

Issue No. 32 : August 2015

NEWS SECTION

Special Cover on Mahatma Basaweshwar - 3rd August 2015.

Mahatma Basaveshwar (also known as Basava or Basavanna) (b. 1105 – d. 1168) is known as the founder of the lingayat religious sect in India. He brought on a social transformation, often referred as "revolution" in that he changed the lower caste people into a higher thinking of God or Shiva. Born into a brahmin family residing in the small town of Bagewadi, a town in Hungund taluk in Bagalkot district of Karnataka. Basava was also a part of "Bhakti Pantha of 12th century and one of the main figures with his contemporary lingayata or blessed people sect of Hinduism. He and his followers with Allama defined a new way of looking at God and life with numerous Vachanas (sacred hymns). He declared that work is worship and taught the ideals of simple living and the equality of all men. And he practiced what he

preached. He became the Prime Minister to king Bijjala who ruled from 1157 to 1167 over Kalyana, a city of historic importance. He was a mystic by temperament, an idealist by choice, a statesman by profession, a man of letters by taste, a humanist by sympathy and a social reformer by conviction.

Lingayatism was founded by Mahatma Basaveshwar and spread by his followers called Sharanas. Lingayatism is a distinct Shaivite denomination practiced in India. It makes several departures from mainstream Hinduism and propounds monotheism through worship centered on Lord Shiva in the form of Ishtalinga.

A Special cover was released on Mahatma Basaweshwar on at Udgir (Latur District, Maharashtra) on 3rd August 2015.

Cover Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram



Special Cover on Semiquincentennial year of Danapur Cantonment - 5th August 2015.

Danapur Cantonment or Danapur Cantt established on 5th August 1765, is located on the outskirts of Patna is the second oldest cantonment in the country after Barrackpur Cantonment, West Bengal. Initially, it was set up at Bankipore which fell under the jurisdiction of Patna City. The cantonment was, however, set up in

Danapur area, then known as Dinapore, way back in 1766-67. Dinapore was a staging post on the route up the Ganges plain inland from Calcutta towards Delhi, and an important garrison supporting East India Company rule in the sub-continent.

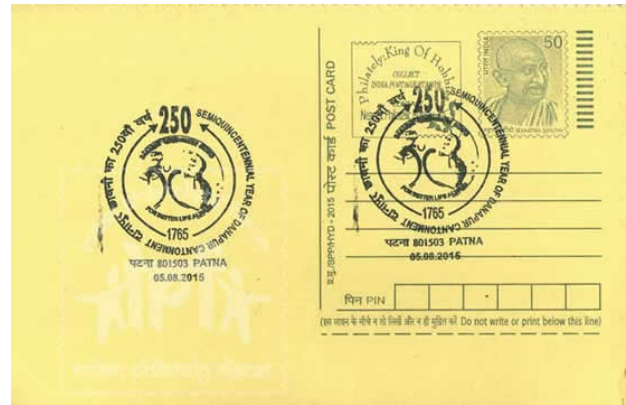
Danapur Cantonment is one of the oldest European cantonments in the region. It was the only white cantonment of the East India Company between at one

point of time. It was the largest military cantonment in Bengal, with accommodation for two batteries of artillery, a European and a native infantry regiment. Danapur Cantonment played a big role in the freedom struggle of 1857, as on 25th July 1857 sepoys of the Danapur Cantonment revolted the Britishers. According to sources, Mangal Pandey, a hero of 1857 mutiny, was a frequent visitor to Danapur cantonment. During British period, it was known as 'Little England' for its cleanliness and greenery. The cantonment is also known for two historic churches, St Luke and St Stephen's, built in 18th century.

Presently Danapur is the regimental centre of Bihar Regiment (BRC). It was Lt-Colonel R C Muller, who set up the Bihar Regimental Centre at Agra in 1945. But the regimental centre moved from Agra to Ranchi under his command in April 1946. Subsequently, it again moved to Gaya from where it finally shifted to Danapur in March 1959. In June-July Danapur Cantonment area becomes a bird sanctuary as a large number of migratory birds arrive here.

On the occasion of semiquincentennial (250th anniversary) celebrations of the cantonment a special

cover was released on 5th August 2015 at Patna (Special Cover approval no. BH/07/AUG/2015). The Cancellation depicts the celebration logo. The logo, in the pictorial region, bears a tree, D for Danapur, C for Cantonments and B for Board. It also includes 'Danapur Cantonments Board' and 'For Better Life Aways'.



Courtesy: Lalit K. Mishra, Patna



Special Cover on birth centenary of eminent philatelist Late Col. L. G. Shenoy - 11th August 2015.

Col. Lakshman Giri Shenoy (b. August 11, 1915, - d. June 19, 1997) was born as the second son of Giri Shenoy and Saraswathi Bai. He passed B.A (English) from the Maharajah's College, Ernakulam. His early career was as editor of English newspapers 'Hyderabad Herald' and 'Modern Times'. The powerful editorials which he wrote those days on the Freedom struggle and many other subjects prove his journalistic abilities. He joined British Indian Army during the Second World War as a second lieutenant

in 1943. As a military officer, he travelled all over India. He served the army, which later became the Indian Army, for 24 years, retiring in 1968 as Colonel. After retirement, he worked in Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Bangalore in higher management cadre. He selected Bangalore as his retirement abode in 1968 and settled there and spent his remaining life for the cause of philately.

Col. Shenoy was founder member of Karnataka Philatelic Society which was founded in 1976 and remained President of the society for four years. He was also a President of Philatelic Congress of India during 1993-95 and member of jury at State, National

and International Philatelic Exhibitions. Col. L. G. Shenoy was specialized in the history of Travancore, Cochin, Pudukottai and Mysore Princely States of India. His knowledge of District Dak, Travelling Post Offices, (TPO) of India, Early India Cancellations and Sea Post Offices were outstanding. He also collected stamps and postal stationery on the subject 'Coconut Tree'. Being a Postal Historian, he maintained a superb library which housed Postal History of C.E.F., I.E.F., WWI, WWII, Censorship Postmarks etc. Realising the need of Indian Philatelic Magazine with an emphasis on the Postal History, he embarked upon publishing 'IND DAK' on 1st January 1977. 'IND DAK' monthly was published without a break for 21 years till his death in June 1997. He promoted youth philately movement in India and published 'MAYUR' once in three months. He conducted awareness classes in Bangalore schools. His scholarly articles on Postal History of India and the Promotion of Youth Philately are the testimony of his great stature in the world of Philately. He passed away on 19th June 1997.

