

Issue No. 31 : July 2015

NEWS SECTION

Sacred water of Godavari River (GOD JAL - Godavari Pushkara Jalam) at your door step through India Post.

India is a country of innumerable sacred rivers and rivulets. Such rivers have become Theerthas and these Theerthas have the reputation of washing away the sins of the sinners. Godavari, the longest river in the peninsular India, is considered very sacred by Indians especially by people of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra. The Skanda Purana contains an elaborate account of the holiness of the Godavari. The river originates in Sahyadri Mountains (Brahma Parvatam) in the Western Ghats, about 18 km from Nasik and Triambakam in Maharashtra and forms into a huge lake near Gangapur. It then embraces several tributaries on its way towards East and then towards south and finally joins Bay of Bengal in coastal Andhra Pradesh. The river flows through the states of Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

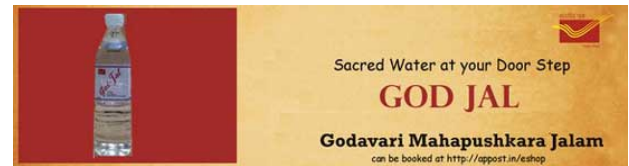


Pushkaram or Pushkaralu (in Telugu), Pushkara or Pushkar is an Indian festival dedicated to worshipping of rivers. Pushkara or Pushkar is a Sanskrit word derived from the element of Push (Pushti) meaning nourishment and Kara means one who does it. Pushkara is the energy that nourishes. With reference to the sacred rivers, Pushkara means the one who energize the rivers and provide spiritual purification.

Godavari Pushkaralu or Pushkaram is a festival of River Godavari happens once in 12 years. This lasts for a period as long as the Jupiter remains in Leo Zodiac sign. The first 12 days of Godavari pushkaram is called

Aadhi pushkaram and the last 12 days is called Anthya pushkaram. This term in year 2015 starts on 6.26 AM, 14th July 2015 and ends 25th July 2015. This year Godavari Pushkaram is 'Maha Pushkaram' which comes once in every 144 years.

“Godavari Mahapushkaram” is once in a life time opportunity and devotees will have a holy dip in Godavari River. Taking bath in a Pushkara river will help to cleanse the inner selves, wash out the evil tendencies and open up a path for a righteous living. It is also believed that a holy dip in Godavari enhance one's spiritual, mental and physical abilities. This year Godavari Pushkaram pilgrims from all over the country will have a holy dip in Godavari River but many who do have the desire but cannot make it for reasons of ill health, old age, financial issues, busy schedule etc. need someone to fulfill their desire.



Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle has taken an initiative to supply the sacred water of Godavari to the devotees who cannot physically visit and have a holy dip in the Godavari River. 500 ml. of purified sacred water of Godavari River christened 'GOD-JAL' (Godavari Pushkara Jalam) duly bottled and purified as per ISI standards will be delivered at your door step at the cost as Rs. 20/- per bottle. These bottles will be available at 95 head post offices, 2,360 sub post offices and 13,611 branch post offices of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana from 15th to 25th July 2015.

India Post has tied-up with a ISI-certified water purification and bottling company to make the river water drinkable through reverse osmosis process and to supply the 'God Jal' in 500 ml bottles. Shri B. V. Sudhakar, Chief Postmaster General, AP and Telangana circle, informed in the press meet that “The water drawn from the Godavari River would undergo an 18-stage purification process that complies with the Bureau of Indian Standards before getting bottled. The government of AP has permitted DoP to draw water from the river for this purpose.”

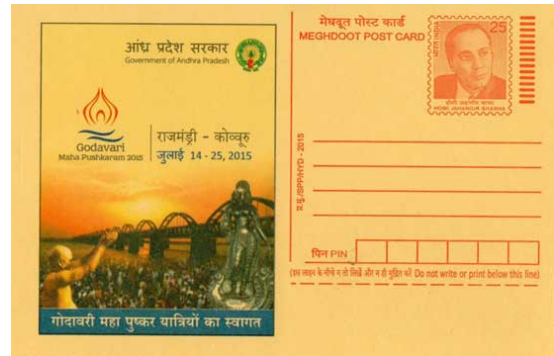


'GOD-JAL', the sacred water can also be ordered online at appost.in/eshop by devotees till 14th July 2015. Domestic order except Andhra Pradesh and Telangana will be delivered through EMS Speed Post while orders from foreign countries will be delivered through WorldNet Express. The last date for placing orders is July 14. For domestic orders Rs. 157 is being charged towards delivery charges per bottle. Orders booked within the state of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana will not be charged for delivery. Purchases from abroad will have to be made only using American Express or Diner Cards. Rajahmundry H.O. is the nodal point for dispatches of all orders received for 'God'Jal'.

Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle has also planned to launch 'My Stamps' scheme for the convenience of the devotees participating in the Godavari Pushkaralu. The Department would also release Special covers on the occasion.

Two Meghdoot Postcards have already been released by India Post on "Godavari Mahapushkaram".

Courtesy: Telangana State Info | AP Post | Sagi Srinavas Raju, Hyderabad.



Special cover on State Bank of India Hyderabad Circle Golden Jubilee – 4th July 2015.

The Hyderabad Circle of State Bank of India was part of the then Madras Circle and was later carved out as Hyderabad Circle to cater to the customers in Hyderabad and erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh. "In 1965, the Hyderabad office was the 7th circle of the bank. It had 61 branches and 41 sub-offices then. Today Hyderabad circle has evolved into 1,411 branches and 400-odd sub-offices.

Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle released a special cover commemorating the golden jubilee of State Bank of India, Hyderabad circle on 4th July 2015 at Hyderabad (Special cover approval no. AP/03/2015)



Courtesy: Sagi Srinavas Raju, Hyderabad

Special Cover on Inner Wheel District-326 Seminar on T.E.A.C.H. – 4th July 2015.

Rotary International's successful "End Polio" program motivated the Rotarians in South Asia to adopt "Rotary's Total Literacy Mission". The TEACH programme chalked out by Rotary is a literacy promotion initiative as a part of Total Literacy Mission in South Asia to eradicate literacy within a period of 3 years (2014-17).

Highlight of T-E-A-C-H program is:

T - Teacher Support

E - E-Learning

A - Adult Literacy

C - Child Development

H - Happy Schools

The T-E-A-C-H program is to ensure:

- That every child in India goes to school;
- That each school is a "Happy School";
- That each school teacher is well trained and her/his skills are continuously upgraded using modern technology;
- That each student gets to see, hear, read and use high class learning material that helps her/him understand, question and find answers;
- That each deprived child gets the same opportunity of education as her/his affluent friend;
- That each adult acquires literacy, joins the formal stream and earns her/his living with honour; and
- That each child or adult we help gets the confidence to make her/his own future and India's future too!

On the occasion of District Seminar on T.E.A.C.H. a special cover was released at Cuttack on 4th July 2015. (Special Cover approval no. OD/04/2015)



Courtesy: Ajit Kumar Dash, Bhubaneswar

Special Cover on Water Conservation Project – 7th July 2015.

Water Conservation Project of Rotary Club is to create awareness for Water conservation, harvesting, storage and recharging in India.

As a part of literacy movement to create awareness among the people to conserve water, Rotary Club of Madras – R. I. District 3230 launched Water conservation initiatives in Chennai at a function held on 7th July 2015 at Vivanta by Taj Connemara, Chennai. On the occasion a Special Cover was released by Shri Merwin Alexander, Postmaster General, Chennai City Region which was received by Shri. Rajendra Singh (Water Man of India), Mr. David Dubensky (Managing Director, Ford Motor India) and

by the District Governor Rtn. C R Raju. My Stamp was also released on the occasion.





Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

Baroda Philatelic Society Governing Council for 2015-2016.

Annual General Body meeting of Baroda Philatelic Society was held on 12th July 2015 at society's office. The following Governing Council members were nominated for the year 2015-2016.

