JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE

Own stamps of Jammu & Kashmir were issued from 1866 to 1878. Common stamps (British India) began in 1878. From 1894 to 1948, Indian issues were used.





Post in Jammu and Kashmir existed as early as 1820. This was carried by runners. Jammu and Kashmir had both joint and separate stamps on issue concurrently in 1866-77. All the issues were inscribed in native script only. Separate stamps issued in Jammu and Kashmir discontinued on 1st Nov. 1894. The then Poonch, a feudatory state tributary to Jammu and Kashmir had it own postal system and separate stamps were used by this part of the region till 1894.





From 1866 to 1878 Jammu and Kashmir stamps were printed by hand in black, blue, red, green and yellow watercolours. All of these stamps were printed at the Jammu printing works, with supplies for use in Kashmir sent there periodically.





The blue watercolours show a considerable variety of different shades. Stamps were printed in small batches as required using a mixture of pigments, which was virtually impossible to reproduce exactly. Individual prints may have the paint thickly applied or more of less watery, so that the general appearance of different stamps from the same issue may vary. As with the blue water colours, the red and orange water colour issues exhibit a variety of different shades and the pigment colour shade can usually be used to identify the period of printing and use of these stamps.



The first use of the orange shade was for the 1a Kashmir old rectangular, when the ½a and 1a composite plate was split in July 1867. Red watercolours were introduced in 1868 for the Kashmir 8as single die and the earliest date for the Jammu old rectangular is May 1868. Printing in red watercolours with periodic limited issues in orange continued for the Jammu old rectangular until the introduction of the oil colours in about June 1877. The 1a and 8as Kashmir rectangular continued to be used until the introduction of the new rectangular designs in May 1878. The 4as circular was the highest value printed for use in Jammu and the ½a and 1a circulars were occasionally used to supplement temporary shortages of the Jammu rectangular, although it is possible that they were originally printer's trail for the rectangular.

All the above stamps were in use till 1st November 1894.













Organized Postal Services in Jammu and Kashmir State started in the early half of nineteenth century under the aegis of the Maharaja's Government not with standing existence of dispatch riders to carry official mail from time immemorial. After annexation of Kashmir to Jammu, Maharaja Gulab Singh established a communication link between Jammu and Kashmir by creating 38 Dak Chowkies which were manned by harkars (Foot Runners).

Later Maharaja Ranbir Singh improved the mail transmission system in the State, especially between Jammu and Srinagar by establishing 129 *chowkies* (runner stages) from Jammu to Srinagar. Mail used to be conveyed from Jammu to Srinagar (298 km) by the *harkars* in 25 to 30 hours only.



During 1864 A.D. (Samvat 1921) communication link was established between Jammu and Lahore too. In 1865 A.D., the Maharaja requested Mr. Hegue, the Postmaster General, to visit Jammu and Kashmir and on his recommendations adopted the pattern of India Postal System for his own kingdom. Till 1866, postal charges used to be realized in cash. The postal stamps were first printed in 1866 A.D. which later bore bilingual legends in Dogri and Persian. Imperial Post Office in Srinagar was opened in 1867 presently the General Post Office at "THE BUND".





The State Postal Services were in charge of an officer with two *Muhris* (assistants).... one proficient in *Dogri* and other proficient in Persian. By 1873 A.D., 139 *chowkies* had been established between Jammu and Srinagar. Four runners manned a *chowki* with a *Challan Navis* at Maujia Kedi and Ramban Bridge. During fair weather, the mail was carried between Jammu and Srinagar in 9 to 11 *Pahars* (8 *Pahars* equal to one day), while during winter and rainy seasons it was carried in 16-17 *pahras*. Jammu and Sialkot communication link had also been established with the help of eight runners.



Kashmir to Koh-Muree had 73 Chowki harkaras and it took 13 to 14 Pahars to carry dak from Kashmir to Koh-Muree (8 pahars only for special bags). One *Munshi* was located at Commissionery, Rawalpindi during summer to look after the administration of this runner line.



Between Kashmir to Leh, there were 100 *chowki harkars* who scaled the snow clad peaks in just 4 days to reach Leh from Srinagar during the summer season and 7 to 8 days during the winter season. Likewise between Kashmir and Gilgit (Baltistan) there were 104 *chowki harkars*. Dak used to be dispatched daily from Astore to Gilgit provided movement was not hampered due to rain of snow. In 1875, Shri Babu Devidin was appointed as Superintendent of Posts, who brought about many changes and introduced the printed stationary.



KASHMIR LANDSCAPE

Turquoise Green

Date of Issue: 26.01.1955

Denomination: 10 as

Perforation: 14 x 14

½ Watermark Multi Star

Kashmir is the principal region in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, the other two supplementary units being Jammu and Ladakh.

Set like a jeweled crown on the map of India, Kashmir is a many-faceted diamond, changing its character with the seasons......always extravagantly beautiful. Three Himalayan ranges, Karakoram, Zanskar and Pir Panjal.....snow-capped majestic, frame the landscape from northwest to northeast. They are birthplace of great rivers which flow down into the valleys below, forested with wild orchards and lily laden lakes.

Mere words cannot convey the awesome majesty of Himalayas. Their splendour sweeps over the north and north eastern part of the subcontinent, and as the highest, newest mountain range on earth, scaling a Himalayan peak is the dream of many a mountaineer the world over.

In Kashmir alone, there is a unique diversity of ranges within the Himalayas......those in the Zanaskar area having the highest peaks, the Ladakh area, the Kishtwar area, the Kashmir area offer unlimited possibilities and challenges.



DAL LAKE, KASHMIR

(DEFINITIVE)

New Blue & Deep Slate Violet Date of Issue: 15.03.1967

Denomination: Rs. 2.00 Perforation: 14 x 14 ½

Watermark: Ashokan Sideways

The world famous water body described by Sir Walter Lawrence as the "Lake parexcellence", half a kilometer form Srinagar city, is the jewel in the crown of Kashmir eulogized by the poets and abundantly praised by the travelers and tourists.

Srinagar is a unique city because of its lakes.....the Dal, Nagin and Anchar. But the Dal is biggest amongst the three. The Dal is famous not for its beauty, but for its vibrance, because it sustains within the periphery, a life that is unique anywhere in the world.

In Kashmiri Dal means a lake. It is a huge expanse of water situated in the east of Srinagar city. A boulevard has been constructed by the State Government along the southern and eastern bank of the lake which has immensely enhanced its beauty.

The lake has been divided into two sectors by a bund connecting Nishat Garden with Naidyar, one of the eastern localities of Srinagar city. Two small isles Sona Lank (Golden Isle) and Ropa Lank (Silver isle) have been built by Mughal emperor in southern and northern sectors of the lake, respectively.

25th ANNIVERSARY ZOJI LA DAY 1-11-73



7th LIGHT CAVALRY



ISSUED BY ARMY POSTAL SERVICE CORPS

ZOJI LA DAY, 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Date of Issue: 01.11.1973 Dimension: 22.5 x 10.5 cm

Cachet: 7th Light Cavalry

Size of cancellation: 3:2 cm in diameter

On return from Japan, 7th Light Cavalry took park in J&K operations. It was during these operations that the Regiment reached the zenith of its achievements by forcing the snow bound ZOJI LA pass with its tanks. This pass is 11580 ft. high and is the highest point where tanks have ever been used in action.