To mark the birth centenary of eminent philatelist Col. L. G. Shenoy a special cover was released by Karnataka Postal Circle at Bangalore with the support of Karnataka Philatelic Society and local philatelists Shri M.S. Ramu (Inddak), Shri Sushil Mehra, Shri Jagannath Mani and Shri Naveen who sponsored the special cover. (Special Cover approval no. KTK/49/2015)



Courtesy: Suresh Rao, Bengaluru



Set of 48 Picture Postcards released by North Karnataka Postal Region - 15th August 2015.

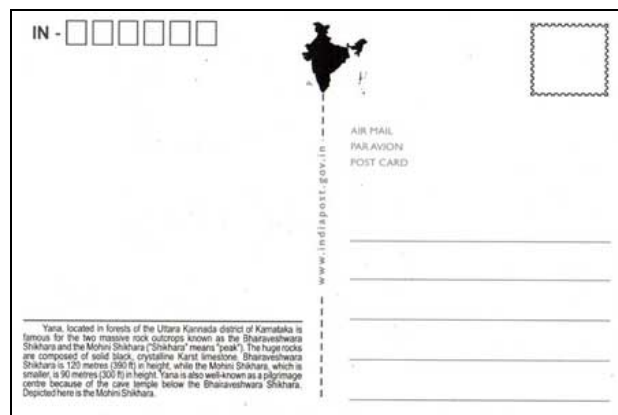
Postcrossing Team, North Karnataka Postal Region has released a set of 48 picture postcards titled 'Incredible India' on 15th August 2015. The set is available in an attractive box and is priced Rs. 150 per set. This is 10th set of picture postcards issued by

North Karnataka Postal Region. After its launch 10 sets of picture postcards were given away free of cost to first 10 persons who sent request on Facebook page of Postcrossing India.

On the address side of picture postcards text 'IN' and 6 boxes has been provided for the use of Postcrossing (a

postcard exchange project) members to mention the POSTCARD ID.

Contact for more information:
nkrpostcrossing@gmail.com



Courtesy: Postcrossing India

Exhibition on Freedom fighters of India and Mahatma Gandhi through Postage Stamps and First Day Covers - 14th - 16th August 2015.

On the occasion of 68th Independence Day of India, an Exhibition on Freedom fighters of India and Mahatma Gandhi through Postage Stamps and First Day Covers was organized by Shri Ramakant Dave, Philatelist of Vadodara from 14th - 16th August 2015 at Akruti Art Gallery, Nr. Kirti Mandir, Opp. S. S. G. Hospital, Vadodara. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri E. Radhakrishna IPS, Commissioner of Police, Vadodara.

Philatelic Bureau, Vadodara has opened counter at the exhibition and 'My Stamp' facility was also made available at the venue.



Special Cover on the occasion Bi-Centenary Birth Celebration of St. Don Bosco – 16th August 2015.

St. John Bosco (b. 16 August 1815 – d. 31 January 1888), popularly known as Don Bosco, was an Italian Roman Catholic priest of the Latin Church, educator and writer of the 19th century. While working in Turin, where the population suffered many of the effects of industrialization and urbanization, he dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other disadvantaged youth. He developed teaching methods based on love rather than punishment, a method that became known as the Salesian Preventive System. A follower of the spirituality and philosophy of Saint Francis de Sales, Bosco dedicated his works to him when he founded the Salesians of Don Bosco, based in Turin. Together with Maria Domenica Mazzarello, he founded the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, a religious congregation of nuns dedicated to the care and education of poor girls. In 1876 Bosco founded a movement of laity, the Association of Salesian Cooperators, with the same educational mission to the poor. Don Bosco established a network of organizations and centres to carry on his work. Following his beatification in 1929, he was canonized as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Pius XI in 1934.

The 200th birth anniversary of St Don Bosco was celebrated at the Ravindra Bhavan, Margao on 16th August 2015 with fervour and joy. To celebrate the occasion, the Don Bosco community had organized the programme. A special cover was released on the occasion at the hands of Chief Minister of Goa Shri Laxmikant Parsekar by Postmaster General, Goa Region Shri Vinod kumar Verma (Special Cover approval no. MH/25/2015). Fr Ian Figuerado, provincial of Panjim and Konkani Region, Fr Savio Gomes, principal of Don Bosco College, Panjim; Sister Agatha, Dias vice-Province and Dias vice-Province were also present at the celebration.



Courtesy: Prasad Barde, Goa



Special Cover on 125th Birth Anniversary of Shri V. Seshasayee - 16th August 2015.

Shri V. Seshasayee was an industrialist and the founder of the Seshasayee Group. He founded Mettur Chemicals (1936-41), Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore (1944-47), Aluminium Industries, Kundara (1950) and Travancore-Cochin Chemicals. He was instrumental in setting up the first A.C. power supply system in Tamil Nadu and electrification of Tiruchi and Srirangam in late 1920s. The Seshasayee Institute of Technology was founded by Shri Seshasayee in 1952

was the first technical institution in the then composite Tiruchi district. He died in 1958.

The 125th birth anniversary of Shri V. Seshasayee, founder of the Seshasayee Institute of Technology (SIT), Tiruchi was celebrated at SIT Campus, Ariyamangalam, Tiruchirappalli on 16th August 2015. On the occasion a special cover was released in the memory of the late Seshasayee by Shri J. T. Venkateswarlu, Postmaster General, Central Region, Tiruchirappalli at the 125th birth anniversary celebration function held on 16th August 2015.



Karnataka Philatelic Society Governing Council for 2015-2016.

The 40th Annual General Body Meeting of the Karnataka Philatelic Society, Bengaluru was held on 16th August 2015. The following are the newly elected office bearers.

President: Mr. K. Chaitanya Dev
 Vice President: Mr. Mani M Krishnan
 General Secretary: Mr. Nikhilesh Melkote
 Treasurer: Mr. Bharat Kumar
 Governing Council Members: Ms. N. Sridevi, Mr. Manish Jain, Mr. Suresh R.



Left to Right (Sitting - New office-Bearers) : Mr. Suresh.R , Mr. Bharat Kumar, Mr. Nikhilesh Melkote, Ms. Sridevi, Mr. Chaitanya Dev, Mr. Mani Krishnan, Mr. Manish Jain Left to Right (Standing-outgoing office Bearers) Mr. Jagannath Mani, Mr. Kannan , Mr. S.S Swamy , Mr. Mahesh Jambulingam

Courtesy: Suresh Rao, Bengaluru

Special Cover on Madhubani Painting - 17th August 2015.

