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QUARTERLY

Delhi H.P.O

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EDITORIAL.

REVIEW

ISSUES OF THE YEAR 2016

Days are flying fast and yet another year has passed and we are entering the year of 2017.

In the first issue of the bulletin for the year 2017 as usual let us analyse the issues of 2016 by India Post.

To spell as a whole, the ideas inducted in to the minds of the collectors at the end of 2015 were shattered in the year 2016. Compared to 2015, we had 33% more issues in stamps and 100% increased issues in miniature sheets. In fact, India Post made 40 issues comprising 95 stamps and 17 miniature sheets making the 'singles collector himself to spend a lot by normal standards. If this trend continues, we fear that the young and student collectors will start thinking twice in continuing with the hobby.

It is disheartening to note that young collectors have to shell out few hundreds on a single day itself to acquire the items of their liking during the issue of surya namaskar, metal craft, personalities of Bihar and legendary singers on the day of issue.

Another interesting but intriguing aspect to note is, that this year 2016 may be the first year to have stamps of faces starting from RS.5 to 25, that is, we have stamps of denominations of RS.5,10,15,20,and 25. I fear some of these denominations may not have a singular postal use.

On the whole, we had stamps costing Rs.1035/- and miniature sheets costing Rs.855/- making the year pack to have a face value Rs.1890/- and if the collector is interested in having first day covers also, he/she has to shell out another thousand rupees. Recalling, the comments in the first issue of 2014, it has to be said again that India mint stamp collector has to be financially 'sound' to have all or mentally 'sound' to do selective collecting.

Coming to the personality issue, the notion we got in 2015, about the reduction of personality issues has to be discarded now on the issues of 2016. Out of 90 stamps issued 27 numbers show personalities. Miniature sheets with bunch of personalities as in personalities of Bihar (8 nos) and legendary singers (10 nos) brings in this count. On

the whole 27 out of 90 making the personality issues as 30% which is far more compared to the regulatory percentage of 10%.

Anyway, with alarming number of issues and stamps in 2016, and with large number of personalities blessed the collector, some of them may be for a second time as in the Bihar set, still we are congratulating and thanking India Post for birds, orchids, metal crafts (expected for a number of years from 2013) and continuing the revival of children's day issue. Though titled "Seasons' Greeting", the christmas issue on 23.12.2016 is quite attractive and can be called the most attractive issue of 2016.

Expecting still attractive thematic issues in 2017, we thank India Post for the glorious year of 2016.

Contents

Editorial	1
Stamp News	2
Delhi Head P.O.	10
Post in Andamans	10
Whibte Rider.....	13
Advertisers	16

Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With past President Mr. D.Hemachandra Rao on the Chair, 19 members attended the meeting on 13-12-16 at the Philatelic Bureau, Exhibition Hall.

Mr. D. H. Rao, spoke on "Greetings of India Post". Continuing, The series on Stamps of the world, Mr. Rolands Nelson, secretary gave a brief compilation on "Ascension Island".

STAMP NEWS

SWACHH BHARAT

02.10.16

500,2500

0.30mill each

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) emanates from the vision of the Government articulated in the address of the President of India at the joint session of parliament on 9th June 2014: "We must not tolerate the indignity of homes without toilets and public spaces littered with garbage. For ensuring hygiene waste management and sanitation across the nation, a "Swachh Bharat Mission" will be launched. This will be our tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary to be celebrated in the year 2019".



By inviting people to participate in the drive, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has turned into a National Movement. With citizens now becoming active participants in cleanliness activity across the nation, the dream of a 'Clean India' once seen by Mahatma Gandhi has begun to take shape.

Swachh Bharat mission in urban areas is focused on building individual toilets, community toilets and solid waste management. In rural areas, the emphasis is on behavioral change intervention including interpersonal communication, strengthening implementation and delivery mechanisms and giving states flexibility to design delivery mechanisms that take into account local cultures, practices, sensibilities and demands.

The designs on the stamp and miniature sheet are based on the three best entries submitted by Ms. Binita Biswajeeta, Ms. Sanjula S. and Ms. Arushi Aggarwal.

Theme: India, Environment change, culture change, ecology

CENTRAL WATER AND POWER RESEARCH STATION

04.10.16

500

0.41mill

Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) Pune is an apex Research and Development institution in the field of hydraulics and allied research in the water and power sector. CWPRS was set up initially as a "Special Irrigation District" in 1916 by the then Bombay presidency in recognition of the need for laboratory studies / investigations on hydraulic issues associated with irrigation, such as water logging and salt efflorescence, as well as with river and canals. It has continued to serve, for

100 year now, by catering to the research and development needs for evolving safe and economical planning and design of water resources structures, river engineering, hydropower generation, and coastal engineering projects.



CWPRS provides specialized services through physical/mathematical model studies and field / laboratory investigations in river training and flood control, hydraulic structures, ports and harbours, coastal protection, foundation engineering, construction material, pumps and turbines, ship hydrodynamics, hydraulic design of bridges, environmental studies, earth sciences, thermal and nuclear power cooling water intakes, etc.

Considering its highly competent scientific manpower and excellent infrastructure, CWPRS has been recognized as the Regional Laboratory of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP or ESCAP) since 1971.

Commensurate with the past achievements, CWPRS has a great vision to be a world-class centre of excellence in hydraulic engineering research and allied areas; which is responsive to changing global scenario.

Theme: Water, Research, Health, Hygiene, Hydraulics.

INDUCTION OF C-130

06.10.16

500

0.40mill

The Indian Air Force's C-130J Super Hercules is an Advanced Mobility Special Operations Platform with maximum payload capacity of 20 Tonnes. The IAF inducted this aircraft in January 2011 and it is ideally suited to India's mission environment which often involves operation from Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) located at high elevations under adverse weather conditions.



The super Hercules is a versatile platform and is equipped with state of the art avionics, navigation and advanced defensive suite. Modern electro-optical infra-red pod, glass cockpit, head-up displays, in-flight refueling probe, enhanced cargo handling system and external fuel tanks are an integral part of this aircraft. It has a unique feature of automated formation flight wherein 36 aircraft can be flown in formation with Station Keeping Equipment. The aircraft offers fully automated independent precision approach under dark night conditions with support of Night Vision Devices.

The aircraft created history on 20 August 2013 when it landed at Daulat Beg Oldie, a strategically placed Advanced Landing Ground. This landing with high all-up weight at an elevation of 16614 ft above mean sea level made an entry into 'Limca Book of World Records' as 'Heaviest Aircraft to Land at the Highest Airfield'.

Since induction, C-130J has been employed as one of the main aircraft for the IAF transport operations. In 2013, as floods wreaked havoc in Uttarakhand, the aircraft was extensively utilized in disaster relief operations termed Operation Rahat.

In 2015, the IAF used the Super Hercules to airlift necessary recovery equipment to Kathmandu. This was in the wake of the crash landing of a Turkish Airlines which left the busy Kathmandu runway unusable by any other aircraft. Barely a month Later, when a devastating earthquake struck Nepal, India was the first country to send it's C-130J for rescue operations.

Theme : Armed Forces, Indian Air Force, Aviation, Defense, Disasters & Reliefs.

SERIES 1: NEAR THREATENED BIRDS

17.10.16 500,1000,1500,2000 0.30mill each

Birds are found all over the world – Antarctic and Arctic to Deserts and Kalahari, Tropical South America and Africa to Himalayan forest and pelagic islands. In India, there are around 1200 species of birds, Birds are Warm blooded animal – body covered with feather- which can fly, swim, walk- and lay eggs.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) issues a Red List, in which it categorizes species into nine different categories on the basis of rate of decline in population size, area of geographic distribution, and degree of population and distribution. One such Category of Birds is "Near Threatened" (NT), wherein the birds which are likely to become endangered in the near future are listed.



