



SIPA

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Editorial

REVIEW 2008

Let us go through the usual year beginning review of the year it was 2008, philatelically. Elsewhere you will have the year list 2008.

Of course like 2007, 2008 also a flourished year from the collectors - I mean, seniors point of - view. Yea, we had abundant issues of stamps and miniature sheets. But an average young student collector would have found it difficult rather impossible to add all the issued philatelic materials into his/her collection with his/her limited budget. May be their parents will start pestering them to leave or come out of this costly hobby which is rightly called once as the "Hobby of Kings." May be he/she will get frustrated because of non-acquirement of some materials. In the long run if such a situation continues, addition of young collectors to the hobby, will come to a negligible number.

Coming back to the review in detail,

(1) In 2008, there were 55 issues on the whole, consisting 68 stamps of Rs.5/- value, 7 stamps of Rs.15/- value and 4 stamps of Rs.20/- value giving a total of 79 stamps at a cost of Rs.525/-

(2) Sixteen miniature sheets have been issued at a cost of Rs.325/- starting with values of Rs.5/- and going upto Rs.40/- Two personalities viz. Madhubala and St. Alphonsa were honoured with miniature sheets.

(3) The cost of stamps, first day covers, and miniature sheets alone comes to a record cost for a year Rs.1650/- The comparable cost for 2007 was Rs.1275/- One can imagine how an young student enthusiast can spare Rs.1650/year or about Rs.140/ month from his pocket of money and enjoy the hobby with the mint stamps his own country.

(4) We felt happy and welcomed the trend about the less number of personality stamps last year. But alas! this year again the old trend returned. There were 27 personalities in the 79 stamps. ie. about 30% issues were on personalities which will not be interesting internationally.

(5) Among the 79 stamps there are 14 interesting and attractive sets. Sets like butterflies, Jasmine, Coast Guard, festivals, childrens day etc are really eye catching.

Overall with attractive issues and large number of issues senior collectors and dealers may be happy about. But at the same time the flooding of issues, particularly on personalities and the record number of miniature sheets will definitely dampen the enthusiasm of young student collectors who will not able to by all the year's material and thereby having an incomplete collection with saddened hearts. Moreover, having many issues per year will also lower our international rating of popularity when compared with countries having limited, standard and planned stamp issue policy.

With all said and done we come back to our old suggestion of issuing about 48 stamps per year, 4 stamps per month, about 6 sets (one in two months) 4 to 6 miniature sheets and on the whole keeping yearly expenditure on mint collection within Rs.1000-1200/- ie, around Rs.100/- month.

Miniature sheets thro' the years.

2005	2006	2007	2008
3	6	11	16

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Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President

Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the Chair,
24 members attended the meeting on
10/2.2008.

Patron Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das
enlightened everybody on "Finishing
touches and finer points on Exhibits".

STAMP NEWS

CHILDRENS DAY

14.11.08

500, 500, 500

0.8 mill each

India celebrates Children's Day on 14th November with great fervour in honour of much loved Chacha Nehru as children fondly called him.



Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India had special place for children in his heart. He saw in their eye's dreams of strong vibrant and resurgent India. He was the great believer in the dreams of the Children, the future of our Nation.

India Post, like previous years had organized all India Stamp Design Competition for children with the theme 'India of my Dreams'.



The first three paintings have been made into set of three stamps. Another painting from among all groups has been selected for First Day Cover and Miniature Sheet and has been awarded consolation prize. The first prize for best painting has gone to Shanker Diensh Kamath of Class IV of Bhavana's Varuna Vidhyalaya, Thikkakara, Cochin, second prize to Anchal Singh of Class VII, Asha Modern School, Chandra Nagar, Saharanpur, and third prize to K.

Viswanath of Class XII, Government Secondary School, Middle Point, Barnbooghat, South Andaman. The Miniature Sheet and FDC is from the consolation prize that has gone to Devapreeti Jana of Class IX, Rajkumari Santanamoyee Girls' High School, Tamluk, West Bengal.

Children have really seen big dreams for their country. One of the major feature seen in most of the painting has been the element of communal harmony which has caught the attention of the children in forceful way. The dreams of India on Moon, education for all, scientific and economic development reflects their dream to see their country as a strong and developed nation.

Theme : Paintings, Childrens day, Children.

SAINT ALPHONSA

16.11.08

500

1.00 Mill

God has blessed our Indian Church and in particular, the Franciscan Clarist Congregation with the precious gift of Saint Alphonsa, the first woman saint from our Motherland India, the land of Rishis and Sages. The core message of Saint Alphonsa to the modern world is the dynamic power of love.

Saint Alphonsa, was born on August 19, 1910, at Kudamaloor in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, Kerala. Her mother died three months after giving birth to Annakutty, later Alphonsa.

Annakutty had special ties of friendship with Lakshmikutty belonging to Hindu religion. Notwithstanding their caste differences, the two shared their love at school. Lakshmikutty, still alive and 97 now, tells people seeking information on Sister Alphonsa : "No one loved me as Annakutty did."



It was as early as seven years when Annakutty made her first communion with God at Kudamaloor. It was an unforgettable day in her life. She decided on that day to belong only to Jesus and the decision was echoed in a declaration made to her elder sister Elizabeth: "Jesus is my only spouse and I haven't any other."

She joined the Poor Franciscan Clarist Congregation to model her life after the example of evangelical poverty witnessed by Saint Francis of Assisi and St. Clare. From their lives she learnt to give primacy to being than doing, emptying than possessing and giving than receiving.

Having lived a life of service and sacrifice, through the melodious symphony of love and suffering, for only 36 years on this Indian soil, she was called to her heavenly abode on 28th July, 1946. Saint Alphonsa's mortal remains are kept at Bharananganam, in the diocese of Palai, Kerala.

Saint Alphonsa is a saint of the Indian soil, She grew up and lived in the Indian culture and traditions. She experienced the pains and sorrows of the people in Indian villages because she was born and brought up in a small village.

Saint Alphonsa's life was very humble, poor and at the same time joyful. Her life can be taken as antidote for today's consumeristic, materialistic, greedy, luxurious and sick world, which runs after fleeting pleasures and success. Theme : Religion, Christianity, Women, Sages & Saints.

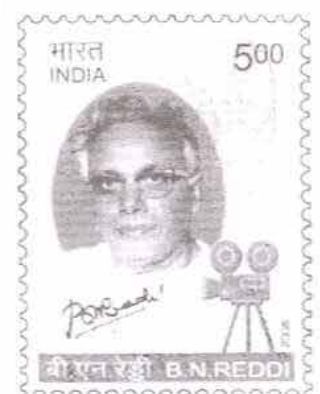
B.N. REDDI

16.11.2008

500

0.4Mill

B o m m i r e d d i Narasimha Reddi, a doyen of Telugu Film industry an Auditor turned Producer and Director who believed in Gandhian value and message oriented films. He was born on 16th November, 1908 at Y. Kothapalli, Cuddapah District, Madras Province. He took to auditing and qualified as a Chartered Accountant. He always had a flair for fine arts and in early mid-30's appeared on stage plays with



giants like Ballari Raghava. He set up BNK Printing Press, which was the Modern Press in Asia in 1936 in Chennai.

B.N. Reddi made his film debut as Associate Financier and as Scenarist by joining Hanumantappa Muniyappa Reddi, the father of Telegu Talkie films and Guru to many leading Directors in forming Rohini Pictures and producing "Gruhalakshmi" which was a great success (1938). But soon after, he left H.M. Reddi due to the difference as B.N. Reddi did not like H.H. Reddi's compromise for commercial values and came out to set up "Vauhini Films and Studios."