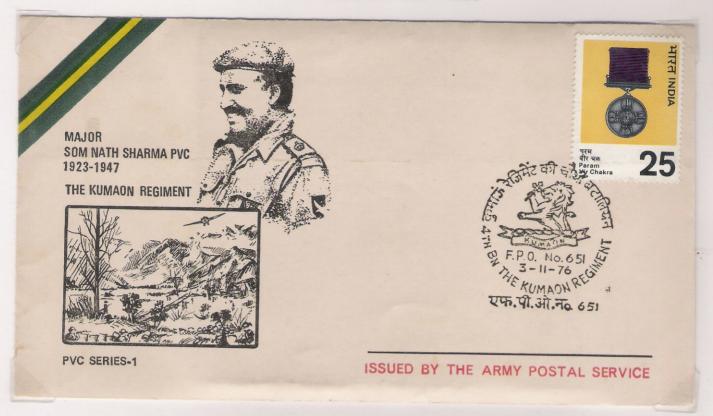
KASHMIR LANDSCAPE DEFINITIVES V

Violet and Blackish Brown Date of Issue: 15.07.1975 Dimension: Rs. 2.00

Perforation: 14 x 14.5 cm

No Watermark

Set like a jeweled crown on the map of India, Kashmir is a many-faceted diamond, changing its character with the seasons.......always extravagantly beautiful. Three Himalayan ranges, Karakoram, Zanskar and Pir Panjal.....snow-capped majestic, frame the landscape from northwest to northeast. They are birthplace of great rivers which flow down into the valleys below, forested with wild orchards and lily laden lakes.



PARAM VIR CHAKRA SERIES-1 MAJOR SOM NATH SHARMA PVC

Single Colour

Dimension : 17.5 x 10 cm Date of Issue : 03.11.1976

Cachet: 4th BN The Kumaon Regiment

The Army Postal Service issued a series of special covers, cancellation and brochures to mark the exploits of individual Param Vir Chakra winners. The first of the chosen few is the Late Major Som Nath Sharma (1923-1947). Sharma was born at Jammu in 1923 in a family of soldiers and doctors and his one ambition from early childhood was to become a soldier himself. At the age of 11, he joined the royal Indian Military College Dehradun where he distinguished himself as an all round sportsman and scholar. After passing the senior Cambridge examination in the first division, he gained a competitive vacancy in the Indian Military Academy. He was commissioned in 1942 into the 19th Hyderabad Regiment. Major Som Nath Sharma died while fighting the infiltrators near Badgam (Kashmir) in 1947. Major Sharma set an example of courage and soldierly qualities seldom equaled in the history of the Indian Army. For his inspiring leadership, fearless courage, unrivalled tenacity and self sacrifice, he was posthumously awarded the first Param Vir Chakra, the highest gallantry award instituted by Independent India.



27th Pacific Area Travel Association, Conference.

Multicolour

Denomination: Re. 1.00

Date of Issue: 23.01.1978

Perforation: 13 No Watermark

For the first time in the history of India Post Offices or, perhaps, of the world a "Floating Mobile Post Office" was opened in a "Shikara", in Srinagar from 1st Oct. to 31st Oct. 1953. This Post Office worked over 'Dal Lake' and 'Jhelum' river to cater the needs of visitors from India and foreign countries, who generally stay in House Boats.

This idea was so much appreciated that floating mobile post office became a regular feature during summer seasons in Srinagar. In 1954 summer, the Department operated three floating mobile post offices in between 5th April and 31st October, 1954. The first was in Dal Lake, the second was at Nagin Bagh and the third one was in Jhelum River.



NEHRU PARK POST OFFICE

Single Colour

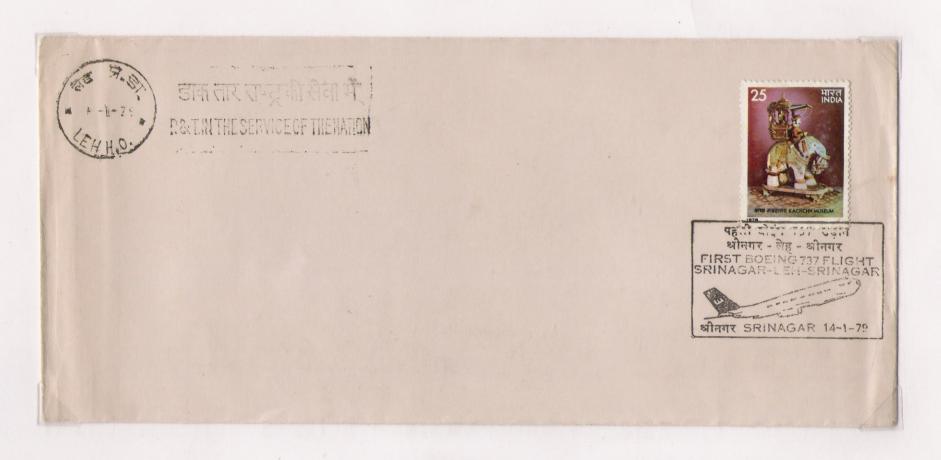
Dimension: 20 x 12 cm Date of Issue: 23.09.1978

In 1955, the floating mobile post office was opened from 16th April at Dal Lake and Jhelum River and from 2nd July at Nagin Bagh. All the three remained opened till 31st October 1955. 'VITASTA' (ancient name of River Jhelum) was the name of the shikara which was in service in Jhelum. 'FIRDUS' was the name of shikara for Dal Lake and 'USHA' was the name of shikara catered in Nagin Lake.

These three mobile Post Offices worked as 'No Delivery Post Office' from inception. They worked beyond 1959. There is no information or authentic document beyond 1959. Mail posted from these floating mobile post offices are very scare and hard to find.

Released by Sh. Shiekh Mohd Abdullah, Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir

SPECIAL CANCELLATION



FIRST BOEING 737 FLIGHT SRINAGAR-LEH-SRINAGAR

Date of Issue: 14.01.1979 Dimension: 5 x 3 cm



SHIKARA NESTING AT SUNSET

Multicolour

Dimension: 18.5 x 11.5 cm

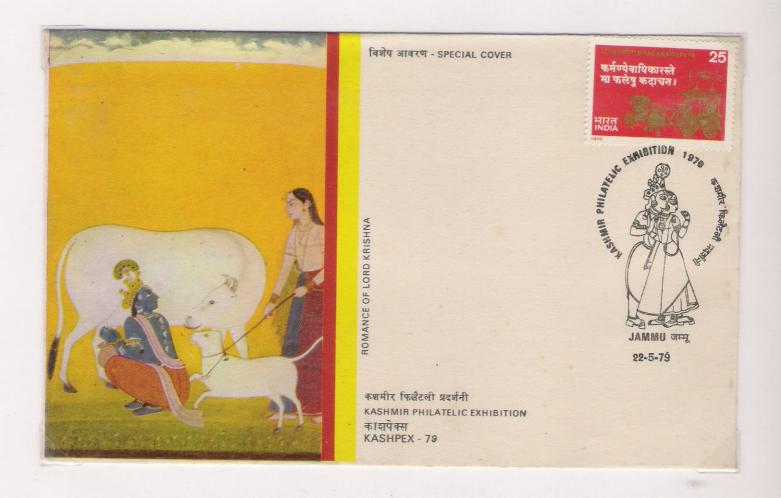
Date of Issue: 21.05.1979

Cachet: Shikara with mountains on background

KASHPEX-1979 (Kashmir Day)

Dal Lake is thronged in summer by picnic parties who move about in lake in boats (called *Shikars*) which they tie up here in order to refresh themselves under the cool and breezy shade of mighty Chinars.