Nicobar Pigeon /caloenas nicobarica (Linnaeus 1758):

This species is classified as Near Threatened because throughout its wide range it is thought to be declining as a result of capture for food and trade, habitat destruction and predation by mammals. It is the only living member of the genus Caloenas. The global population size has not been quantified, but the species is described as generally scarce to rare.

Black-and-orange Flycatcher/Ficedula nigrorufa (Jerdon, 1839):

This species occupies a moderately small range, within which a number of potential threats are emerging. It is currently considered Near Threatened as a result, but continued monitoring of the population and threats to it is necessary. It is an endemic resident in the western Ghats of southern India, where it is locally common.

Nilgiri Flycatcher/Eumyias albicaudatus (Jerdon, 1840):

This species is listed as Near Threatened because it occupies a moderately small, fragmented range, and is likely to be experiencing a continuing decline owing to a number of emerging threats associated with human population increase. This is an endemic resident in the Western Ghats of southern India, where it can be common in the habitat.

Andaman Woodpecker/Dryocopus hodgei (Blyth 1860):

This species has also a small range, in which it is likely to be affected by habitat loss and degradation. However, its population is not regarded as severely fragmented, or restricted to a few locations. It is therefore considered Near Threatened, and should be carefully monitored. It is endemic to the Andaman islands, India, where it is a common resident.

Theme : Birds, Flora & fauna, Feathered friends, Aviation.

VARANASI CITY

24.10.16 500 0.30mill

Banaras as most commonly called was officially renamed in 1956 as Varanasi, a name given to the city by adding the names of two holy rivers "Varna" and "Asi" which meet the river Ganges within 6 miles. This great north Indian center of



Shiva worship has seen the progress of human civilization since very ancient time. Because of this the city is considered as the cultural and religious capital of India. The city is considered as one of the seven Holy Cities, one of the twelve Jyotir Linga sites and also a Shakti Pitha site, and therefore is the most favored place for Hindus. Gautama Buddha and Mahavira, Kabir and Tulsi Das, Shankaracharya, Ramanuja and Patanjali all meditated here.

Holiest of cities to Hindus and earthly abode of Lord Shiva, Banaras is considered as a beacon for pilgrims who come to bathe in the sacred Ganga River. The Ghats in Varanasi are world - renowned embankment made in steps of stone slabs along the river bank where pilgrims perform ritual ablutions. The city on the whole has around 100

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HARYANA

01.11.16

500

0.51mill

While Haryana was carved as a separate political entity of the Indian Union on November 1, 1966, the state has been the crowning jewel of the 'Land of Gods' since times immemorial. The golden history of the state is established by an inscription from Vikram Samvat 1384. The inscription reads as 'Deshosti Haryanakhya Prithvyam Swargannibha' meaning 'there is a State named Haryana, which is akin to heaven on Earth'. This is where the Vedas and Upanishads were scripted on the banks of Saraswati river and Lord Krishna delivered the celestial message of the Bhagavad Gita.



Haryana has played a significant role in shaping the history of India between the arrival of muslim rulers and the emergence of Delhi as the royal capital. Following this, Haryana supported Delhi and remained in the background till the first struggle for freedom in 1857. People of the region played a leading role in the Revolt of the soldiers. The rulers of kingdoms and farmers fought many battles against the British.

Today, Haryana is not only one of the "Fast developing States" of the Indian Union, but is also a trendsetter. Every tenth soldier in the Armed Forces is from Haryana.

Haryana has earned the tag of 'Champion State' in the field of sports by participating and winning medals in international events such as Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and the Olympics. The emergence and development of Gurgaon, which adjoins the National Capital New Delhi, as a global destination, has made Haryana a truly 'Happening State'.

Now Haryana is completing 50 years of its glorious journey on November 1, 2016. It has been decided to hold year-long Swarna Jayanti.

Theme: India, States, Geography, 50th Anniversary, Haryana.

PICNIC

14.11.16

1500,1500

0.21 mill each

Picnics, tours, trips and excursions are part and parcel of our life. They provide us complete opportunities to study the book of Nature as Shakespeare says. "Picnic" conjures up a picture of freedom from our daily routine.

The Oxford English Dictionary says that the word "picnic" originally referred to fashionable social entertainment in which each person contributed a share of the provisions, and says that the first recorded use of

bathing and burning Ghats, of which Manikarnika ghat is the most sacred. Varanasi is known for having around 23000 temples and the most popular ones are the Kasi Viswanath temple of Shiva (also known as Golden temple); One of the 12 Jyotirlinga Shiva temples, the Sankat Mochan Hanuman Temple; the most sacred temples of the Hindu God Hanuman.

The City is known throughout India for its production of very fine silk and Banaras saris, brocades with gold and silver thread work, which are often used for wedding and special occasions.

Today, a crowded, bustling and noisy city, Varanasi was in antiquity an area of gently rolling hills, lush forests, and natural springs bordered by the magical waters of river Ganges.

Theme: Heritage, Hinduism, Cities of India, Tourism.

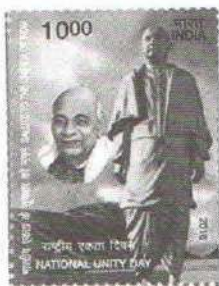
NATIONAL UNITY DAY - SALUTE TO THE UNIFIER OF INDIA

31.10.16

1000

0.41mill

National Unity day (also known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is celebrated on 31st of October, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. National Unity Day was introduced by the Government of India in 2014 with the aim of paying tribute on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who was instrumental in keeping the nation unified.



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the "Iron Man of India" was the first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of the country. He was born on 31st October, 1875, in a small village in Vadiad, Gujarat.

Inspired by the work and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel joined India's struggle for independence. He was one of the important social and political leaders of India who played an important role in India's struggle for freedom. He was elected as Congress President in 1931.

His strength of character, sharpness of his mind, organizing skills, and energy were instrumental in achieving the freedom of India. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel worked hard to make India as Union of India (Ek Bharat). His dedication towards the national integration was completely uncompromising in order to make a liberated united country. Because of his dedication towards the unity, his political wisdom and foresight, he was able to integrate more than 560 independent princely states between 1947 to 1949. For his services to the nation Sardar Patel was conferred with Bharat Ratna in 1991.

Theme: Indian Integration, Personality, Freedom struggle. Princely states.

"picnic" in English appears in 1748 in a letter from Lord Chesterfield to his son, in the sense of an assembly or social gathering.

In the arts and literature, picnics tend to be more concerned with place, action, and figurative meanings and Oliver Goldsmith, whom Georgina Battiscombe (English Picnics, 1949) credits with describing the first picnic in English literature in The Vicar of



Wakefield (1766) provides these bare bones: "Our family dined in the field, and we sat, or rather, reclined round a temperate repast, our cloth spread upon the hay."

In London, the so-called Picnic Society (1820) was a short-lived elite social club organized for entertainment. But a decade later "picnic" is used only in the sense of a meal eaten outdoors. However, the idea of picnic is universal, and finds expression in different languages across the world.

Picnics are often family – oriented or a large get-together such as company picnics, etc. They refresh our tired nerves. Picnics give students a temporary relief from their studies.

Picnic is inseparable from nature, and preserving our ecosystem is critical to preserve the tradition of outdoor eating, playing or any other activity, especially if it involves children.

