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Issue No. 12 : December 2013

Commemorative Stamp on Babu Banarasi Das - 31st December, 2013.



Banarasi Das, popularly known as Babu Banarasi Das (1912-1985) was a politician and a member of Janata Party. He was born in Utarawli, Bulandshahr. In his early youth, he joined hands with Mahatma Gandhi & Jawahar Lal Nehru in the movement to free India from the clutches of British rule.

During his long political career, he worked as a Minister, Speaker and Member of Parliament (both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha). He also held the position of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh from 28th Feb. 1979 to 17th Feb 1980. His entire life was devoted to secure the dignity of individuals through selfless service to mankind.

India Post issued a commemorative stamp on Babu Banarasi Das on 31st December 2013.

Special Cover to mark 50 Years of Bangalore City Police - 30th December 2013.

The Bangalore City Police (or BCP) is the premier enforcer of law and order in the city of Bangalore, India. The BCP works under the jurisdiction of the Karnataka State Police. The Bangalore City Police consists of a network of foot patrols, mobile patrols, traffic patrols and armed striking force mobile units in the city. The jurisdiction of the Bangalore City Police is divided into seven zones - East, West, North, South, Central, South-East and North-East Each zone is further divided into three sub-divisions, each headed by an Assistant Commissioner of Police. Bangalore City Police, established in 1963, was the first established police force in the state of Karnataka. The first BCP Police Commissioner was C. Chandy and was of the rank Deputy Inspector General of Police.

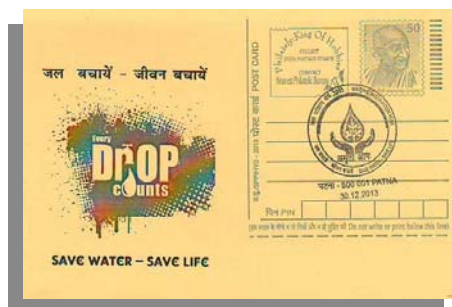
Karnataka Postal Circle issued a Special Cover to mark 50 years of Bangalore City Police on 30th December 2013.



Courtesy: Suresh R., Bangalore

Special Cancellation 'Save Water - Save Life' - 30th December, 2013.

On the occasion of Water Conservation year, a special cancellation was provided at Patna on 30th December 2013 with bilingual slogan 'Save Water - Save Life'.

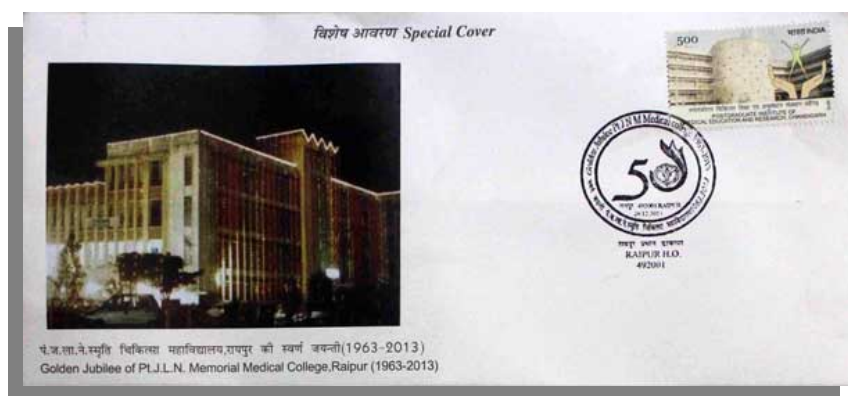


Courtesy: Pradip Jain, Patna

Special Cover on Golden Jubilee of Pt. J. L. N. Memorial Medical College - 28th December 2013.

Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College is a state-owned medical college and hospital in Raipur. It was founded on 9th September 1963, and recognised by the Medical Council of India in 1969. The B. R. Ambedkar Memorial Hospital established in 1995 in the college campus is the affiliated teaching hospital. Radiotherapy department of this medical college is now a government approved Regional Cancer Centre. Average daily OPD attendance is more than 900 patients with more than 100 major and minor surgical procedures done daily across the 11 fully equipped operation theatres.

Golden Jubilee Celebration of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College held on 28th and 29th December, 2013 at Raipur. A special cover was released to mark the occasion on 28th December 2013. Hon'ble Governor Shri Shekhar Dutt, Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh, CPMG CG Postal Circle Dr Y P Rai and many other dignitaries were present in the function.



Courtesy: Dr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, Raipur

Beant Singh Stamp Sheet with Error



An error in Beant Singh stamp sheet has been reported from Maharashtra. There is blank space between the first and second column of the sheet.

Courtesy: R. Kasinath, Thanjavur

Special Cover on Fourth Centenary Celebration of Our Lady Of Mercers Church - 27th December 2013

The parish of Our Lady of Mercers Church, Santa Cruz, Goa celebrated its long journey of faith, as a small chapel elevated to a church 400 years back completes a significant milestone of its existence. It was established by the Dominicans and was elevated in 1613 with the addition of the parish of Santa Barbara, Chimbél in 1885.

