



Digital Newsletter of Indian Philately Digest | Published Monthly | Powered by : Prashant Pandya

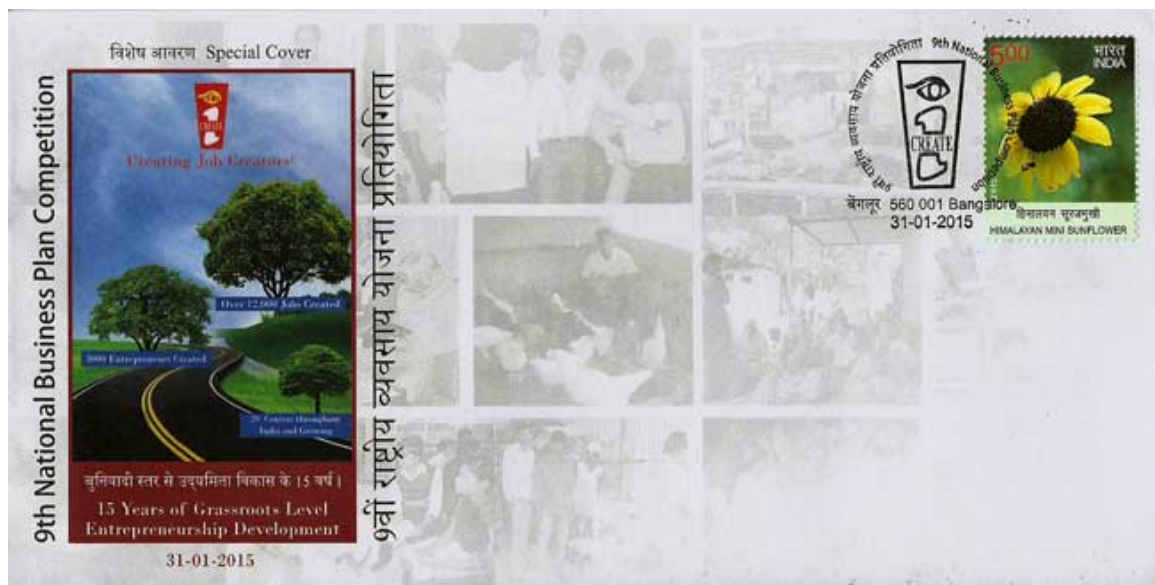
Issue No. 25 : January 2015

Special Cover on 9th National Business Plan Competition - 31st January 2015.

Started in 1999, as a non-profit, in a limited locality in India, to help the disadvantaged who could not get a job, I Create has now become a major movement in India with 14 centres and hundreds of affiliations. Like minded people have come to the fore to support the ideal of helping the disadvantaged become job creators instead of job seekers.

National Business Plan Competition an annual event of "I Create" is the culmination of "Change the Mind Set" (CMS) programme conducted in different educational institutions across the country. Change the Mind Set program addresses the needs of the youth by demonstrating entrepreneurship as a viable and honorable alternative and training them in basic skills of entrepreneurship (soft as well as core business skills). It helps them in the evaluation of their entrepreneurship qualities, plan for improvements in weak areas and in identifying business opportunities (using their hobbies, skills or observed problems). National Business Plan Competition is held every year and is hosted by the center at different States of India. The top winner at the National Level and the National Entrepreneurship Educator also get to participate at the Global Event organized by NFTE in April in New York. Both are given expense-paid trip to NY for this purpose. This program has helped create over 3000 entrepreneurs, created over 12000 jobs and has over 20 centers in India and is growing.

I Create conducted its 9th National Business Plan Competition on 31st January 2015 at Bangalore and to celebrate 15 years of Grassroots Level Entrepreneurship Development a Special Cover was released by Shri M. S. Ramanujan, Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Postal Circle on 31st January 2015. (Special Cover approval no. KTK/25/2015). My Stamp having logo of I Create was also made on the occasion.





Cover Courtesy: Viswas Menon, Madikeri

Special Cover on Rotary District Conference, Mumbai - 31st January 2015

The WOW District Conference 2015 held at the National Sports Club of India (NSCI) in Worli, Mumbai on 31st January and 1st February 2015. The W.O.W. Confluence was a unique event hosted by the Rotary Club of Bombay Pier, which initiated wisdom, opportunity and winners.

On the occasion a Special Cover was released on 31st January 2015 at Mumbai. (Special Cover approval no. MH/06/2015)



Rocpex-2015, District Level Philatelic Exhibition at Tiruchirappalli - 30th and 31st January 2015.

The Department of Posts, Trichy Division organized a district level philatelic exhibition, Rocpex 2015, at the Bishop Heber Higher Secondary School at Teppakulam, Tiruchirappalli on 30th and 31st January 2015. The exhibition featured exhibits of more than 50 philatelists. During the exhibition three special covers were released. A quiz competition and a painting competition for school students were also organised during the exhibition.



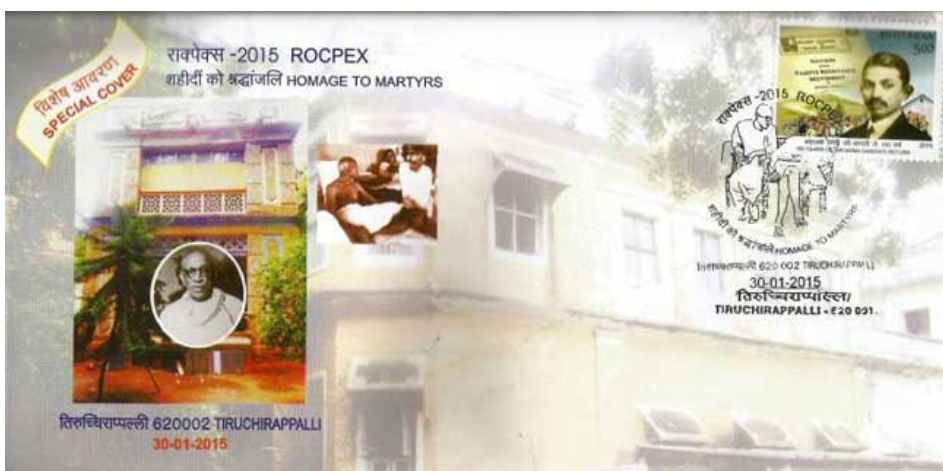
On 30th January 2015, a Special Cover on Gandhi Market was released to highlight the association of the Gandhi market with historic occasions. (Special Cover approval no. TN-04/2015).

Gandhi Market officially called as Mahatma Gandhi Market, is a wholesale farmers' market in the city of Tiruchirappalli. Gandhi market is the second biggest daily market in South India and was founded by Mahatma Gandhi on 17th September 1927 and was declared open by C. Rajagopalachari on 9th February 1940.

Another Special Cover was released on 30th January to pay a tribute to late Dr. T. S. S. Rajan for his patriotism and active participation in the non-cooperation movement and the Rajan Bunglow. (Special Cover approval no. TN-5/2015). The cancellation depicts Mahatma Gandhi and C. Rajagopalachari.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan was born on 14th August 1880. He was one of the pioneers of Indian Freedom struggle. He was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's non co-operation movement and he used to discuss with the Mahatma Gandhi, the course of the independence movement at the bungalow during his visit to Trichy in his own building known as Rajan Bunglow. Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha was headed by Rajaji from Rajan's bungalow on 13th April 1930.

Both the special covers were released by Shri J. T. Venkateswarlu, Postmaster General, Central Region, Tamil Nadu, and were received by S. Krishnamoorthy, General Manager (Commercial, Marketing, Proposal and logistics), Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, and Sivasakthi Ramanathan, Tiruchi President of the Tamil Nadu Merchants Association.



On 31st January 2015 a Special Cover on Saraswati Bala Mandir was released. (Special Cover approval no. TN-06/2015) Saraswati Bal Mandir is a Matriculation School in Tiruchirappalli. It was started in the year 1988-89 by Sahitya Ratna Shri K Kadirveluji who is founder President and Trustee of the School.



Courtesy: Kasinath R., Thanjavur | [The Hindu](#)

'A Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi' a solo exhibition at New Delhi - 30th Jan. - 5th February 2015.

'A Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi' a solo exhibition by Ved Prakash Sharma, was held on 30th January 2015 on the occasion of the 67th Martyrdom Day of Gandhiji at Art Gallery, Civil Services Officers Institute, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri YP Anand, a practicing Gandhian and former Director, National Gandhi Museum, Delhi. The exhibition will remain open 5th February 2015.

A Special Cover to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by Civil Services Officer's Institute was released by Ms. Padmagandha Mishra, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices. Special cover and cancellation were designed by Shri Virendra Sharma.



Courtesy: [Rainbow Stamp Club](#)

Commemorative Postage Stamp on Swachh Bharat (Clean India) - 30th January 2015.

The Minister for Communications & Information Technology, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad along with the Minister for Urban Development & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Venkaiah Naidu and the Minister for Rural Development Shri Chaudhary Birender Singh released Commemorative Stamps on the theme of Swachh Bharat (Clean India) to mark the Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi on 30th January 2015.

Stamps and Miniature Sheet are designed by Sankha Samanta, based on selected entries including those by M. Vaibhav Shenoy, Ankita De, Jenwin Baby, Dr. K. S. Bharanija, J. Sreeramulu and Manandeep K. Sondh received through All India Stamp design competition.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission) is a national campaign by the Government of India to clean the streets, roads and infrastructure of the country. This campaign was officially launched on 2nd October 2014 at Rajghat, New Delhi by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This mission seeks to achieve Clean India and aims to provide access to toilets to all households in the country. It also seeks to provide adequate arrangements for Solid and Liquid Waste Management. It is India's biggest ever cleanliness drive. This campaign aims to accomplish the vision of a 'Clean India' by 2 October 2019, the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. Release of a set of three stamps and a miniature sheet on the theme Swachh Bharat is a part of this effort to achieve the vision of Clean and Healthy India.

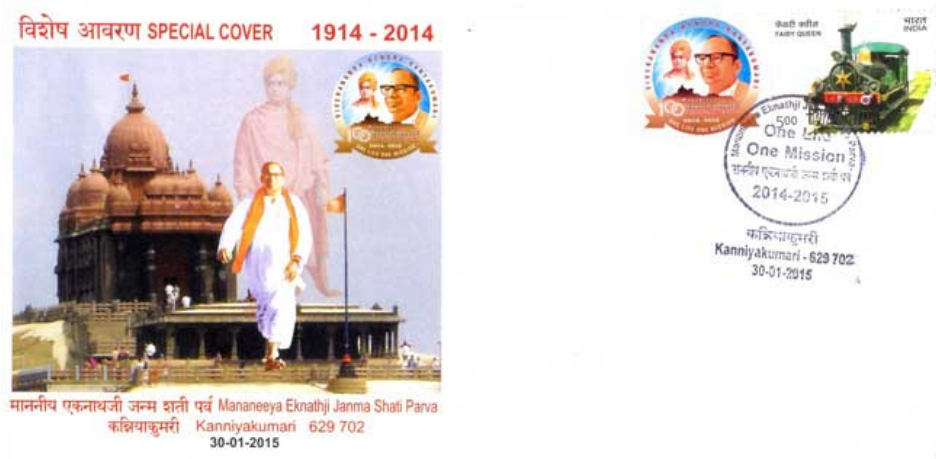


Photo Courtesy: PIB

Special Cover on Ekanath Ranade, founder of Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Vivekananda Kendra - 30th January 2015.

Eknath Ramkrishna Ranade (b. 19 November 1914 – d. 22 August 1982), popularly referred to as Eknathji, was a social activist and leader, motivated by the twin spirits of nationalism and spiritualism, and known for his great organisational abilities. Having joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) while still in school, he became an important organiser and leader for the organisation, rising through its ranks to serve as its General Secretary from 1956–62. Shri Ranade was greatly influenced by the teachings of Swami Vivekananda, and compiled a book of Vivekananda's writings. During the 1963-72 period, Eknathji played an instrumental role in the construction of the Vivekananda Rock Memorial and the Vivekananda Kendra at Kanyakumari.

A Special Cover was brought out by the Department of Posts to mark the centenary celebrations of Ekanath Ranade, founder of Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Vivekananda Kendra on 30th January 2015 (Special Cover approval no. TN//3/2015). Ms. Anjali Devasher, Chairperson, Investment Board and Postal Service Board, released the special cover at a function held in Vivekananda Kendra Auditorium. My Stamp was also released on the occasion by Shri T. Murthy, Chief Postmaster General, Tamil Nadu Circle. D. Bhanudas, General Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra, received the Special Cover and My Stamp. A. Balakrishnan, Vice President, Vivekananda Kendra, presided. J. Charukesi, Postmaster General, South Zone, and office bearers of Vivekananda Kendra attended the function.



Courtesy: [The Hindu](#) Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

Art and Stamp exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi at Patna - 29th January - 3rd February 2015.

To commemorate the 100th year of arrival of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India, we an exclusive Art and stamp exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi was jointly organised by Art, Culture & Youth Department of Government of

Bihar and Phila Art, Patna from 29th Jan. to 3rd Feb. 2015 at Lalit Kala Academy, Patna.

Exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar. The uniqueness of this exhibition is two different forms of Art were showcased at one venue. Mr. Tushar Gandhi, great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and other noted Gandhian graced the occasion. The exhibition displayed stamps on Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's transition from a barrister in South Africa to 'Mahatma' in India. Besides India, stamps of various countries on Mahatma Gandhi were on display. On 30th January 2015, talk on Gandhi Philately by Philatelists Sanjay Jain and Pragya Kothari was organized.



Courtesy: Pradip Jain, Patna

Tapipex-2015, District Level Philatelic Exhibition held at Betul, Madhya Pradesh – 28th & 29th January 2015.

Chhindwara Postal Division of Madhya Pradesh organized a district level philatelic exhibition 'Tapipex-2015' at Betul on 28th and 29th January 2015. On 29th January 2015 two special covers were released.

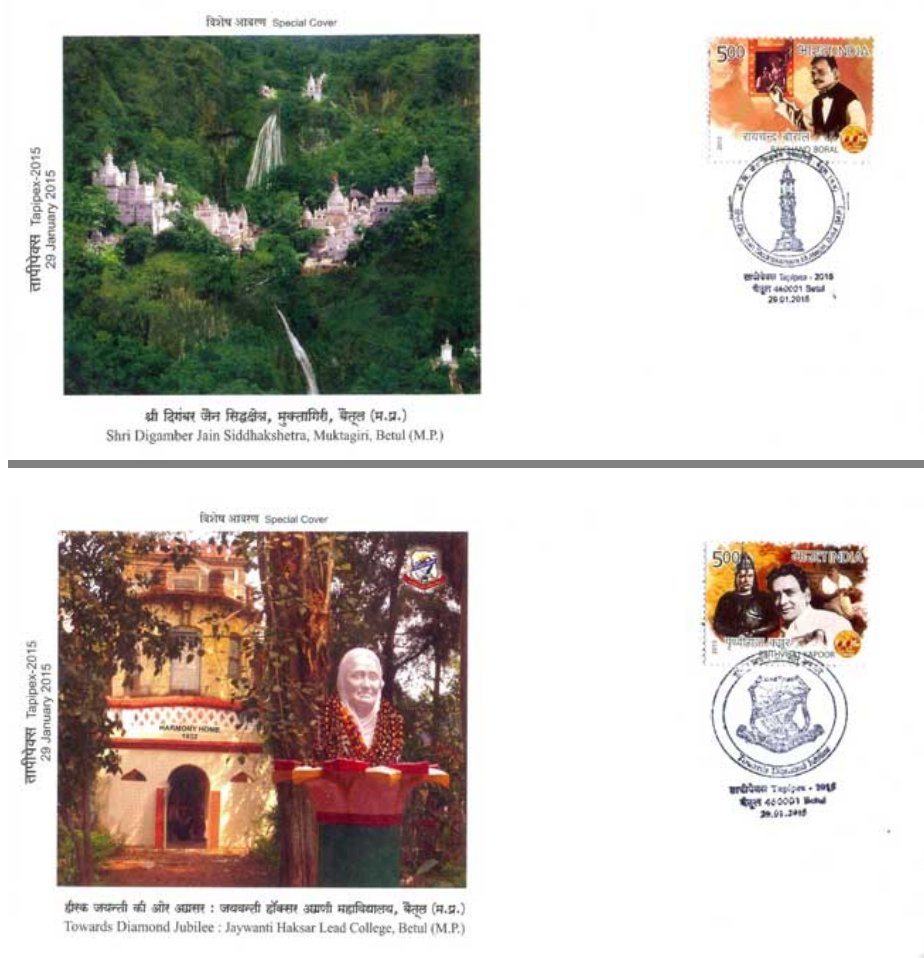


One Special Cover was released on famous Jain pilgrimage centre Shri Digamber Jain Siddhakshetra Muktagiri situated at Thapoda, Ta. Bhensdehi in the Betul District.