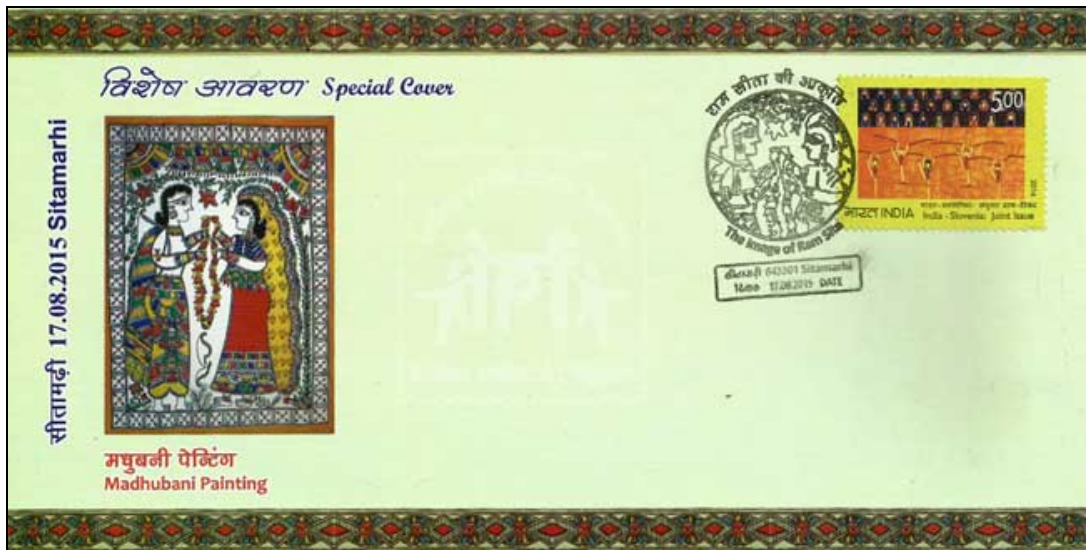
Madhubani painting or Mithila painting is a style of Hindu Painting, practiced in the Mithila region. Initially, the womenfolk of the village drew the paintings on the walls of their home, as an illustration of their thoughts, hopes and dreams. Painting is done with fingers, twigs, brushes, nib-pens, and matchsticks, using natural dyes and pigments, and is characterized by eye-catching geometrical patterns. There are paintings for each occasion and festival such as birth, marriage, Holi, Surya Shasti, kali puja, Upanayanam, Durga Puja etc. The local mythologies suggest that Madhubani painting was initiated at the behest of King Janak of Mithila, when he commissioned local artists to paint murals in his palace in preparation for the marriage of his daughter Sita to Lord Rama.

Mithila painting, as a domestic ritual activity, was unknown to the outside world until the massive Bihar earthquake of 1934. House walls had tumbled down, and the British colonial officer in Madhubani District, William G. Archer, inspecting the damage "discovered" the paintings on the newly exposed interior walls of homes. Archer - later to become the South Asia Curator at London's Victoria and Albert Museum - was stunned by the beauty of the paintings and similarities to the work of modern Western artists like Klee, Miro, and Picasso. During the 1930s he took black and white photos of some of these paintings. In 1949 in an article in the Indian art journal, Marg, he brought the wall paintings to public attention. Slowly and gradually, the Madhubani painting of India crossed the traditional boundaries and started reaching connoisseurs of art, both at the national as well as the international level.

A special cover was released on 17th August 2015, 'Madhubani Paintings' at Sitamarhi, Bihar (Special Cover approval no. BH/08/AUG/2015). The Cover depicts image of 'Sita Swayamvar' (marriage of Sita with Lord Ram) in Madhubani style of paintings. The top and bottom border of the cover is also depicted as

Madhubani Paintings border. The cancellation depicts the images of Lord Ram and Sita.

Courtesy: Lalit K. Mishra, Patna



Special Cover on 100 years of Nagari Pracharini Sabha, Deoria – 21st August 2015.

The Hindi-Nagari movement in the sense of organized groups seeking change through political action began in the late 1860s and continued with varying intensity well into the twentieth century. The Nagari Pracharini Sabha (Society for Promotion of Nagari) also known as Kashi Nagari Pracharini Sabha was founded in 1893 at the Queen's College, Varanasi for the promotion of the Devanagari script. The Sabha provided a body of men emotionally and intellectually devoted to the growth of their chosen language and script, and effectively channeled resources for a wide variety of political and cultural purposes. The Nagari Pracharini Sabha (NPS) not only spearheaded the agitation which led to the resolution of 1900 but also conducted a search for old Hindi manuscripts, founded a library, published numerous Hindi works including school texts, awarded prizes for good Nagari handwriting and good Hindi literature, and published a scholarly journal in Hindi. The Nagari Pracharini Sabha also had much to do with the founding of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan (Society for Hindi Literature) of Allahabad in 1910, which soon became the premier organization for the promotion of Hindi and Nagari on the national level. Dictionaries are among the many scholarly publications by the Sabha. The Hindi Sabda-sangra by Syamasundara Dasa was first published 1916-1928, with a new edition published 1965-1975.

