irrigation in the Kaveri's lower delta.



*Special cover depicting Kallanai released during Thanjaipex in 1996 & Special cancellation on the Dam with a ploughing farmer dated 09.03.2022 at Tiruchirappalli*

Realising the importance of creating awareness of the ancient irrigation structures of various countries around the world and recognising the need for preserving such constructions, at the 63rd meeting of the International Executive Council (IEC) held at Adelaide, Australia on 28 June 2012, President Gao Zhanyi suggested that a process for recognition of the historical irrigation structures on the lines of World Heritage Sites as recognised by UNESCO shall be initiated. Thus came into effect the "World Heritage Irrigation Structure" (WHIS) program. The aim of the WHIS is to document the historical structures worldwide that have contributed to the evolution of irrigation and drainage in agriculture through history and document them in the WHIS Register.

The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) is a leading scientific, technical, and professional not-for-profit international organization working in the field of irrigation, drainage, and flood management to promote and achieve sustainable agriculture water management has been tasked with

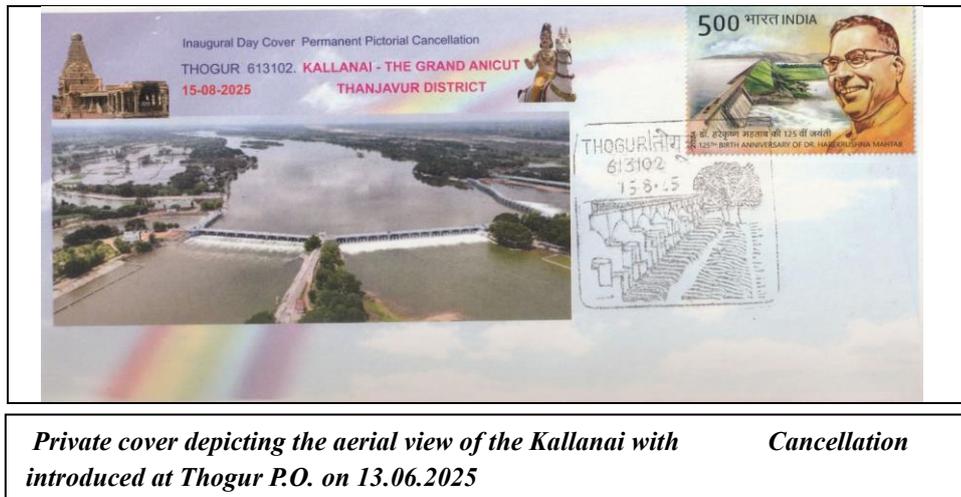


selection of “World Heritage Irrigation Structures” (WHIS) that includes both old operational irrigation structures as well as those having archival value.

### India’s ranking and Tamil Nadu’s place in WHIS

As of 2025, WHIS recognised 202 irrigation structures, of which India has 26 sites. Eight of 26 sites are located in Tamil Nadu, which testifies to the fact that the rulers from Karikal Chola of the early Chola dynasty gave importance to water management. The following are the brief accounts of these eight sites.

1. The **Cheyvar Anicut**, a significant heritage irrigation structure, was built in 1852 across the Cheyyar River, a major tributary of the Palar River. Located near Avaniyauram village in Cheyyar Taluk of Tiruvannamalai District, it lies about 116 km downstream from the river’s origin in the Javvaddhu Hills. Constructed as the sixth anicut on this river, the Cheyyar Anicut has a remarkable history of over 172 years of continuous service to the region’s irrigation sector.
2. The **Kallanai Dam** was built during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD by Karikalalan, a king of southern India's old Chola Dynasty and is also one of the oldest irrigation systems in the world that is still in use. Kallanai Dam is the fourth oldest dam in the world, and first in India. It is a rock-solid project that has survived 2,000 years. The purpose of the dam was to divert the waters of the Kaveri across the fertile Thanjavur delta region for irrigation via canals. The Kallanai is an anicut of unhewn stone that stands in the Kaveri parallel to the riverbank; it is more than 300 m long, 20 m wide, and 4.5 m high. It is believed that Kallanai initially irrigated about 69,000 acres, though it now irrigates close to 1 million acres (13,20,116 Acres).



*Private cover depicting the aerial view of the Kallanai with Cancellation introduced at Thogur P.O. on 13.06.2025*

3. The **Kalingarayan channel** in Erode Taluk is one of the oldest channels of the Bhavani River and it takes off from the right side of the Kalingarayan Anicut. The Kalingarayan Anicut is also the oldest Anicut constructed across the river Bhavani just above its confluence with river Cauvery near Bhavani town in 1285 AD ago in the pre-British era by one Kalingarayan Gounder a native chief. This is the second and the last Anicut across the river Bhavani below the Bhavanisagar Reservoir.
4. The **Kodiveri Anicut**, located in Kodiveri village of Gobi Taluk in Tamil Nadu, was constructed in the 17th century under the reign of the Hindu kings of Mysore. With a history spanning over 300 years, it stands as one of the oldest and most significant irrigation structures on the Bhavani River, a major tributary in the Cauvery basin. Built using traditional engineering techniques of the era, the anicut reflects the foresight and ingenuity of its creators, who established a durable and functional irrigation system that continues to support agriculture centuries later.



5. The **Lower Coleroon Anicut** has got a hoary past. It was constructed by Sir Arthur Cotton, the most illustrious Engineer of the period 1827 – 1836. The Lower Anicut was constructed in the year 1836 across the Coleroon river downstream of upper Anicut at the 67th mile, where the Coleroon river Branches off from River Cauvery. This Anicut is intended for the benefit of 1,31,903 Acres of land in the Thanjavur, Nagapattinam and Cuddalore districts. The irrigation needs will be met mainly from the regenerated Cauvery water and by supplementing supplies direct from Grand Anicut. Irrigation Supplies for three crops Viz. Kuruvai, Samba and Kullakar will have to be given for the Ayacut under this system. This Anicut system, therefore, functions effectively throughout the year except for a month of closure period for carrying out the maintenance repairs to the Anicut and shuttering arrangements.
6. The **Noyyal River System Tanks** trace their origin to the Chalukya Chola period, constructed between 1000 and 1300 CE in the Kongu region of present-day Tamil Nadu. These tanks are an enduring testament to the sophisticated water management practices of early South Indian dynasties. Developed as an integrated irrigation network, they reflect a deep understanding of local topography, hydrology, and sustainable agricultural needs.

The Chalukya Cholas, known for their administrative prowess and temple architecture, also invested in civic infrastructure, particularly water conservation. The Noyyal system, with its intricate linkages between tanks, anicuts, and feeder channels, showcases their advanced engineering capabilities. Many of these tanks have remained functional for over 700 years, underlining the durability and ingenuity of their original construction.

7. The **Srivaikuntam Anicut / Minor dam** is one of the oldest anicut constructed across river Thambraparani at L.S.103 K.M. in between Srivaikuntam and Puthugudi Villages about 147 years ago in British Era. The Srivaikuntam Anicut consists of three parts (ie) Main Anicut cum Road Bridge, North Head Sluice and South Head Sluice. The length of Anicut (body wall) is 421m. The maximum flood discharge of Srivaikuntam Anicut is 135000 Cusecs occurred on 14.11.1992. Thambraparani river is the main drinking water resource to Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Virudunagar Districts. Srivaikuntam Anicut is the eighth and last anicut under Thambraparani irrigation system.
8. The **Veeranam tank** was excavated during the period of Paranthaga Chola-1 in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. This tank was excavated by his soldiers during the rest time available after the war. He named it in the name of Veera Naraya Perumal temple as Veeranarayanan Eri and now it is called as Veeranam tank. It is the largest tank in Cuddalore District. The tank was constructed to store the rainwater from its catchment area to irrigate the ayacut downstream of the tank bund. Later, a supply channel was excavated from the Coleroon river at Anaikkarai and this channel is called the Vadavar Channel.

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[https://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/1](https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/1)



#### About the author

**S Balasundaram**, retired officer of the Indian Postal Service, evinced interest in philately for over three decades. Recipient of the highest Meghdoot Award from the Ministry of Communications for dedicated work and innovative and implementable ideas. As an Officer on Special Duty, after retirement, successfully organised the National-level Stamp Exhibition, INPEX 2008, in Chennai. As a legal person, immensely contributed to the preparation and implementation of Biodiversity-related laws.



## POST OFFICE-THE FORE-RUNNER OF THE WORLD OF COMMUNICATION

**K Rangan**  
**Retd. Asst.Postmaster General**  
**Chennai**

### COMMUNICATION

Good communication is the bridge between confusion and clarity. It leads to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing while miscommunication leads to frustration.

### STRANGE MODES OF COMMUNICATION IN THE OLDEN DAYS (TILL 15<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AD)

When human beings gained some intelligence and cognitive abilities, they needed to communicate with each other from the beginning. This has led to discovery of several languages, words and letters. Then comes the exchange of views and advices between one group and the other groups. History speaks about scores of methods tried by them to communicate with others before the advent of the Post Offices. It included using messengers, horse and foot runners and smoke signals and heliograph-- a signalling device that uses a mirror to flash sunlight in a series of long and short flashes. Rich individuals could afford to pay private messengers while Empires and Rulers could establish relay systems in which Runners or even Soldiers or horse riders were carrying the messages. Pigeons were also trained to carry messages to specific destinations, often by attaching a message to their feet. Service like “Horse Dak” and “Runner Services” were developed in India by Rulers like Sher Shah and Babur.