The year 1939 was certainly a revolutionary one in Telugu film history. It saw the release of "Vande Mataram" (1939). It was a big hit. His second film "Sumangali" (1940) took up the issue of child widows in the society. In his next film he took up the issue of premarital pregnancy and caused an uproar among the conservatives, but he went ahead amidst opposition and his "Devatha" took the world by storm.

Throughout his three decade film career he never compromised for the sake of commercialization and opted out of film-making when he found that he did not fit into changing scenario. His expensive Vauhini Studios, later merged with Vijaya Studios, was one of its kind in South Asia. His memory is etched deep in the memory of Telegu psyche through his timeless classic "Malliswari" (1951). In 1954 came "Bangaru Papa", a film based on George Eliot's Sailan Mariner, which won international acclaim.

Government of India and State Government recognized his contribution and awarded Padmabhushan in 1974.

B.N. Reddi was also a Member of Legislative Council of Andhra Pradesh between 1958 and 1963.

B.N. Reddi died on 8th November, 1977 but his legacy lives on.

Theme : Leaders, Cinema, Pioneers, Entertainment

HERITAGE BUILDING STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

17.11.08 500 2.4 Mill

Standard Chartered Bank, India's first and largest international bank, celebrates the 150th anniversary of its operations in India. Standard Chartered, which started as The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, had opened its first branch in Kolkata in April 1858. Five days later, the Mumbai branch was operational. The Charactered Bank building, in Mumbai, is



a story in time, not only in one of the most prosperous areas of the city, but also one of its finest building designed by the city's most acclaimed architect of the nineteenth century, Fredrick William Stevens.

Today, the Bank has emerged as one of the leading banks in the world, with staff strength of 75,000 employees representing 115 nationalities and is leading the way in emerging markets in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Standard Chartered Bank in India is the country's largest international bank, with 90 branches, 234 ATMs in 33 cites. Employing about 19,000 people, Standard Chartered has played a significant role in the history of the banking industry in India. The Bank is credited with several "Industry firsts" and product innovations including the first Global Credit Card in India, the first Photo Card, and the first Picture Card.

For over 150 years, Standard Chartered has made a real difference to the communities in India with a special focus on health, education and environment, benefiting millions. Globally, Standard Chartered Marathons are the biggest and the most popular community events and are focused on making an incremental social contribution.

Standard Chartered Bank launched the 'Seeing in Believing' community initiative on avoidable blindness in 2003, which till date has benefitted over 1.79 million people in India alone.

The Chartered Bank building in India follows an Italianate neo-classical style and is one of the only two building in India, which has been executed in this particular style. The other one being the Chartered Bank building in Kolkata.

Standard Chartered Bank has also initiated "Living with HIV" a workspace education programme on HIV and AIDS aimed to raise AIDS awareness.

Theme : Banking, Building, Heritage, Finance, Economics.

GAIL (INDIA) LIMITED

19.11.08 500 2.40 Mill

GAIL (India) Limited, formerly known as Gas Authority of India Limited in August, 1984 heralded a new era of natural gas in the country.

GAIL has made significant contributions to the nation's economy by supplying natural gas through its pipeline network.

GAIL enabled the use of natural gas as a new energy resource in the country, which was earlier being flared in the offshore field of Bombay High. The natural gas infrastructure of over 6,700 km. accounting for over 82% of the total



pipeline infrastructure in India, set up so far by GAIL, has contributed enormously to the economically and socially critical sectors such as fertilizers and power. Gail also has the distinction of pioneering the clean fuel revolution for transport sector in the country with the introduction of CNG in Delhi and Mumbai which has significantly helped in reducing pollution levels in these two cities. The pipeline network of GAIL supplies natural gas to various sectors equivalent to 188 million barrels of oil equivalent per year, thus not only contributing to import substitution but also providing environment friendly fuel.

The natural gas infrastructure of GAIL plays a significant role in serving the nation by facilitating equitable geographical distribution of economic benefits. GAIL's pipeline network caters to the gas consumers in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Tripura.

In the area of corporate social responsibility, one of the major projects of GAIL has been setting up of Air Pollution Related Disease Diagnostic Centres (APRDCs) in over 20 cities in various parts of the country, at a cost of about Rs.4 crore. Under this programme, the diagnostic centres equipped with modern diagnostic amenities related to respiratory and cardio-vascular diseases.

GAIL has an impeccable reputation in project execution and maintenance of safety standards in various areas of its activities like pipeline laying, petrochemicals and LPG plants. The company has won a number of awards for safety in operations & maintenance of high pressure gas pipeline and gas processing plants, petrochemicals, project execution from reputed national and international organizations which include coveted OSID Awards, British Safety Council Awards, International Project Management Association etc.

Theme : Industry, Energy, Chemistry, Chemicals.

JOACHIM AND VIOLET ALVA

20.11.08 500 0.4 will

Joachim Alva was born on January 2, 1907 in Udupi, in South Kannara district of the Madras Presidency, as the fourth of seven children of Piedade and Anne Alva.

Bombay, in the twenties, was the hub of the freedom struggle. Unmindful of the future and fired by his lofty idealism. Joachim Alva entered the turbulent scene to contribute his vitality to the advancement of freedom. By 1928, he became the first



Christian to be appointed as the Secretary of the over-fifty-years old Bombay students Brotherhood. He along with K.F.Nariman, H.D. Raja and Soli Batliwala, was one of the pioneers of the Bombay Youth League. Later, he co-

founded the Nationalist Christian Party with the avowed goal drawing the Christian community into the freedom struggle. He presided over a large meeting of Christians at Bombay, addressed by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1937.

Politics did not keep Joachim Alva, away from his studies. He earned his B.A. from Elphinstone College. He then went on to do his LL.B., at the Government Law College. Joachim Alva's academic career was chequered but he outshone all in oratory. He was declared the Gold Medalist at the All India Oratorical Competition in Benaras Hindu University (1934)

Imprisoned twice for a period of three years, Joachim Alva was jail companion to many of India's outstanding patriots and national leaders such as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Jaya Prakash Narain, Morarji Desai, K.T. Mashruvalla, J.C. Kumarappa and Ashok Mehta.

Violet Alva was born on April 24, 1908 at Ahmedabad. She was eighth of nine children of lower middle class parents. Her father, Rev. Laxman Hari, was one of the first Indian pastors of the Church of England, She worked her way through St. Xavier's College, Bombay, when she earned an M.A. and then graduated from Government Law College. For a while thereafter, she was a Professor of English at the Indian Women's University, Bombay.

Violet Hari became Violet Alva on November 20, 1937. Inspired by Joachim Alva, She began venturing onto public platforms. She grew into a confident Speaker in several languages and never failed to command the attention of any audience.

Joachim and Violet Alva set up legal practice together under the been violent eyes of Bhulabhai Desai.

Although, husband and wife set up legal practice together. Violet Alva was left to her own resources when Joachim Alva was imprisoned in 1941. In April 1943, she was arrested for documenting on Chowpatty Beach. Her second son, Cittaranjan Francis was then barely five months old, and she had no option but to take him to Arthur Road Jail with her.

On August 9, 1943, the first anniversary of Quit India Day, Joachim and Violet Alva founded FORUM, the Indian weekly news magazine, which became known al over India and abroad for its fearless championing of the cause of independence.