Released by Sh. Shiekh Mohd Abdullah, Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir



ROMANCE OF LORD KRISHNA

Multicolour

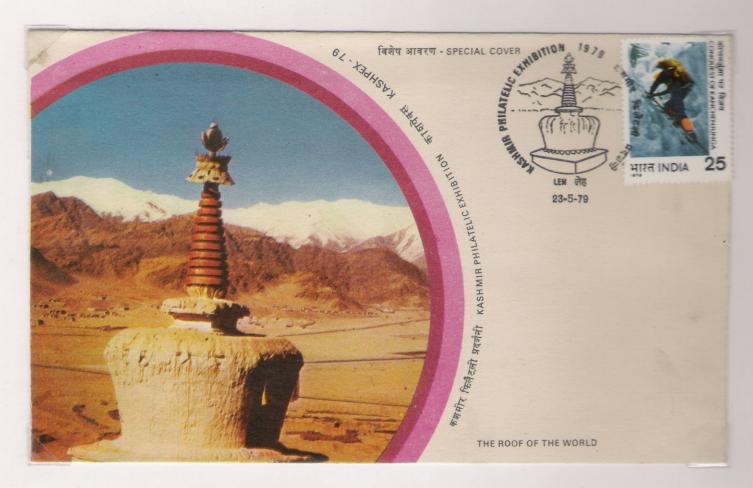
Dimension: 18.5 x 11.5 cm

Date of Issue: 22.05.1979

Cachet: Romance of Lord Krishna

KASHPEX-1979 (Jammu Day)

Basohli is situated on the right bank of river Ravi at an altitude of 1876 ft. Founded by Raja Bhupat Paul sometime in 1635, it was known for magnificent palaces which are not in ruins and miniature paintings. These paintings which date back to 17th century, have acquired a place of respect in realm of art. In the ruins of places, colourful frescoes are still seen on the walls. Another important thing associated with this town is Basohli's Pashmina shawls.



THE ROOF OF THE WORLD

Multicolour

Dimension: $18.5 \times 11.5 \text{ cm}$

Date of Issue: 23.05.1979

Cachet: Chorten

KASHPEX-1979 (Ladakh Day)

In ancient times the present Leh was a part of Greater Ladakh spread over the Kailash Mansarover to Swaat (Dardistan). The Greater Ladakh was either under the domain of Tibet or its influence.

The ancient inhabitants of Ladakh were Dards, an Indo-Aryan race from down the Indus. But immigration from Tibet more than a thousand years ago largely overwhelmed the culture of the Dards and moped up their racial characters.

The rugged terrain of Ladakh was traversed for centuries and the land as described by the historians is a new land. Hence, quoted as the "Roof of the World".



THE VALLEY OF FLOWERS

Multicolour

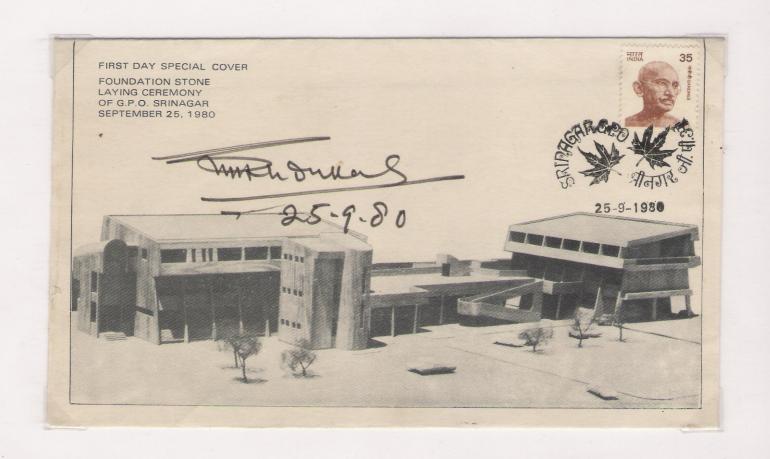
Dimension: 18.5 x 11.5 cm

Date of Issue: 24.05.1979

Cachet: Village Scene

KASHPEX-1979 (Kashmir Day)

Through the ages 'The Valley of Flowers' has remained another name for paradise. A dream garden, painted a new each season never fading in its compelling beauty throughout the year. Spring comes in gentle pastel shades-pink, blue and white. And then summer. Slowly brightening hills and valleys. A profusion of sunny flowers. The deep mellow richness of red gold autumn tuning the trees on fire. And then suddenly it is winter. Clean, white and hushed cold ared only by snow revelers on the world-famous ski slopes of Gulmarg. Different times of the year. But always beautiful. That's Kashmir.



FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY OF GENERAL POST OFFICE, SRINAGAR.

Single Colour

Dimension: 17.5 x 10.5 cm

Date of Issue: 25.09.1980

Cachet: Chinar Leaves

Released by Sh. Shiekh Mohd Abdullah, Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir



FPO IN KASHMIR

Single Colour

Dimension: 18 x 10 cm Date of Issue: 05.12.1980

Cachet: APS Reunion



BRIDE-KASHMIR

Multicolour

Date of Issue: 30.12.1980

Denomination: Re. 1.00

Perforation: 13

No Watermark

Issued under

Brides in Traditional Indian Costume Series

A bride anywhere in the world signals joy. However, in India particularly she is welcomed as Saubhagyavati: "The fortunate one", the harginger of auspiciousness into the home. A traditional bride fulfils the promise of her community and is in turn fulfilled by it. While she epitomizes the cultural style of her community, the means by which she is decorated depend heavily on the skill of local craft tradition.



AVLOKETESWARA (LADAKH)

JAMPEX-1982

Multicoloured

Date of Issue: 18.03.1982

Dimension: 23 x 13 cm

Cachet: Lama Piper ISSUED ON THE INAUGRAL DAY OF JAMPEX-1982 AT JAMMU



KASHMIR STAG

Multicolour

Date of Issue: 01.10.1982

Denomination: Rs. 2.85

Perforation: 13 x 13 ½

No Watermark

Issued under

Wildlife Conservation Series

Amidst forests of silver birch and conifer roams the Hangul (Kashmir Stag) and on the verge of extinction till a few years ago, the national park at Dachigam contains the last viable Hangul population in the world. Related to the red deer of Europe, this breed is characterized by its white rump patch and impressive spread of antlers.



THE DOGRA REGIMENT 8TH POSTWAR REUNION

Multicolour

Date of Issue: 18.02.1984

Dimension: 18 X 10 cm

Cachet: Dogra Regiment

The cover was released on celebrating its Eight Post War Reunion from 15th to 18th Feb. 1984 at the Dogra Regimental Centre, Faizabad.



JAK LI REGIMENT 2ND RE-UNION 1984

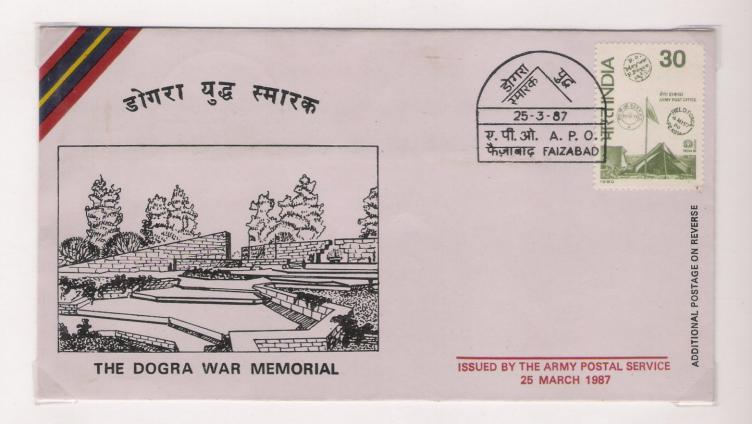
Multicolour

Date of Issue : 27.09.1984

Dimension: 19 x 15 cm

Cachet: Balidanam Veer Lakshnam

The Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry is one of the youngest Regiments of the Indian Army. Organization as a volunteer force to meet the Pakistani raiders in 1947, it paved its path with glory and unsurpassed acts of gallantry and heroism. The young Regiment of the Indian Army has the distinction of winning the highest number of gallantry awards in the post independence Indian Army.