Siddha Kshetra of Muktagiri is situated in the lap of the 'Satpuda' Mountain range and it is surrounded by beautiful natural vegetation. It is an ancient Siddha and Atishaya Kshetra and is also known as 'Mendhagiri' or 'Medhrgiri'. According to "Prakrit Nirvan Kand" and other texts, Muktagiri is place of attainment of Nirvana where about three and a half crores of muniraj (Saints) have done meditation and attained salvation. According to the local traditions the Samavasarana of 10th Tirthankar Bhagwan Shitalanatha arrived here and so the place is said to become sacred by footsteps of Jina Shitalanatha. Muktagiri is located on border of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. It is 14 km away from Paratwada, Dist. Amravati, Maharashtra.

Second Special Cover was on Jaywanti Haksar Lead College, Betul.

Jaywanti Haksar Lead College of Betul is a Government aided Co-Ed institute and affiliated to Barkatullah University. This college has courses for Bachelors & Masters.



Courtesy: Sudhir Jain, Satna | Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

Special Cover on Golden Jubilee of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattom - 28th January 2015.

One of the most premier educational institutions of Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of Kerala, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattom was established in the year 1964. From the humble beginnings, this alma mater has made a profound leap to become a school with two shifts, catering to the educational demands simultaneously. Its pass outs occupy the most coveted positions in various walks of life.

A Special Cover was released to mark the Golden Jubilee (1964-2014) of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattom on 28th January 2015. (Special Cover approval no. KL-07/2015). My Stamp of the school was also launched on the occasion.





Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

Rajpex-2015, 14th Rajasthan State Level Philatelic Exhibition - 24th - 27th January 2015.

Rajasthan Postal Circle organized Rajpex-2015, 14th Rajasthan State Level Philatelic Exhibition at Mahaveer Public School, Vardhman Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur from 24th to 27th January 2015.

24th January 2015 - Day 01

The exhibition was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Shri Rajeev Dasot, Additional DG, Rajasthan Police and Lt. Col. D. K. S. Chauhan, Chief Postmaster General, Rajasthan Postal Circle on 24th January 2015. Shri Rajendra Godha, Chairman, Mahaveer Public School Committee and Shri Umraomal Sanghi Secretary, Mahaveer Education Committee were the Guest of Honour of the function.

On the first day a Special Cover on 17th Vintage Car Rally was released by the Chief Guest Shri Rajeev Dasot in presence of Lt. Col. D. K. S. Chauhan, CPMG, Rajasthan Postal Circle, Guest of Honour Shri Rajendra Godha and Shri Umraomal Sanghi, Shri Dushyant Mudgal, Director Postal Services (HQ), Jaipur and other guests.

Every year a Vintage Classic Car Rally is organized in Jaipur that brings out all the vintage cars of the city and nearby places for the delight of city dwellers and season tourists in Jaipur.

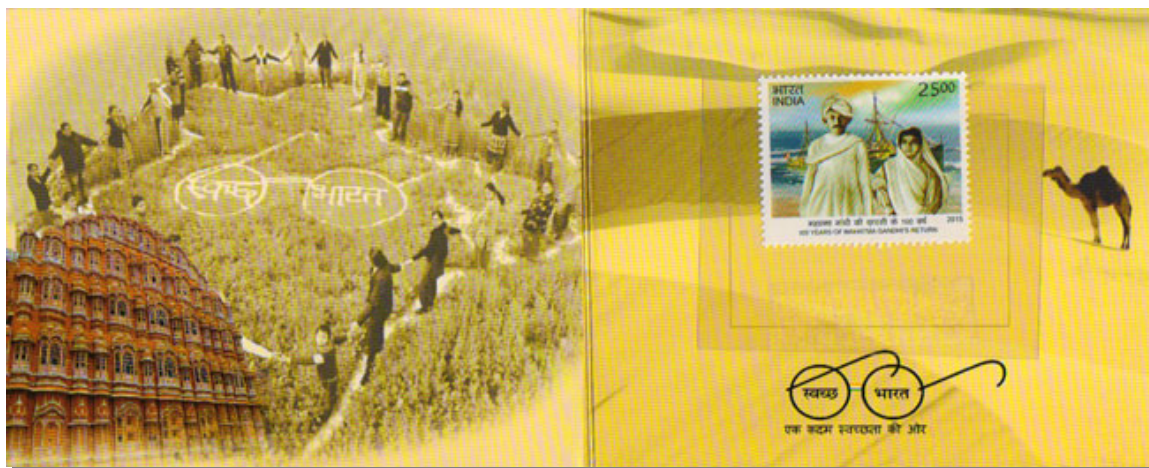
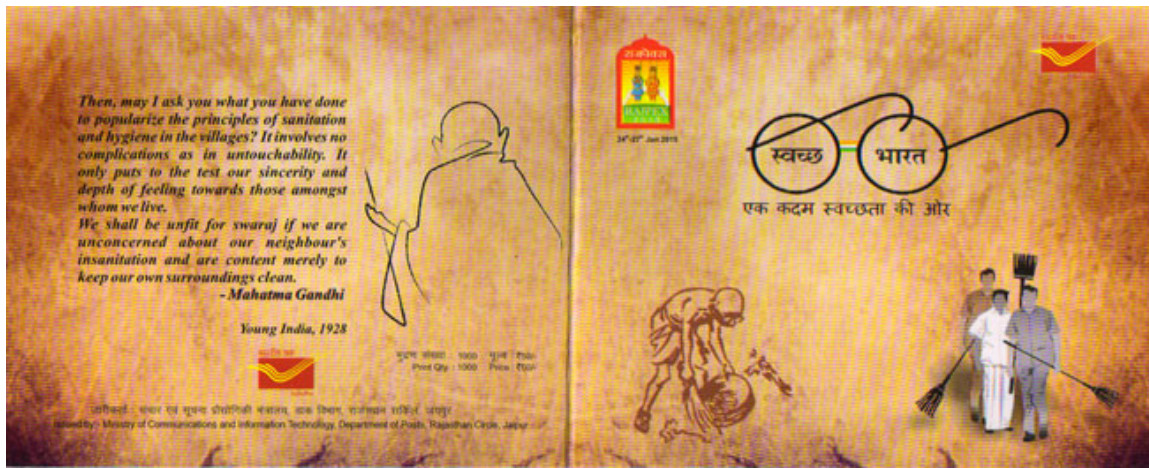
Organized by Rajputana Automotive Sports Car Club, the 17th Vintage Classic Car rally was scheduled at the

auspicious Jai Mahal Palace of Jaipur on 24th and 25th January 2015. The event brings together a group of leading car owners and vintage car collectors from different parts of the country.

A Stamp Booklet on Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan was released on the occasion by Shri Rajendra Godha and all guests on the dais.

A drawing competition was also organized for School Children on 24th January on theme Mars Mission. The best entry of the competition design will get a place on the special cover to be issued on 27th January 2015.





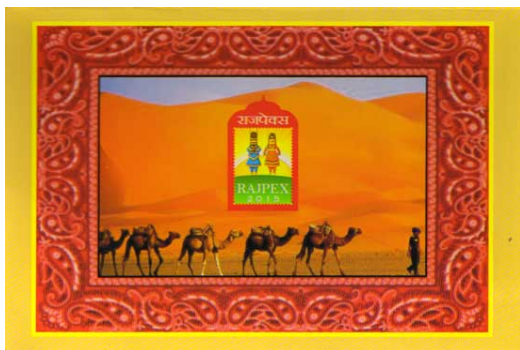
25th January 2015 - Day 02

On the second day of Rajpex-2015, a Special Cover on Heritage Game of Rajasthan – Horse Polo, Maharaja Bhawani Singh Cup was released by Rajkumari Diya Kumari, MLA of Sawai Madhopur in presence of Lt. Col. D. K. S. Chauhan, Rajasthan Postal Circle, Shri Digvijay Singh, Secretary, Polo Club, Jaipur, Shri Dushyant Mudgal, Director Postal Services, (HQ), Rajasthan Postal Circle, Shri Dinesh Singh Jaini, Director Postal Services, Shri J. M. Dhor and Sr. Philatelists, Shri Rajesh Paharia, Sr. Philatelist.

On the occasion two sets of Picture Postcards were also released by the guests on dais. One set of on religious places of Rajasthan including Dadudwara, Naraina, Jaipur, Govind Dev ji Temple, Jaipur, Sri Amrapur Place, Jaipur Ekling ji Temple, Udaipur, The first Church of Rajasthan, Todgar, Beawar, Galiakot Dargah, Dungarpur, Nakoda Jain Temple, Balotra, Barmer and Maa Tripura Sundari Temple, Banswara. Another set of 6 Postcards on Stamps issued on Rajasthan having images of Bride-Rajasthan, Valler Dance of Garasia Tribe, 13th Asian Pacific Dental Congress, 1988, Radha – Kishangarh, Pushkar Fair, Ajmer and Cities of India, Bikaner.

A quiz competition of school children was also organized on the second day.





26th January 2015 - Day 03

On the third day of Rajpex-2015, 66th Republic Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour and gaiety. Flag hoisting ceremony was performed at the Play Ground of Mahaveer Public School. Students presented cultural programmes including solo performance, group dances, skit etc. Enthralling performances of long jumping and skating skills were staged.

On the occasion a Special Cover on highest National Flag situated at Natural Heritage – Central Park, Jaipur was released. For the first time in India Special Cancellation in form of Digital Franking using Remotely Managed Franking System (RMFS) has been applied on the special cover. The Special Meter Frank depicts National Flag and Slogan 'Highest National Flag in Rajasthan' and 'Greetings on Republic Day'. The meter frank is serially numbered from 1 to 1000. Serially numbered brochure describing National Flag at Central Park, Jaipur is included with the special cover. Cost of the Special Cover and Brochure is Rs. 50/-.

First 20 Special Covers bearing serial nos. 1 to 20 were reserved and an auction was held on 27th January 2015. Special Cover bearing Sr. no. 1 was sold at Rs. 15,000 in the auction.

Central Park, constructed by the Jaipur Development Authority is the largest park located in the centre of Jaipur City. Indian National Flag is hoisted at a height of 206 feet throughout the year in the Central park. The flag is 48 feet wide and 72 feet in length weighing about 27 Kgs. This is an initiative of the Flag Foundation of India (FFI) for its Monumental Flag project, of which Shri Naveen Jindal is the founder president.





27th January 2015 - Day 04

On the fourth day in the afternoon session, auction of first 20 Special Covers issued on 26th January 2015, bearing serial nos. 1 to 20 was held in presence of Lt. Col. D. K. S. Chauhan, Chief Postmaster General, Rajasthan Postal Circle.



In the closing ceremony Shri Manoj Bhatt, DGP (ACB), Rajasthan was the Chief Guest of the function and Dr. Sandeep Sancheti, Vice Chancellor, Manipal University Jaipur Campus was the guest of honour.

Android App 'Indian Philately Digest' developed by Shri Prashant Pandya of Vadodara was launched by Lt. Col. D. K. S. Chauhan, Chief Postmaster General, Rajasthan Postal Circle and Shri Manoj Bhatt, DGP, Rajasthan by unveiling blowup of android app by remote control.



Prof. V. K. Gupta, Team leader of Jury panel read the Jury Report of Rajpex-2015. The Jury panel consisted of Chief Postmaster General, Rajasthan Circle, Lt. Col. D.K.S. Chauhan Chairman Jury; Prof. V.K. Gupta; Shri Dhananjay Desai as Jury Members and S/Shri Dushant Mudgal, Director Postal Services (HQ), Ajay Mittal, Prashant Pandya, Rajesh Paharia and Virendra Sharma as Apprentice Jury.

After the presentation of Jury Report a Special Cover was released on India in Space – Mangalyan. Design of the Special Cover shows the painting of Ms. Shresthan Shrivastava, aged 14 of Class VIII, Neerja Modi School, Jaipur, selected as the best painting in all Rajasthan Painting Contest for School Children organized during the Rajpex-2015 on 24th January 2015. The Special Cancellation depicts line drawing of Mangalyan. Shri Manoj Bhatt, DGP (ACB), Rajasthan and Dr. Sandeep Sancheti, Vice Chancellor, Manipal University released the Special Cover.





Rajpex-2105 concluded with the Prize distribution ceremony. Dignitaries on the dais presented prizes and awards to the winners of various competitions held during the exhibition and to the awardees of Exhibition. There were 256 frames in competitive class. Out of which 183 frames were in Senior Class, 62 frames in Youth class and 11 frames in School Exhibits. 35 frames were exhibited in Invitee Class. 9 Gold, 19 Silver and 46 Bronze medals were awarded in Competitive Class.



Jury Team of Rajpex - 2015, From left Shri Prashant Pandya, Shri Ajay Mittal, Prof. V. K. Gupta, Lt. Col. D. K. S. Chauhan, CPMG, Rajasthan, Shri Dhananjya Desai, Shri Dushyant Mudgal, DPS (HQ), Rajasthan, Shri Rajesh Paharia and Shri Virendra Sharma.

Mumbaipex - 2015, District Level Philatelic Exhibition at Mumbai - 23rd - 25th January 2015.

Mumbaipex-2015, Mumbai District (City & Suburban) Level Philatelic Exhibition was held at the Auditorium Hall, Mumbai GPO Annexe Building, Mumbai from 23rd to 25th January 2015. The exhibition was inaugurated on 23rd January 2015 by Shri Mahesh Zagade, Transport Commissioner, Maharashtra.

On the occasion a Special Cover on Mumbai's Dabbawala was released on 23rd January 2015 by Shri Mahesh Zagade, Transport Commissioner, Maharashtra in the presence of Raghunath Medge, President, Mumbai Dabbawala Association and Dr. N. Vinod Kumar, DPS (HQ), Maharashtra Postal Circle. (Special Cover approval no. MH/08/2015)

Nearly 5,000 dabbawalas operate across Mumbai, delivering food to their customers on time using a unique identity code to sort the nearly two lakh lunchboxes. This is the uncommon story of a common man belonging to the Varkari Section of Maharashtra carrying wooden crate for the lunch boxes, wearing white cotton kurta-pyjamas and the

white Gandhi cap.

