

INDIA POSTAGE STAMP CENTENARY
1854 - 1954



सत्यमेव जयते

SOUVENIR ALBUM

Souvenir



Album

ISSUED BY

THE INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

ON THE OCCASION OF

THE INDIA POSTAGE STAMP CENTENARY

1st OCTOBER 1954



1854



1865 - 1876



1866



1882 - 1888



1899 - 1900



1892

1898

1891



1895



1902 - 1911





1905



1906





1911-1933



1911-1933



1921



1922



1923





1931



1932-1936



1935



1937





1937



1940-1943



1946



1947



1948



1948



1949



1949



1949



1950



1951



1952



1953





- Plate (4) 1891-1900 With the reduction in postage rates, need for $2\frac{1}{2}$ as. stamps in 1891 and $\frac{1}{4}$ anna in 1898 was met by overprinting $4\frac{1}{2}$ as. and $\frac{1}{2}$ a. stamps. In 1895, high value stamps of Rs. 2, 3 and 5 were issued for the first time.
- Plate (5) 1902-1911 After the death of Queen Victoria, stamps bearing the head of King Edward VII appeared in the same denominations upto Rs. 5. In 1909, further new high values of Rs. 10, 15 and 25 were added for the first time.
- Plate (6) 1905-1906 There was a shortage of three pies in 1905 and $\frac{1}{2}$ a. stamp was overprinted $\frac{1}{4}$. On a decision to use postage stamps for revenue purposes also, the $\frac{1}{2}$ a. and 1 a. were issued with the words "India Postage and Revenue" in 1906.
- Plate (7) 1911-1933 On the death of King Edward VII, stamps with the head of King George V were issued. A new value, $1\frac{1}{2}$ as. was added, first with the words "One and Half Anna" subsequently corrected to "One and A Half Annas".
- Plate (8) 1911-1933 High value denominations with the head of George V were brought out during this period.
- Plate (9) 1921, 1922 New postage rate necessitated overprinting of "Nine Pies" on 1 a. in 1921. During a shortage of three pies stamps, $\frac{1}{2}$ a. was overprinted $\frac{1}{4}$ again in 1922.

In 1926, contract for printing stamps with De La Rue was terminated and the Security Printing Press, Nasik took over the printing of Indian stamps. Stamps from the same dies were thereafter printed in India, but on a new paper with "Multiple Star" watermark. Like the $\frac{1}{2}$ a. and 1 a., inscription on 2 As. and 4 As. was also changed to "India Postage and Revenue".

- 1929 India was probably the first country in the world to issue a set of six stamps, specially for the Air Mail.
- Plate (10) 1931 Inauguration of New Delhi in 1931 was commemorated by a pictorial series of six stamps, the first of such series, showing the old Fort and principal Government buildings in the capital.
- Plate (11) 1932-1936 Government again decided to issue separate revenue stamps. Consequently the inscription "India Postage & Revenue" on $\frac{1}{2}$ a., 1 a., 2 as. and 4 as., was changed to 'India Postage'. New inland postage rates gave rise to two new values 1 a. 3 ps. and 3 as. 6 ps., in 1932.
- Plate (12) 1935 The occasion of the Silver Jubilee of King George V's reign gives the Government an opportunity of picturing some of India's and Burma's architectural beauties.
- Plate (13) 1937 The necessity of making new stamps for the reign of King George VI gives the P. & T. Department an opportunity of illustrating the various modes of transport of mails.
- Plate (14) 1937 The George VI set has the same values as in the previous two reigns.
- Plate (15) 1940-1943 The shortage of paper occasioned by the war prevents the reprinting of the large postal carrier stamps and a new set is issued in the old size. A large 14 as. stamp, the air mail rate to the countries of the British Empire, is issued. It can serve for ordinary postage also.
- Plate (16) 1946 The end of World War II in 1945 gives the occasion for issuing a "Victory" set. Again, a shortage of 3 pies stamps had to be remedied by surcharging the 1 a. 3 ps. value, no longer useful, with the value 3 pies. It will be noticed that the surcharge is no longer $\frac{1}{4}$ a., but 3 pies.

- Plate (17) 1947-1948 On the 15th August 1947, India attained Independence and a set of three stamps was issued to commemorate the event. The 1½ as. shows the Asokan Capital which has become the crest of India, the 3½ as. depicts the Indian national flag and the 12 as., picturing an aeroplane, serves for the airmail rate of 12 as. On the 8th June 1948, Air India International, a purely Indian air line made its first flight to Europe. This stamp was valid for use on the 8th June 1948 only.
- Plate (18) 1948 The first anniversary of Indian Independence, the 15th August 1948, has a set of stamps dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, the "Father of the Indian Nation". Each stamp has the word "Bapu" (Father), the affectionate term by which all Indians know him. These stamps were printed by photogravure by Messrs. Courvoisier of La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland. They have no watermark. Perforations 11½ × 11½.
- A small number of these four stamps were overprinted with the word "Service" for the use of the First Indian Governor-General.
- Plate (19) 1949 The next anniversary of Indian Independence, 15th August 1949, saw the issue of India's first definitive stamps of her own. They represent various gems of architecture and sculpture in India. The 3 pies to 2 as. are perf. 14 × 14, the 3 as. to 12 as. 13½ × 13½, the Re. 1 and Rs. 10 are perf. 13½ × 14, the Rs. 2 and Rs. 5, 14 × 13½ and the Rs. 15, perf. 13.
- 3 pies depicts a pillar in the Ajanta Caves — 5th Century. 6 pies shows us a wonderful sculpture from the Sun Temple at Konarak (Orissa) 1238-1264 A.D. 9 pies depicts a colossal image representing Siva in Elephanta Caves — 8th Century.
- 1 a. pictures an image of Bodhisattva Sidhanada Lokeshvara in the Lucknow Museum. The first issue, which had wrongly reversed the

image, was corrected by a new issue shown on this plate on 15th July 1950. 2 as. represents a well-known image of "Nataraja", a bronze image of Siva as the cosmic dancer. This image is in Tiruvelangadu (Madras State) 1100 A.D.

