



SIPA

Bulletin

Private Circulation to Members Only

Web : www.sipa.org.in
Email : sipagold@gmail.com

Vol.36 No.3

Jul - Sep 2024

Quarterly

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EDITORIAL

"What size you want Sir? Stamp Size or Post Card Size is the common question whenever one goes to a photo studio to have a photo, Right?"

Is it not interesting to note that commercial photographic day to day products required by people have been standardised with size of basic postal items?

However, large percentage of our 2023 stamps are of size 39X57mm i.e. they are double the size of normal commemorative stamp size of 39X29mm. Why? To satisfy whom? Whose "Whim and fancy" they were?

Stamps of 2023 (representative list)

No.	Year Date of Issue	Name/Inscription	Size
1	2023	Rani Durgavati	39X57mm Vert
2	2023	Hindu College	39X57mm Vert
3	2023	Pandit Jasrat	39X57mm Horiz
4	2023	Karpoori Thakur	39X58mm Vert
5	2023	Raman Research Inst.	39X58mm Horiz
6	2023	Hemachandra Vikramaditya	39X57mm Horiz
7	2023	St. Meera Bai	40X53mm Vert
8	2023	Gauhauti High Court	40X53mm Horiz
9	2023	Base Post Office	33X58mm Horiz
10	2023	Raj Bhavan	33X58mm Horiz
11	2023	High Court of Orissa	33X58mm Horiz
12	2023	Bagavan Mahaveer	33X58mm Horiz
13	2023	Biennale 23	39X58mm Horiz
14	2023	Gen. Thimayya	47X39mm Vert
15	2023	75 Years of NDA	47X39mm Horiz
16	2023	Sashastra Seemabai	47X39mm Horiz
17	2023	Dada Vaswani	47X39mm Horiz
18	2023	Yakshagana	39X58mm Vert
19	2023	Inclusive Elections	40X53mm Horiz
20	2023	Wazir Mohd.	39X53mm Horiz

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On thinking deep many questions spring out :

1. What is the necessity of such large size commemorative stamps?
2. Who decides the size of stamps? Designer, Printer, Proponent, Top executives of India Post or budget?
3. Is it economical in the long run?
4. Are brochures, press publicity etc etc are sacrificed to have adhesive commemorative 'Posters' instead of stamps?

To my limited knowledge, I can say that the larger sizes issued in 2023 are not at all welcomed by many because :

1. Putting more than one basic stamp is not comfortable on Rs.5/- envelopes for articles having higher weights over basic permissible one.

2. In case of Registered letters / parcels / airmail ones, it is next to impossible to put required commemoratives to make the receiver who is interested to collect stamps?

3. The increasing community of Post-Crossers of recent years are finding it difficult to affix the required stamps on the picture post Cards.

4. 'Army' collectors will be embarrassed to have a smaller Field Marshall Manekshaw side by side bigger "Gen.Thimmayya".

Moreover, it is suggested to consider the following ideas.

1. Issue of one or two practically usable size stamps and make them regular standard.

2. Have a dated issue programme for the year in advance, say at least by December of previous year.

3. Advance information to public thro newspapers as it was in the later decades of the 20th Century.

4. Spread the issues throughout the year, say 2 issues per month, for 24 issues per year.

Happy collecting,

Editor.

PHILATELIC LATIN SQUARES

Er.N.J.Wesley,M.E.,
Life Member SIPA

Latin Square is an array($n \times n$) filled with 'n' different elements, arranged in such a way that each element appears exactly once in each row and exactly once in each column. Postal authorities around the world issue Postage stamps in sheetlet form with 'n' different stamps printed in an ($n \times n$) array form with 'n' copies of each of the 'n' stamps. We focus on such sheetlets in this article that were printed in Latin Square pattern.

Introduction to Latin Square:

Latin squares are interesting mathematical constructs which are primarily used in experimental design, statistics, cryptography and combinatorial mathematics.

Latin squares have a long and rich history, reaching back as far as the 12th century when Ahmad ibn Ali ibn Yusuf al-Buni first wrote about them. It seems that Latin squares were originally mathematical curiosities, but serious statistical applications were found early in the 20th century in experimental designs.

The name "Latin Square" has been derived from the works of Leonhard Euler (1707–1783) a Swiss Mathematician, who used Latin characters as elements of orthogonal squares.

Philatelic Latin Square-Definition :

Postage stamps issued in sheetlets consist of 'n' different stamps printed in an ($n \times n$) array form, with n copies of each of the 'n' stamps. Each of the n stamps appears exactly once in each row and column. Such a sheetlet is called as **Philatelic Latin Square (PLS)** and it is found that PLS for $n = 2, 3, 4, 5$ are commonly available.

The term Philatelic Latin square was introduced by Peter D. Loly, a physicist and mathematician and Prof. George P. H. Styan of Department of Mathematics and Statistics, McGill University, Montreal (Quebec), Canada in the Winter 2010 issue of CHANCE (vol. 23, no. 1, pp. 55–60).[2]

It is to be noted that the stamp sheetlets have to be displayed in full to explain the concept.

PLS-2, PLS of order 2 (2x2) :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Latin Square of order 2x2 is defined as in array form.

There are many 2x2 PLS, but the oldest one is from Belgium issued in 1937. This set of 2 stamps form an array of 2x2 stamps and it is called as PLS-2.

These stamps were issued in commemoration of the Queen Elisabeth Music Foundation. This foundation organises a music competition in the name of Queen Elisabeth (1876-1965) of Belgium in Brussels every year in May.



Belgium 1937 Souvenir sheet - "Music Foundation of Queen Elisabeth" (Stanley Gibbons Belgium BE BL7-V1); Date of Issue: 15th Sep 1937.