In 1944 Joachim Alva was ordered by the authorities to submit heavy security for his article "Halt this March to the Gallows" and he was also prosecuted for treason for his article "Settling accounts with the British".

At the dawn of Independence, August 14-15, 1947, Violet Alva was a Member of the Flag Presentation Committee.

Joachim Alva was elected to Lok Sabha in the General Elections of 1952, and Violet Alva was elected to the Rajya Sabha both from the Bombay State.

Violet Alva and Joachim Alva were the first ever couple to be elected to Indian parliament under adult franchise.

After the second general election in 1957 Violet Alva became Deputy Minister of Home Affairs. In April 1960 Violet Alva was re-elected to the Rajya Sabha. On 19th April, 1962 she became the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha as the first ever lady presiding officer of the Rajya Sabha. In 1968 Joachim Alva was nominated to the Rajya Sabha where Violet Alva was Deputy Chairman.

Violet Alva breathed her last on 20th November, 1969, four days after she resigned from Deputy Chairmanship of the Rajyasabha.

Joachim Alva retired from Rajya Sabha in 1974. He breathed his last on June, 28, 1979. Patriotism and deep attachment to Indian culture and tradition were his distinguished characteristics.

Theme : Freedom fighter, couples, Leaders,

SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY, HYDERABAD

27.11.08 500, 2000 0.8 mill each

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy spread over 275 acres on a scenic landscape stands tall on the Hyderabad - Bangalore highway. The Academy is not only a premier police training institution of the country but one of the best police training institutions of the world.



Until the country became independent, the officers of Indian Police (IP) received probationary training in their respective provinces after

independence Sardar Vallabhabahi Patel, the first Union Minister envisioned the need for a central training facility for imparting common induction training to all those joining the Indian Police Service. Thus came to be established, the Central Police Training College (CPTC) at Mount Abu (Rajasthan) on September 15, 1948. The institution was rechristened as National Police Academy in 1967, and finally named after its founder, as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), in 1974.

The Academy conducts over 30 need based thematic and refresher courses every year, for senior officers of different ranks. Prominent amongst the courses conducted are programmes on National Security; Day to - Day Policing and Internal Security; Cyber Crimes; Economic Crimes and Organised Crime etc.,

The Academy also has state - of - the - art infrastructural facilities for training. The library of the

Academy has a rich collection of nearly 1,00,000 books besides a valuable stock of training films, video cassettes and CD ROMs on police and related subjects like sociology, law, criminology, forensic science and medicine, managements, etc.

The Academy also has a well - equipped forensic science laboratory besides a computer forensic lab, having facility for acquisition and analysis of ambient data from all types of storage media and recovery of passwords, etc. The Academy also has a phonetic language laboratory for teaching regional languages to the probationers. A Gymnasium, an Olympic size Swimming Pool, a Firing Range and a Riding ground are among other valuable infrastructural assets of the Academy.

With a view to enabling all police training institutions to draw upon each other's resources and specialization, the Academy has established a computerized network (POTNET) connecting all Police Training Colleges and Academies of the various States and Central Police Organisations with the NAP as its hub.

More than 4000 leaders of the Indian Police have passed out of the portals of this great institution. The responsibility that the vision of Sardar Patel puts on the shoulder of each young IPS officer passing out of the Academy stands proud like a mother smiling inward with a sense of pride and happiness of having sent brave and brilliant sons and daughters in the service of the nation that have done the service and the Academy proud. The Academy's alumni are today leading all the state police and paramilitary forces of the country with élan.

The Alma Mater of the Indian Police Service has grown and prospered. In the year 1984, in a message sent to the CPTC, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel said of the CPTC "it has to build itself and build others. It has to create amongst its alumni that love and reverence for their alma - mater which are at once the pride and heritage of an educational institution". He ended his message with a blessing that has ever since being with the academy "May it secure all this from the devotion and attention of its inmates".

The spirit of the Sardar's Message reverberates through every corridor and land of the Academy. These words have ever since been a source of inspiration for the Academy to constantly strive for excellence.

In recognition of its outstanding services, the Academy was awarded the President's Colours on its 40th Anniversary on September 15th 1988.

Theme : Institutions, Police, Uniforms, Hyderabad

ST. JOSEPH'S BOY'S HIGH SCHOOL

28.11.08 500 0.4 Mill

As early as 1841 Bishop Bannaud planned to start a Catholic High School in Bangalore. This proposal took concrete shape only in 1850 when the priests of the Missions Estrangers de paris (MEP) bought a plot of land for a sum of Rs. 1000/- at St. Johns Hill, Bangalore, Fr.Bouteloup had a house constructed in 1854 at a cost of Rs. 3000/- and this was named St. Joseph's Seminary.

The Madras University was established in 1858 and hence boarders could be admitted to prepare for the matriculation examination of the Madras University. It was decided to open a School for Europeans as well as for Indian pupils. This was the beginning of St. Joseph's College. In the nomenclature of the day, in European usage a college was what we now call today as a high school.



St. Joseph's School, at Bangalore was founded in 1865, offered to European and Anglo-Indian families the means of securing for their children the advantage of a liberal education. In short, to prepare them for the duties of their future. Great attention is also paid to physical training and games.

Two large and open play-grounds belonging to the School afforded ample space for cricket, football, hockey, tennis, badminton and other games and exercises. Great attention is also paid to physical training and games. The School possessed a Cadet Platoon and a Boy Scouts' Troop. There is Debating and Literary Society for the Boys of Standards IX and VIII.

The Courses of Studies embraced the subjects required for the Government High and Middle School Examinations, and for the Cambridge School Certificate, Junior and Preliminary Examinations. The School was recognized by the Cambridge University, and Senior Candidates could obtain Certificate A.

In 1923, St. Joseph's College was separated from the school. By 1923, there were three institutions namely, St. Joseph's School, St. Joseph's College and St. Joseph's Indian School.

In 2001, the foundation stone was laid, and the new building was established in three phases, In 2002, the Western Wing, in 2003 the Eastern Wing and in 2006, the Central Administrative Block were inaugurated.

Broad Band, LCD TVs in all the Class rooms, the P.A. system, state-of-the-art laboratories and research and reference facilities etc., are available. Girls too were taken into standards XI and XII for the first time. Today, St. Joseph's Boy' High School stands as a giant of Education which provides world-class education.

Theme : Institutions, Schools of India, Buildings, Education.

BUDDHADEVA BOSE

30.11.08

500

0.4 Mill

Buddhadeva Bose, considered one of the most versatile and prolific creative geniuses after Rabindranath Tagore, was born on November 30, 1908 in Kimila, now a part of Bangladesh. His multifaceted talent allowed him to

move amongst different genres of literature-poetry, novels, short stories, plays, critical essays, travelogues and memoirs with equal ease and grace. He spent his whole life steeped in literature reading, writing, teaching, publishing and promoting it. He was a great scholar who pursued a serious academic career, eventually founded the new academic discipline, "Comparative Literature" for the first time in India at the newly established Jadavpur University in 1956.