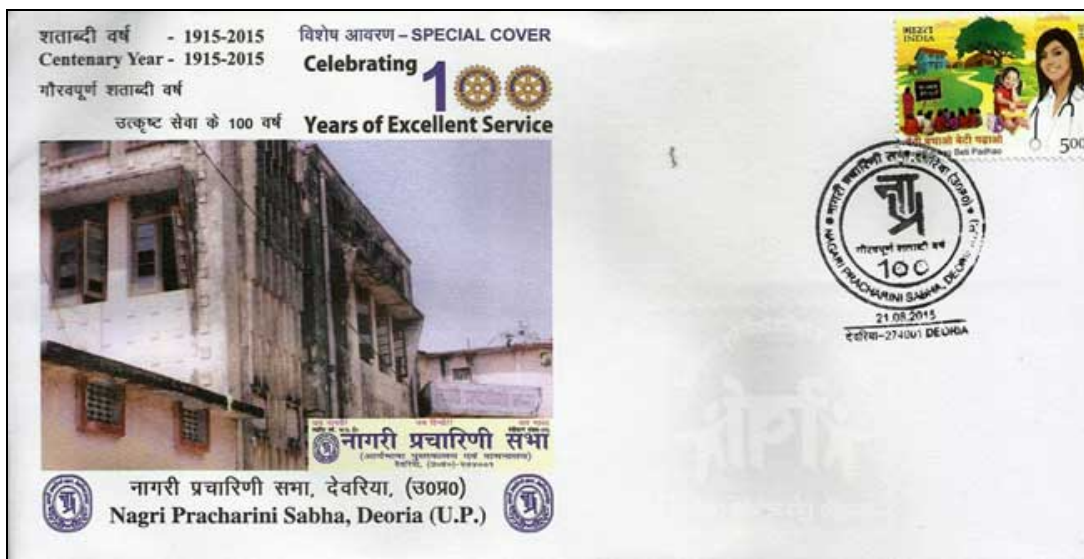
To commemorate 100 years of establishment of Nagari Pracharini Sabha, Deoria, as special cover was released by Smt. Anita Shrivastava, District Magistrate of Deoria and Subedar Singh, Superintendent of Post Offices, Deoria on 21st August 2015 at Deoria (Special cover approval no. UP/13/2015). The special cover and cancellation has been designed by Rtn. Himanshu Kumar Singh, Philatelist of Deoria.



Please contact Shri Himanshu Singh, Deoria, Email: himanshuk450@gmail.com, (M) +919450676342 for requirement of special covers.

Cover Courtesy: Sandeep Chaurasia, Gorakhpur

Nagari Pracharini Sabha was established in Deoria on 1st January 1915 with the inspiration of Shri Kunj Bihari Chaturvedi, Babu Amir Singh and Shri Ram Narain Mishra and other distinguished Hindi lovers.



Special Cover on 376th Madras Day Celebrations - 22nd August 2015.

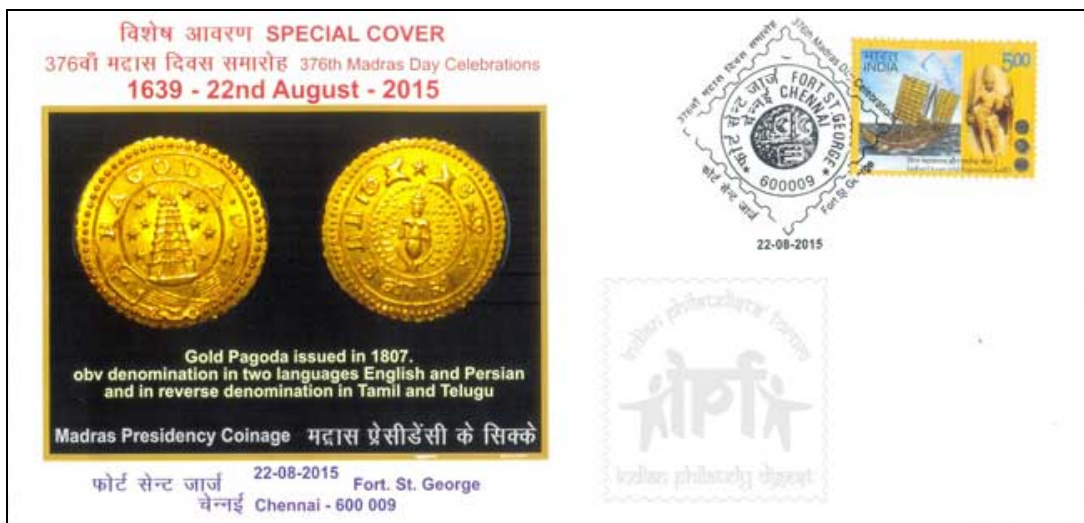
The founding day of Madras is considered to be August 22, 1639. It was on that day, in that year, that a sliver of land, where Fort. St. George stands today, was transacted by the East India Company. The deal was struck by Francis Day, his 'dubash' Beri Thimmappa, and their superior, Andrew Cogan, with the local Nayak rulers. It is believed that this deal was made on August 22, 1639. Out of the fort, grew settlements. Then the villages around it were brought together. And then, the old and new towns linked up. Today, Chennai stands tall for a variety of reasons.

Madras Day is celebrated on 22nd August every year. The 376th Founding of Madras was celebrated on 22nd August, 2015 by Madras Heritage Lovers' Forum. A Special Cover was released on this occasion by Mr. Mervin Alexander, Postmaster General, Chennai City Region at the function held at Fort Museum, Fort St. George (Special Cover approval no. TN/19/2015). The

cover shows Gold Pagoda of Madras Presidency Coinage and the cancellation shows half dudu issued in 1755.



Cover Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan,
Thiruvananthapuram



Commemorative Stamp on Samrat Ashoka - 24th August 2015.

Ashoka Maurya, commonly known as Ashoka or Ashoka the Great, was an emperor of the Maurya Dynasty who ruled almost the entire Indian subcontinent from circa 269 BCE to 232 BCE. Ashoka was born to the Mauryan emperor Bindusara and Dharmā (or Dharmmā). He was the grandson of Chandragupta Maurya, founder of Mauryan dynasty. The Avadana texts mention that his mother was queen Subhadraṅgī. According to Ashokavadana, she was the daughter of a Brahmin from the city of Champa. One of India's greatest emperors, Ashoka reigned over a realm that stretched from the Hindu Kush Mountains in the west to Bengal in the East and covered the entire Indian subcontinent except parts of present-day Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The empire's capital was Pataliputra (in Magadha, present-day Bihar), with provincial capitals at Taxila and Ujjain.



In about 260 BCE Ashoka waged a bitterly destructive war against the state of Kalinga (modern Odisha). He conquered Kalinga, which none of his ancestors had done. He embraced Buddhism after witnessing the mass

deaths of the Kalinga War, which he himself had waged out of a desire for conquest. "Ashoka reflected on the war in Kalinga, which reportedly had resulted in more than 100,000 deaths and 150,000 deportations." Ashoka ruled for an estimated forty years. Ashoka converted gradually to Buddhism beginning about 263 BCE. He was later dedicated to the propagation of Buddhism across Asia, and established monuments marking several significant sites in the life of Gautama Buddha. Ashoka is now remembered as a philanthropic administrator.

The Ashoka Chakra (the wheel of Ashoka) was built by Ashoka during his reign. Chakra is a Sanskrit word which also means "cycle" or "self-repeating process".