President: Shri Prashant H. Pandya
Vice President: Shri Suresh Thakkar
Hon. Secretary: Shri Timir R. Shah
Joint Secretary: Shri Mohan P. Vaze
Treasurer: Shri Ashwin C. Shah
Librarian: Shri Kalidas H. Kacchhia
Members: Shri R. U. Dave & Shri Mihir R. Shah
Internal Auditors: Shri Yogesh K. Shah & Shri Digant
R. Mehta
Office Co-ordinator: Smt. Parul H. Shah

Release of Special Cover on Godavari Pushkaralu at Rajahmundry - 13th July 2015.

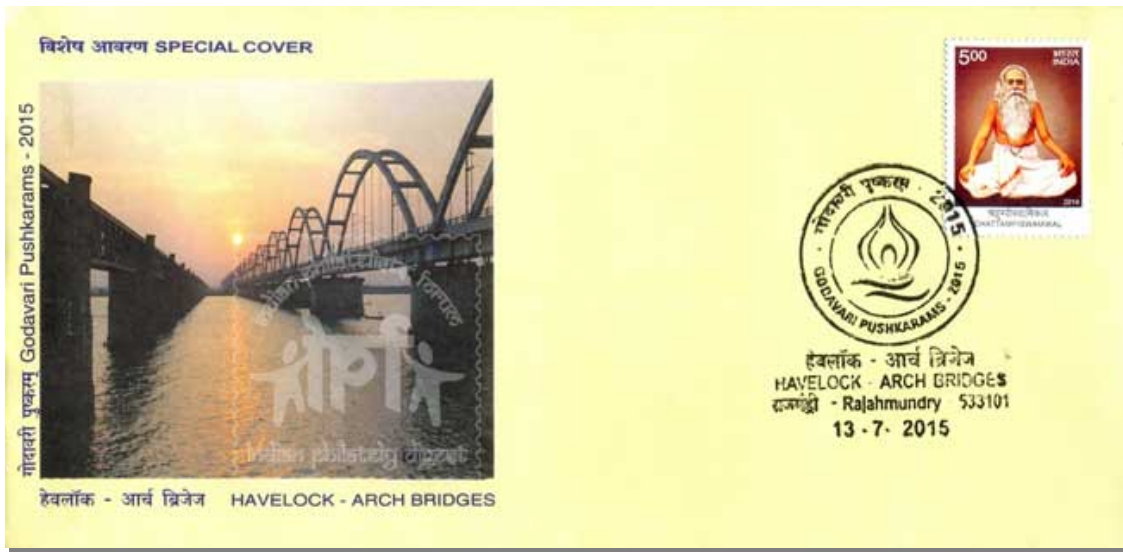
Godavari 'Pushkaram' is a once in 12 year event dedicated to worshipping rivers in the two states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. However, the Pushkaralu this year is special as it is Maha Pushkaralu which happens once in 144 years. This year's Pushkaralu is considered auspicious from astronomical point of view. The 'Pushakaram' is similar to the 'Kumbh Mela' performed alongside rivers elsewhere in the country. Taking holy dip is the main ritual of the festival. Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle has planned to issue special covers from various places on the occasion.

On 13th July 2015 a special cover was released on the occasion of Godavari Pushkaralu Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu and Chief Postmaster General, Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle, Shri B.V. Sudhakar depicting Havelock and Arch bridges of Rajahmundry and State Government Pushkaram logo. My Stamp on Godavari Pushkaram was also presented by Shri Sudhakar to Shri Chandrababu Naidu on the occasion. (Special Cover approval no. AP/20/2015)

Rajahmundry is a place of great historical importance. It was known as Rajamahendravaram, being a capital of the Hindu kingdoms of the Deccan and a place of many revolutions and battles and many poets and scholars wrote their epics here. River Godavari is the prime attraction of Rajahmundry with two bridges over the river that are said to be the longest.

The Old Godavari Bridge or the Havelock Bridge was built in 1900 by Sir Arthur Cotton, now decommissioned; this bridge has 56 spans and is 2.754 km long. It was constructed with stone masonry and steel girders and certainly a marvel of British engineering. The Godavari Arch Bridge was later constructed as a replacement for the Havelock Bridge.

It is a bowstring-girder bridge and one of the longest span prestressed concrete arch bridges in Asia. The Indian Railways who built this bridge have stated that "It is perhaps for the first time anywhere in the world that a bowstring arch girder using concrete has been constructed for such a long span of 97.55 metres, for the Railway loading." It is one of the recognised symbols of Rajahmundry.



Fifth Series of 'My Stamp' on 'Godavari Pushkaram 2015' theme released - 14th July 2015.

The 12-day Godavari Maha Pushkaram began on 14th July 2015 on the banks of River Godavari in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It will be held till 25th July 2015. Godavari Pushkaram occurs once in every 12 years on the auspicious occasion of transit of Bruhaspati into Simha Rasi (Leo zodiac sign). The Godavari Maha Pushkaram 2015 is a Maha Pushkaram which comes once for every 12 regular pushkarams or, simply once in every 144 years.

On the festive occasion of Godavari Pushkaram, India Post released fifth series of 'My Stamp' on Godavari Pushkaram 2015 theme on 14th July 2015. The template is having image of Godavari River and sheet of 12 stamps depicts the Godavari Arch Bridge, a bowstring-girder bridge that spans the Godavari River in Rajahmundry and photo of Godavari Maha Aarti at Rajahmundry.

New series of 'My Stamp' was inaugurated by Shri B. V. Sudhakar, Chief Postmaster General, Andhra

Pradesh Postal Circle and Shri CR Sasikumar, Deputy Managing Director, State Bank of India at a function held at GPO, Hyderabad on 5th July 2015 but it was officially made available at post offices from 14th July 2015.

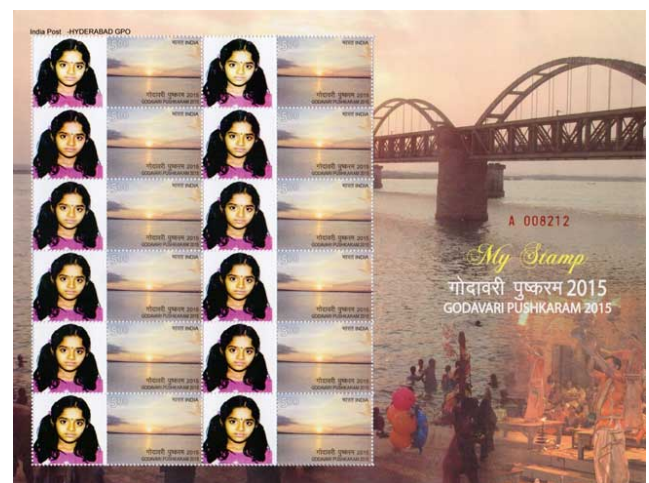


Image Courtesy: Sagi Srinavas Raju, Hyderabad

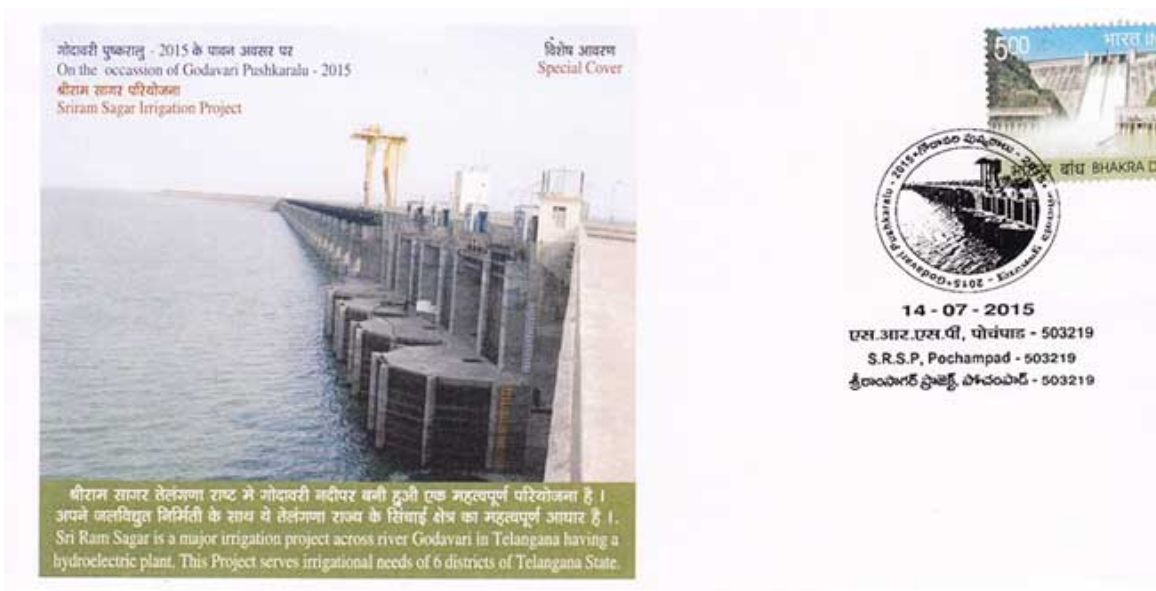


Special covers on the occasion of Godavari Pushkaralu 2015 - 14th July 2015.

