

India Post honours Mahatma Gandhi

Department of Posts has issued a number of Postage Stamps and Stationery over the years. This includes the commemorative stamps highlighting Indian cultural heritage, fauna, flora, literature, art, education and eminent personalities have also been issued from time to time. Mahatma Gandhi occupies the pride of place since maximum number of stamps has been issued in his honour. This exhibit depicts the different types of Postage Stamps and Miniature sheets issued by India Post on Mahatma Gandhi.

Sl. No.	Title & Plan	Pages Exhibited
1.	Introduction and Plan	1
2.	Definitive Stamps	1
3.	Service Stamps	1
4.	Commemorative Stamps	6
5.	Miniature Sheets	6
6.	Souvenir Sheet	1
7.	Total	16

2. Definitive Stamps

A Definitive Stamp is a postage stamp that is part of a regular issue of a country's stamps available for sale by the postal service for an extended period of time. India has issued 11 series of definitive stamps. The present series is on "Makers of India" and are available in the denomination of 25p to Rs. 10. A number of definitive stamps depicting Mahatma Gandhi have also been issued.



3. Service Stamps

Service Stamps are issued for use by Government and other authorized Offices instead of definitive/regular stamps. These stamps depict the "Lion Capitol of Ashoka Pillar". However, the earlier service stamps were issued by overprinting service on definitive and commemorative stamps. The most famous service stamps were the overprinted service Gandhi commemorative stamps issued on the first anniversary of independence.



4. Commemorative Stamps

Commemorative Stamps are issued to commemorate personalities, events of national or international importance, cultural heritage, fauna, flora, literature, art, education etc. The first commemorative stamps on Mahatma Gandhi were issued on the first anniversary of India's independence, i.e. 15.08.1948. Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) is known as the Father of the Nation in India and is an apostle of truth and Non-Violence. This set of stamps on Gandhi was printed by 'Courvoisier' of Geneva, Switzerland, in photogravure.



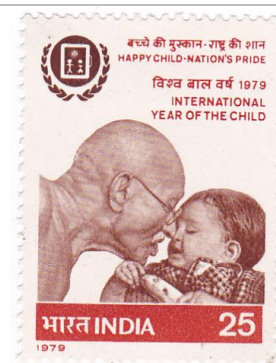
Gandhi centenary (02.10.1969) was marked by a set of four stamps highlighting the brand that was Gandhi: his personality grounded in stark simplicity and courage, drawn from a sturdy relationship with his wife Kasturba, his own convictions and commitment to a self-reliant India.



"To walk with kings, nor lose the common touch"- The élan and confidence of Gandhi were unshaken, whatever to the surrounding or the company. A stamp depicting both Gandhi and Nehru was issued on 15.08.1973.



"Suffer little children to come unto me" was a message he took to heart, he lived it – drawing to himself young Indira Priyadarshini and every unknown child whose life he touched. A stamp depicting Gandhi cuddling a child was issued on the occasion of International Year of the Child on 05.03.1979.



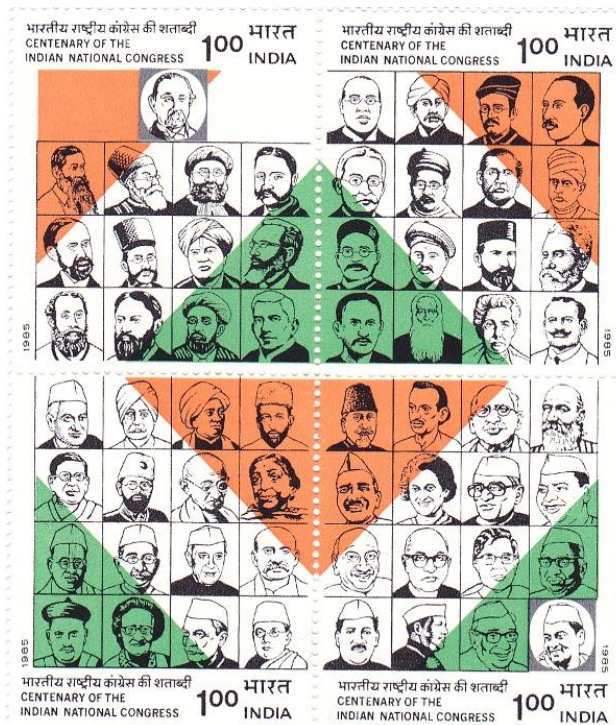
He stepped out on a lonely journey with scant regard for appearances as he walked and worked across India. But it was a journey soon transformed by a massive following. A set of two stamps was issued on 02.10.1980 depicting the Dandi March and Salt Satyagraha.