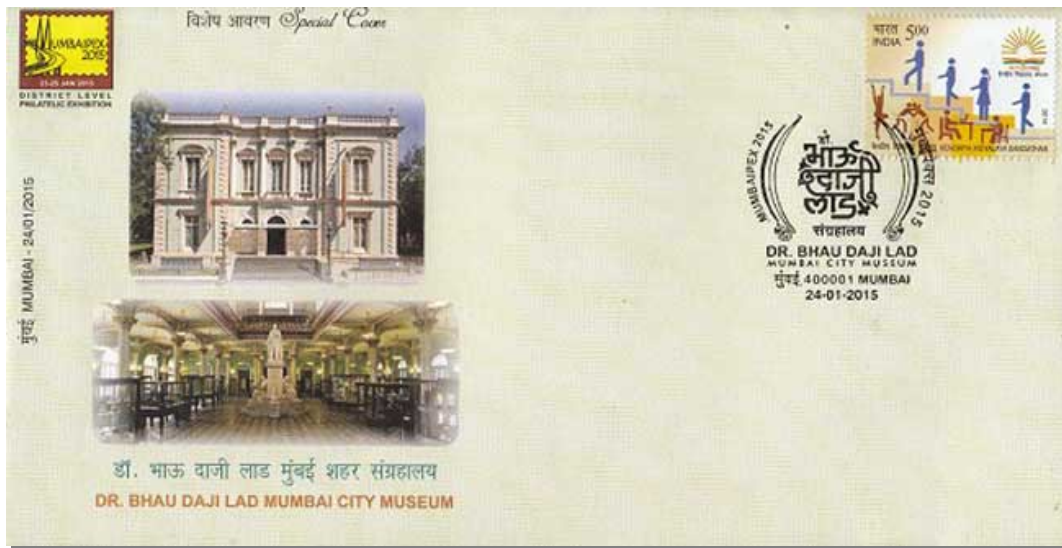


On 24th January 2015 a Special Cover on Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum was released by Shri E. Veerabhadra Rao, Director Postal Services, Mumbai Region in presence of Chief Guest Shri Dhirubhai Mehta, President, Philatelic Society of India and Smt. Tasneem Zakaria Mehta, Managing Trustee and Honorary Director of Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum. (Special Cover approval no. MH/09/2015).

The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum (formerly the Victoria and Albert Museum) is the oldest museum in Mumbai. Situated in Byculla East, it was originally established in 1855 as a treasure house of the decorative and

industrial arts, and was later renamed in honor of Bhau Daji. The construction of the present building in Jijamata Udyan in Byculla started in 1862 and was completed in 1871. The museum was opened on May 2, 1872. In 1975, this museum was renamed as the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum. Between 2003 and 2007, this museum has undergone a major restoration under the supervision of the Mumbai chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and financed by the Jamnalal Bajaj Trust.

Quiz competition for the children was also conducted on the second day.

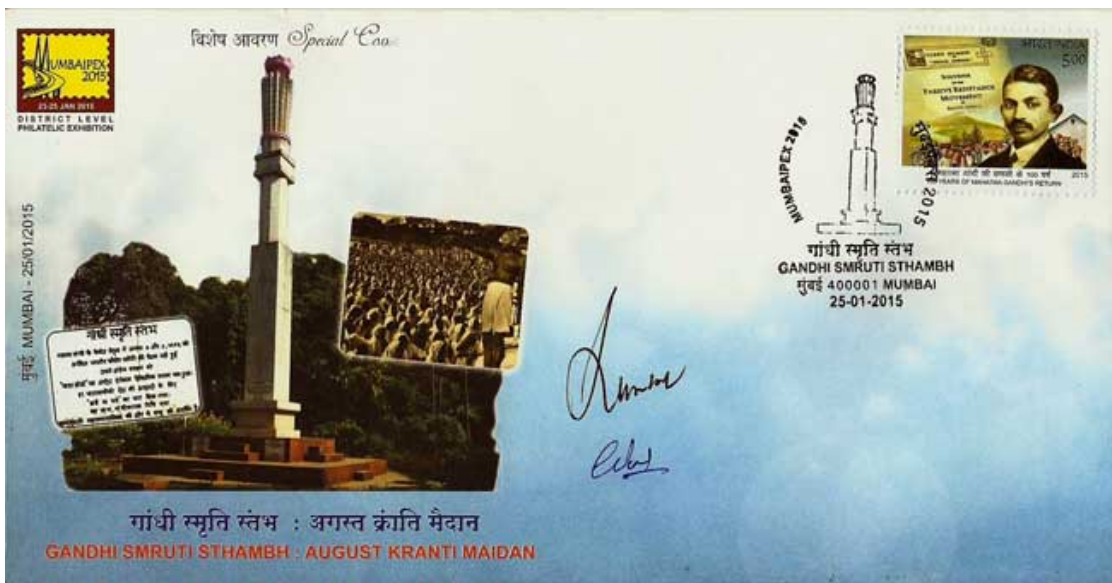


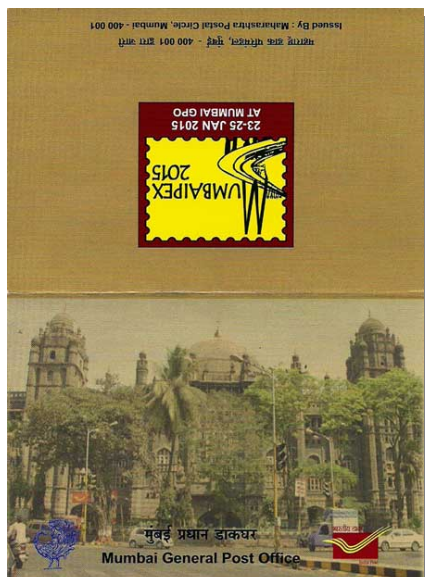
On 25th January 2015, Valedictory Function was held and a Special Cover on August Kranti Maidan was released.

Shri Sunil Kumar Sood, General Manager, Central Railway was the Chief Guest and Dr. G. G. Parikh, renowned Gandhian and Freedom Fighter was the Guest of Honor of the function. Shri P.K. Bisoi, Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle released the special cover and handed over the Album with Special Cover to Dr. G. G. Parikh, Freedom Fighter and other dignitaries on the dais. (Special Cover approval no. MH/10/2015)

August Kranti Maidan, formerly known as Gowalia Tank Maidan, is a park in central Mumbai, where Maatma Gandhi started the Quit India Movement on 8th August 1942 declaring that the British must leave India immediately or else mass agitations would take place. Gandhi's call for the nation was "Do or Die". In the memory of this historic event a Gandhi Smruti Sthambh was built in 1970.

Prizes were awarded to the winners of various competitions. During the exhibition 'My Stamp' (Ajanta Caves template) with the logo of 'Mumbaipex-2015' was also released. A small booklet with the information about the Heritage Building of Mumbai GPO along with a Mumbai GPO Stamp enclosed in a Cover with Mumbaipex 2015 logo was made available to the student visitors at the Mumbaipex 2015 Exhibition Venue.





Courtesy: Viswas Menon, Madikeri | [The Hindu](#)

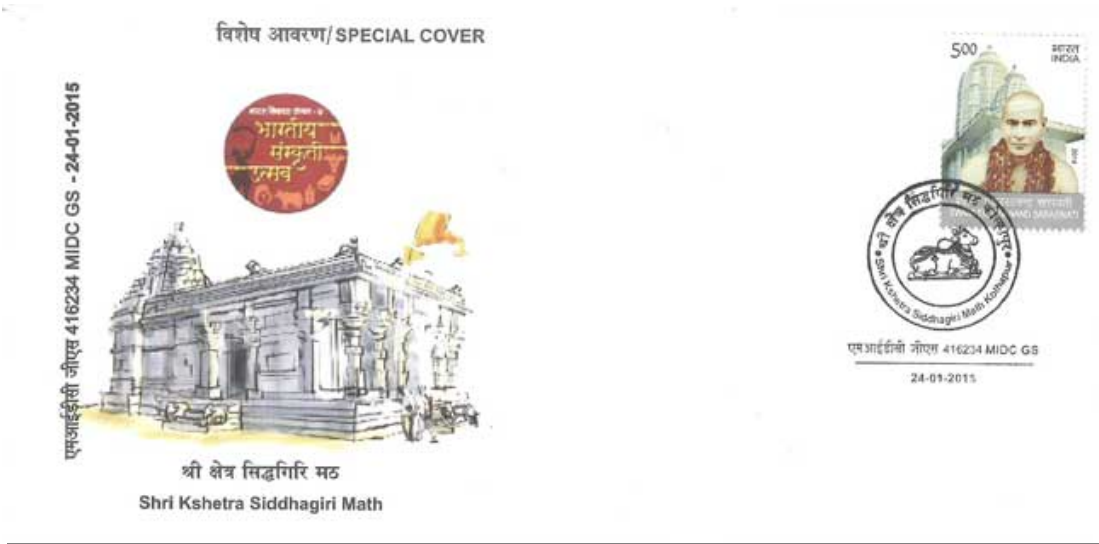
Special Cover on Bhartiya Sanskriti Utsav and Shri Kshetra Siddhagiri Math – 24th January 2015.

‘Bhartiya Sanskriti Utsav’ a seven day conclave was hosted by Shri Kshetra Siddhagiri Matha, Kaneri, Kolhapur, one of the six representative organizations of Bharat Vikas Sangam from 19th to 25th January, 2015. Bharat Vikas Sangam is an open platform for every individual and organization engaged in creative work for the sake of the society. This platform tries to create communication, concurrence and co-operation between good people working in different fields. Bharat Vikas Sangam organizes a convention every three years where people behind different social institutions and projects come together. So far 3 such conventions have been held in 2004, 2008 and 2010 in Varanasi, Chunar and Gulbarga respectively.

Siddhgiri Math is situated in the Kaneri village of Karveer taluka, Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. It is around 12 km from the city of Kolhapur and is located in the foothills of the Sahayadris. At the centre of the Math, on the hill is the Shiva temple. Around the temple precincts are other buildings. It is the most important Math of the Kaadhsiddheshwar Tradition established by Shri Adi Kaadhsiddheshwar Maharaj in 7th century. During the 12th century, the Math came under the influence of Basaveshwar. His philosophy became a guiding light for many in the Math. However, the Math is open towards all communities. The Math is involved in various social welfare and spiritual welfare activities. At the centre of the Math is the Shiva temple. The interior of the temple is 10'x10' with 2 small mandaps outside, with a big Naadi Built on engraved stone-pillars.

To commemorate Bhartiya Sanskriti Utsav – 2015, a Special Cover was released on Shri Kshetra Siddhagiri Math on 24th January 2014 at MIDC Gokul Shirgaon S.O., Kolhapur. (Special Cover approval no. MH/07/2015)





Courtesy: Ankit Agrawal, Pune

New Permanent Pictorial Cancellation introduced at Nandalike B.O. - 576 111 on 24 January 2015.



New Permanent Pictorial Cancellation has been introduced at Nandalike B.O. - 576 111 on 24th January 2015. Nandalike is located in Karkala taluk of Udupi district in Karnataka.

Nandalike is the birthplace of Kannada poet and writer Muddana (b. January 24, 1870 - d. February 15, 1901) better known as Mahakavi (Great Poet) or Mahakavi Muddana. His name at birth was Lakshmi Naaranappa. His birthplace being Nandalike, he is sometimes also known as Nandalike Lakshminaanappa. Muddana was a physical trainer in a High School in Udupi, but became interested in Kannada poetry. He has written epics like Adbhuta Ramayana, Sri Rama Pattabhisheka, Sri Ramashwamedham, Yakshagana Prasangas, Ratnavathe Kalyana and Kumara Vijaya.

Muddana experimented with a style that was hitherto unknown to Kannada. He introduced the character of Manorame (imaginary wife of the poet) in his story. In the prose poetic work Ramashwamedha poet tells her the story of the Ashwamedha sacrifice conducted by Sri Rama. This technique of storytelling is the first of its kind in Kannada literature.

Among all the versions of the Ramayana, Muddanna's Ramashvamedha written in the late 19th century commands a place of its own because it introduces us to a literary tradition called the sallapa - a lively, cheerful conversation between the writer and his wife that veers into the actual telling of the tale.

Permanent Pictorial Cancellation depicts line drawing of poet Muddana and the character of Manorame (imaginary wife of the poet) and it was introduced on 145th birthday of the poet.



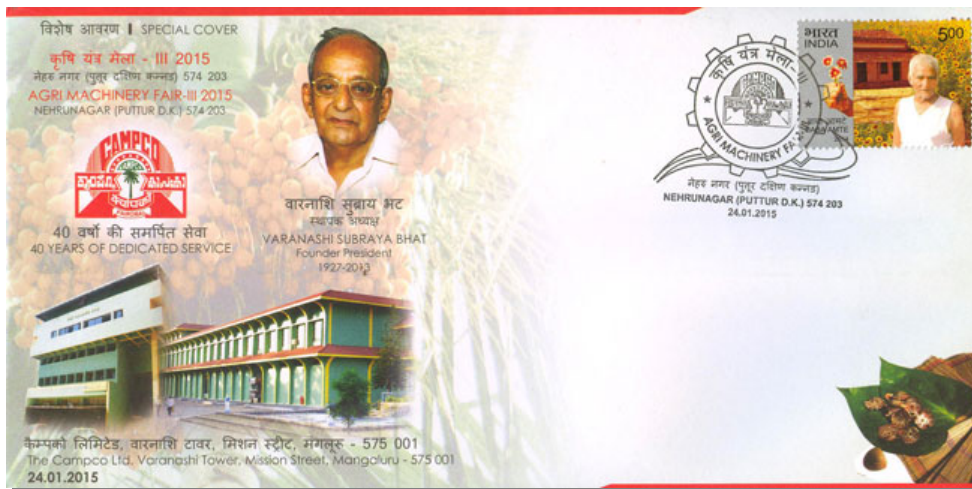
Courtesy: Namratha Hegde, Mangalore | Sushil Mehra, Bangalore | Nagendra Nayak, Udyavar

Special Cover on Varanashi Subraya Bhat and Krishi Yanthra Mela - III, 2015 - 24th January 2015.

Krishi Yanthra Mela-III 2015 (Agriculture Machinery Fair) was organized by the Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative Ltd (CAMPCO) in the premises of Vivekananda College of Engineering and Technology, Puttur from 24th to 27th January 2015. About 240 stalls were set up to showcase the machineries and equipments including stalls of farm machineries and equipment developed by different engineering students. The main purpose of organising the mela was to expose farmers to latest machineries available in farming as shortage of labour was an issue being faced by them.

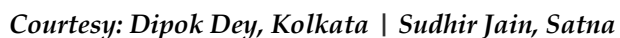
The Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative Ltd. (CAMPCO) which was set up in 1973 at Puttur was the brainchild of Varanashi Subraya Bhat, who was a cooperative leader. Mr. Bhat was born in a middle-class agriculturist family in a rural area near Adyanadka on 8th June, 1927. Mr. Bhat was a founder president of (CAMPCO) and under his stewardship for 17 years, succeeded in uplifting the arecanut market and the farmers are now getting a good return. Mr. Bhat worked as the president of the Campco from its inception in 1973, up to the end of December 1990. He was instrumental in establishing the first chocolate factory of Campco at Puttur in Dakshina Kannada.

On the inaugural day of Krishi Yanthra Mela-III, a Special Cover on late Varanashi Subraya Bhat, founder of CAMPCO and Krishi Yanthra Mela - III, 2015 was released by Ms. Aindri Anurag, Postmaster General, South Karnataka Region at Puttur on 24th January 2015. (Special Cover approval no. KTK/24/2015)



Courtesy: Suresh Rao, Bangalore.

A Special Cover was released on the occasion of Bicentenary of Jain Swetamber Panchayati Mandir (Burra Mandir), Cotton Street, Kolkata on 24th January 2015 by Hon'ble Governor Shri Kesri Nath Ji Tripathi and Chief Postmaster General, West Bengal Mrs. Arundhati Ghosh at Kolkata. (Special Cover approval no. WB/01/2015)



Commemorative Stamp on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao - 22nd January 2015.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save Girl Child, Educate Girl Child) is a Government of India scheme that aims to generate awareness and improving the efficiency of delivery of welfare services meant for women.

Main Objectives of this Programme are to prevent gender biased sex selective elimination, to ensure survival & protection of the Girl Child, to ensure education of the Girl Child, to improve the Nutrition Status of Girl Child and to promote a protective environment for Girl Child. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' programme on 22nd January, 2015 from Panipat, Haryana.



India Post released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the launch of 'Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao' scheme, a flagship initiative to address issues that affect women, and also reverse the trend of an adverse and declining Child Sex Ratio. The stamp was released by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the function organized to launch the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' programme. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister for Communications & IT, Smt. Menaka Gandhi, Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Shri K.P. Solanki, H.E. Governor of Haryana and Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Hon'ble CM of Haryana and Film Actress Madhuri Dixit, who has been made the Brand Ambassador of the campaign were present at the function.

