

DELHI, 14-18 FEBRUARY 1922

The Royal Visit to Delhi coincided with Gandhi abruptly calling off the civil disobedience movement. This was the result of a riot in a small town (*Chauri Chauria*) that led to policemen being killed by an angry mob. Gandhi perceived the violent turn of the boycott as his greatest setback to civil disobedience.

India (1922): Prince of Wales Camp P.O.
from Delhi (Feb 18th) to the southern
coastal town of Malwan (near the
Portuguese enclave of Goa) and
redirected to Ratnagiri (delivery
backstamps on back).

PATIALA, 22-24 FEBRUARY 1922

With Gandhi fasting for calm, the nationwide movement came to a grinding halt, despite strong objections from prominent Congress leaders.

Reinforcing the potent adjective- "civil", Gandhi's simple answer was: "If we obtain our freedom by murder and bloodshed, I want no part of it"

India (1922): Prince of Wales Camp P.O.
Mailed from Patiala (Feb 22nd) w/ 1899 3p
stamp for the postcard rate. Note delivery
markings on the same side- preserves picture
on the other side.

KARACHI, 17-18 MARCH 1922

The Royal visit ended in Karachi, with the Prince leaving on the evening of March 17th 1922.

It was a learning experience for Gandhi, who later wrote that the scale of this boycott was much larger than in South Africa and that he should have moved slower.



RAWALPINDI, 9-11 MARCH 1922

The Bombay riots were just the first of several instances when Gandhi's hopes for a "civil" unrest during the Royal visit were dashed by mob violence. Riots in Madras (January 13-17) followed and *Chauri Chauria* put an end to mass protests in the Punjab.

India (1922): Prince of Wales Camp P.O.
Although used in the British province of
Punjab, this cover was franked with a 1903
Patiala 2a "Service" (Mar 11th)..



India (1922): Prince of Wales Camp P.O.

This cover is unusual on two counts:

- ❖ Mar. 18th was the day AFTER the official end of the Royal Visit.
- ❖ Unlike all other Camp PO cancels, this has a different design at the bottom of the CDS (diamond dots-not solid bar).



Dandi March Against Salt Tax [1930]



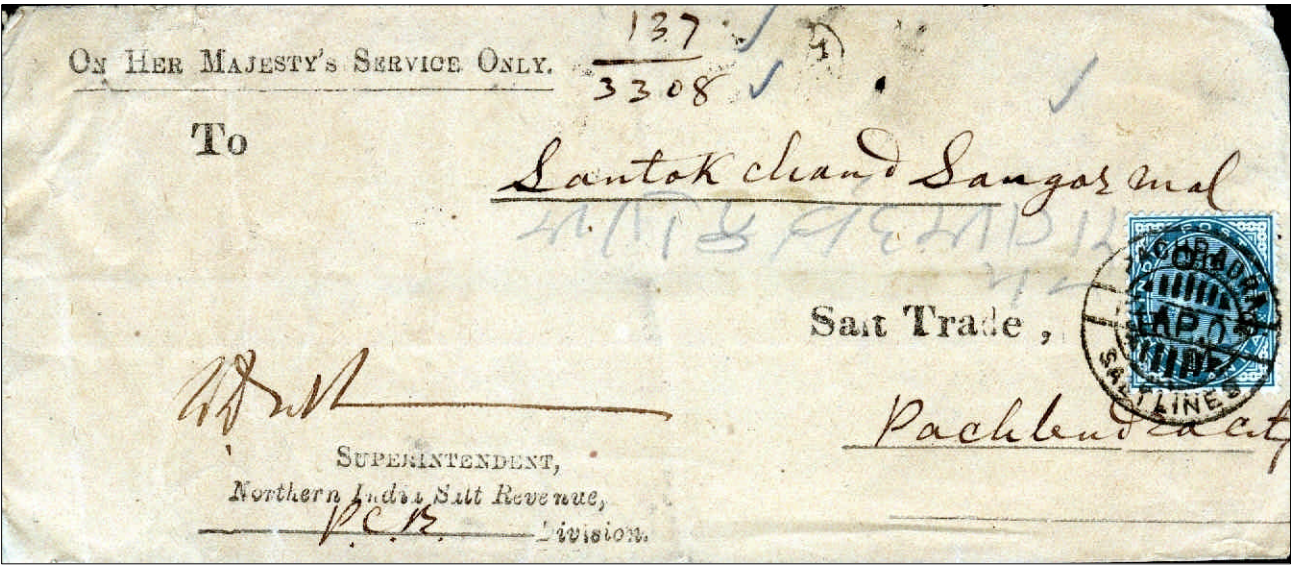
India (1969): Gandhi
Marching to Dandi

March 12, 1930. Sixty-one year old Gandhi, along with 78 other residents of the *Sabarmati* Ashram, started the historic march to the sea to make salt, in defiance of the existing Salt Laws of the British Government. The destination was a seaside fishing village *Dandi* and the event turned out to be one of the most significant in the annals of the Indian Nationalist Movement.

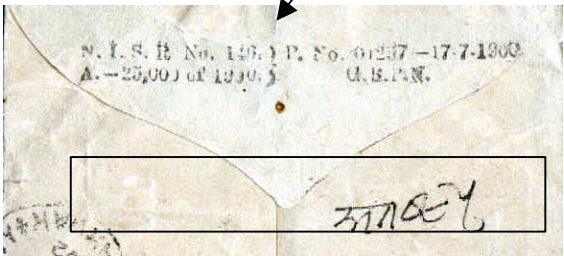


Ghana (1998): Gandhi and his
supporters on their march to Dandi.

Salt Tax in British India. Enacted following the Salt Commission of 1836, salt tax had grown to represent over 95 percent of the price of salt by 1930! Salt and land taxes [imposing disproportionate burden on the poor peasants] added up to over a fifth of the overall Indian tax burden. In 1905, people in India were taxed twice as heavily as those in England and three times as those in Scotland.



Salt Tax Demand Notice. Mailed in 1902 to a salt trader in the desert region in NW India. Unusual in that these were often mailed "unpaid" with 1 anna postage due to secure delivery [not ½ anna On HMS, as shown here]. Note the printing on the flap shown below- 25,000 such notices printed in 1900 just by the NISR region!



Government Salt Monopolies. It was Gandhi's genius that he made enormous political capital out of an issue that was not very uncommon in history. Ancient Romans used salt from Palestine as soldiers' compensation [hence the word "salary"]. Successive Chinese dynasties controlled vast regions with imperial salt taxes and inequities in salt tax [Gabelle] played a critical role in the French Revolution.