Many other countries have also issued the sheetlets in this form and few earlier sheetlets are given below.

Albania issued a souvenir sheet in 1938 to commemorate the wedding of Countess Geraldine & King Zog-I on 27th April 1938 in Tirana, Albania. Geraldine married the King Zog I. King Zog-I was deposed on 7th April of the following year due to the Italian invasion of Albania.



Date of Issue: 25th Apr 1938

Dr. Nicolas José Gutiérrez Hernández (1800-1890), editor of the medical journal "El Medico Repertorio Habanero" was honoured in the stamps of the Souvenir sheet. He was a pioneer in the introduction of advanced medical procedures in Cuba during the 19th century and was the founder of the Academy of medical sciences, physical and natural sciences of Havana in 1861.

USSR 1949 Souvenir sheet - "150th Anniversary of Alexander S. Pushkin" (Stanley Gibbons SU MS1492a); Date of Issue: 20th July 1949.

Cuba 1940 Souvenir sheet - "100 years of medical journal "El Medico Repertorio"



Habanero"
(Stanley Gibbons CU MS442)
Date of Issue : 28th Oct 1940

USSR issued a sheetlet in 1949 in celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin (1799-1837), who is considered to be the greatest Russian poet. The stamp in the top-left corner shows Pushkin in 1822 and the stamp in the top-right corner is based on a portrait by Orest Adamovich Kiprensky (1782-1836) painted in 1827.

Extension of PLS-2:



Extension of PLS-2: Embedded PLS-2

There are many 2x2 PLS in sheetlets of 4x4 or higher order array stamps arranged in "Checkerboard" pattern. We refer to such sheetlets as embedded-PLS. We can find a 2x2 PLS embedded in such sheetlets. A typical is embedded.

$$4 \times 4 \text{ array} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ in which } 2 \times 2 \text{ PLS}$$

Embedded form is found in the Sheetlet shown which was issued by India Post on 26th April 2002 featuring the Classic Dances, Kathakali from India and Kabuki from Japan on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Japan.



Extension of PLS-2: Block PLS-2

Block PLS is a 4x4 sheetlet where each block comprises 4 stamps, and so, 8 distinct stamps in all, in a sheetlet of 16 stamps. Out of 16, 4 stamps form one block and eventually form a block PLS of order 2.

China & Macau have issued sheetlets where we can find the Block PLS.



"Local gastronomy" from Macau issued jointly with Singapore on 04-07-2008.

PLS-3, PLS of order 3 (3x3):

Many countries have issued sheetlets of 3x3 containing 9 stamps depicting various themes. There are just two types of 3x3 PLS identified in stamp sheetlets viz., one-step backwards circulant (PLS3B) and one-step forwards circulant (PLS3F).

$$PLS3B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } PLS3F = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Backward circulant is a square array in which all rows are composed of the same elements and each row is rotated one element to the left relative to the preceding row. Similarly, when one row is rotated to right, it is forward circulant.

PLS3B: This form is found in a sheetlet issued by Israel on 29th Dec 1981 depicting trees of the Holy Land as shown below. Trees depicted are the Greek strawberry tree (Arbutus andrachne), Judas tree (Cercis siliquastrum), and Vallonea oak (Quercus ithaburensis).



PLS3F: Many sheetlets with PLS 3x3 are available, but the oldest one in this form was issued by Isle of Man in 1976 for the Europa CEPT programme.

Isle of man issued 4 sheetlets of 3x3 in 1976/1978, all of them are forward circulants type.

This sheetlet contains 3 stamps of Manx ceramic art: (top row, left to right) Barrosse beaker (Bronze Age), souvenir teapot (3-legged man, 19th century), Laxey jug (1854).

Series: Europa (C.E.P.T.) 1976 - Manx Ceramic Art; Issued on: 28-07-1976



Another example of PLS3F is shown below:

Series: Europa (C.E.P.T.) 1976 - Manx Ceramic Art. Issued on: 28-07-1976



This sheetlet also contains 3 stamps of Manx ceramic art: (top row, left to right) Cronk Aust food vessel, Early Bronze Age / Sansbury bowl (1851) / Knox urn 20th century.

PLS-4, PLS of order 4 (4x4):

There are 24 so-called standard-form 4 x 4 Latin squares (ref.2). Standard-form means the top row shall be

1; 2; 3; 4; but not necessarily the first column in the same order. Let's use first col. numbers of rows 2,3 & 4 in subscripts to denote the various forms of 4x4 Latin squares.

Then basic PLS-4 can be identified as PLS4₂₃₄ & PLS4₄₃₂ which are very popular forms of PLS-4. Such Latin squares eventually become one step backwards & forwards circulants also.

$$PLS4_{234} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 \\ 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad PLS4_{432} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Many countries have issued sheetlets of 4x4 containing 16 stamps depicting various themes in the above Latin Square forms.

PLS4₂₃₄: Cook Islands issued a sheetlet consisting of 4x4 stamps on Spotless Crake (Porzana tabuensis), a species of bird in the rail family, Rallidae, on 28-11-2014.



PLS4₄₃₂: Croatia issued a sheetlet in this form, consisting of 4x4 stamps on Little Tern (Sterna albifrons), a sea bird on 23-05-2006.



PLS-4 Sheetlets were also issued in 3 more forms. They can be identified as PLS4₃₂₄, PLS4₄₂₃ & PLS4₃₄₂. and explained below.

$$PLS4_{324} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

PLS4₃₂₄ is in Sudoku form in that the four stamps each appear once in the top left, top right, bottom left and bottom right of 2x2 corners. So, the full Latin square is the solution to a mini-Sudoku puzzle [1].

$$\text{PLS4}_{423} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{PLS4}_{342} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

PLS4₄₂₃ is also in Sudoku form where each stamp appears in four corners once. Many countries have issued sheetlets of 4x4 containing 16 stamps depicting various themes in the above Latin Square forms.