3 as. one of the four ornamental gateways of the Sanchi Stupas (Central India), ca. 150 B.C.

3½ as. The Bodh Gaya Temple (6th Century A.D.) Shrine erected on the spot where Lord Buddha received enlightenment.

4 as. the great Lingaraj Temple at Bhuvaneswara, the noblest of the temples in Orissa. 1000 A.D.

6 as. Bijapur has one of the largest domes in the world on the tomb of Muhammad Adil Shah. Built 1626-1656.

8 as. Kandarya Mahadeva temple (Bundelkhand)). One of the most remarkable temples of North India style. 10th century.

12 as. The Golden Temple at Amritsar built during the reign of Akbar (1556-1605). It was rebuilt in 1776.

Plate (20)

1949

Re. 1. This is a nine-storeyed marble monumental tower at Chittorgarh. 1442-1449 A.D.

Rs. 2. The great Red Fort at Delhi built by Shahjahan 1638-48.

Rs. 5. The Taj Mahal at Agra, perhaps the world's most beautiful monument, built by Emperor Shahjahan for his beloved wife Mumtaz Begum.

Rs. 10. The Qutb Minar, Delhi. The tower is 238 feet high. 11th to 12th Century A.D.

Rs. 15. Western India possesses many ornate Jain temples. Here is the Satrunjaya Temple in Palitana built in 1618 A.D.

A new value 2½ as. in the design of 3½ as. was added in 1951 to this series.

Plate (21)

1949

The 75th anniversary of the founding of the Universal Postal Union in October 1949 gave the occasion to all stamp issuing countries in the world to issue a set of stamps. The globe and the Asokan Capital were pictured on the Indian set.

1950

On the 26th January 1950, India having evolved its Constitution, declared itself a Republic.

The 2 as. value shows a boy and a girl watching a procession carrying flags and blowing trumpets to commemorate the event.

The 3½ as. has a quill pen dipped into an inkwell and leaflets inscribed in Devanagari with Mahatma Gandhi's favourite hymn "Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram". It is symbolic of India's nation building programme in the realm of education.

The 4 as. India is essentially an agricultural country and this value shows an ear of grain and an indigenous plough-share.

The 12 as. depicts the "Charkha" (indigenous handloom) symbolic of India's cottage industry. The charkha is a great factor in India's rural economy.

These stamps were designed by Messrs. D. J. Keymer & Co. Ltd., Calcutta. Perf. 13.

Plate (22)

1951

The centenary of the Geological Survey of India saw the issue of one stamp of 2 as. value representing a pair of Stegodon Ganesa, an

extinct species of the modern Indian elephant. Offset litho. Perf. 13.

1951 The first Asian Games held in New Delhi on March 4, 1951 gave us 2 stamps (perf. 14) and printed by offset litho. They depict a torch against the southern coast line of Asia.

1952 The 1st October 1952 saw the appearance of a commemorative set representing various Indian saints and poets. They were printed by the photogravure process for the first time in India by the Security Printing Press, Nasik (Perf. 14). There were six values, 9 pies, 1 anna, 2 as., 4 as., 4½ as. and 12 as., representing Kabir, Tulsidas, Mira (a Rajput Princess), Surdas, Ghalib and Rabindranath Tagore respectively.

Plate (23)

1953 On the 16th April 1953, one stamp of 2 as. was issued to commemorate the Indian Railway Centenary. It depicts locomotives of 1853 and 1953. Photogravure, perf. 14.

On the 2nd October, 1953, two stamps of 2 as. and 14 as. respectively were issued to commemorate one of the greatest events of modern times — the conquest of Mt. Everest. The stamps depict the peak of Mt. Everest, produced by photogravure and perf. 14.

The centenary of the Indian Telegraphs was remembered in the pair of stamps, "2 as. and 12 as." issued on the 1st November 1953. They depict telegraph posts as used in 1851 and 1951. Photogravure, perf. 14.

Plate (24)

1954 On the 1st October 1954, India celebrates the Centenary of the 1st issue of her postage stamps and this historic occasion is commemorated by the issue of 4 stamps of the denominations of 1 anna, 2 annas, 4 annas and 14 annas. The 2 annas and 14 annas stamps have a common design depicting a pigeon carrying an envelope on the left and an aeroplane on the right with a diagonally demarcating line in between the two.

The colour of the 2 annas stamp is carmine and that of the 14 annas stamp dark blue. The design of the 1 anna stamp depicts three different modes of postal transport namely by runner, by camel and by bullock cart; and the design of the 4 annas stamp depicts four different modes of postal transport *viz.*, by steamer, by cycle, by train and by aeroplane. The colour of the 1 anna stamp is red purple and of the 4 annas stamp light brown. They are printed by photogravure on paper watermarked multiple star and perforated 14.

This completes a record of 100 years progress of India's postage stamps beginning from 1-10-1854.