A quintessential poet himself, he pioneered the concept of a magazine devoted solely to the cause of poetry and poets, and established "Kavita" in the mid-thirties, and edited for 25 long years from 1935 to 1961. The whole development of post Tagore modernism can be traced through the issues of "Kavita". Bose helped his established contemporaries like Jibananda Das, Amiya Chakraborty, Sudhindranath Dutta, Bishnu De, Samar Sen,



Subhash Mukhopadhyay by continuously publishing their poems in "Kavita". The young poets like Sunil Gangopadhyaya, Shakti Chattaopadhyay, Tarapada Roy, Pranabendu Dasgupta wanted to be recognized by Buddhadeva Bose by publishing their poems in his quarterly. They loved his company. Sunil Gangopadhyay called him "youngest among the youngs" as the older poet encouraged them to argue with him on issues relating to poetry and literature, over great "addas" for which his modest flat in Kolkata was famous. It is probably the only example in literary history of the world that a major poet had himself devoted a good part of his life nurturing and promoting his contemporaries as well as multiple generations of younger poets. As a writer, he never looked back since "Bandir Bandana", his first major collection of poems written in late teens. He was hailed as an exceptionally talented and courageous poet when the book got published in 1930. His first novel "SaDa" also came out in the same year. He was 22.

The last 15 years of his life were arguably his best creative years. After producing fascinating verse plays reinterpreting the Mahabharata stories. He reached his zenith with his great analytical study "Mahabharata katha". He had project lined up for the next 10 years when he suddenly succumbed to a massive stroke on the 17th March of 1974, at the age of 65.

The total number of his books today exceed 150, yet there are materials in both English and Bengali which still remain uncollected. Among many honours received in India and abroad, the Academy Award for his Mahabharat based play "Tapasvi O Tarangini" in 1967 and "Padmabhushan" conferred on him for his immense contribution as a literateur scholar and academician in 1970 stands out.

Theme : Writer, Poet, Leader, Literature.

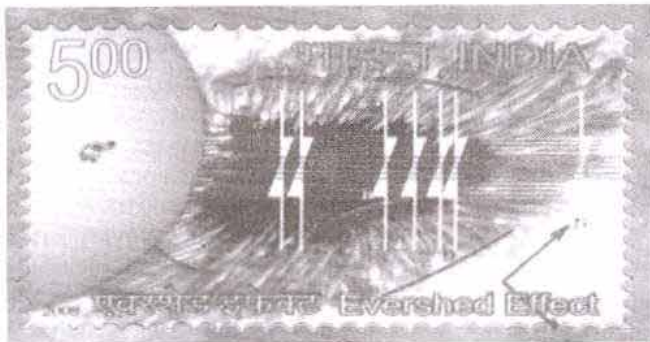
EVERSHED EFFECT

2.12.08

500

0.4 Mill

Solar eclipse of 1868 and 1871 played a fundamentally significant role in the development of astrophysics in India. The idea to establish a modern observatory at a hill station took roots. Physics Observatory at Kodaikanal, was the outcome of such an idea and started functioning in 1899. John Evershed, one of the foremost solar astronomers of his time, spent his most fruitful research years at the Solar Physics Observatory in Kodaikanal, first as its Assistant Director (1907-1911) and then as the Director (1911-1923). He had distinguished himself as prolific amateur solar observer, working in his own private observatory in Kenley, England, recording no less than 13, 458 prominences between the years 1890 and 1905, and noting the changes in heliographic latitude during a solar cycle. The Kodaikanal appointment was his first as a professional astronomer. When John Evershed arrived in 1906, Kodaikanal already had some good solar instruments including a Cambridge Spectroheliograph.



In the early morning of January, 5 1909, Evershed obtained Sunspot spectra which showed for the first time line displacements in the penumbral region indicating an outward radial flow of gases in the spots. Two days later, Evershed obtained more spectra which confirmed the discovery. The discovery has since been named after him and is known today as the Evershed Effect.

Evershed was the first to observe spots at various positions, up to 50 degrees, on either side of the central meridian. He found that the line displacements were more pronounced in the penumbral regions of the spots which are closer to the limb of the Sun. Evershed's work established the reputation of Kodaikanal as one of the best solar observatories in the world. In 1913, Evershed visited Kashmir for three months and found the observing conditions in the Kashmir Valley excellent for solar work. He established a temporary observatory near Srinagar in 1915-16 obtaining very high-quality photographs of prominences and sunspots.

During the hundred years since Evershed's discovery, our understanding of the solar phenomena and the solar-terrestrial relations has grown enormously. It has profoundly influenced diverse fields of science and great benefits have been derived from these studies.

Theme : Astronomy, Discovery, Personality, Sun, Astrophysics.

REACHING OUT TO OUR MARITIME NEIGHBOURS

4.12.08

500

0.8 mill

The Indian navy, with its professionalism, technical prowess, worldwide arena of operations and human approach is not only ready to defend the nation's maritime interests in peace and war, but also ensures an environment of peace and tranquility in the Indian Ocean region by continuously "Reaching out to our Maritime Neighbours".

This was amply demonstrated on 26th December, 2004. In the midst of the rapidly snowballing tsunami disaster on our own east coast and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Indian Navy ships sailed immediately to render aid to the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.



In May 2006, the Indian Navy rose to the occasion to provide Indian relief supplies to the victims of the earthquake that struck Indonesia. Civilian evacuation of stranded Indian, Nepalese, Sri Lankan and Lebanese national from war-torn Lebanon by the Indian Navy was another

dimension of showcasing the promptness and the resolve of the Government of India.

Indian Navy won world wide acclamation for its swift and stunning act of rescue of Saudi & Indian Ships from the clutches of Somalian Pirates in high seas in November, 2008. The spontaneous response of Indian Navy on hearing a SOS message resulted in rescue of these ships and the crew.

What makes Indian Navy one of the most distinguished service is its humane approach, ever willing to help the maritime neighbours expeditiously whenever the forces of nature so demand. In doing so the Indian Navy draws upon its vast experience of sea faring, braving challenging situations and choppy seas to assist in whatever measure it can since it understands the ways of the seas and the sea breeze pulsates through its veins.

Ready to defend the nation's maritime interests in peace and in war, the Indian Navy will ensure an environment of peace and tranquility in the Indian Ocean Region and continue "Reaching out to our Maritime neighbours".

Theme : Armed Forces, Indian Navy, Humanity.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

8.12.08

500,200

1.5mill each

Christmas, the annual Christian holyday, commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. Most members of the Roman Catholic Church and followers of Protestantism celebrate Christmas on December 25, and many celebrate on the evening of December 24 as well.



Dr. LAXMI MALL SINGHVI

8.12.08

500

0.4mill

Dr. Laxmi Mall Singhvi was a remarkably multifaceted personality. He was an eminent jurist, renowned constitutional expert, an acclaimed diplomat, a distinguished parliamentarian, a highly respected intellectual, prominent exponent of human rights, a doyen of the Indian Bar, a citizen statesman, an author, poet, publicist, linguist and a litterateur and, above all, a man of ideas and an institution builder.



The word Christmas entered the English language sometime around 1050 as the Old English phrase *Christers maesse*, meaning "festival of Christ". Scholars believe the frequently used shortened form of the Christmas -Xmas- may have come into use in the 13th century. The X stands for the Greek letter chi, an abbreviation of *Khristos* (Christ), and also represents the cross on which, Jesus was crucified.

Historians are unsure exactly when Christians first began celebrating the Nativity of Christ. However, most scholars believe that Christmas originated in the 4th century as a Christian substitute for pagan celebrations of the winter solstice. Before the introduction of Christmas, each year beginning on December 17 Romans honoured Saturn, the ancient God of Agriculture, in a festival called *Saturnalia*. This festival lasted for seven days and included the winter solstice, which usually occurred around December 25 on the ancient Julian Calendar.