Dandi March Route Cancels

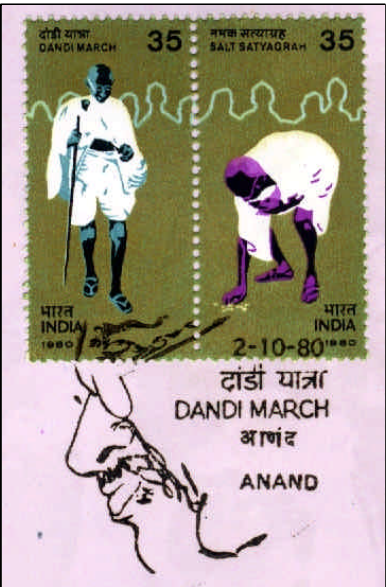
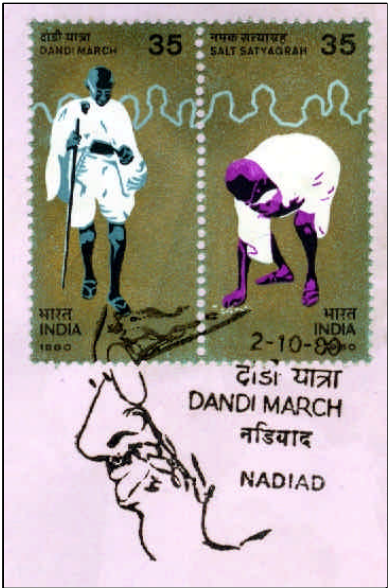
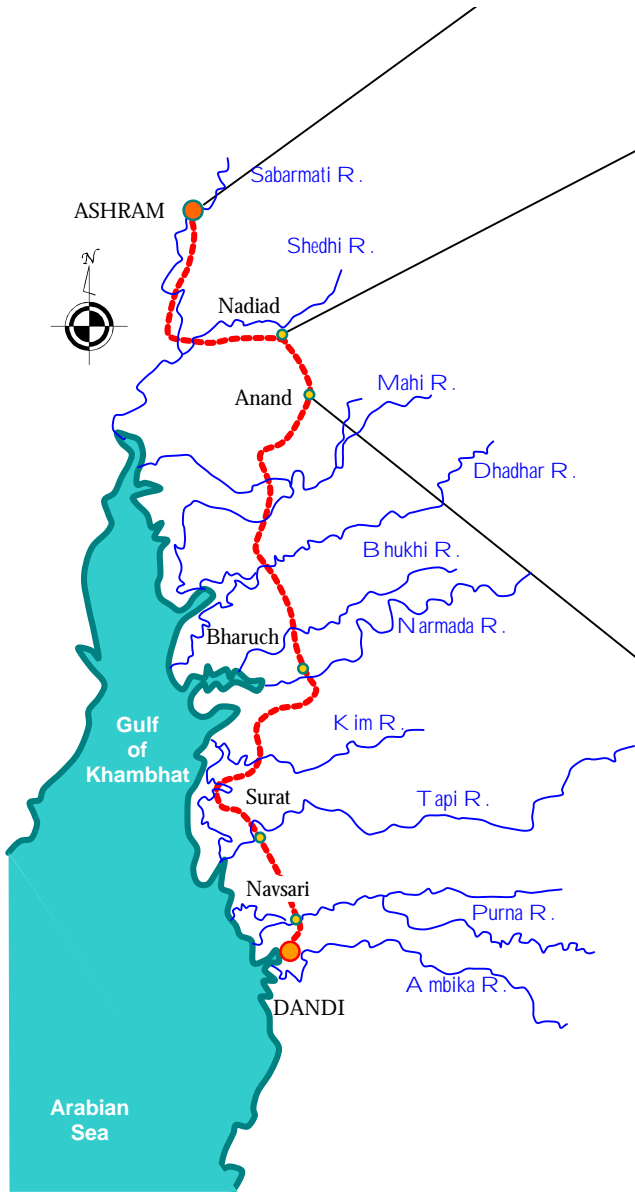
The 241 mile long trek from *Ahmedabad* to *Dandi* took 25 days. Gandhi's main purpose of the effort was to rally ordinary Indians against unjust laws and taxes imposed by the British government. To this end, he addressed huge crowds in every town, which limited the marchers to less than 10 miles a day.

Shown here are first day cancellations from the seven major towns along the route. The se-tenant issue commemorated the 50th anniversary of the historic civil disobedience event.

March 12th 1930, Ahmedabad. Marchers depart *Sabarmati Ashram* at 6:30 AM.

March 15th, Nadiad. Gandhi addresses *Satyagrahis* [civil disobedience volunteers] on moral strategy.

March 17th, Anand. Gandhi appealed to the public for non-violence if arrested.