THE DOGRA WAR MEMORIAL

Single Colour

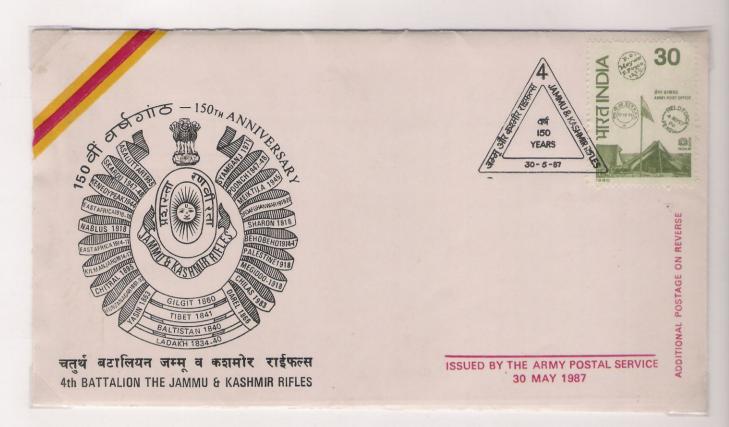
Dimension: 18 x 10 cm

Date of Issue: 25.03.1987

Cachet: Dogra Samarak Yudh

The Dogras are best known for their excellent inherent qualities of soldiering since ancient times. They have amply demonstrated undaunted courage and chivalry during World War I, World War II, Chinese aggression and Indo Pak Conflicts. They remain cool and steadfast in defence and pounce like tigers in attack.

To perpetuate the memory of the men who have sacrificed their lives for the country, each Regiment constructs its own suitable memorial which is invariably located at the Centre. The memorial also acts as a great motivating factor for the young Recruits.



4TH BATTALION THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR RIFLES

Multicolour

Date of Issue: 30.05.1987 Dimension: 18 x 10 cm

Cachet: 150 Years

Fourth Battalion the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles was raised on 30th May 1837 with the name of 'Fateh Shibji' by Maharaja Gulab Singh as part of J&K State Forces. Fateh Shibji formed part of famous General Zorawar Singh's force which annexed Ladakh, Tibet and Baltistan. On night 29/30 May 1841, the tenacious Dogras fought back in a surprise attack by Chinese at Tokoporsal. In the fierce battle that ensued, the Standard bearer of Chinese flag called 'Mantalai Standard' was killed, while the rest of Chinese fled in panic. The 'Standard' was captured and is still proud possession of 'Fateh Shibji'.

The Special Cover was released while celebrating its 150th Anniversary in their unit in Western Sector.



7 MECHANISED BATTALION (1 DOGRA)

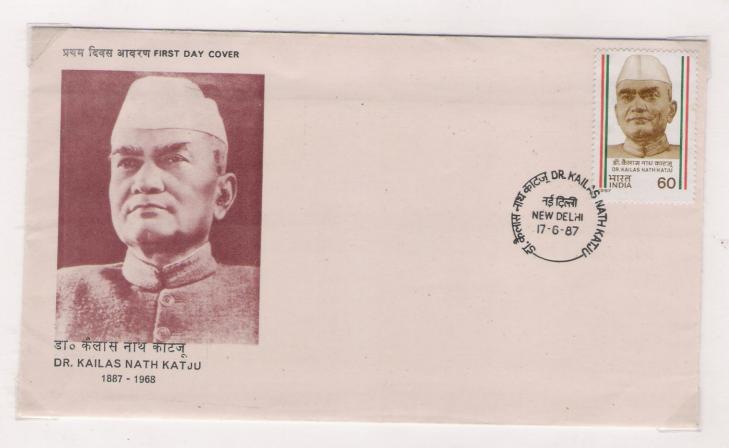
Multicolour

Date of Issue : 03.06.1987 Dimension : 18 x 10 cm

Cachet: 150 Years

Fourth Battalion the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles was raised on 30th May 1837 with the name of 'Fateh Shibji' by Maharaja Gulab Singh as part of J&K State Forces. Fateh Shibji formed part of famous General Zorawar Singh's force which annexed Ladakh, Tibet and Baltistan. On night 29/30 May 1841, the tenacious Dogras fought back in a surprise attack by Chinese at Tokoporsal. In the fierce battle that ensued, the Standard bearer of Chinese flag called 'Mantalai Standard' was killed, while the rest of Chinese fled in panic. The 'Standard' was captured and is still proud possession of 'Fateh Shibji'.

The Special Cover was released while celebrating its 150th Anniversary in their unit in Western Sector.



DR. K.N.KATJU

Yellowish, Brown Emerald Orange Red

Date of Issue: 17.06.1987 Denomination: Rs. 00.60

Perforation: 13

No Watermark

Issued under India's Struggle for Freedom Series (5^{th} Series)

An eminent layer, Dr. Kailas Nath Katju (1887-1968) fought several cases for the national cause, prominent being Meerut conspiracy case and INA officers trial. He was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru.

Kailas Nath Katju's father Pandit Tribhuwan Nath belonged to a middle class Kashmiri Brahmin family settled in Jaora, a petty state in Malwa.

Dr. Katju undoubtedly was one of the leaders of the Allahabad Bar. His deep scholarship and legal acumen fitted him for that noble and coveted role.



CHINAR

Multicolour

Date of Issue: 19.11.1987

Denomination: Re. 00.60

Perforation: 13 No Watermark

Called Booune in Kashmiri language, the Chinar tree is an integral part of Kashmiri Culture. Almost every village in the valley has a Chinar tree. One can experience a cool breeze under the shadow of this majestic tree which is very conducive to health.

Chinar is a gigantic sized tree, found growing throughout valley. Its scientific name is platanus orientalis. Its family is plataneae. The deciduous tree, Chinar traces its origin to Greece. Its incredible beauty has to be seen to be believed. The tree is at its mot elegance and exuberance during autumn. Though its majesty can be seen all through the year, Iqbal, the poet of the East traces the warmth of the Kashmir soil to the "blaze of Chinars it nurses in its bosom".

Chinar grows up to a height of 25 meters and a girth exceeding 50 feet in certain cases. This tree with the largest circumference of 60 feet is located at a village named Chattergam in central Kashmir.



PANDIT HRIDAY NATH KUNZRU

Deep Rose, Red and Green Date of Issue: 31.12.1987

Denomination: Re. 00.60

Perforation: 13 No Watermark

Issued under India's Struggle for Freedom Series (5th Series)

Pt. Hriday Nath Kunzru's ancestor Meeru Pandit Dar was the commander of the Royal Mounted Guards of the empress Noorjahan at Delhi. The Mughal emperor Shahjahan (1627-1658) through a royal decree gave a lot of 'jagir' to him Baramulla district in Kashmir Valley. One of the descendants of Meeru Pandit Dar got the 'jagir' of Kunzar village in the Baramulla District in inheritance and he started writing his surname as Kunzeru in place of original Dar.

President of the Servants of India's society for 42 years, Pt. Hriday Nath Kunzru (1887-1987) contributed to public lift, fighting against the caste system, untouchability and other social evils.



SHIEKH MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH

Date of Issue: 05.12.1988 Denomination: Re. 00.60

> Perforation: 13 No Watermark

Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was born on 5th December, 1905 in Soura Srinagar, Kashmir. Graduating from Lahore, he obtained the Master's Degree in Chemistry from Aligarh Muslim University in 1930. In 1931 he began his political career, organizing Kashmiri masses under the banner of Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference. He converted it into the National Conference in 1939 giving it a broad base and bringing more communities into its fold. He sought to emancipate people of the princely states. On the eve of partition he launched the "Quit Kashmir" movement demanding the repudiation of the Treaty of Amritsar between the British and Raja Gulab Singh.

On the principal of "Sovereignty vests with the people", he denounced the prince's divine right to rule. He was tried for sedition and sentences to nine years aggregate imprisonment and fined Rs. 1500/- despite the strong defence by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Asaf Ali, Bhagwan Sahay, Diwan Chaman Lal, Pandit Jai Lal Kilam and others.

He organized the people of Kashmir to resist the raiders till the arrival of the Indian Army when Kashmir was attacked by the raiders in 1947. In March, 1948, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah became the first popular Prime Minister of the State. He was also Member of the Indian Constituent Assembly, a signatory to the Indian Constitution and in 1948-49, a member of the Indian delegation to the United Nations. His eventful life came to an end on 8th September, 1982.