Although the Gospels describe "Jesus" birth in details, they are silent about the date, so historians do not know on what date he was born. The Roman Catholic Church chose December 25 as the day for the Feast of the Nativity in order to give Christian meaning to existing pagan rituals.

Modern customs of the holiday include gift-giving, church celebrations, and the display of various decorations including the Christmas tree, lights, mistletoe, nativity scenes and holy Santa Claus. The popular image of Santa Claus was created by the German American cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902), who drew a new image annually, beginning in 1863. By the 1880s, Nast's Santa had evolved into the form we now recognize. The image was standardized by advertisers in the 1920s.

The Christmas tree is often explained as a Christianization of pagan tradition.

Christmas customs around the world reflect the variety of cultures that celebrate the holiday. For some people, Christmas is primarily a holy day marked by religious services. For others, gift giving, feasting, and good times figure more prominently. At its root, Christmas celebrates one of the fundamental events of Christianity, the birth of Jesus. However, the celebration of Christmas also incorporates many secular customs that have been handed down through families.

Theme : Religion, Festivals, Christmas, Christianity.

Dr. Singhvi was born on 9 November 1931 in Jodhpur. He was the second son of Sri Dasharath Mal Singhvi, a well known lawyer and freedom fighter from Jodhpur. Did his PhD from Cornell University, USA in a record 2 years and was appointed to the teaching faculty at Berkeley, California. He cut short a promising academic career and returned to India in 1957 at his father's insistence.

He was a leading Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India and was President of the apex Court's bar Association for four terms. He conceived and founded "Law Day" now universally observed on November 26. Guidelines for the Independence of the Judiciary, are officially known globally as the "Singhvi Principles". Dr. Singhvi has been acknowledged as a spellbinding orator in both Hindi and English.

Dr. Singhvi was the longest served High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom (1991-97). He established the Nehru Centre in London, Dr. L.M. Singhvi Centre for Indian Studies at Hull university and Dr. L.M. Singhvi Foundation, in London. In U.K., Dr. Singhvi was conferred Rotary International's first Ambassador of Excellence award and also the U Thant Peace Award.

Dr. Singhvi was elected to the Third Lok Sabha as an Independent Member for Jodhpur and became known as an outstanding parliamentarian. He crusaded for the ombudsman system in India and was the inventor and coiner of the words "Lokpal" and "Lokayuktya".

Dr. Singhvi was Co-Chairman of *Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan International* and Chairman of *Pravara Mandals for Jamna Lal Bajaj and JanPeeth Awards*. The Bajaj Award is the highest Award for Gandhian work and the JanPeeth Award is India's equivalent of the Nobel Prize for literature.

Dr. Singhvi was also elected in 1992 to the Red Chair at Cambridge University, an over 500 year old extremely prestigious position at that University. Dr. Singhvi served as a Member of the UNESCO's Executive Board (2002-2005). He was Founder President of Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) in the early 1960s and President of Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (2000-05).

Dr. L.M. Singhvi's wealth in friendships is his true legacy. He is a vibrant symbol and everlasting emblem of the age old Indian intellect, culture and civilization.

Theme : Personality, Leaders, Literature, Judiciary, Parliament

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

10.12.08

500

1.0 mill

On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration is recognition of the fact that inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world and reaffirmation of faith, of the people of United Nations in the Fundamental human rights.



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, states in clear and simple terms the rights which belong equally to every person. It inter alia envisages that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and are entitled to enjoy all rights and freedoms set forth in the declaration without distinction of any kind. Everyone has right to life, liberty and security of person, equality before law and equal protection of law and freedom of thought, conscience, religion, opinion and expression. The declaration enunciates various civil, economic, social and cultural rights.

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Following this historic act the Assembly called upon all Member countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories.

The theme for 2008, "Dignity and Justice for all of us" reinforces the vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a commitment to universal dignity and justice. It is not a luxury or a wish-list. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its core values, inherent human dignity, non-discrimination, equality, fairness and universality, apply to everyone, everywhere and always. The declaration is universal, enduring and vibrant, and it concerns us all.

The National Human Rights Commission of India was constituted under the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993 for better protection and promotion of human rights.

Its functions include enquiring suo motu or on petitions into complaints of violations of human rights, review safeguard provided under the Constitution or any law and study laws, treaties and other international instruments of human rights and make recommendations for their effective implementations. During last 15 years, the Commission has endeavoured to promote a culture of human rights. It has earned the trust and confidence of the people in substantial measure.

Theme : Human Rights, United Nations.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

14.12.08

500, 2000

1.50 mill each

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) was conceived as a 'Research institute' or 'University of Research' by Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, towards the end of the 19th century.

The early history of the Institute is a fascinating chapter in the story of higher education and scientific research in India, which led to the establishment of the Institute includes, charismatic and generous founder J.N. Tata, Swami Vivekananda, the Maharaja of Mysore, Shri Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV and his mother then acting on his behalf, and Lord Curzon the Viceroy of India, whose first talk on arrival on December 31, 1898 was to receive a draft proposal prepared by the Provisional Committee set up to plan the establishment of the Institute.

The Institute occupies nearly 400 acres of prime land in Bangalore, generously donated by the Maharaja of Mysore in march 1907. Indeed, the contribution from the princely state of Mysore was the decisive element in determining the location of J.N. Tata's proposed institution. The name, Indian Institute of Science, which was finally chosen, reflects every way the wishes of J.N. Tata.

The Institute began with only two department General an Applied Chemistry and Electro-Technology. The Departments of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry were among the earliest to be established. The Physics department came into being in 1933, when C.V. Raman became the first Indian Director of the Institute.

As the Institute has grown, several new areas of research have been established. The Institute's departments in field ranging from Biochemistry to Aerospace Engineering have served to nuclear research and development in both the public and private sectors.



Homi Bhaba conceived the idea of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TFIR) and Atomic Energy Program while working in the Department of Physics. Vikram Sarabhai, the founder of India's space program was an alumnus. The first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Kharapur was established by J.C. Ghosh, who was the Director of IISc in the critical period 1939-48, during which much of the activity in engineering was initiated at the Institute. Many of India's most distinguished scientists have been associated with the institute as students of faculty.

The face of science and engineering research has been changing very rapidly over the past few years. Many new activities have been initiated.

In reflecting on the past, present, and future of the Institute, in this Centenary year, an exchange between Morris Travers, the first Director, and Lord Willingdon went around the Institute in June 1914 and said : "I had no idea that there was anything like this in India". Travers responded : There is nothing like it in India; and nothing better in Great Britain".

Theme : Institutions, Bangalore, Science. Tatas.

SWAMI RANGANATHANANDA MAHARAJ

15.12.08

500

0.4mill

Shankaran was born on 15 December 1908 in Trikkur, a small village near Trissur in Kerala. Even at a tender age his keen and perceptive mind reacted to the virus of untouchability, then ubiquitous in Malabar. He made it a point break caste distinctions. When he was about fourteen, Sri Ramakrishna entered his life through The Gospel of Swami Vivekananda. He was initiated by his guru, Srimat Swami Shivanandaji Maharaj, popularly known as Mahapurush Maharaj a direct disciple of Sri Ramakrishna into spiritual life with mantra diksha in 1926.



The first twelve years of Maharaj's monastic life, spent at the Mysore and Bangalore Ashrams, were days of hard work, study and meditation.

Swami Ranganathanandaji's phenomenal mental acumen and memory were a revelation to many even scientists. His sharp intellect and tempered devotion set him apart from the ordinary. He avidly and intensely studied not only Indian scriptures and mythology, but also those of other religions. His missionary activity reflected a wonderful blend of ancient wisdom and modern science.