The department of posts organized a nation-wide competition inviting entries for designing the Commemorative postage Stamps, Miniature Sheet, First Day Cover and Brochure on the theme "Picnic".

Theme: Children, Childrens day, Tourism, Relaxation.

THIRD BATTALION THE GARHWAL RIFLES

19.11.16 500 0.40mill

3 Garhwal rifles was raised at Lansdowne by Lieutenant Colonel JMT Hogg on 20 August 1916 and was christened as 3rd Battalion 39th Garhwal Rifles. Soon after raising, the battalion participated in the Third Afghan War in 1919. The services of the battalion were recognised by the grant of the Indian General Service Medal 1908 with Claps, on 01 October 1921.



In 1940, during the Second World War the battalion fought gallantly in the famous battle of Gallabat and earned one of the first victories of the war for the allied forces.

During 1948, fighting to defend the frontiers of

independent India at Tithwal, the battalion was awarded one Mahavir Chakra (awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Kaman Singh Pathania, the Commanding Officer). The battalion was honoured with battle honour of 'Tithwal' and Theatre Honour of 'Jammu & Kashmir'.

The battalion also has the unique distinction of being party of the first ever overseas contingent of the Indian Army (post independence), wherein it was employed in Korea during 1953-54.

The rich legacy of the battalion since its raising has always been fuelling pride and quest for excellence in all ranks of the battalion as they march on towards greater heights of glory and success.

Theme: Armed forces, military, defense

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS)

03.12.16 500 0.41mill

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) today symbolizes many things to many people. It is the apex medical sciences university of India for thousands of students for whom a degree from AIIMS represents a Himalayan achievement in academics.



The founding fathers of AIIMS envisaged an inclusive institution that represented a synthesis of medical excellence with compassion and care to serve India's poorest of the poor. The spirit of the AIIMS Act and the AIIMS Regulations have enabled sustained growth of excellence in the Institute.

The early years of AIIMS were dominated by the towering personality of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. As President of AIIMS from 1957 to 1964 she was ably assisted by Dr B. B. Dixit, Director AIIMS.

AIIMS has always been an institute for high meritocracy. The geographical spread of students was initially from the Delhi and nearby areas but over the decades the Institute has been attracting students from across the length and breadth of the country.

With its 9 centres and 52 teaching departments, and manpower of over 10,000 including more than 800 faculty positions; AIIMS, Delhi produces a large number of specialists (MD/MS), super-specialists (DM/MCh), and PhDs.

During the year 2015-2016, the Institute attended to about 30 lakh outpatients and 2.5 lakh inpatients and performed close to 1.5 lakh surgical procedures.

AIIMS is in the process of expanding AIIMS Trauma Centre, Surgical Block, Mother and Child Block and OPD

Block. The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for setting up of National Cancer Institute (NCI) at Jhajjar under AIIMS at a cost of Rs. 2035 crores.

Theme : Health care, Medicine, Hospitals, Medical Institutions.

EXOTIC BIRDS

05.12.16 500(2)1000(2)1500(2) 0.2 mill each

One of the most popular birds, parrots are loved and adored by young and the old alike. Extensively appearing in popular folk and other literary traditions parrots are a favourite among poets, bards and singers and even in painting. They have an association with portrayal of beauty and romance. Parrots are widely illustrated in folk arts such as Madhubani Paintings.

- i) Blue throated Macaw / Ara glaucogularis
- (ii) Cape Parrot / Poicephalus robustus
- (iii) Hyacinth Macaw/ Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus
- (v) Sun Conure / Aratinga solstitialis
- (vi) Yellow-headed Amazon / Amazona oratrix

The popularity of parrots as pets continues to fuel trade and trapping of wild birds which have nearly driven this species to extinction in the wild. It is reported that their wild population has declined from 70,000 to 7,000 in the past two decades alone.

Theme : Birds, Flora & Fauna, Feathered friends, Parrots, Talking birds.

AKSHARDHAM TEMPLE, NEW DELHI AND PRAMUKH SWAMI MAHARAJ

07.12.76 500,1500 0.35mill each

The Swaminarayan Akshardham in New Delhi is a breathtaking Cultural Complex capturing the Indian culture and heritage of India in all its grandeur and beauty. Inaugurated in November 2005, it has been visited by millions of visitors from across the globe. The complex is situated on the banks of the Yamuna River in the heart of the Indian Capital. It is a place of education, entertainment and enlightenment. It is dedicated to Bhagwan Swaminarayan and houses the Akshardham Mandir; three exhibition halls; a colorful water and laser spectacular show; a garden dedicated to the agrarian beauty of India.



The parrots are a broad order of more than 350 birds. Macaws, Amazons, lorikeets, lovebirds, cockatoos and many others, are all considered parrots. Though there is great diversity among these birds, there are similarities as well. All parrots have curved beaks and all are zygodactyls, meaning they have four toes on each foot, two pointing forward and two projecting backward. Most parrots eat fruit, flowers, buds, nuts, seeds, and some small creatures such as insects. Parrots are found in warm climates all over most of the world. The greatest diversities exist in Australasia, Central America, and South America.

Many parrots are kept as pets, especially macaws, amazon parrots, parakeets, and cockatoos. These birds have been popular companions throughout history because they are considered to be intelligent, charismatic, colorful, and musical. Some birds are said to imitate many nonavian sounds, including human speech.

Akshardham Mandir is 141' high, 316' wide and 356' long - is a marvel in marble and pink sandstone.

The Organisation behind the creation and construction of Akshardham is BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha and Pramukh Swami Maharaj who steered the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha as its President over the last seven decades.

Pramukh Swami Maharaj or Shantilal Patel was born on December 7, 1921, in a farmer's family in Chansad near Vadodara in Gujarat.

As a young ascetic Pramukh Swami Maharaj, or Sadhu Narayanswarupdas studied Sanskrit and Hindi Scriptures at Bhadaran and Khambhat, eventually earning the title "Shastri".

He passed away on 13th August, 2016 in Sarangpur, Botad District Gujarat.

Theme : Religion, Hinduism, Se-tenent, sages & sadhus

ACHARYA VIMAL SAGAR

14.12.16 500 0.403mill

Acharya Vimal Sagar was born on 18th of September 1916 at Kosma, a small village in the district Etah of Uttar Pradesh. His father Shri Biharilal Ji and mother Smt. Katori Devi were religious persons. The new-born in the family was called Nemichandra and got his early schooling in the famous Morena Sanskrit Vidyalaya in UP.



Young Nemichandra was transformed in the new form of Kshullak 105 Shree Vrishabhsagar Muniraj in the holy teerth of Badwani (MP.) by his Guru Acharya Shree 108 Mahaveerkeerti Jee Muniraj in the year 1950. The position of Acharya was bestowed upon him in Tundla on 5th November, 1960.

Jain Monks and nuns remain under a vow of moving on foot all their life. In his lifetime Acharya Vimal Sagar Jee covered more than 50,000 km across the country-preaching Ahimsa, Aparigrah and Anekant- the only ways to world peace.

Acharya Vimal Sagar authored many books. His Siddhchakara Vidhan in Sanskrit, Jinsahasnam Stotra, and other works are treasures for common men and women.

Acharya Shree Vimal Sagar Jee attained his Samadhi on 29th December, 1994 at Teerthadiraj Sammedshikar Jee, Dist- Girdih in Jharkhand.

Theme : Religion, Hinduism, Sages & Sadhus, Personality, Jainism.