A stamp marking the anniversary of the Quit India Resolution was issued on 09.08.1983. The essential Gandhi remained untouched by the political compulsions of his times. He rose above personal animosity, way beyond the boundaries of the heart.



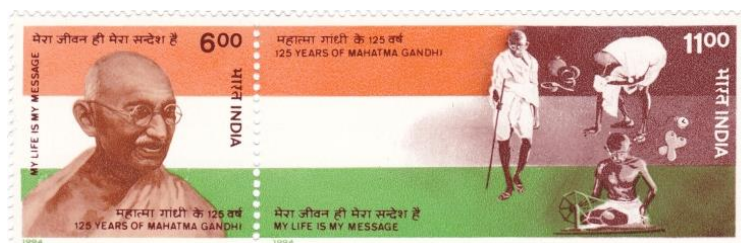
A set of 4 stamps was issued to commemorate the centenary of Indian National Congress on 28.12.1985. The stamps were printed in se-tenant blocks of four and featured the past presidents of the Indian National Congress including Mahatma Gandhi who was the President in 1924.



The slogan for the "Quit India" Movement in 1942 was "Do or die". A set of two stamps showing his spinning wheel on one and his profile on the other was issued on 09.08.1992. Till his last breath he remained fiercely active, spinning out history!



His 125th anniversary was marked by a se-tenant which carried his words: "My life is my message". He walked the talk! For him the journey was the destination.



A man for all seasons – whether he was the young barrister at South Africa or the Mahatma, the indomitable spirit came through with a smile – as seen from this se-tenant marking India-South Africa Cooperation issued on 02.10.1995.



His journey took him across the country and across continents spreading his gospel of Ahimsa (Non-violence) and Satyagraha (the passive non-cooperation that was the spearhead of his search for truth) – He was at home whether working or sharing pleasantries with the Viceroy. A set of four stamps was issued commemorating his 50th death anniversary on 30.01.1998.

Ranga's sketch used on this stamp was a telling symbol of Gandhi as India, to mark 50 years of the Republic of India (27.01.2000).