The history of engaging runners itself involved a long drawn experience. As clear communications were essential for governing the extensive Empires of the ancient world, historical references relating to communication systems of Egypt about 2000 BC and China's Posthouse relay system about 1000 BC and Persian Empire's arrangements of mounted messengers served by Posthouses in 6<sup>th</sup> century BC are available. The Roman Empire's *curses publicus* was considered to be highly developed postal system of the ancient world. In this system, it is told that the horse mounted messengers were able to cover more

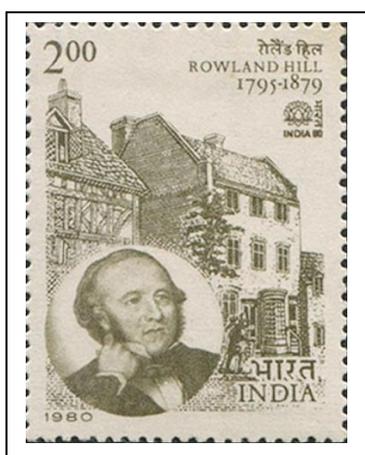


than 170 miles in a day and night. This system was famous and adopted by subsequent rulers in other parts. The Arabian Postal system and the Pre-Columbian civilizations of America also evolved the relay systems on the basis of *curses publicus*. In the Middle Ages, as the kings of the period were struggling to assert their authority over their unruly feudal vassals, a strong communication system was not paid enough attention.

### **EVOLUTION OF THE EARLY POSTAL SYSTEM: -**

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century AD, however, Gutenberg's Printing press and the subsequent increase in education, necessitated the improved Postal services. Letter carrying business became a profitable one. Private organisations and Governments in various countries employed couriers to carry the letters. In England, a Master of the Posts was appointed by Henry VIII in 1516 to maintain regular postal service along the main roads radiating from London. The security and regularity of the service were in peril. Separate Public Service was created in 1635 AD by a Royal Proclamation. Both France and England began to develop the System as Monopolies since such an evolution was seen by rulers as advantageous both to the security of the letters and revenues of the States. In 1672 France declared Postal services to be a state Monopoly. In 1680 Penny Post was set up in London for local delivery. In this, the letters were prepaid and stamped to indicate place of posting and the time they were sent out for delivery. During 18<sup>th</sup> century, as the economic growth in England, demanded better mail services to the growing commercial and manufacturing centres, *stage-coaches* were used to speed up the mail delivery and it became possible to deliver the articles on the next morning, if they are posted within 120 miles from London. A carefully regulated Postal service in England, unprecedented for its standards of speed, frequency and security was evolved during this period. Despite disruptive effects of Revolutionary wars, great progress was made in Europe in the Postal system in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in improving the speed and regularity of the Postal services.

### **SIR ROWLAND HILL'S REFORMS:-(Father of the existing postal System)**



The publication in 1837 of "POST OFFICE REFORM, ITS IMPORTANCE AND PRACTIABILITY" by Sir Rowland Hill, a British Educator and Tax reformer is justly regarded always as one of the most important milestones in Postal progress. He opined that the then current intricate charging scales based on distance were irrelevant, as they inflated the operating costs by requiring a host of clerks to apply them and to prepare intricate office accounts. He expressed that the conveying charges were an insignificant factor in the total cost of handling a letter and hence a single postage within the country will be enough.

He also found that all the articles were to be prepaid. The then existing system of collecting the postage charges from the addressee at the time of delivery in the post paid system, was causing lot of work in collection, accounting etc and it involved double work of delivering it back to the sender and collecting the money due. Therefore, he suggested the system of prepayment of postage charges by affixing adhesive-stamps of prescribed value. The significance of his reforms lies not only in the fact that they



brought the post within the means of the mass of people, but also in the less obvious way in which they gave the postal system the technical capacity to deal with the vastly increased demand for postal service that ensued.



*Stamp on India's First Postage stamp, Scinde Dawk & World's First Postcard by Austria*

The radical simplification of Postal Organisation and methods characterizing Hill's reforms are the key to the speed and economy with which modern postal systems in many countries handle tens of millions of letters daily. Lower tariffs for Newspaper and Printed Matters was also introduced with an intention to favour the spread of education. But it quickly expanded, under the vigorous pressure of vested interests, to cover all sorts of commercial documents, advertising matters, magazines, etc. An inexpensive form of correspondence, the POST CARD was first introduced by Austria in 1869, and it was soon adopted by most other countries. The general postal reforms of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century ensured maximum benefit from the technological progress in transports in the great age of the railways and the steamship. These new modes of conveyance permitted a far speedier, more regular and more reliable mail service both internally and internationally. Instead of merely carrying the closed mail bags, postal administrations soon introduced the practice of sorting the letters in transit, using specially adapted railway cars. The first travelling post offices ran in 1838 between Birmingham and Liverpool and London and Peston. This allowed the delivery of letters on the next day of posting in several places exceeding 400 miles from the place of posting.

## AIRMAIL

Balloon posts were tried for postal transmission but they carried souvenir mails only, owing to the Balloon's uncontrollability. It was only through the development of the airplane in the early decades of 20<sup>th</sup> century, airmail truly came into existence. When the reliability of airplanes had considerably improved, regular international service was introduced first between London and Paris in 1919. The advantages and reliability of flights were exploited in different ways since 1920s. During the mid 1960s the Universal Postal Union, in response to the continuing increase of aircraft capacity, adopted the policy of maximizing air conveyance of mails. In the mid 1970s the concept of SURFACE-AIR-LIFTED (SAL) was developed. This allowed certain mails to be air lifted within the country. Use of SAL varied from country to country. Britain introduced the Aerogramme during world war II for individual correspondence. Recognised by the UPU, aerogramme is available in most countries.



## **UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION :-**

Steamship and the railways provided for speedier international postal services. Expansion of Commerce ensued a growing demand for that. Unfortunately, serious obstacles existed for free exchange of international mails. Countries entered into bilateral postal treaties by 1860. But with the increased no. of such treaties with other countries, the work relating to the maintenance of accounts with each country became unmanageable as each country was having different currency, units of weight and measurements. Consequently the mails were delayed. In May, 1863, 15 European and American Postal Administrations met at the Paris Postal Conference and established important general principles for the simplification of procedures for international airmail. These were adopted as a model for subsequent bilateral treaties. In 1868, a plan for a general postal union was put forward by North German Confederation and an International Postal Congress met in Bern. On October 9, 1874 a Treaty concerning the Establishment of a General Postal Union was signed and was implemented on 1.7.1875. The title was changed in 1878 to the Universal Postal Union and the treaty was renamed as Universal Postal Convention. The Treaty provides a uniform framework of rules and procedures for the exchange of international mails. It gradually extended its functions to cover the other international services such as Money Orders, Parcel Posts etc. The UPU has been a specialized agency of the United Nations since 1948.

## **INDIAN POSTAL SERVICE:-**

As has been seen in the world, India's Postal system traces back to ancient times with methods like royal envoys and pigeons. An organized system began with the British in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Key developments include the establishment of a regular system by Robert Clive for the mails of East India Company in 1766. Warren Hastings thrown open the Postal system to the Public in March, 1777 by establishing a General Post Office at Kolkotta. In 1854 Lord Dalhousie introduced the Post Office Act with uniform postage rates and stamps, creating a modern, structured network across British India. India joined the Universal Postal Union on 1.7.1876. In 1911 the first airmail flight operated from Allahabad to Naini. In the same year Postal Savings system was inaugurated. In 1913, Parcel Post service was introduced. The Indian Postal Order was introduced in 1935. After independence in 1947, there was expansion of postal network rapidly. In 1955, Certificate of Posting for ordinary article was brought in. The Postal Index Number, a six digit Postal code for easy identification of the places in India was brought in by Shriram Bhikaji Velankar, who was an Addl. Secretary in the Ministry of Communications, on 15.8.1972. 1984 found the way to Postal Insurance for the Postal staff as well as for the Govt. and semi-govt. staff members. In 1985 the Department of Posts was established to handle only Postal services, separating from the Department of Telecommunications. In 1986 Speed Post service was introduced to keep pace with the quick delivery of articles expected by the individuals and business houses, say within one or two days of its posting. In 2008 Project Arrow was launched to improve the postal environment through IT integration and service enhancement. In 2018 India Post Payments Bank was launched and in 2025 the traditional registered post service was phased out on 1.10.2025 and integrated with Speed Post, as part of on-going modernization efforts. The Postal Service in our country kept pace with the international developments.



## PHILATELY:-

The importance of the post offices will not be over, without mentioning about the philately. Philately, though it is not directly connected with the communication aspect of the post office, it transformed from a functional aspect of the postal system into a hobby, that offered the common man an enriching, educational and universally accessible window to the world. The advent of Postage stamps by Sir Rowland Hill made the postal system accessible to everyone and paved the way for philately as an affordable hobby for many. Stamps are not just pieces of papers depicting the postage value. They are miniature ambassadors of a country, indicating its history, geography, art, flora, fauna and national events.



*Heritage Monuments on Indian Stamps*

By stamp collection, people can know the world and its wonders without needing to travel extensively. Philately provides relaxing activity that allows individuals to lose themselves in the beauty of the designs and the stories behind them. This can be of therapeutic value to the individual in the world of negativity. It is fostering social connections, developing skills of concentration and cataloguing information. It helps preserve history and culture for the future. It is also a valuable investment, as some rare stamps can increase significantly in value over time. Commemorative stamps and covers were released on special occasions to remember and respect an important person or event from the past. These were naturally forming an important part of the collections by philatelists. Philately is a by-product of the relentless work of the Post Offices, and it helps the knowledge bank.