The last type of PLS4 is explained below.

The PLS in the above form, is also in Sudoku form and also forms a magic square. It is with both diagonals "Latin" in that each stamp appears once in the main forwards and backwards diagonals.

Examples of sheetlets in each of the above 3 PLS forms are given below.

PLS4₃₂₄: In 1972, Canada issued 4x4 stamps in sheetlet form on the occasions of four international congresses concerned with the exploration and development of the earth and man's activities on the planet.



PLS4₄₂₃: Portugal issued a sheetlet in this form in 1997 which depicts the Pyrenean desman (Galemys pyrenaicus), a small semi-aquatic mammal.

PLS4₃₄₂: The African buffalo (Syncerus caffer), a large African cloven-hoofed mammal is depicted in the above sheetlet.

This 4x4 sheetlet was issued by Guinea-Bissau (Guinea-Bissau), located in western Africa. It was formerly known as Portuguese Guinea, upon independence, it added the name of its capital, Bissau, to the country's name in order to avoid confusion between itself and the nearby Republic of Guinea (Republique de Guinee), which was formerly French Guinea.



PLS-5, PLS of order 5 (5x5):

A 5x5 Latin square is said to be in standard-form when the first row is 1; 2; 3; 4; 5 and in reduced-form when it is in standard form and in addition the first column is 1; 2; 3; 4; 5. From (ref.2), we find that there are 56 reduced form 5x5 Latin squares yielding 1344 possible distinct types of 5x5 PLS in standard-form. Out of these 1344 types, PLS is found just in 4 types denoted by PLS5-1B, PLS5-1F, PLS5-2B & PLS5-2F.

$$\text{PLS5-1B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 \\ 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{PLS5-1F} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

PLS5-1F & 1B are called as one step forward & backward circulants respectively. Many countries have issued sheetlets of 5x5 containing 25 stamps depicting various themes in the above Latin Square forms.

PLS5 – 1B: Indonesia has issued a sheetlet consists of 5x5 stamps on Landmark structures which is in backwards circulant form.

PLS5 – 1F: Turkey has issued a sheetlet for the 1960 Summer Olympics held in Rome, Italy which is a forwards circulant.

Turkey - Summer Olympic Games 1960 – Rome; Stanley Gibbons TRMS1915a; Issued on: 25th Aug 1960.



In continuation, examples for PLS5-2B & PLS5-2F are shown here. PLS5-2F & 2B are called as two steps forward & backward circulants respectively.

$$\text{PLS5-2B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 \\ 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 \\ 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{PLS5-2F} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 \\ 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Very few sheetlets of 5x5 containing 25 stamps depicting various themes in the above Latin Square forms, are available.

*Indonesia sheetlet – 5 Nos of Landmarks;
Date of Issue: 27th Sep 2011*



Pakistan issued the sheetlet on the occasion of the Universal Postal Union Day and the National Philatelic Exhibition in Lahore Popular Aquarium Varieties of Tropical fish on 9th Oct 2004.

PLS5 – 2F: United States of America issued this MS on theme Antique Automobiles in 1995. As defined, this sheetlet is a two step forward circulant type.

Conclusion:

As seen above, many stamp designers around the world have used the Latin square forms for designing Sheetlets of stamps. It is interesting to note that the World Wildlife



Fund for Nature (WWF), an international non-governmental organization working on conservation, research and restoration of the environment has issued many sheetlets in Latin square pattern.

According to a study [3], Pakistan is noted to be the only country to have issued postage stamps in 2x2, 3x3, 4x4, and 5x5 Latin square formats.

India Post has not yet issued any sheetlet in Latin Square form except few sheets in checkerboard form, in which a 2x2 PLS can be identified.

Acknowledgement :

The objective of this paper is to promote the Philately through images of stamps and related narration. All images of stamps are from the personal collection of the Author.

Sincere thanks are due to the Mathematicians Peter & George [1], [2], [3] who have coined the term Philatelic Latin Square and for providing the information used in this paper. Also, information provided in various journals and websites on PLS is thankfully acknowledged.

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Author :

Mr.N.J.Wesley is a consulting structural civil engineer by profession and practising independently. A dedicated collector for the past 25 years, his interests are Bridges, Lighthouses, Christmas, Railways, Science, Mathematics etc. in the matics. He is also an advanced collector in Maximaphily. He has exhibited upto Nationals and credited with high awards.

* * * * *

MADRAS LIGHTS

B.Ravikumar
Life Member of SIPA

Another month of August has passed, marking the 385th anniversary of Madras's founding. Since 2004, Madras Day is being celebrated yearly with various programs, such as heritage walks, lectures, quizzes, and competitions. India Post, Tamil Nadu Circle also issued special postal cover to mark the occasion. Most of the Madras Day special covers were designed by the late SIPA President, Mr. D. Hemachandra Rao.

From the days of the East India Company, the lighthouse at Madras was not only a witness but also played a crucial part in the city's growth. Here is a philatelic journey about the history of the Madras lighthouses.

The uniqueness of the 'Madras Lighthouse' is that it has not only changed its location four times but was entirely different in terms of the building, structure, and devices used in each of those locations. As Madras grew from a small strip of land on the seafloor, the lighthouse evolved from oil wick to modern electric equipment.

The city has a legendary tale connected with light aiding lost seafarers from Portugal. They were carried 20 nautical miles to the south of Pulicat by a hurricane. A bright light appeared and guided them to the seashore at Mylapore and then to the land and disappeared. They built the Nossa Senhora da Luz (Church of Our Lady of Light) in 1516 at the spot where the light faded. 'Luz' in Portuguese means 'Light,' and the place itself is called Luz.