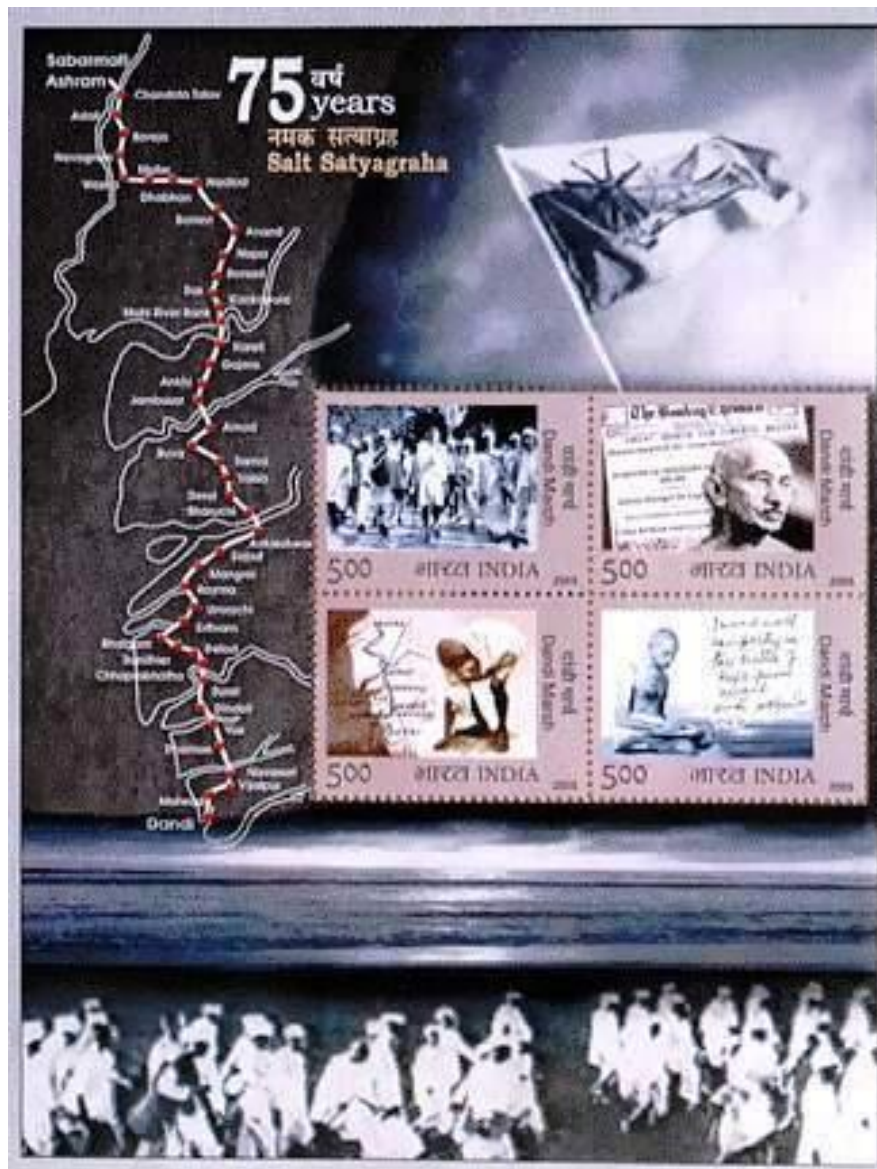
Mahatma Gandhi: Man of the Millennium – a man who left his footprints across continents and peoples. The two stamps issued on 02.10.2001 depicted the inclusiveness of Gandhi's thought, set against a turbulent sky on one and a pensive profile in the other.

A set of two stamps was issued on 15.08.2019 on Gandhian Heritage in Modern India based on the prize-winning entries of the stamp design competition on the occasion of Independence Day 2019.