JAMMU: - THE CITY OF TEMPLES

JAMMU: THE CITY OF TEMPLES

Single Colour

Dimension: 21 X 11.5 cm Date of Issue: 01.04.1991 Cachet: Basoli Painting

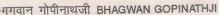
Tucked away in the foothills of the Himalayas, with the picturesque river Tawi flowing alongside, stands the land that Raja Jambu Lochan discovered one day while he was hunting. Legend has it hat he suddenly came upon a cheering where he saw a sight that left him speechless. A tiger and a goat stood side by side drinking water from the same place the Tawi River. He was so struck by this unusual sight that he decided to build a city on this soil where no living creature seemed to bear enmity towards each other.

Today, as if in testimony, the city of Jammu is popularly known as the "City of Temples". Innumerable temples and shrines with glittering 'Shikhars' caretakers of the city, creating the ambience of a truly holy city.

Released by Sh. Ved Prakash, Advisor to Governor of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of Centenary Celebrations of Head Post Office, Jammu Tawi.

प्रथम दिवस आचरण FIRST DAY COVER







BHAGWAN GOPINATHJI

SEPIA

Date of Issue: 03.07.1998

Denomination: Rs. 3.00

Perforation: 13 No Watermark

Jagadguru Bhagawan Gopinathji was one of the most eminent saints who have graced the sacred land of India. With his spiritual power, he did a lot of good to spiritual aspirants and householders. Though utterly detached he showed much concern for his country and its people.

Gopinathji was born in a middle-class Kashmiri Pandit family at Banamohalla, Srinagar, Kashmir on 3rd July, 1898. He inherited spiritual fervour from his religious-minded father and mother. Gopinathji was educated only upto the middle standard but he absorbed well whatever he had been taught at school. Due to financial constraints Gopinathji was asked to take up some work at the young age of about 15 or 16 and he started working at a local printing press. He however gave up that job after three years and ran a grocer's shop where he seemed to be absent minded being absorbed in meditation.

On May 28, 1968 Bhagwan Gopinathji left his mortal world for his heavenly abode.



SINDHU DARSHAN

Multicolour

Date of Issue: 28.07.1999

Denomination: Rs. 3.00

Perforation: 13 X 13

No Watermark

The mighty Sindhu (Indus) river, symbolizes the power and permanence of the ancient Indian Civilization which evolved over a period of thousands of years. The archaeological discovery of the Indus Valley civilization which flourished along its banks has reinforced the antiquity of the Indian Civilization.

A great trans-Himalayan river, Sindhu is one of the longest rivers in the world, having a length of 2900 km. The name "Sindhu" is mentioned in the 'Rig Veda', the earliest chronicles of ancient India and is the source of the country's name. It rises in south-western Tibet near Mansarovar Lake at an altitude of 16000 ft., enters India near Demchok in Ladakh (J&K) and is soon joined on its left by its first tributary, Zanskar. Further down, other streams like Shyok, Shigar, Hunza and Gilgit join the Sindhu bringing water from glaciers east of Nanga Parbat. Sindhu finally flows west, crosses the Kashmir border near Batalik and enters Pakistan.

Release on the bank of River Sindhu at Shey near Leh by Sh. L.K.Advani, Union Home Minister, Goyt, of India



BRIGADIER RAJINDER SINGH, MVC

Single Colour

Date of Issue: 27.10.1999

Denomination: Rs. 3.00

Perforation: 13 X 13

No Watermark

Brigadier Rajinder Singh (1899-1947), often called the saviour of Kashmir, was a gallant soldier who laid down his life in the defence of motherland during treacherous invasion of Kashmir from across the border in 1947. He was the recipient of the first gallantry award of Independent India. Born in the small village of Bagoona (since renamed Rajinderpura after him) near Jammu, the history of bravery and sacrifice ran in his family, with his illustrious ancestor General Baj Singh having sacrificed himself almost a century earlier in the defence of Chitral.

He was Chief of Staff; professional head of the erstwhile J&K State forces when suddenly Muzafaabad was attacked by Pakistan on 21st October, 1947 with a view to forcibly capture the Valley. After Muzafarabad fell, Brigadier Rajinder Singh was called personally by Maharaja Hari Singh to proceed to the Uri front. Brigadier Rajinder Singh fought till he sacrificed his life and achieved martyrdom at Bunyar, near Uri in Kashmir on 28th October 1947.



GENERAL ZORAWAR SINGH

Multicolour

Date of Issue: 31.12.2000

Denomination: Rs. 3.00

Perforation: 13 x 13

No watermark

General Zorawar Singh (1786-1841 A.D.) was a Dogra warrior who joined the army of Maharaja Gulab singh of Kashmir as a Sepoy and rose on account of his soldierly qualities and military acumen to become the Governor of Kishtwar and earned the title 'Wazir'. Ladakh was annexed for the first time in history by Zorawar Singh in 1834. After Ladakh he campaigned in Baltistan among the three states of Skardu, Gilgit and Hunza. The techniques of mountain warfare employed by him are considered tax book examples of military science even today.

In 1841, he set out on an ambitious expedition into Tibet, over-running Rudak and Gor. But after advancing upto Tang, events did not go the brave General's way. Fighting the numerically stronger Tibetan troops in extremely inclement whether conditions, General Zorawar Singh laid down his life in the battlefield. For his military skills, inspiring leadership and administrative acumen, General Zorawar Singh has been named 'Little Nepolean of India' by some historians.





14 मैकनाइज्ड इन्फैन्ट्री (16 जैक रायफल्स) 14 MECHANISED INFANTRY (16 JAK RIF)



ISSUED BY THE ARMY POSTAL SERVICE 01 SEPTEMBER 2001

14 MECHANISED INFANTRY (16 JAK RIF)

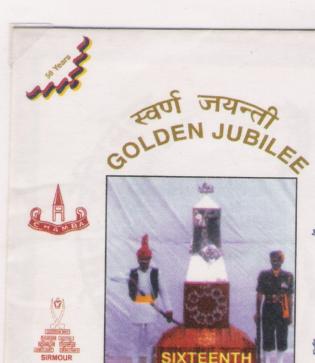
Multicolour

Date of release: 01.09.2001

Dimension: 20 X 11 cm

Cachet: SPIRIT OF THE MECH INF

Fourth Battalion the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles was raised on 30th May 1837 with the name of 'Fateh Shibji' by Maharaja Gulab Singh as part of J&K State Forces. Fateh Shibji formed part of famous General Zorawar Singh's force which annexed Ladakh, Tibet and Baltistan. On night 29/30 May 1841, the tenacious Dogras fought back in a surprise attack by Chinese at Tokoporsal. It is fierce battle that ensued, the Standard bearer of Chinese flag called 'Mantalai Standard' was killed, while the rest of Chinese fled in panic. The 'Standard' was captured and is still proud possession of 'Fateh Shibji'.







28.10.2001

भारत एक्रोपोरा डिजिटीफेरा INDIA ACROPORA DIGITIFERA







सोलहवीं बटालियन दी डोगरा रेजिमेंट 16TH BATTALION THE DOGRA REGIMENT

ISSUED BY THE ARMY POSTAL SERVICE 28 OCTOBER 2001

16TH BATTALION THE DOGRA REGIMENT

Multicolour

Date of release: 28.10.2001 Dimension: 20 X 11 cm Cachet: GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Dogras hailing from Himichal Pradesh, Jammu and the adjoining districts of Punjab are redoubtable fighters who have maintained their soldierly qualities for centuries. These simple, hones, brave and loyal people enroll in large umber in the Rmed Forces particularly in the Infantry.

The Dogra Regiment which was raised in 1858 and celebrated its 146th Anniversary in 2004 has a proud record of operational services. During the pre-Second World War period, the Regiment won 20 Battle Honours on the North West Frontier, in France and Flanders, Egypt, Palestine, Aden and Mesopotamia.