After Bangalore, Swami Ranganathanandaji was Secretary and Library in at Ramakrishna Mission, Rangoon, Burma, from 1939 to 1942. When Rangoon had

to be evacuated in the face of an impending Japanese invasion, he chose to return to India. During 1942- 48 he headed the Mission's Karachi centre. He was head of the Ramakrishna Mission in New Delhi between 1949 and 1962. This period turned out to be the most fruitful in the centre's history. During 1962-67 he was in Calcutta as Secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture and Director of its School of Humanistic and Cultural Studies. Hyderabad, where he founded an ashrama on land provided by the Andhra Pradesh government.

He served as a member of the Indian National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO during 1964- 67.

Swami Ranganathanandaji was elected a trustee of the Ramakrishna Math and a member of the governing body of the Ramakrishna Mission in 1961. On 1 April 1989 he was elected a Vice President, and on 7 September 1998 he became President to the Order. From 1998 onwards he lived at Belur Math.

A large number of Swami Ranganathanandaji's lectures have been published in book form, notable among which are : The Message of the Upanishads, Universal Message of the Bhagavad Gita (three volumes).

Swami Ranganathanandaji passed away on 25th August 2005 at the age of Ninety six.

Theme : Sages & saints, Religion, Hinduism, Leaders.

FIFLED MARSHAL SAM HORUSJI FRAMJI JAMSHEDJI MANEKSHAW, MC

16.12.08

500

0.5 mill

In 1942 at the height of the World War II a fierce battle was raging in Myanmar, then Burma, at the Sittang Bridge. A company of the Indian Army was engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the invading Japanese Forces for the capture of a position, which was critical for the control of the bridge. The young company commander was exhorting his troops when his stomach was fiddled by a machine gun burst. Afraid that his company would be left leaderless if he was evacuated, he continued fighting till he collapsed. His company won the day and the general commanding the Indian Forces arrived at the scene to congratulate the soldiers. On seeing the critically wounded commander he announced the immediate award of the young officer was not expected to survive much longer and the military Cross is not awarded posthumously. Thus began a historic military career of a great Indian soldier who serviced to become India's first Field Marshal.



The man eventually destined to be free India's first Field Marshal was born into a Parsi family on 3rd April 1914 at Amritsar. After a stint in Hindu College, on 30th September 1932 he joined the first batch of the newly opened Indian Military Academy (IMA) at Dehradun for training Indians for commissioned rank in the British Indian Army. He received his commission on 4th February 1934 and, after an attachment as was the practice then with a British Infantry Battalion, the 2nd Battalion the Royal Scouts, he joined the 4th Battalion, 12 Frontier Force Regiment, commonly called the 54th Sikh.

One of the finest officers of the Indian Army, Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw, MC, popularly known as Sam Bahadur, has had a long and illustrious military career. His first major military campaign was world war II when he served as a captain with the 4/12 Force Regiment in Burma in 1942. After that near fatal campaign Sam went to the Staff College in Quetta for a course and served for while as an instructor. He joined the 12 Frontier Force Rifles in Burma and was wounded amidst fierce battle yet again. Towards the end of the War he helped in the rehabilitation of 10,000 Prisoners of War (POWs).

Promotions followed in rapid succession, after command of an Infantry Brigade he was posted as the Commandant of the Infantry School and also became the Colonel of 8 Gorkha Rifles (his regimental home) and 61 Cavalry. He commanded a Division in Jammu & Kashmir and 1959 saw Sam as Commandant of the Defence Services Staff College. On promotion in to the coveted rank of Lieutenant General he took over the Command of 4 Corps on 28th November 1962 at a most critical time during Chinese aggression. The Chinese aggression was effectively replied thereafter.

As General Officer Commanding - in - chief of Eastern Command, he handled the tricky problem of insurgency in Nagaland and the grateful nation honoured him with a Padma Bhushan in 1968. On 7th June 1969 Sam Manekshaw replaced General Kumaramangalam as the 8th Chief of Army Staff. His immense military experience came to good use during the Indo-Park War of 1971 which led to a splendid victory under his command.

Sam came from a family with strong values. He had three brothers and two sisters. In 1937 he met his wife Silioo Bode at Lahore and they got married on the 22nd April 1939. Their first daughter Sherry was born on the 11th of January 1940 and Maya was born on September 24th 1945.

In 1972 President Shri V.V Giri awarded him the Padma Vibhushan for his distinguished and selfless services to the nation. On 1st January 1973 he was bestowed with the prestigious rank of Field Marshal, another first in Indian military history. Sam Manekshaw retired a fortnight later after forty years of exceptional and dedicated military service. He died at the age of 94 on the 27th June 2008 at Wellington military Cantonment
Theme : Army, Armed forces, leaders, personality, II World war.

BRAHMOS

22.12.08

500, 2000

1.0 mill

"Defence of a country is time honoured function of its Government and an essential attribute of sovereignty and economic growth".

Extensive use of subsonic cruise missiles in Gulf war brought about stupendous changes in strategic thinking and convinced nations' World over to lay more emphasis on development of cruise missiles. India and Russia conceived an idea of jointly developing a cruise missile far superior to the one used during Gulf war. This laid the foundation of a unique Joint Venture "BrahMos Aerospace" with partnership from both countries.



BrahMos, name represents two well known rivers, Brahmaputra of India and Moskova of Russia. The calmness and serenity of Moskova of River and the power and speed of Brahmaputra depict the main characteristics of "BRAHMOS Supersonic Cruise Missile", the product of the Joint Venture.

BrahMos Aerospace became the first Joint venture between India and a foreign partner form mind to market and took on the responsibility of design, development, production and marketing.

BRAHMOS is a supersonic missile that approaches target with three times the speed of sound and is capable of being launched from multiple platforms i.e. land based launcher, warships, submarines, maritime patrol / ASW aircraft and combat aircraft.



The trust and support provided by the two Governments coupled with the outstanding managements leadership of the Joint Venture has resulted in a world class product which has

become a model for all future co-operations between our two countries and has escalated relations between the two countries well beyond the buyer-seller equation that has persisted for decades.

Theme : War, Army, Missiles Technology

TV RAMASUBBAIYER

21.12.08

0.500

0.4 Mill

Shri. T.V. Ramasubbaiyer, popularly known as T.V.R. was a freedom fighter, philanthropist and founder of popular daily newspaper Dinamalar whose impact on Tamil Nadu has been profound.

Born on 2nd October 1908 at a place called Tazhuviamahatevar Koil, in the erstwhile princely State of Travancore, Ramasubbaier even as a young man was a socially enlightened person. The present literacy rate of 95% in Kanyakumari is traced to Ramasubbaier. A Committee under him managed to construct 50 schools in the area with public and private support at a time when compulsory education was tottering in other areas of Travancore.



The most significant contribution of T.V. Ramasubbaier has been the publication of the famous Tamil Daily Dinamalar which has over the years become the major voice of rural populace in Tamil Nadu. The first edition was printed from Thiruvananthapuram on 6th September 1951. Today Dinamalar stands as a colossus holding forth the role of an important fourth estate shaping the fortunes of Tamil Nadu.