...Dandi March Route Cancels

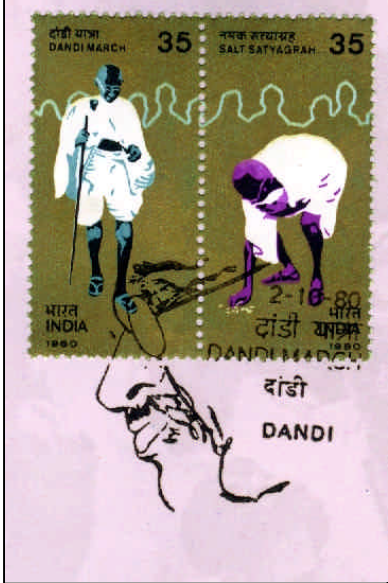
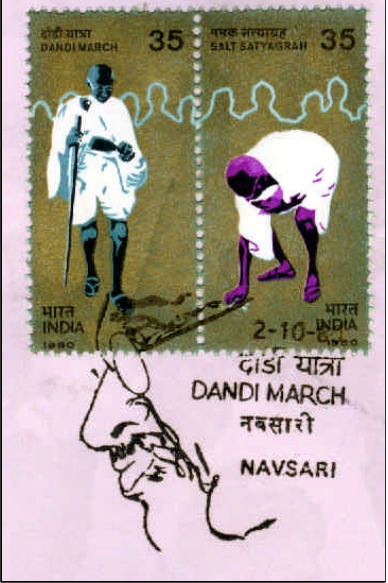
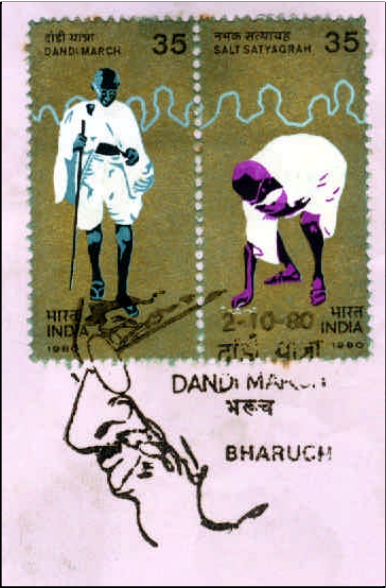
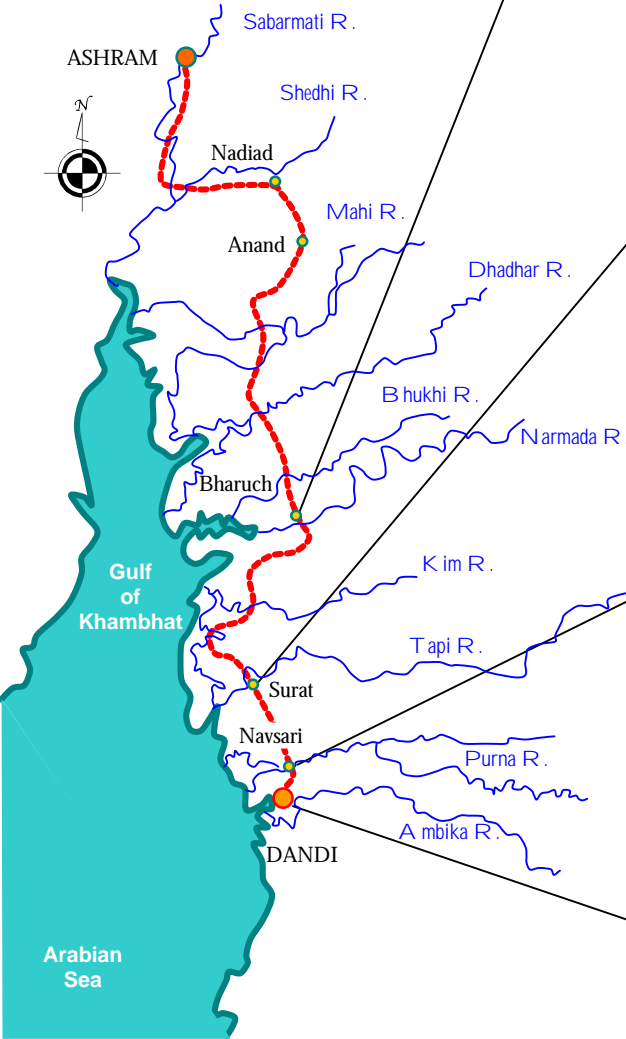
The "Salt Satyagraha", as it was called, captured the imagination of millions of poor Indians and galvanized sympathizers around the world!

March 26th 1930, Bharuch. Gandhi addressed public on Hindu Muslim Unity.

April 1st, Surat. Gandhi spoke to volunteers and public.

April 3rd, Navsari. Gandhi emphasized the need for greater self-purification among volunteers and pilgrims of the March.

April 5th, Dandi. After reaching the sea shore, Gandhi issued a statement to the Associated Press, sent a Message to America and advised the public not to eat salt supplied by the government.



Architect of Civil Disobedience

..... Dandi March Against Salt Tax [1930]

Sarojini Naidu. Succeeding Gandhi as President of the Indian National Congress, she set the stage for acceptability of women in Indian Politics. On the salt march with Gandhi was Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, then the most prominent woman in the Indian Nationalist Movement. Subsequently, she led a march on the Dharsana Salt Works [south of Dandi], where marchers were brutally attacked by police. Following the Dandi march, she later accompanied Gandhi to England to the Second Round Table Conference.

Ghana (1998): Gandhi shown marching with Mrs. Naidu to Dandi.

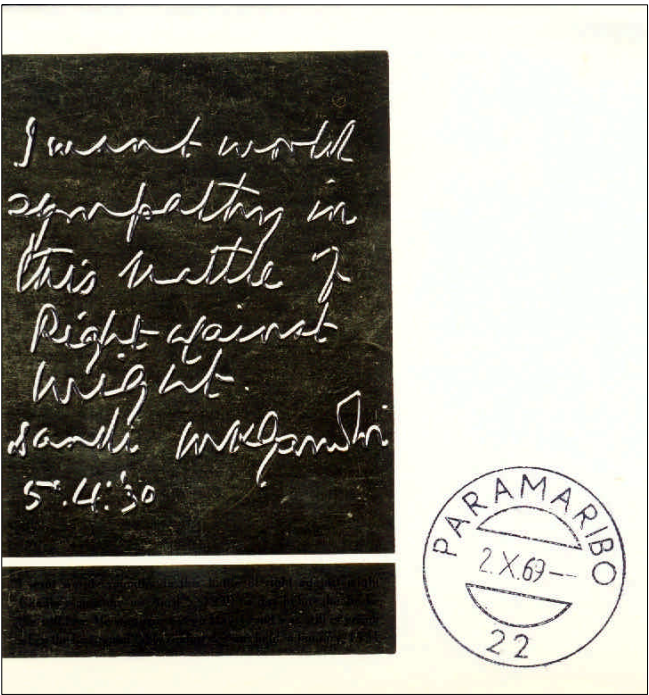


St. Vincent (1999): Stamp showing Mrs. Naidu marching with Gandhi in the Salt Satyagraha. Used for registered airmail to the USA: EC90c postage + EC\$2.25 registration fee [additional postage in the back of the envelope].

April 6, 1930. The day began with early morning prayers and a ritual bath in the sea by Gandhi and his followers. This was followed by Gandhi picking a lump of salt from a prepared bed by the sea.

Press Release, 5 April 1930. The text of the statement made by Gandhi to the Associate Press, while short, was directed at Western Public Opinion. Artful user of mass media that he was, Gandhi did get world sympathy for the Indian cause almost immediately. Often depicted as concurrent with the symbolic “picking of a handful of salt”, it was not until the next day that Gandhi actually did that.

This image of Gandhi, captured in many of the stamps, is as symbolic as the tossing of tea overboard in the Boston Tea Party. Many conservatives continued to stress “it would take more than a grain of salt to bring down the British Empire”.

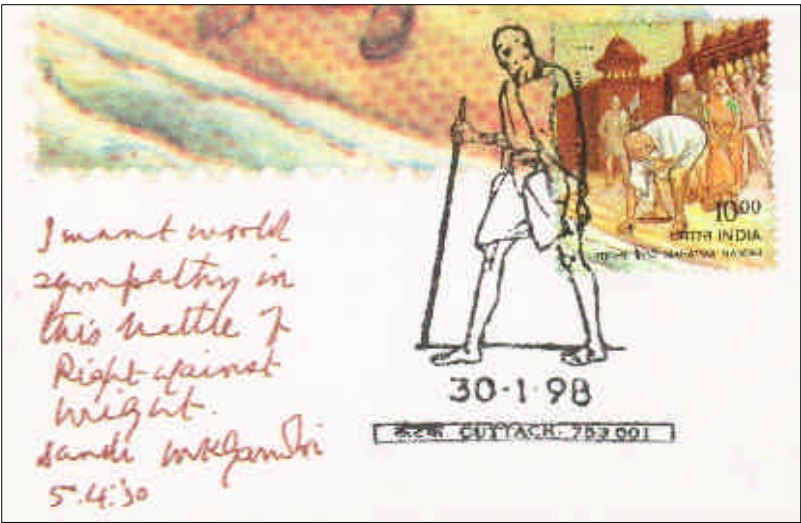


Surinam (1969): FDC cachet showing facsimile of Gandhi's press release from Dandi.