## POST OFFICES WERE MAIN COMMUNICATION HUBS IN 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES:-

A well organized set up under Govt control can only provide the timely and secured communication facilities to the common man. For more than 2 centuries, the Post Offices have done this job successfully by meeting the needs of the people at affordable rates, as per the expectation of the Govt as well as the public. Before the computer age, post offices were the nervous system of communication, enabling people, governments and businesses to connect over long distances. The establishment of national and international postal systems, culminating in the Universal Postal Union in 1874, linked the countries and made it possible for people to easily correspond across the globe and shrank the world to a global village. Before the invention of phone, writing letters was the main way to keep in touch with loved ones and business partners. Contracts, invoices and other vital documents were sent by Regd. Posts. Many Post offices acted as Savings Banks, especially in rural area, providing a secure and reliable place for people to save money. Money orders were there to send sums to various places for payment through delivery staff of Post Offices. Telegraph Money orders were available for urgent necessities. Express posts, on payment of additional charges were there and they were to be treated as priority mails in the next outward despatch. Separate pink colour embossed envelopes were there for this purpose. Registration envelopes of larger size with stubborn papers were sold by the Post Offices to facilitate sending articles with



insurance value. Greeting cards like Meghdoot postcards, Picture post cards of historical attraction and high-end collectible cards were also sold by the PO to meet the various requirements of the people. In festival seasons like Dheepavali and Pongal in India, special collection centres were used to be opened to ensure prompt delivery of the numberless greeting covers posted by the public. Thus the Post Offices were readily inventing and adopting to the expectations of the public in various angles to provide the communications needed by the public from far and near.

### **POST OFFICES AS PUBLIC CALL OFFICES AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES TOO:-**

The Post offices in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries often controlled new communication technologies as and when they emerged. They were responsible for telegraphy and telephony, expanding their role beyond just the post. They served as telecommunications hubs. They are thus the pioneer of communication technology in an orderly, secure and safe manner. POs served as Public Call Offices to book and initiate the trunk calls and deliver telegrams even during nights by engaging night duty staff and messengers. Postal clerks were trained in Morse signalling. Greeting telegrams with fixed phrases for each numerical no. served the festival occasions and moments of joy in personal matters. Clerks and messengers were brought on night duty to attend to urgent calls and telegrams. The communication network was maintained at all costs by the Post offices, despite the odd nature of the job.

### **INTERNET AND THE COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY:-**

Presently, we all know that email, the Internet, WhatsApp, etc. have made the world even smaller and consumed the major part of the written mail, handled by the Post Offices. The Universe is so vast and still many things to be invented or discovered by the human brain. The change and improvement in Technology are inevitable, as always there is something to be found out anew, out of the creations in nature. Education is endless. New inventions quickly replace the existing ones for the betterment of all the living beings. Post office cannot be an exception to the changing phase.

The invention process of computers started about 3000 years back in the form of an Abacus. The history of computers is a remarkable journey through innovation and technological advancements. In 1642 “Pascaline” invented by Blaise Pascal, was an early mechanical calculator that could perform only additions. Charles Babbage designed the programmable computers in 1820s and called it the Difference Engine. In the 1830s Analytical Engines, a general-purpose mechanical computer was designed, and it included an arithmetic logic unit, integrated memory and the ability to be programmed with usage of punched cards. This laid the foundation for modern computers. The evolution of computers is generally categorized into generations based on major technological shifts. First generation computers (1940s – 1950s) used vacuum tubes for circuitry and magnetic drums for memory. They were massive, expensive and could solve only one problem at a time. Second Generation (1950s – 1960s): Transistors replaced vacuum tubes, making computers smaller, faster, cheaper and more reliable. Programming shifted to assembly languages like Cobol and Fortran. Third generation (1960s – 1970s): The invention of Integrated Chips (ICs) placed multiple transistors on a single chip, drastically increasing speed and efficiency. Users interacted via keyboards and monitors with operating system, allowing the running of multiple applications simultaneously. Computers became accessible to mass audience. Fourth generations (1970s): The development of microprocessors put all components of the computer, like CPU, Memory, Input/Output controls on a single chip. This led to the personal computer revolution with affordable,



powerful and compact machines. Fifth Generation computers (1980s): Development of Internet, Artificial Intelligence software and parallel processing led to modern laptops, tablets, smart phones, cloud computing etc. The creation of World Wide Web in 1991 connected computers globally, creating the internet we know today. The launch of the iPhone in 2007 marked the start of the modern mobile computing era. Computing continues to evolve with advancements in Artificial Intelligence, cloud computing and other areas. As far as the Indian Post Offices are concerned, with the introduction of Speed Post in 1986, Bengaluru was the first city to get a computerized Post Office. The new computerized system was initially called as EMS speed post and was designed to expedite the delivery of Speed Post articles. As per the Press Report of the Department of Posts on 7.12.2022 all the 25,099 Departmental Post Offices have been computerized and networked. The Department has also by then modernized 1,29,854 Branch Post offices in the rural area by providing SIM based hand held point of sale devices for providing postal financial services. Again, as per the Press report dt.19.8.2025, all the 1.70 lakh offices in the country, including all the post offices, mail offices and administrative offices were brought under IT 2.0 – Advanced Postal Technology(APT) from 4.8.2025. So, all the Post offices in India remain fully computerised now.

## CONCLUSION:-

Post offices were indispensable Govt. offices for more than 170 years, providing reliable global communications, and therefore, they are the forerunners of the world of communications and paved the way for the Computer technology to take hold of the job partially. Still, people expect the Post Offices to send their Parcel mails, Speed Posts and Speed Posts with acknowledgements. They too want them for carrying book-post materials and to some extent Postal mails, sale of stamps and stationery items. The Savings Bank and Postal Life Insurance jobs remain intact with the Post offices. No other Department of the Govt., does house-to-house service all over the country. Futuristically, it is possible that the Post Offices are made Public hubs for all the Govt. transactions and for obtaining all kinds of documents required by them from State and Central Govt. offices, providing inter-face with the Governments. As a salutation for their helping untiringly the world communications for about 2 centuries, we want the Post Offices to remain with us always, in one form or another, rendering multifarious services in an innovative manner to the common man!!

At the most, we can take it that till the spread of Mobile Phones with Internet facility say by 2015 or so, and Whatsapp Messenger facility, though introduced in 2009, became widely known after 5 or 6 years, we can conclude that the Post Office as a State owned, comfortable, reliable and affordable means of communication in this world for more than 2 centuries right from at least 2010, i.e. after the Reformations by Sir Rowland Hill of England.



## About the Author

**K.Rangan**, retired Asst. Postmaster General, Chennai after 40 years of service in the Department. Conferred with Dak Sewa Award for outstanding work. Masters in English Literature, he loves reading and writing and appreciates the unending puzzles of nature and environment.



## **BIODIVERSITY IS LIFE; OUR LIFE**

**Shruthikaa Balaji,  
Life Member, SIPA**

### **What is Biodiversity?**

All forms of life on earth, plants, animals and micro-organism like bacteria, fungi and algae are known as Biodiversity, also known as Biological Diversity. It is the variety among species and the range of ecosystems within which life exists.

### **How important is Biodiversity?**

Human life is impossible without any plant, animal or micro-organism. We have to depend on them for our day-to-day existence. It is therefore necessary that the Biodiversity around us should exist without any disturbance. In order to lead a healthy and happy life, it is our bounden duty to conserve and protect the biological diversity.

### **Biodiversity in India**

India is a country rich in biological diversity. It is one of the 17 mega-diverse countries and is home to nearly eight per cent of the world's total recorded species, with over 47,000 species of plants and 97,000 species of animals and over 5,650 microbial species. India's economy and the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people depend on the biological wealth and associated traditional knowledge of the country. India is one of the eight primary centres of origin of cultivated plants with about 375 closely related wild species, including rice, pulses, millets, vegetables, fruits and fibre plants. There are nearly 255 breeds of animals such as cattle, sheep, goat, camel, horse and poultry found in India. India is also rich in cultural diversity and in the traditional knowledge available with tribal communities

### **Biodiversity loss**

The main cause of the loss of biodiversity is because of the influence of human beings on the world's ecosystem. People have deeply altered the environment, and modified the territory, exploiting the species directly, for example by fishing and hunting, changing the bio-geochemical cycles and transferring species from one area to another of the Planet. Each life on earth, for its livelihood needs to depend on the others. Therefore, unchecked destruction of natural resources will cause immeasurable damage to our ecosystem. HIPPO is the term used to define the causes of loss of biodiversity. The expansion of HIPPO is, Habitat destruction, Invasive species, Pollution, Population and Over hunting and Over-harvesting.

### **Action by United Nations**

The 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, Sweden, created the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. The subsequent two decades saw several activities focusing on endangered species, controlling the movement of hazardous wastes, etc.



## Convention on Biological Diversity

In 1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development—the Earth Summit—was convened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, bringing all stakeholders together. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a creation of the Earth Summit, for the first time recognised the sovereign rights of the state over the biological resources. The main objectives of the CBD are conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. All member countries were encouraged to make suitable legislation to implement the objectives of the CBD. India was one of the first signatories of the CBD.

