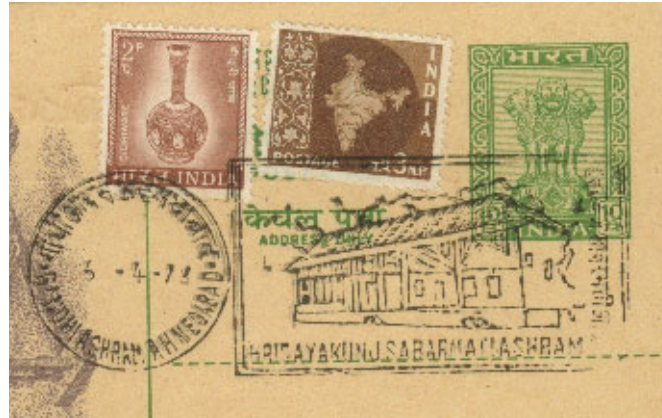


## Life in Ashrams

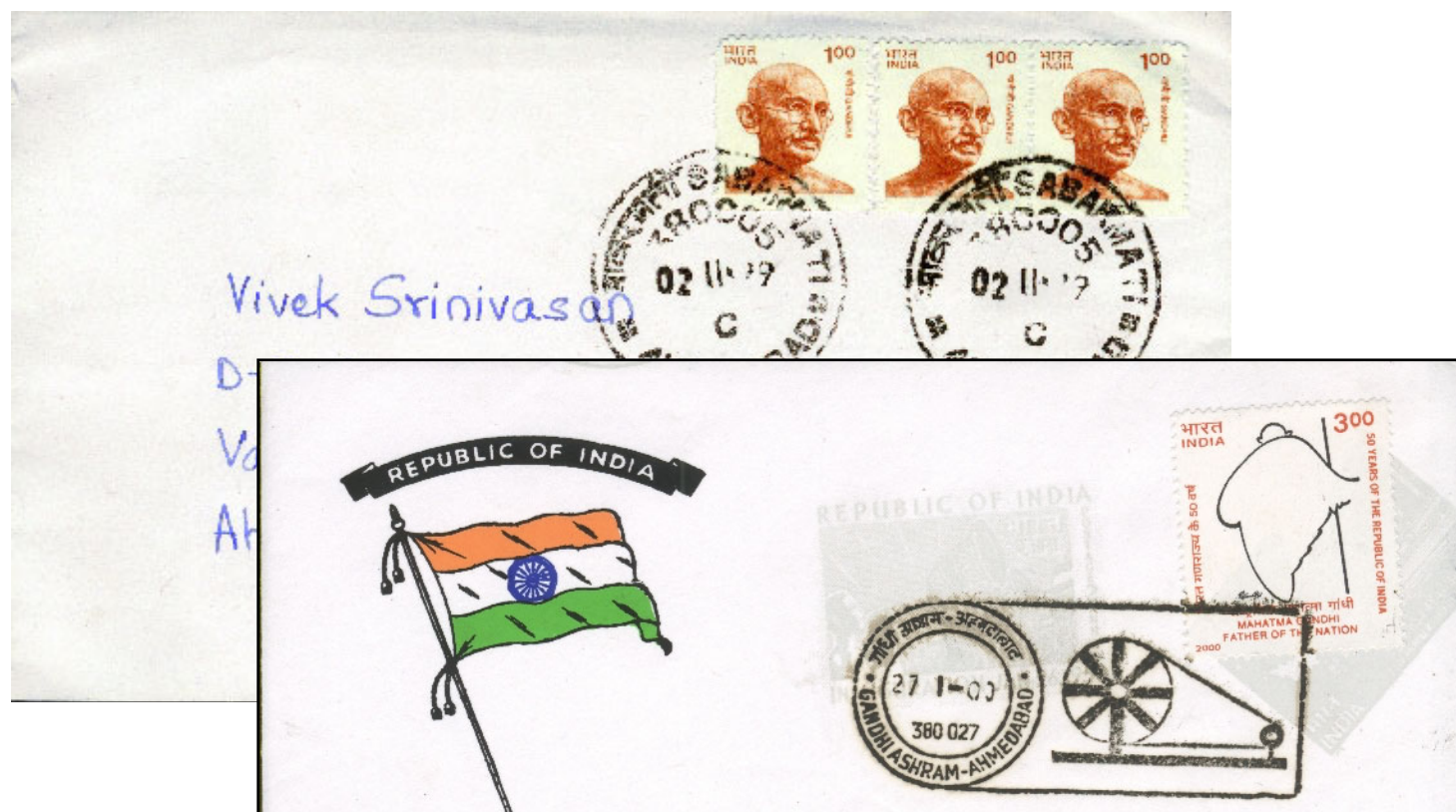
Simply put, Ashram is the Hindi word that means “community”. Gandhi’s inspiration for a simple life, living off the land, came from reading John Ruskin.

As soon as he came to India, he established *Sabarmati Ashram* at Ahmedabad, in his home state of Gujarat. One hut at *Sabarmati*, Hridaya Kunj, which served as a guesthouse for visitors to the ashram, is the subjects of many illustrations on philatelic material.

India (1978). Special pictorial cancellation featuring *Hridaya Kunj* at *Sabarmati*.



Nevis (1999 ) and Bhutan (1998). Gandhi in front of *Hridaya Kunj*.



India (1999, 2000). Other special cancellations associated with Sabarmati Ashram include a text only CDS and a special pictorial cancellation featuring a spinning wheel and the text *GANDHI ASHRAM AHMEDABAD*.