Ghana (1998): Gandhi picking salt from the sea at Dandi.



India (1998): Maximum card showing press release with stamp showing Gandhi picking salt and first day cancel showing him on the march to Dandi.



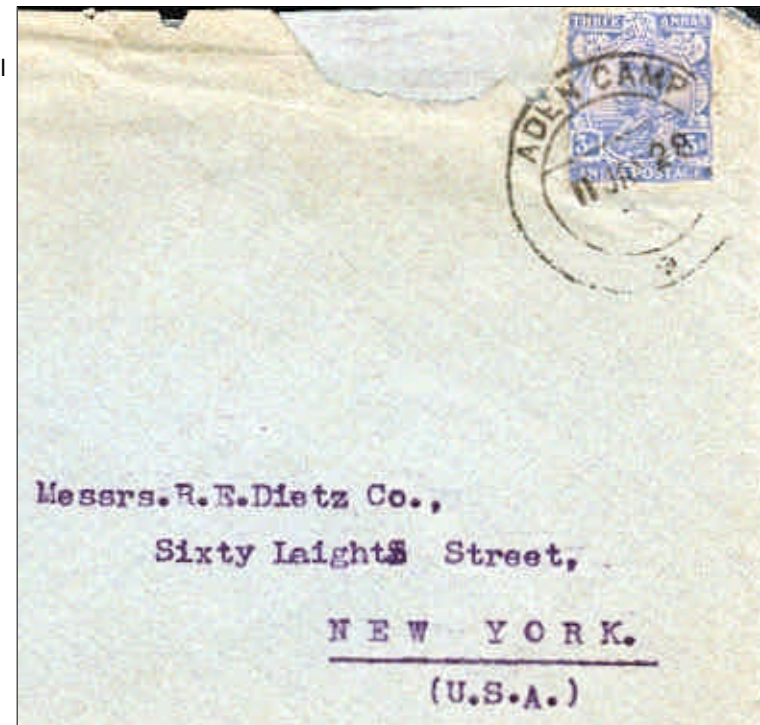
Fighting Separate Electorates and Provinces [1932-42]

In 1932, the British Government proposed a system by which separate electorates would be established for general populations in British India, lower caste or “untouchables” and each of the princely states. Gandhi and all of Congress soundly rejected this proposal.

Gandhi always opposed the idea of “separate but equal, a system that he never believed would work anywhere, leave also a country as diverse as India. His opposing a separate electorate for untouchables is still a bitter memory in India’s underclass, which felt that this would have empowered them.

Also proposed was a system of separating some of the outlying provinces that had very little in common with India. Gandhi or the Indian National Congress did not oppose this measure vigorously. Aden and Burma were part of the Indian administration for several decades. This included the civil services and the post office, which used Indian stamps without any overprints.

Burma and Aden were officially separated from Indian administration on April 1st, 1937.



Aden (1928): Cover mailed to the USA, franked with Indian stamp.



Burma (1937): Commemorative FDCs of the new “BURMA” stamps with interesting cachets representing the separation with dramatic artistic license!

Gandhi negotiated on details of British plans with several leaders in Delhi and the provinces. One of the leaders Gandhi negotiated with in 1937 was Sir William Malcolm Hailey, Governor of the United Provinces. Gandhi met with him in Nainital, location of the Governor’s camp in the Himalayan foothills.

India (1937): An error led to brief usage of “U.P. Govt. Camp”, instead of “U.P. Governor’s Camp” on the CDS. Mailed to London from Nainital during the period mentioned above.



Quit India Movement [1942-1947]

With no relief in sight on legislation regarding home rule, Congress embarked on the “Quit India Movement” in 1942. Simply put, the nationalists did not want any compromise- they simply wanted the British to pack their bags and leave India to Indians.



India (1967): FDC commemorating the silver jubilee of the Quit India movement. The statue shows in as famous in India as the one depicting the erection of the American flag at *Iwo Jima* is in the US.



India (1992): 50th Anniversary of Quit India Movement. Stamps depicting Gandhi’s writing during the Quit India movement, which roughly translates: “we will achieve it or die in the process of trying”. Simplified to “Do or Die”!

One individual who made a last ditch effort to negotiate away a major boycott by Congress was Sir Stafford Cripps. As a member of Churchill’s war cabinet, he visited India to make Congress an offer that was summarily rejected. Cripps went on to become Chancellor of the Exchequer later in the Labor Government. He did not have any room to negotiate and was said to have his “arms and legs tied” by Prime Minister Churchill, who did not want full independence for India in any form.



Scottish Local (1979): Progressive color proofs. This is the only stamp to show Gandhi and Cripps, although there is no annotation to that effect.



India (1983) and Grenada (1998): Gandhi and Nehru stamps based on photograph taken at the meeting where the Quit India resolution was declared.

The All India Congress Committee passed the “Quit India resolution” in August 1942.

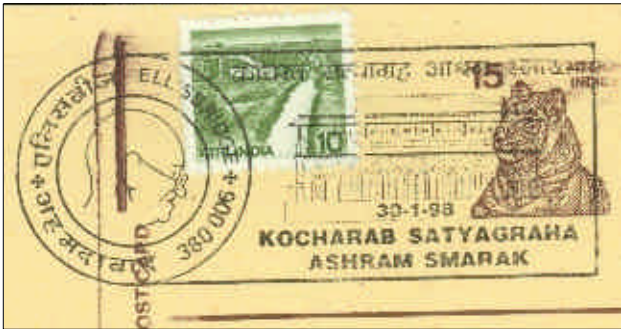
A full draft titled “My Appeal to the British”, written by Gandhi, was forwarded in advance by Nehru for publication in America and dissemination to the West.



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. While in South Africa, Gandhi initiated community life in two ashrams: *Phoenix*, which he started for Satyagrahis in Transvaal and *Tolstoy Farm*, an experiment in simple community living, where Christian and Jewish community leaders joined him.

Ashram members grew their own food for the most part and did not partake in alcohol and meat eating. As soon as he came to India, he established *Sabarmati Ashram* at Ahmedabad, in his home state of Gujarat.