On the occasion of Godavari Puskaralu 2015 two special covers were released on 14th July 2015. One special cover was released on Sriram Sagar Irrigation Project, Pochampad (Special Cover approval no. AP/15/2015) and second was on Kandakurthi-Triveni Sangamam(Special Cover approval no. AP/14/2015). Shri Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Minister for Agriculture, Telangana State and Smt. K. Kavitha, Member of Parliament, Nizamabad released both the covers at Sri Kodanda Ramalayam.

The Sriram Sagar Project also known as the Pochampadu Project is an irrigation project across river Godavari in Telangana to serve irrigational needs in Karimnagar, Warangal, Adilabad, Nalgonda, and Khammam districts. It also provides drinking water to Warangal city. There is a hydroelectric plant working

at the dam site, with 4 turbines each with 9 MW capacity generating 36 MW. The Project is located in Nizamabad district, 3 km away from National Highway 44. The Pushkaram ghat of Pochampad is built near Sri Kodanda Ramalayam and Sri Shivalayam.



Kandakurthi Village is 20 Kms from Nizamabad. This village has great historical background and believed that the Skandaashramam was also here. During the period of vanavasa, Lord Shri Rama came here and done pujas. It is also the ancestral village of RSS Founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar. It is popular at the entry point of river Godavari, in the state of Telangana, which originates as Triambakeshwar of Nashik in Maharashtra state. This place is known as Triveni Sangamam as it's the meeting point of three rivers Godavari, Manjira and Harida.

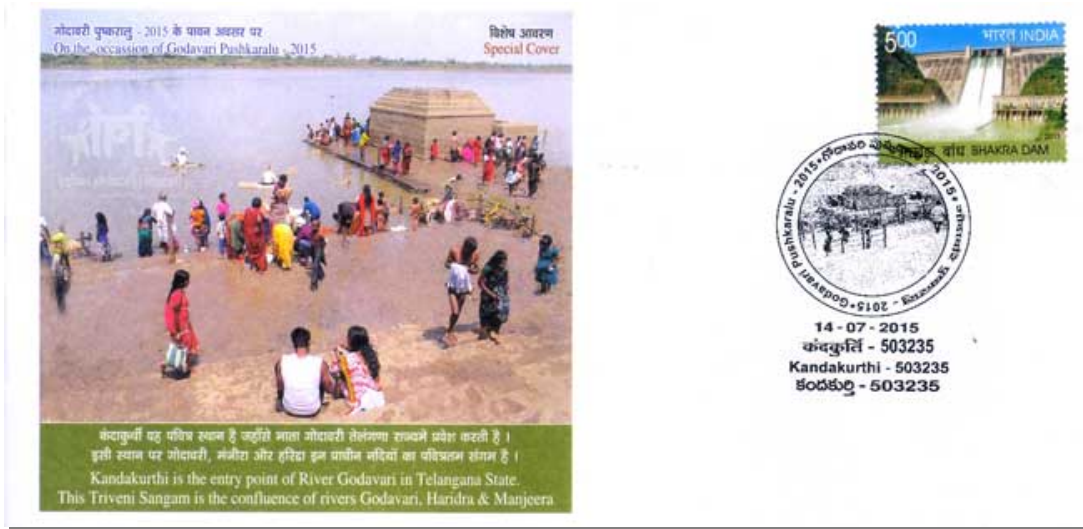


Release of Special Covers on Godavari Pushkaralu – 15th and 16th July 2015.

On 15th July 2015 a special cover on "Kotilingala Revu" bathing ghat was released by Shri B. V. Sudhakar, Chief Postmaster General, Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle at Rajahmundry (Special Cover approval no. AP/17/2015).

Koti Lingala Revu ghat is longest bathing ghat on Godavari in the country and it is the most second populated ghat after the Pushkar Ghat. The most popular Koti lingala Shiva temple is located in Kotagumam town, Rajahmundry. It is believed that 10 million Shiva Lingas were located earlier at this place and said that all the Lingas were carried away by the floods that occurred in olden days.

Courtesy: [Nizamabad Post](#)



Department of Posts, Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle has launched scheme of delivering purified Godavari Pushkar Jal (GOD-JAL) during the period of Godavari Pushkarams to devotees through post offices and by post. The GOD-JAL bottles are intended for supply at the rate of Rs. 20/- per bottle. As a part of this pious programme, Shri B. V. Sudhakar, Chief Postmaster General, Andhra Pradesh Postal circle launched the first consignment of GOD-JAL bottles on 15th July 2015 at the function held at Rajahmundry. Smt. Sharda Sampath, Postmaster General, Visakhapatnam Region, Shri K. Somasundaram, Director Postal Services, Visakhapatnam Region were also present at function.

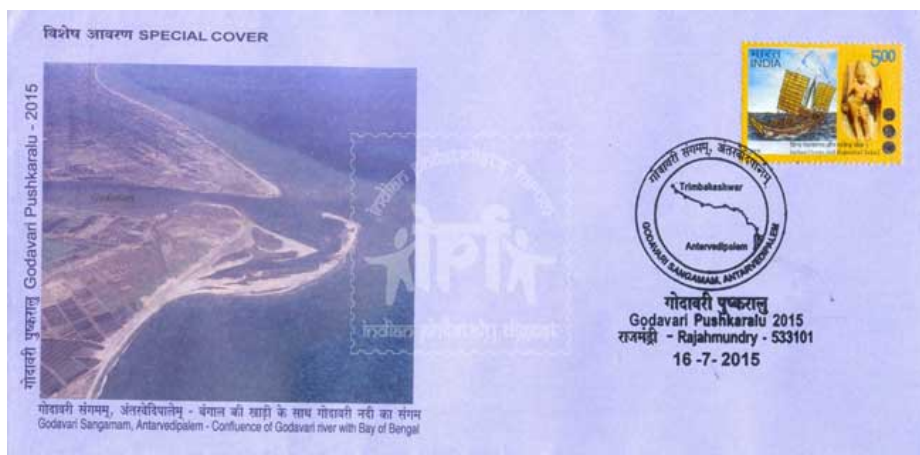


Set of Bookmarks on Jayadeva Gita Govinda was also released on the occasion. Bookmarks on Jayadeva Gita Govinda are available at Rs. 50/-.



On 16th July 2015 a special cover on Antarvedi was released by Postmaster General, Visakhapatnam region, Mrs. Sharda Sampath on 16th July 2015 at Rajahmundry (Special Cover approval no. AP/19/2015).

Antarvedi is a village in the Sakshinetipalle mandal, or tehsil, located in the East Godavari district. The village is situated at the place where the Bay of Bengal and Vashista Godavari, a tributary of the Godavari River, meet. Antarvedi was named in honour of the Lord as "Narasimhakshetra".



On the occasion picture postcards bearing permanent pictorial cancellations on Temples of Andhra Pradesh postal circle were also released. Only 1500 sets are printed and are available at a cost of Rs. 75/- per set.