## International Day for Biological Diversity

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 as the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The theme of the IDB for 2025 was “Harmony with nature and sustainable development” with the specific objective to bolster public awareness of the centrality of biodiversity to all life on Earth, including socio-economic challenges such as poverty and inequality that are covered by the full set of sustainable development goals (SDG).

## India’s efforts to preserve biodiversity

India also has a rich cultural heritage going back thousands of years. Much of Indian biodiversity is intricately related to the socio-cultural practices of the land. Unfortunately, due to population explosion, climate change and lax implementation of environmental policies, several species are facing the threat of extinction. Not only does this affect the food chain, but also the livelihood and the culture of millions of Indians who depend on local biodiversity

Much before the UN formulated ideas for preserving the biological diversity, two entities, the BSI and the ZSI were created in India, during the British rule. The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) was established in 1890 with the objectives of exploring the plant resources of the country and identifying plant species with economic virtue. BSI is undertaking intensive floristic surveys, collecting information on the ecology and economic utility of plants and documenting plant resources in the form of local, district, state and national flora.

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) was established in 1916 to promote survey, exploration and research leading to the advancement of various aspects of exceptionally rich fauna in India. Extensive field explorations are undertaken throughout India for the studies of fauna, animal ecology, behaviour and population of wildlife and marine fauna.



*Stamps on Zoological Survey of India, International Year of Biodiversity and the Endemic species of India*



## Establishment of the National Biodiversity Authority

In order to implement the objectives of the CBD, Government of India enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 and notified the Biological Diversity Rules in 2004. The Act is implemented at national, state and local levels, through a decentralized three tier system. At the National level, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 with headquarters at Chennai and it performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.

### Conservation at village level:

The best way of making people aware of protecting the need for biodiversity is to get them to practice it. The Biological Diversity Act provided an excellent opportunity to take this idea right down to the grass-roots as it provides for the establishment of **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC)** in all local bodies, throughout the country. It stipulates that **“the main function of the BMC is to prepare People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) in consultation with local people. The PBR shall contain comprehensive information on availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal or any other use or any other traditional knowledge associated with them.”** Preparation of *People's Biodiversity Registers* will be a rather unusual scientific activity, that is very much appropriate to our biodiversity-rich country, and very much essential in the current era of rapid technological developments. As per the information in the website of the NBA, as on date 2,72,648 PBRs have been documented by 2,76,653 BMCs.

### Threats to Biodiversity

The threats to biodiversity can be summarised in five broad categories: Alteration and loss of habitats, introduction of exotic species and genetically modified organisms, pollution, climate change and over-exploitation of resources. Recent modifications in the environment-related laws and regulations also pose a serious threat to protecting biodiversity and conserving natural resources.



*Stamps on Gaur, Himalayan Panda and Elephant along with FDC on Rhinoceros having “Conserve Wild Life” cancellation*





## How the public preserve biological resources?

With small daily actions, we can do something important to preserve biodiversity. Some such activities are listed below:

- Always remember that in every natural environment where you might be, from forest to sea, we are always guests and as such we should respect all life forms, including those which seem most insignificant: for this reason, don't collect flowers that are surely nicer in a meadow than in a vase in your house waiting to die!
- Don't buy animals and rare plants or objects produced with tortoise shells, ivory, exotic feathers, shark teeth, fur, coral and shells: often their indiscriminate catching threatens the entire ecosystem where they live.
- Avoid killing organisms for no reason: sport fishing isn't better than hunting!
- Don't deteriorate the environment: a wood full of rubbish kills many more human beings than you can imagine.
- Try to avoid any energy waste: don't forget that using energy means producing carbon dioxide that has an impact on climate change and therefore on the survival of many organisms.
- Move preferably on foot, by bike and public transport: in this way, you will contribute to a cleaner air and will have the opportunity and time to observe better the living beings that live close to you.
- When it's possible, favour recycled products: don't forget that a large number of trees are cut down to produce paper!
- Don't feed wild animals, as you could alter the delicate balance of the food chain and involuntarily cause their death.
- Plan your day on biodiversity: in this way, you will have the chance to admire different species and learn to recognise them.
- Try to communicate to everyone close to you respect and love for nature, but also everything you have learnt on this issue: we love more easily what we know, and it's easier to protect what we love!



## About the Author

**Shruthikaa Balaji**, a student of 12<sup>th</sup> Grade of an International School at Chennai is an avid stamp collector and exhibitor on themes such as place-names (Toponymy), Environment, Traditional arts and crafts and Postal History. Member of India Study Circle, London and SIPA, contributing articles on thematic subjects to Stamp Journals. Presented a paper on Ancient Human Wellness Practices in a seminar by the Indian Council of Historical Research. Her other interests include painting, music, dancing and as a School Pupil Leader involved in environment-related activities.



# INDIAN CINEMA THROUGH POSTAGE STAMPS

**Nelson Koildoss**  
Life Member, SIPA

Cinema has been a part of the entertainment industry but it is not merely a form of entertainment but a cultural institution that reflects social values, collective aspirations, and historical change. It helps the people give a break from monotony. Cinema has become a powerful vehicle of culture, education and leisure.

Beyond being an entertainment medium in the leisure times, the cinema played an important role in propagating the ideals for securing freedom from the British during the pre-independence era. History is replete with examples of actors, musicians, singers and play writers who, for displaying the spirited sense of national fervour, suffered at the hands of the British rulers. Despite the hardships and sufferings they continued their activities and sowed the seeds for freeing the nation from the foreign yoke.

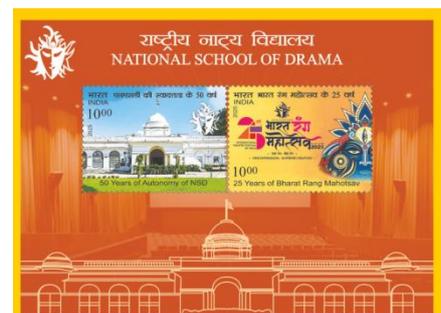


## Journey of Indian Cinema

### *Drama to Cinema*

The evolution of Indian cinema is deeply rooted in the long and vibrant tradition of Indian drama. Long before the invention of motion pictures, India possessed a rich theatrical culture that combined storytelling, music, dance, gesture, and spectacle. This dramatic heritage provided the foundation on which Indian cinema was later built.

The arrival of cinema in India in the early 20th century marked a transformation of dramatic traditions into a new visual medium. Even as Indian cinema evolved with realism, new technologies, and global influences, its dramatic roots remain visible. Contemporary films continue to draw upon theatrical storytelling, performance techniques, and emotional intensity derived from centuries-old dramatic traditions. Thus, Indian cinema is not a departure from drama but an extension and reinvention of it—transforming the age-old art of storytelling from the stage to the screen





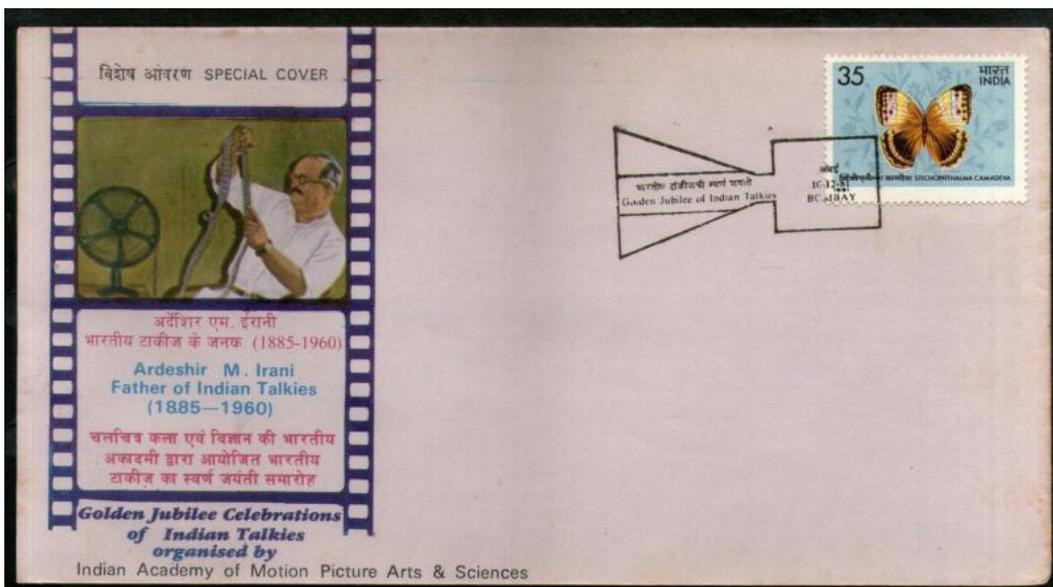
## The Silent Era

The journey of Indian cinema began in **1913** with *Raja Harishchandra*, India's first full-length silent feature film, directed by **Dadasaheb Phalke**, who is regarded as the father of Indian cinema. Early films drew heavily from Indian epics, folklore, and religious narratives, making cinema accessible to a diverse and largely illiterate audience. Visual storytelling dominated the silent era, emphasizing expressive acting and symbolic imagery. During this era, filmmaking was constrained by limited technology, absence of synchronized sound, and rudimentary cameras. Films were often short in length and produced under challenging conditions, including scarcity of trained actors and technicians. This period laid the aesthetic, narrative, and institutional groundwork for the Indian film industry. Silent films dominated the early years until **1931**.