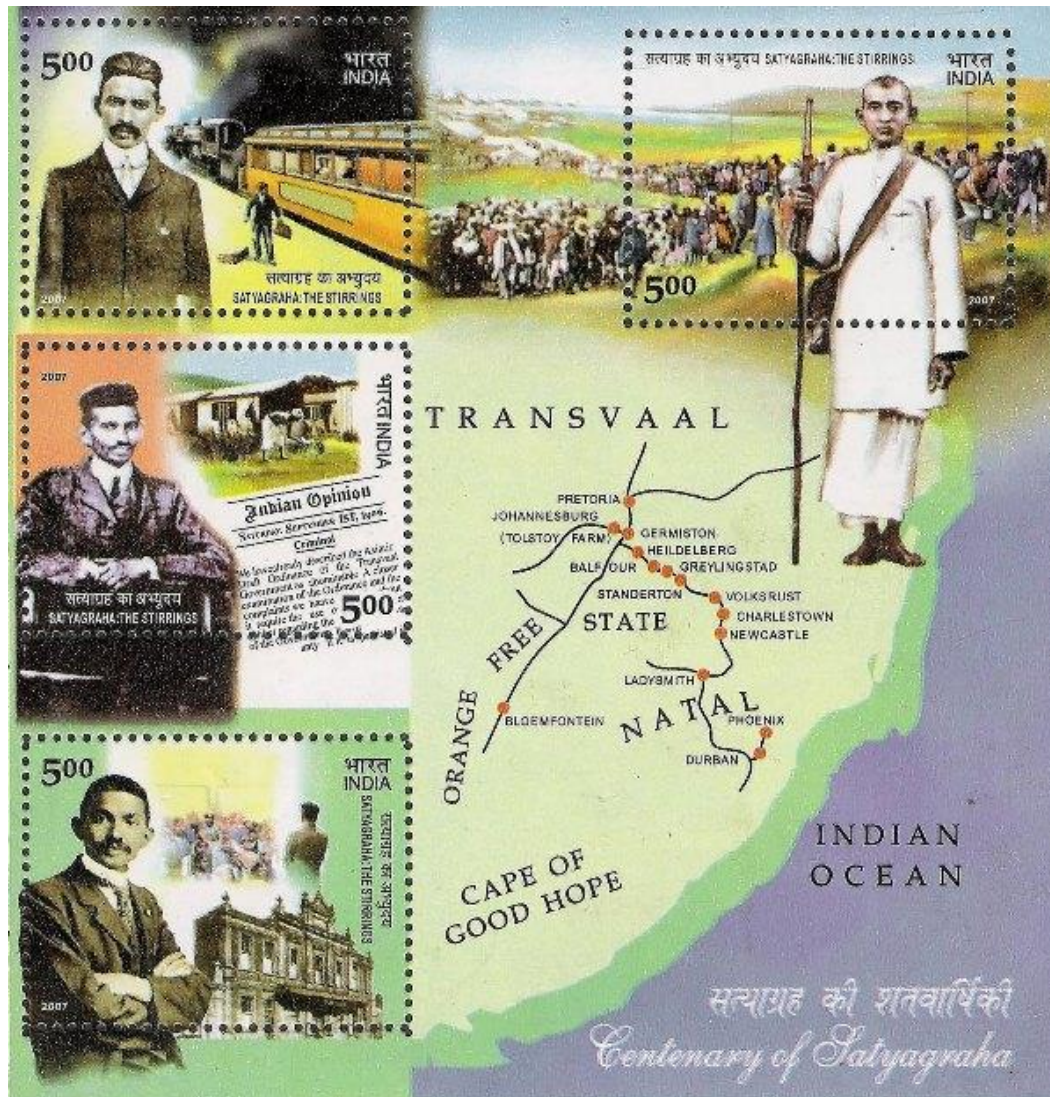


5. Miniature Sheets

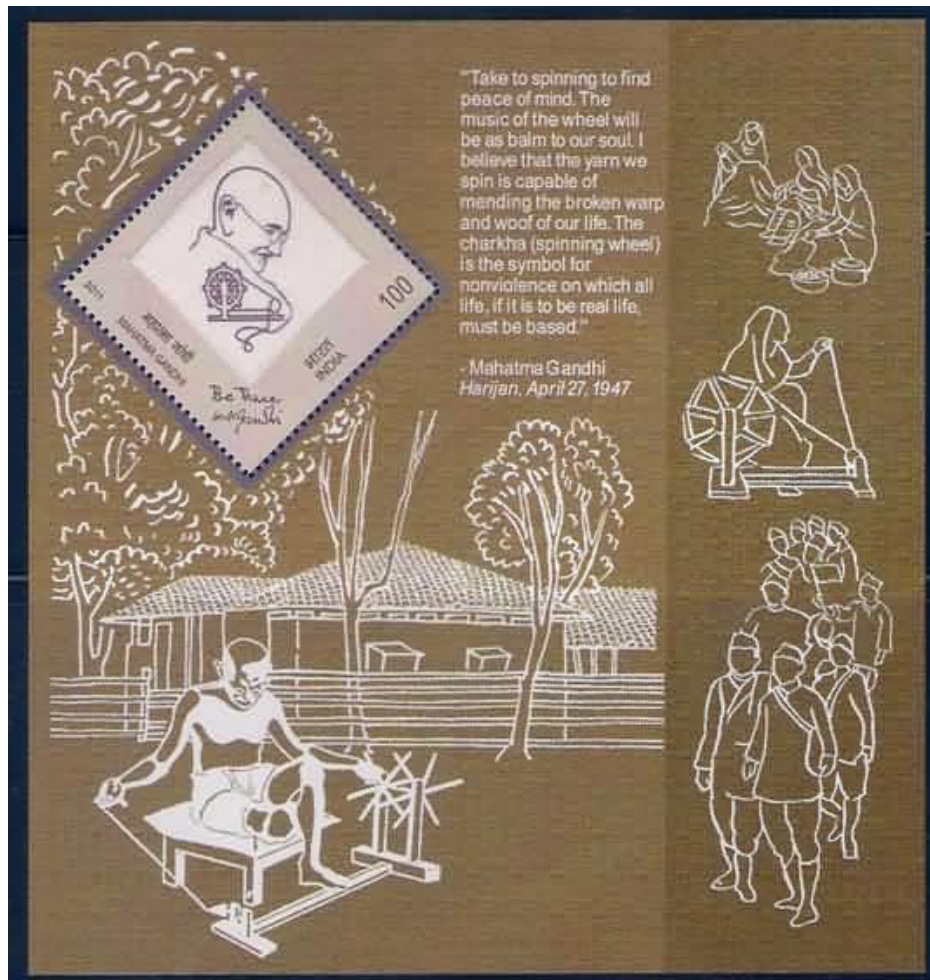
It is a small souvenir sheet and consists of anything from one to about a dozen stamps either of one or two kinds or all different specially printed together with a margin around. The first Miniature sheet on Gandhi with a set of four stamps issued on 06.04.2005 depicting the Dandi March gave physical shape to an Idea.