Figure 1: Luz Church - 500 Years Special Cover (2016)

Fort St. George – Seat of Administration and Commerce

Two agents from the East India Company bought a vast sandy patch of land facing the beach on 22 August 1639. The following year, they built a small fort on that land and dedicated it to St. George, the patron saint of England.

The fort became a trade, administration, and military hub. Its presence gave the East India Company the impetus to further settlements and commerce. While the fort was expanded periodically, the nearby villages and fishing hamlets were enveloped to form the Madras city.

Commerce flourished at the fort until the early 1800s. The East India Company traded in spices, clothes, dyes, etc.



Figure 2: Fort St. George - Madras Day Special Cover (2007)

Need for Lighthouse at the Fort

The sea was close to the fort walls and the fort was not a safe harbour then. The sea current along the Madras coast was strong, and tremendous surf broke on the shore, causing frequent shipwrecks. There were no warning aids, such as a lighthouse. Hence, all the ships anchored a few miles from the seashore facing the fort.



Figure 3: Boats near the shore of Fort St. George - TANAPEX'78 Special Cover

Local fishermen used catamaran and masula boats to transport good sand passengers from the anchored ships to the shore.

The word catamaran is derived from the Tamil words 'kattu,' meaning 'to tie,' and 'Maram,' meaning 'wood.' Paravas, a fishing community on the southern coast of Tamil Nadu, invented it. Ancient dynasties used catamaran boats as early as the 5th century AD.



Figure 4: Catamaran special cancellation on INPEX 2008 Special Cover

The masula boats were 30-40 feet long and would carry twenty people and have ten rowers.

Madras Light

In November 1796, the first lighthouse at Madras was constructed on the roof of the Exchange building inside the fort. The Exchange building was where merchants, bankers, ship commanders, and brokers met.

The first lighthouse, called 'Madras Light,' was a primitive apparatus made of wooden scaffolding.



Figure 5: Madras Exchange Building Lighthouse - Madras Day Special Cover (2016)

The lighthouse was octagonal, with 12 large oil wicks placed on wooden planks and small country mirrors as reflectors.

Before deciding upon the Exchange building to construct the first lighthouse, St. Mary's Church inside the fort was first considered to be used as the lighthouse. However, the church authorities did not approve the suggestion.



Figure 6: St. Mary's Church Special Cover (1980)

The Madras Light was 100 feet above sea level and was supposed to be visible 17 nautical miles in the sea.

However, by the early 1830s, the need for an advanced lighthouse was felt, and alternative suggestions were sought from the Corps of Engineers.

By the early 1800s, the fort had become increasingly administrative and military centre. Hence, the trading community had to move away from it. In the late 1830s, most merchant ships anchored near First Line Beach, north of Fort St. George.

Madras Light was considered too far south from First Line Beach, and the need for a new location for the lighthouse arose. Over the years, severe storms and gales destroyed the Madras Light.

First Line Beach and New Lighthouse

A 38-meter-tall tower was constructed north of the fort for the second lighthouse. It started functioning on 1 January 1844 and used flashing lights consisting of argand lamps and reflectors until 1894. The lighthouse had a superintendent, a deputy, a headman, and six lascars as its operational staff.



Figure 7: Second Lighthouse 175 Years Special Cover (2019)

A new Madras High Court complex was constructed in 1862, keeping the second lighthouse inside its compound.



Figure 8 : Madras High Court First Day Cover (1962)



Figure 9 : Second Lighthouse within the court complex

As the trading scene shifted from the fort, all merchants, bankers, and brokers moved closer to the First Line Beach Road. Bank of Madras, Madras GPO, and several businesses established their presence on the beach road.



Figure 10 : Madras GPO - Madras Day Special Cover (2006)

The Bank of Madras was started in 1843 by joining smaller banks. It later became the Imperial Bank of India, along with the Bank of Bombay and the Bank of Bengal.

The Imperial Bank of India became the State Bank of India in 1955.

Push for a Better Port

The local British government constructed a pier on First Line Beach in 1859 due to the efforts of the Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

MCCI was started in 1836 by a group of English businessmen, including representatives from Binny, Parry, and Arbuthnot. MCCI was instrumental in ensuring the Madras presidency had good transportation for commerce — roads, railways, and maritime.

The cyclone of 1872 washed away all parts of the pier constructed in 1859. Work on a new pier started in 1875. Despite a severe cyclone in 1881, the construction progressed well, and by 1886, Madras had a decent harbour.



Figure 11 : MCCI Special Cover (2010)

Till the early 1880s, Madras did not have a decent port. The sea was very rough, and cyclones caused heavy damage to the ships that berthed off the city. All ships anchored two miles into the sea, and the goods and passengers were transported by local boats, which caused considerable loss of life and goods.

In 1904, the port underwent a massive re-engineering program that took ten years to complete. A world class port was in place in Madras, positively influencing trade and commerce.



Figure 12 : Third Lighthouse - Madras Day Special Cover (2008)

Beacon of Justice and Light

From June 1, 1894, the lighthouse started functioning from the highest central dome of the newly constructed Madras High Court complex, 175 feet above sea level. Until the advent of electric power, it used kerosene vapour lamps.



Figure 13: Madras Harbour from the third lighthouse

The lighthouse offered a panoramic view of the harbour. While the court ensured justice, the lighthouse provided navigational aid for the maritime community until 1977.

Sea of Changes on the Seafont and Beyond

The Madras Port completed 100 years of operations in 1981 and is India's second-largest port. It is the primary



Figure 14: A busy Madras Port

reason for the economic growth of Madras City from First Line Beach Road and beyond.