## Sound Era

The release of *Alam Ara* in **1931**, directed by **Ardeshir Irani**, signalled the beginning of the sound era. The film featured synchronized dialogue and songs, with the song “*De De Khuda Ke Naam Par*” becoming the first recorded song in Indian cinema. This innovation dramatically increased cinema's popularity, as spoken dialogue and music resonated deeply with Indian audiences. Marked the advent of sound, transforming cinematic language and production practices. Music, dialogue, and playback singing became defining features. This period witnessed the rise of studio systems in Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras, contributing to standardised production and star culture.





The system of **playback singing** emerged, separating the singing voice from the on-screen actor. Legendary singers such as **K. L. Saigal**, **Lata Mangeshkar**, and **Mohammed Rafi** later became cultural icons.



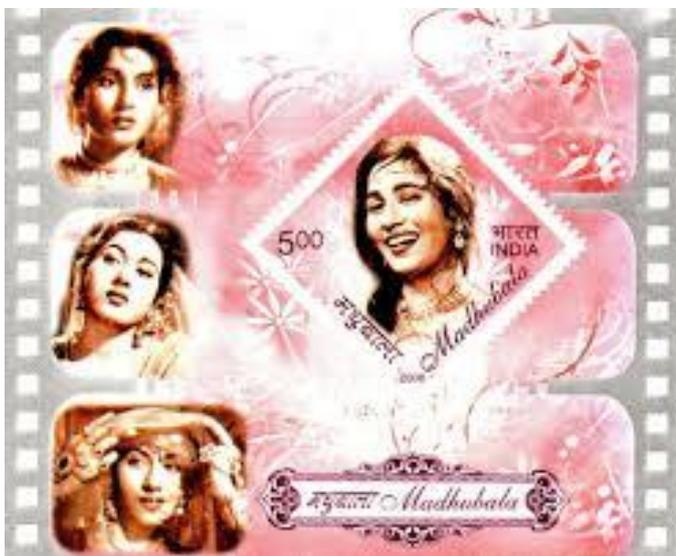
### Post-independence era

The post-independence era is often regarded as the golden age of Indian cinema. Filmmakers such as **Satyajit Ray**, **Bimal Roy**, **Guru Dutt**, **Mehboob Khan**, and **Raj Kapoor** explored themes of nation-building, social justice, and humanism. Films like *Pather Panchali*, *Mother India*, and *Do Bigha Zamin* achieved critical acclaim both nationally and internationally.



Indian cinema has consistently engaged with social issues such as caste inequality, gender roles, communal harmony, labour struggles, and corruption. Parallel cinema, emerging prominently in the 1960s and 1970s, challenged mainstream conventions by adopting realism and minimalism. Filmmakers like **Mrinal Sen**, **Shyam Benegal**, **Adoor Gopalakrishnan**, and **Govind Nihalani** used cinema as a tool for critique and reform.

### Star System



The star system has played a pivotal role in shaping audience reception and market dynamics. Film stars often transcend cinematic identity to become cultural icons and, in some cases, political figures. Fan culture and celebrity influence are central to the commercial success of Indian cinema.

The Indian star system began to take shape in the **1930s and 1940s**, with the advent of sound cinema. Actors with distinctive voices, screen presence, and mass appeal emerged as recognizable personalities. Studios and producers promoted actors aggressively, turning them into **brands** that guaranteed box-office success.



By the 1950s and 1960s, often referred to as the **Golden Age of Indian cinema**, stars such as **Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand, Nargis, Madhubala, and Meena Kumari** and others became national icons. Their personas were carefully crafted through film roles, publicity, fan magazines, and public appearances.

Indian cinema is not confined to a single language or region. While **Hindi cinema (Bollywood)** is the most widely recognised internationally, India produces films in numerous regional languages such as **Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi, and Assamese**. Each regional industry has developed its own style, themes, and cinematic traditions, contributing significantly to the richness of Indian cinema.

### South Indian Film Industry

The **South Indian film industry** refers collectively to the cinema traditions of **Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, and Tulu** languages. Together, these industries have played a decisive role in shaping Indian cinema through **technical innovation, literary adaptation, music, realism, and political influence**. Long before Bollywood became dominant, South Indian cinema developed strong regional roots with pan-Indian impact.

### Silent Era and Sound Era

The origins of South Indian cinema can be traced to **1916**, when **R. Nataraja Mudaliar** produced *Keechaka Vadham* in **Madras**. This marked the beginning of film production in South India, with Madras soon emerging as the **primary production centre**. The introduction of sound brought a major transformation to South Indian cinema. The first Tamil talkie, *Kalidas* (1931), and the first Telugu talkie, *Bhakta Prahlada* (1931), ushered in a new era of dialogue-driven and music-rich films. Leading studios such as **AVM, Gemini, and Vijaya Vauhini** played a crucial role in shaping production standards and expanding audiences during this period.

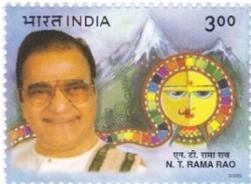


### Growth of Regional Cinemas

**Tamil cinema** became closely associated with **social reform, Dravidian ideology, and rationalist thought**. Screenwriters and leaders like **C.N. Annadurai and M. Karunanidhi** effectively used cinema



as a medium for political communication, while stars such as **M.G. Ramachandran (MGR)** and **Sivaji Ganesan** dominated the screen.



**Telugu cinema** was known for its grand **mythological films, folklore narratives, and family dramas**. **N.T. Rama Rao (NTR)** emerged as a cultural icon through his portrayals of Hindu gods, earning immense popularity.

**Malayalam cinema** developed a strong **literary and realistic tradition**, frequently adapting the works of celebrated writers such as **Vaikom Muhammad Basheer** and **Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai**.



**Kannada cinema** emphasized **social realism and literature-based narratives**, with pioneers like **B.R. Panthulu** and **Dr. Rajkumar** shaping its artistic identity.



## Political Influence

Cinema also became deeply intertwined with **electoral politics**, particularly in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Film writers **C.N. Annadurai** and **M.Karunanidhi** and Film stars like **MGR, NTR** and **Jayalalitha** successfully transitioned from cinema to become **Chief Ministers**, highlighting the mass appeal of film culture.



## About the Author

**Nelson Koildoss**, retired as Accounts Officer of the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India is a stamp collector and exhibitor for nearly a decade. He is the Life Member of the SIPA and his interests include Indian and International Cinema, Youth affairs and Children's Day.



# PHILATELIC TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM STRUGGLE AND FREEDOM FIGHTERS

## An Overview of Philatelic Exhibition at Southern Railway

**P.Sreetharan**  
**Life Member SIPA**

The Southern Railway conducted a philatelic exhibition on freedom struggle and freedom fighters under the initiative of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* from 24th to 26th August 2021. Shri. John Thomas, General Manager, Southern Railway, inaugurated a 3-day Philatelic Exhibition as part of the “*Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*” at Southern Railway Headquarters on 24th August, 2021 in the presence of Shri B. G. Mallya, Additional General Manager, Smt. Aruna Nayar, Principal Chief Personnel Officer, principal Heads of Departments, officers and staff.



*Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* is a campaign consisting of a series of events being organised by the Government of India to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India’s Independence. The activities of the “*Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*” was inaugurated on 12th March, 2021 by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.



*Shri. John Thomas, General Manager, Southern Railway inaugurating and viewing the exhibition*



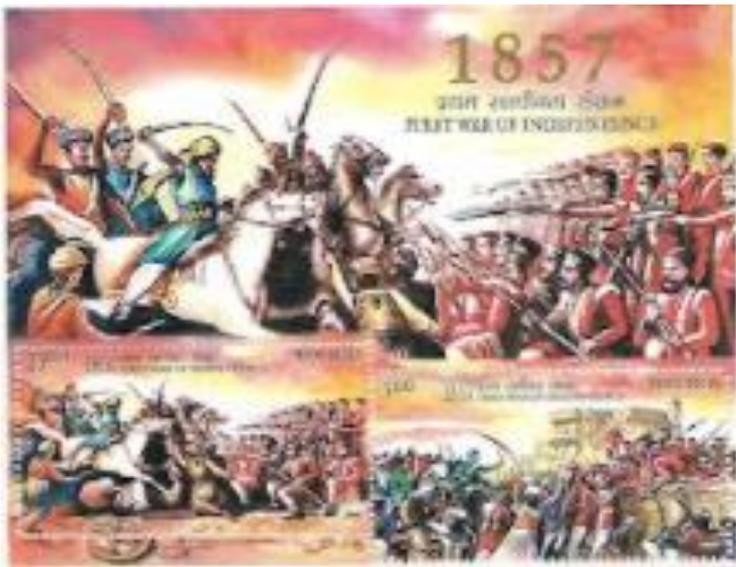
Mr. P. Sreetharan, an employee at the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai 600038, who is also a passionate philatelist shared his collection of stamps in this exhibition along with the prideful story of our independence. This exhibition showcased stamps which were released in the memory of freedom fighters and struggle since 1857. These stamps narrated the whole story of our independence in chronological order.

There were totally 11 frames with each frame containing 16 sheets. In Total, there were over 900 stamps representing 263 freedom fighters and their struggle. These stamps were accompanied with information about the personality or the event they depicted.