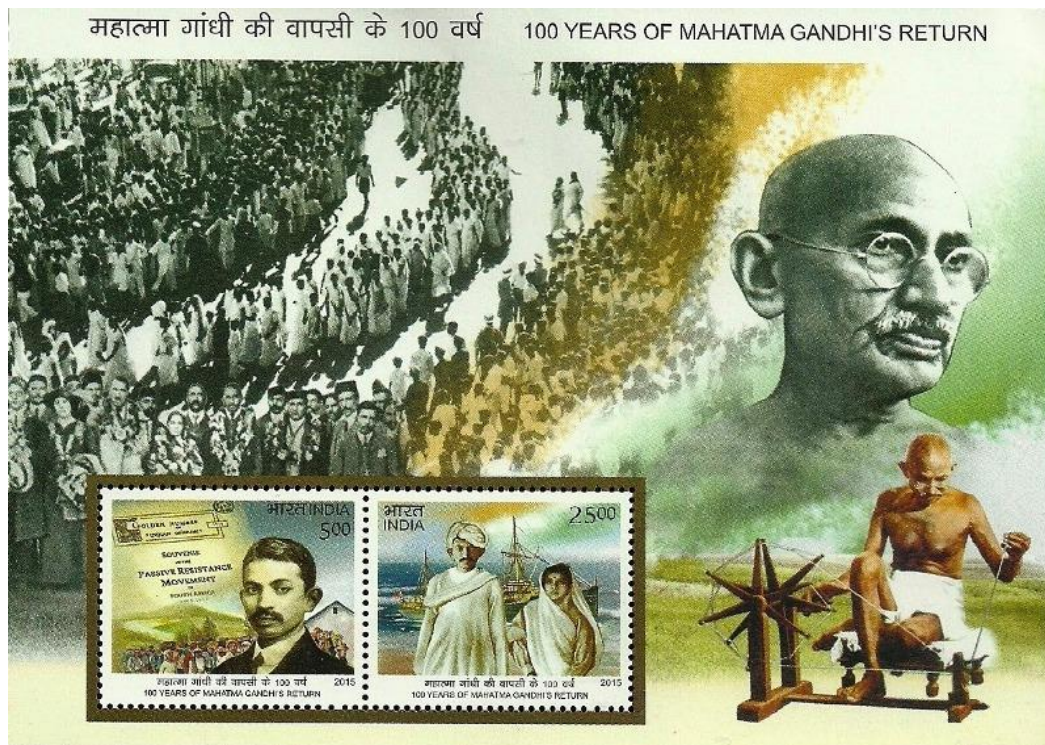
From the heart of a little seed a mighty banyan tree was born. This set of four stamps traces the stirrings of Satyagraha: the quest for truth which began on a lonely railway platform in South Africa and walked through farms, courts and the media, to emerge as a people's movement. The iron spirit was shared with Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. (02.10.2007)