The area behind the beach road saw rapid growth, with several insurers, bankers, merchants, and brokers opening offices there.

Fourth and Modern

The lighthouse was a significant factor in contributing to the city's growth from close quarters.



Figure 15: Lighthouse at Marina Beach

A fourth lighthouse started functioning on the Marina beach in Madras on 10 January 1977. It is a modern 46-meter-tall triangular 'red and white band' building. It is the only active lighthouse with in city limits in India and has an elevator.

In 2027, the lighthouse at Marina Beach will complete 50 years of service, which warrants a postal commemoration.

Author :

An IT Professioner who is working as a senior Information Developer at Applian corporation, in Chennai, is a 'MALTA Specialist' and also collects Philatelic materials on Madras and Nilgris religiously. He has exhibited upto Nationals with high awards.



Sub-Post Office at DHANUSKODI :

It is one of the one in a lakh and half P.O/S.P.Os (1,55,000) of Department of Communications of the World's greatest democracy

Is it not physical torture by the Dept. of Post, to make the postal staff to carry all the saleable stationery, files, books, documents, tools, accessories etc, etc. from Rameshwaram HPO to Dhanuskodi SPO everyday morning and back in the evening?

Let the Dept. of Post take a note of the situation seriously and do the needful to keep its prestege on the high pedastal of the public service department?



(Courtesy : Dinamalar, 30.06.2024-Chennai)



GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION-TAGGED HANDLOOM PRODUCTS OF TAMILNADU

Mr.S.Balasundaram
Life Member, SIPA

(Continued from Page 26 Vol.36.No.2)

9. Thirupuvanam Silk (2019-2020)

Motifs of checks, stripes, geometrical patterns, birds, temples, flowers, leaves, fruits- name it and you'll find it on the Thirubuvanam saree. These sarees are not only considered to be rich in quality due to the fine silk usage but also aesthetically pleasing and durable. These are thick 'three-ply sarees' with one side of the border woven in real silver or golden zari. They occupy a significant position in the South Indian culture and play an essential role in conveying the craftsmanship of the weaver.

These sarees are decorated with heavy zari work, bright colours, motifs, and exquisite designs to convey the femininity and boldness of women. The patterns on the saree are inspired by the temple architecture of Thirubuvanam. It is the softness of the silk, glimmer from the golden zari, prismatic appearance, and cultural expression through the motifs that make the Thirubuvanam saree stand out amongst several others. This silk saree is folded like an angavastram, and this fan fold is called as "visiri madippu" in Tamil.



Special cover on Tirupuvanam silk saree (A piece of original silk saree inset)

10. Kandangi saree (2022-23)

In The original Kandangi saree is manually made using a winding machine, loom, shuttle and bobbin. It is a team effort of the families who live in the town of Karaikudi and forms part of their livelihood. These sarees are characterised by the large contrast borders, and some of them are known to have borders covering as much as two-thirds of the saree.

The sarees are usually around 5.10 meters – 5.60 meters in length. The Kandangi sarees exude brilliant colours like bright yellow, orange, red and a minimal black in the traditional pattern of stripes or checks with broad borders woven in coarse cotton. Over the years, more interesting colours have been introduced for the saree, which is worn in a particular manner.



Special cover on Karaikudi Kandangi saree (A piece of original saree inset)

The scarcely documented Kandangi saree was introduced and patronised by the wealthy Nagarathar community of Chettinad. Characterised by their striking colour combinations, tall borders and the use of bold stripes and checks, these sarees were strong enough to last generations.

11. ChediButta Saree (2023-24)

The Chedi Butta is a beautiful saree, finely woven in elegant style by skilled weavers of the Veeravanallur hamlet, in south Tamil Nadu. The specialty of this saree is the intricately woven motif of a flowering plant called "Chedibutta". It is made with superior fibers of cotton, making it highly easy to maintain and use. The amenable quality of the saree to extensive use, and rendering different levels of comfort, made it one of the most loved sarees. It requires enormous skills and techniques to make a perfectly crafted Chedi Butta Saree. Owing to its uniqueness, it has become one of the important pieces in the women's wardrobe

12. Negamam Cotton Saree (2022-23)

Made by the skilled weavers of the small village of Negamam, Coimbatore, these cotton sarees are renowned all over the country. Also known as 'Village Cot' sarees, they are recognised for their simple striped and checkered designs and vibrant hues. The heavy cotton threadwork done in the pallu is a speciality.

The Negamam cotton sarees are notable for their vibrant colours with traditional motifs such as peacocks, parrots, elephants and paisleys. The narrow borders with striped or checked body add subtle elegance to the handwoven drapes. Negamam cotton sarees are popular as office-wear due to their simple but elegant look and the comfort they provide. (The last two handloom products are awaited for release shortly)

Promotional activities

To provide enhanced livelihood and welfare of local artisans, like weavers and to help in promotion of local items like, handicrafts, artifacts and handlooms two schemes, "One-District-One-Product"(ODOP) and "One-Station-One-Product"(OSOP) were introduced by Government of India with "Vocal for Local" vision. While ODOP is aimed at selecting, branding and promoting at least one product from each district for enabling holistic

socio-economic growth, the OSOP provides for a marketing channel through the medium of earmarked space for stalls at railway platforms. There is remarkable sale of Kanchipuram silk, Tirubhuvanam silk and Sungudi sarees noticed at the specialised counters set up at Chennai MGR, Madurai, Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli and other railway stations. The Southern Railway identified 483 stations and so far established counters at 180 stations for



implementing the OSOP scheme.