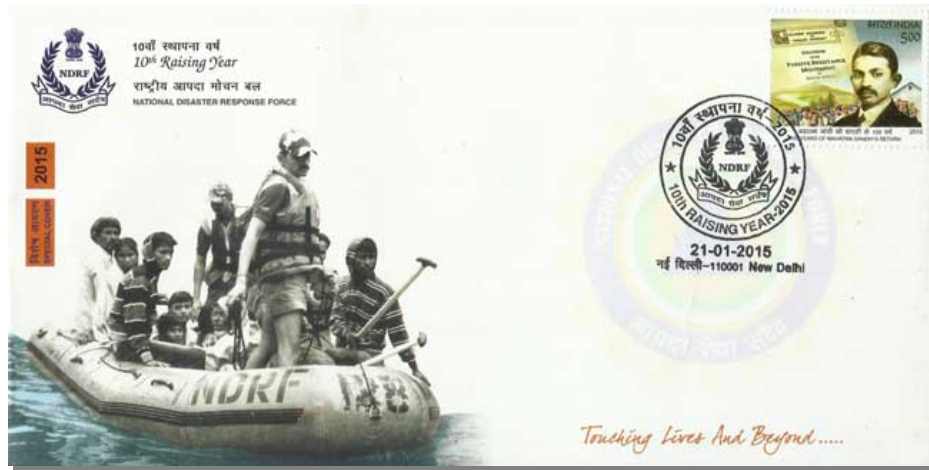


Special Cover on 10th Raising Day of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) - 21st January 2015.

The Disaster Management Act has made the statutory provisions for constitution of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters. Accordingly, The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was raised on January 19, 2006, constituted with 8 battalions (2 battalions each from BSF, CRPF, ITBP and CISF). The NDRF is capable of responding to any type of disaster in the country and abroad. It is strategically deployed across the nation as per the vulnerability profile of the country. Apart from rescue and relief operations, NDRF is also active in community capacity building for disaster response and imparting training to State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).

At present, National Disaster Response Force is having strength of 10 battalions and Each NDRF battalion consists of 1149 personnel. Each battalion provides 18 self-contained specialist searches and rescue teams of 45 personnel each including engineers, technicians, electricians, dog squads and medical/paramedics. All the ten battalions are being equipped and trained to combat all natural disasters including four battalions in combating radiological, nuclear, biological and chemical disasters. Two more battalions have been sanctioned and will come from SSB.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrated its 10th Raising Day on 21st January 2015. The Raising Day function was held at Kothari Auditorium, DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi. On the occasion Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh released a Special Cover marking the 10th Raising Day of NDRF in presence of Shri Vasumitra, Chief Postmaster General, Delhi Circle, the Additional Principal Secretary, PMO, Dr. P.K. Mishra and the Director General, NDRF, Shri O.P. Singh.



Courtesy: PIB Madhukar Jhingan, New Delhi

Special Cover on 70 Years of Naval Ship Repair Yard, Kochi - 21st January 2015.

The Naval Ship Repair Yard, Kochi was originally established as 'Base Engineering and Electrical Workshops', post World War in 1945, to maintain the sea worthless of the ships based at Koch. Subsequently, in order to provide better repair facility to these veteran ships, the facility was upgraded to "Base Repair Organisation"(BRO) on 21 January 1948. The BRO was rechristened as "Naval Ship Repair Yard" (NSRY) on 15 August 1988. Today NSRY, Kochi under the Command of the Admiral Superintendent, is one of the premier Ship Refit and Repair Yards in the country, providing quality and timely repair, refit and yard services to various Indian Naval/Coastal Guard ships, and establishments at Kochi.

The Naval Ship Repair Yard (NSRY) turned 70 on 21st January 2015. Commemorating the milestone a Special Cover was released by the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, Vice Admiral SPS Cheema at a function held at Kochi. (Special Cover approval no. KL-06/2015)





Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram | [Metro Vaartha](#)

Special Cover on Sant Sohirobinath Ambiyé - 21st January 2015.

Sant Sohirobanath Ambiyé (A.D.1714-1792) was a great Goan spiritual visionary who stood for relentless pursuit of knowledge, wisdom and building a good character. He was born in Palaye Village of Pernem Taluka of Goa. Sant Sohirobanath Ambiyé was known as authority of "Shaktipat Yoga" and "Bhahmdarshan" and his spiritual works, poems, invocations distills the essence of ancient Indian Vedantic and Upanishadic wisdom. His works include Akshaya Bodha, Mahadanubhaveshwari, Purnakshari, Advayananda, Siddhanta Samhita and Padasangraha consisting of 16,000 spiritual verses written over 3 to 4 years.

His interesting encounter at the count of Maratha warrior Mahadaji Shinde made him his spiritual Guru and built a monastery for him in Ujjain. He was a true Sant who stressed on self- realization, self-enlightenment and pursuit of knowledge. He is the only Sant credited with composition of spiritual verses in Marathi, Konkani, Hindi and Gujarati which makes him the first pan Indian Sant born in Goa.

The Directorate of Art & Culture in association with Sant Sohirobanath Ambiyé Tercentenary Celebration Committee organized a function to celebrate the birth tercentenary of Goan Saint Poet Sohirobanath Ambiyé at Black Box, Kala Academy Campal, Panaji, Goa on 21st January 2015.

On the occasion a Special Cover on Sant Sohirobinath Ambiyé was released in presence of Shri K.K. Sharma, Chief Secretary Govt. of Goa, Shri Faizi O. Hashmi, Secretary Art & Culture and Shri Charles Lobo, Postmaster General, Goa Region along with Sant Sohirobanath Ambiyé Tercentenary Celebration Committee members on 21st January 2015.



Cover Courtesy: Kaushik Dessai, Goa

Karnapex - 2015, First Zonal Level Philatelic Exhibition at Bengaluru - 16th - 19th January 2015.

16.01.2015 - Day 1

Karnapex-2015, First Zonal Level Philatelic Exhibition organised by Karnataka Postal Circle with the active support of Karnataka Philatelic Society was inaugurated on 16th January 2015 at Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium, Kasturba Road, Bengaluru by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Siddaramaiah and Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, Ex-Chairman, ISRO was the Guest of Honour of function. The day was celebrated as Vigyan Diwas. Exhibits in over 600 frames are on display. The exhibition will continue till 19th January 2015.

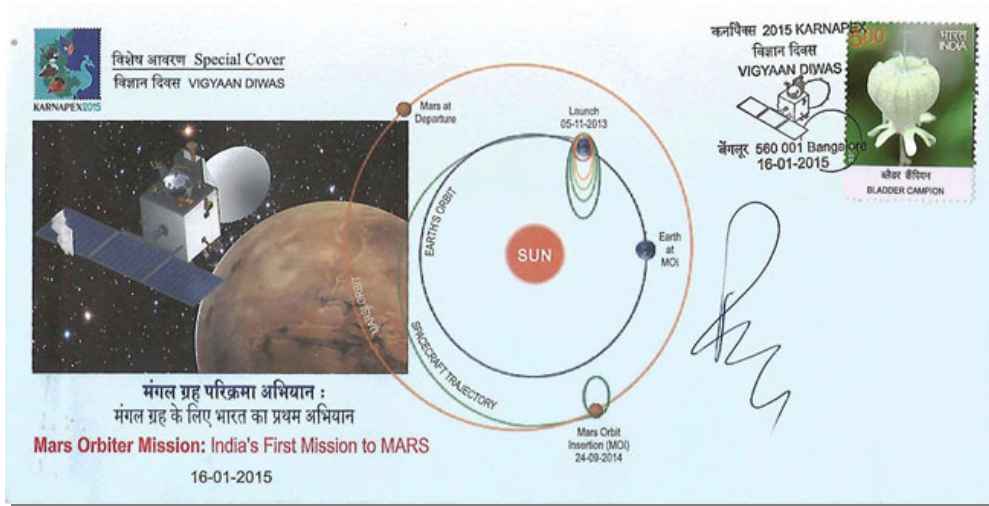


On the first day 12 Special Covers on renaming of the 12 districts of Karnataka [viz. Bengaluru (Bangalore), Belagavi (Belgaum), Ballari (Bellary), Vijayapura (Bijapur), Chikkamagaluru (Chikmanglur), Kalaburagi (Gulbarga), Hosapete (Hospet), Hubballi (Hubli), Mangaluru (Mangalore), Mysuru (Mysore), Shivamogga (Shimoga), Tumakuru (Tumkur)] were released by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Siddaramaiah. All 12 cities names were changed with effect from 1st November 2014 vide special gazette notification issued on eve of the 59th Karnataka Rajyotsava.

A Special Cover on Mars Orbiter Mission, India's First Mission to Mars was also issued on the occasion. Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, handed over the cover to the Chief Minister. (Special Cover approval no. KTK/03/2015)

The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), also called Mangalyaan is a spacecraft orbiting Mars since 24th September 2014. It was launched on 5th November 2013 by the Indian Space Research Organisation. It is India's first interplanetary mission and ISRO has become the fourth space agency to reach Mars, after the Soviet space program, NASA, and the European Space Agency. It is also the first nation to reach Mars orbit on its first attempt, and the first Asian nation to do so. The primary objective of the Mars Orbiter Mission is to develop the technologies required for design, planning, management and operations of an interplanetary mission, comprising various tasks and the secondary

objective is to explore Mars' surface features, morphology, mineralogy and Martian atmosphere using indigenous scientific instruments.



Books on Collectors Guide to Special Covers of Karnataka (1960-2014), Mysore Anche (History of Mysore Postal Department) and Stamps on Karnataka were also released on the occasion.



In the afternoon session a Special Cover on Clock Tower of Virajpet was released by Shri M. S. Ramanujan, Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle.

Foundation stone for the iconic Clock tower, a major landmark and a tourist attraction of Virajpet was laid by the then Chief Commissioner of Kodagu (Coorg then) Sir Hugh Daly on 5th February 1914. The land for the clock tower was donated by the Mukkatira family of Devanageri village. The clock tower was constructed to commemorate the Coronation Durbar held by King George V at New Delhi in 1911. It was inaugurated by the then District Magistrate R K Ellis in January, 1915. It is said that the tower was handed over to the then Town Municipal Council (TMC) by Mukkatira Ayyappa. The Special Cover has been released to mark the completion of 100 years of Clock Tower.



17.01.2015 - Day 2

Second day of exhibition was observed as Samskriti Diwas. A Special cover on Heritage Bengaluru and Picture Postcard Pack on Heritage Bengaluru were released by Shri M. S. Ramanujan, Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle in presence of Shri Laxmi Narayan, Commissioner of BBMP, Bangalore and Guest of Honor Shri Sushil Mehra and Dr. Sita Bhateja, Philatelists from Bangalore.

The special cover is to celebrate Heritage of Bangalore's very special architectural and aesthetic heritage (Special Cover approval no. KTK/05/2015). Pictures on the Special Cover have been taken from the Vintage Postcards collection of Shri Sushil Mehra.



On the occasion local philatelist Shri Sushil Mehra was honoured by Shri M. S. Ramanujan, Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle.



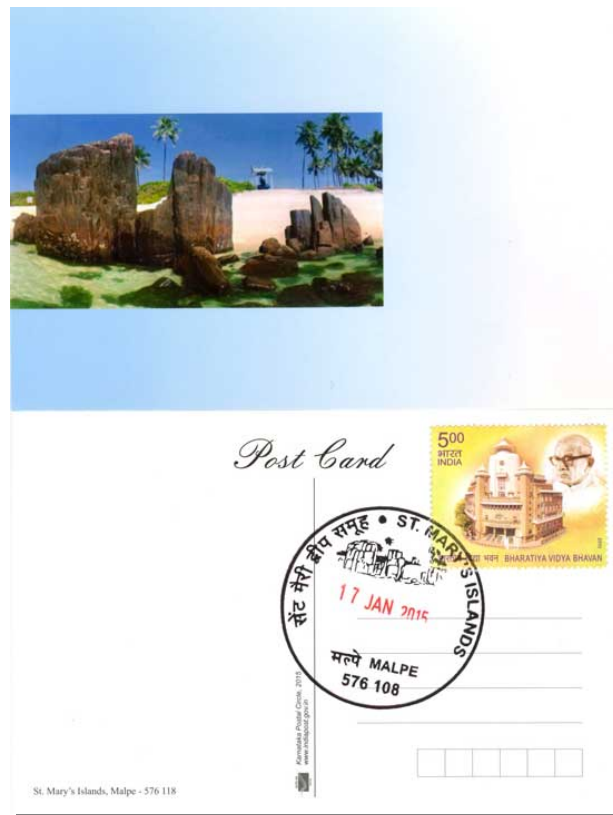
In the afternoon session a Special Cover on Say No to Child Labour (Special Cover approval no. KTK/06/2015) and Special Pictorial Cancellations on St. Mary's Island, Malpe and another on Kattle Basdadi Barkur were released by Rtn. Manjunatha Shetty, Rotary District Governor District no. 3190 in presence of Shri M. S. Ramanujan, Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle and Guest of Honor Dr. Sita Bhateja, renowned Philatelist of Bangalore. Following release function there was a talk on Philately by Dr. Sita Bhateja.



Permanent Pictorial Cancellation - St. Mary's Island, Malpe.

St. Mary's Islands, also known as Coconut Island and Thonsepar, are a set of four small islands in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Malpe in Udupi. They are known for their distinctive geological formation of columnar basaltic lava. Scientific studies indicate that the basalt of the St. Mary's Islands was formed by sub-aerial subvolcanic activity, because at that time Madagascar was attached to India. The rifting of Madagascar took place around 88 Mya. The islands form one of the four geological monuments in Karnataka state, one of the 26 Geological Monuments of India declared by the Geological Survey of India in 2001. The monument is considered an important site for "Geo Tourism".

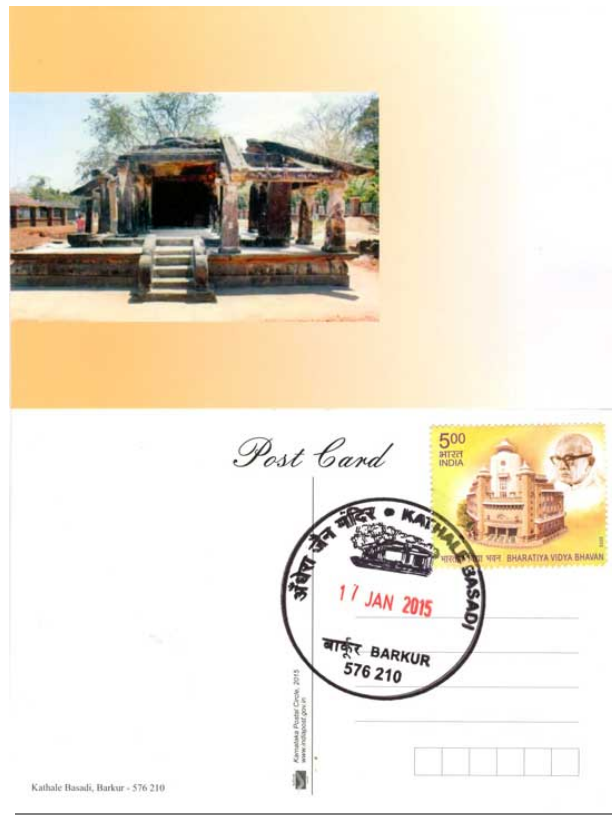
According to folk legend, in the year 1498, Vasco da Gama landed at St. Mary's Islands on his journey from Portugal, fixed a cross on the island and named one of these islands, O Padrão de Santa Maria, as a dedication to Mother Mary, before proceeding to Kozhikode in Kerala. It is from this name that the islands got their current name.



Permanent Pictorial Cancellation - Kattale Basadi, Barkur.

Barkur is a cluster of 3 villages (Hosala, Hanehalli, Kachoor) in Udupi district of the Karnataka. The place is located on the bank of river Seeta. It is located 16 km from Udupi.