A Set of 16 picture postcards tracing the path of Godavari along with the cancellations of the post offices serving the place and destination points near Bay of Bengal will be released before 25th July 2015. Only 500 sets will be available. Set of 16 postcards is priced at Rs. 1000/- per set. Orders for the set of these postcards can be registered at Visakhapatnam Philatelic Bureau. (Contact no. +91- 891-2546250)

Special Cover on Kaleshwara Muktheshwara Swamy Temple, Kaleshwaram – 16th July 2015.

A special cover on Kaleshwara Muktheshwara Swamy Temple, Kaleshwaram was released on 16th July 2015 at Mahadevapur (Special Cover approval no. AP/18/2015).

Kaleshwaram is a village in Mahadevapur Mandal in Karimnagar district of Telangana State. It is on the border of Telangana and Maharashtra at the juncture of the Rivers Godavari and its Pranahiti tributary. The town is popularly known for its ancient and famous Kaleshwara Muktheshwara Swamy Temple. This is a revered temple dedicated to the worship of the powerful Lord Shiva. The most iconic aspect in this ancient temple is the presence of two Lingams holding on to a single pedestal or the Panavattam. The temple gets its name Kaleshwara Mukteswara Swamy mandiram because of the dual presence of Lord Shiva or the Muktheshwara and the other is the Lord Yama or Kaleshwar. Kaleshwaram is one of the places of the three Shiva temples mentioned in Trilinga Desham (Land of Three Lingams), another name for Telugu speaking region, the Andhra Pradesh, the other two being Draksharamam and Srishailam. This place is also called Dakshina Triveni Sangamam, as two rivers meet here along with a third, the illusionary flow of Antarvaahini. It is said that a long time back one of the Vaishyas had performed an abhisheka to Kaleshwara Mukteswara with hundreds of milk pots and the milk evolved at the sangamam of Godavari and Pranahita. Hence the name Dakshina Gangotri (the other being Allahabad, or Prayaga).



Special Cover on Temple dedicated to Lord Rama – 16th July 2015.

A special cover on Lord Rama temple was released at Bhadrachalam on 16th July 2015. (Special Cover approval no. AP/1/2015)

Lord Sree Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple in Bhadrachalam is a Hindu temple of Lord Rama located Khammam district of Telangana State. The area is called as Bhadrachalam and it is an important

Hindu pilgrimage town, situated on the banks of Godavari River. The town has a documented history of Lord Sri Rama temple constructed circa 17th Century CE by Kancherla Gopanna (nearly 370 years ago). Bhadrachalam and Vijayanagara are sites said to have been closely associated with the Ramayana. Rama, Sita and Lakshmana are said to have stayed at Parnasala, 35 km away from Bhadrachalam. Rama is said to have crossed the river Godavari on his way to Sri Lanka to rescue Sita, at the spot where the Bhadrachalam temple stands, on the northern bank of the river.



Covers Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

Commemorative stamp on Nabakalebara 2015 - 17th July 2015.

According to 'Nabakalebara Bidhanm' God himself has told – 'even though I am Purnabrahma, free from birth and re-birth, I am your God, I am not separate from you, it is a fact, as if a Jiva worn-out his body and enters into another body afresh, I also exactly follow the same procedure, because I am not separate from the Jiva'.



Nabakalebara is a festival observed in the Shree Jagannath Temple at Puri at a predefined time according to Hindu Calender. Naba means new and Kalebara is body.

Lord Shree Jagannath adorns a new body during Nabakalebara. It is the re-embodiment of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Sudarshan when they relinquish their old bodies and assume a new one. However, the Brahmapadartha (soul-substance) remains the same. The soul or the Brahma is transferred from the old idols to their new bodies in a highly technical and conspicuous manner prescribed and inherited from generations by the Daitas and the Rakshaks. They are the up-keepers of the Shreeangas or the bodies of the trinity of the Grand Temple. The Deities are made from a special type of Neem wood known as Daru Bramha. Preparations for the ceremony start in the month of Chaitra.

A year with an extra month (Adhika masa / Ashadha masa) as per Hindu calendar is considered auspicious for conducting the Nabakalebara ceremony. This usually occurs every twelve to nineteen years. Most of the Nabakalebars are performed after a gap of almost 19 years as in 1912, 1931, 1950, 1969, 1977 and 1996. Nabakalebara 2015 celebration was started from 29th

March with Banajaga Yatra (search for timber for the formation of the new idols of deities) and will conclude with Rathayatra followed Sunabesa (adorning the new images of gods with golden attire) on 27th July, with many other rituals being held in between on specific dates.

On the eve of Nabakalebara Rath Yatra 2015 a commemorative stamp on Nabakalebara 2015 was released by the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas (Independent Charge), Shri Dharmendra Pradhan at Puri on 17th July, 2015.



Courtesy: Kashinath Sahoo, Bhubaneswar | PIB

Special cover on 125th Birth Anniversary of V. L. Ethiraj - 18th July 2015.

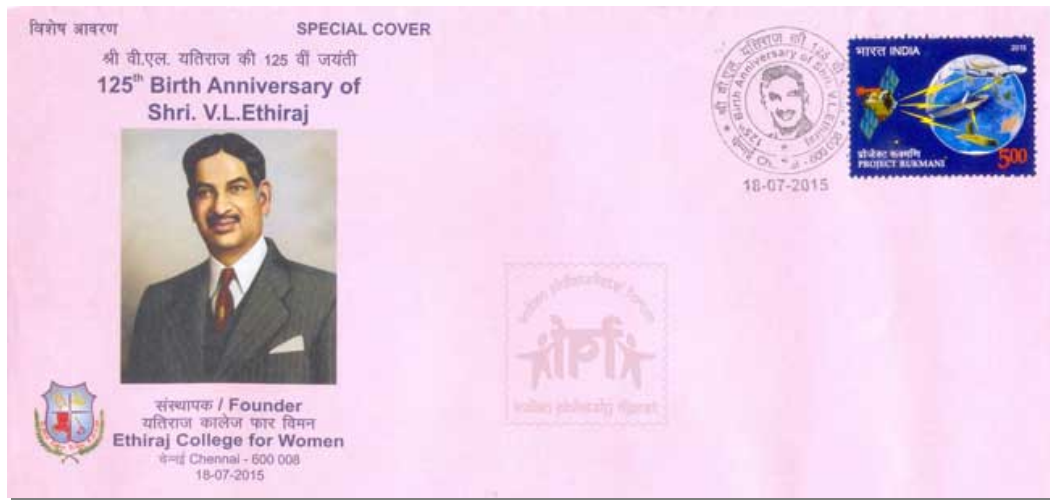
Vellore Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar Ethiraj (b. 18 July 1890 – d. 18 August 1960) was a lawyer and philanthropist who founded Ethiraj College for Women, a college in Chennai. His father Thiru. Vellore Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar was from Thottapalayam village in Vellore district. V. L. Ethiraj received his undergraduate degree from what is today Presidency College, Chennai and received his law degree from the University of Dublin. When he returned to India, he joined The Madras Bar. He was the first Indian to be appointed as Crown Prosecutor by the British Raj. He donated one million rupees (Rs.10 lakhs) as an

endowment for Ethiraj College for Women. He believed that educating a man is educating an individual, but educating a woman is educating the entire family. One of Ethiraj's successes was the Lakshmikanthan murder case, which he successfully fought in defense of Tamil actors M. K. Thyagaraja Bhagavathar and N. S. Krishnan and got them released from prison.

125th birthday celebrations of Shri V. L. Ethiraj founder of Ethiraj College was held at the college campus here on 18th July 2015. On the occasion a special cover was released by Shri Mervin Alexander, Postmaster General, Chennai City Region (Special Cover approval no. TN/18/2015).



Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

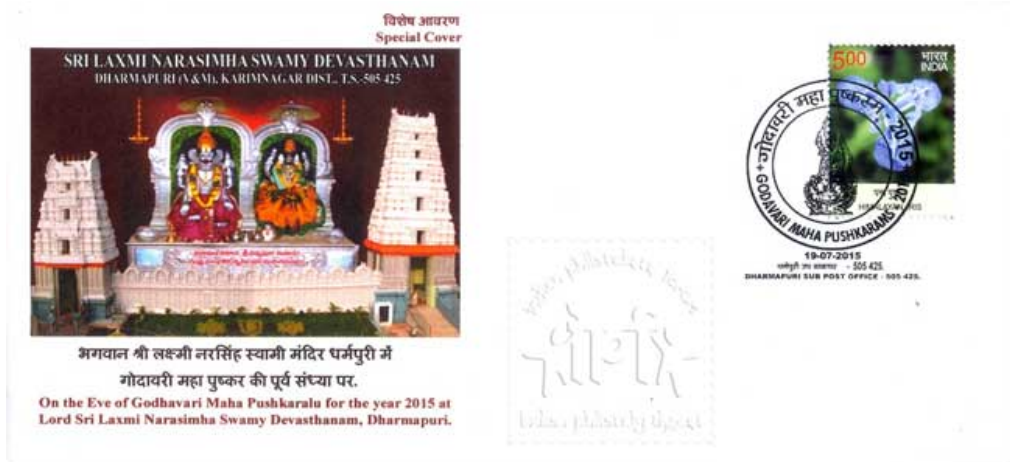


Special Cover on Lord Sri Laxmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam, Dharmapuri – 19th July 2015.

A special cover on Lord Sri Laxmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam, Dharmapuri was released at Dharmapuri on 19th July 2015 (Special Cover approval no. AP/22/2015).

Dharmapuri is a village and Mandal headquarters in the Karimnagar district of Telangana. This village earned spiritual importance because of the presence of the shrine, which is dedicated to the Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

The temple has two very different idols of the lord Narasimha Swamy. The oldest of these idols is called "pata Narasimha Swamy" which means the older Narasimha Swamy and the temple that was established later is called "kotha Narasimha Swamy" which means the new one. The Dharmapuri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple is one of the most important settlements of Vedic Brahmins in the state. Every year in the months of March and April, devotees come together to celebrate the famous Dharmapuri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Aalaya Jatara. The town, in the month of December, gets busy for the celebration of Mokshada Ekadashi.



Cover Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

Special Cover on Papikondalu – 21st July 2015.

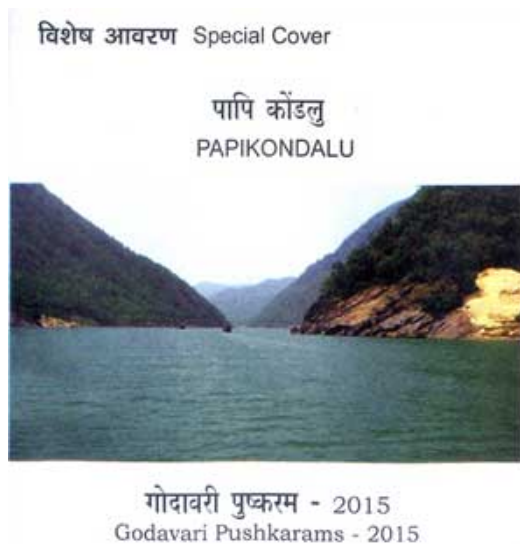
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Chandra Babu Naidu released a special cover on Papikondalu mountain range at Narsapuram, West Godavari on 21st July 2015 in presence of Deputy Chief Minister Shri N. Chinrajappa, Endowment Minister Shri Manikyala Rao and West Godavari District Collector K Bhaskar (Special Cover approval no. AP/21/2015)

“Papi kondalu” or the “Papi Hills” are series of mountain range that are located in Rajahmundry in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh. Papikondalu Mountain range runs along River Godavari, one of the largest and vivacious rivers in India. The mighty river narrowing and passing with twists and turns along the Papi Hills is every visitor’s delight. Papikondalu mountain range spreads over a vast area, covering about three districts of East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam Districts. To get the real essence of Papikondalu, one has to go for the boat journey either from Rajahmundry or

Bhadrachalam. There are small motor boats with capacity of five including the rider or River Streamers carrying about fifty to sixty people.



Cover Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram



Special Cover on Kaleshwara Muktheshwara Swamy Temple, Kaleshwaram – 22nd July 2015.

A special cover on Kaleshwara Muktheshwara Swamy Temple, Kaleshwaram was released on 16th July 2015 at Mahadevapur (Special Cover approval no. AP/23/2015).

Kaleshwaram is a village in Mahadevapur Mandal in Karimnagar district of Telangana State. The Mukteshwara Swamy Temple is uniquely significant because of the two Shiva Lingas found on a single pedestal. They are named Lord Shiva and Lord Yama; collectively known as Kaleshwara Mukteswara

Swamy. This place is also called Dakshina Triveni Sangamam, as two rivers Godavari and Pranahitha meet here along with a third, the illusionary flow of Antarvaahini. Kaleshwaram is Trilinga Kshethram (Land of Three Lingams) and has four sides, four Nandi Vahanam and four Rajagopuram (North, East, West & South).

Cover Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

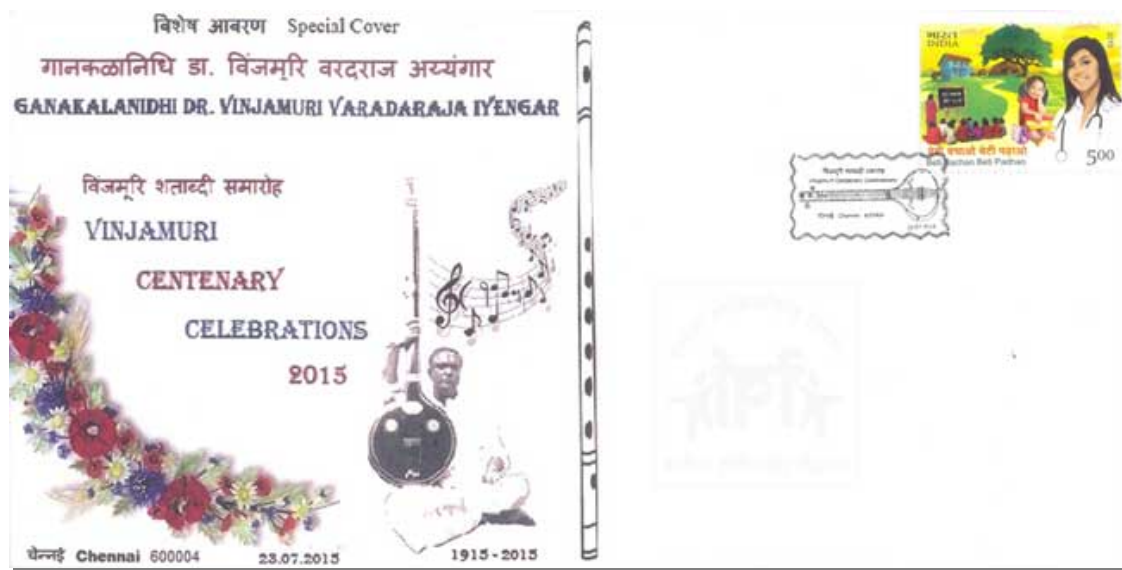


Special Cover on Dr. Vinjamuri Centenary Celebrations - 23rd July 2015.

Dr. Vinjamuri Varadaraja Iyengar was one of the eminent stars in the firmament of Carnatic Music scene from mid thirties to late sixties. Dr. Vinjamuri Varadaraja Iyengar was born on 15th July 1915. Vinjamuri gave his first performance at the age of seven in the presence of Mysore Veena Seshanna. He was a musician of the highest order, a very well versed musicologist and composer. He underwent rigorous training in Music under the famed Tiger Varadachariar in gurukula system. As early as 1943, he started 'Sangeetha Sikshana' on AIR, Chennai, under the name 'Gana Lahari,' teaching music on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. He was not just an

eminent and excellent performer but was also an exceptional Musicologist, a great Composer with scholarly compositions to his credit, an able Administrator, an excellent Orator and a prolific Writer. He was known to be a "Musical Thinker". He died on 16th August 1991.