With the creation of Tamil Nadu, he shifted the edition published from Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of erstwhile Travancore princely state, to Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu in 1957. Buoyed by the initial success of the paper, he decided to start another edition of the paper from Trichirappalli in 1966. After consolidating the gains, editions from other centres were started like from Chennai in 1970, Madurai 1980, Erode 1984, Pondicherry 1991, Coimbatore 1992, Vellore 1993, Nagercoil 1996, Salem 2000.

T.V. Ramasubbaier was a visionary, a social reformer, a prolific writer, a campaigner for social causes and champion of downtrodden. He made Dinamalar an instrument for social, political and economic transformation. His contributions will always occupy a place of eminence in Tamil Nadu.

Theme : Freedom fighter, Writer, Newspaper.

UDUMALAI NARAYANA KAVI

31.12.08 500 0.4 Mill

Udumalai Narayana Kavi was born on 25.09.1899 in Poolavadi Village about 20 kms from Udumalpet, Coimbatore District in Tamil Nadu. He lost his parents Thiru Krishnasamy and Tmt. Muthammal at an early age and was brought up by his elder brother Thiru Dhanuskodi. His early education was only up to Standard IV at a local elementary school in his village. Thereafter, he was taught by Guru Udumalai Muthuswamy Kavirayar, who also taught Tamil Literature.



Udumalai Narayana Kavi displayed acting talents in local dramas at a very early age of 15. He acted in dramas like Valli Thirumanam, Pavalakhodi and Nandanar.

In 1923, he got the opportunity to act in dramas. The award of best lyricist by Sangeet Natak Academy and South India Film Chamber, the title of Sahithya Rathanakar and Kalaimamani, the award by the Tamil Nadu Government are some examples.

He entered the world of cinema in 1933 where he continued till 1976. He wrote several lyrics for Tamil films.

His Kathakalakshepam titled "Kindanar" was to eradicate caste-based discriminations among the people. His poems contained rationalistic, patriotic and social messages.

Theme : Personality, Cinema, Actor, Poet.

A.T. PANEERSELVAM

31.12.08 500 0.4 Mill

The colonial rule in India evoked a wide range of socio - culture responses from different parts of the country. The colonial rule and the independence struggle threw up a number of educated and vociferous protagonists espousing the interests of different socio-cultural segments of society. Contribution of such leaders to the overall dynamics that worked in the pre-independence India and that ultimately led to independence cannot be underestimated.

He was born on 01.06.1888 at Selvapuram in Thiruvarur District in Tamil Nadu. He studied law in London and joined the Madras High Court. Subsequently he came back to Thanjavur and continued his practice. He joined the Justice Party in 1917. He, along with Arcot Sir A. Ramasamy represented the minorities before the Simon Commission and supported community based reservation and asked for Dominion status for India. In 1927 he came in contact with Mahatma Gandhi. In 1930 he got elected from the Thanjavur reserved constituency and remained Member of the Legislative Assembly for ten years. He participated in the two Round Table Conferences in 1930 and 1931.



In 1934 he became a Member of the Administrative Council to the Governor. In the same year he became the Minister of Finances & Home in the interim Ministry formed by the Justice Party in Tamil Nadu after Congress decided not to form the government even after winning the elections. The Congress, however, formed the government in 1937 under C. Rajagopalachari.

In 1938 the British conferred the title 'Sir' to Paneerselvam. On 1st March 1940, as he was on way to London upon the invitation of the British he died in an air crash.

Theme : Personality, Leader, Politics.

THILLAIYADI VALLIAMMAI

31.12.08

500

0.4 Mill

The story of freedom struggle of our country is full of many a chapter of unsung valour and sacrifices. The turn of events in the early 20th century in South Africa added a new dimension to the Indian freedom struggle.

The story of Thillaiyadi Valliammai is about one tiny indomitable flame of bravery that held against the mighty blows of colonial rule in South Africa.

Born in Johannesburg on 22.2.1898 to Indian migrants from Tamilnadu, Munusamy and Janaki Ammal, she was deeply influenced by the Civil Disobedience Movement started by Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa and its spectacular effect on the Indian and other communities there.



On 14th March, 1913 a controversial judgment was passed rendering all marriages not covered under the Marriages Registration Act of South Africa null and void. This created a widespread apprehension among the migrant Indians. Mahatma Gandhi started an agitation to protest this judgment. Thillaiyadi Valliammai actively canvassed and traveled

extensively. On 28th Oct. 1913 Satyagraha was launched by Kasturba in which Thillaiyadi Valliammai took the plunge. On 22nd December, 1913 she was arrested and imprisoned in Maritzburg. The rigours of the prison took a toll on her health and though released on 11th February, 1914, she died on 22nd February, 1914 at the tender age of sixteen.

Theme : Freedom struggle, Women, Martyr.

M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM

31.12.08

500

0.4 Mill

M. Bhakthavatsalam was born on October 9, 1897 in Nazarathpet, a village in Chingleput District, Tamil Nadu. He was educated in the Christian Mission School and P.S. High School, Chennai. He joined the Presidency College, Madras in 1916 from where he graduated in Economics. He later joined the Madras Law College, worked as an apprentice under Alladi Krishnasami Iyer and subsequently, enrolled himself as an Advocate. However, he abandoned a promising legal profession in 1927 to plunge into full time political activity.



Bhakthavatsalam took active interest in the Home Rule Movement started by Dr. Annie Besant even while he was in college. He took a leading part in the Civil Disobedience Movement and was imprisoned in 1932. To stimulate Congress propaganda he started the daily

newspaper "India" in Tamil and was its Managing Director till 1933. In the Individual Satyagraha Movement, he was imprisoned for 9 months (1940-41). Once again, he played an exemplary role in Quit India Movement in 1942 during which he was incarcerated for 2 years.

Starting as a Parliamentary Secretary in Rajaji's Ministry in 1937, he joined the Cabinet in 1946 and became an automatic choice in the subsequent ministries. Except for a brief spell of 10 months in 1952-53, he remained a member of the Cabinet for 21 years, as a Minister till 1963 and as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for over three years from 1963 to 1967. As Chief Minister, he contributed a great deal to the all round development of the State, particularly the development of industry, education and agriculture.

Monuments to his farsightedness are the Madurai University which was established as his initiative and the Kundah and Periyar hydro-electric projects planned and executed during his term. Madras was the first state to have a separate highways department under him. He was instrumental in the renovation of temples and kumbabhishekams and several institutions sprang up to promote temple architecture, music and sculpture. General and technical education under the aegis of temples also took shape under his leadership. As Education Minister, he was responsible for making Coimbatore Agriculture College, a premier institution. Theme : Political leader, Freedom fighter, Chief Minister, Educationalist.

SHEIK THAMBI PAVALAR

31.12.08

500

0.4 Mill

Sheik Thambi Pavalar was a doyen among Tamil Scholars of his period. He was an authority of 'Kamba Ramayanam' He was also an orator who could hold the audience spellbound. He is popularly known as 'Sadavadani' which means one who was a grasp as many different aspects of knowledge at a moment. He wrote many books and more important among them are 'Thirukkottaru' Pathirthupathu Anthathi and Thirunagoor Thiruvanthathi. He also wrote a commentary on Seerappuranam.



शेख तम्बी पवलार
SHEIK THAMBI PAVALAR

He was born on July 31 in the year 1874 to Pakeer Meeran and Amina Ummal in Edalkudy Village, near Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari.

He was sent to Malayalam Primary School at the age of eight. Due to poverty he could not continue his school education and joined a 'guru-kulam' school, conducted by Sankara Narayana Annavi. Within a short period, mastered ancient Tamil literature and grammar.