Kattale Basadi or basadi in Barkur is an ancient Jain temple. A 20-feet monolithic stone pillar is erected at the entrance. The temples were elegantly designed with carvings and embellishments, but are now in ruins. The twenty-four dents in the stone are the only evidence of the existence of idols of the twenty-four Jain thirthankaras. There are three main structures in a big courtyard with a victory pillar at the entrance. Built between the 8th and 12th Century A.D. by the Alupa rulers, the Jain Basadi, unlike most South Indian temples built in the Dravidian style, does not have a gopuram. The sanctum sanctorum is surrounded by stone walls otherwise known as Prangan, with sloping stone pillars over it. The original Mahavira idol was destroyed but has been replaced by stone tablets with animal figures that are a later addition. Kattale Basadi consists of Navranga with Nagkaali, Shiva, Vishnu and Jain deities with separate temples. It proves the existence of changing kingdoms with various rulers trying to control the city both politically and in terms of religion.



18.01.2015 - Day 3

Third day of exhibition was observed as Swasthya Diwas. A Special Cover on the Birth Centenary of Jonas Edward Salk was released. (Special Cover approval no. KTK/07/2015)

Jonas Edward Salk (b. October 28, 1914 – d. June 23, 1995) was an American medical researcher and virologist. He discovered and developed the first successful inactivated polio vaccine. Born in New York City to Jewish parents, he attended New York University School of Medicine, later choosing to do medical research instead of becoming a practicing physician.

Until 1957, when the Salk vaccine was introduced, polio was considered one of the most frightening public health problems in the world. In 1947, Salk accepted an appointment to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. In 1948, he undertook a project funded by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to determine the number of different types of polio virus. His sole focus had been to develop a safe and effective vaccine as rapidly as possible, with no interest in personal profit.

Rotary launched its Polio Plus program, the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication, in 1985. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, formed in 1988, is a public-private partnership including Rotary, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and governments of the world. Rotary's focus is advocacy, fundraising, volunteer recruitment and awareness-building.

A panel discussion on 'Philately as an Alternate Investment' was also conducted after the cover release function.



19.01.2015 - Day 4

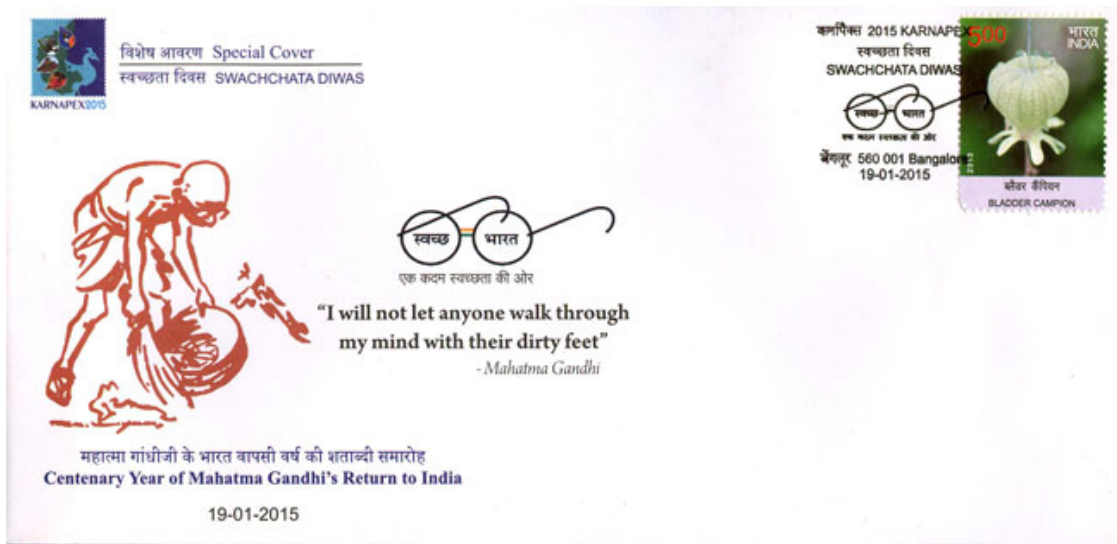
Fourth and last day of exhibition observed as "Swasthchta Diwas" marked the culmination of four day long Philatelic Exhibition. Valediction ceremony was held in the evening in presence of Shri Vajubhai Vala, Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka.

On the occasion three special covers were released by Hon'ble Governor Shri Vajubhai Vala, Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle, Shri M S Ramanujan and other guests on dais. The release function was followed by Prize Distribution.



One Special Cover was on Centenary Year of return of Mahatma Gandhi to India. Mahatma Gandhi left South Africa forever and returned to India in 1951. Soon after he returned to India, cleanliness was among the foremost of his stated concerns. He made cleanliness and sanitation an integral Part of the Gandhian way of living. His dream was total sanitation for all.

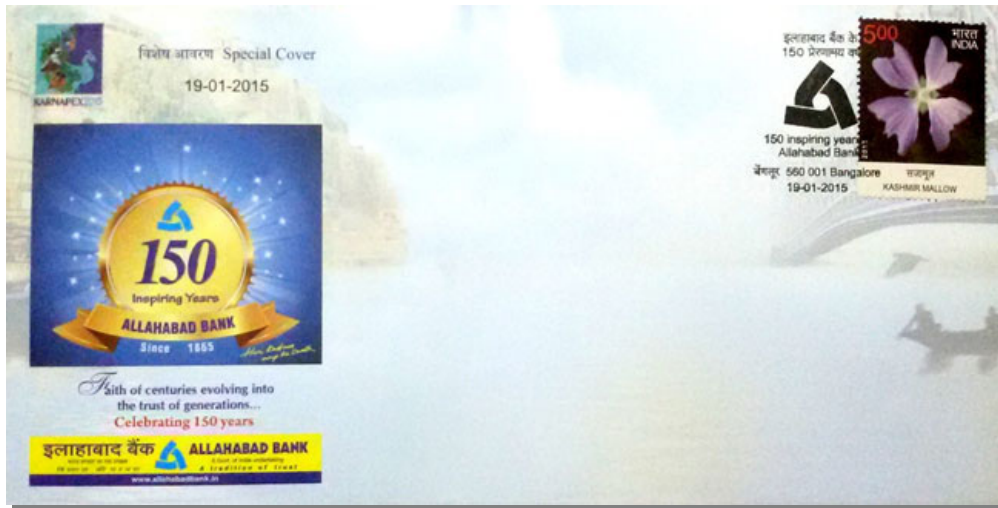
Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission) is a national level campaign by the Government of India to clean the streets, roads and infrastructure of the country. The concept of Swachh Bharat is to pave access for every person to sanitation facilities including toilets, solid and liquid waste disposal systems, village cleanliness and safe and adequate drinking water supply. This campaign was officially launched on 2nd October 2014 with aims to accomplish Mahatma Gandhi's vision of 'Clean India' by 2nd October 2019, as a befitting tribute to Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th Birth Anniversary.



Second Special Cover was on 100 Years of Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI). The erstwhile Mysore Chamber of Commerce, the precursor of the Federation of Karnataka chambers of Commerce & Industry, was established on May 8, 1916, in Bangalore. Sir M. Visvesvaraya, who conceived it in 1915, called it a means to broaden the outlook of the merchants in areas that will be affecting them and also the economy of the state. In 1966-67, its name was enlarged into Mysore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The organization received its current name, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry in 1973.



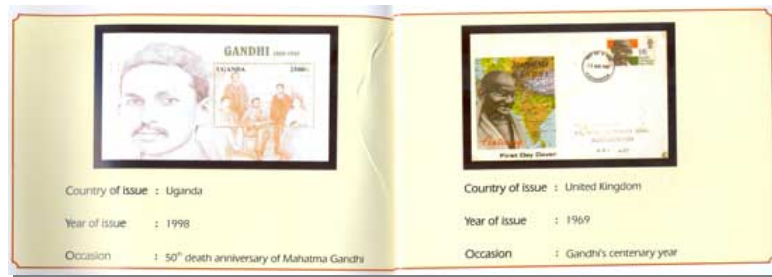
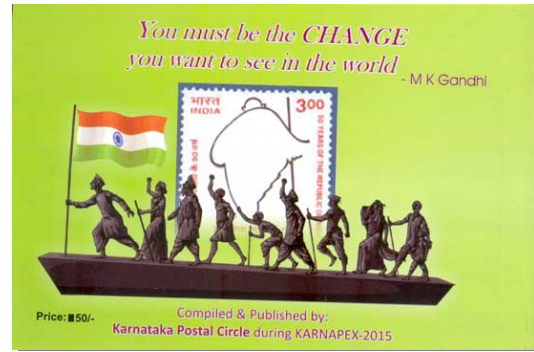
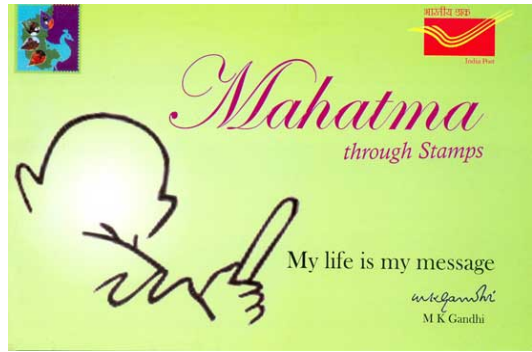
Third Special Cover was on 150 Years of Allahabad Bank. Allahabad Bank, a nationalised bank with its headquarters in Kolkata is the oldest joint stock bank in India. On 24th April 1865, a group of Englishmen at Allahabad founded Allahabad Bank. By the end of the 19th century it had branches at Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Bareilly, Nainital, Calcutta, and Delhi. Allahabad bank is celebrating 150 years of its establishment.



Ms. Sanvi Suresh (8 years) won Large Silver Medal and CPMG trophy for best exhibit in youth class for her one frame exhibit on 'The Story of Penguins'.



A small book titled 'Mahatma through Stamps' was also released during Karnapex 2015. It has 28 pages with 52 photos of Mahatma Gandhi related stamps, Minitature Sheets and Covers.



Courtesy: Viswas Menon, Madikeri | Jagannath Mani, Bangalore | Sushil Mehra, Bangalore | Suresh Rao, Bangalore | Namratha Hegde, Mangalore

Special Cover on Golden Jubilee of Barauni Refinery - 18th January 2015.

Barauni Refinery was built in collaboration with Russia and Romania. Situated 125 kilometers from Patna, it was built with an initial cost of Rs 49.40 crore. Barauni Refinery was commissioned in 1964 with a refining capacity of 1 Million Metric Tonnes per Annum (MMTPA) and it was dedicated to the Nation by the then Union Minister for Petroleum, Prof. Humayun Kabir on 15th January 1965. After de-bottlenecking, revamping and expansion project, it's capacity today is 6 MMTPA. Matching secondary processing facilities such as Resid Fluidised Catalytic Cracker (RFCC), Diesel Hydrotreating (DHDT), Sulphur Recovery Unit (SRU) have been added. These state of the art eco-friendly technologies have enabled the refinery to produce environment- friendly green fuels complying with international standards.

A Special Cover was released to commemorate Golden Jubilee of Barauni Refinery on 18th January 2015 at Barauni Refinery.



Courtesy: Lalit K. Mishra, Patna

Special Cover on Kondajji Basappa Birth Centenary Celebrations - 18th January 2015.

Sri Kondajji Basappa (b. 11 December 1915, d. November 1982) is a popular name both in Karnataka Politics as well as in Scouts and Guides Movement in Karnataka. He was born at Kondajji Village of Davanagere District. Kondajji Basappa was a graduate in science from Bangalore University and did his LL.B from Pune University. He took an active role in promotion of Scout and Guide Movement in Karnataka. Kondajji Basappa entered into Active politics in the year 1962 by becoming MLA from Davangere and twice elected as Member of Parliament in 1971 and 1977. Basappa worked as Assistant District Commissioner, District Commissioner of Chitradurga, Assistant State Commissioner of Chitradurga Division and State Secretary before he became State Chief Commissioner. He held this post for the longest period from 1964 till he died.

Jamborette is a gathering of scouts & guides of age group between 10 & 17 years. It contributes to the development of young people physically, mentally, morally, spiritually & emotionally, thereby enabling the future generation to be responsible global citizens & contribute to society at large.

27th Karnataka State Jamborette 2015 held from 17th to 23rd January 2015 in Dr. Anne Besant Scouts and Guides State Level Training and Camp Centre, Doddaballapur, Bengaluru Rural. State level event happens once in 4 years and gives an all-round exposure to Scouts and Guides. On the occasion Centenary of Late Late Kondajji Basappa celebrated and a Special Cover was released to commemorate his birth centenary on 18th January 2015 at Doddaballapur.



Courtesy: Suresh Rao, Bangalore

Special Cover on inauguration of Equestrian Statue of Commander Trevor de Almeida - 18th January 2015.

Sainik School, Korukonda was established at the behest of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the then prime minister of India and Shri V K Krishna Menon, the then Union Defence Minister. It is one of the 18 schools founded by the Union Government. The school informally began on 10th Sep 1961 when Her Highness Smt Bhagirathi Devi, the Rani Saheb of Vizianagaram at the instance of her husband, Lt Col Maharaj Kumar Dr. Vijayanand Gajapati Raju (Sir Vizzy) gave the Korukonda Palace to their nephew, the great philanthropist and educationalist His Highness Shri Poosapati Vijayarama Gajapathi Raju, The Raja Saheb of Vizianagaram who gifted this palace to run Sainik School. The school was formally founded by Commander Trevor Edmond De Almeida, the first Principal of the school in 18th Jan 1962. The School now ranks as the Best Sainik School and also among one of the best schools of this country.

A Special Cover was released to commemorate the inauguration of Equestrian Statue of Commander Trevor de Almeida, the first Principal of the Sainik school of Korukonda (AP) on 18th January 2015 at Korukonda.

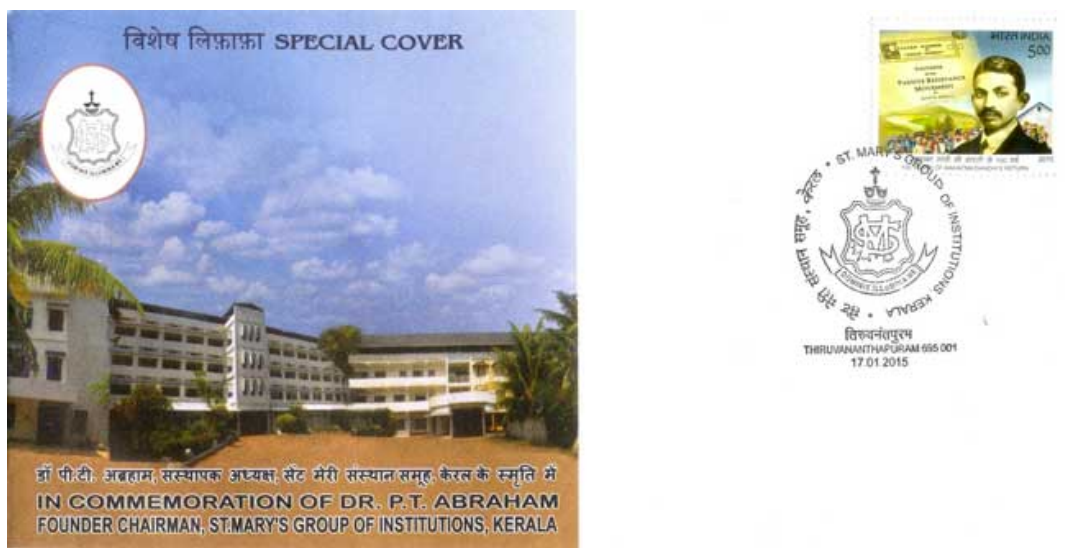


Courtesy: Sagi Srinivas Raju, Hyderabad

Special Cover in commemoration of Dr. P. T. Abraham, Founder Chairman of St. Mary's Group of Institutions, Kerala - 17th January 2015.