Centenary Celebrations of Vinjamuri Varadaraja Iyengar was held on 23rd July 2015 at Raga Sudha Hall, Luz, Chennai. On this occasion a Special Cover was released on Dr. Vinjamuri Varadaraja Iyengar by Shri. Mervin Alexander, Postmaster General, Chennai City Region and it was received by Chief Guest Sri. K. Subramanian IBPS, Station Director, Subramanian, All India Radio, Chennai. Function was followed by Concert by Thirumalai Brothers.



Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

Special Cover on Coal Mines, Godavarikhani – 23rd July 2015.

A Special cover was released on Coal mines of Godavarikhani of Telangana State on 23rd July 2015 at Godavarikhani (Special Cover approval no. AP/24/2015).

Coal is the world's most abundant, safe, secure, clean and cost effective fossil fuel. The origins of the Singareni Coal Mines can be traced to 1871 with the

discovery of Coal near the village of Yellandu in Khammam District by Dr. King of the Geological Survey of India. Godavarikhani is a town in Karimnagar district of Telangana State. It is located on the banks of Godavari River and hence, the name Godavari Khani (Khani mines). This city is popular for its coal mines, controlled mostly by The Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

Cover Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram



Special Cover on Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary - 24th July 2015.

A special cover on Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary was released on 24th July 2015 at Eturnagaram (Special Cover approval no. AP/25/2015).

Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary located in Eturnagaram village in Warangal district in Telangana. It is located 250 km away from Hyderabad. The sanctuary is located near the Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Telangana border. It is one of the oldest sanctuaries of Telangana. In the year 1952 on 30 January the erstwhile Hyderabad Government because of its rich bio-diversity declared it as a sanctuary. The land is undulating from steep slopes to gentle slopes from west to east. Three-quarters of the area consist of a plain while the rest is hilly with many streams and springs. Godavari river passes through the sanctuary. The vegetation here is tropical dry deciduous with

teak and other trees of good quality standing 60 ft and above.

The sanctuary has southern tropical dry deciduous type of teak and its associates like thiruman, maddi, and bamboo, madhuca, terminalia, pterocarpus. A perennial water source called "Dayyam Vagu", divides the sanctuary into almost two halves. It is home to Tiger, Leopard, Gaur, Sambar, Cheetal, Wolf, Dholes, Golden jackals, Sloth bear, Chousingha, Blackbuck, Nilgai, Sambar, Spotted deer, Chinkara, Indian giant squirrels and many kinds of birds. Reptiles like Crocodile, Python, Cobra, Krait, Star.

Total 12 special covers have been released on the occasion of Godavari Puskaralu from different points along Godavari.

Cover Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram



Picture postcards tracing the path of Godavari with the cancellations released at Hyderabad – 24th July 2015.

To commemorate the “Godavari Pushkaram” observed from 14th to 25th July, 2015, Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle released a set of 16 post cards tracing the path of Godavari along with the cancellations of the post offices serving the place and destination points near Bay of Bengal with unique numbers. Shri B. V. Sudhakar, Chief Postmaster General, A. P. Circle released these pictorial post cards on 24th July 2015 at Hyderabad.

Each picture postcard illustrates an important place in the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, along which the River Godavari flows and bears special cancellation impression of office of posting and also the delivery stamp of different offices, where the River Godavari merges into the Bay of Bengal.

River Godavari having its origin at Triambakeshwar in Nasik, Maharashtra enters in Telangana State at Kandakurthi village touches some important places in Telangana viz. Basara, Dharmapuri, Kaleshwaram and Bhadrachalam, and then flows into Andhra Pradesh State towards places viz. Pattiseema, Kovvur, Kotilingalarevu, Dowlaiswaram, Ravulapalem, Kotipalli, Yanam, Appanapalli, Odalarevu, Narsapur and Atarvedi. The River Godavari splits into two major tributaries at Dowlaiswaram as Vriddha Gautami and Vasishta Godavari, with Vasishta Godavari again splitting into Vasishta and Vainateya; and Vriddha Gautami splitting into Gautami and Nilarevu flowing for a total of 1465 kms.

Set of 16 pictorial postcards is priced at Rs.1000/- per set and beautifully packed with special embroidery work at its right top corner showing river routing from its origin till its mouth point. These post cards are released in limited number i.e., 500 sets and made available for sale at five Philately Bureaux in

Telangana and AP State. Interested philatelists may contact following philatelic bureaux to place their orders:

Hyderabad GPO – 500001, Tel No. 040 23463515 /23463517

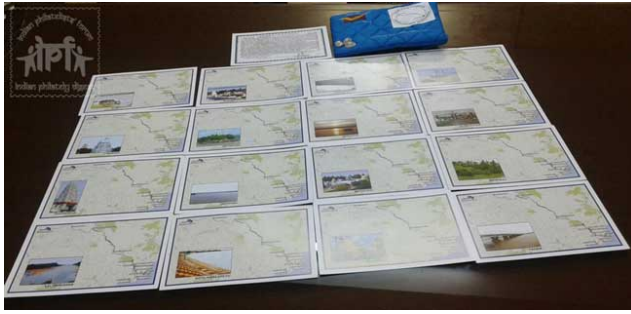
Vijayawada HO – 520001, Tel No.0866 2425649 / 2425645

Visakhapatnam HO – 530001, Tel Nos.0891 2546250 / 2546251

Kurnool HO – 518001, Tel Nos.08518 289207 / 289205

Tirupati HO – 517 501, Tel Nos.0877 2289204 / 2289211





Special Cover on Bethany St. John's English Higher Secondary School, Kunnamkulam - 24th July 2015.

Kunnamkulam Philatelic Club and Trichur Philatelic club jointly organised Kunnamkulampex 2015, philatelic, coins and antiques Exhibition at Bethany St John's English Higher Secondary School, Kunnamkulam, Thrissur Dist. in connection with the golden jubilee celebrations of Bethany St. Johns EHS School, Kunnamkulam from 22nd to 24th July 2015.

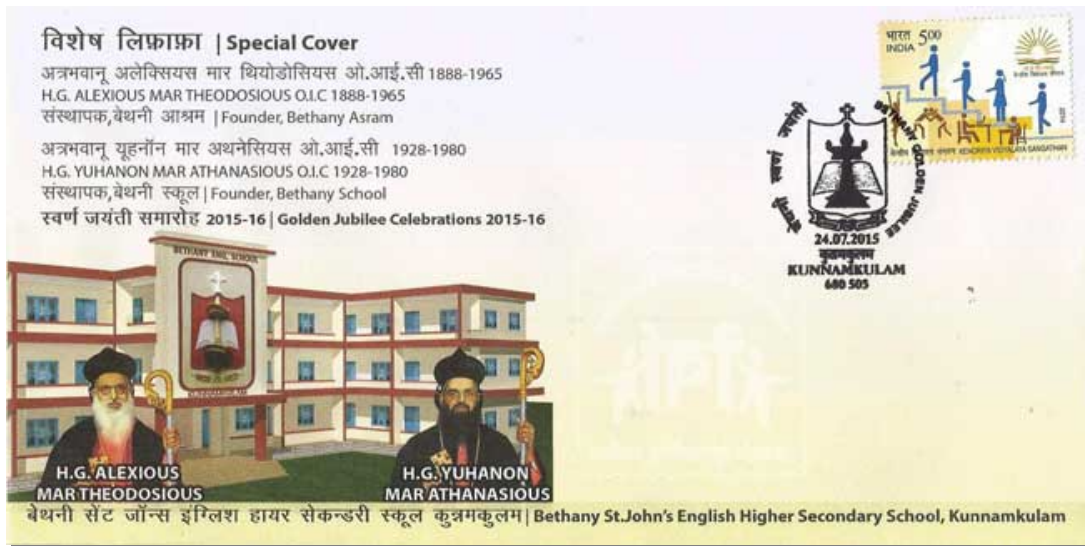
Bethany St. John's English School was started in June 1966 by the Bethany Ashram Corporate Educational Agency. Bethany Ashram is a Religious Community of

the Orthodox Church. This Institution is an English Medium School aims at the full development of the pupil's moral, intellectual, social and physical capacities. The school is situated on a beautiful hill (Bethany Hill) in an extensive plot of about 10 acres in the Kunnamkulam town on Trichur-Kunnamkulam Road. This school has upgraded to the status of Higher Secondary School in 2002.