Maharashtra & Goa Postal Circle released a Special Cover to mark Fourth Centenary Celebration of Our Lady Of Mercers Church on 27th December 2013 at Santa Cruz, Goa.



Cover Courtesy: Ankit Agrawal, Pune

Special Cover on Platinum Jubilee of Rotary Club of Madurai - 27th December 20

Rotary Club of Madurai is the second oldest club in Tamil Nadu. The first club – Rotary Club of Madras – was started in 1929 and in November 1938 Rotary Club of Madurai was established in Madurai. J.M.Doak, an Englishman, was the first President of the club during 1938-39 and T.S.Krishna of TVS Group was the first Secretary.

A special cover to commemorate the platinum jubilee celebrations of Rotary Club of Madurai was released by the Department of Posts on 27th December 2013 by Mervin Alexander, Postmaster General of Chennai City Region at a function held in Rotary Hall, Madurai. The special cover was issued in recognition of the various service activities undertaken by the club in the last 75 years ever since it was started.



Courtesy: R. Kasinath, Thanjavur

Maxim Card on Eklavya.

Beautiful Maxim Card on Eklavya (Stamp issued dated 27th December, 2013) has been prepared by a philatelist from Thiruvananthapuram. Please contact Mr. John Emanuel Boben for more information, Email: annakutty.03@gmail.com | (M) +919495059324 for more information.



Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

Commemorative Stamp on Eklavya - 27th December, 2013.



Ekalavya is a character from the Hindu epic, the Mahabharata. He was a young prince of the Nishadha, a confederation of jungle tribes in Ancient India. Ekalavya aspired to study archery in the gurukul of Guru Dronacharya, the greatest known teacher in the use of weaponry and martial art knowledge at the time. He was son of Vyatraj Hiranyadhanus, a talented soldier in the army of King of Magadha. Magadha was ruled by Jarasandha, who was at odds with the Kingdom of Hastinapura. Ekalavya sincerely sought the mentor of Dronacharya in weaponry and martial art. Ekalavya is called as one of the foremost of kings in the Rajasuya Yagna where

he honours Yudhishtira with his shoes. Though he didn't have his right thumb, he was noted as a very powerful archer and charioteer..

India Post issued a commemorative stamp on Eklavya on 27th December 2013.

Sachin Tendulkar 200th Test Match Presentation Pack

Good News for all Cricket lovers and fan of Sachin Tendulkar. India Post has issued a presentation pack is comprising of one sheetlet of 16 stamps, one first day cover, one miniature sheet and a brochure of Sachin Tendulkar 200th Test Match issue; priced at Rs. 700/-. Available at all philatelic bureaux.



Marudhar Arts, Bangalore - e-Auction:

Marudhar Arts, Bangalore is holding e-Auction for philatelic items viz. Stamps of British India & Republic India, Se-Tenant Pairs/Block of four, Year Packs, Sheets/Sheet lets, Definitive Series, Miniature Sheets, Military Stamps, Rocket Mail Stamps, Azad Hind Stamps, Portuguese India, Stamps of Indian Princely States, Errors, Labels, Postal Stationery, Booklets etc. e-Auction will be ending on 28th Dec 2013 at 1.30 P.M. Philatelic lovers can bid on the internet. Sale closing on Saturday, December 29, 2013 @ 13:30 Hrs IST.

For bidding please visit: <http://marudhararts.com/index.php?page=currentauction>

Commemorative Stamp on Gulab Singh Lodhi - 23rd December, 2013.



Gulab Singh Lodhi was a freedom fighter from Unnao, Uttar Pradesh. He laid down his life at the historic Jhandewala Park at Aminabad, Lucknow in August 1935 while trying to unfurl the tri-colour flag defying Government order that was unacceptable to freedom fighters during the British regime. He was shot dead by a British Officer when he climbed a tree in the park with the flag.

India Post issued a commemorative stamp on Shaheed Gulab Singh Lodhi on 23rd December 2013.

Formation of new philatelic club at Tiruchirappalli - Tiruchirappalli Philatelic Club

A new philatelic club 'Tiruchirappalli Philatelic Club' has been formed at Tiruchirappalli in November 2013 with the efforts of Mr. M. Nassar who is also one of the founder member of Club. Registration of the club is under process. Rev. In the executive body Dr. Daniel Vincent is a President, Mr. R. Kasinath is a Secretary and Mr. G. Satheesh Babu is a Treasurer of the club. Monthly meeting of the club is scheduled on every 4th Sunday of the Month at Bishop Heber Higher Secondary School, Trichy, 3 PM onwards. Second monthly meeting was held on 22nd December 2013.

Visit www.indianphilately.net/porgtn.html for more details.



Courtesy: R. Kasinath, Thanjavur

Special Cover on Shri Govindram Seksaria Institute of Technology and Science (SGSITS)(GSTI) - 22nd December 2013.