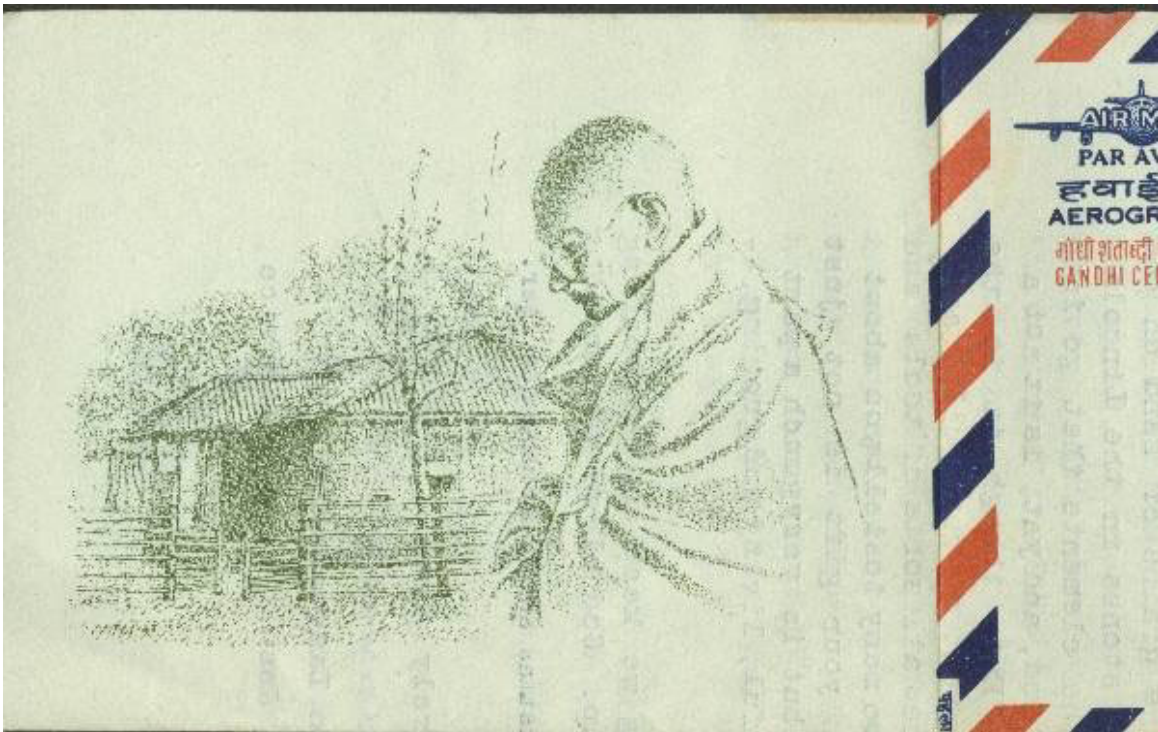


7a. Social Experimenter: Life in Ashrams

India (1969):  
Commemorative  
aerogramme  
showing Gandhi  
outside hut at  
*Sabarmati Ashram*.

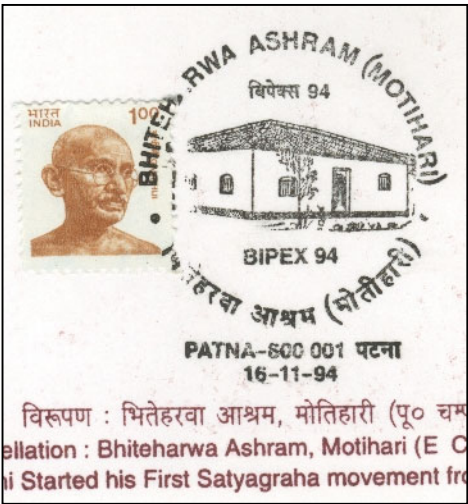
The *Kocharab Satyagraha Ashram*  
was another home  
for social activists in  
Gujarat.

India (1998):  
Postal card with  
pictorial cancel of  
*Kocharab Ashram*.

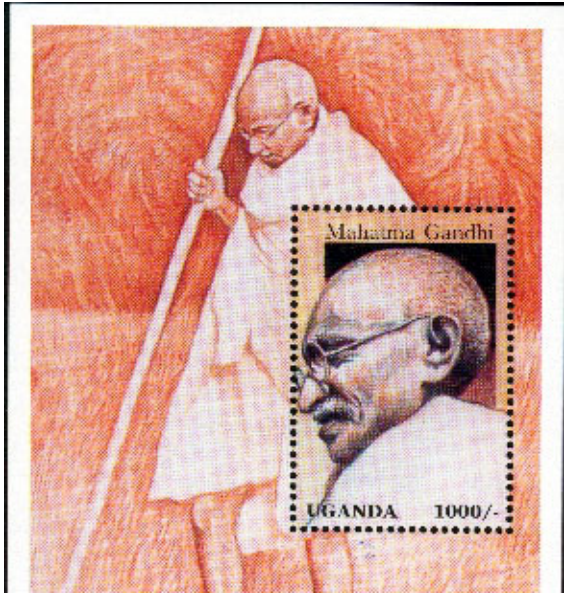


Another Ashram that Gandhi had his  
follower to start was in Bihar. This was  
during the struggle to help farmers in  
Champaran. Volunteers who helped  
document the atrocities established and  
staffed the *Bhiteswra Ashram* in Motihari.

Gandhi also started *Seva Gram* [“service  
Village”], as ashram in Central India near  
Wardha, where he spent his later years  
through the 1940s.



India (1994): Special  
Pictorial of Ashram in  
*Motihari, Champaran*.



Uganda (1997). Margin illustration in souvenir sheet shows  
Gandhi walking outside *Seva Gram*.



# Fasting for Moral and Social Causes

Gandhi's fasts ranged from efforts to force decisions on the governments and common men.



Micronesia (2000): Gandhi fasting for peace in Calcutta in 1948.



Gambia (1998): Gandhi fasting to eliminate untouchability in 1932.



Guyana (1998): Fasting for communal harmony during Hindu Muslim riots following partition in Bengal.

Gandhi has extensively written about fasting, insisting that it is a weapon to wield on ones you love- not to extort, but to reform. For example, he said he would never fast to change the minds of the likes of General Dyre and Hitler, who have no love in their hearts for him.

If one has any doubts about who pays attention to the fasts- here's an anecdote.

In an entry in her diary dated Saturday, 27 February 1943 [while in hiding], Ann Frank wrote: *"freedom loving Gandhi of India is holding his umpteenth fast"*. She'd heard it on the BBC!



Israel (1988): Artist's signed folder commeorating Ann Frank.