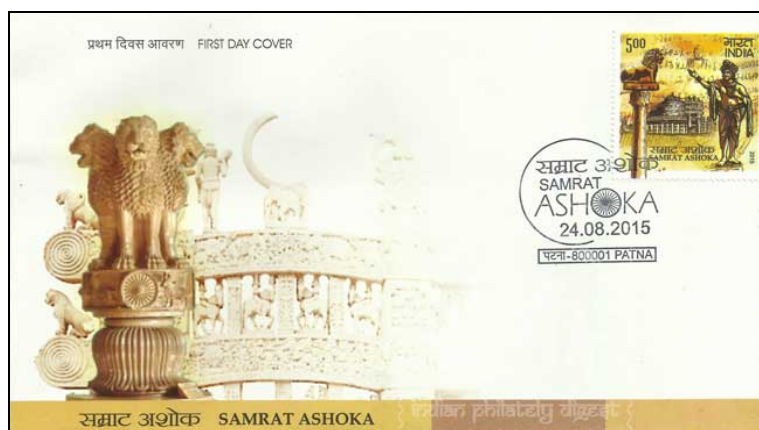
The process it signifies is the cycle of time- as in how the world changes with time. The Ashoka Chakra is a depiction of the Dharmachakra (the Wheel of Dharma). The wheel has 24 spokes which represent the 12 Laws of Dependent Origination and the 12 Laws of Dependent Termination. The Ashoka Chakra has been widely inscribed on many relics of the Mauryan Emperor, most prominent among which is the Lion Capital of Sarnath and The Ashoka Pillar.

The Lion capital of Ashoka is a sculpture of four lions standing back to back. It was originally placed atop the Ashoka pillar at Sarnath, now in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The pillar, sometimes called the Ashoka Column is still in its original location, but the Lion Capital is now in the Sarnath Museum. This Lion Capital of Ashoka from Sarnath has been adopted as the National Emblem of India and the wheel "Ashoka Chakra" from its base was placed onto the center of the National Flag of India.

Union Minister for Communications and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad released commemorative stamp on Samrat Ashok at a function held at Vidyapati Bhavan in Patna on 24th August 2015. BJP leaders Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Shri Nand Kishore Yadav and Shri Mangal Pandey were also present on the occasion.



Cover Courtesy: Lalit K Mishra, Patna



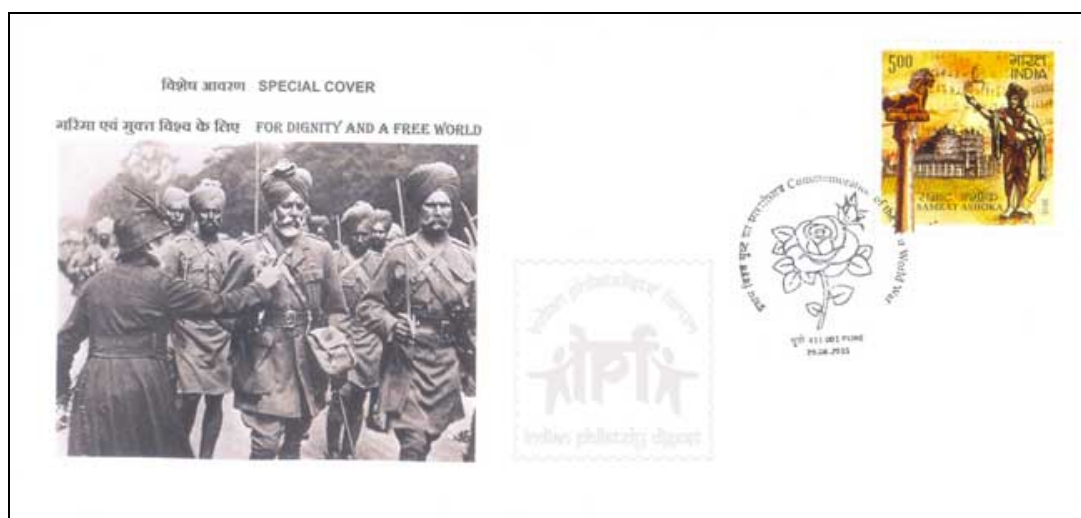
Special Cover in commemoration of the First World War – 29th August 2015.

World War I (WWI or WW1), also known as the First World War or the Great War, was a global war centered in Europe that began on 28 July 1914 and lasted until 11 November 1918. More than 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians died as a result of the war, a casualty rate exacerbated by the belligerents' technological and industrial sophistication, and tactical stalemate. It was one of the deadliest conflicts

in history, paving the way for major political changes, including revolutions in many of the nations involved.

To pay a tribute to our soldiers who fought in the First World War a special cover was released on 29th August 2015 at Pune. The cover depicts a French Lady offering a rose to an Indian soldier in Paris. The cancellation depicts a rose, symbol of hope and love of a war weary world.

Courtesy: Sreejesh Krishnan, Thiruvananthapuram



Special Covers commemorating Legacy of Le Corbusier – 27th August 2015.

Charles-Édouard Jeanneret-Gris, who was better known as Le Corbusier (b. October 6, 1887 – d. August 27, 1965), was a Swiss-French architect, designer, painter, urban planner, writer, and one of the pioneers of what is now called modern architecture. He was born in Switzerland and became a French citizen in 1930. His career spanned five decades, with his buildings constructed throughout Europe, India, and the Americas. Dedicated to providing better living conditions for the residents of crowded cities, Le Corbusier was influential in urban planning, and was a founding member of the Congrès international d'architecture moderne (CIAM).

In the 1950s, a unique opportunity to translate the Radiant City on a grand scale presented itself in the construction of the Union Territory Chandigarh, the new capital for the Indian states of Punjab and Haryana and India's first planned city. Le Corbusier designed many administration buildings, including a courthouse, parliament building, and a university. He also designed the general layout of the city, dividing it into sectors.