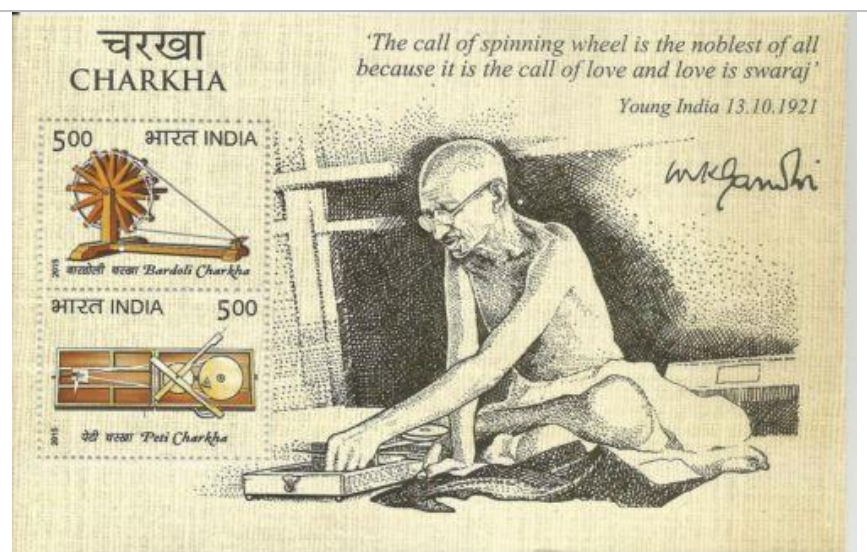
Khadi is a handwoven cloth, generally cotton, using hand-spun thread, which attained iconic status during India's freedom struggle. Gandhiji not only propagated the use of self-spun Khadi but also described the same as "the thread of life". On the occasion of INDIPEX-2011, India Post issued the world's first postage stamp in Khadi on Mahatma Gandhi on 12.02.2011.



After a stay of almost 21 years in South Africa where he developed his political views, ethics and leadership skills, Gandhiji returned to India on 09.01.1915 to become the leader of the Indian masses for the freedom struggle. A set of two stamps and a miniature sheet was issued on 08.01.2015 on the occasion of 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi's return.



"The spinning wheel represents to me the hope of the masses...It was the friend and solace of the widow. It kept the villagers from idleness." These were the words of Mahatma Gandhi who used the Charkha as a symbol of self-reliance. A set of two stamps and a miniature sheet were issued depicting the traditional and portable charkha.