The Government of India established eight Mega Handloom Clusters under comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS), each cluster covering 15,000 to 25,000 handloom weavers. Each centre is assured of financial assistance of Rs 40 to Rs 70 lakhs to promote sustainable development of handloom sector like upgradation, modification, purchase of looms and accessories, setting up of Dyeing Units, common facility centers, opening of showrooms, , providing of design inputs, etc. Out of eight mega handloom clusters, two are in Tamil Nadu, one at Virudhunagar and another at Tiruchirappalli.

Economic Impact

The economic impact of GI protection is evident by the virtue of the fact that since its grant, Darjeeling tea has seen its domestic price rise five-fold. Moreover, Basmati rice and Thanjavur paintings' prices have doubled. The demand for Pochampally Ikat' sarees, the first handloom product awarded GI registration on December 31, 2004, showed an increase by 15-20% in 2008 and also resulted in wage increase of weavers by 20%

India is the second largest exporter of handloom products in the world. Amazon's "local to global" programme has taken Indian products such as handloom, leather and organic products to 18 global markets in over 200 countries through e-commerce trade. During the year 2022-2023, the Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies in Tamil Nadu Produced cloths valued at ₹ 1,190 crore and sold handloom products valued ₹ 1,414 crore. In April-March 2022-23, India exported cotton yarn/ fabrics /made-ups, handloom products etc. worth US\$ 10.94 billion. From April 2023 to August 2023, the export of cotton yarn/ fabrics/ made-ups, handloom products etc. stood at US\$ 4.82 billion.

Conclusion

As per the fourth handloom census of India (2019-20), 35 lakhs of household were involved in handloom

weaving activities in the country and majority of the weavers existed in four states of Assam, West Bengal, Manipur and Tamil Nadu. As per the above census, there are 2.44 lakhs handloom weavers and allied workers in Tamil Nadu, which is the highest among southern states and third highest in the country. However, owing to technological advances and growth in literacy, many weavers have either shifted to using power looms or have left the profession entirely. However, the State and Central governments have been trying to encourage more and more members of these communities to continue their handloom traditions by creating various avenues for their exposure, including giving them awards for their skills and providing them with GI rights. These measures will infuse fresh interest and improve the performance in the market thereby reviving the livelihood of the weavers dependent on the product.

The GI tag can help protect the traditional skills and knowledge of the weavers and artisans, as well as promote their market value and recognition. It will prevent unauthorized use of GI tag products by others and help consumers to get quality products of desired traits and is assured of the authenticity. The initiatives by the governments are a testimony to the significance of GIs in augmenting the economy of a nation, along with the creation of global reputation. As there are more handloom clusters like, Karur, Uraiyur, Ammapettai, Aruppukkottai, it is necessary that the handloom products manufactured at these places also should be conferred with G I registration at the earliest in order to reap the benefits.

Ref:

- * <https://ipindia.gov.in/registered-gls.htm>
- * NCAER, Handloom Census of India 2019-20
- * Status of Handloom Sector in India and Tamil Nadu State and Government Initiatives for its Promotion, February 2022, Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension Economics & Sociology.
- * <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=f9ae3506-1f07-4e09-bd79-52da7887e611>

(Concluded)

Author :

Mr.S.Balasundaram (IPOS) retired Asst. Post Master General is a rare breedr of Postal official-cum-philatelist. After retirement he has acted as officer on special duty for INPEX-2008, National exhibition held at Chennai. He has also performed as Departmental junior in many philatelic exhibition.

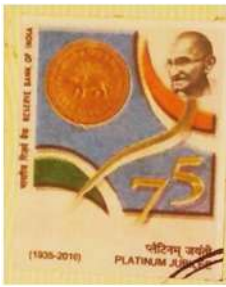
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PHILATELIC ITEMS ISSUED FOR RESERVE BANK OF INDIA PLATINUM JUBILEE LANDMARK

Mr.Abhijit De,
Philatelist, Chennai.
Life Member, SIPA

(Continued from Page 28 Vol.36.No.2)

R.B.I Platinum Jubilee Sticker and Post Cards.



A sticker was specially made for use by R.B.I. only for their internal use, and was used on the reverse of the Special, currency oriented Postcards issued for this occasion. It used the same design as the one of the FDC cachet, as shown in the photo of the sticker here. The details of each of these postcards are given here under.

On the reverse of each postcard, for those who approached the special counter at the designated R.B.I. Office, the India Post issued R.B.I. commemorative stamp and this sticker were used and cancellation done with the same cancellation that was used for the FDC.

The postcard set issued, consists of 6 postcards, each of which illustrate parts of currency note designs used over the decades since the creation of R.B.I. They consist of 2 larger postcards of about 20.5 cm x 15 cm size, and 4 smaller ones with measurements of 15.5 cms x 10,5 cms. I give here under the front and reverse of each postcard, since details of what is shown on the front is given on the reverse bottom. Hence, where the stamp cancellation is preventing the reading of the details clearly, I have used the reverse of a second set of postcards, which is without cancellations. (Please don't ask me what was the cost of this set, as Mr. Abdul-Ali-Mukhi, the owner of M.M. Mukhi & Son, whom I had known from 1980, helped me by getting me this full set, after cancellation, in exchange for the same number of R.B.I. mint stamps. As I was busy with work, this was an unforgettable favour he did for me.).

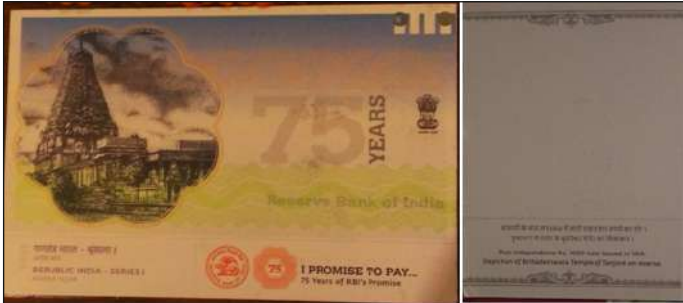
Both the above notes were demonitised, when the first post-Republic of India demonitisation took place in 1978, in order to control black money.