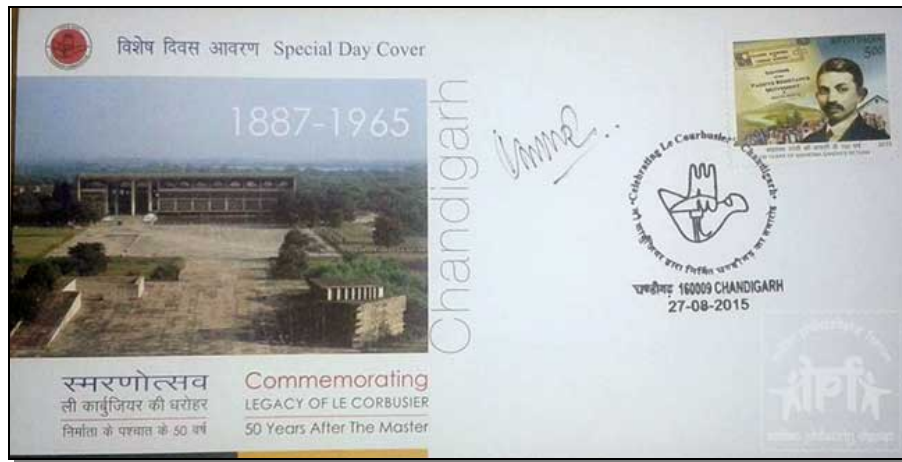
To mark the 50th death anniversary of legendary architect Le Corbusier and to commemorate legacy of

Le Corbusier, who planned Chandigarh, Punjab Postal Circle in association with Chandigarh Administration released two special covers on 27th August 2015 at Chandigarh (Special Cover approval nos. PB/02/2015 and PB/03/2015). Special covers were released by Ms. Achla Bhatnagar, Chief Postmaster General, Punjab Postal Circle and the Adviser to the Administrator, UT, Chandigarh, Mr. Vijay Dev in presence of UT Home Secretary, Mr. Anurag Agarwal and other officers at the function held at Govt. Museum and Art Gallery Sector-10, Chandigarh.

These two special covers are available at Chandigarh GPO at Rs. 10 each. Postage Extra.



Photo & Covers Courtesy: Rakesh Walia, Chandigarh



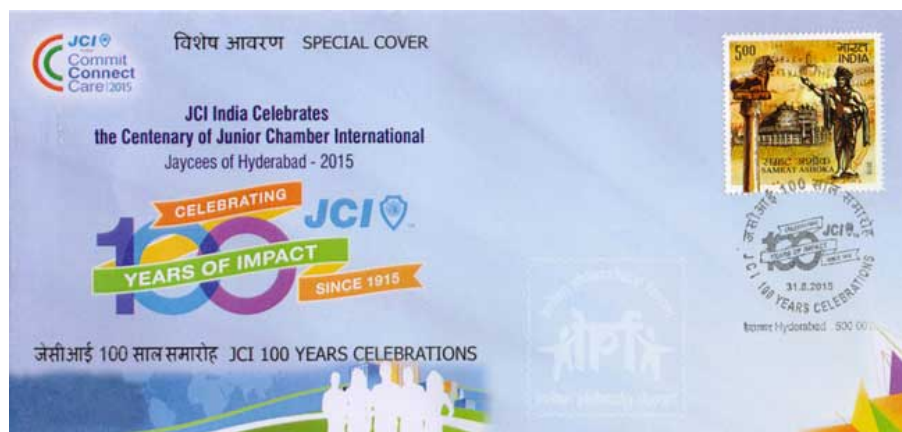
Special Cover on JCI 100 Years Celebrations – 31st August 2015.

Junior Chamber International (JCI) is a global organization of 200,000 young active citizens that grew out of the vision of one man nearly 100 years ago to create sustainable solutions to community challenges. Founded on 13th October 1915 in St. Louis, Missouri, USA by Henry Giessenbier Jr., the movement of taking local action for global impact spread across borders becoming an international organization in 1944. Since then, JCI members around the globe have collaborated

on projects ranging from assisting refugees, providing medical care, advancing education and promoting equality. Young active citizens continue to fuel the JCI Movement and take grassroots action for positive change sustaining our legacy of impact.

On the occasion of 100 years celebration, JCI, Hyderabad released a Special cover on 31st October 2015 (Special Cover approval no. AP/27/2015).

Cover Courtesy: Sagi Srinivas Raju, Hyderabad



YOUTH PHILATELY

Tips to beginners

How to start collecting stamps?

Sources:

As with any hobby, there are some supplies you'll need to get started with a stamp collection.

- Look at the letters you receive at home each day. Many will have a stamp on them.
- Ask your friends and family to save stamps for you from their mail.
- Ask your relatives living abroad to affix nice stamps on mail they send to you.
- Exchange stamps with other friends or stamp collectors.
- Be a member of philatelic club or association and exchange or buy surplus material of other members.
- Buy stamps from post offices / philatelic bureaux / philatelic counters or from stamp dealers.

What to collect?

You could collect stamps from one or two countries or by choosing one or two of your favorite subjects. Many beginners choose a subject like art, history, sports, transportation, science or animals as the theme of their collection. This is called thematic or topical collecting.

Some popular theme/subjects are:

Agriculture	Industry
Airplanes	Motor Vehicles
Amphibians	Music
Antiques	Milk
Ammunitions	Olympic Games
Bicycles	Personalities
Bridges	Peace
Butterfly	Paintings
Botany	Photography
Chemistry	Plants
Christmas	Roses
Communications	Rotary International
Culture	Red Cross
Costumes	Religions
Dogs	Reptiles
Education	Radio

Europa	Railways
Flags	Ships
Flora & Fauna	Theatre
Fossils	Transportation
Fruits	Tourism
Hands	Water
Health	Weather
History	<i>and many many more....</i>

Few examples of thematic stamps:



Butterfly



Gandhi



Animals

Accessories required:

Few accessories are needed in order to begin a stamp collection.

- Stamp album or stock book to preserve and arrange your stamps. Use good quality stock books. Make sure to keep the stamps and stamp albums away from moisture, warm areas, and light.



Arranging Stamps in Stock Book with help of
tweezer

- A pair of tweezers will be needed for handling your stamps. It will prevent fingerprints, sweat or grease from getting on the stamp. Condition of the stamp has a large impact on its value.
- A magnifying glass, or loupe, is one of the most important tools for any stamp collector. It is used to examine a stamp for faults, as well as for the examination of minute printing details, sometimes necessary for correctly attributing a stamp.



Tweezer and varieties of Magnifying Glasses

Other essential tools you will need are stamp hinges or mounts, glassine envelopes, watermark detector, a perforation gauge, a stamp catalog for the particular area being collected.

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.

WEBSITE:

Visit our website www.indianphilately.net - A Gateway to information on Indian Philately.

The website is organized exclusively for educational purposes; more specifically, to promote and encourage the study, understanding and preservation of postal history and general philately in India.

Our main aim is to dig information on all postal services and philatelic activities and preserve them in such a way that any philatelist can use such information for research work.