The life of Dr. P. T. Abraham is a saga of distinctive achievements as an Educationalist, social Worker and as a Sportsman. In June 1974, by sheer hard work, he established the first CBSE School in Central Travancore (St. Mary's Residential Public School, Tiruvalla). He was the mastermind behind the formation of St. Mary's Educational and Cultural Society, which now spreads over the length and breadth of Kerala. The Society houses six schools and two colleges in, Tiruvalla, Trivandrum, Kollam, Pathanapuram, Kanyakumari and Allepey. These schools and Colleges have made their mark as distinguished Educational Institutions, because of Dr. P.T. Abraham's innate talent, sacrifice and dedication towards education.

A Special Cover was released as a tribute to Dr. P.T. Abraham (1932-2013) on 17th January 2015 at Thiruvananthapuram (Special Cover approval no. KL-04/2015)

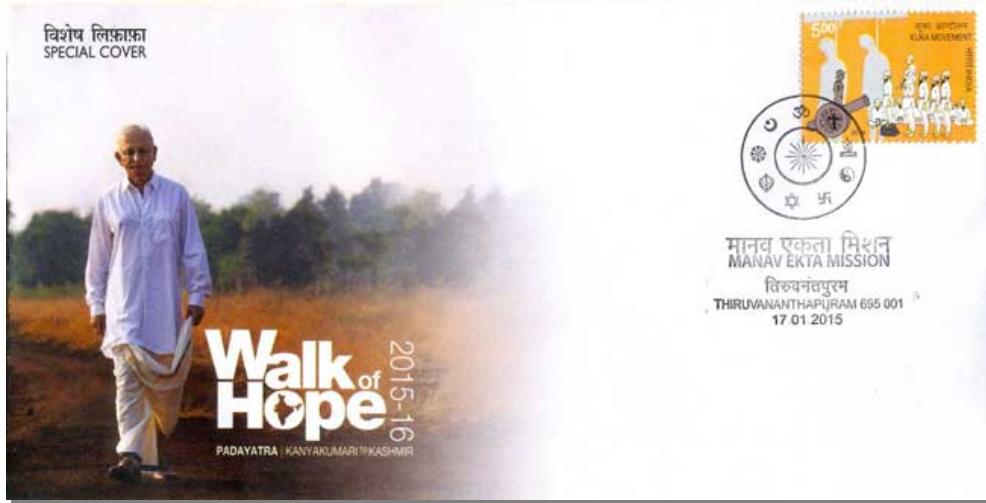


Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

Special Cover on Walk of Hope (Pada Yatra), Kanyakumari to Kashmir - 17th January 2015.

Led by Shri M, founder of Manav Ekta Mission, Walk of Hope is a Pada yatra for peace and harmony covering 6500 km from Kanyakumari to Kashmir in 15-18 months through 11 Indian states bringing together citizens from all walks of life. The main objectives are Interfaith harmony, sustainable living Community Health, Equality for all, Women Empowerment, Education and Youth Development etc.

A Special Cover was released to commemorate Walk of Hope on 17th January 2015 at Thiruvananthapuram (Special Cover approval no. KL-05/2015)



Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

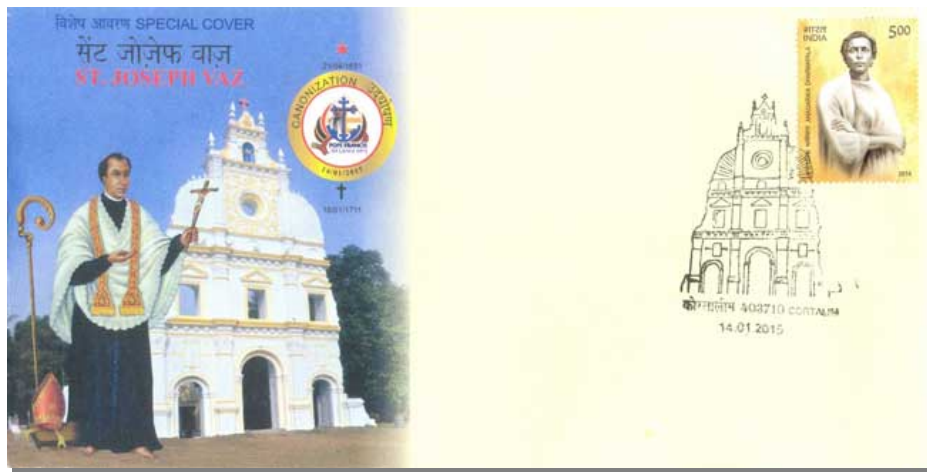
Special Cover to commemorate the canonization of St. Joseph Vaz - 14th January 2015.

On the occasion of the canonization of Goan priest Joseph Vaz, a Special Cover was released to commemorate the canonization of saint by Shri Charles Lobo, Postmaster General, Goa region, after the conclusion of the Eucharistic Celebration in Sri Lanka where Pope Francis officially declared Blessed Joseph Vaz as saint on 14th January 2015 at Sancoale.

The special cover was released in presence of Fr Eremito Rebello, rector of Blessed Joseph Vaz Sanctuary, Sancoale, Alina Saldanha, minister for forests and environment; Narendra Sawaikar, MP, South Goa and Shantaram Naik, Rajya Sabha MP. (Special Cover approval no. MH/05/2015)

The special cover features a picture of St Joseph Vaz alongside the facade of the old Sancoale Church and on the right side a postage stamp on Sri Lankan Buddhist Anagarika Dharmapala. St Joseph Vaz went to Sri Lanka to save the Catholic faith; on the other hand Dharmapala came to India from Sri Lanka and was pioneer of the revival of Buddhism in India after it was virtually extinct.

St Joseph Vaz (b. 21 April 1651 – d. 16 January 1711) a 17th century priest was born and brought up in Goa. At the age of 35 he moved to Sri Lanka, a largely Buddhist nation during the Dutch occupation, when the Dutch has imposed Calvinism as the official religion after taking over from the Portuguese. He travelled throughout the island bringing the Eucharist and the sacraments to clandestine groups of Catholics. Later in his mission, he found shelter in the Kingdom of Kandy where he was able to work freely. By the time of his death, St Vaz had managed to rebuild the Catholic Church on the island. As a result of his labours, St Vaz is known as the Apostle of Ceylon. On 21st January 1995, he was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Colombo. Pope Francis, during his six-day Asia tour, described him as a model for national reconciliation after the deadly civil war.



Courtesy: FB Page, Rita Pinto, Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

Bokaro Stamp Show 2015 - 13th-14th January 2015.

Bokaro Stamp Show 2015 - 2nd District Level Philatelic exhibition was organised by Bokaro Postal Division on 13th and 14th January 2015 at Geeta Hall, Jagannath Mandir, Sector - 4, Bokaro, Jharkhand.

During the exhibition Quiz, Stamp designing, debate and letter writing competition were organized for school students.

Two special covers were released during the exhibition. One special cover commemorating Bokaro Steel Plant was released by Shri Vimal Kishore, SSPO's, Dhanbad, Shri S. Dasgupta, Executive Director, Bokaro Steel Plant.



Bokaro Steel Plant - the fourth integrated plant in the Public Sector - started taking shape in 1965 in collaboration with the Soviet Union. It was originally incorporated as a limited company on 29th January 1964, and was later merged with SAIL, first as a subsidiary and then as a unit, through the Public Sector Iron & Steel Companies (Restructuring & Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1978. The construction work started on 6th April 1968.

The Plant is hailed as the country's first Swadeshi steel plant, built with maximum indigenous content in terms of equipment, material and know-how. Its first Blast Furnace started on 2nd October 1972 and the first phase of 1.7 MT ingot steel was completed on 26th February 1978 with the commissioning of the third Blast Furnace. All units of 4 MT stage have already been commissioned and the 90s' modernisation has further upgraded this to 4.5 MT of liquid steel.

On 14th January 2015 Special Cover on Pentecostal Assembly School, Bokaro was released by Shri Anil Kumar, Postmaster General, Jharkhand Circle, Ranchi, Shri Amitabh Kumar, Principal District Judge, Bokaro, Shri S. S. Mishra, Sr. Commandant, CISF, Bokaro, Dr. D. N. Prasad, Director, Pentecostal Assembly School, Bokaro and Shri Vimal Kishore, SSPO's, Bokaro.

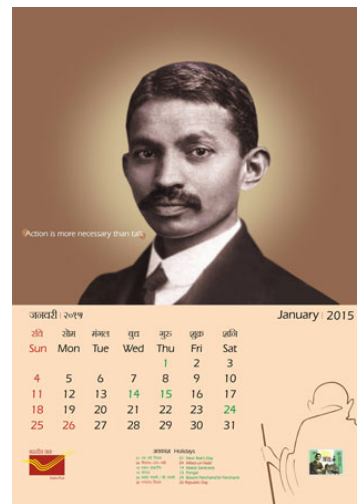
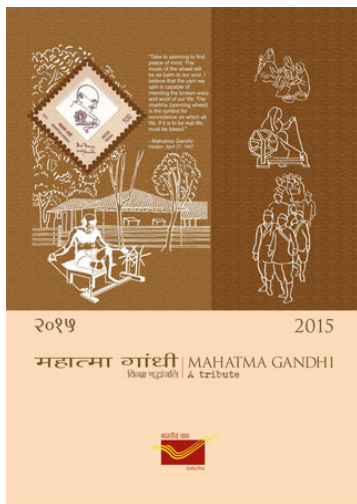


The Pentecostal Assembly School is a co-educational Institution established on April 4th, 1989. It is run by "The Christian Assembly of Bihar", an organization registered under the Society Registration Act XXI 1860. The School began with 30 students and two teaching staff in 1989. Today school is functioning in a new complex which stands in 8 acres of land in Sector-XII, granted by the Management of Bokaro Steel Plant. The Pentecostal Assembly School has risen to new heights and made its mark as one of the most prestigious schools of Bokaro Steel City.

Courtesy: [Rainbow Stamp Club](#)

India Post 2015 Wall Calendar.

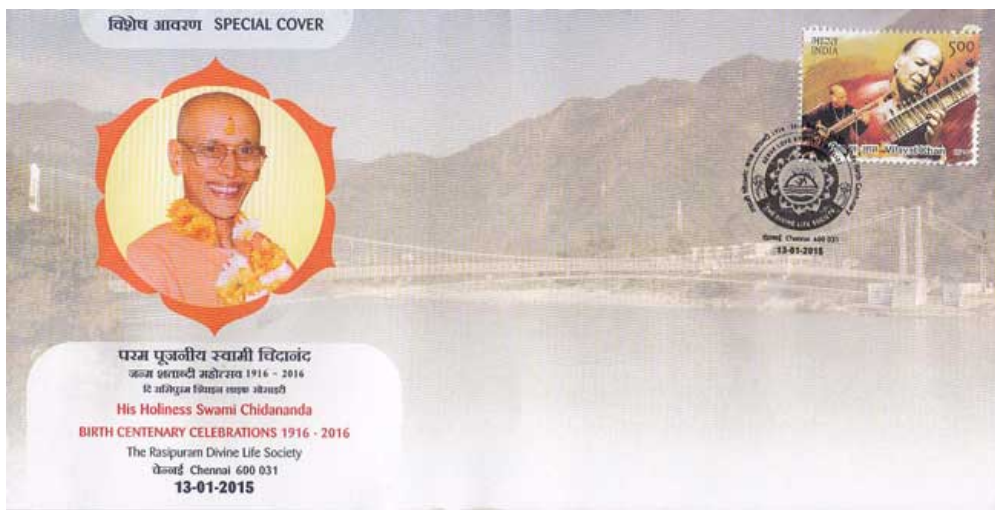
Department of Posts has released India Post 2015 Calendar based on the theme of 'Mahatma Gandhi' as a tribute to the "Father of the Nation". India Post 2015 Calendars are available at Philatelic Bureaux across India at the price of Rs. 250/- each. (Photographs and contents of Calendar courtesy Gandhi Research Foundation, Jalgaon)



Special Cover on Swami Chidananda Birth Centenary Celebration - 13th January 2014.

Swami Chidananda Saraswati (b. September 24, 1916 – d. August 28, 2008) was President of the Divine Life Society, Rishikesh. He is well known in India as a yogi, jnani and spiritual leader. He succeeded as President of the Divine Life Society in 1963, after the death of his predecessor, Sivananda Saraswati, who founded the Society. Chidananda's birth name was Sridhar Rao. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola College, Chennai. He took to a life of renunciation in 1936, and joined the Sivananda Ashram run by Sivananda Saraswati in Rishikesh in 1943. He was appointed General Secretary of the Divine Life Society in 1948. He was initiated into the Sannyas order by his guru, Sivananda, on Guru Purnima day, July 10, 1949. It was then that he received his monastic name "Chidananda", which means "one who is consciousness and bliss". Swami Chidananda Saraswati was elected President of the Divine Life Society in August 1963, upon the death of Sivananda.

A Special Cover was issued by Tamil Nadu Postal Circle on 13th January 2015 to mark His Holiness Swami Chidananda Birth Centenary Celebration by The Rasipuram Divine Life Society at Chennai. (Special Cover approval no. TN 01/2015)



Courtesy: [Rainbow Stamp Club](#)

Special Cover on Golden Jubilee of Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Nagercoil - 12th January 2015.

Holy cross college (Autonomous) is the first women's college in Kanyakumari District, established in 1965 with the motto "In the cross and Mary is our hope", started by the vision of the sisters of the cross of Chavanod, this institution is committed to women empowerment and today it has grown into a great institution of higher learning. With its autonomous status, accreditation at 'A' level by NAAC, and with 12 UG, 10 PG, 4 M Phil, and 4 Ph. D. Programmes, it has carved a niche in the galaxy of higher education spreading its glow and serving as a guiding star to the society.

A Special Cover was released to commemorate Golden Jubilee of Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Nagercoil on 12th January 2015 at Nagercoil. (Special Cover approval no. TN/02/2015)



Courtesy: [Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram](#)

Special Cover on Vibrant Gujarat 2015 - 12th January 2015.

Vibrant Gujarat is a biennial investors' summit held by the government of Gujarat in Gujarat, aimed at bringing together business leaders, investors, corporations, thought leaders, policy and opinion makers; the summit is a platform to understand and explore business opportunities in the State of Gujarat. First Vibrant Gujarat, Global Investors' Summit was held in 2003 coinciding with the Navratri festival where a total of 76 memoranda of understanding (MOUs) worth USD 14 billion were signed.

Six summits held so far have been a resounding success that immensely contributed to transformation of Gujarat into a "Global Business Hub". The brand "Vibrant Gujarat" began as an "investors' summit" has now evolved into an ideal platform for knowledge sharing, social and business transformation.

The 7th Vibrant Gujarat Summit held from 11th to 13th January 2015 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar. Apart from Summit, Vibrant Gujarat is also known for the Trade Show. Every year 2000+ Companies do participate in this exhibition, and expected number of visitors were over 1 Million this year.

On 12th January 2014 a Special Cover was released on Vibrant Gujarat 2015 by Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of Home Affairs and Smt. Anandiben Patel, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat at the valedictory function of Vibrant Gujarat 2015.



Special Cover on Golden Jubilee Celebration of NFPE Sangli Vibhag Tapal Karmachari Co. Op. Pat Sanstha Ltd. - 11th January 2015.

National Federation of Postal Employees, Sangli Vibhag Tapal Karmachari Co. Op. Pat Sanstha Ltd., celebrated its Golden Jubilee on 11th January 2015 and to mark the occasion a Special Cover was released by Maharashtra Postal Circle at Sangli on 11th January 2015. (Special Cover approval no. MH/03/2015)



Courtesy: Ankit Agrawal, Pune

Special Cover on Golden Jubilee of Deepshikha Mahila Club, Hyderabad - 11th January 2015.

Deepshikha Mahila Club, Hyderabad is a social welfare organization established in 1965. Service to humanity is service to god is our motto and Deepshikha Mahila Club has always valued these principles. Mahila Club's multifarious activities include service to the under privileged in fields like Education, Healthcare, Empowerment in various skills and social development. Today, Deepshikha Mahila Club is a premier voluntary charitable and social organization of the twin cities. It has strength of about 150 members and 5 honorary members.