A special cover was released to mark golden jubilee of St. John's English Higher Secondary School, Kunnamkulam by Shri K. P. Sureshkumar, Supdt. of Posts, Thrissur Division and Fr. Pathrose, Principal of school on 24th July 2015.



Cover Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram



Special Cover on Golden Jubilee celebrations of Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, Bangalore - 27th July 2015.

In order to honour Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya, the great visionary, celebrated engineer and statesman of our country, the All India Manufacturers' Organization, Mysore State Board, decided to set up a Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM) at Bangalore. Foundation stone of museum was laid by Shri B.D. Jatti, Chief Minister of erstwhile Mysore State on 15th September 1958. A modest building with a built up area of 4000 sq. mtrs., was constructed in the serene surrounding of the Cubbon Park, housing various industrial products and engines, which was opened by the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 14th July 1962. The first gallery set up at VITM on the theme 'Electricity' was opened to the public on 27th July 1965 by the then Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting & Bharat Ratna Indira Gandhi.

VITM has a Dinosaur Corner with mobile app facility, replica of the Wright Brothers' Flyer "Kitty Hawk", 'Science on a Sphere' - the only one in Asia, 7 permanent exhibition galleries titled Engine Hall, Fun Science, Electrotechnic, Space - Emerging Technology in the Service of Mankind, Biotechnological Revolution, BEL Hall of Electronics and Children Science. It also has Mobile Science Exhibition with 24 participatory exhibits mounted on a bus. VITM also organises several education extension activities to supplement science education in the schools. The first HAM Radio station was also set up in VITM that became a passion for the children and adult alike.

Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, Bangalore celebrated Golden Jubilee during the year

2014-15 and a Golden Jubilee Celebration was held on 27th July 2015. On the occasion 'My Stamp' and Special Cover were released by Prof. R. C. Sobti, Chairman, Governing Body, NCSM and Mrs. Veena R. Srinivas, Postmaster General (BD), Karnataka Postal Circle. (Special Cover approval no. KTK/48/2015)



Cover Courtesy: Sushil Mehra, Bengaluru | Suresh Rao, Bengaluru



Special Cover on Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS), Udaipur – 31st July 2015.

Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS) is an NGO established in 1985 by Dr. Kailash Agrawal 'Manav' to treat patients suffering from polio, cerebral palsy and serve the orthopedically handicapped and disabled. Aim of this NGO is to provide education and vocational training to the disabled and mentally retarded people with proper facilities to develop their potential to the fullest so that they can be self-reliant and independent. This organization also works closely with hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, mentally retarded children, handicapped and individuals. Poor, needy and physically challenged persons are being operated "free of cost" at "Narayan Sewa Sansthan". Thereafter, they are imparted with vocational training, so as to enable them to earn their livelihood on their own.

To commemorate Narayan Seva Sansthan for doing more than 2,50,000 free of cost operations of by birth disabled and Polio affected children, a special cover was released on 31st July 2015 at the function organized at Narayan Seva Sansthan campus, Badi Gram, Udaipur.

Special Cover was released by Shri N. D. Prajapati, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices and was presented to the co-founder Padma Shri Kailash Manav and Shrimati Kamla Devi Agrawal. The special cover depicts first Polio Hospital established by Narayan Seva Sansthan and the cancellation depicts logo of NSS.



Cover Courtesy: Rajesh Sharma, Udaipur



YOUTH PHILATELY



Hobby of collecting stamp began shortly after 6th May 1840, when the world's first postage stamp 'PENNY BLACK' (with portrait of Queen Victoria) was issued in London. By the 1860s, stamp collecting had become a popular hobby.

There is magic in postage stamps! You can travel around the world without leaving your seat. Hobby of stamp collecting broadens one's horizon, brings people together, and widens the knowledge of geography, history, science and technology. Postage stamps are unique and endless source of knowledge about events, places, sites, people, culture and traditions. Among the children, this hobby arouses curiosity, stirs imagination, develop tendency to

analyze subjects, helps to cultivate the good habit of patience and fosters friendship.

Now the stamp collecting has not remained as a hobby but has blossomed full fledged science of Philately. There are various branches in this field. Philatelists not only collect stamps but they also collect, postal stationery, flight covers, exhibition covers, meter franking, exhibition covers, revenue and court fee stamps, stamp papers and postal history. Thematic collection has now become a boon in philately. It is a subject wise collection (e.g. Butterfly, Flowers, Dentistry, Birds, Animals, Ships, Fishes, Sports, Aircrafts, Milk, etc.) For developing your theme/topic, you have to study catalogues, reference books on that



particular subject. When a theme is properly researched, philatelically as well as academically, the collector will have a vast amount of background information. So the thematic collection makes you master of that particular subject. That is why this hobby is a knowledge-based hobby and I call it 'EDUTAINMENT' (Entertainment with Education).

This section is dedicated to young budding stamp collectors. Our aim is to provide useful information about stamp collecting to young stamps collectors and beginners through this section. Please keep viewing this section for more useful information in next issue.

THEMES & THOUGHTS OF THE MONTH

4 July : Swami Vivekananda's death anniversary



"Perfection does not come from belief or faith. Talk does not count for anything. Parrots can do that. Perfection comes through selfless work." - Swami Vivekananda

Swami Vivekananda (b. 12 January 1863 - d. 4 July 1902), born Narendra Nath Datta was an Indian Hindu monk and chief disciple of the 19th century saint Ramakrishna. He was a key figure in the introduction of the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world[2] and is credited with raising interfaith awareness, bringing Hinduism to the status of a major world religion during the late 19th century. He was a major force in the revival of Hinduism in India, and contributed to the concept of nationalism in colonial India. Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission. He is perhaps best known for his inspiring speech which began, "Sisters and brothers of America ...," in which he introduced Hinduism at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893.

Born into an aristocratic Bengali family of Calcutta, Vivekananda was inclined towards spirituality. He was influenced by his guru, Ramakrishna, from whom he learnt that all living beings were an embodiment of the divine self; therefore, service to God could be rendered by service to mankind. After Ramakrishna's death, Vivekananda toured the Indian subcontinent extensively and acquired first-hand knowledge of the conditions prevailing in British India. He later travelled to the United States, representing India at the 1893 Parliament of the World Religions. Vivekananda conducted hundreds of public and private lectures and classes, disseminating tenets of Hindu philosophy in the United States, England and Europe. In India, Vivekananda is regarded as a patriotic saint and his birthday is celebrated as National Youth Day in India.

9 July : Guru Dutt's birth anniversary



"Life mein, yaar, kya hai? Do hi toh cheezen hai - kamyaabi aur failure. There is nothing in between." ("What's life about, friend? It's only about two things - success and failure. There is nothing in between.")

- **Guru Dutt** (On failure of *Kaagaz Ke Phool* and success of *Chaudhvin Ka Chand*)

Vasanth Kumar Shivashankar Padukone (b. 9 July 1925 - d. 10 October 1964), better known as Guru Dutt, was a film director, producer and actor. He was born in Bangalore to Shivashanker Rao Padukone and Vasanthi Padukone in a Konkani Chitrapur Saraswat Brahmin family. His father was initially a headmaster, and then a bank employee. His mother Vasanthi wrote short stories and translated Bengali novels into Kannada. Guru Dutt spent his early childhood in Bhowanipore area of Kolkata and he grew close to Bengali culture and intellect. He started his film career at Prabhat Film Company in Pune in 1944 and later moved to Mumbai.

Guru Dutt made 1950s and 1960s classics such as *Pyaasa*, *Kaagaz Ke Phool*, *Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam* and *Chaudhvin Ka Chand*. In particular, *Pyaasa* and *Kaagaz Ke Phool* are now included among the greatest films of all time, both by Time magazine's "All-TIME" 100 best movies and by the Sight & Sound critics' and directors' poll, where Guru Dutt himself is included among the greatest film directors of all time. He is sometimes referred to as "India's Orson Welles". In 2010, he was included among CNN's "top 25 Asian actors of all time". He is most famous for making lyrical and artistic films within the context of popular Hindi cinema of the 1950s, and expanding its commercial conventions, starting with his 1957 film, *Pyaasa*. Several of his later works have a cult following. His movies go full house when re-released; especially in Germany, France and Japan.