The Shri Govindram Seksaria Institute of Technology and Science (SGSITS)(GSTI) is an engineering college in Indore. It was established in 1952 as a technical institute offering licentiate and diploma courses in engineering. It is



considered as best engineering college in MP after NIT Bhopal. The institute offers nine undergraduate and 17 post graduate courses with an intake of 660 and 150 students respectively. At any time, there are approximately 2400 undergraduate students studying in the institute. In addition part-time degree courses are offered for working professionals with Engineering diploma. It is an autonomous college seeking university status.(SGSITS) is an academically and administratively autonomous institute, however it is a part of the

Rajiv Gandhi Proudhyogiki Vishwavidyalaya and its degrees are issued by the University. All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi and University grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi granted the status of an Autonomous Institution in 1989. Under this status, the Institute conducts its own examinations at both UG and PG levels (SGSITS) became operational under the administration of a Board of Governors.

A Special Cover was released to mark Diamond Jubilee of Shri Govindram Seksaria Institute of Technology and Science (SGSITS)(GSTI) on 22nd December 2013 by Shri A. P. Srivastava, Chief Postmaster General at the function organised to celebrate the event in Indore.

Courtesy: Mr. O. P. Kedia, Indore

'MAPPEX-2013', M. P. State level Philatelic Exhibition - 19th - 21st December 2013.

M. P. Postal Circle organized 11th state level Philatelic Exhibition 'MAPPEX 2013' from 19th to 21st December at Ravi Shankar Nagar Community Hall, Bhopal. The exhibition was inaugurated by Director General of Police, Shri Nandan Dubey on 19th December. He also released the special cover on 'Princely State Postal Stamp' and launched the 'My Stamp' scheme on the same day. While inaugurating the My Stamp scheme DGP was also given his photo stamps as a memento. Further, the first female Post Master General of Asia, Sushila Chourasia was also presented with her photo stamps under the My Stamp. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madhya Pradesh Bhopal Narendra Kumar released a special cover on the endangered species of the forests. Approximately 300 frames were exhibited in this exhibition. Philatelic Workshop, Letter writing Competition, Philatelic Quiz, Painting Competition etc. were also organized during MAPPEX - 2013.



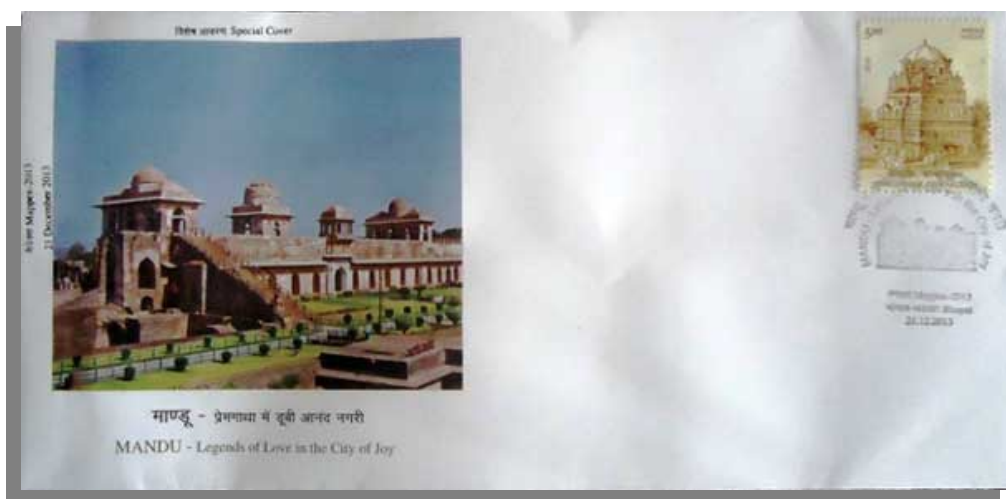
Special Cover on Princely States of Central India, sponsored by India Post - 19.12.2013



Special Cover on Gaur reintroduction in Bandhavgarh sponsored by M. P. Forest Department - 19.12.2013



Special Cover on All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhopal, sponsored by AIIMS Bhopal - 20.12.2013.



Mr. Sudhir Jain - Thematic (Jainism), Mr. O. P. Kedia - Postal Stationary (Gwalior State Stationary), Mr. Dharendra Singh Chauhan - Thematic (Mahatma Gandhi), Mr. Arun Bindal - Postal Stationary (FDC of Post Independence Definitive), Mr. Akash Kedia - Gwalior State Cancellations and Mr. Madan Midda - Literature (Year Book of Philately) were awarded Large Vermeil medals. Mr. O. P. Kedia was awarded CM trophy by the Chief Guest Mr. Singh for his exhibit on Postal Stationery of Gwalior state.



Courtesy: Mr. O. P. Kedia, Indore, Mr. Sudhir Jain, Satna

Special Cover on Cub Bulbul Utsav - 18th December 2013

The purpose of Scouting and Guiding is to develop the inherent potential of the young people by providing them a number of structured activities in order to make them physically, mentally, socially, spiritually and emotionally strong and useful citizens of the Nation. It is designed to satisfy the needs of each age group.

Cub is a Scout wing mainly for boys aged about 5 to 10 year and Bulbul is a Guide wing for age group of 5 to 10 years. Cub Bulbul Utsav are gathering of the Cub and Bulbuls in which opportunities are provided to the Cub and bulbuls to enjoy the activities specially carved out for them and also help them to demonstrate their skills and talents.