"The philatelist will tell you that stamps are educational, that they are valuable, that they are beautiful. This is only part of the truth. My notation is that the collection is a hedge, a comfort, a shelter into which the sorely beset mind can withdraw. It is orderly, it grows towards completion, it is something that can't be taken away from us." -Clifton Fadiman in Any Number Can Play.

THEMES & THOUGHTS OF THE MONTH

04 August : Kishore Kumar's birth anniversary



"I have three best friends in this world. What's surprising is that they also happen to be your (audience) three best friends. They are Bachpan (childhood), Jawani (Youth) and Budhapa (old age)." - Kishore Kumar in an interview with Ameen Sayani on All India Radio.

Kishore Kumar (born Abhas Kumar Ganguly) (b. 4 August 1929 - d. 13 October 1987), was a popular film playback singer, actor, lyricist, composer, producer, director, screenplay writer and scriptwriter. Kishore Kumar was born in a small place known as Khandwa located in the state of Madhya Pradesh. He was born in a typical Bengali family and was the youngest among his siblings. He had two elder brothers (Ashok Kumar and Anoop Kumar) and a sister (Sati Devi). His father Kunjilal Ganguly was a lawyer by profession and his mother Gauri Devi was from a well-to-do family. Kishore Kumar is considered the most successful Indian playback singer of the Hindi film industry of all time. He sang in many Indian languages including Bengali, Hindi, Marathi, Assamese, Gujarati, Kannada, Bhojpuri, Malayalam, Oriya, and Urdu. He won 8 Filmfare Awards for Best Male Playback Singer and holds the record for winning the most Filmfare Awards in that category. He was awarded the "Lata Mangeshkar Award" by the Madhya Pradesh government.

12 August : Dr. Vikram Sarabhai's birth anniversary



"He who can listen to the music in the midst of noise can achieve great things." - Dr. Vikram Sarabhai.

Dr. Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai (b. 12 August 1919 - d. 30 December 1971) was an Indian physicist. He is considered the father of India's space programme. He was born in Ahmedabad, in an important and rich Jain business family. His father Ambalal Sarabhai was an affluent industrialist and owned many textiles mills in Gujarat. Vikram Sarabhai matriculated from the Gujarat College in Ahmedabad after passing the Intermediate Science examination. After that, he moved to England and joined the St. John's College, University of Cambridge. He received the Tripos in Natural Sciences from Cambridge in 1940. He then returned to India to become a research scholar under Sir C. V. Raman in Bangalore. He began to research cosmic rays, taking field measurements across India. He returned to Cambridge in 1945 and received his doctorate there in 1947 for researching photo-fission.

He returned to an independent India in 1947. Looking at the needs of the country, he established the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad on 11th November, 1947. The establishment of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was one of his greatest achievements. He successfully convinced the government of the importance of a space programme for a developing country like India after the Russian Sputnik launch. He was honored as an innovator, an industrialist and a visionary. He was awarded with Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Medal in 1962 and Padma Bhushan in 1966. Asteroid 2987 Sarabhai is named in his honor, as is the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, (VSSC), a research institute specialising in solid and liquid propellants for rockets in Trivandrum. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai died on 30th December 1971 at Halcyon Castle, Kovalam, Kerala.

20 August : Gostha Paul's birth anniversary



"Yes you truly are the Chinese wall!" - Rabindranath Tagore to Gostha Paul when he visited Shantiniketan.

Gostha Behari Paul (b. August 20, 1896 - d. April 8, 1976) was a professional football player. He was born in Bhojeswar, Faridpore, Bengal Presidency (currently in Bangladesh). He moved to Kolkata when he was an infant and lived there till his very last days. Nicknamed as "Cheener Pracheer" (The Wall of China) he was one of the best defenders of contemporary Indian football. He started playing for Kumartuli A.C. aged 11, and joined Mohun Bagan at the age of 16. He used to play barefooted. In 1921, Gostha Paul was honored with the captaincy of the Mohun Bagan football team, and he remained as the club captain for next 5 years. In 1924, he was also appointed as the captain of the Indian national football team. He retired in 1935. He was the first Indian footballer to be honoured with the Padma Shri, on 27th April, 1962.

Not many know that Gostha Paul played both cricket and football with distinction for Mohun Bagan. In doing so he even orchestrated one of the earliest Satyagraha's on the sports field. The incident occurred in 1928 in a match against Calcutta Cricket Club, considered Mohun Bagan's fiercest opponent in those days. Paul was late in reaching the ground and decided to go in with his dhoti. Initially no one complained. But when Gostha picked two wickets in four balls, the stunned Calcutta Cricket Club lodged a protest with the umpires that dhoti was 'native clothing' and not proper cricketing attire. If Gostha was to continue playing he must wear a trouser, they said. Gostha and Mohun Bagan refused and the match was stopped. For the next six years the teams did not play cricket against each other.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

Mystery of 'Cancer Seals', Charity labels issued by India Post

A charity label is a label resembling a postage stamp, sold to raise funds. They are generally intended to be used on mail, as a way of advertising the sender's support of the charity's cause. Charity labels are designed to look like postage stamps and printed with or without denomination. They are distinct from charity stamps which also include a charge for postage. Charity labels are one of several kinds of Cinderella stamp which are not issued for postal purposes by postal department.

The Tuberculosis Association of India, inaugurated the first T. B. Seals campaign, on 2nd October 1950, and approached the Indian P & T Department for assistance and cooperation in organizing the sales of T. B. Seals through the post offices. This campaign was intended to raise funds for the alleviation of distress and sufferings of those who were victims of Tuberculosis. The Seals which were issued in sheets of 35 (7 x 5) at the cost of 1 anna each and were supplied to selected post offices all over India.

First ever Charity labels after Independence of India were issued by the Indian P & T Department on 2nd October 1951 in form of three Health Seals in denomination of 1 anna, 4 annas and 1 rupee to raise funds for anti - tuberculosis activities (Fig. 01). All three seals were printed by Thomas de la Rue & Co., London on un-watermarked gummed in sheets of 50. It is reported in DGPO Circular No.47 dated 6th October 1951 that Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the Hon'ble Minister of Health & Communications was delighted to learn that one post master was able to sell all Health Seals, supplied to his post office, on the very first day.

As these labels were used as postage stamps by the public, the postal clerks tried their best to see that those labels were not pasted to the mail. A clarification was given by DGPO Circular No.49 dated 18th October 1951 that the affixing of such non-postal labels are not banned and are permissible under Clause 8 of the P & T Guide, if they are not likely to be mistaken for postage stamps. Even on insured articles such seals and / or labels were permitted by the Director General in partial relaxation of the provisions of Clause 123 of the P & T Guide, provided that not more than one seal was affixed on each insured article.