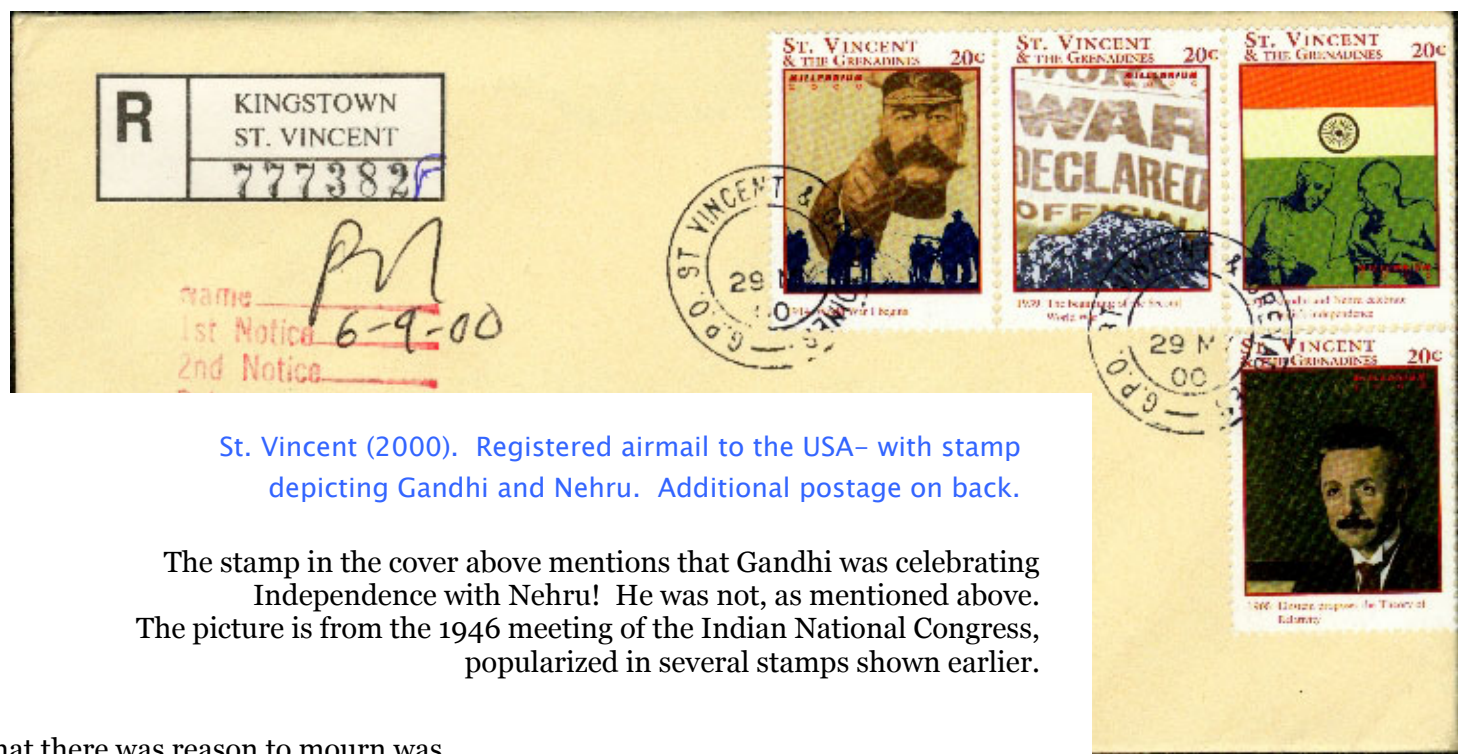


# Partition and Independence (1947)



Guyana (1995).

This stamp shows an imagined image of Gandhi dancing in the streets to celebrate independence. Nothing could be farther from the truth. To Gandhi, the tragedy of partition overwhelmed any euphoria over independence. He was alone in his ashram, spinning and meditating on that day.

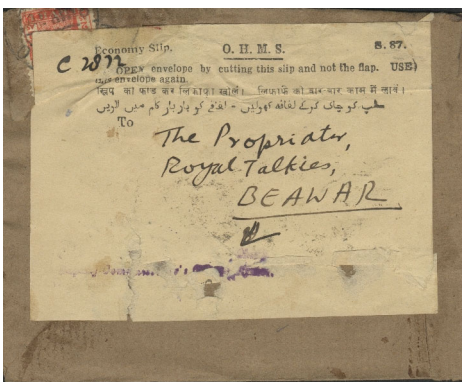


St. Vincent (2000). Registered airmail to the USA- with stamp depicting Gandhi and Nehru. Additional postage on back.

The stamp in the cover above mentions that Gandhi was celebrating Independence with Nehru! He was not, as mentioned above. The picture is from the 1946 meeting of the Indian National Congress, popularized in several stamps shown earlier.

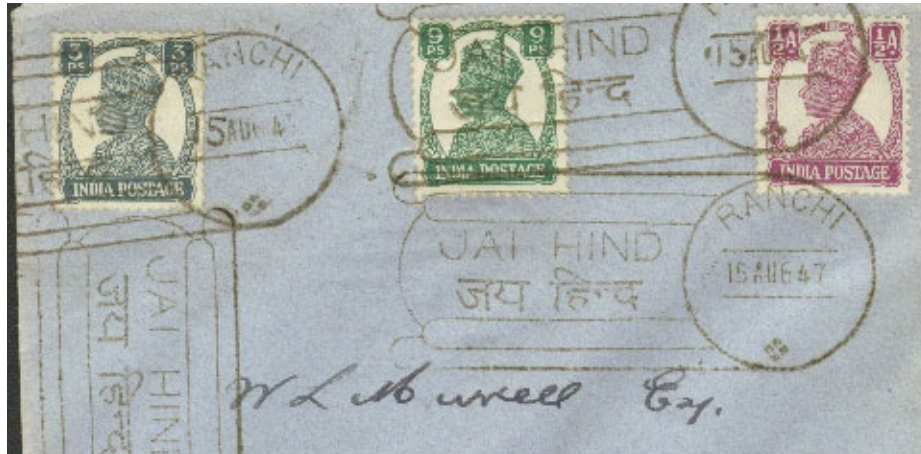
That there was reason to mourn was obvious. Millions were killed and tens of millions were displaced during this period. Refugees from Pakistan were in camps in India through the mid- 1950s.

India (1950). Official cover with special REFUGEE CAMP, LAKE BEALE boxed cancel. Note the instructions on back, advising addressee to reuse cover.





## 8a. The Final Days



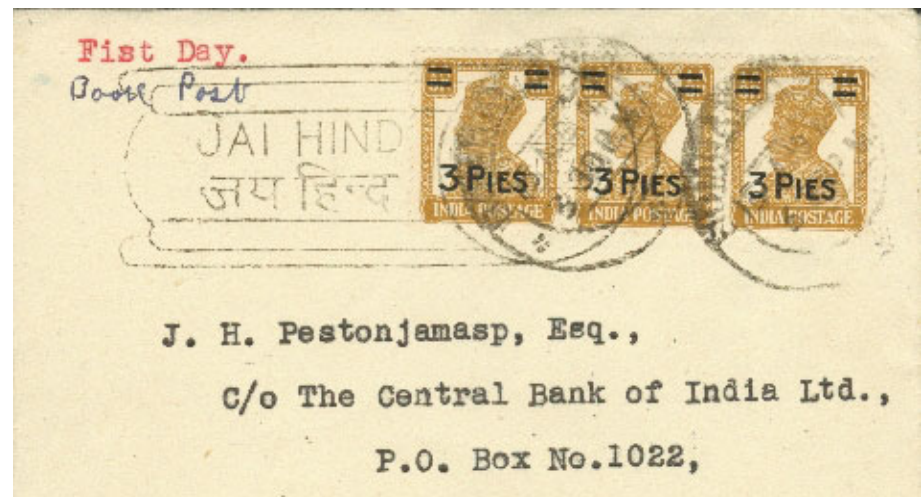
Independence was moved up several months and there was no time to prepare commemorative stamps.

A commemorative cancel was used on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