Cub Bulbul Utsav was organised by Bharat Scouts and Guides, West Bengal from 18 - 22 December 2013 at Ganganagar, West Bengal. West Bengal Postal Circle released a Special Cover to commemorate the Cub Bulbul Utsav on 18th December 2013.



Glimpse of Cub Bulbul Utsav

Cover Courtesy: Ankit Agrawal, Pune

Commemorative Stamp on Beant Singh - 17th December, 2013.

Beant Singh (19 February 1922 - 31 August 1995) was an Indian National Congress politician and the Chief Minister of Punjab from 1992 to 1995. He entered the Assembly as an independent candidate in 1969 and later joined the Congress.



Born in undivided Punjab Beant Singh migrated to the Bilaspur village in the Doraha tehsil of the Ludhiana district. Thereafter he shifted to village Kotli in the same district. He completed his education from the Government College Lahore. At the age of 23, he joined the army but after two years of service, decided to make a switch to politics and social work. He was assassinated along with 17 others including three commandos at the Punjab Secretariat on 31st August, 1995 in a bomb blast.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh released commemorative stamp in honour of Sardar Beant Singh, former Chief Minister of Punjab, in New Delhi on 17th December 2013.



Photo Courtesy: PIB

Special Cover on 30 years of Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, New Delhi - 16th December 2013.

Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences enjoys the best of what Old and New Delhi has to offer. It is located in the heart of National Capital Territory of Delhi, surrounded by Chandni Chowk, Daryaganj, Connaught Place and the Ferozshah Kotla, it is at the hub of cultural, entertainment and intellectual activities. MAIDS is situated in a spacious campus alongside the city's four prestigious landmark hospitals namely, Maulana Azad Medical College, Lok Nayak Hospital, G. B Pant and Guru Nanak Eye Centre.

To commemorate 30 years of glorious distinction Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, New Delhi a Special Cover was released on 16th December 2013.



Courtesy: Sandeep Chaurasia, Gorakhpur.

Special Cover on Jainism Theme - 16th December, 2013.

On the occasion of Parna Mahotsav of 300th Vardhaman Tap Ayambil Oli of PP Sadhivijee Hanskeertishree Jee M.S., Jainism Philately Group Pune Chapter issued a special cover on 16 December 2013 at Pune. India Post provided a special cancellation on the occasion. Release function was organized at Shri Godiji Jain Temple Pune. Mr. S. R. Meena, P.M.G., Pune was the Chief Guest. Special cover was released by Mr. Meena alongwith Mr. Chandulal S. Shah, Godiji Mandir Trust and Mr. Hemant Bafna, President, Jainism Philately Group, Pune Chapter.



Courtesy: Sudhir Jain, Satna

Special Cover on Buddha Enlightenment 2556 Years - 13th December 2013.

Gautama Buddha, also known as Siddhārtha Gautama, Shakyamuni, or simply the Buddha, was a sage on whose teachings Buddhism was founded. Born in the Shakya republic in the Himalayan foothills, Gautama Buddha taught primarily in northeastern India. Buddha means "awakened one" or "the enlightened one." "Buddha" is also used as a title for the first awakened being in an era. In most Buddhist traditions, Siddhartha Gautama is regarded as the Supreme Buddha (Pali sammāsambuddha, Sanskrit samyaksambuddha) of our age.

Kushinagar, 52 km east to Gorakhpur is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where Gautama Buddha attained Parinirvana after his death.

It is said that the Buddha had three reasons for coming to Kushinagar to die:

- Because it was the proper venue for the preaching of the Mahā-Sudassana Sutta;
- Because Subhadda would visit him there and, after listening to his sermon, would develop meditation and become an arahant while the Buddha was still alive; and
- Because the brahman Doha would be there, after the Buddha's death, to solve the problem of the distribution of his relics.

A Special Cover was released on Buddha Enlightenment 2556 Years at Kushinagar on 13th December 2013.

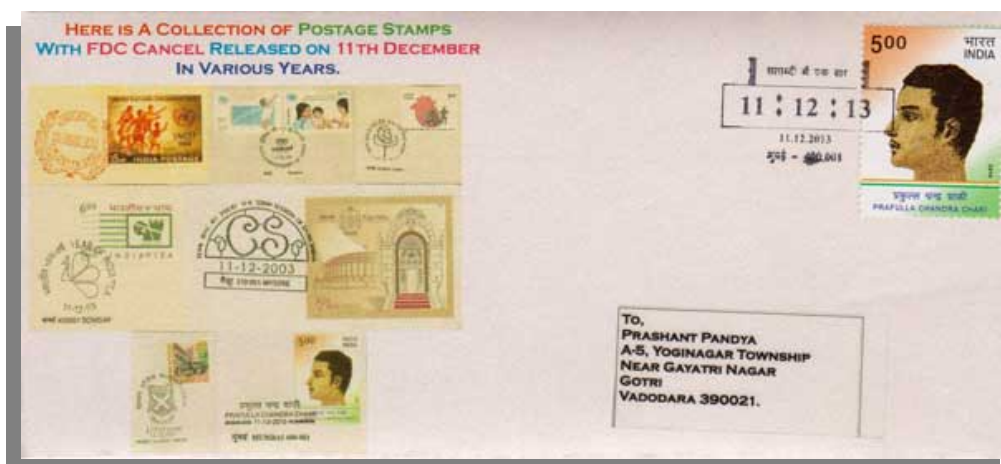


From the left Alok Ojha SSP (Post), U.P. Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and Thubten Zöpa Rinpoche, Lama from Thami, Nepal are seen at the Special Cover release function held at Kushinagar.