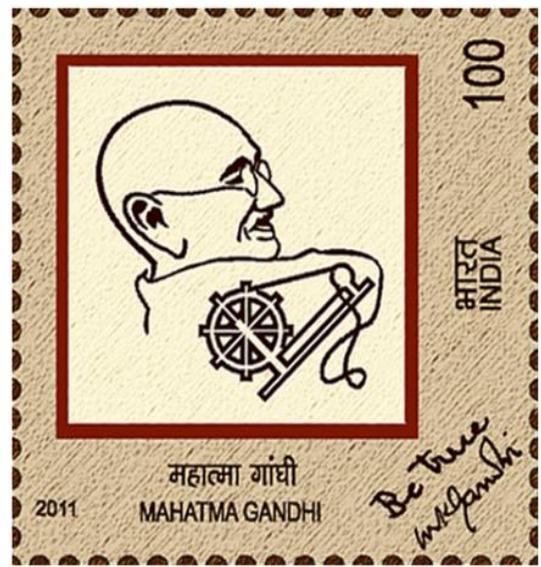
The highlight of the event was that the exhibits also included many international stamps. Stamps by South Africa and Mauritius on Gandhi, Russia on Nehru, Hungary on Lal Bahadur Shastri were also on display. Gandhi and his involvement towards our freedom was exhibited in 48 pages, Nehru in 16 pages and Vallabhai patel in 16 pages.

Each page was prepared with a first day cover and the mint stamp with a brief information regarding the same. Exhibits on women freedom fighters of India were prepared with 32 pages and consisted of 25 women personalities, which attracted many visitors.

Eminent personalities such as freedom fighters, Independence activities, martyrs, statesmen. revolutionaries, social reformers, national party leaders, nationalists, rebellions, poets and women freedom fighters across the country were featured as part of this philately exhibition.



***1857 First War of Independence***



***Gandhi Stamp on Khadi***

The exhibits displayed postage stamps and other philatelic materials on various key moments in India's freedom struggle such as the First war of India's independence, Quit India movement, Salt Satyagraha, Dandi march, Champaran Satyagraha, Jallianwala bagh massacre, Ahimsa, Khadi movement and days marking the anniversary of India's independence, with rich information.

The exhibition served as a great opportunity to interact with people visiting from all over Chennai Division of Southern Railway. Suggestions were made to compile and release the collection as a PDF document as well as to be made into a booklet, which will prove to be informative for generations to come. The visitors had left back their contact information and work in this direction is currently in progress.



Many of the visitors had their own interest in the hobby of stamp collection and few of them had also brought their collection and sought for counsel to develop and exhibit them.

Particularly, a dependent of a railway employee enquired about the variety of stamps issued by India Post after witnessing the hologram affixed special cover released by SIPA on the occasion of Gandhiji's Birthday as international day of non-violence which was observed on 2nd October.

One of the personnel even took notes on freedom fighters of Southern India from the exhibits for a Quiz contest that they were organising during the "75 years of India's Independence celebrations" at their division.

About 600 employees from the division workshops, open line and sheds visited this 3-day exhibition including HODs, branch officers, inspectors, superintendents, auditors, accountants, Sr. engineers, technicians and office assistants. A team of RPF personnel also visited the exhibition along with their Commissioner.

Having read about their pain and suffering, being sent to prisons where they were brutally attacked and harassed, it really makes one salute them for their patriotism, courage, commitment, dedication and devotion for our freedom.



### About the author

**P Sreetharan**, retired from the ICF, Chennai is a Life Member of SIPA. His philatelic interest started in 1973 and the collections include Railways and Scouts and Guides. Active in organising the Quiz and Workshops in schools and exhibitions, serving as a resource person for Philatelic Summer camps. Organised stamp exhibitions at Chennai Rail Museum and Southern Railway Headquarters. Took part in Bharat Scouts & Guides Jamborees and received Rashtrapati Rova Award in Scouting.



## PHILATELIC NEWS FROM TAMIL NADU POSTAL CIRCLE

For decades, the Chief Postmaster General and the officers and staff of Tamil Nadu Postal Circle have extended utmost cooperation to the SIPA in the field of promotion of philately. With mutual assistance and understanding, SIPA has been spreading awareness on the hobby of stamp collecting by various activities, which includes holding of monthly meetings at the premises of the Philatelic Bureau of Anna Road HPO. The Chief Postmaster Anna Road HPO and the staff of Philatelic Bureau are also maintain cordial relations with the SIPA members and fellow-philatelists.

### Activities

#### SPARSH Scholarship

Department of Posts launched a Philately scholarship scheme “Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana” (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby) on 03.11.2017 to "Promote Philately among children at a young age in a sustainable manner that can reinforce and supplement the academic curriculum in addition to providing a hobby that can help them relax and de-stress". Open to students studying in VI to IX standard, 40 scholarships @ 500 per student per month for one year are awarded. In Tamil Nadu circle there is steady increase in the number of participants every year and in 2025 there are around 21,500 students participated in the preliminary round of selection. From amount 200 successful students, 40 were selected for the scholarship. The final select list of students for scholarship reveals that the wider reach of the hobby even extends to remote areas of Krishnagiri, Theni and Periyalulam. A welcome aspect noticed is that the number of students from the Government Schools is steadily increasing year after year.

#### Dai Akhar Letter Writing Competition- Remarkable participation in Tamil Nadu Circle

It's 2025, a world ruled by WhatsApp messages and endless email threads, so it's no surprise that the art, and even the need, for handwritten letters has quietly faded into nostalgia. Yet, there was a time when letters carried emotions across cities, when the wait for a postman was filled with anticipation. For Gen Z, licking a stamp and sealing an envelope may be something they've only seen in movies. To inculcate the hobby of using the Post as a medium of communication, the Department of Posts embarked on a flagship initiative of holding a national-level letter writing competition every year and awarding attractive prizes. The competition titled Dai Akhar is open to students as well as the general public of all ages. In 2025, the number of participants from Tamil Nadu who took part in the Dai Akhar National letter writing competition, is a whopping 1,50,000, an unbelievably high figure testifying the fact of keen interest evinced not only by the students but also by the general public, to whom the competition is open.

#### Stellar Performance by Central Region

A host of activities related to philately was conducted by the Central Region during 2024-25, which deserve special mention. The special covers/ picture postcards/permanent pictorial cancellations/ ancillaries issued were primarily centred around the environment, ecology, traditional arts and crafts. From identifying the threatened Dugong (sea cow) as the Mascot of a district exhibition to the 'Saving the Olive Ridley sea turtles', from Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary to the Migratory Birds of Kodiakkarai and the Mangrove Ecosystem of Pichavaram, on each item, the concern for preserving nature and to create awareness for conservation and protection of biodiversity displayed by the PMG and her team of the



Centrl Region is highly commendable. This region was the forerunner in the Circle to issue a special cover on a major social cause of restoring the 1000-year-old Chola - made Uyyakondan channel, thereby joining the “My City-My Duty-Mission Uyyakondan” campaign by the people of Tiruchirappali.

### Permanent Pictorial Cancellations introduced in 2024 & 2025

Sl.No.	Details of PPC	Introduced on
1	Pichavaram Mangrove Forest - Killai S.O.	26.07.2024
2	Airavateswarar Temple - Darasuram S.O.	09.10.2024
3	Brahadeeswarar Temple - Gangaikondacholapuram S.O.	09.10.2024
4	Dancing Nataraja – Chidambaram H.O.	12.01.2025
5	GPO Heritage Building - Chennai G.P.O.	06.02.2025
6	Grand Anaicut (Kallanai) – Thogur S.O.	15.08.2025



**Killai SO**



**Darasuram SO**



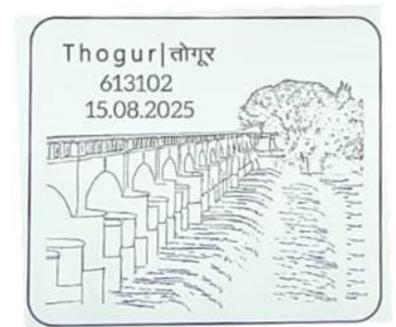
**Gangaikondacholapuram SO**



**Chidambaram HO**



**Chennai GPO**



**Thogur SO**



## MILESTONES IN INDIA POST LEGISLATIONS

### India Post bids goodbye to Registered Post

As part of the rationalisation of mail products, the Department of Posts merged the Registered Post service with the Speed Post service for domestic mail transmission, with effect from 01.09.2025. The primary objective of this merger is said to be to streamline postal operations, enhance operational efficiency, and improve customer convenience by consolidating similar service offerings.

Introduced during the British rule (around 1854 with the Post Office Act of 1898 and under Dalhousie's reforms), Registration service provided admissible evidence of posting and delivery in courts and government transactions.

Since the term "Registered Post" or "Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due" is currently referenced in various Central Acts, Subordinate Legislation, Rules framed by the Supreme Court and High Courts, notifications, orders, and executive instructions, especially for service of summons, notices, legal communications, and other statutory correspondences, the Communications Ministry advised all Ministries/Departments/Statutory Bodies/Regulatory Authorities, etc., to undertake a review of the legal instruments, executive instructions, and frameworks under their administrative purview, and initiate necessary steps to substitute the term "Registered Post" with "Speed Post" (or an appropriate neutral term that includes Speed Post) in all such references.