The Motto of the Regiment is "KARTAVYAM ANVATMA" which means "Duty Before Self". Their war cry is "JWALA MAI KI JAI"





ISSUED BY THE ARMY POSTAL SERVICE - 2002

BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE JAMMU AND KASHMIR RIFLES

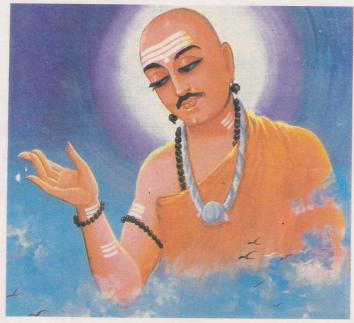
Multicolour

Date of release: 01.11.2002 Dimension: 20 X 11 cm

Fourth Battalion the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles was raised on 30th May 1837 with the name of 'Fateh Shibji' by Maharaja Gulab Singh as part of J&K State Forces. Fateh Shibji formed part of famous General Zorawar Singh's force which annexed Ladakh, Tibet and Baltistan. On night 29/30 May 1841, the tenacious Dogras fought back in a surprise attack by Chinese at Tokoporsal. In the fierce battle that ensued, the Standard bearer of Chinese flag called 'Mantalai Standard' was killed, while the rest of Chinese fled in panic. The 'Standard' was captured and is still proud possession of 'Fateh Shibji'.

PICTORIAL CANCELLATION

प्रथम दिवस आवरण FIRST DAY COVER



श्री बसवेश्वर SRI BASAVESWARA (1134 – 1196)

ON P&T SERVICE



SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI

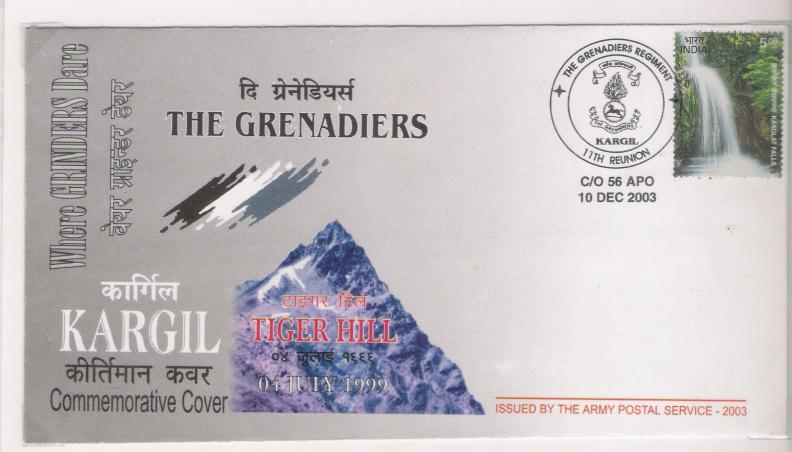
Date of release : 17.11.2002 Used upto : 16.11.2003

Prepared by: Supdt. Seals & Stamps, Aligarh

Sri Vaishno Devi, 62 km from Jammu, is the region's best known pilgrimage centre, visted by tens of thousands of pilgrims annually.

In a niche in the Trikuta mountain, high above the plains of Jammu, approachable by a 14 km trek from Katra town is the cave-shrine of the goddess Vaishno Devi, a place of pilgrimage for Hindus since times immemorial.

Some 30 m long and very narrow, with ice cold water flowing through it, the far end of the cave has 3 rock formations, covered with gold canopies. These represent the three divine aspects of the goddess: *Maha Kali, Maha Ladkshmi and Maha Saraswati*.



THE GRENADIERS

Multicolour

Date of release: 04.07.2003 Dimension: 20 X 11 cm

THE GRENADIERS is one of the oldest Regiments of the Indian Army. The word 'GRENADIERS' was originally applied to those infantry soldiers who were specially chosen by reason of their height and physique to hurl hand grenades at the advancing enemy. These men were amalgamated into companies to form the elite Grenadier Battalions to carry out their specialized role in a much larger scale. It was only in 1759 that the first Company of GREDADIERS was raised with specially selected Sepoys from the Bombay Army. Thereafter more were amalgamated to form the GRENADIERS battalions.

In the Jammu and Kashmir operations of 1947-48 and Operation Vijay (Kargil), the GRENADIERS fought very bravely and were awarded one Param Vir Chakra and seven Vir Chakras.

विशेष आवरण /SPECIAL COVER



अमर शहीद बाबा बन्दा बहादुर जी GREAT MARTYR BABA BANDA BAHADUR JI



GREAT MARTYR BABA BANDA BAHADUR JI

Single Colour

Date of issue: 11.11.2003

Dimension: 18 X 10 cm

Cachet: Baba Banda Bahadurji

Baba Banda Bahadurji was born on October 27, 1670 at Rajouri, in the Poonch District of Western Kashmir. His father, Ram Dev, was a Rajput farmer. He was called Lachman Dass in the childhood. His father gave him training in farming, riding, shooting, swordsmanship and hunting. From his early days, he was tender-hearted. Once, while hunting he shot a female deer who died in pain. This sight had a very deep and lasting effect on his tender heart. He resolved to become a Sadhu. He left home. He met Janki Dass Bairagi and became his disciple. He practiced various spiritual disciplines and in short span of time he became famous and people thronged to see this great soul. Bada Banda Bahadurji left his mortal soul on June, 9th, 1718.

Released by Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta, Union Minister of State for Defence Govt. of India at Dera Baba Banda BO, Reasi



MAJOR SOM NATH SHARMA, PVC

Multicolour

Date of Issue : 31.12.2003

Denomination: Rs. 5.00 Perforation: 13 X 13

No Watermark

Major Som Nath Sharma was born at Jammu in 1923 in a family of soldiers and doctors and his one ambition from early childhood was to become a soldier himself. At the age of 11, he joined the royal Indian Military College Dehradun where he distinguished himself as an all round sportsman and scholar. After passing the senior Cambridge examination in the first division, he gained a competitive vacancy in the Indian Military Academy. He was commissioned in 1942 into the 19th Hyderabad Regiment. Major Som Nath Sharma died while fighting the infiltrators near Badgam (Kashmir) in 1947. Major Sharma set an example of courage and soldierly qualities seldom equaled in the history of the Indian Army. For his inspiring leadership, fearless courage, unrivalled tenacity and self sacrifice, he was posthumously awarded the first Param Vir Chakra, the highest gallantry award instituted by Independent India.





1948-1972

972-1976

1976-2004



दल के पथ प्रदर्शक PIONEERS OF THE FORCE

ISSUED BY THE ARMY POSTAL SERVICE - 2004

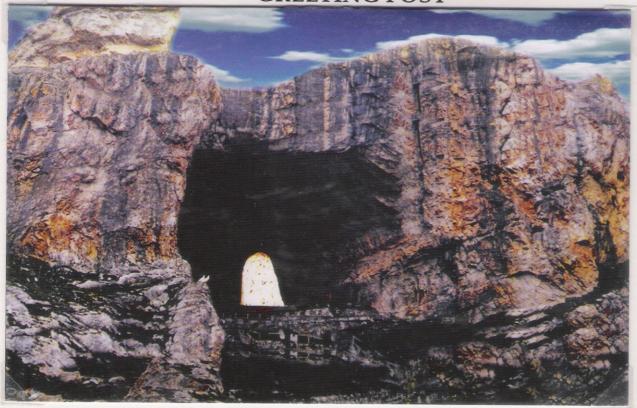
PIONEERS OF THE FORCE JAMMU & KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY

Multicolour

Date of release: 09.12.2004 Dimension: 20 X 11 cm

The Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry is one of the youngest Regiments of the Indian Army. Organization as a volunteer force to meet the Pakistani raiders in 1947, it paved its path with glory and unsurpassed acts of gallantry and heroism. The young Regiment of the Indian Army has the distinction of winning the highest number of gallantry awards in the post independence Indian Army.