Courtesy: Ashwani Kumar Dubey, Gorakhpur

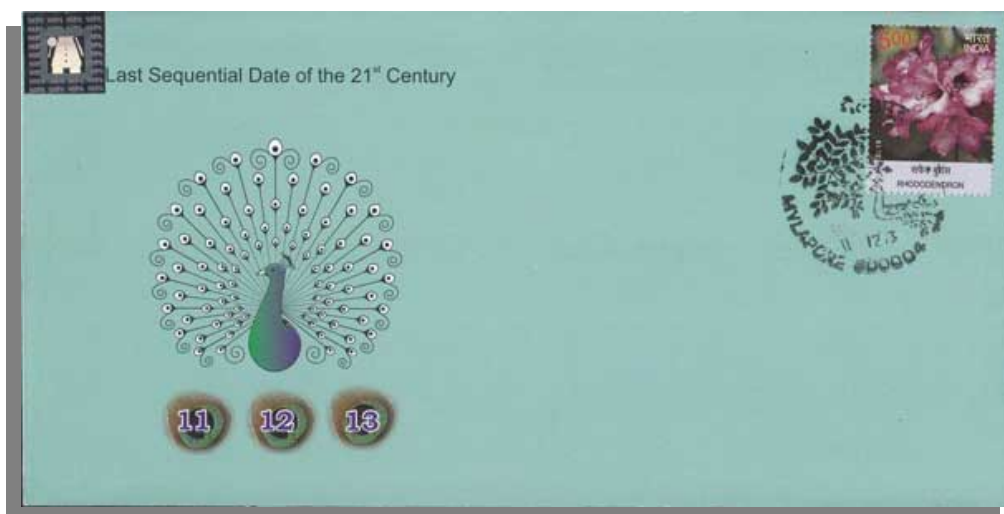
Special Cancellation on 11.12.13 at Mumbai - 11th December, 2013.

A cancellation was provided at Mumbai on last sequential date of 21st Century i.e. 11.12.13 on 11th December 2013.



Special Cover and Cancellation on 11.12.13 at Chennai - 11th December, 2013.

A private special cover was issued by South India Philatelists' Association to mark last sequential date of 21st Century i.e. 11.12.13 on 11th December 2013. Pictorial cancellation dated 11th December 2013 of Mylapore H. O. was provided on special cover. For further inquiry, readers may please contact sipagold@gmail.com



Courtesy: [Rainbow Stamp Club](#)

Special Cover and Cancellation on 11.12.13 at Pune - 11th December, 2013.

A Special Cover and two cancellations were provided at Pune on last sequential date of 21st Century i.e. 11.12.13 on 11th December 2013. Special Cover depicts famous Paithani Saree which is considered as one of the richest sarees in Maharashtra.



Courtesy: [Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram](#)

Special Cancellation on 11.12.13 at Satna - 11th December, 2013.

During the district level philatelic exhibition 'SATNAPEX - 2013' organised by India Post at Satna (M.P.) on 11-12-2013, a special cover was released by renowned Philatelist, Numismatist and writer Shri Kishor Jhunjhunwala of Mumbai. The cover was issued by Central India Philatelic Society. Shri R. M. Jain, S.S.P. Rewa Division and Sudhir Jain, Secretary Central India Philatelic Society were special guests of the function.



Courtesy: [Rainbow Stamp Club](#)

Special Cancellation on 11.12.13 at Vadodara and Ahmedabad - 11th December, 2013.

A Special Cancellation has been provided on 11th December 2013 at Vadodara and Ahmedabad Philatelic Bureau to celebrate one of the last sequential date of 21st Century i.e. 11.12.13. Cancellation depicts Mahatma Gandhi's portrait with message "My Life is my Message".