SAMRAT VIKRAMADITTYA

22.12.16 500 0.403mill

Vikramaditya is considered as a legendary emperor of ancient India who established the "Vikram Samvat" or the Vikram Calendar in 57 B.C. The name Vikramaditya means the "Sun of Valour" the one who is as powerful as Sun. As per the popular tradition, Vikramaditya is stated to have ruled Ujjaini for a long period. Vikram Samvat along with Saka Samvat is used in India along with the Gregorian Calendar. It is also used in Nepal as the official calendar. In the Hindi version of the Preamble of Constitution of India, the date of adoption of the Constitution, 26 November 1949, is presented in Vikram Samvat.



.According to the Kathasaritsagara, Vikramaditya was the son of Ujjain's King Mahendraditya of the Paramara dynasty. The subject matter of Kathasaritsagara is based upon the matter of Brihatkathamajari that was originally based on the non-available 'Vadd Kaha' by Gunnaddhya.

Many historians believe that Vikramaditya might be the title adopted by a later king who renamed the era after himself. Though there seems to be a number of historical or legendary characters of the name of Vikramaditya, the Vikram Samvat that was started in 57 B.C. is certainly an invaluable legacy and a symbol of the astronomical and horelogical heritage of our country.

Theme : Kings & Queens, History, Heritage, personality, Astronomy, Calendars.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

23.12.16 100,2000 M/s 0.1 mill

The exchange of greetings amongst friends has been recorded from ancient times. Different countries and cultures have adopted their own unique ways to express affection, goodwill, gratitude and other sentiments during festivals.



The tradition of sending good wishes at the start of the New Year goes back many centuries, probably beginning with the Chinese and Egyptians who exchanged goodwill messages to ward off evil spirits. Sending them in the form of something written was a Roman tradition of the New Year. Gifts or greetings were sent on December 25th to ensure they arrived by January 1st.

The festival of Christmas is celebrated with extreme joy and enthusiasm. Though there are no historical records to tell that Jesus Christ was born on 25th December, people have started celebrating his birth on this day.

With time the technology has extended the reach of human, providing several means of conveying Greetings. The charm of receiving the greetings with the beautiful stamps embellishing the envelopes is incomparable. It conveys to the recipient the extra effort and care that have gone into it to send the wishes.

The colourful stamps on Season's greetings this year have been designed to celebrate the legend of Santa Claus and to evoke the sense of pleasantness and happiness associated with it.

Theme :Greetings, Christianity, Christmas.

PERSONALITY SERIES: BIHAR

26.12.16 500x8 0.2mill each

DR. SACHCHIDANANDA SINHA (November 10.1871 - March 6,1950) He was born in Arrah, in Bihar studied Law in London, a Barrister. He launched the movement for a separate Bihar, in the year 1891-92. His dream came true in 1911 when Bihar and Orissa came into existence as provinces separate from Bengal at the famous Delhi Durbar.



He was a member of the Imperial Legislative Council from 1910 to 1920 and the Indian Legislative Assembly. He was Deputy President of the Assembly in 1921.

KARPOORI THAKUR (1920 - 1988), was born in Samastipur District of Bihar. As a student activist, he joined the Quit India Movement and spent 26 months in prison. Shri Thakur served as the Chief Minister of Bihar from December 1970 to June 1971, and then from December 1977 to April 1979. He served as the President of Samyukta Socialist Party.



DASHRATH MANJHI (1934 - 17 August 2007), also known as "Mountain Man", was a poor labourer in Gehlaur village, near Gaya in Bihar, India, who carved a path through a 360 ft long, 30 ft wide and 25 ft high hillock using only a hammer and chisel. After 22 years of work, Dashrath shortened travel between the Atri and Wazirganj blocks of Gaya town from 55km to 15km.



VIDYAPATI (1352 - 1448) was a Maithili poet and a Sanskrit writer. He was born in the village Bisfi in Madhubani district of Mithila Region of India. He is known for his works in Sanskrit and erotic poetry written in Maithili Language. Vidyapati died in the Janakpur area of Mithila Region of Nepal while in exile.



KAILASHPATI MISHRA (5 October 1923 - 3 November 2012) He was a leader of the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), a former Governor of Gujarat, and for a short duration, Governor of Rajasthan. He was born in

Dudharchak, Buxar, in Bihar, into a Bhumihaar family. He was affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh from 1944 onwards, and was jailed after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. He served as Finance Minister in the government of Bihar. In 1980, he became the first Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) Bihar president. Shri Kailashpati Mishra died on 3 November 2012 in Patna, Bihar.



KUNWAR SINGH (1777-1858) belonged to a royal Ujjaini house of Jagdishpur currently a part of Bhojpur district of Bihar. He is known as one of the most important freedom fighters who led the Indian Rebellion of 1857 in Bihar. Kunwar Singh assumed command of the soldiers who had revolted at Danapur on 5th July 1857. In his last battle, fought on 23 April 1858, near Jagdishpur, the troops under the control of the East India Company were completely routed. He returned to his palace on 23 April 1858 and died soon after on 26 April 1858.



PHANISHWAR NATH RENU Popularly known as Renu, he not only one of the great Hindi writers but also a freedom fighter, memoirist, an active political and social activist. Phanishwar Nath 'Renu' was born on 4th March 1921, at small village of Purnea district (Now Araria district) in state of Bihar. He did his Matriculation from Nepal and gained higher education from Banaras Hindu University. In 1942 he left his studies and took part in the Indian Freedom Struggle. He also spent three-year rigorous imprisonment in Bhagalpur Jail.



His first novel "Mails Anchal" was published in 1954, which is considered a masterpiece of Hindi literature.

SRI KRISHNA SINHA was born on 21st October, 1887 in Khanwa, Bihar. He received his early education from Zilla School in Monghyr. After obtaining Law Degree from Patna University, he started legal practise at Munger in 1915. He left his legal practice in 1921 to take active part in Mahatma Gandhi's non co-operation movement. As his fame spread around Bihar, people began calling him 'Bihar Kesari'. He was arrested and imprisoned in 1922 by the British Government. He was released after eight years and played an important role in 'Namak Satyagrah' at Garhpura. Impressed by this courage of Dr. Sinha,



Mahatma Gandhi in 1940 called the first Satyagrahi of Bihar". In 1946, Sri Krishna Sinha was elected as the Chief Minister of Bihar and he served till 1961. He passed away on 31st January 1961.

Theme : Personality, Leader, Bihar, Freedom Fighters.

DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA

29.12.16

1000

0.31mill

Deendayal Upadhyaya was born on September 25, 1916, in the village of Dhankia in Rajasthan. Deendayal lost his father, Bhagwati Prasad, when he was less than three years old, and his mother before he was eight.

He received primary education at Kota and Rajgarh. He matriculated from Sikar. And Maharaja Kalyan gave him with a gold medal, a monthly Rs.250 towards his books, as recognition.

While studying for his graduation in Kanpur in 1937, Deendayal came into contact with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) He met the RSS founder, Dr. Hedgewar there. This inspired him to devote his life for the people. After completing his education and second-year training in the RSS Education Wing, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya became a life-long pracharak of the Sangh. He entered politics through the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, became the General Secretary of the Bharatiya Jan Sangh, and later its President. His life was thus an embodiment through political thought process.

After Dr. Mookerjee's death in 1953, the entire burden of nurturing the organization and building it up as a nation-wide movement fell on the young shoulders of Deendayal. For 15 long years he remained the party's General Secretary. The final triumph of his statesmanship and vision was the historic session of the Party in 1967. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was active in India's political life from 1937 to 1968. On February 11, 1968 Deendayal Upadhyaya was found dead in the early hours near the Mughalsarai station while traveling in a train.