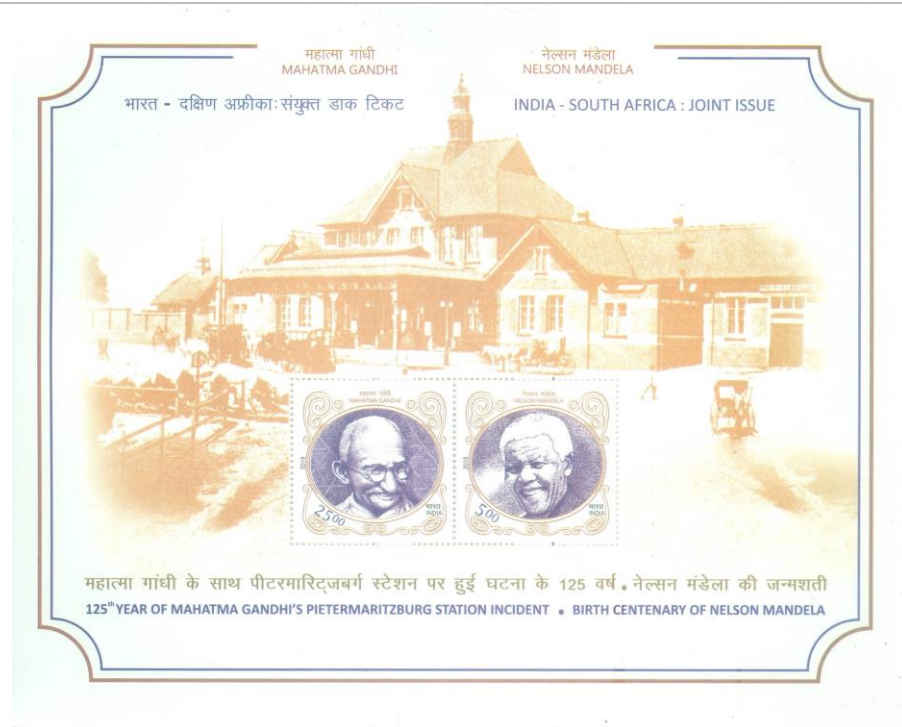
"I came here to render humanitarian services to the people of this region. I shall make Champaran my home and not leave till I have helped these suffering people." This was the reply of Gandhi when asked to leave Champaran by the Magistrate. A set of three stamps and a miniature sheet was issued on the occasion of centenary of Champaran Satyagraha.



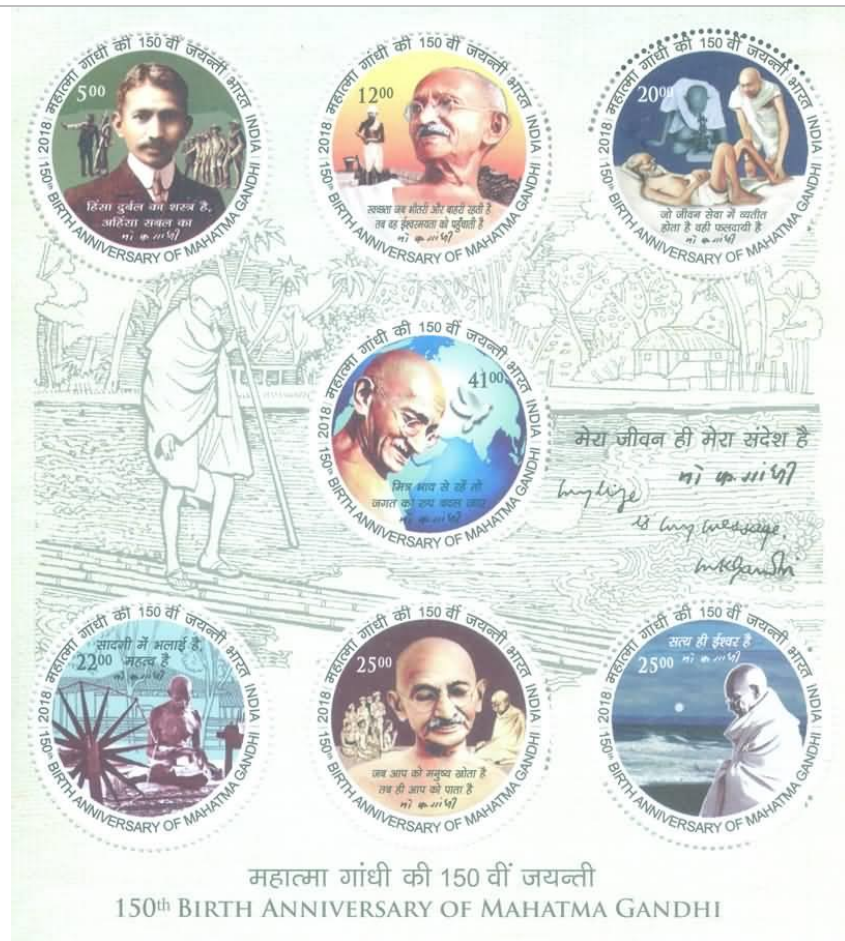
The Quit India movement proved the power of the masses. The British realized that they would not be able to govern India further and began to think as to how to exit the country in a peaceful and dignified manner. A set of eight stamps and a miniature sheet was issued on 09.08.2017 on the occasion of 75 years of the 1942 freedom movement.