India (1998): Pictorial cancel of another Satyagraha Ashram of Gandhi's followers called *Kocharab*

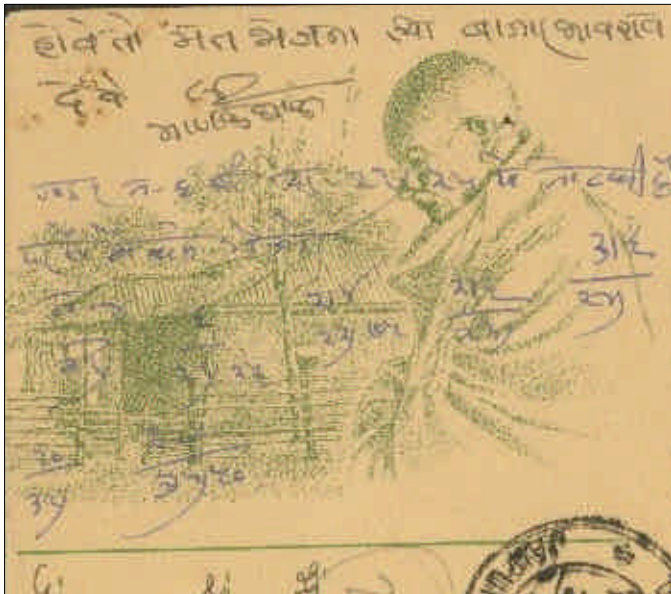


Bhutan (1998): Gandhi walking in front of *Hridaya Kunj*.

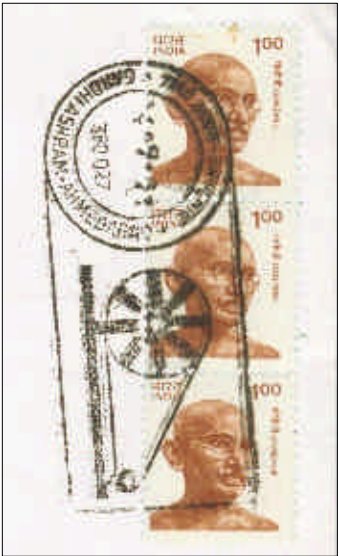


India (1978): Special Pictorial cancel of *Hridaya Kunj*.

India (1969): Preprinted pictorial postal card from India also features Gandhi and the *Hridaya Kunj* cottage.



India (1999): CDS from Sabarmati and Gandhi Ashram special pictorial cancel.



There were about 25 men and women resident at the ashram, besides frequent visitors from the Indian nationalist movement.

Nevis (1999): Gandhi, with Hridaya Kunj in the background.

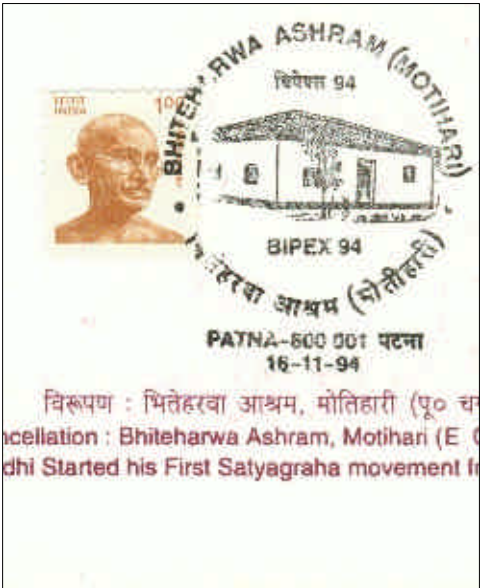


India (1969)
Commemorative
aerogramme and
Inland letter card
with Gandhi.
Hridaya Kunj in
the background.



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

India (1994): Special pictorial
cancel of Ashram in Motihari
issued at BIPEX '94.



Uganda (1997): Gandhi shown walking outside "Seva Gram ["service Village"], ashram in Central India near Wardha, where he spent his later years through the 1940s.

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.

Gandhi, in a letter to a friend in 1924:
"Fasting can only be resorted to against a lover, not to extort rights but to reform him, as when a son fasts for a parent who drinks. My fast at Bombay, and then at Bardoli, was of that character. I fasted to reform those who loved me. But I will not fast to reform, say, General Dyer who not only does not love me, but who regards himself as my enemy."



Gambia (1998): Stamp showing Gandhi fasting for eliminating "untouchability" early upon his return to India.

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, Ann Frank wrote: "freedom loving Gandhi of India is holding his umpteenth fast". She'd heard it on the BBC on the radio, which was her connection to the outside world while in hiding!



Guyana (1998): Stamp showing Gandhi fasting to appeal for communal harmony during the Hindu-Muslim Riots in Bengal.

Gandhi on Ramadan fasting, in *India Opinion* in 1907:
"We have gathered that merely keeping the fast cannot be considered sufficient for a proper observance of the Ramzan. The fast is a discipline of mind as well as of the body. That means that, if not all through the year, at least during the Ramzan month, all the rules of morality should be fully obeyed truth practiced and every trace of anger suppressed. We assume that our greetings will bear fruit particularly in the case of those who have done all this."



Israel: Artist's signed folder for Ann Frank commemorative issue.