Theme : Personality, Leader, Freedom, Fighter, Politics

LEGENDARY SINGERS OF INDIA

30.12.16

500

0.30mill each

SHAMSHAD BEGUM (14 April 1919 - 23 April 2013) was a popular personality who was one of the first playback singers in the Hindi film industry. She had a distinctive voice and was a versatile artist, who sang over 6,000 songs in Hindi and the Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil and Punjabi languages.



GEETA DUTT (23 November 1930 - 20 July 1972) was a prominent singer in the Hindi film industry and sang many Bengali songs.

TALAT MAHMOOD (24 February 1924 - 9 May 1998) is considered one of the greatest male non-classical and semi-classical singers of the country.

MOHAMMED RAFI (24 December 1924 - 31 July 1980) He was notable for his versatility including classical numbers, patriotic songs, sad lamentations, highly romantic numbers, qawwalis, ghazals and bhajans.

MUKESH (22 July 1923 - 27 August 1976) is known for his rendition of soulful and melodious songs. Mukesh Chand Mathur, popularly known as Mukesh created his own singing style.

MANNA DEY (1 May 1919-24 October 2013), started his career in playback singing with the film Tamanna in 1942. Manna sang film songs which were a fusion of Indian classical music and pop music.

KISHORE KUMAR (4 August 1929 - 13 October 1987) was an Indian film playback singer, actor, lyricist, composer, producer, director, and screenwriter.

HEMANT KUMAR (16 June 1920 - 26 September 1989) a singer, composer, and producer in the Hindi and Bengali film industry. most known for his hindi film songs.

T.M. SOUNDARARAJAN (24 March 1922 - 25 May 2013), popularly known as TMS, was a playback singer in Tamil films for over six decades.

Dr. BHUPEN HAZARIKA (8 September 1926 - 5 November 2011) was a poet, music composer, singer, actor, journalist, author and film-maker of high repute born in Assam.

Theme : Music, Singers, Personality. Cinema.

(Courtesy : Information Sheets: India Post)

DELHI-THE BIGGEST SUDDER (HEAD) P.O.-1850

M.M. Inamdar, PPM (Retd)

The origin of the vast network of Indian Post office existing now can be traced to the opening of Calcutta GPO on 1-4-1774 and Madras on 1-6-1786 followed by the introduction of postal services at Bombay in 1787. The East India Company acquired political power first in Bengal which has the distinction of establishing the first public postal system in India during, the period of Warren Hastings, Governor General. Originally the control of Calcutta GPO extended to the whole North India including Delhi region.

The opening of Delhi PO can be traced to the list of POs in Bengal in 1800 vide PO Manual 1854 in which the name of Delhie (as spelt then) appears. This provides a recorded proof of existence of Delhi PO by 1800. But the list of POs as on 21-11-1784 vide PO Manual 1854 does not show Delhi in it. So it is quite reasonable to assume that Delhi might have been opened between 1784 and 1800. The charges for a single letter to Calcutta on opening was Re. 1-0-0 According to Bombay Gazette 1830 the charges for a single letter to Bombay was Re. 100. Fort St. George Gazette of 1837 shows that the charge for single letter, to Delhi was Rs. 1.0.0 and Rs. 3.0.0 for a parcel of 50 Rupees weight. According to Calcutta Gazette dt. 24-8-1839 the charge for a single letter to Delhi was Rs. 0-5-0.

The distance of Delhi from Calcutta as per the table of Polyemetric distance was 900 miles. In 1839 NWP Circle was formed (This is referred, to as Agra Presidency in Gazette) and Delhi was included in it.

In 1846 bullock cart mail was introduced from Calcutta to Delhi via Allahabad. This is recorded as the first Mail Cart of India in Guinness book of Superlatives. But actually the first mail cart was introduced from Panvel to Poona in 1830 vide Page 161 | Bombay Gazetteer Bombay and Inland 1809. The cart mail was extended to Ludhiana by 1855 and later extended to Peshawar. According to Bombay Gazette 1855 (Page 1782) Bullock cart train was introduced from Delhi-Lahore-Multan. Thus Delhi, provided an important link for POs in North-west region.

By 1856 there was cart mail from Delhi to Bombay. One Mr. Taylor a journalist from America who visited India in 1858 has given a vivid description of his journey from Delhi to Bombay. He has stated that a BAGHY cart was running from Delhi to Indore. It was a square springless horse BAUGHY accommodating two people and fare for passengers was 0-4-0 per mile. At Indore he changed to a similar mail cart which had a greater speed upto 8-10 miles. During those days the postal Dept. was not only in charge of communication but also of transport and passengers were accommodated in mail carts on payment of charges. Delhi was important enough to have direct cart mail communication with both Calcutta and Bombay.

By about 1850 the POs were categorised as Sudder and Subordinate Offices according to their importance and volume of work. In the Appendix of PO Manual 1854 published by Bengal Military orphan press, Calcutta, the list

of Sudder and Subordinate POs in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and NWP in 1853 had been published. According to it Delhi was a Sudder PO with the following 18 subordinate Pos under its control.

Bagput, Beeree, Bhawnee, Buronde, Dadree, Ferozepore (Goorgaon), Furrukhnugger, Goorgaon, Jalalabad, Jhurjhur, Kanonde, Noh, Pulwal, Rewaree, Rohtuck, Sonah, Soonput, Narnaul.

A perusal of the list of Sudder POs goes to show that Delhi was the biggest Sudder PO in India. Even the Presidency POs of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay did not have so many subordinate POs under them.

This throws light on the philatelic history of Delhi region.

The Sudder POs were on the same footing as Disbursing POs constituted after 1854. According to PO Manual 1858 PMs of Sudder POs were of the same grade as Inspecting Postmasters, created after 1854. Unpaid articles of Subordinate POs were routed through Sudder Offices and their accounts were incorporated in Sudder POs which formed units of Account submitting cash Account to PMG in prescribed forms. PM of Sudder Office could suspend and punish officials less than 40 Rs. pay and during those days about three-fourths of the staff was drawing pay less than Rs. 40/-.

On introduction of Railway, through Rail Link from Calcutta was provided on completion of Jumna bridge in 1866 vide Page 13 "Indian Railways 100 years" published by Railway Ministry 1953. This facilitated extension of TPO system to Delhi from Etawa where a Frontier TPO section was functioning.

The foregoing speaks volumes for the importance of Delhi in the 19th century though it was not A capital. Thus it may be seen that the philatelic history of Delhi PO is as interesting as its political history.

(Courtesy : Signet, Oct - Dec 1988)

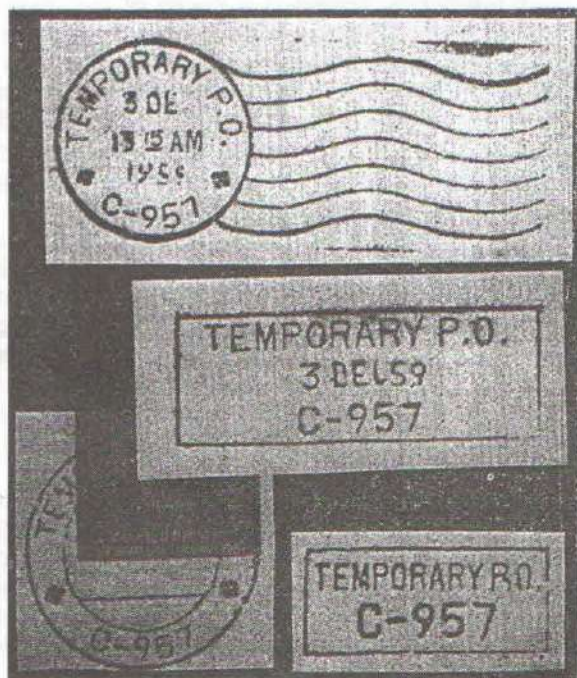
THE POST IN THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

G. J. RAYMOND

In the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, the archipelago known as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is little-known by the Western world. Formerly attached administratively to Burma, they are now an integral part of the India Union, which, through colonisation and resettlement programmes, is rapidly removing the stigma attached to these former prison islands. The 222 islands now support a population of about 33,000 people, of numerous faiths and languages. Interested readers are referred to a quite comprehensive, although small, official handbook, The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1957), available from The Publications Division, Ministry of Information, Delhi 8, India at Is.6d.