### Discontinuance of Registered Small Packet in International Mail service

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026, India Post will discontinue certain services in international mail such as Small Packet, including letter post items containing goods sent by Sea, SAL (Surface Air Lifted). The move aims to rationalise certain international letter post services, particularly those without or limited tracking features, longer delivery timelines, increasing customs and security requirements in destination countries and to promote more efficient, accountable and customer-friendly alternatives



# INTERNATIONAL PHILATELY

## UPU International Letter Writing Competition for Young People

Since 1971, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) has encouraged young writers aged 9-15 to write letters on a given theme to win exciting prizes. The competition is an excellent way of making young people aware of the important role that postal services play in our societies. It develops their composition skills and ability to express their thoughts clearly. It also fosters enjoyment of letter writing and helps to strengthen the bonds of international friendship.

The 54th edition of the International Letter-Writing Competition for Young People was held in 2025. This year, the UPU partnered with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to inspire young writers worldwide to reflect on the importance of protecting our seas and oceans.

## Union Postale

Union Postale magazine - established in 1875 - reports on developments from the international postal sector and the UPU primarily to stakeholders from its 192 member countries. Readers include governments, regulators, chief executives, operational experts, post-office employees, strategic thinkers, industry suppliers, academics, philatelists and anyone else with a keen interest in Posts. Many regard it as an important source of information.

Autum 2025 issue of Union Postals contains interesting articles from decisions taken in the Dubai Congress on to how the postal sector is not only resilient but innovative, inclusive and ready to meet the evolving needs of the people it serves to India Post's Unified Payments Interface initiative connecting postal services with national payment systems.

## World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP)

Since 1997, the principal aim of the WADP is to develop and promote philately through continuous and positive dialogue between partners in the philatelic sector and designated operators.

Its objectives are to:

- Maintain collaboration and development between the UPU, designated operators, philatelic partners and the industry;
- Monitor market trends and issues that will have an impact on the philatelic business;
- Analyze and disseminate all information relating to the sector;
- Improve knowledge of philatelic markets among designated operators;
- Encourage and facilitate the adoption of best practices.



## WADP Numbering System (WNS)

The WNS (for WADP Numbering System) is the worldwide numbering system for postage stamps created by the UPU and the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP).

The WNS was launched on 1 January 2002, with the primary aim of compiling a database of all postage stamps legally issued, from that date onwards, by the issuing postal authorities of UPU member countries and territories that have signed up to the WNS.

The WNS has a bilingual website (English and French) with a unique domain name ( www.wnsstamps.post ). Only those postage stamps received by the UPU International Bureau and whose authenticity has been confirmed are assigned a unique WNS number and added to the WNS website.

WNS a three-pronged system, providing:

- **Authentication** – a control mechanism against illegal issues;
- **Expertise** – a reference tool for philatelic stakeholders (collectors, dealers, catalogue publishers, etc.);
- **Marketing** – a sales channel for designated operators.



**Mr. C G Bhaskar and Mr. Dilip Saboo  
at PHILAKOREA 2025  
World Stamp Exhibition**



**Mr. Parvesh Gupta, Mr. Dilip Saboo,  
Mr. C G Bhaskar, Mr. Pratisad  
Nuergaonkar and Mr. Anil Reddy  
at Jakarta 2024 International Exhibition.**



## GLIMPSES OF VALEDICTORY EVENT OF SIPA@70

The valedictory function of the SIPA@70 held on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 saw huge attendance by the philatelists, their family members, school students and members of the public. After the introduction by Mr C G Bhaskar, the Exhibition souvenir, in print form, was released by the Chief Guest, Major M. Manoj, Director of Postal Services, Chennai City Region, and Mr J Rolands Nelson, the President of SIPA, received the first copy.

This was followed by the conferment of Lifetime Achievement Awards to Messrs. P Chandrasekaran, S Balasundaram, Abhijit De and Dr M R Ramesh Kumar (in absentia) for their remarkable service in the field of philately.

The main event of the function, the distribution of medals to the Award winners, was started with reading of the Jury report by Mr J Rolands Nelson. In all 4 Vermeil, 16 Silver and 23 Bronze Medals were presented by the Chief Guest. Dr Vennam Upendar received the Jury's Special Prize along with the Vermeil Medal.

The Chief Guest during his address mentioned the yeoman service by the SIPA and the excellent coordination between the SIPA and the Tamil Nadu Postal Circle. He also thanked the SIPA team for assisting the Department in the successful conduct of the recently held Velurpex, district-level exhibition at Vellore. He advocated that the student community should pursue the useful hobby of stamp collecting, which will keep them ahead of others in life. The function came to a conclusion after Mr Mahesh Parekh, the Secretary proposing the vote of thanks.

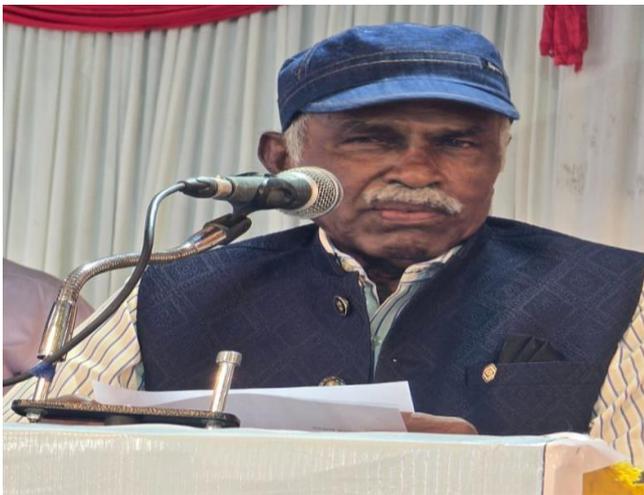




**Dignitaries at Dias**



**Mr. Senthilkumar C as Master of Ceremony**



**Welcome Address by  
SIPA President Mr. Rolands J Nelson**



**Introduction of Chief Guest by  
SIPA Treasurer Mr. CG Bhaskar**



**Felicitation of Chief Guest Major Manoj M,  
Director Postal Services, CCR**



**Special Address by Chief Guest Major Manoj  
Director Postal Services, CCR**



**Felicitations of Chief Jury Mr. Rolands J Nelson by SIPA Secretary Mr. Mahesh Parekh**



**Felicitations of Jury Member Mr. Laksmanan S K by SIPA Secretary Mr. Mahesh Parekh**



**Jury Report by Mr. Rolands J Nelson Chief Jury, SIPA@70 Thematic Exhibition**



**Special Jury Award of Dr. Vennem Upender received by Mr. Dinesh Kumar**



**Felicitations of Stamp Designer Mrs. Mahima Jain**



**Vote of Thanks by SIPA Secretary Mr. Mahesh Parekh**



**Release of e-Souvenir**



**Lifetime Achievement Award Winners**



**Dr. Arun receiving Vermail Award**



**Mr. Murugavel T receiving Vermail Award**



**Mullapalayam Govt Higher Secondary School Participants**



**National Higher Secondary School Participants**



## PRESENTATION OF LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

At the valedictory function on 4th Jan 2026, Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to the following members for their immense service in the field of philately.

### Mr Abhijit De



Developed an interest in stamp collection, Mr Abhijit De blossomed as a philatelist after he retired from a Fortune 500 Public Sector Undertaking. Thereafter, he became a life member of the SIPA and continued his journey in the wonderful world of philately. Since 2012, his interest turned towards philatelic literature and started making a deep study on specific items such as First Day Covers, Cachets, Information brochures, stamp designing and printing techniques. His innovative approach to any matter that he delved, made him to contribute articles with minute details on varied subjects, besides posting historical facts on stamps in the SIPA's WhatsApp group almost daily.



## Mr S Balasundaram



Retired from the Indian Postal Service after nearly five decades of service, his outstanding work got him the highest Meghdoot award from the Ministry of Communications in 1989. Several of his suggestions were implemented by the Department, resulting in optimum utilisation of human resources, saving huge expenditure 1980 and standardising postal stationery. His persuasive approach and exceptional rapport saw the release of a host of commemorative postage stamps honouring Tamil Scholars like, Bharathidasan, Maraimalai Adigalar, Umamahesvar, Paavaanar, Vallalar and Vethathiri, to mention a few. After retirement, he was entrusted with the task of organising the National-level philatelic Exhibition, INPEX 2008 at Chennai, and as Officer-on-Special Duty, he accomplished the assignment in a grand manner with more than 1,500 frames. As a legal person he served as Expert consultant to the Environment Ministry on biodiversity-related laws and to the Bureau of Indian Standards on Quality Management Certification. Participated in stamp exhibitions at various levels and won several awards. Regular contributor of articles on Philately, Postal History, Environment and Tamil Literature to leading journals and presented research papers in various seminars conducted by national institutions like Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and Anna University.



## Mr.P.Chandrasekaran



Born at Melur, Madurai district, Mr P Chandasekaran's quest for painting was imbibed by his Drawing teacher, Sundararajan in the Board High School. And through his guidance, he joined the Madras School of Arts (now Government College of Fine Arts and College) in 1959 and completed the Diploma in Fine Arts in six years. Actor Shivakumar, then known as Palanisamy, was his classmate, and both travelled extensively to various places to sketch reality paintings. Still, both continue to be bosom friends. He has a close association with leading artists like Devasenathipathy, Swamikannu, Totta Tharani and Maniam Selvan. He was introduced to the art of stamp collecting by his colleague Srinivasan at the Metal Box company, where he was working as an artist in 1980, and thereafter, his philatelic journey continued. Specialised in drawing with dots, his passion found new opening when was engaged by the Tamil Nadu Postal Circle for designing stamps, cancellations, special covers and First Day Covers. Jerome de Souza of Loyola College, Connemara Library, Ida Scudder of Vellore CMC, Sardar A Vedarathinam are some of the stamps designed by Mr Chandrasekaran. He participated in stamp exhibitions at various levels and won several awards on specialised themes.