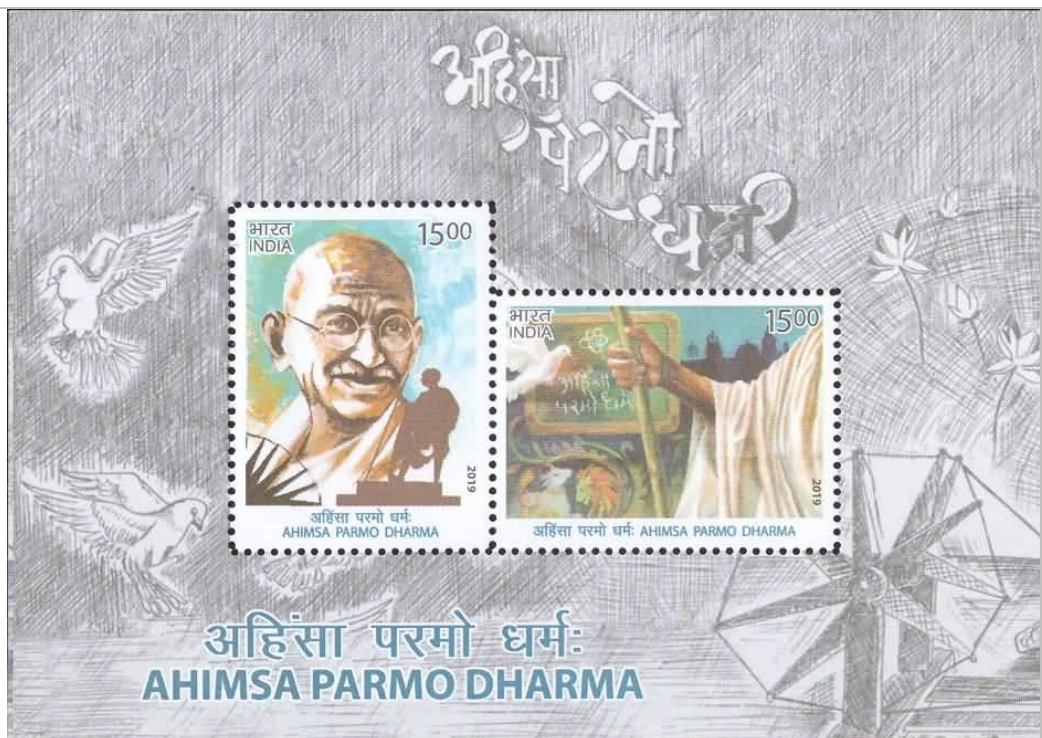
A set of two stamps and a miniature sheet was issued on 26.07.2018 on the occasion of 125 years of the Mahatma Gandhi's Pietermaritzburg Station incident and Birth Centenary of Nelson Mandela.



A set of seven circular stamps and a miniature sheet was issued on 02.10.2018 on the occasion of 150 Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.



A set of two stamps and a miniature sheet was issued on 17.06.2019 on Ahimsa Parmo Dharma as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi during his 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations .



A set of four stamps and a miniature sheet was issued on 02.10.2020 on as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi during his 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations



A set of four stamps and a miniature sheet was issued on 02.10.2019 on as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi during his 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations



6. Souvenir Sheets

Souvenir Sheets are issued with either one or more commemorative stamps. The stamps are available only as Souvenir stamps. One such sheet depicting the stamps issued in 1948 and 1969 was issued on 12.10.2013 on the occasion of Philately day.