MEMBERS' DIRECTORY

Online members' directory is available at our website www.indianphilately.net

Members' directory is password protected and can be accessed by registered members only. Please contact us if you have not received your password or have forgotten your password.

- *Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.*
- *Be like a postage stamp. Stick to one thing until you get there.*
- *The most interesting thing about a postage stamp is the persistence with which it sticks to its job.*

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

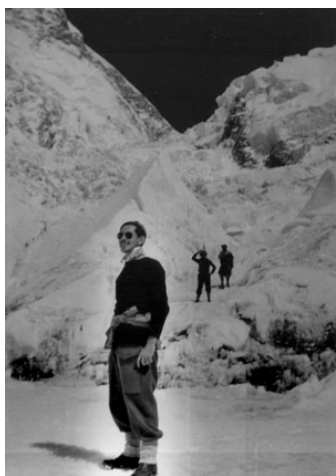
This one's for the bird (stamp)!

(Story about 1975, 50 p. definitive stamp of India)

One of the problems of Indian Philately is that the "story" behind a postage stamp is quite opaque. The postal department does not oblige philatelists by reliable documentation and transparent procedures. I was writing an article on "Birds on Indian Stamps" for Aasheesh Pittie, editor of the Indian Birds and I found it difficult to find any information about bird stamps. I was constrained to publish the article, though I felt that I had inadequate information and could find no way of getting more. Those who missed reading the article and would like to peruse it may find it here.

Rather surprisingly, some people liked the article, despite it being just a set of dry facts and observations on them, and wrote to tell me so. Two of the responses were of very great interest to me.

The first email was from Mr Zafar Futehally, one of our doyens of bird-watching. He appreciated the article, saying that it enthused him so much that he wished he were young again so that he could start collecting bird stamps. That warmed the cockles of my heart.



*A young Peter Jackson poses in front of the Khumbu icefall during the 1953 climbing season.
(Image copyrighted by Peter Jackson)*

The other email was from Mr Peter Jackson, a retired gentleman from England. Mr Jackson began his career as a reporter for Reuters and made his mark reporting for John Hunt's Everest Expedition which climbed Everest for the first time in 1953. He went on to become a good wildlife photographer and a dedicated conservationist. He is renowned for his work on wild cats. I was quite flattered to receive an email of appreciation from him too.

Mr Jackson mentioned that one of the stamps that was shown in the article was based on his image. Mr Jackson referred to a definitive stamp of India, a 50 paise stamp issued in 1975 showing a flying bird in blue. The List of Stamps (1852-2007), published by the Department of Posts, describes it as "Flying Crane". One of the leading bird stamp websites "birdtheme.org" lists the stamp as Demoiselle Crane (*Grus virgo*) – perhaps because a Demoiselle best seemed to fit the image. The finer details of the image on the stamp are indistinct, as the stamp is itself less than an inch in height or width.

Mr Jackson pointed out that the image was his and it was taken in Bharatpur and was of the Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedia*), not a Demoiselle Crane. He was kind enough to send me the original image which is displayed in this article. He had photographed it among the many birds nesting in Keoladeo Ghana way back in the 1960s when he lived in India.

In his own words, he describes how the image found its way on the stamp:

"I was surprised when I found my photo on stamps. I couldn't make out how the post got it. Sometime later one of my daughters was lunching with an artist friend. He said that I had sent him the photo for art work. He recommended it to the post and told them they could use it on a stamp if they got my permission. But they failed to contact me and just went ahead. Of course, I was pleased to see the photo on a stamp, but I never got any thanks from the post. It served for 10 years."



1975 definitive stamp in denomination of 50p



Mr Peter Jackson's original image upon which the stamp is based. (Image copyrighted by Peter Jackson)

Mr Jackson was unfortunate in that he got no gratitude from the Indian Post, but he was lucky in that the stamp his image adorned was a definitive and not a commemorative stamp.

A definitive has a simple and plain design, usually carries no caption while a commemorative is larger, picturesque and has a caption. However the commemorative is printed in small quantities and has a short issue life after which it is neither available nor legal tender. A definitive, on the other hand is printed

in very large quantities, for years at a time and is the workhorse of the postal system.

Mr Jackson's image on the definitive has adorned millions of letters, parcels and postcards for more than a decade, thereby giving his image exposure to an audience many times larger than ever possible by other means of the time.

We can only thank Mr. Jackson for taking the beautiful image so that it could find its way onto the postage stamp. It is important to know that this contribution on his part is very small compared to the sterling work he has done in his lifetime for Indian Wildlife. A close friend of Kailash Sankhala, he joined the World Wildlife Fund (today Worldwide Fund for Nature) in 1970. When WWF raised over a million pounds internationally to save the tiger, he was sent to India to help purchase the equipment paid for by WWF for the setting up of Project Tiger. Later, he became an independent writer on wildlife. Mr. Jackson was

appointed as head of the defunct Cat Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN in 1983 and headed it for 17 years converting it into a close-knit team of over 200 cat scientists, including many Indians. He created the CatSG magazine about the activities of the Cat Specialist group in 1984 and edited it till he retired in 2000. He still contributes world cat news to the magazine. During his time as chairman, Mr. Jackson travelled around the world to help support cats, including many visits to India.

Thank you Mr Jackson for your life work's in preserving India's wildlife in general and our country's big cats in particular.

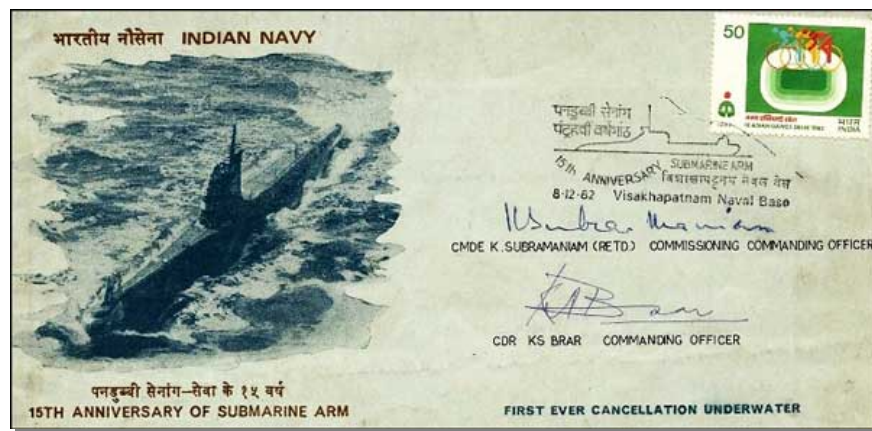
Contributed by Ashwin Baindur, Pune

*Article published first at The Butterfly Diaries.
Licensed under Creative Commons 3.0 Share-like
Attribution Required.*

A PHILATELIC PLEASURE

First under water special cancellation in India

A new page of history was written on board the Indian submarine 'INS Kalvari' on 8th December 1982, when the Indian Navy and department of posts jointly provided a special cancellation, 30 meter under the deep waters of the Bay of Bengal. This was the world's first ever under water Special Cancellation was provided to mark the 15th anniversary of the submarine arm of the Indian Navy on 8th December 1982 (Visakhapatnam Naval Base P.O.) It was a tribute to the Indian Submarines and recognition of their courage, dedication and service in the defence of the country.



Our website www.indianphilately.net is organized exclusively for educational purposes; more specifically, to promote and encourage the study, understanding, preservation and appreciation of the philately and postal history of India. Our aim is to provide information on as many different aspects of Indian philately through this web site.

Follow us:

@ Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ipfdigest>

@ Google+: <http://google.com/+IndianphilatelyNet>

@ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/indianphilatelydigest/>



Google play

Android App of Indian Philately Digest is available at Google Play Store:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.andromo.dev397998.app367024>