At the age of twenty one he went to Chennai along with Hazarat Syed Thahalebbai to put into print 'Meygnana Thirupadal Thirattu' (about 6000 poems) of the Sufi Saint Gnanian Appa. During this period he published 'Seera Puranam' (5027 poems). In one of the public meetings presided by Itta Parthasarathy Naidu he was conferred the title of 'Pavalar' at the age of twenty seven.

Sheik Thambi Pavalar gained widespread popularity after his manifestation of 'Arupta'. He performed 'Sodavadanam' on one Friday in 1906 in front of the Arippu Street Juma Masjid. At the end of the function Sadavadanam Subramonia Iyer conferred the title of 'Mahamadi' (intellectual giant) and the president of the function conferred the title of 'Sadavadani' on him.

In 1907, he married Mohamed Fathima Beevi at Kottar. He was included in the Tamil Sangam, Madurai established by Pandithurai Thevar.
Theme : Literature, Personality, poet, Writer.

RANI VELU NACHCHIYAR

31.12.08

500

0.4 Mill

The Story of Rani Velu Nachchiyar is an inspiring and touching chapter of bravery and valour against the East India Company, which was consolidating its foothold in South India through a combination of cunning and brute force in early eighteenth century. However, at times they met with terrific resistance from the Indians, Rani Velu Nachchiyar being one such glorious example.



The Queen Velu Nachchiyar was the daughter of King Sellamuthu Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram and Sakkandhi Muththaththai Nachchiyar. She was born in 1750. Sakkandhi was one of the auxiliary Palayams of Sivagangai State adjoining Sivagangai. Queen Velu Nachchiyar was very active and talented when she was young. She learnt Telegu, Malayalam, Kannada, Urdu, English and French languages.

She has studied the Sangam literary works. Silappadhikaram and Manimealai and also our epics like Ramayanam and Mahabharatham. She was married to Muthuvaduganathar and the couple was blessed with only one daughter. Muthuvaduganathar Thevar was the son of Sasivarna Periya Udaya Thevar the first independent king of Sivagangai State.

He was in charge of the administration of Sivagangai State from the year 1730 to 1750 and the ruler of Sivagangai state for the longest period from the year 1750 till he was killed in Kalaiyarkoil in the year 1772.

Queen Velu Nachchiyar and the most dependable and trustworthy Marudhu brothers escaped this slaughter.

The death of her husband Muthu Vaduganathar was informed to Queen Velu Nachchiyar who was staying at that time in Kollangudi and she rushed to Kalaiyarkoil fort.

Velu Nachchiyar along with some body guards went to Virupakshi Palayam and sought asylum with Gopai Nayakkar. At the proper time Velu Nachchiyar along with a group of youngsters of Sivagangai left the place and proceeded to meet Hyder Ali.

The meeting of Velu Nachchiyar with Hyder Ali took place in Dindigul. The rule of Nawab of Arcot over Sivagangai which has already been weakened by the problems created by the revolutionary forces fumbled further on hearing about the assurance given by Hyder Ali to help Velu Nachchiyar. Though the Nawab tried to protect his interests with the help of the army of the East India Company all his efforts were defeated by the patriotic and loyal people of Sivagangai. After a period of eight years the flag of Nawab of Arcot was lowered from the flag post of Sivangai palace and the Hanuman flag of Sivagangai was hoisted again under the reign of Velu Nachchiyar.

Vengan Periya Udaya Thevar became king of Sivagangai as per the compromise formula suggested by the Englishmen. The adopted son of Velu Nachchiyar Padamathur Gowri Valluba Thevar escaped to Arantangi to protect his life.

In the year 1790, Vellaccchi Nachchiyar daughter of Velu Nachchiyar died under mysterious circumstances. Velu Nachchiyar became physically weak and sick because of the tremendous mental stresses and strain to which she was subjected to for quite some time. A bishop by name Jose-de-pray arranged for the treatment of her heart ailment in France. It is presumed, but non confirmed that she would have gone to Paris in the year 1791. After a gap of three years Velu Nachchiyar Appeared again in Sivagangai. As the situation for her continuous stay in Sivagangai was not conducive, she went to Virupakshi Palayam and stayed there. She died there on 25.12.1796.
Theme : Women, Leaders, Partiotism.

Historical Information

THE "BOULES DE MOULINS"

During the autumn and winter of 1870 - 71 the city of Paris was surrounded by German troops. The beleaguered citizens attempted to correspond with their friends and relatives in unoccupied districts by various ingenious methods. The balloon posts are well known but as well as the air, Parisians made use of the River Seine, which crosses the city, to carry messages from the provinces to the besieged capital.

A certain M. Gastillon de Saint Victor had invented a floating sphere of 40 to 50 centimetres in diameter. Inside was a clockwork mechanism which released a tricolour flag on the outside. If the sender knew the speed of the current he could calculate the time a sphere would take to reach the centre of the capital from the outlying district upstream. He set the clockwork, stowed the letters carefully inside the detachable part of the sphere, sealed it and hurled it into the river. At the appropriate time the clockwork mechanism released the tiny flag pole and the flag fluttered freely to catch the attention of watchers on the river bank. This ingenious project was not, however, adopted.

M. Baylard, a post-office clerk, proposed the use of small, hollow glass marbles. Screwed - up letters were inserted through a tiny opening; the marbles were then sealed and launched in the river. Small, light and practically invisible in the eddies and scum of the river, they needed no more than a light net to recover them. Unfortunately the Seine in winter was full of ice flows and it was impossible to distinguish the marbles as they drifted by, so this scheme was like wise declared impracticable.

Not long before the end of the siege, there was even talk of a kind of miniature submarine. Its inventor began to build one, but he was too late: the siege was over. A fantastic project was also undertaken about the same time. This scheme relied on various types of chemical solutions which, when poured on to water aroused different reactions. The colours they produced were intended to be used as a form of code for passing messages. The uncertainty of the chemicals, their quantities and climatic conditions rendered this scheme utterly impracticable.

One project, however, was adopted. Three technicians, Messrs Robert, Delort and Vonoven, invented zinc balls, "boules" which could hold bundles of letters and then be soldered up. Their density was just right or floating at a reasonable depth in the river so that they could make the maximum use of the current. In size and shape they resembled a baby's head. On December 1, 1890 a gunboat left the quays of Paris and went upstream as far as possible towards the lines of the besieging troops. At that point M. Rampont, the Parisian Director of Posts, threw a zinc ball into the water and watched it float downstream, back to the point from which they had set out. The following day the ball was recovered with a fishing net several miles downstream. On December 7 Delort and Robert left Paris on board the balloon Denis Papin with a stock of boules, and after a flight of just over 100 miles, they made a descent the following morning in the unoccupied zone (the Prussians were less than four miles away!) in the department of the Sarthe. The Passengers were taken to the French provisional government headquarters.

After many political difficulties permission was obtained to send the first boules. On January 4, 1871 Robert, disguised as a peasant, slipped through the German lines to the banks of the Seine and put his boules in the water. With great courage he made numerous clandestine journeys between the post office at Cosne and the most

favourable spots on the river bank, until the end of January when Paris capitulated.

Robert did not succeed in despatching all the 40,000 odd letters which had come from all parts of France, to the metropolis. It is estimated that he entrusted some 20,000 to the river. So that the secret of the boules should not be revealed to the enemy the public was asked to address mail intended for delivery: M. X... Paris par Moulins (Paris via Moulins- where the courier was based). For this reason these balls are known as boules de Moulins.

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