A Special Cover was released to mark the Golden Jubilee of Deepshikha Mahila Club, Hyderabad on 11th January 2015 at Hyderabad.



Courtesy: Sagi Srinivas Raju, Hyderabad

Special Cover on 'Bhaisahab' Shri Rajmal Sheshmal Jain - 11th January 2015.

A Special Cover was released in memory of Social worker 'Bhaisahab' Shri Rajmal Sheshmal Jain at Mumbai on 11th January 2015.

Shri Rajmal Jain was a prominent industrialist from Bisalpur, Rajasthan. In the mid-1970s, the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind approached him to sponsor an eye camp in his home area of Bisalpur. Upon visiting the camp, Jain was so impressed that he decided to sponsor an entire series of camps. Eventually, his philanthropic work became a full-time endeavour, and included the construction of a hospital.

Through numerous eye camps, Shri Rajmal Jain had been instrumental in restoring the sights of more than a lakh of people, who would otherwise have been unable to afford it. He founded the Shree Bhairav Netra Samiti in 1966 in Bisalpur of Rajasthan. Shree Bhairav Charitable Eye Hospital (SBCEH) was inaugurated on 21st Oct. 2007 driven by the vision of Shree Rajmal S. Jain to provide high quality eye care to all at affordable rate. Shri Rajmal Jain also established two schools with residential facilities for the hearing and speech impaired.



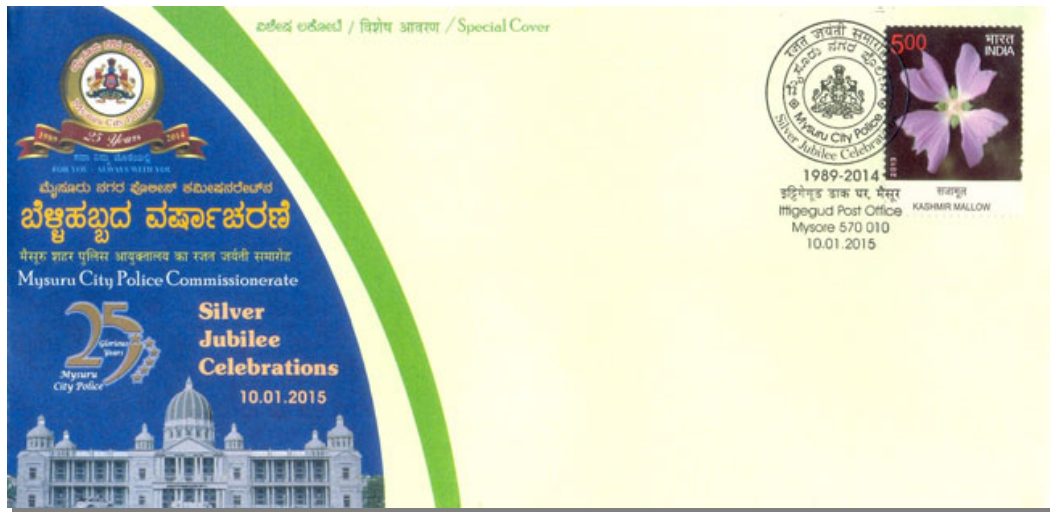
Courtesy: [Rainbow Stamp Club](#)

Special cover on 25 years of Mysore City Police Commissionerate - 10th January 2015.

The Mysuru City Police is the premier enforcer of law & Order in the City of Mysuru. The City Police Commissionerate was set up in 1989 in Mysuru. Mysuru City Police works under the jurisdiction of the Karnataka State Police. The Mysuru City Police consists of a network of foot patrols, mobile patrols, traffic patrols and armed striking force mobile units in the city. Other units within the Mysuru City Police include, City Crime Branch, City Crime Record Bureau, Mounted Police and City Armed Reserves. The Mysuru City Police's mobile patrol consists of mobile vehicular patrols called "GARUDA". Mysuru City Police is one of the few police departments in India along with Bangalore City Police to use the Blackberry's and also attends to Online Code Enforcement Complaints with utmost priority.

Marking the Silver Jubilee celebrations of City Police Commissionerate, a function was organised at the City Armed Reserve (CAR) grounds, Mysore. A Special Cover was released on the occasion by MP Shri Pratap Simha in presence of Senior Superintendent of Post Offices D. Veena Kumari, City Police Commissioner Dr. M.A. Saleem, ADGP Om Prakash, Advisor to Home Department Kempaiah, DG&IGP Lal Rokhuma Pachau, District Minister V. Sreenivasa Prasad and MLA Tanveer Sait at Mysore on 10th January 2015.





Courtesy: Suresh Rao, Bangalore

Allaphilex-2015, Philatelic Exhibition at Allahabad - 9th – 10th January 2015.

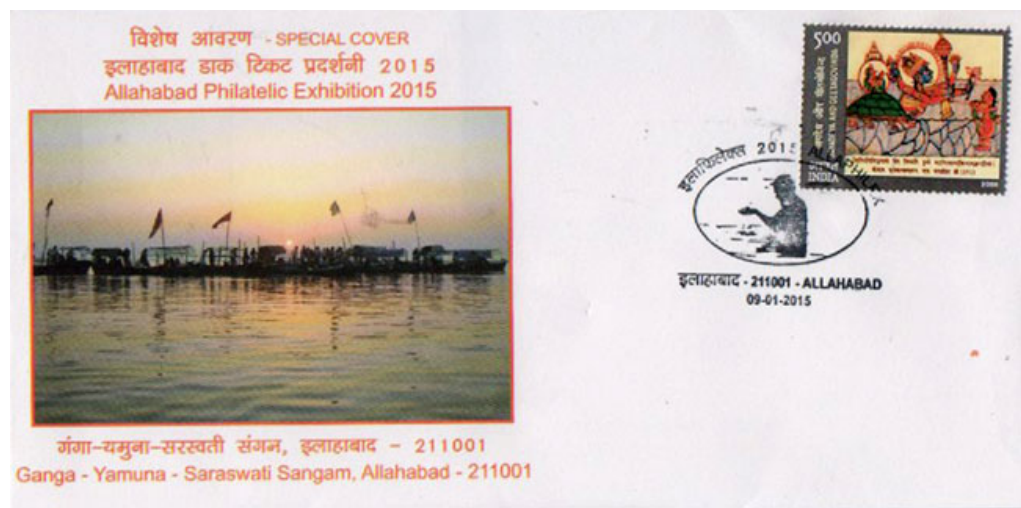
A two days Philatelic exhibition 'Allaphilex-2015' was held on 9th and 10th January, 2015 at Gandhi Art Gallery of North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad. The exhibition was inaugurated by retired Member, Postal Services Board and leading Urdu critics and theorists Padma Shri Shamsur Rahman Faruqi, accompanied by Postmaster General, Allahabad Postal Region Col. S. F. Rizvi and Shri Krishna Kumar Yadav, Director Postal Services, Allahabad by lighting lamp and cutting ribbon. Philatelic exhibits were showcased in about 60 frames.



On this occasion two special covers were issued released on 9th January 2015.

One Special Cover was released on Allahabad Head Post Office, depicting old post office building constructed during British rule. Cancellation depicts Hexagonal Penfold Pillar letter box of 1872.

Second Special Cover was released on Ganga-Yamuna-Saraswati Sangam. In Hindu tradition Triveni Sangam is the "confluence" of three rivers. Sangama is the Sanskrit word for confluence. The point of confluence is a sacred place for Hindus. A bath here is said to flush away all of one's sins and free one from the cycle of rebirth. Triveni Sangam, in Prayag, Allahabad has two physical rivers Ganges, Yamuna, and the invisible or mythical Saraswati River. It is a place of religious importance and the site for historic Kumbh Mela held every 12 years. A bath here at triveni sangam is said to flush away all of one's sins and free one from the cycle of rebirth. The cancellation depicts a person taking holy bath.



On 10th January 2015 also two special covers were released by Prof. M.P. Dubey, Vice Chancellor, Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Col. S. F. Rizvi, Postmaster General, Allahabad Postal Region and Shri Krishna Kumar Yadav, Director Postal Services, Allahabad.

First cover was on Architecture in Allahabad depicting Government Public Library, Saint Cathedral Church, Mayo Hall, Khusaro Bagh, and New Yamuna Bridge.

Allahabad Public Library also known as Government Public Library is the India's oldest public library. It was established in 1864. It is also one of the biggest public library in the country with thousands of books, manuscripts, old news papers and magazine, govt. gazettes etc. in its collections. All Saints Cathedral, also known as Patthar Girja (Church of Stones) is an Anglican cathedral located in Allahabad. Modeled after 13th-century Gothic style churches, it is among the Gothic Revival buildings built by the British during their rule in India. British architect Sir William Emerson, who also designed the Victoria Memorial, Kolkata, designed the cathedral in 1871. It was consecrated in 1887 and was completed four years later. Mayo Memorial and Town Hall, commonly known as Mayo Hall is a large meeting hall in Allahabad, situated near the Thornhill Mayne Memorial, having a 180 feet high tower. The interior of this memorial hall was ornamented with designs by Professor Gamble of the South Kensington Museum, London. Mayo Memorial Hall was designed by Richard Roskell Bayne and was completed in 1879. The hall was meant for public meetings, balls and receptions in commemoration of the assassinated Viceroy Mayo. Khusro Bagh of Allahabad is a large walled garden, close to the Allahabad Junction Station, surrounding the tombs of Khusrau Mirza, eldest son of Emperor Jahangir, Shah Begum, Khusrau's mother a Rajput princess and Jahangir's first wife, and that of Princess Sultan Nithar Begam, Khusrau's sister. It is the Indian Site of National Importance. New Yamuna Bridge is the longest cable-stayed bridge of India, located in Allahabad. The bridge was constructed by the end of 2004 with the aim of minimizing the traffic over the Old Naini Bridge. The bridge runs North-South across the Yamuna river connecting the city of Allahabad to its neighborhood of Naini.



Second Cover was released on famous Gauva of Allahabad. In India the best varieties of guavas come from Allahabad, including the Allahabad Safeda variety which is large in size, round in shape and the skin is smooth and yellowish- white in colour. The flesh is white, soft and tasty and is high in Vitamin C. The Allahabad Sukhna is pink in colour with deep pink skin. The fruit is sweet and a few seeds and is slightly depressed on both ends.



Courtesy: Shri K. K. Yadav, Director Postal Services, Allahabad, Shri Ambrish Kumar Allahabadi, Allahabad, Ashwani Kumar Dubey, Gorakhpur.

Indpex II 2015, District Level Philatelic Exhibition at Indore - 9th - 10th January 2015.

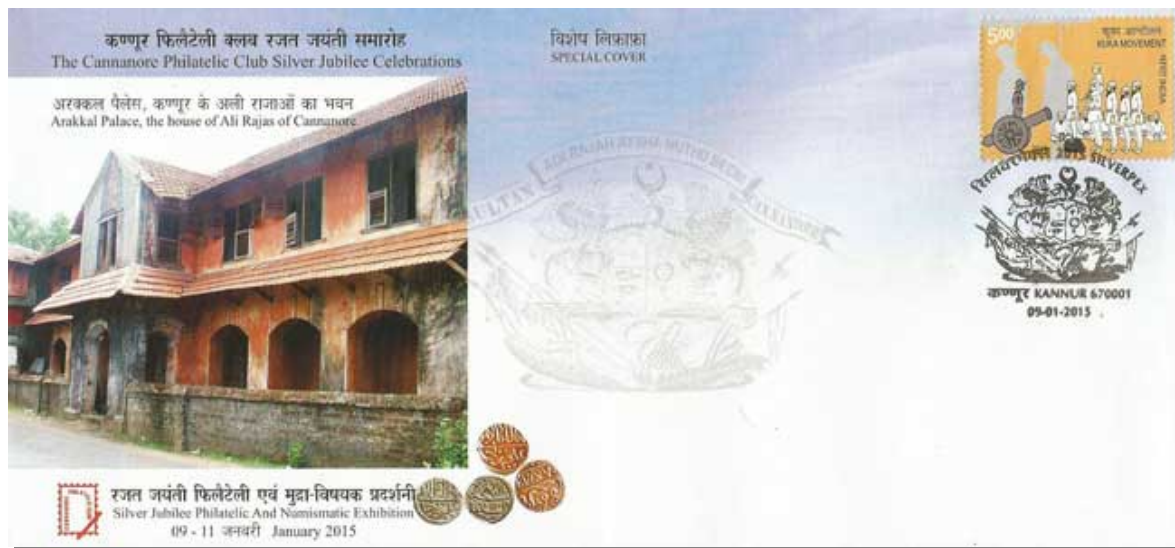
Indpex II 2015, District Level Philatelic Exhibition was held at Pritamlal Dua Sabhagrah, Indore on 9th and 10th January 2015.

On the occasion two special Covers were released. On 9th January 2015 a Special cover on Thakurdas Choithram Pagarani was released. Thakurdas Choithram Pagarani was a businessman from Indore who opened a small grocery store in Freetown, Sierra Leone in 1944 and set in motion a success story that continues to this day. His business empire spanned frontiers, reaching out to Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Ghana, Benin, Guinea, Liberia, Tanzania, UK, USA, Spain, Azerbaijan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Japan, Oman, Qatar & Bahrain. Govt. Of Sierra Leone had appointed him as the Hon. Consul General of Sierra Leone in India.

On 10th January 2015 a Special Cover was issued on Indore Society for mentally retarded. The Society was raised on 12th March 1995 and registered with a view to create general awareness about mental retardation.



palace which holds the durbar hall. Dedicated to the Arakkal family, it exhibits various credible belongings and artifacts of the royal family.



Cover Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

Special Cover on Wheelathon 2015 at Calicut - 8th January 2015.

Students in Palliative Care, in association with the Institute of Palliative Medicine, organised 'Wheelathon 2015' in Kozhikode on 8th January 2015 as part of the 'Studentspalcon2015' an international conference on youth in palliative care to be held on 17th January 2015. The Wheelathon 2015 was held to create awareness on the importance of the Palliative Care movement in long-term patient care.

The Wheelathon began at the Head Post Office in Kozhikode at 10 a.m. on 8th January, passed through Mavoor Road and concluded at Puthiyara, covering a distance of 3.1 Km. The 20 wheelchairs were used in the Wheelathon were purchased using the fund collected by Students in Palliative Care from various colleges. After the Wheelathon, the wheelchairs were to be handed over to patients in need of it.

On this occasion Kerala Postal Circle issued a special cover on the Wheelathon, which is the first 'Wheel Chair Carried Cover' in history. (Special Cover approval no. KL-02/2015) The covers were carried in wheelchairs in the Wheelathon rally. The money collected through the sales of the Special Covers will be used for palliative care activities.





Cover and photos Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

'India Post' Pavilion at Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show 2015, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

As a part of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations and Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015 a Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show 2015 has been organized at Exhibition Ground, Near Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar from 7th to 13th January 2015.

India Post has set up a pavilion (Stall no. 22, Hall No. 11) to showcase various products and services of Department of Posts. The pavilion, which is spread over an area of 126 square meters is showcasing post office counter, Philately and My Stamp Counter, E-Commerce, Retail Post, Post Shoppe, ATM Machine etc.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology inaugurated the pavilion of India Post on 8th January 2015 after the stamp release function held at Mahatma Mandir. Shri S. K. Sinha, Member, Postal Services Board (HRD), Shri G. J. Samuel, Member, Postal Services Board (Operations) and officers of Gujarat Postal Circle were present on the occasion.

Books, Gift Articles, Stationery items, Coffee mugs, Wrist Watches, Greeting Cards and many other products were made available at Retail Post and Post Shoppe Counters. Philatelic Exhibits on Gandhi's life & time through stamps and Vibrant Gujarat from the collection of Shri Pradip Jain were also displayed in the pavilion.