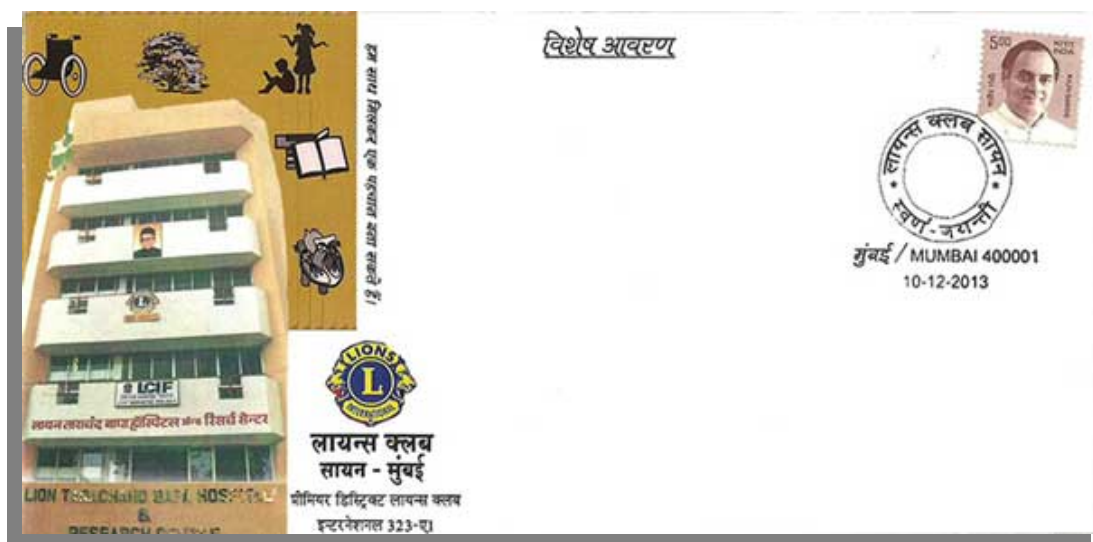
Covers by: Prashant Pandya

Special Cover on Golden Jubilee of Lions Club, Sion, Mumbai - 10th December 2013.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.3 million members in approximately 45,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the world.

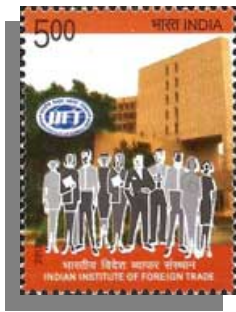
Lions Club Sion, Mumbai is an NGO and part of Lions International, having office at Lion Tarachand Bapa Hospital, Sion, which is a permanent project of Lions Club of Sion. Today it is 68 bedded full fledged Hospital having a full fledged diagnostic Unit with X-Ray, Pathology. Three Ultra modern Operation Theaters, I.C.C.U., N.I.C.U., C.T.Scan, Computerised Stress Test, Male Ward, Female & Padiatric Ward and Executive Ward.

To mark 50 year of Service, Lions Club of Sion, Mumbai celebrated its Golden Jubilee on 10th December 2013. A Special Cover was released to mark the occasion at Mumbai.



Courtesy: Ankit Agrawal, Pune

Commemorative Stamp on Indian Institute of Foreign Trade - 10th December 2013.



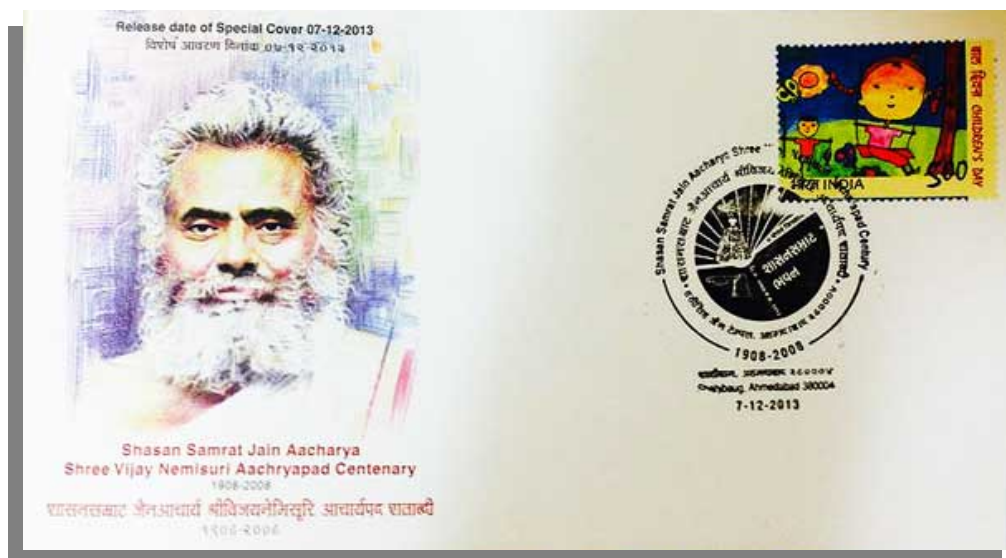
The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) is an autonomous public business school established in 1963 by the Government of India to help professionalise the country's foreign trade management and increase exports by developing human resources, generating, analysing and disseminating data. Also IIFT has always been prided as an excellent centre for research on WTO and other related issues. Over the years IIFT has evolved from being a centre of foreign trade to a complete business school that now rests on a tripod: the MBA (International Business) programme, Research and MDPs.

India Post issued a commemorative stamp to mark Golden Jubilee of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade on 10th December 2013.

Special Cover on Shahsan Samrat Jain Acharya Shree Vijay Nemisuriji Acharya pad Centenary - 7th December 2013.