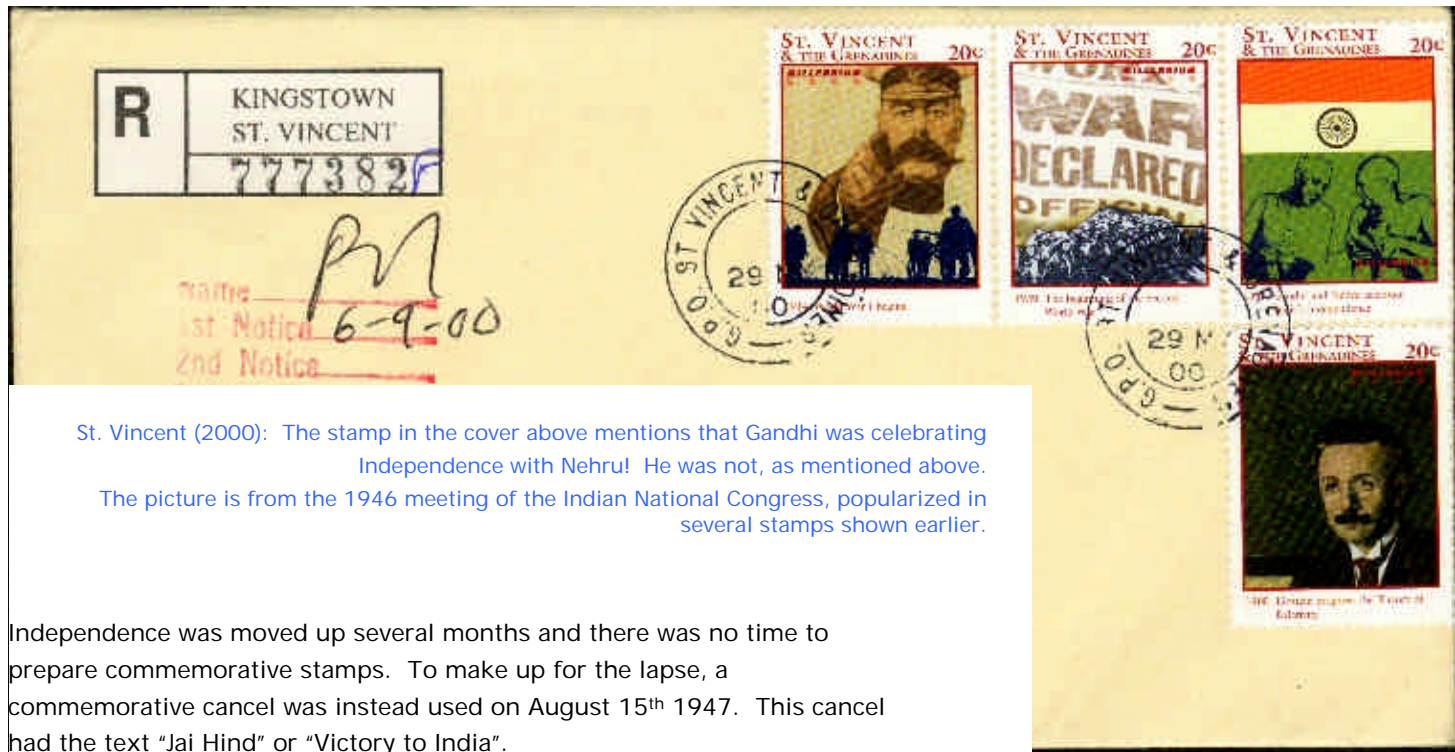
Partition of India

Independence [August 1947]

One would have expected someone who spent so much of his life as a nationalist to celebrate India's independence. Not so. Gandhi was mourning the partition of the subcontinent along religious lines, for in this he saw an ominous future awaiting the new nations.

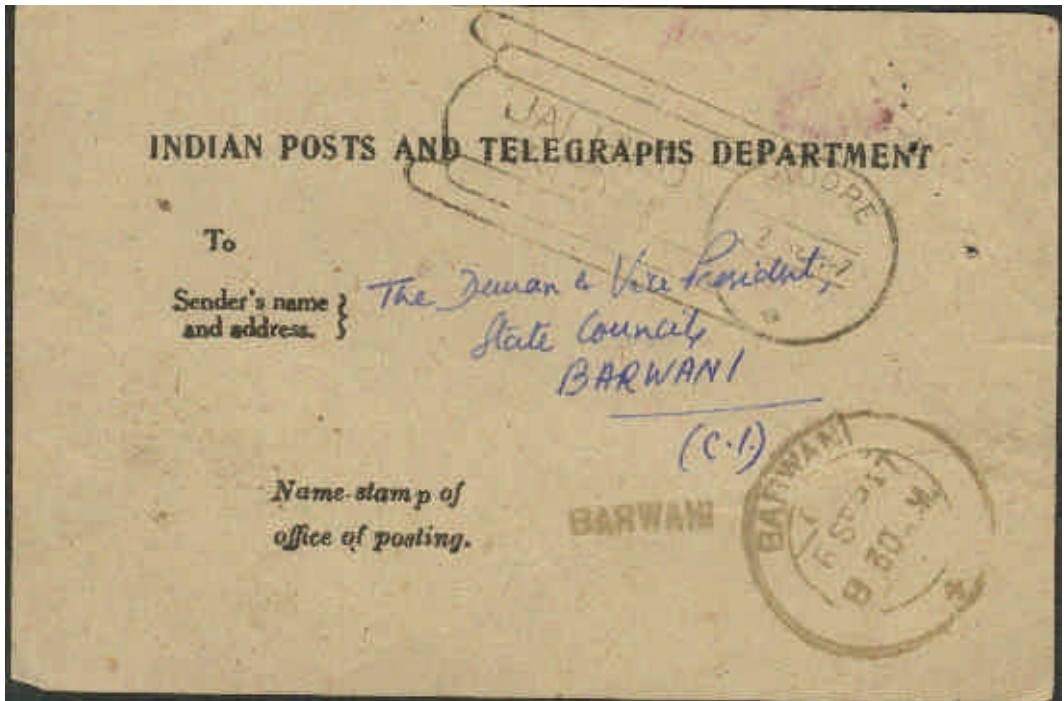


Guyana (1995): This stamp shows an imagined image of Gandhi dancing in the streets to celebrate independence. Nothing could be farther from the truth. To Gandhi, the tragedy of partition overwhelmed any euphoria over independence. **He was alone in his ashram, spinning and meditating on that day.**



St. Vincent (2000): 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.

Independence was moved up several months and there was no time to prepare commemorative stamps. To make up for the lapse, a commemorative cancel was instead used on August 15th 1947. This cancel had the text "Jai Hind" or "Victory to India".



Indore (1947): This return receipt card was cancelled with the special mark in the princely state of Indore and mailed to another princely state of Barwani. Many princely states had not even the considered joining the newly independent British India at this time!

Partition of India

..... Independence [August 1947]

Several interesting examples of the Jai Hind cancel on covers can be found in collections. Some examples are shown here.

India (1947): over with multiple special cancels and the postage rate from a former British Indian province to a princely state.

Note the use of British Indian stamps with the commemorative independence cancel. It was weeks before the first stamp of independent India was prepared for issue. Unlike many other countries, there was no overprint used on Indian stamps to indicate change in political status of the nation.