In the pictures here under, the pictures of the reverse of each card has been cropped so that the caption on the reverse, related to each illustration on the front, is more clear. Therefore the address portion is not fully shown. The space taken by the cancellation and sticker are too big for these 4 smaller cards. Therefore 1 example of the stamped and cancelled reverse of a card is shown hereunder, where as there after all 4 smaller post cards have been shown without the stamps or cancellations. and the address section edited out of each photo, so that caption on the reverse is easy to read.

First Indian Reserve Bank of India Governor

The first Governor of the Reserve Bank of India of Indian Origin was Sir Chintaman Dwarkanath Deshmukh, who is shown on this stamp issued by India Post in 2004. He



First Indian Origin Reserve Bank Governor.

conferences , like the landmark Bretton Woods Conference was a member of the Indian Civil Service, and became Deputy Governor of this Bank in 1941 ,and took over as Governor on 11th August 1943, upon the sudden demise of the second Governor of R.B.I.Sir James Taylor , who was a Member of the Indian Civil Service , and the first to sign R.B.I. currency notes.

As Sir C.D. Deshmukh continued beyond independence , he represented India in many important conferences , like the landmark Bretton Woods Conference , and he ensured the smooth transistion of R.B.I from a shareholder's institution to a State- owned organisation when the Bank was nationalised on 1st January 1949.

His successor , Sir Bennegal Rama Rau , was also from the I.C.S.cadre , and the longest serving Governor of R.B.I to date, as he served from 1st July 1949, to 14th January 1957. His signature is shown on the Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 5,000 currency featured on the relevant postcards in the above section.

Republic Of India Symbols & Motifs and Elements On Money & Postage Stamps

The many Official Emblems, Symbols , motifs and other illustrations that represent our Nation , which we have seen above in connection with the R.B.I. issued Coins and Currency after India has become a Republic are also well represented on the Postage Stamps issued by India Post , specially Definitive Stamps . In many cases , the symbols and motifs shown on currency notes or coins , have been collages or partial illustrations, where as the postal stamps either give the complete picture, or an alternative depiction of the same motif or picture. Hence this section has been added.

The first important area in which our money and postage stamps share a common space, is the National Emblem of India, which is also called the State Emblem of India, the whole picture for which show the 4 headed Ashoka Lions, on a base decorated with Chakra, Horse and Bull , which type of monument once rested on top of many of the inscribed pillars that carried the edicts pf Emperor Ashoka the Great, of the Mauryan Empire , with their capital in ancient Pataliputra, which is in present day Bihar.Emperor Ashoka had put up such edicts on monuments throughout the Empire(He ruled from 268 B.C.E to 232 B.C. E., and during its peak ruled most of India except the southern most areas, and certain areas of N. E. India..) During his rule, Emperor Ashoka have become a follower of The Buddha, and had enthusiastically propogated Buddhism through many of these iconic edicts on pillars. The evacuation at Sarnath, in present day U.P., had fortunately unearthed a well preserved Lion capital of this ancient pillar Capital head, which today constitutes our National Emblem.

This National (State) Emblem first appeared on one of the 3 Independence Day stamps in the set issued in 1947, after our nation attained Independence . The Ashoka Lions Emblem continued to play an important role in our



nation for the following reasons , :

1. The 2 stamps shown here , shows that the Ashoka Chakra forms the Chakra shown on the center of our National Flag , and is the symbol in our national flag only after Independence .

2. All Official Service Postage stamps from January 1950 , as shown by the 2 examples in this section , bear the Ashoka Lions emblem (Replacing the Service stamps bearing the portrait of the British Monarch or overprinted O.H.M.S.. Also the Star Watermark was replaced with Ashoka Lions watermark from the 3rd Definitive series onwards)

3. As seen in earlier sections of this article , the Horse from the base of the Ashoka Lion emblem was used for the 1 Pice coins, and the Bull from there was used for the Anna coins. In addition , all Republic of India coins bear the Ashoka Lion emblem on the Head side of the coin

4. As discussed in the above sections, apart from the RBI emblem, the State Emblem of India is also shown on all currency notes.

5. From 26th January 1950, the National motto adopted officially is " Satyameva Jayate "(Truth alone



Triumphs), a concept found in the the Ancient text called Mundaka Upanishad which was adopted at the same time as the Ashokan Lion capital was adopted as the State (National) Emblem , but in most cases they were not combined . However , as shown on this Government Service stamp, they both were ultimately combined and

from 1st April 1976, all service stamps carried this corrected State Emblem.

6. The R.B.I. also started using this corrected State Emblem on all the currency notes and the head side of all coins , from the time of issue of the Rs. 100 currency note of 1980

(Concluded)

Author :

A full time devoted philatelist after retiring in 2011 from private companies including Bharat Petroleum. He is an accomplished and well known philatelic writer with depth and research on the topics of his choice. His participation in SIPA whatsapp group is quite informative and admirable with the 'variety' of his illustrations which shows the formidability of his collection of around six decades.

ASSN INFORMATION NO.2.

1. The Executive Committee of SIPA which met on 30.08.2024 decided to bring out the Bulletin in black & white only as the cost would be around Rs.17,000/- as against the colour one which costed Rs.22,000/- However, the colour version will be uploaded in SIPA website and those desirous of having it in colour, can get it printed the same happily.
2. It was agreed to permit Stamp Seller's advertisements in the Bulletin and the rates would be Rs.2,500/- for full page, Rs.1250/- for half page and Rs.750/- for quarter page.