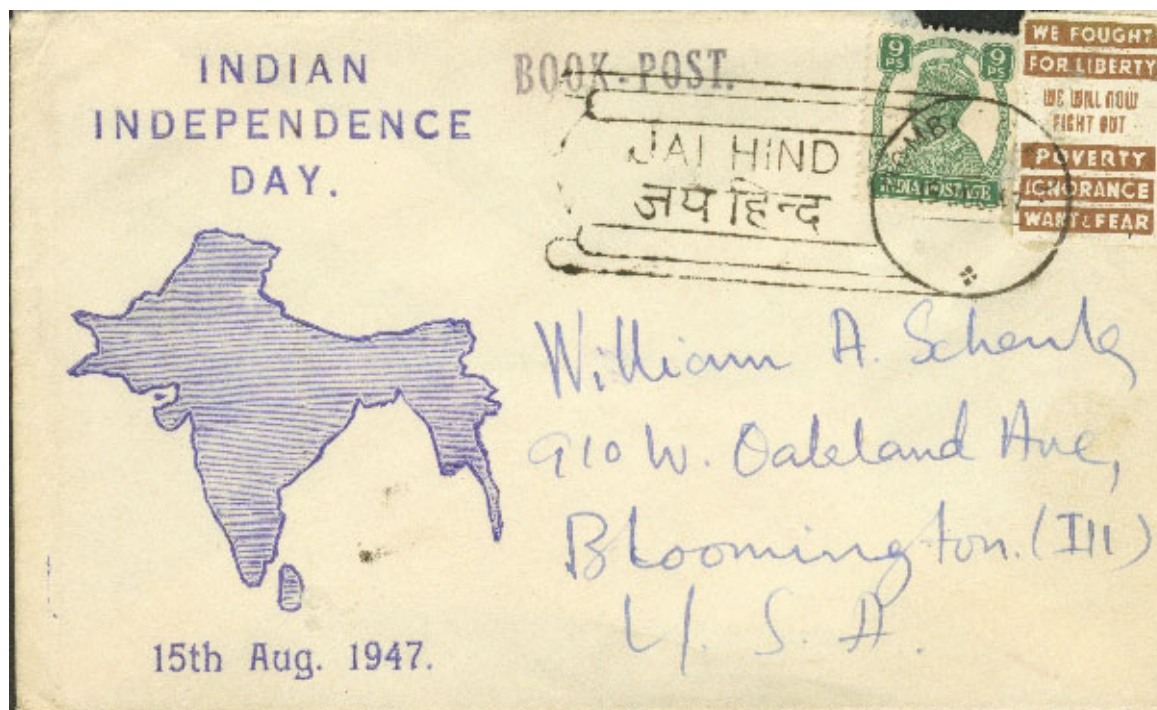
The slogan cancel says “Jai Hind”, which in Hindi means “Victory to India”.

India (1947): A cover with multiple special cancels and the postage rate from a former British Indian province to a Princely State that had not yet joined the Union.

Note the use of British Indian stamps with the commemorative independence cancel. This cover was mailed to Bombay and is marked “first day” not for the stamps, but for the cancel. It was actually “only day”. Guess the user meant “first day of Independent India”.



India (1947): 9 pias book-post local usage rate in Bombay.



The euphoria of independence is evident, with the cachet inaccurately showing India, Pakistan, Nepal, Ceylon and Burma all as one in the map! Burma and Ceylon were separate entities and achieved independence later.

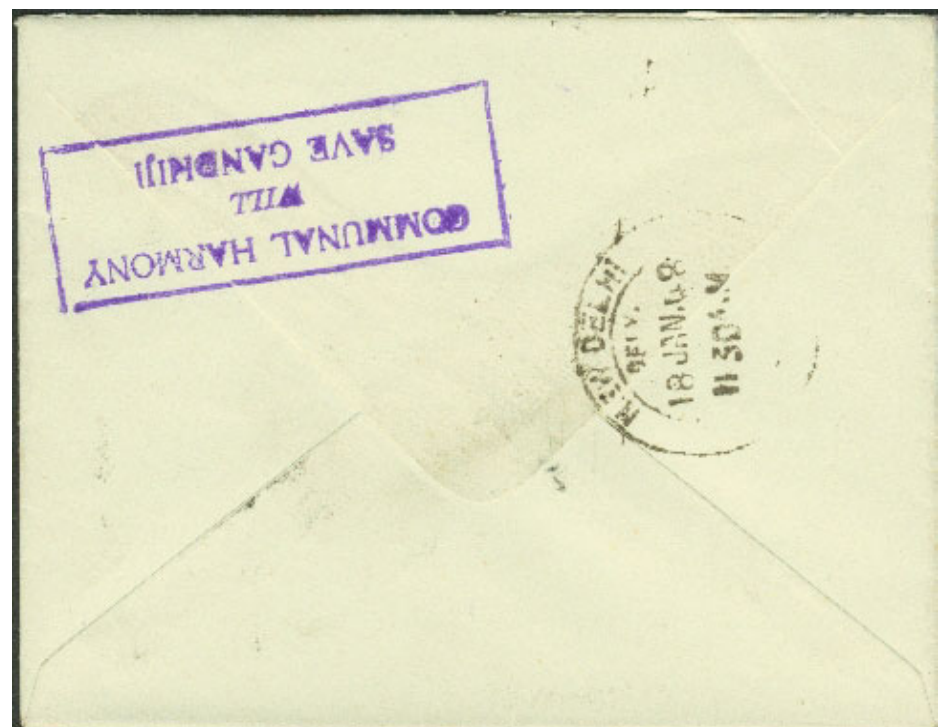
India (1947): Interesting Cinderella tied to a postage stamp in this letter mailed to the USA.

## His Last Fast (1948)

Over five months had passed since the partition the two nations were still embroiled in gruesome civil wars. In an effort to influence the frenzied masses, 79-year old Gandhi started fasting on January 13<sup>th</sup>.



To publicize and capitalize on the fast, there were propaganda slogans used by the Delhi and Calcutta Post Offices.



India (1948): Official mail from Calcutta to New Delhi, still carries British India's official franking "GRI" and was mailed on the 15<sup>th</sup>. It carries the special slogan mark in English and Hindi.

The English slogan reads "COMMUNAL HARMONY WILL SAVE GANDHIJI".

The Hindi slogan more emphatically states that "IT IS ONLY THROUGH COMMUNAL UNITY THAT GANDHIJI CAN SURVIVE".

India (1948): Cover from Roorkee, was also mailed on the 15<sup>th</sup>, with the slogan mark on the obverse. Delivery markings on the back indicate that it arrived in Delhi three days later, the day Gandhi ended his last fast.





## The Assassin's Bullet (1948)

In late January 1948, Gandhi was pressing Nehru and Patel to normalize relations with Pakistan. While staying at the house of friend and industrialist G.D. Birla, he announced plans to travel to Pakistan soon.

Guyana (1998): Stamp showing last meeting between Gandhi, Nehru and Patel, the day before he was killed.



On January 30<sup>th</sup>, when it was time for daily prayers, Gandhi walked out to the garden with his grand nieces Manu and Abha at his side. A man in the crowd raised his arms in salutations and shot him thrice at point blank range. He was a Hindu fanatic upset with Gandhi's "concessions" to Muslims.