The islands have a postal history rather more extensive than one might suspect. There has been a post office at the chief settlement, Port Blair (Andamans), since about 1858, when the first boatload of prisoners arrived. The interesting variety of World War II postal markings of Port Blair have been illustrated and reported elsewhere in considerable detail, and will not be repeated here. However, some mention should be made of the Japanese-occupation period 1942-45, when Indian stamps were used with large numeral overprints, in cents. According to O. W. Newport; they were :—.3 " on 1937 ½ -anna ; ".5 " on 1 anna ; ".10" on la.3p. Official ; ".20" on 3p. Official ; and ".5 " on a 1½ anna embossed envelope. Genuine examples rank among the rarest of Japanese-occupation issues. The only recorded postmark of this period is in the world-famed Robert M. Spaulding, Jnr. collection on a Japanese slampless cover. It shows a large double-circle (31 mm.-26 mm.) inscribed port blair in very large English letters. The date is in one line across the centre, with year-date in letters much smaller than the day and month. His example is dated 6 APo3, the o3 being here the abbreviation for 2603 (1943). As he has found no example or record of any comparable pre-war Port Blair date-stamp, it would seem the whole date-stamp, despite English wording, is of Japanese manufacture, not just the "o3".

A letter from Mr. Spaulding, recently returned to the U.S.A. from long service as a U.S. Government official in Japan, and an officer of the International Society for Japanese Philately to the author, several interesting points are dealt with. The relevant portions of the letter are quoted:-



An interesting question arises regarding what business the Japanese post office at Port Blair actually transacted. With little or no native literacy then, Port Blair was never a bustling post office even in pre-war days, and with contact with India cut off, and Japanese military personnel having free mailing privileges, it is not easy to

see who would have used the postal facilities during the Japanese occupation. The very, very few cancelled items known to exist are probably souvenirs rather than postally-necessary covers.

The Japanese occupied the islands around the end of March, 1942. According to my information, the 42nd Gun-Yo Yubin-sho (Army post office) in Rangoon was moved to Port Blair about July 1943, and a branch office No. 2 opened somewhere in the Nicobars. Branch office No. 1 remained in Rangoon. Military mail went without stamps. Japanese lacking the military mail privilege (businessmen, bankers, some reporters, etc.) had to use stamps, of course, but I have been told by Japanese who were in the islands during the war that such mail (bearing ordinary unoverprinted Japanese stamps) was taken uncanceled back to the Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, and postmarked there, for normal security reasons!

The civil post office in Port Blair was re-opened by the Japanese, date unknown. A Japanese who visited it in 1943 reported that there was a postmaster, two clerks, and two carriers, who made deliveries once or twice a day, rarely having more than five or six letters and cards, occasionally a parcel or two. Postal savings accounts were handled also, but no such material surviving has been reported. Postage rates were 5 sen for letters (to 20 grams), 3 sen for cards-i.e., the Japanese domestic rates.

Five Japanese stamps are said to have been available : - the 1 sen, Harvesting; 3 sen, Hydro-electric Plant; 5 sen, Togo ; 25 sen, Horyu-ji, and 50-sen, Golden Pavilion. With regard to the overprinted stamps of India, Mr. Newport's list lacks the following known issues:

.30 in black on 1941 K.G.VI 6 annas turquoise.
.3 in black on K.G.VI 9 pies green postcard.

.20 in red (vermillion) on K.G.VI SERVICE 3 pies deep slate: (The overprint colour was changed to red because of the darkness of the stamp.)

.5 in black on K.G.VI 1 anna bright rose-red booklets, each containing four panes of four stamps each ; I have seen only a photograph of a single (which shows trimming of perfs. at left) and the cover of the booklet, which has the Japanese characters "Zantei" (Provisional) handwritten in ink on the north-east corner.

.10 in black on K.G.V 2 anna purple booklets, four panes of four stamps each.

The denominations are in Japanese currency, sen, in the opinion of all Japanese experts. The "decimal" point which precedes all the numerals has an interesting explanation which would probably not occur to anyone not a specialist in Japanese philately. The overprinting was done with numeral slugs from Japanese cancelling devices, which show the date entirely in numerals separated by periods or "decimals". These are day numerals (since the month numerals do not go above 12, of course, and the year numerals come first and therefore have no "decimal" before them). The ""decimal" therefore has no monetary significance whatever; it is in the overprint

simply because there was no way to avoid having it there. This of course explains why the overprints ".3" and ".30" (for example), do not mean the same thing, one being 3 sen and the other 30 sen. The Post in Andaman & Nicobar Islands other 30 sen. It seems likely that the overprinting idea was derived from the Sept.-Oct. 1942 numeral overprints on Japanese stamps in Burma.

I have seen examples of the postcard with the Port Blair cancel of 1 AP 04(1944) and an added sans-serif horizontal hand-stamp reading PORT BLAIR in a single-line frame below the cancel; these are unaddressed and without message, thus clearly cancelled for souvenir purposes in the usual Japanese fashion. I have also seen a photo of an envelope (presumably O.H.M.S., since it has the British arms embossed on the flap) with the .03 on 1/2 anna stamp tied with a Port Blair postmark of 12 DE 03(1943); the photo shows only the area around the stamp, so I don't know whether it is commercially used or a souvenir item. My own cover has a local Port Blair address, but I suspect that the sender (a Japanese Navy captain), mailed it to himself as a souvenir. Incidentally, it bears one overprinted stamp (the .3 on 1/2 anna, as I recall) and one unover-printed Japanese stamp (the 5 sen Togo, as I recall). This conflicts with the usual theory that the Japanese stamps were not to be used on local mail, but then the postage rate (if I remember the .3 and 5 correctly) is exceptional. I think the cover is no doubt a souvenir one, though it does seem to be genuine in every respect. I believe all the known covers reported are of this same general type.

I obtained the address of the Japanese Officer who mailed my cover, but was unable to locate him while I was in Japan. One copy of each booklet is held in a Japanese collection (I do not know the name of the present owner). I have heard of no others. The famous Yoshida collection in Tokyo, owned by Riichi Yoshida, editor and publisher of *Kitte Shumi*, contained one copy of the postcard and the envelope until I left Japan in 1958, at which time Mr. Yoshida surpassed his innumerable previous acts of great generosity to me by insisting that I accept them as a parting gift. Needless to say, they are among my most prized possessions, along with the cover, which I acquired some years earlier in a small Tokyo auction.

Mr. Spaulding's material is still in storage from the Japan move and unfortunately is unavailable. Mr. Raymond's understanding that Mr. Spaulding's cover was an official, stampless one was erroneous.