GREETING POST



SRI AMARNATH JI

Multicolour

Photo Courtesy: Sri Amarnath Shrine Board, Jammu

Date of issue: 15.07.2004 Dimension: 16 X 10 cm

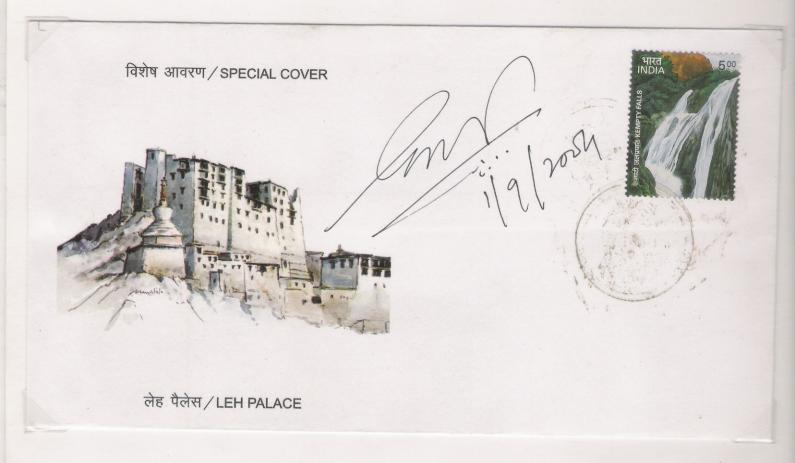
Code No: 0257S04

Number Printed: 00.50 lakh Printer at: Madras Security Press

Cost: Rs. 14.00 including embossed stamp

Almost every part of India is known for many a sacred shrine, but the Amarnath Cave embossed in the snowy valley of Kashmir reveals the unique sight of natural Ice Linga of Lord Shiva perched on a glacial gorge which waxes and wanes with the movements of the moon. According to a common belief, it reaches the maximum height on Purnima in the month of Shravan (July-August), when Shiva is supposed to have divulged to Parvati the secret of salvation. On this day thousands of pilgrims negotiating the most difficult ridges arrive at the holy cave for Dharshan of the Lord. The pilgrimage of thousands of devotees to the far way cave of Amarnath, nestled in a glacial gorge of the western Himalayas, through some of the most charming scenery in the world, is fascinating in the extreme.





LEH PALACE

Multicolour

Date of release: 01.09.2004

Dimension: 20 X 11 cm

Cachet: The Mystic Dance, Ladakh Cachet Design: Chander M. Bhat

Leh, the main town of Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir State is dominated by Sengge Namgyal's nine-storey palace, a building in the grand tradition of Tibetan architecture, said to have inspired the famous Potala in Lhasa, which was built haif a century later. Above it, on Namgyal Tsemo, the peak overlooking the town are the ruins of the earliest royal residence at Leh, a fort built by King Tashi Namgyal in the 16th century.

Release by Sh. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs & Urban Development & Leh on the eve of Ladakh Festival



PICTORAIL CANCELLATION



SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI

Date of release: 13.10.2004

Design: Chander M. Bhat

Prepared by: Supdt. Seals and Stamps, Aligarh

Used upto: 12.10.2005

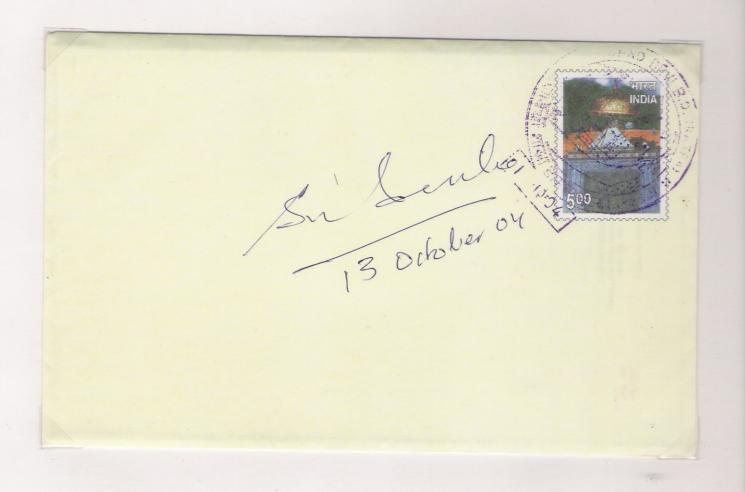
Sri Vaishno Devi, 62 km from Jammu, is the region's best known pilgrimage centre, visted by tens of thousands of pilgrims annually.

In a niche in the Trikuta mountain, high above the plains of Jammu, approachable by a 14 km trek from Katra town is the cave-shrine of the goddess Vaishno Devi, a place of pilgrimage for Hindus since times immemorial.

Some 30 m long and very narrow, with ice cold water flowing through it, the far end of the cave has 3 rock formations, covered with gold canopies. These represent the three divine aspects of the goddess: *Maha Kali, Maha Ladkshmi and Maha Saraswati*.

Released by Lt. Gen. (Retd.) S.K.Sinha, Hon'ble Governor, Jammu & Kashmir at Katra. Sh. S. Saman', Chief Postmaster General, J&K Circle was also present on the occasion.

GREETING POST



SRI MATA VAISHNOV DEVI JI

Multicolour

Design: Chander M. Bhat Date of issue: 13.10.2004

Dimension: 17 X 11 cm

Code No: 0256S04

Number Printed: 1.00 lakh

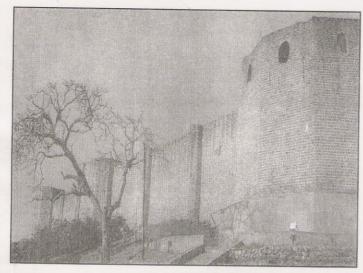
Printer at: Madras Security Press

Cost: Rs. 14.00 including embossed stamp

Released by Lt. Gen. (Retd.) S.K.Sinha, Hon'ble Governor, Jammu and Kashmir at Katra.



विशेष आवरण / SPECIAL COVER







BAHU FORT, JAMMU

Single Colour

Date of release : 25.11.2004

Dimension: 18 X 10 cm

Cachet: Raghunath Mandir, Jammu Cachet Design: Chander M. Bhat

On the banks of the river Tawi stands the ancient capital of the Dogra Kings, Jammu where the past still has a living presence, a land of great forts, ancient temples, and beautiful places, all nestling in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Raja Jambu Lochan, who lived in the later Vedic period, decided to found his capital, Jambupura, on this soil, on the right bank of the Tawi, overlooking his brother king Bahu fort. The fort enclosing a palace was originally built by Bahu Lochan the ruler of the Bahu city in the year 1820. The idyilic beauty of Jammu City captivates a man when seen from the fort.

Released on the mangural day (Jammu Day) of JAMPEX-2004 by Pandit Mangat Ram Sharma, Deputy Chief Minister, Jammu and Kashmir at University Campus, Jammu.









थिक्से गोन्पा, लेह / THICKSEY MONASTERY, LEH



THICKSEY MONASTERY, LEH

Single Colour

Date of release : 26.11.2004

Dimension: 18 X 10 cm

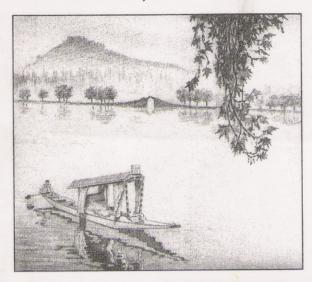
Cachet: Chortan

Cachet Design: Chander M. Bhat

The Thicksey monastery is spectacularly situated 19 km from Leh. It is one of the largest and architecturally most impressive gompas. The gompa has images, stupas and wall paintings of Buddha which are exquisite.

Released on the second day (Ladakh Day) of JAMPEX-2004 by Sh. Nawang Rigzin, Minister for Science and Technology, Jammu and Kashmir at University Campus, Jammu.