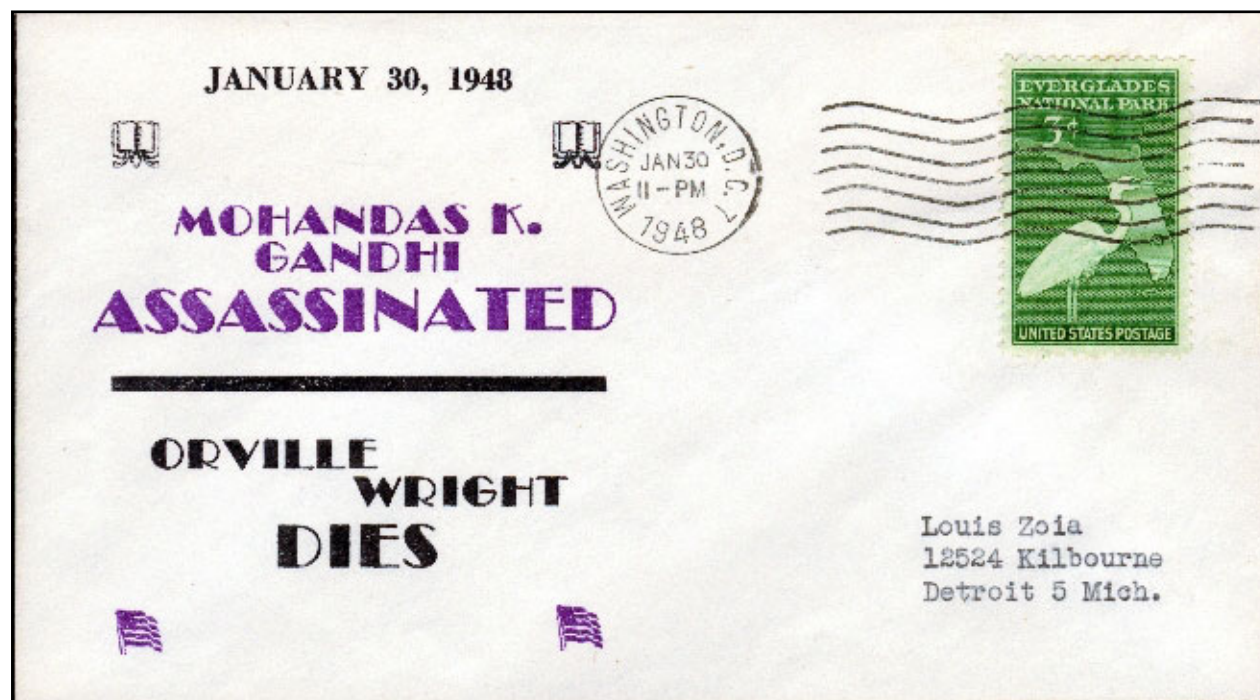


Chad (1997): Gandhi shown with Manu and Abha.

He left behind few worldly possessions. In fact, they were a handful, his glasses, a book, a pair of wooden sandals, a cup and the three "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" monkeys.



India (1996). Pictorial cancel showing Gandhi's last earthly possessions.



USA (1948). Event cover mailed on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1948. The day is celebrated as Martyr's Day in India—remembering those "willing to die for a just cause, never to kill for any".



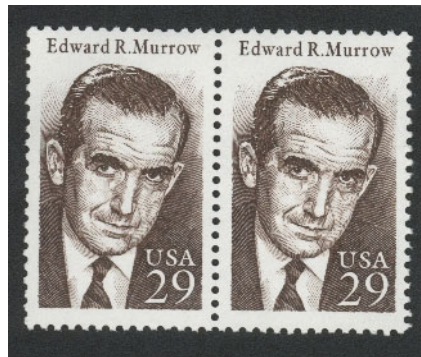
## 8c. The Final Days

At the funeral, Edward R. Murrow, the CBS broadcaster, had memorable coverage of the funeral for the world to hear

... *“Mahatma Gandhi was not a commander of armies not a ruler of vast lands. He could boast no scientific achievement, no artistic gift. Yet men, governments and dignitaries from all over the world have joined hands to pay homage to this little brown man in a loincloth....”*



Dominica (2000): Gandhi laying in rest, as mourners file past.



USA: Edward R. Murrow and Gen. Douglas MacArthur

General MacArthur said: *“if civilization is to survive, all men cannot fail to adopt Gandhi’s belief that the use of force to resolve conflict is not only wrong, but contains within itself the germ of our own self-destruction.”*

General George C. Marshall said: *“Mahatma Gandhi has become the spokesperson for the conscience of mankind”.*



India (1971). Pictorial cancel of Rajghat, site of Gandhi’s cremation.

Mali (1978): 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gandhi’s death.



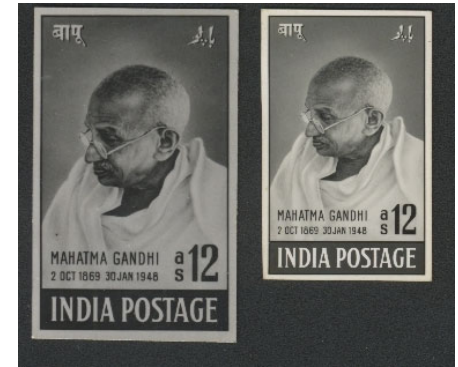
USA (1968). Mail to Germany from the USS George C. Marshall with a Peace stamp.



## Memorialized in India (1948)

Gandhi was remembered with a memorial issue on the first anniversary of independence. But there were many aspects of this philatelic memorial that are questionable.

Not keen on his modest attire, an artist added imaginary garb to the portrait. The set included the most expensive commemorative from India until then (10 Rs.) to honor a man who only used post cards!



India (1948): Printer's die proofs in two sizes (100 and 125%) – only known copies of two color design considered for the 12s value and later only adopted for the 10 Rs value.

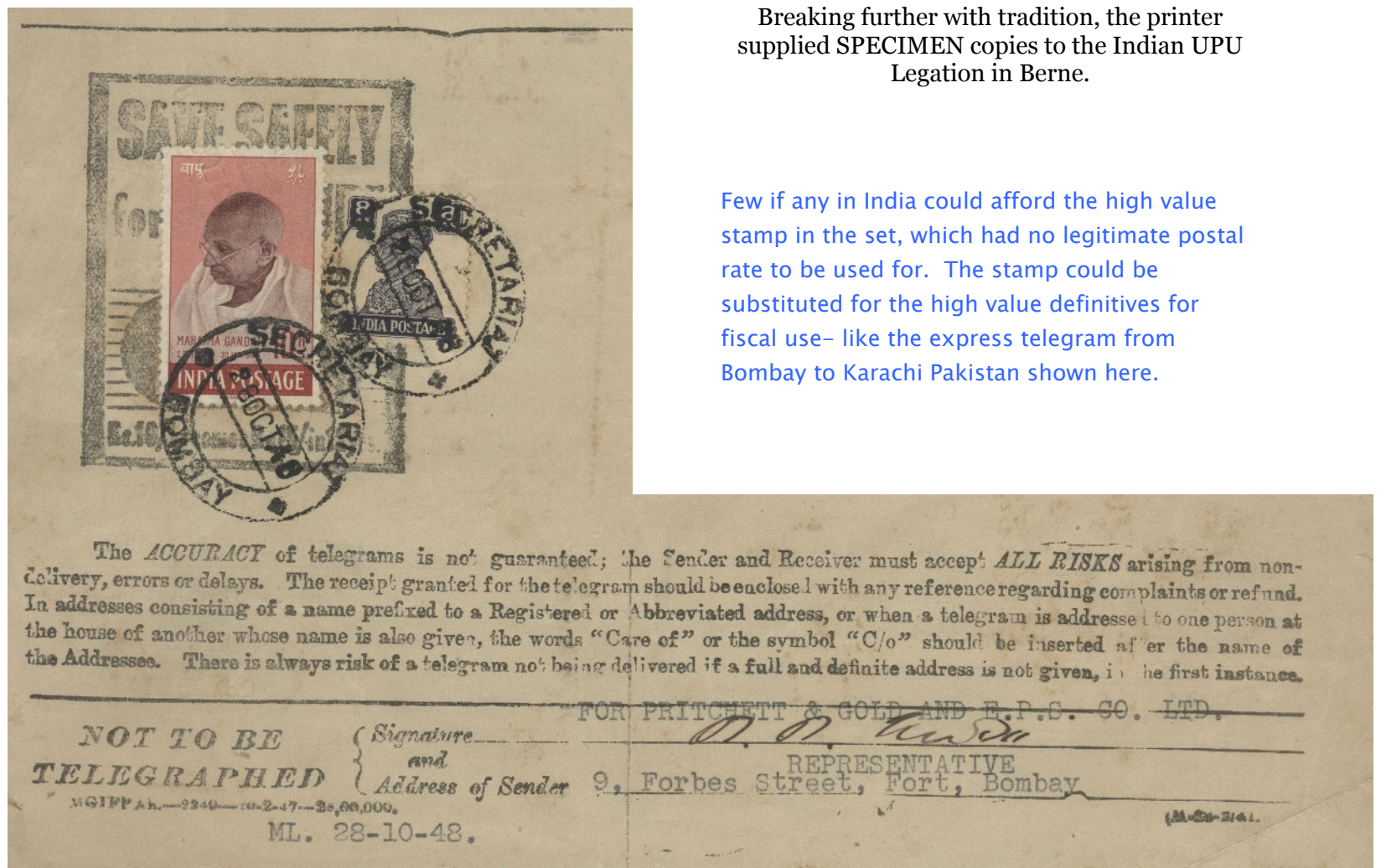
These were the first Indian commemoratives printed in Switzerland, to honor someone who promoted domestic industries.