Acharya Vijay Nemisuri Maharaj (also named Shasan Samrat) is considered to be one of the ablest Suri Chakravarti of 20th century. His activities included renunciation of knowledge, protection religious scriptures, writing of new works and their publication as well as maintenance of whole libraries of scriptures, for which he provided guidance. He founded numerous Jain schools (Pathshalas) all over the state of Gujarat and Rajasthan to spread scholastic knowledge of Jain scriptures and conduct. He also established several Gnanbhandars and libraries to store and protect ancient literature, in religious books. Through his life-time achievements and accomplishments, he made a strong impact in re-energizing and reviving the meaning of Jain Shastras and proper conduct of Jain Shasan. Hence, he is known to the entire Jain Sangh as Shasan Samrat in the true sense. He took birth in the family of Laxmichandbhai and Deewaliben of Mahuva, Gujarat on the auspicious New Year Day of the year 1929 V.S. He was named Nemchand, as he was born in the scorpion sign of zodiac.

With a view to celebrate his 'Acharya pad' centenary (1908-2008), Shashan Samrat Bhavan has been constructed in Ahmedabad. A Special Cover was released on 7th December 2013 to commemorate Acharya pad Centenary of Shahsan Samrat Jain Acharya Shree Vijay Nemisuriji at Ahmedabad.



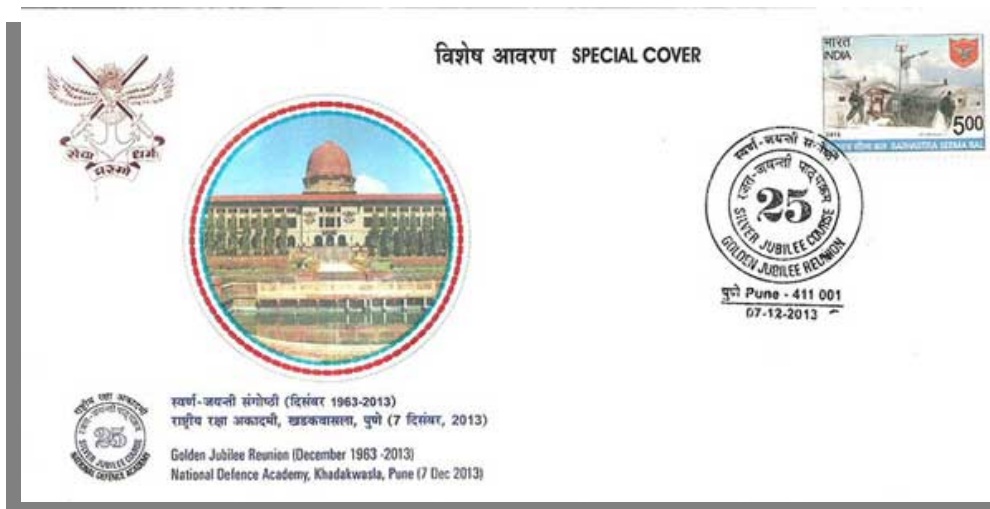
Courtesy: Mr. Sapan Jhaveri, Ahmedabad

Special Cover on Golden Jubilee Reunion, National Defence Academy, Khadkwasla, Pune - 7th December 2013.

The National Defence Academy (NDA) is the Joint Services academy of the Indian Armed Forces, where cadets of the three services, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force train together before they go on to pre-commissioning training in their respective service academies. The National Defence Academy was formally commissioned on 7 Dec. 1954, with

an inauguration ceremony held on 16 Jan. 1955. The NDA is located in Khadakwasla near Pune, Maharashtra. It is the first tri-service academy in the world and is rated amongst the best in the world.

India Post, Maharashtra & Goa Postal Circle released a Special Cover on 7th December 2013 to mark Golden Jubilee of 25th Course at National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Pune. Special Cover was issued by The Army Philatelic Society and the cover was designed by Brig P. K. Gulati, President TAPS.



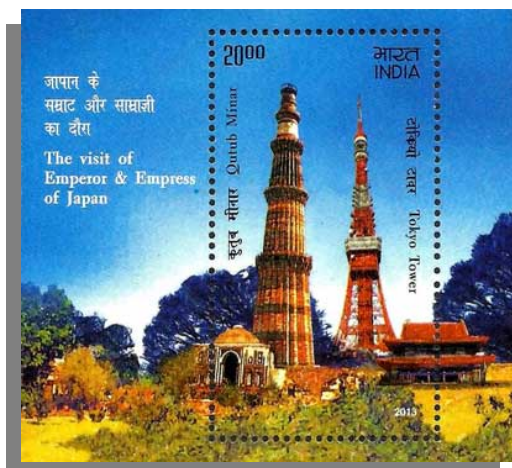
Courtesy: Ankit Agrawal, Pune

Stamps of India National Exhibition 2013 (SINE) - 6th - 8th December 2013.



4th Edition of Stamps of India National Exhibition 2013 (SINE) organised by Bharatiya Daktkit Sangstha, Kolkata will be held from 6th to 8th December 2013 at NDMC Convention Centre, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110 001. Contact for more information: sine@stampsofindia.com | (M) +919718873273.

Commemorative Stamp on first visit of the Japanese Emperor and Empress to India - 5th December 2013.



Japan and India have long developed friendly relations at a general public level. Japan's Emperor Akihito and his wife Empress Michiko arrived in India on 30th November 2013 on a six-day visit to India. The aim of the visit to India has been to strengthen the bilateral and economic relations between Japan and India.