विशेष आवरण / SPECIAL COVER



झील डल में शिकारा, श्रीनगर / SHIKARA ON DAL LAKE



SHIKARA ON DAL LAKE

Single Colour

Date of release: 27.11.2004

Dimension: 18 X 10 cm

Cachet: Shalimar Bagh

Cachet Design: Chander M. Bhat

Spring-fed, the 6 km long, 3 km wide Dal is divided into four distinct parts by causeways: Gagribal, Lokutdal, Boddal and Nagin. Moored along the banks of the lake are Srinagar's unique floating homes...the houseboats, ornamentally carved and richly furnished, with living areas, bedrooms, baths and sundecks. The lake is constantly abustle with colour and movement as the graceful little SHIKARA BOATS with their gay canopies, glide along it surface.

Released on the concluding day (Srinagar Day) of JAMPEX-2004 by Sh. S. Samant, Chief Postmaster General, Jammu & Kashmir at University of Jammu.



विशेष आवरण / SPECIAL COVER



चादर मेल लाइन / CHADAR MAIL LINE



Sh. Mohd. Rafiq khan
Director
Doordarshan kendra
Leh
Date of Release
25-00-2005
at Leh

CHADAR MAIL LINE, LEH

Multicolour

Date of release: 25.08.2005

Dimension: 19.5 X 11 cm

Photo courtesy: Sh. A.K.Hanjura

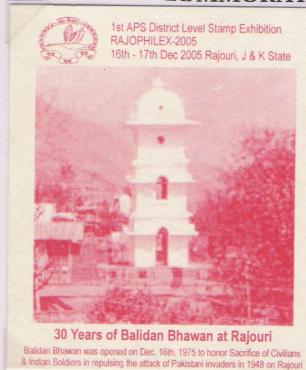
Chadder is a unique mail line and is operated by six runners from 1st January to 31st March every year due to heavy snowfall on MMS line i.e. Leh-Kargil-Sankoo-Panikher-Parkachik-Rungdum-Padam. The unique method of mail conveyance is via Chadder, The Zanskar River. The river remains totally frozen during winter. During this time it is possible to walk on this frozen river all the way to Padam.

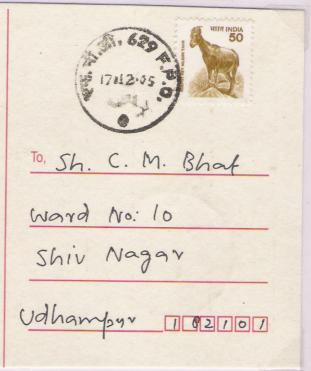
This walk on frozen river is not as simple as it sounds. At many places the river does not freeze completely and the runners have to wait for several days for ice to form.

It takes 3 days for the runners to reach Padam via Chadder Road.

Released on the eve of First District Level Philatelic Exhibition at Leh by Sh. Mohd Rafiq Khan, Director, Doordarshan Kendra, Leh.

COMMORATIVE POST CARD





30 YEARS OF BALIDAN BHAWAN AT RAJOURI

Single Colour

Date of release: 17.12.2005

Dimension: 16 X 10.5 cm

Design: Sh. Rajesh Paharia

Information & Photo Source: J&K State Official Website

The Bhawan is a memoir of great sacrifices made by the people of Rajouri during 1947-48 period. On the night of Diwali in October-November 1947, the Pakistani marauders forcibly captured the town when Indian army was operating in other parts of the district. The marauders mercilessly put to death thousands of men and women, old and young, infants and children and plundered the town in lust of wealth and booty.

The people who escaped from the marauders had taken shelter in the Tehsil headquarter a *Toshkhana* of ancient rulers, where they face the intruders bravely till they ran out of ammunition and when felt helpless to face the on-slaught of marauders, they preferred to kill themselves rather to fell prey to the ill designs of the intruders. The Bhawan since then has been dedicated to the sacrifices of those heroes and was given the name *Balidan* Bhawan.

Released on the inaugural day of RAJOPHILEX-2005, 1st APS District Level Stamp Exhibition at Rajouri.

विशेष आवरण / SPECIAL COVER





अमर महल / AMAR MAHAL

AMAR MAHAL, JAMMU

Multi Colour

Date of release: 25.03.2006

Dimension: 17.5 X 10 cm

Photo courtesy: J&K Tourism Department

Cachet: Amar Mahal

Cachet Design: Chander M. Bhat

Amar Mahal is a beautiful palace of red sand stone which stands amidst most picturesque horizons of Jammu. Beautiful green view of Shivalik hills on the north and river Tawi below down add to the grandeur of the building, once the residential palace of Raja Amar Singh. The palace has t present been converted into a museum. The museum still has golden throne of which Maharaja used to sit. The 120 kg pure gold sofa type throne has golden lions embedded to it. The sitting place is velvet. The museum has a galaxy of paintings known as the *NAL DAMYANTI*. It has a library in which about 25,000 books on various subjects and disciplines have been preserved.

Released at the inaugural function of 3rd District Level Philatelic Exhibition at Kala Kendra, Jammu by Sh. Vijay Bakaya, Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Government.









SRI PRATAP COLLEGE, SRINAGAR

Multicoloured

Date of Issue: 15.06.2006

Denomination: Rs. 5.00

Perforation: 13 X 13

No Watermark

Sri Pratap College, Srinagar, is one of the most prestigious and oldest educational institutions of higher learning in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The college came into being in 1905, when the famous Hindu High School, Srinagar was upgraded by the Central Hindu College Trust, Benaras (to which it was affiliated). It was largely due to the efforts of Dr. Anne Basant, and Raja Daya Krishan Kaul, the Private Secretary of Maharaja Pratap Singh. The first Principal, Mr. M.U.Moore, who was an Irish scholar of repute, took the institution to new heights of excellence.

In 1911 the college was taken over by the State Government and was renamed as Sri Pratap College after the name of the ruler of the state, Maharaja Pratap Singh. The College also got upgraded to the degree level in the same year, and was affiliated to the erstwhile Punjab University, Lahore, in 1912. The institution had the distinction of being the only institution for imparting higher education in acts and science disciplines in the valley. After de-linking of the arts faculty in the year 1975, the College is now an exclusive Science College, where Botany, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Zoology, Environment, Water Management, Physics, Mathematics, Information Technology Geology and Geography are taught.

The College takes pride in having produced alumni of repute who became leading figures in their respective fields.



HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Multicoloured

Date of Issue: 29.07.2006

Denomination: Rs. 5.00

Perforation: 13 X 13

No Watermark

The full-fledged High Court of Judicature for the Jammu and Kashmir State was established in the year 1928. Earlier, the Ruler of the State (Maharaja) was the final authority in the administration of justice. In the year 1889, the British government asked the then Ruler of the State, Maharaja Partap Singh appoint a Council. The judicial member of the Council exercised all the appellate powers, both on civil and criminal side. The State having two provinces-Jammu and Kashmir, had chief judges exercising judicial authority but they acted under the superintendence and control of the Law member of the Council. Later the Council was abolished and a Minister designated as Judge of the High Court was appointed by the Ruler to decide judicial cases. In 1927 a new Constitution was adopted by the then Ruler of the State and in the place of Law Member, a Ministry in the Judicial Department was created.

By virtue of Order No. 1 dated 26.03.1928, the High Court of Judicature was established and for the first time the High Court was to consist of the Chief Justice and two judges. On 26.03.1928, the Maharaja appointed Lala Kanwar Sein as the First Chief Justice of the Court and Rai Bahadur Lala Bodh Raj Sawhney and Khan Sahib Aga Syed Hussain as Puisne Judges. The usual places of sitting of the High Court are Srinagar and Jammu.

The High Court has at present a sanctioned strength of 14 Judges including 9 Permanent Judges and 5 Additional Judges. From May to end October, The Chief Justice and the Administrative Wing of High Court shifts to Srinagar and from November to end April, the HQ is at Jammu. However, Court sections of both the Jammu and Srinagar Wings of the High Court function throughout the year.

(RELEASED BY H.E. THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, DR. A.P.J ABDUL KALAM AT SKICC, SRINAGAR)