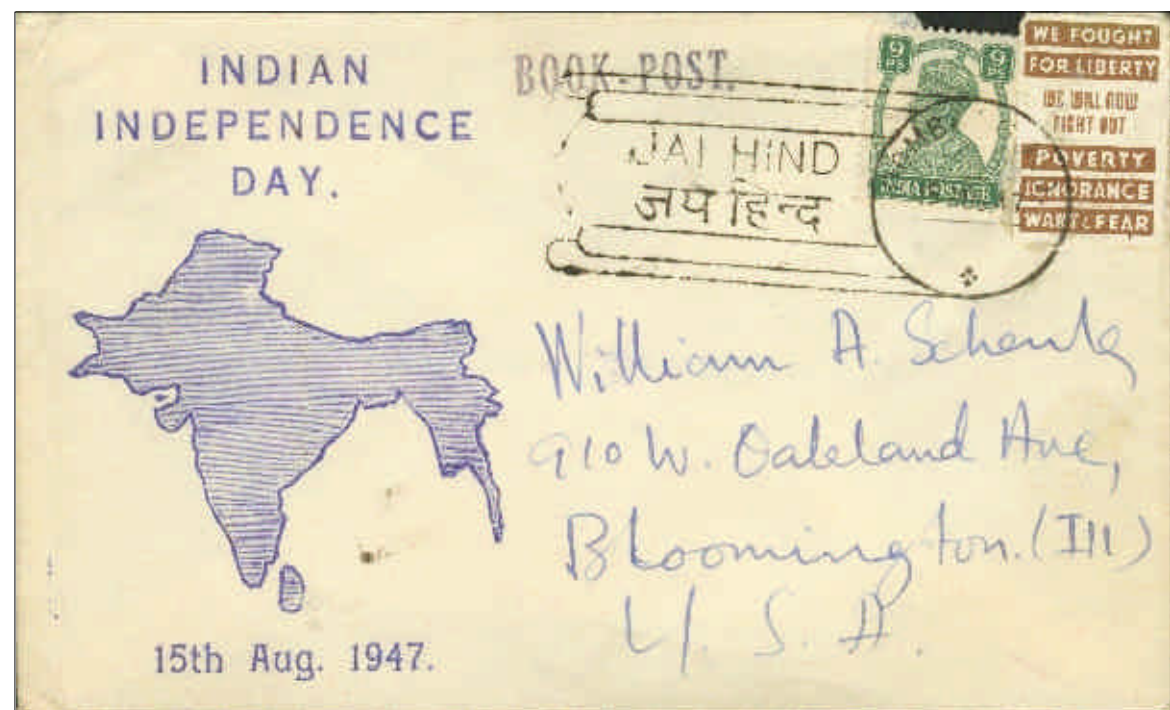
India (1947): This cover was mailed to Bombay and is marked "first day" not for the stamps, but for the cancel.

It was actually "only day"- guess the user meant- first day of Independent India.

India (1947): Interesting Cinderella tied to letter mailed to the USA (“we fought for Liberty, we will now fight out poverty, ignorance, want and fear”).

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.



Partition of India

The Last Fast [January 1948]

Over five months had passed since the partition of the south Asian subcontinent into India and Pakistan and the two nations were still embroiled in gruesome and bitter civil wars.

In an effort to influence the frenzied masses, 79-year old Gandhi started fasting on January 13th 1948.

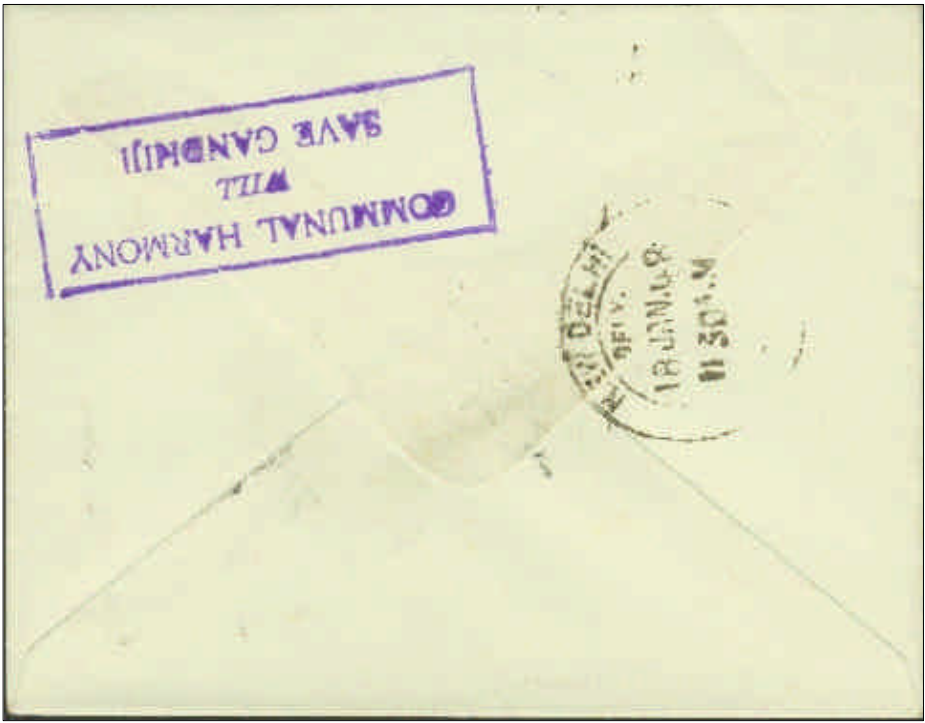
Propaganda slogans used on the radio and by the Delhi and Calcutta post offices during the last of Gandhi's many "fasts", to influence the public to stop the communal killings. Two varieties of these slogans are shown here.



India (1948): Official mail from Calcutta to New Delhi, still carrying British India's official franking "GRI" and was mailed on the 15th. 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 "IT IS ONLY THROUGH COMMUNAL UNITY THAT GANDHIJI CAN SURVIVE".



India (1948): Cover from Roorkee, also mailed on the 15th, with the slogan mark on the obverse. The stamp used was the 1½ anna issue commemorating India's independence (first free Indian issue) and the propaganda slogan was only in English.



Delivery markings on the back indicate that both covers arrived in Delhi three days later, the day Gandhi ended his last fast.

Partition of India

The Assassin's Bullet [January 1948]

In late January 1948, Gandhi was pressing the leaders of the Indian National Congress for normalization of relations with Pakistan.

He was staying at the house of his philanthropic friend and industrialist G.D. Birla and held prayer services every morning in the garden. Later in the day, he met with politicians and journalists.

Guyana (1998): Stamp showing the last meeting between Gandhi, Nehru and Patel, held the day before the assassination.



As usual, when it was time for prayer, Gandhi walked out to the garden with his two grand nieces- Manu and Abha. In the crowd stood a man with his arms raised in salutations and blocking Gandhi's way. When one of the girls tried to move him, saying that Gandhi was getting late for his prayers, he pulled a gun and shot him thrice at point blank range. Gandhi died uttering the words "He Ram".

The assassin was *Nathuram Godse*, a member of an extremist Hindu cult.