This is the first time that Their Majesties pay an official visit to India. However, in 1960, His Majesty the Emperor, when he was Crown Prince, made a visit to India, on behalf of Emperor Showa, with Her Majesty the Empress, Crown Princess at that time, in return for the visit to Japan by then Indian President Rajendra Prasad. (Afterwards, Their Majesties, Crown Prince and Princess at that time, stopped at India respectively in 1962 on the occasion of the official visit to Pakistan and Indonesia and in 1975 on the occasion of the attendance at the coronation of His Majesty the

King of Nepal.)

To commemorate the first visit of the Japanese Emperor and Empress to India Department of Posts released a Commemorative Stamp on 5th December 2013. The department released the stamp in the denomination of Rs. 20 featuring Qutub Minar and the Tokyo Tower. It is one of the very rare occasions in Indian Philatelic History when a stamp has been released to commemorate the visit of a dignitary.

Governor of Tamilnadu Dr. K. Rosaiah released the stamp to mark the visit of Emperor and Empress of Japan to India at Raj Bhavan in Chennai. Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Dr. J. Jayalithaa was also present in the function.



News Courtesy: www.newindianexpress.com | *Photo Courtesy:* www.skyscrapercity.com

Commemorative Stamp on INS Vikramaditya - 4th December 2013.



INS Vikramaditya is a Project 11430 modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier which entered into service with the Indian Navy in 2013. The ship has been renamed in honour of Vikramaditya, a legendary 1st century BC emperor of Ujjain, India. Originally built as Baku and commissioned in 1987, the carrier served with the Soviet (until the dissolution of the Soviet Union) and Russian Navies before being decommissioned in 1996 as she was too expensive to operate on a post-Cold War budget. The carrier was purchased by India on 20 January 2004 after years of negotiations at a final price of \$2.35 billion. The ship successfully completed her sea trials in July 2013 and aviation trials in September 2013. She was formally commissioned on 16 November 2013 at a ceremony held at Severodvinsk, Russia.

The President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee released a commemorative stamp on INS Vikramaditya, at the Navy Day Reception, hosted by the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral D.K. Joshi, at Navy House, in New Delhi on 4th December, 2013.



Photo Courtesy: PIB

Vijayapex - 2013, Stamp Exhibition at Vijaya High School, Bangalore - 4 - 6 December 2013.

A Stamp exhibition 'Vijayapex-2013' is organised by Philatelic Club of Vijaya High School, Jayanagar, Bangalore in the school premises from 4th December to 6th December 2013.

Courtesy: Mr. Jagannath Mani, Bangalore.

Department of Posts launches 'Express Parcel' and 'Business Parcel' Services - 2nd December 2013.

The Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications & IT, launched an 'Express Parcel' service on 2nd December 2013. The service was launched by Smt. P. Gopinath, Secretary, Department of Posts, at a function organized at New Delhi G.P.O. Speaking on the occasion Smt. Gopinath said that 'Express Parcel' is a premium parcel service for retail as well as bulk customers. It offered time bound, safe and secure home delivery of parcels. To have minimal transit time these parcels will be given airlift wherever needed. Bulk customers would also have an economical option of surface transported 'Business Parcel'. These two new parcel services aim to promote the e-commerce market in India by offering reliable and cost efficient delivery solutions. Whereas 'Express Parcel' is an air mail service providing guaranteed time bound delivery of parcels, 'Business Parcel' will provide fast, secure and cost efficient transmission of parcels through surface. These services will have 'Cash on Delivery' facility which has become a pre-requisite today for e-commerce parcels.

Though 'Business Parcels' will have a nationwide coverage, the 'Express Parcel' service will initially be available between 20 identified cities: Agra, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Delhi (NCR), Patna, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indoor, Jaipur, Jammu, Kolkata, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Pune, Parwanoo, Shillong, Surat and Thiruvananthapuram. This service will be expanded nationwide in phased manner. Both these services are being offered at a very attractive tariff, said Smt. Gopinath.

Courtesy: PIB

Commemorative Stamp on 50 Years of Nagaland - 1st December 2013.

Nagaland is a vibrant hill state Located in the extreme North Eastern End of India, bounded by Myanmar in the East; Assam in the West; Arunachal Pradesh and a part of Assam in the North with Manipur in the south. It offers rich incomparable traditional and cultural heritage. Nagaland was established on 1 December 1963 to be the 16th state of the Indian Union. It is divided into eleven districts: Kohima, Phek, Mokokchung, Wokha, Zunheboto, Tuensang, Mon, Dimapur, Kiphire, Longleng and Peren. Its native inhabitants are the Naga tribes. Agriculture is the most important economic activity and the principal crops include rice, corn, millets, pulses, tobacco, oilseeds, sugarcane, potatoes and fibres. Other significant economic activity includes forestry, tourism, insurance, real estate, and miscellaneous cottage industries.

President of India Pranab Mukherjee released a commemorative stamp on Golden Jubilee year of Nagaland at inauguration function of the Nagaland State's Golden Jubilee Year Celebrations and Hornbill Festival 2013 held at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 1st December 2013.



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