It was also decided to print advertorial upto four lines from members at Rs.300/- per insert per issue.

* * * * *

DO YOU KNOW :

Possibly the first philatelic article was published in the magazine 'Young England' in 1862 under the title, "The Postage Stamps of the World." Later the year, an anonymous author had a story entitled "My Nephew's Collection" published in 'All the Year Round'. During 1862-1866, a series of articles by M.Natalis Rondot on the issues of every country was published in the French paper, Magasin Pittoresque.

* * * * *

JAKARTA ASIAN INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION :

Jakarta, the Capital city of Indonesia hosted the xxx Asian Philately Exhibition from 3rd to 7th July 2024 at Pos Block, Jakarta.

Mr. Parvesh Gupta was the National Commissioner of India and Mr. G. Anil Reddy was the Assistant National Commissioner. Right from day one they have worked tirelessly to take the maximum exhibits from India after fulfilling the ASI/Culture Ministry and other related clearances.

It is pertinent to note that Indonesia hosted this FIAP Asian Philately Exhibition in July 2024 barely two years from conducting a FIP International Philatelic Exhibition in August 2022 apart from holding Five Nations Philatelic Exhibition.

One disturbing factor is that this exhibition was held at the Post Office Building itself, with different classes of exhibits displayed in various office buildings causing much

inconvenience to the exhibitors, jurors, philatelists and the general public. The same procedure was adopted in Thailand World Stamp Exhibition held in DEC 2023 also

India is most poised to conduct international exhibitions as the cost is comparatively low and the Department of Posts has the excellent manpower to conduct an International philatelic exhibition in the near future.

INDIAN CONTINGENT

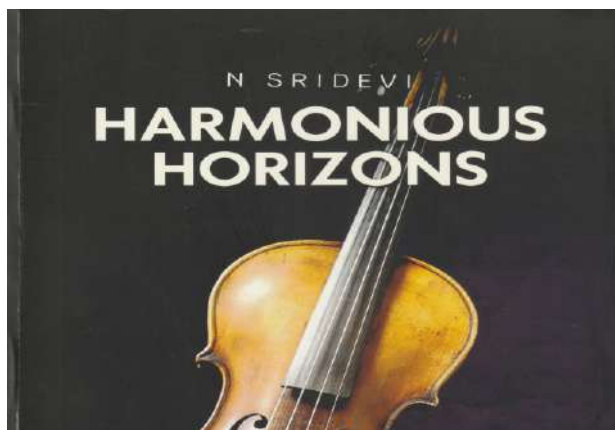


AWARD WINNERS :

No	Class	Last Name	First Name	Exhibit Title	Awards
1	2B	E.P.	James	Travancore Anchal Stamps	V
2	3B	Condur	Bhaskar	Indore Cancellations	LS
3	3B	James	Paul	Postal History of Travancore State 1858-1914	LV
4	3B	Mehra	Sushil	On the Edge	B
5	3B	Mohan	KS	Alpha Numeral Cancellations of Cochin	V
6	3B	Saboo	Dilip	India Pre-Independence	V
7	7A	Barde	Adesh	Hidden Treasure of Mother Earth - The Rocks and Minerals	SB
8	7A	Joshi	Sunil	The Flying Jewels - Butterfiles and Moths	SB
9	7A	Monteiro	Daniel	Peacock - The King of Feathers	S
10	7B	Jhunjhunwala	Pawan Kumar	Religion and Culture Through Philately	B
11	7B	Jhunjhunwala	Pawan Kumar	From Colonial to National	B
12	7B	Madiraju	Lokeswara Rao	Buddhism	S
13	7B	Saboo	Dilip	Mahatma Gandhi, His Life and Legacy	B
14	10A	Reddy	Anil Kumar	Holograms	V
15	13B	Adka	Jaagruthi Nithin	Olympics - Birds Eye View	V
16	14A	Reddy	G. Anil Kumar	Printing Ink Recipes for Colour Schemes	80
17	14A	Saboo	Narendar Kumar	India 1866 Provisional Issue	86
18	15A	Jain	Tarun	Sports & Games - Philately in India	SB
19	15A	Madiraju	Lokeswara Rao	CITES : Endangered Species on Stamps	B
20	15A	Madiraju	Lokeswara Rao	Modern Management the GITA Way (GITA on Stamps)	B
21	15A	Mehra	Gauresh	Poetic Beauty of Bombay's Postcards	B
22	15A	Mehra	Sushil	Towards Decimalisation	LS
23	15A	Patel	Prathmesh	Introduction to Travelling Post Offices and Railway Mail Service of India 1853-1935	S

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BOOK REVIEW :



In the enchanting realms of philately and music, this captivating coffee table book will take all of us on an enjoyable journey by exploring the heritage and variety of musical instruments across the globe using stamps and related philatelic items.

The illustrious philatelic career with high awards of the author has blossomed into bringing out such a celebratory book on musical instruments from all continents of the world.

At the outset, it can be authoritatively said that this book will definitely enthuse not only philatelists but also researchers on musical instruments.

A detailed index at the end of the book would have been a helpful tool for an interested reader in enjoying such an 'encyclopedic' book.

This hard bound library edition is priced at Rs.2999/- which is really worth for the qualitative quantity it holds within its 408 pages of artistic work.



Author explaining an exhibit to the Chief Guest in a exhibition

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Quarterly Bulletin of South India Philatelists' Association.

Past Editors : Mr. M.T. Karunakaran and
Late Mr. G.Madan Mohan Das.

Executive Editor :

Mr. J. Rolands Nelson ; A21, Vista Heights, To.
West Avenue, Thiruvanmiyur,
Chennai - 600 041. Mob : 99406 81750

If undelivered please return to :

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