Post-war, the Port Blair P.O. re-opened, again using ordinary Indian stamps. The current date-stamp is a small double-circle one, 26mm.-16mm., again simply PORT BLAIR, with date in one line (as, "22 VII 59"). A large 33mm. double-circle hand-cancel similarly inscribed, dated 30 AUG 55 appears on a philatelic cover posted with British stamps aboard the s.s. Maharaj. In the process the cover gained a due-marking in the usual tombstone shape: "PORT BLAIR, DUE-As."

The 1957 handbook mentions Port Blair as the Head Post Office, and several experimental offices, which it did not name, nor has any official listing been as yet

forthcoming. However, a recent commercial letter from the Andamans reached me postmarked with a large 32mm. double-circle date-stamp inscribed CHATHAM (in Hindi and English), probably one of the earlier experimental P.O.s. Chatham is an island near Port Blair with a large sawmill operation. In the Andamans there are surely now P.O.s at least at Mayabunder and Port Cornwallis (North Andaman Island), each being large towns now through the colonisation programme.

In the Nicobars, a temporary P.O. was open by mid-1959 at Nancowby Island, but efforts to obtain its postmark have been unsuccessful to date! However, in July, 1959, a letter arrived from Car Nicobar, with several types of date-stamps all reading TEMPORARY P.O. c-957. This P.O. opened at Car Nicobar on May 13th, 1959, on an experimental basis, and was due to receive permanent status about May 1960, with a new CAR NICOBAR date-stamp (not yet seen here). A small round atoll, Car Nicobar had a 1960 population of 8,374 residents, mostly natives. During the brief non-monsoon season, mails arrive once or twice monthly via Madras and Port Blair on government steamers, with an occasional "courtesy-airmail" via the Indian Air Force station on Car Nicobar. From 1945 to July, 1956, the R.A.F. operated this small airfield. According to a letter received then from an R.A.F. officer there, both forces and native mail was bagged unstamped and sent on to their supply-base at Singapore where Straits stamps were applied and cancelled at the Dempsey Road (Forces) P.O., as my cover exemplified.

That a post officer existed at Car Nicobar in 1938 is affirmed by C. J. Potts, who visited it then on official duties, and who has kindly provided a photo of the Post and Telegraphs Office. Mails were then about three times per year! No examples of this pre-war Car Nicobar postmark have been reported or known to have survived, nor is the original date of establishment known. Requests for official data, past and current, on Andamans and Nicobars posts, have consistently met as yet with utter lack of success. It is hoped that this article will attract new reports and information.

Addenda: Since the above was written, covers have arrived with further new c.d.s. A 32mm. double-circle date-stamp bears, as a single word, CARNICOBAR at bottom in English, Hindi above, with single-line date across centre. In the same size and format, another c.d.s. is inscribed NANCOWRIE B.O. across the top in English and Hindi, with NICOBAR ISLANDS around the bottom.

Port Blair is now using a new 27mm. double-circle c.d.s., PORT BLAIR at bottom in English, Hindi above. Earlier this year, it used quite an eye-catching single-circle c.d.s. with some placement of words, but further incorporating to the right a framed message: 1961 CENSUS 10 FEB 5 MARCH /GET YOURSELF COUNETD (sic!) /ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO DO THE SAME, all tightly run together. Other new postal markings undoubtedly have become available recently in the islands.

(Courtesy: Stamp Collecting, Aug, 1961).

THE WHITE RAIDER

Jean Clark's account of the exploits and fate of the
German cruiser
Emden in the Indian Ocean in World War I

THE STORY of the German cruiser Emden, nicknamed 'Swan of the East' because of her white paint, was one my father told me when I was a little girl. It fascinated me because this raider, which was the terror of shipping in the Indian Ocean over seventy years ago, might have seized the ship my father served on, had her end been a month later than it was.



S. M. S. Emden (Cocos Is. SG 24) was built in Danzig in 1908, a cruiser of 3,600 tons, 387 feet long, 44 feet wide, powered by two standing triple-expansion engines of three cylinders each, a total of twelve boilers giving a top speed of 24 knots; her economic cruising speed was 13 knots. She had ten 4.1 guns - 2 forward, 2 aft, 3 set into each side - and was equipped with torpedoes and mine-laying apparatus.

This class of ship was named after medium-sized German cities and cruisers were intended to protect the larger ships, but this was not to be the service of the Emden.

Joining the German Fleet at Kiel in 1909, the Emden was afterwards assigned to the Far East, sailing via Buenos Aires where she attended the Argentine centenary celebrations. The remainder of her journey was by way of Easter Island (Chile SG 55/6) and Pitcairn Island (SG 44), calling at Apia in Samoa (SG 181), which at that time was a German Colony, arriving at her destination Tsingtao, the port of the German colony Kiaochow in China on September 17, 1910. Tsingtao had a splendid harbour, naval base and commercial centre, constructed much like a German town with theatres, hotels, churches, railway station, plus coal and or mines.

The Emden was attached to the German Naval Squadron under the command of Admiral von Spee, which

included the heavier armed cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau (names remembered for their namesakes in World War II). Her duty was to patrol the Yangtse River, visit Chinese ports and call at German ports in the Pacific. She helped quell unrest in the new Republic of China not long after she arrived.

Given command of the Emden in May 1913 was Earl Frederich von Miiller, taking up his duties on the 29th of that month. The son of an army colonel, he attended the Military Academy before transferring to the navy as a midshipman. Promotion for an officer of Muller's capability was slow in coming, perhaps because his family did not have a naval tradition, but no officer could have served his country more efficiently.

In June 1914 von Spee took his larger ships on a three months' cruise of the South West Pacific, arranging for the smaller ships to join him later. The Emden left Tsingtao on August 8, 1914. With the declaration of war the cruise was cancelled and after all the ships had arrived at Pagan in the Marianna Islands, von Spee called his ships' captains on board the Scharnhorst. From this meeting came the decision that the Fleet would sail to the west coast of America as Chile was a neutral country, but the Emden was given the task of disrupting enemy shipping in the Indian Ocean, accompanied by the collier Markomannia.

Coaling was going to be a difficulty, with Germany having no coaling station in these parts, but as it turned out most of the coal required by the Emden came her way from captured Allied ships. On August 13 all ships sailed eastwards from Pagan and the following day the Emden went off on her way to begin terrorising the shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean.

The entry of Japan on the side of the Allies was a disappointment to the Germans, for this left them with no neutral port of call and the Japanese navy could protect British interests north of Hong Kong. The British Naval Squadron at Hong Kong was ordered to destroy von Spee's squadron but with the unexpected appearance of a raider in the Indian Ocean, the pattern had to be changed, part of the squadron having to be left to search for the Emden.

The Emden's lone career in the Indian Ocean began on September 5, 1915 after leaving the Dutch colony of Simaloer for the Bay of Bengal. The first ship to be sighted and stopped was a neutral Greek but as she was carrying coal for the British Government her cargo became contraband and she joined the Markomannia as a coal carrier. Replenishing bunkers at sea in hot weather was not pleasant, for the fuel had to be taken off in sack-loads and it was dirty, dusty work - so different from coaling at a port.

In seventy days twenty-three ships were captured by the Emden. Approaching at a distance she flew the White Ensign, but hoisted the German war flag as she neared the ship. The order of capture began with the flag signal "Stop at once; do not use wireless" and on occasions a blank shot was fired. A boarding party was sent to the captured ship where the crew were permitted to collect personal belongings before being taken to the Emden or to any accompanying coal carrier. Useful stores and coal were transferred before the captured ship was sunk if useless to the Emden.