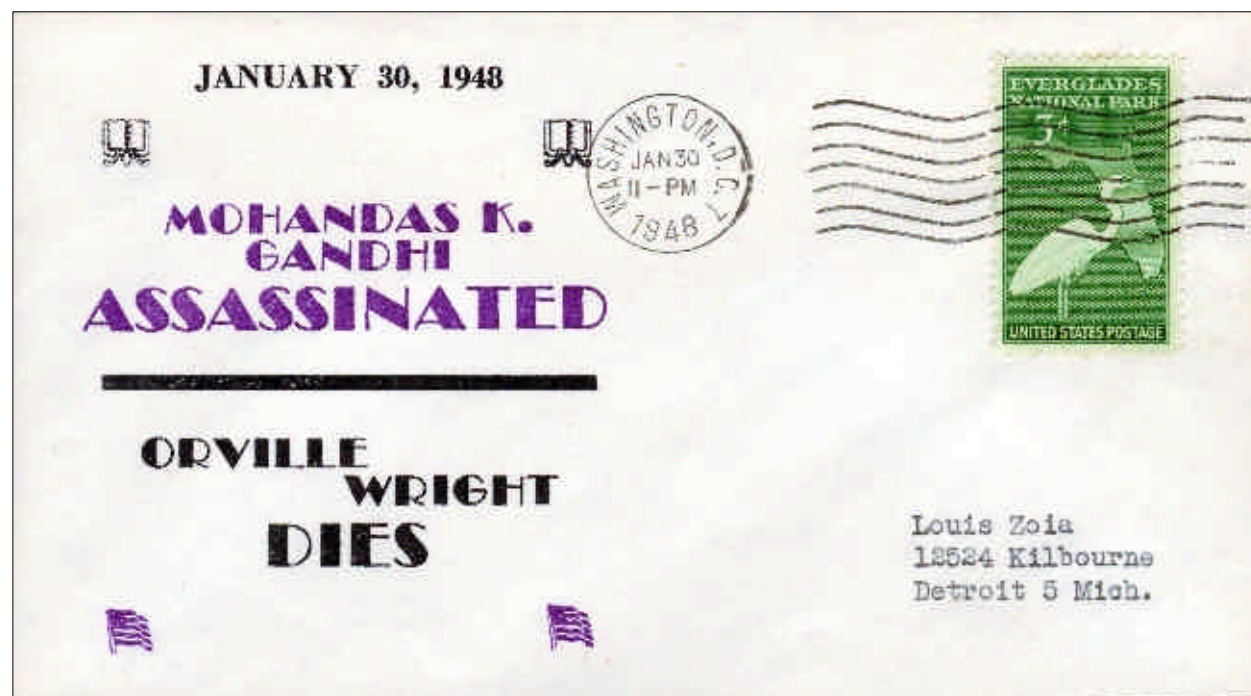


Chad (1997): Gandhi shown with his grand nieces Manu and Abha, who he called his "walking sticks".

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



India (1996): The last earthly possessions of Gandhi shown in a special cancel.

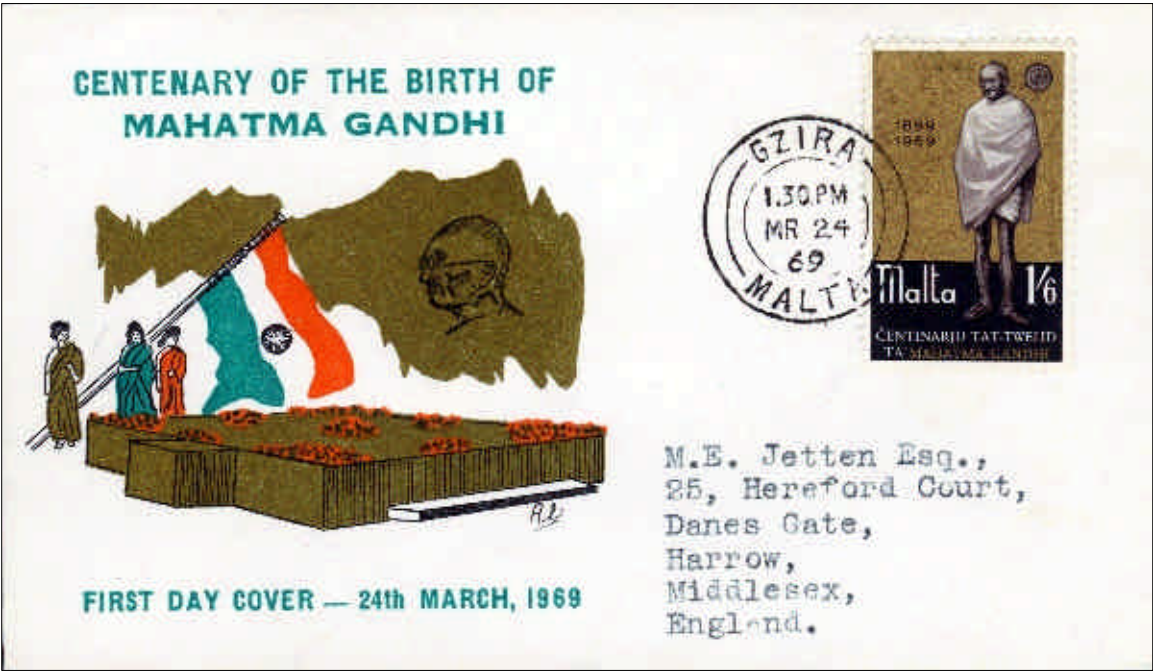


USA (1948): This Event cover mailed on January 30th 1948 announces that Gandhi was assassinated and Orville Wright died on that day. This day is celebrated as Martyr's day in India, remembering Gandhi's definition of a martyr: "willing to die for a just cause, never to kill for any."

Edward R. Murrow, the most distinguished American broadcaster of that time (CBS) had memorable coverage of the funeral for the world to hear.



Mauritania (1978): Vertical imperforate gutter pair of stamps commemorating 30th anniversary of Gandhi's assassination.



Malta (1969): Cachet of FDC shows the funeral site- known as "Rajghat" outside New Delhi.

As the somber but majestic funeral procession marched on, Murrow's clipped and weighted voice uttered these memorable words:

"The object of this massive tribute died as he had always lived- a private man without wealth, without poverty, without official title or office..."

"...Mahatma Gandhi was not a commander of great armies nor a ruler of vast lands, he could boast no scientific achievements, no artistic gift. Yet men, governments and dignitaries from all over the world have joined hands today to pay homage to this little brown man in a loincloth who led his country to freedom"

As Murrow further stated, Gandhi's passing was lamented by many around the world, including: Pope Pius, the Archbishop of Canterbury, American President Harry Truman, the President of France, the Foreign Minister of Russia.

And then Murrow quoted Albert Einstein, General George C. Marshall and General Douglas MacArthur, who 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."*



Dominica (2000): Stamp showing Gandhi laying in rest after his death, as mourners file past his body.



India (1971): Special cancel on this cover shows Rajghat, the site of Gandhi's cremation after the funeral procession through the heart of New Delhi.