Specimen copies found inside special leather folder and envelope from the printer.



Breaking further with tradition, the printer supplied SPECIMEN copies to the Indian UPU Legation in Berne.

Few if any in India could afford the high value stamp in the set, which had no legitimate postal rate to be used for. The stamp could be substituted for the high value definitives for fiscal use– like the express telegram from Bombay to Karachi Pakistan shown here.





9. The Morning After: Memorialized in India

What is the value  
of one sheet of Mahatma  
Gandhi stamps of each  
various denominations?

57x11 Kilmuir  
Mr. Mehta.

Cost of 1 sheet  
of 50 each

1 1/2 a	Rs. 4-11-0
3 1/2 a	Rs. 10-15-0
12 a	Rs. 37-8-0
10-Rs	Rs. 500-0-0
	<hr/> 553-2

On 6/8/48  
B.G.

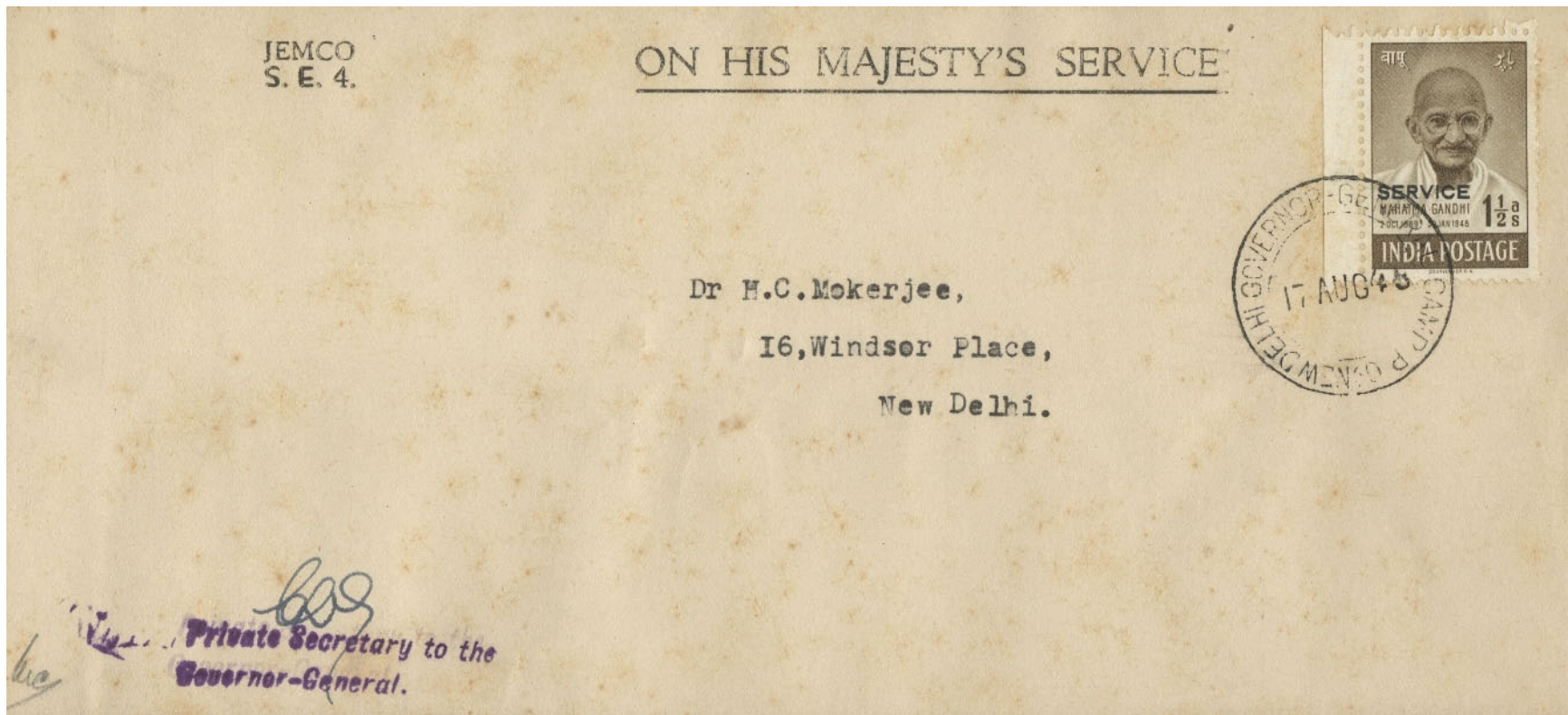
The Indian Governor General authorized the official use of these commemoratives with a SERVICE overprint for a limited time- another first in India.



The Gandhi SERVICE usage has the distinction of being the most expensive and hence the most forged issue from India- not an honor to his memory. The stamps on the right (above) are forgeries- the 3 1/2 a on the left is genuine.

A note from the Post Master General asking for the value of quantities of this set- being too important to calculate it in the archaic non-decimal system that was then in use!

Shown below is a genuine official cover with the special GOVERNOR GENERAL CAMP PO CDS.





First Death Anniversary (1948)

On the first anniversary of Gandhi's death, major post offices used a slogan cancel of his favorite hymn in two designs.

India (1949): Local mail in Poona (near Bombay), with the boxed commemorative slogan cancel.



India (1949): Commemorative slogan cancel with wavy lines, on first flight cover from Nagpur to New Delhi, later redirected to Lucknow.



## Carrying the Torch

From one Gandhi to another- a twist of political fate, due to a power vacuum after Nehru's death, led to Indira Gandhi (no relative of the Mahatma) taking the reins in the 1960s.



Vietnam (1987): Original artist's water color essays (unadopted designs) commemorating the Republic of India (1950). This illustrates the relative relevance of these three leaders from India. The handwritten notes form the Director of Vietnam Post asks the artist to include the image of Mrs. Gandhi in the first design and submit it for reconsideration.