From time to time captured crews were transferred to neutral ships and taken to friendly ports. Muller was admired not only by his own crew but also by all those he had captured - because of the good treatment they received. A lone horse on one of the ships was shot before the ship was sunk - mercy shown for a dumb animal. Muller spent most of the time on the bridge at quiet periods, studying charts, etc., to improve his knowledge of the hostile sea thoroughness which paid off.

Allied merchant ships were advised to avoid the usual shipping lanes and so, with a shortage of prey on the sea, Muller decided on a daring RAID ON MADRAS WHERE THE BURMA OIL CO. HAD OIL TANKS. In addition to the usual flag deception, a dummy funnel was added to the ship to make her appear British. (All the German ships had three funnels, the British had four). Once the 'war flag' was hoisted on September 22, action was taken to destroy the oil tanks, the angle of fire being made with the hope that few if any lives would be lost. Millions of gallons of oil were destroyed and five lives lost near the tanks.

A more daring raid took place on October 28, when the Emden sailed towards Penang and by torpedoes sank ships anchored there. Boats were lowered to pick up survivors and the wounded were treated by the Emden's doctor.

With all these happenings the question was "Where are the Allied ships?" and even Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, asked: "What were our ships doing?"

They were doing their best - "seeking her here and seeking her there" - but luck stayed with the Emden. The mist appeared when she needed it, she took refuge in the Maldiv Islands and she had broken the wireless code signals of most allied ships. H.M.S. Hampshire, which was her main hunter, had to have her code changed.

When a large convoy of ships with Australian and New Zealand troops was to sail for Colombo in November 1915 a net had to be spread to catch the Emden and the ships given maximum protection. These included H.M.S. Minotaur, H.M.A.S. Melbourne, H.M.A.S. Sydney (Cocos Is. SG 23) plus several others,, while more were sent in search of the Emden.

It had been anticipated that an attempt might be made to capture the Cocos Islands and so the cable station at Direction Island was alerted and instructed to give immediate warning in the event of a surprise attack. As it turned out this was to prove a most important decision.

A twenty-four hour delay in the Emden having a rendezvous with her collier Buresk (the Markomannia was sunk by H.M.S. Yarmouth in October) was going to prove costly. With her four funnels the Emden made for Direction Island where conditions for coaling were perfect. However a message was transmitted from the island "Strange ship at entrance" followed by "S.O.S. - Emden here" before the mast was blown down by the Emden. These messages were picked up by the vessels protecting the convoy and H.M.A.S. Sydney was detailed to sail towards Cocos. This light cruiser of 5,600 tons, built in 1913, had a speed of 26 knots and was armed with eight 6-inch guns.

On arrival at Cocos on November 9, fifty men from the Emden were sent ashore with orders to destroy the cable station and seize any codes, etc. They had expected to be only a short time on the island before rejoining their ship, but they got a surprise when Muller signalled to the shore party to hurry up the work. He had discovered that smoke seen in the distance and thought to be from the collier was from a ship with several funnels - the Sydney. The men ashore were on their way back to the Emden but did not reach her; Code A had been hoisted (anchor weighed) and her engines picked up speed.

The Battle of the Cocos Islands began after the Emden left the lagoon at Direction Island. At 9.40 am, and when the Sydney was almost on a parallel course with her, the order was "Open fire". With the Sydney having the extra two knots of speed, Muller's salvoes had to be good. Some were, but not to do sufficient damage to the Sydney's strong armour. His next order was to get closer to the enemy in the hope of doing more damage, but some shells failed to explode. It was twenty minutes before the Sydney got a major hit on the Emden and from then on shot the ship to pieces, yet she stayed afloat, ceasing fire at 11.15am. As she was moving toward Direction Island, Muller ran his ship aground to save further lives.

In a message from Sydney's captain to Muller were the words "In the event of your surrender I venture to remind you it is no disgrace but rather your misfortune", and a promise to help the sick and wounded. Efforts were made by those still on the Emden to destroy her completely but her excellent construction held her together. Captain Muller and his men were taken on board the Sydney and to Colombo before being transferred to H.M.S. Hampshire - once the hunter -; then to Malta. Later Muller was taken to Britain; all were prisoners of war.

It is not surprising that the Emden, her Captain and crew are still remembered by those interested in ships and events of World War I. Even in war-time the enemy's code of conduct was of the highest and her Captain was remembered for his humanity and his gallantry as a gentleman. Charity labels issued in Weimar and showing views of the ship were inscribed 'Für die Helden der EMDEN' (for the heroes of the Emden).

The fifty men left on Direction Island took possession of a white hulled schooner Ayesha (Cocos SG 25) which was at anchor there, and made their getaway the very same day as the Battle commenced. Built in 1907, the Ayesha sailed over 1,709 nautical miles to the Dutch East Indies where the Germans transferred to one of their own ships. Holes were bored on the Ayesha and she sank - her duty completed.

Perhaps it should also be mentioned that the Buresk was also sunk. Those on board heard the battle fire and started to scuttle the ship as the Sydney arrived. The crew were taken in two lifeboats when the Sydney returned to the Cocos Islands.

(Courtesy : Gibbons Stamp Magazine 1985)

* * * * *

Commemorative Stamps - 2016

SI.No	Name - Details	Date	Values Rs.	M/s
1.	Income Tax Appellate Tribunal	24.01.2016	5	
2.	Vibrant India	25.01.2016	25	25
3.	International Fleet Review	06.02.2016	5	
4.	Vasantarao Srinivasaa Sinai Dempo	04.03.2016	5	
5.	UN - Women He for she	08.03.2016	5,25	30
6.	National Archives	11.03.2016	5	
7.	Allahabad High Court	13.03.2016	5,15	20
8.	Fire Services of India	14.04.2016	5	
9.	Govardhan Tripathi	27.04.2016	5	
10.	Swami Chidananda	21.05.2016	5	
11.	Tata Power	10.06.2016	5	
12.	Surya Namaskar	20.06.2016	6x25	180
13.	BSE	09.07.2016	5	
14.	Tadoba Andhari Park	29.07.2016	5,25	30
15.	Olympiad 2016	05.08.2016	2x5,2x15	60
16.	Orchids	08.08.2016	2x5,2x15,2x25	90
17.	Tourism in India	15.08.2016	25	25
18.	Indian Metal Crafts	28.08.2016	2x5,2x15,2x25	90
19.	Jagadguru Sri Ragendra Swamy	27.08.2016	5	
20.	Saint Teresa	04.09.2016	50	50
21.	Lady Gardinge Med Col	23.09.2016	5	
22.	Swachih Bharat	02.10.2016	5,25	30
23.	Cental Water Power Commission	17.10.2016	5,10,15,25	55
24.	Induction of C - 130J	04.10.2016	5	
25.	Birds - Near Threatened	06.10.2016	5	
26.	Varnasi City	24.10.2016	5	
27.	National Unity Day - Picnic	31.10.2016	10	
28.	Haryana 50th Auniversary	01.11.2016	5	
29.	Children's Day	14.11.2016	15x2	30
30.	III Bat. Garhwal Rifles	19.11.2016	5	
31.	AIIMS	03.12.2016	5	
32.	Exotic Birds	07.12.2016	5x2,10x2,15x2	30x2
33.	Akshardham Temple	14.12.2016	5,15	
34.	Acharya Vimal Sagar	22.12.2016	5	
35.	Samrat Vikramaditya	23.12.2016	5	
36.	Seasous Greetings	26.12.2016	10,20	30
37.	Hardayal Library	26.12.2016	5	
38.	Personalities of Bihar	26.12.2016	5x8	
39.	Deendayal Upadyaya	29.12.2016	10	
40.	Legendary Singers	30.12.2016	5x10	50