DEPARTMENT OF POST-DODD	
VIBRANT GUJARAT PO	
HALL NO. 11, STAND NO. 22	
BROCHURE	
CASH MEMO - RETAIL TAG	
BILL NO. : 0000176400000000	
01-08-15 THE 15:59	

PRODUCT	QTY
COVER SMALL	22.00
PRICE	5.00
DISC. 100%	11.00
DISC. 100%	11.00
DISC. 100%	11.00
DISC. 100%	11.00
COVER MEDIUM	19.00
PRICE	14.00
DISC. 100%	14.00
DISC. 100%	14.00
DISC. 100%	14.00
COVER LARGE	18.00
PRICE	13.00
DISC. 100%	13.00
DISC. 100%	13.00
DISC. 100%	13.00
FEELI STICK SMALL	1.00
PRICE	1.00
DISC. 100%	1.00
DISC. 100%	1.00
DISC. 100%	1.00
DISC. 100%	1.00
ITEMS: 004 100 UTO	52.00
SUB TOTAL :	8485.00
TOT. DISCOUNT :	88.75
TOTAL :	8485.00
WITH DISCOUNT :	8484.25

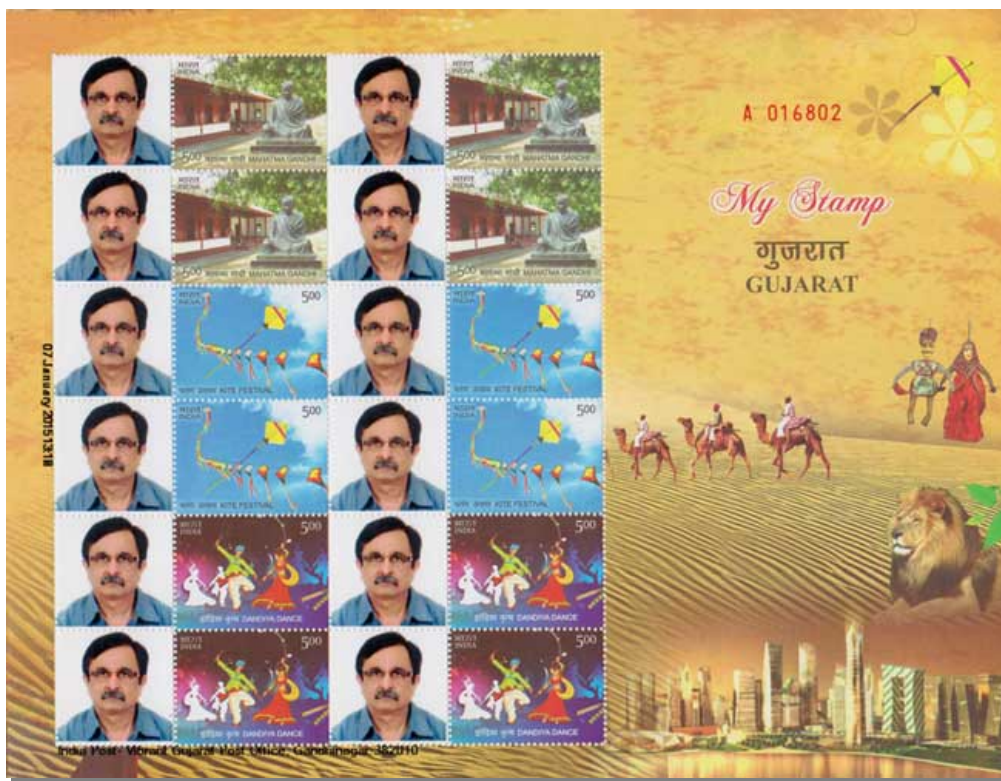
Vibrant Gujarat Post Office, Gandhinagar - 382 010 was operative in the Pavilion and Speed Post and Registered Post booking facility was also made available. Circular date stamps (hand stamp and automated cancelling machine) and Special Cancellation of Vibrant Gujarat PO were provided on the articles at the counter.



India Post had also set up Philatelic Counter at Mahatma Mandir premises, where the Stamp release function was held. Long queue of visitors and Overseas Indian community was seen at the philatelic counter to buy stamps, Miniature Sheets and First Day Covers of Mahatma Gandhi released on 8th January 2015.



On 7th January 2015 fourth series of 'My Stamp' on Gujarat theme was launched at India Post Pavilion. Three different templates having images of Mahatma Gandhi and Sabarmati Ashram, Kite Festival and Dandiya Dance have been incorporated in sheet of 12 Stamps.



Commemorative Stamps on 100 Years of Mahatma Gandhi's Return - 8th January 2015

To connect India to its vast overseas diaspora and bring their knowledge, expertise and skills on a common platform, the PBD Convention - the flagship event of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA), Government of India is organized from 7th-9th January every year since 2003.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on 9th January every year to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India. January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa, led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever.

The 13th edition of 'Pravasi Bharatiya Divas', a day to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India and to mark 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi's Return to India was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 8th January 2015.

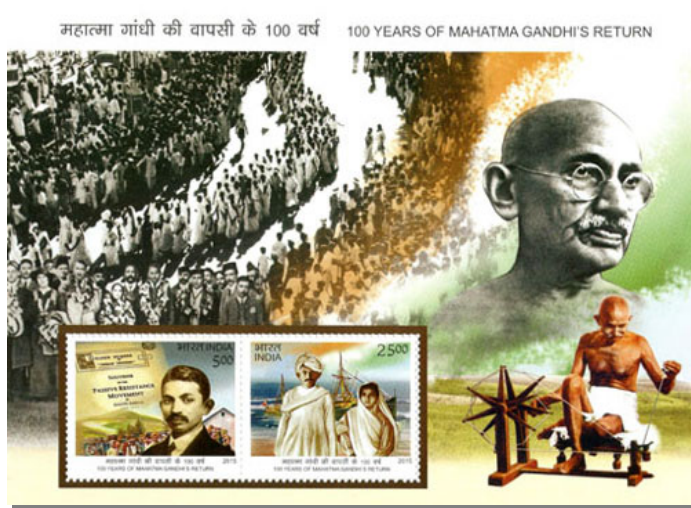


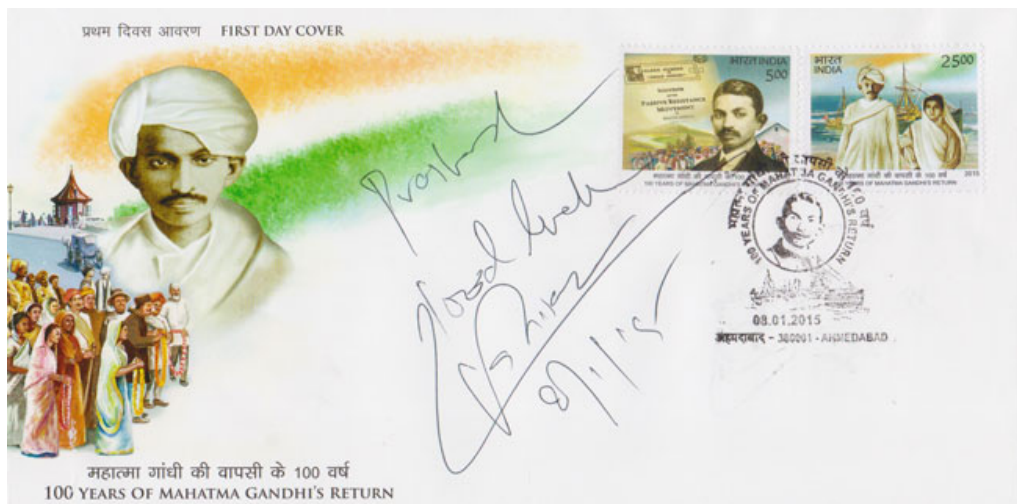
On the occasion a set of two commemorative stamps in denominations of Rs. 5 and Rs 25 each and a miniature sheet on 100 Years of Mahatma Gandhi's Return were released. Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad presented the album of stamps to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who released the stamps in presence of other dignitaries Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister of External

Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs, Smt. Anandiben Patel, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat, Shri Om Prakash Kohli, Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat, H. E. Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, Hon'ble President of the Republic of Guyana, H. E. Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Hon'ble Minister of International Relations and Co-operation, Republic of South Africa, H. E. Showkutally Soodhun, Hon'ble Vice Prime Minister, Mauritius, Shri Jayant Sinha, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance and General V. K. Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation, External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs. Stamps, MS and FDC are designed by Shri Sankha Samanta.

On the Occasion two commemorative coins in denominations of Rs. 10 and Rs. 100 were released by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Mahatma Gandhi arrived in South Africa at a young age of 24 years as the legal counsel of Indian traders based in the city of Pretoria. He spent more than two decades in South Africa, where he developed the concept of Satyagraha while fighting against the gross injustice, discrimination and racism prevailing there. Gandhiji returned to India with a formidable reputation to lead the Indian masses struggling for freedom from colonial domination through civil disobedience and non-violence, which proved to be highly effective moral weapon in the India's struggle for Independence.

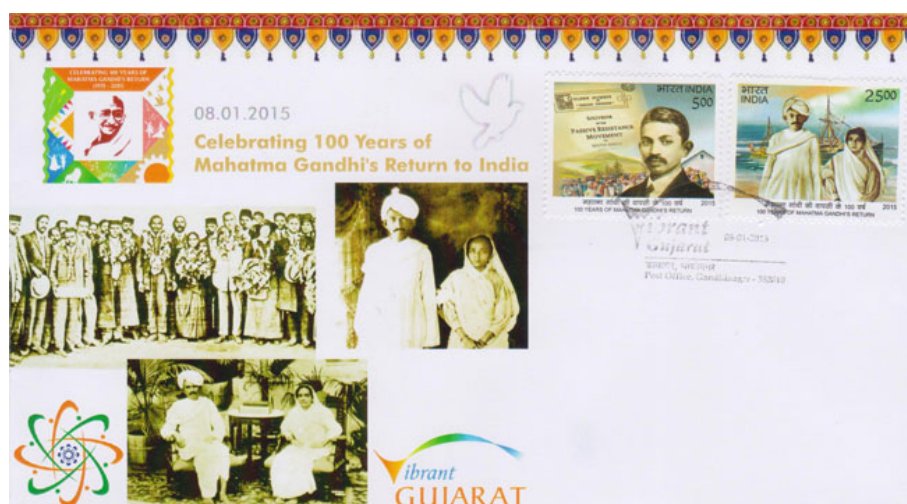




First Day Cover signed by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology for Prashant Pandya.



Private Postcard with CDS of Vibrant Gujarat Post Office, Gandhinagar dated 08.01.2015 (Card Designed by Prashant Pandya)



Private Cover with Cancellation of Vibrant Gujarat Post Office, Gandhinagar dated 08.01.2015 (Cover Designed by Prashant Pandya)

Special Cover on Golden Jubilee of Vivekananda College, Nehrunagar, Puttur - 7th January 2015.

Vivekananda Vidyavardhaka Sangha (V.V.S.) formerly known as Puttur Education Society (P.E.S.), established in 1915 is a Premier Educational Institution. Puttur Education Society established Vivekananda College in the year 1965 with a view to provide need-based quality education blended with spiritual, ethical and social values which the patron-saint of the institution, Swami Vivekananda advocated during his lifetime. It was also the aim of the founding fathers of the institution that the cultural tradition of this country is not sacrificed at the altar of globalised and changed educational demands. The goal of the institution is to make the younger generation understand the importance of the tenet of the Upanishad as re-told by the Swamiji - "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached!".

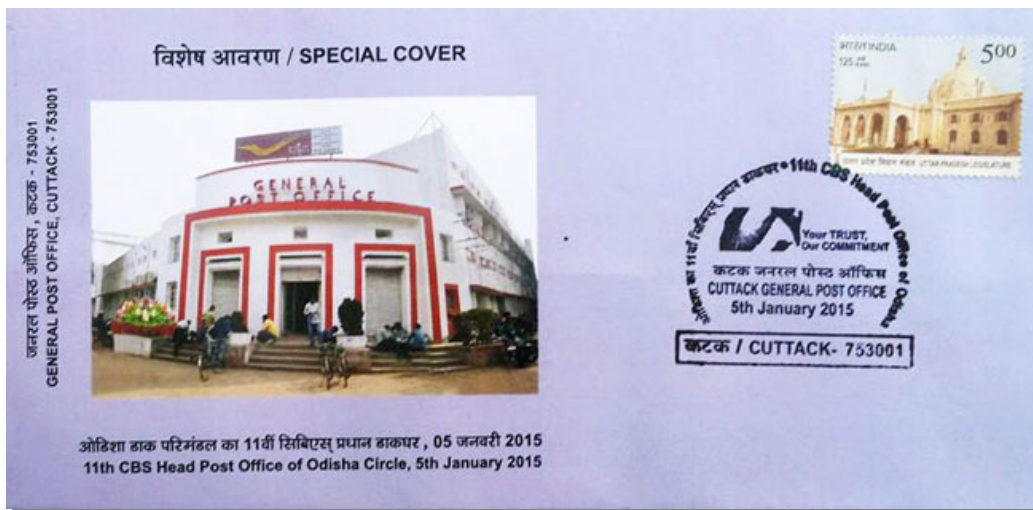
On the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebration of Vivekananda Degree and PU College, Nehrunagar (Puttur) - 574203, Karnataka, a Special Cover was released by Shri Vajubhai Vala, Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka State and Shri MS Ramanujan, Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle in Puttur (DK) Division on 7th January 2015.



Cover Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

Special Cover on 11th CBS Head Post Office of Odisha Postal Circle - 5th January 2015.

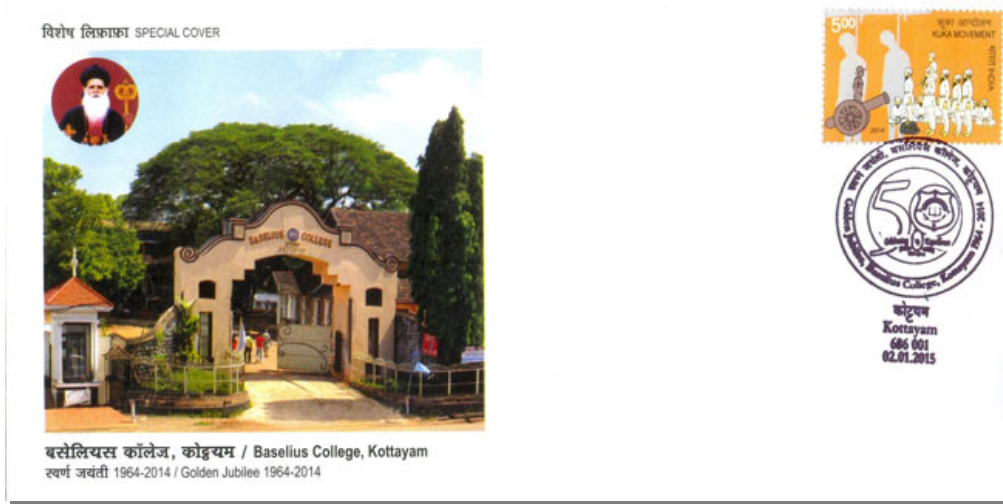
Cuttack GPO - 753 001 successfully migrated to CBS System on 5th January 2015. It has become 11th CBS Head Post Office of Odisha Postal Circle. On the occasion, a Special Cover was released on 5th January 2015 at Cuttack.



Special Cover on Golden Jubilee of Basellus College, Kottayam - 2nd January 2015.

Basellus College, Kottayam, the flagship college of the Malankara Orthodox Church in the headquarter city is currently celebrating its golden jubilee. Having ignited manifold minds and moulded many illustrious alumni who have left their imprints on the sands of time, the college is now striving towards scaling greater heights. On the blessed occasion of the golden jubilee, the college salutes its founding fathers, staff and students both past and present and rededicate itself to serve the community in and around the city of letters, upholding its noble mission of elevating youngsters to the pedestal of wisdom.

A Special Cover was released on 2nd January 2015 at Kottayam to commemorate Golden Jubilee of Basellus College, Kottayam (Special Cover approval no. KL-1/2015).



Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

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