10b. India After Gandhi: Carrying the Torch

There is no question that Indira Gandhi was able to capitalize politically on the last name she adopted from her estranged husband.

Whether she had any claim to the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi is open to question. For a brief period, she headed the most authoritative period on record in independent India. The advanced militarization of India is also attributed to her leadership and priorities.



Turkmenistan (1997). Another commemoration of Indian independence with Mahatma Gandhi and Indira Gandhi shown in the design.



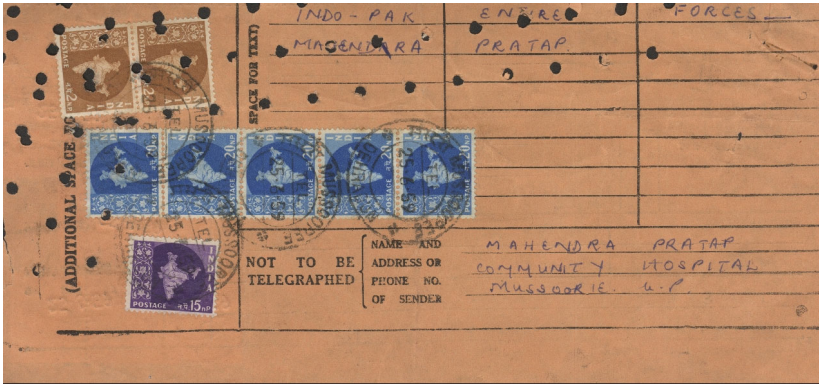
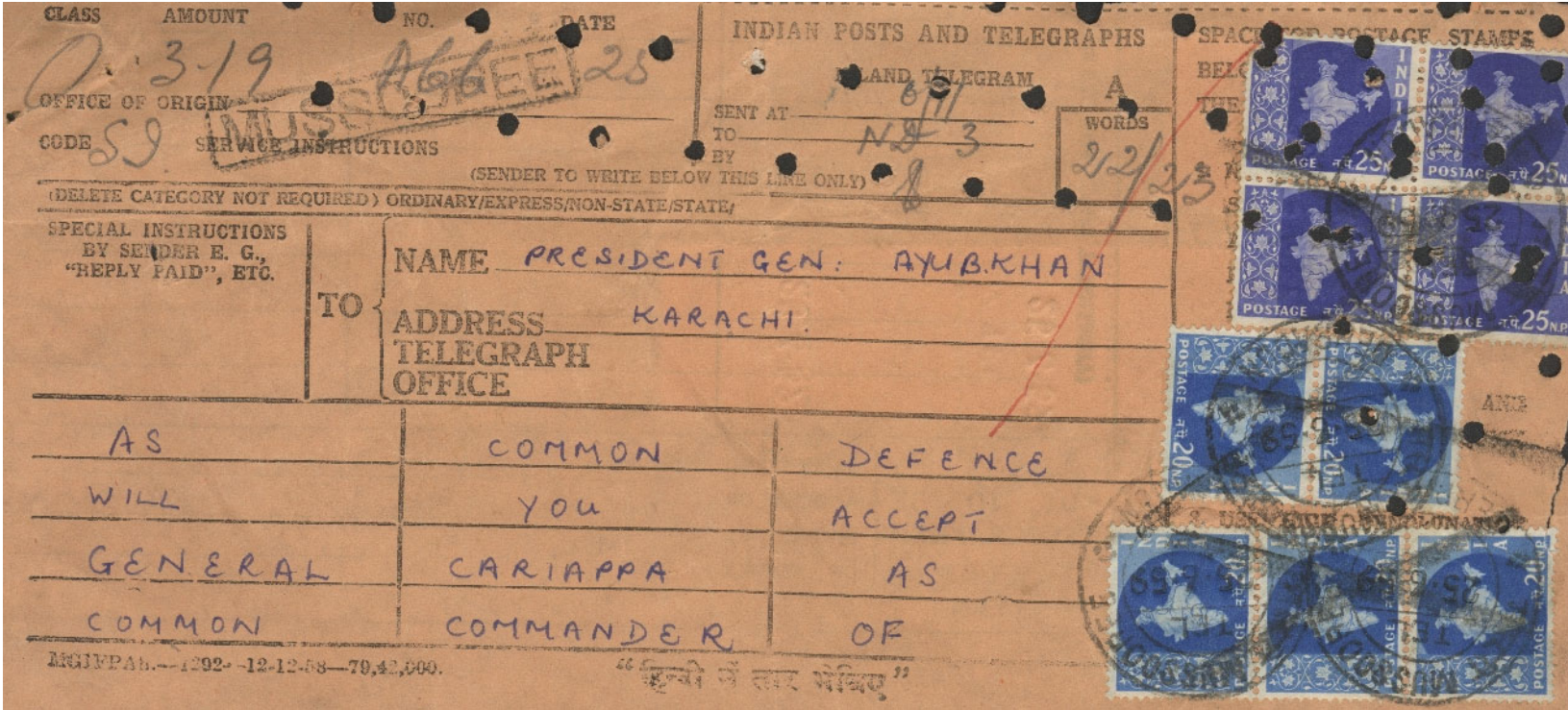
Vietnam (1987): Original large artist's water color essays (unadopted designs) commemorating the Republic of India (1950). This is the rework of the first design in the set of small essays. The emblem of India was replaced with image of Indira Gandhi. This set of stamps was not issued finally.



# Free India Stands for Peace (1949-69)

Non-alignment and the pursuit of peace characterized Nehru’s first administration.

India (1948):  
Special slogan  
cancel from  
newly named  
Gandhinagar,  
announcing that  
FREE INDIA  
STANDS FOR  
WORLD PEACE.



After partition was realized, Gandhi had encouraged India and Pakistan to have a shared defense force, if they felt it was necessary.

India (1959): Interesting piece of history from one of Gandhi’s associates in his final days. Telegram from Mahendra Pratap to Ayub Khan, military ruler of Pakistan, urging him to create the INDO-PAK force under a joint command– which never materialized.