## Dr M R Ramesh Kumar



After graduating from Cochin University of Science and Technology, Dr M R Ramesh Kumar moved to the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa as a Scientist. He has excelled as a Scientist by participating in several oceanographic cruises, the most important being a member of the Sixth Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica in 1986-1987. He has published several research articles in National/International Journals, and also given several talks at the National/International Seminars and Conferences.

After retirement, his interest turned towards stamps, seeing them as an excellent educational tool, as they tell a story of the country, its culture, history and heritage in a vivid fashion. On a wide variety of subjects, he displayed his collections and got several awards. He also published a book on philately, titled "Tiny Treasures". He is spending time very purposefully by conducting workshops and programmes in educational and other institutions around Goa and displaying his collections on Environment, India's Rich Culture and Heritage, Sports & Games, Scientists & Scientific Institutions and the Magic of Indian Cinema, taking the art of stamp collection to a wider reach.



# SIPA@70 PLATINUM JUBILEE THEMATIC EXHIBITION

## LIST OF EXHIBITS

### Seniors – Multi Frame

Sl.No	Exhibitor's Name	Title	No of Frames	Frame Nos	Marks	Medal
1	Dr. Vennam Upender	Dear Bapu, You inspire us through your Quotes	5	011-015	80	Vermeil
2	T. Murugavel	Fading Wild - A Philatelic Story of Conservation Fight	5	031-035	72	Vermeil
3	Dr. V. Arun	Don't Miss a Beat	5	036-040	74	Vermeil
4	Daniel Monteiro	Raptors	4	056-059	76	Vermeil
5	Sushil Mehra	Jayadeva's Dashavatara with Special Emphasis on Rama and Krishna	5	001-005	60	Silver
6	T. Murugavel	The Tiger - A Study in Philately	5	021-025	63	Silver
7	C.G. Bhaskar	Maps in Philately	5	041-045	66	Silver
8	Satish Kumar Subramanyam	Wonders of Nature	5	046-050	66	Silver
9	Rajesh Kumar Rathore	Jainism	3	051-053	62	Silver
10	S. Hari Manohar	Laudable Postal Services	3	072-074	68	Silver
11	S. Balasundaram	A Tapestry of Tradition	5	006-010	50	Bronze
12	Hastimal Jain	Medicine in Motion	5	016-020	57	Bronze



Sl.No	Exhibitor's Name	Title	No of Frames	Frame Nos	Marks	Medal
13	Dr. A. Sumitra	Seven Sisters of India	3	060-062	54	Bronze
14	Ambika Balakrishnan Iyer	Beyond the Art Canvas	3	066-068	51	Bronze
15	Satyapramod Deshpande	Philately Salutes the Spirit of Women in India	3	075-077	53	Bronze
16	Sudharsan C J	Olympic Games	3	078-080	54	Bronze
17	C. Prem	National Pride - Flags in Philately	3	081-083	56	Bronze
18	Dilip Saboo	Archaeological Motifs of India	3	087-089	56	Bronze

### Seniors – One Frame

Sl. No	Exhibitor's Name	Title	No. of Frames	Frame Nos	Marks
1	Dr. M. Swamiappan	Biodiversity of Butterflies	1	90	40
2	Asokan Sellamuthu	Breast Feeding - Great Natural Gift	1	91	76
3	B. Ravikumar	Maltese Falcon	1	92	80
4	Kottai Surendran Palani	Sacred Journeys : Hindu Pilgrimages through Stamps	1	94	58
5	Malathi Sudarsan	Railways	1	95	40
6	R. Thumanivannan	Singing Stamps	1	96	42
7	T.D. Rajagopal	Indian Personalities on Humour	1	97	36
8	K. G. Devarajan	Mahatma Gandhi	1	54	52



## Philatelists getting Medals for their exhibits at SIPA @ 70 (Senior Category)



## Participants at SIPA @ 70 Valedictory Event





## Youth (11 – 14 Years)

Sl. No.	Exhibitor's Name	Title	No. of Frames	Frame Nos.	Marks	Medal
1	Rudransh Saboo	Tamil Nadu through Stamps	2	98-99	65	Silver
2	M Sree Krishnan	Exotic Football	1	103	62	Silver
3	S A Sri Krishna	Rings of Glory - Olympics	1	104	64	Silver
4	Sanjana K	Roses - Queen among Flowers	1	105	64	Silver
5	G Sarveswaran	War in 64 Squares	1	108	62	Silver
6	Jishnu K J	Horses - Speeding Demons	2	112-113	62	Silver
7	M Sudharshan	China in all its Glory	1	100	50	Bronze
8	Harine Dilipkumar	My School - A Journey through Learning	1	101	54	Bronze
9	Anivardhan Hariprasad	Flying Machine	1	102	52	Bronze
10	Varsha G	Exotic Animals of the Sea	1	106	56	Bronze
11	B Balasurya	India in Sports and Games	1	107	54	Bronze
12	R Vikirthan	Cultural Heritage	2	109-110	56	Bronze
13	S Davanashree	Music & Musical Instruments	1	115	53	Bronze
14	M Alakar Sasatha	Gandhi Pillar of our Nation	1	111	44	CP
15	K M Benisha	Makers of India	1	114	46	CP
16	R Tarini	Mahatma Gandhi	1	116	45	CP



## Youth (15 – 18 Years) Category

Sl.No	Exhibitor's Name	Title	No. of Frames	Frame Nos.	Marks	Medals
1	Elakiyah Raman Suresh	United Nations	1	120	63	Silver
2	Krithikka Shanmugam	The Nobel Prize	2	122-123	67	Silver
3	K Mani Sriram	Mother is Living God	1	126	64	Silver
4	R Mano Ranjini	Girl Guide	1	128	64	Silver
5	Shruthikaa Balaji	Mahatma Gandhi's Travels in Madras Presidency	2	117-118	57	Bronze
6	R Harshitha	My World Tour	1	119	51	Bronze
7	Askshara Guhan	I Love Europe	1	121	52	Bronze
8	Santhosh S	Mahatma Gandhi - A Life in Stamps	1	124	56	Bronze
9	G D Taarun Kumar	The Jewel of India - A Philatelic Tribute	1	125	52	Bronze
10	M Durga Sri	Philately on Mathematics	1	127	58	Bronze
11	A Sivachandran	Maximaphily on Scouts	1	129	52	Bronze
12	C A Kanishka	My Europe Tour	1	130	54	Bronze



## Young Philatelists getting Medals for their exhibits at SIPA @ 70





## LIST OF DEALERS

Sl.No	Dealer Name	Place
1	S Dilip Kumar Jain	Chennai 600 023
2	Surinder Abani	Chennai 600 079
3	Ramesh Ethiraj	Chennai 600 116
4	Rajulu Stamps & Coins	Chennai 600 083
5	K Sakthiraj	Virudhunagar
6	G Amarchand	Chennai 600 010
7	A V Jeyachandran	Pondicherry
8	Ved Prakash	Chennai 600 001
9	Padamchand Jain	Chennai 600 023
10	Amar Gang	Pune
11	S Santhosh	Chennai

## OTHER STALLS

1	South India Philatelists' Association	Chennai 600 020
2	Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road HPO	Chenna 600 002



**Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road HPO Stall**



## Dealers getting their Mementos





**Philatelists at SIPA@70 Thematic Exhibition**



**SIPA Members During Valedictory Event**



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The 17<sup>th</sup> stamp exhibition, SIPA@70 organised by the South India Philatelists' Association is coming to a close with the valedictory function on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026. We gratefully acknowledge all those who are connected with the successful conduct of the exhibition to commemorate the 70th year of the founding of the SIPA.

The collections from the philatelists are showcased in more than one hundred and thirty frames, and it would definitely be a feast for the visitors, who can carry with them sweet memories of the three-day event. We are grateful to the exhibitors, including the young stamp collectors, for sending their exhibits for display and congratulate those who secured awards.

We are immensely thankful to the Chief PMG and officials of the Tamil Nadu Postal Circle, for arranging the philatelic frames and to the staff of the Anna Road Philatelic Bureau for opening an outlet at the venue of the exhibition for sale of stamps and other materials.

Special thanks are due to Our Chief Guest, Mr Ajit Kumar Chordia, former Vice Chairman of SIPA and the Managing Director of the Olympia Tech Park, Chennai for inaugurating the exhibition and delivering a thought-provoking speech, recounting his journey from a stamp collector to a philatelist with the unflinching support of late Madan Mohan Das and Balakrishna Das.

We are grateful to Major M. Manoj, Director of Postal Services, Chennai City Region, for gracing the valedictory function as the Chief Guest, distributing the Awards to the winners and delivering an inspiring speech. We once again extend our gratitude to the organisers of the exhibition, the volunteers, the dealers, especially the dedicated team and committee members, who had taken care of erecting the frames, mounting the exhibits and related works. But for the solid support and cooperation of one and all, the three-day event would not have been conducted in a grand manner.

As part of the exhibition, this souvenir has been brought out, with interesting and informative articles from philatelists. I am grateful to Mr C. Senthilkumar and Mr A. Nelson Koildoss for their timely assistance, which enabled me to complete the work and bring out this souvenir.

**S Balasundaram**  
**Editor**