The Minister for Communication was so concerned about the sale of Health Seals that she used to visit post offices and used to appeal that all Postmasters should take special interest in such sale and they should make people to buy such Seals, vide DGPO Circular No. 55 dated 2nd November 1951. Defacing of non-postal stamps like Health / TB Seals remained

always a problem for post offices. Ordinarily these stamps should not be defaced but if any sender wished to have them cancelled, he could present them at the counter and get them defaced in his presence, vide Postal Notice No. 50 dated 24th November 1951. Thus one thing is very clear that non-postal stamps could be defaced by date stamp and post office clerks should not deny defacing labels and / or non-postal stamp.



Fig. 01, Health Seals issued in denomination of 1 anna, 4 annas and 1 rupee.

Second such Charity labels were issued on the occasion of International Year of the Child by Department of Posts; in October 1979 (Exact date of issue is not known). Two labels in denomination of 50 p. and 100 p. were released as charity labels without postal validity and the sale proceeds were to be utilized for various child-welfare schemes of the Government of India. Both these labels were printed with Lion Capital Watermark in sheets of 75 labels (Fig. 02).



Fig. 02, International Year of the Child Charity labels in denomination of 50 p. and 100 p.

Both varieties of these Charity labels have been erroneously used as pre-payment of postage on articles and even postmarked by post offices.

Recently I came across a label "HELP FIGHT CANCER / BUY CANCER SEALS" on a cover mailed from Patna (Fig. 03). After seeing this label I could not hold my anxiety and started digging information about this label.



Fig. 03, India Post label used for advertising Cancer Seals of India

At first, I found information in the Issue no. 423 (Feb 11, 2010) of Stamps of India Collectors Companion stating 'Selected Post offices in Delhi are selling fund raising seals to help fight Cancer. The sale proceeds will go to Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre. The seals are in two denominations Rs 5 and Rs 50 and are issued in the sheets.' However there was no information about the label illustrated in fig. 03 and date of issue of these labels.

Finally after exhaustive surfing on internet I found an interesting story about birth of Cancer Seals issued by India Post.

The foundation stone of the Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute was laid in West Rohini area of Delhi in April 1992, by the then Home Minister Shri S. B. Chavan and it was inaugurated by the then President of India Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma on 20th August 1996. To run this institution management continuously required huge funds to give best service to patients and with an aim of never passing on the burden to the patients. From the beginning the fund raising committee used to organize various activities and events to raise funds for the hospital.

In 1996-97 in times of financial crunch, Mr. D. N. Sondhi member of fund raising committee came out with the idea of the Cancer Seals Project. He approached the Department of Posts in the Ministry of Communication for approval to affix on all types of mails cancer seals. The department acceded within 10 days and 23rd June 1997 saw cancer seals introduced for the first time in India to raise funds for the cause. He then went to corporate entities asking them to sponsor the seals. M/s Bon Ton Opticians would take the lead, shell out the first 1 lakh and then President S. D. Sharma would release the seals.

More information about the designs of the Cancer Seals issued in 1997 is not available but 'Flying A Dream' published by Indraprastha Cancer Society and Research Centre, Delhi in 2013 illustrates two Cancer Seals in denomination of Rs. 5 and Rs. 50 (Fig. 04). But these labels bears new logo of India Post which was launched on 23rd September 2008 that means the Cancer Seals launched on 23rd June 1997 would be different then the Cancer Seals illustrated in Fig. 04.

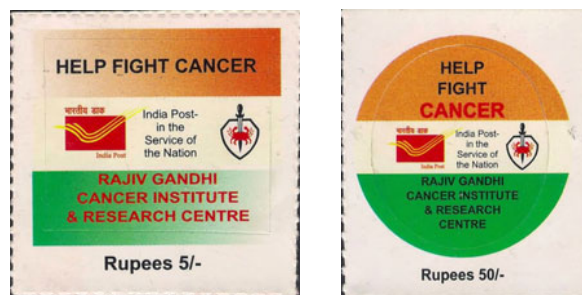


Fig. 04, Cancer Seals of India, issued by India Post in denomination of Rs. 5 and Rs. 50

Mr. D. N. Sondhi had also approached some banks and institutions for Cancer Seal project and as result Punjab & Sind Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Punjab National Bank had also sponsored 'Cancer Seals' for the Indraprastha Cancer Society that managed the Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre of New Delhi. The then President of India Shri K.R. Narayanan released 'Cancer Seals' sponsored by Oriental Bank of Commerce on 2nd November, 2000. The then Union Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha also released 'Cancer Seals' sponsored by the Punjab & Sind Bank on 17th November 2000. The Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Dr. Manmohan Singh had released 'Cancer Seals' sponsored by Punjab National Bank on 22nd March, 2003 and 8th September, 2004 respectively.

Further on researching I, also found one more information that Smt. Radhika Doraiswami Secretary, Department of Posts released 'Cancer Seals' on the occasion of dedication of Modernized General Post Office, Kashmiri Gate, Delhi under 'Project Arrow' on 19th September, 2009 in presence of Shri Gopinath, Chief Postmaster General, Delhi Circle and the Chairman Fund Raising Committee & Cancer Seal Project Shri D. N. Sondhi. (Fig. 05)



Fig. 05, Smt. Radhika Doraiswami Secretary, Department of Posts released 'Cancer Seals' on 19th September, 2009

It can be concluded that third Charity label of Post Independence period was introduced on 23rd June 1997 and fourth Charity label was introduced on 19th September 2009 by India Post for the fund raising to help fight Cancer and the sale proceeds would go to Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre. The Cancer seals issued on 19th September 2009 in two denominations of Rs 5 and Rs 50 were issued in the sheets.

It is still mystery about the label illustrated in Fig. 03. It appears to me that Department of Posts had also introduced these labels for the advertisement and promotion of 'Cancer Seals' launched by the department, as the label clearly shows message "HELP FIGHT CANCER, BUY CANCER SEALS". In recent past these labels were available in Patna H. O. and were distributed to customers free of cost. It is not known where and at which post offices 'Cancer Seals' were sold and during which period.

Readers are requested to write the author if they have any information pertaining to these 'Cancer Seals'.

Contributed by Prashant H. Pandya, Vadodara

INDIAN PHILATELY DIGEST ANDROID APP

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