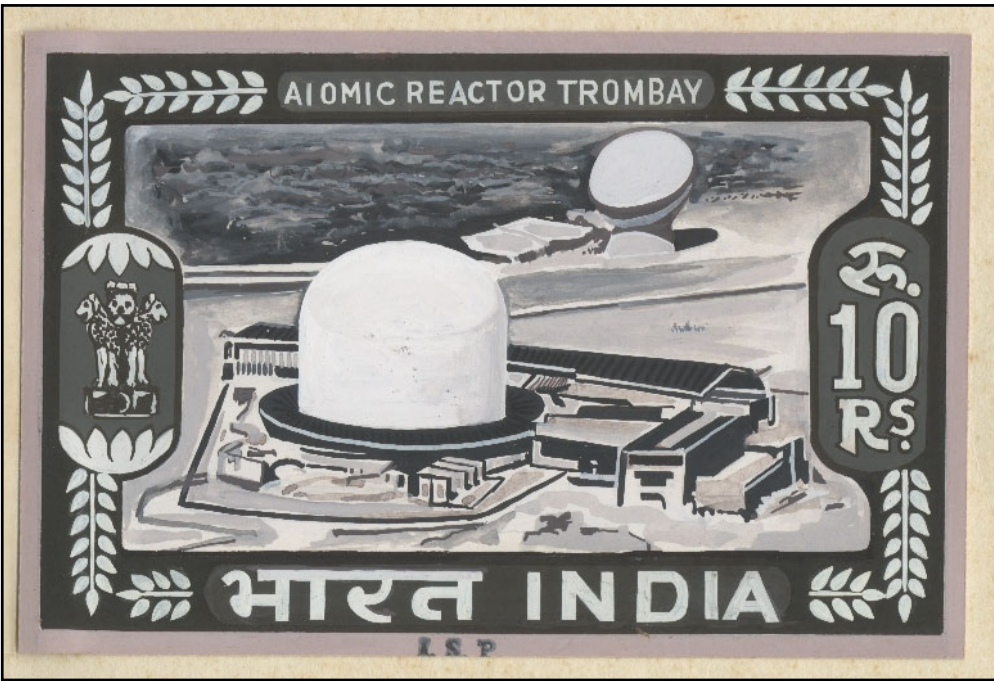
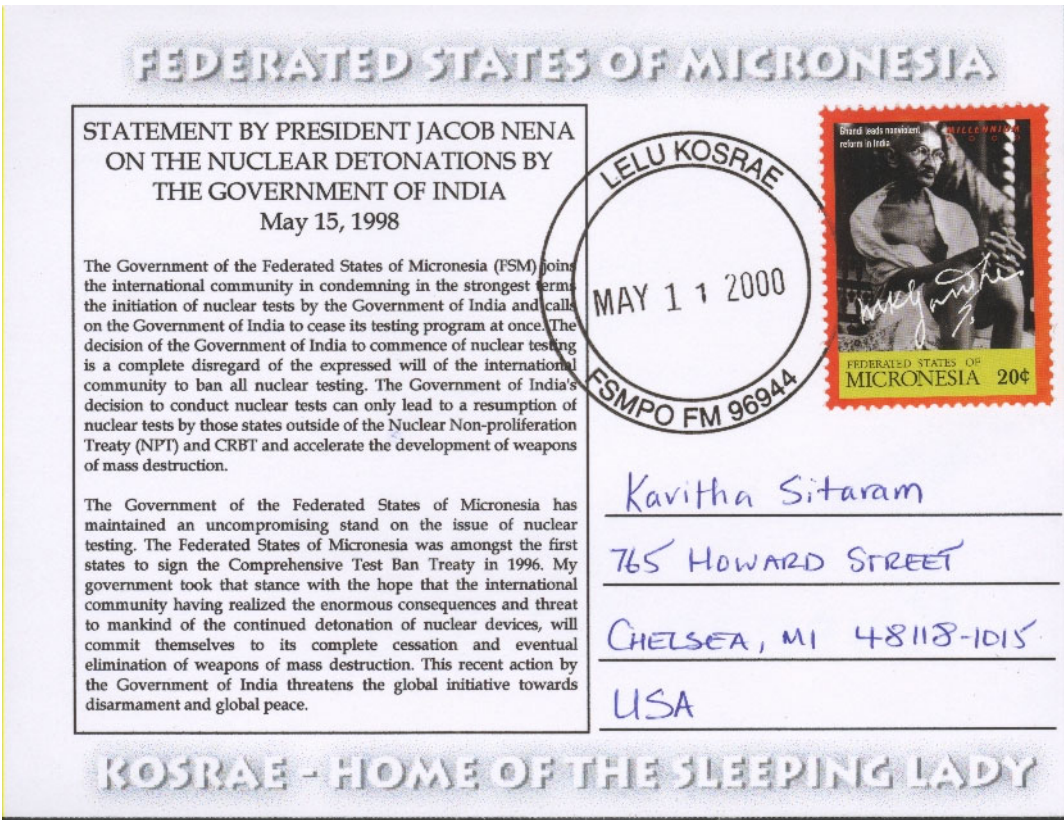


# Free India Stands for Annihilation (1998)

In 1998, India officially joined the nuclear club with an arsenal of atomic bombs at its disposal.

Micronesia (2000):  
Text of the first speech  
at the UN condemning  
India's nuclear  
detonations printed on  
this postcard. Mailed  
from Kosrae Island with  
a stamp of Gandhi to  
the USA. Post card rate  
is was the same as for  
domestic use in the  
USA (20c).

India's nuclear  
program was  
established  
immediately after the  
death of Gandhi (in  
April 1948), under a  
directive from Nehru.

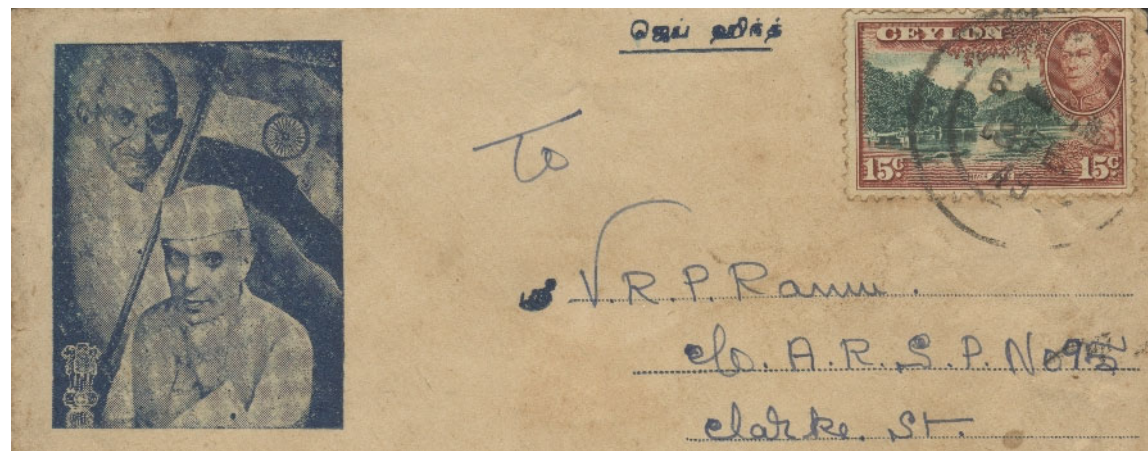


India (1968): Unique original artist's water color essay (unadopted design) of the first atomic reactor in India- established at the Nuclear Institute started in 1944. Adopted design shown to the right. Essay was tamped by the INDIA SECURITY PRESS (I.S.P.), the government's printing house.



## The Neighbours- Ceylon, Nepal, Tibet

Ceylon has been affected by the ethnic conflicts between Tamils and the Singhalese majority and India has not been able to help resolve this non-violently.



Ceylon (1949): Mail from the Tamil region of Ceylon to Tamils in Malaysia, with the slogan “Jai Hind” and image of Gandhi and Nehru with “Leaders of New India” slogan, all in the Tamil script.

Tibet (1949). Usage of Indian Gandhi stamp at the Indian post office, preceding China’s occupation of Tibet.

India was also unable to come to the help of Tibet when it was over-run by China in 1950.

With Nepal, India’s relationship has been condescending, with little attempt to encourage the Hindu monarchy to transition to a pluralistic democracy.

Nepal (1949). Usage of Indian Gandhi stamp at the Indian Embassy in Katmandu, where an Indian post office operated until 1951.

