

India After Gandhi

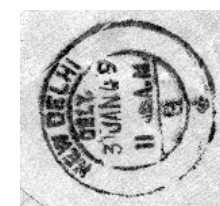
First Anniversary of the Assassination

On the first anniversary of Gandhi's assassination, post offices all over India used a line from a popular hymn sung by Gandhi and his followers.

The line was printed in Devanagiri script (Hindi), in a variety of designs.

Shown are two covers with the slogans, one first-flight cover from Nagpur to Delhi and another local mailing in Poona (near Bombay).

The first cover, personal mail from the town of Nagpur, is a first flight cover commemorating the inaugural flight of Inland Night Airmail from Nagpur to Delhi



The second cover, local mail in the town of Poona (near Bombay), was clearly mailed by a Gandhi admirer to himself. This is obvious from the fact that he used the two lower values of the Gandhi stamps, six months after they were issued.

The slogan Sabko Sanmati De Bhagwan is in the front of the cover, in Devanagiri Script (Hindi) - in indigo ink

Carrying the Torch..



Mrs. Naidu. As a close associate of Gandhi, she could have carried his legacy further in India.

Unfortunately, she died very soon and it was not until the mid-60s when another woman became prominent in national politics in India.



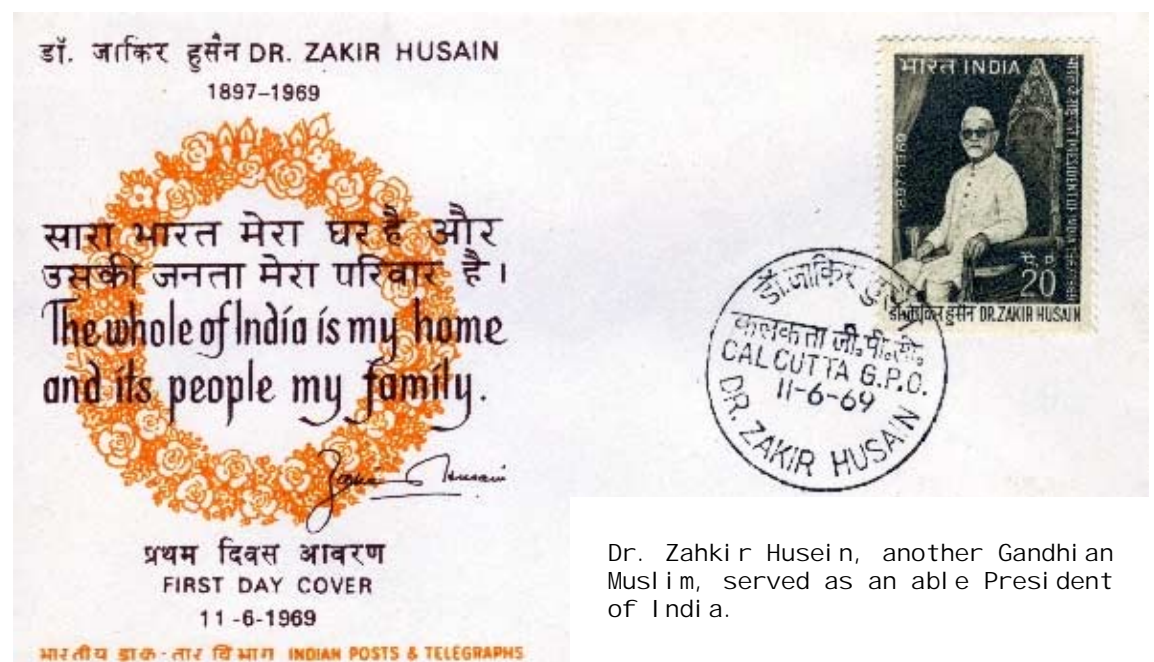
Sardar Patel. Unfortunately, Patel was unencumbered by Gandhi's pacifism and embarked on military and police action to incorporate several princely states and the small Portuguese enclaves into India [in the two years that he lived beyond Gandhi].



Maulana Azad. He single-handedly proved that India could be a multi-religious and multi-ethnic state. A close Gandhi associate, he took up the cause of education and reformed India's education system to help the masses.



Rajaji, who authorized the use of the Gandhi commemoratives for "official use" as Governor General, parted ways with the Nehru's increasingly socialist policies.



Dr. Zakir Husein, another Gandhian Muslim, served as an able President of India.



Of all of Gandhi's associates in Congress, the one that went farthest was Jawaharlal Nehru.

Nehru took India from a colony to a free-spirited and independent nation active in the world community.

Besides diplomacy, Nehru excelled in providing India's human resources to pursue peace through strength.

This aspect of his policy is studied through philatelic material in the following section.

Free India Stands for World Peace

The slogan was taken from a speech Gandhi made about the place India would carve for herself as an independent nation:

“Exploitation and domination of one nation over another can have no place in a world striving to put an end to all wars. The way India can promote peace is to offer successful resistance to exploitation..... Free India stands for World Peace”.

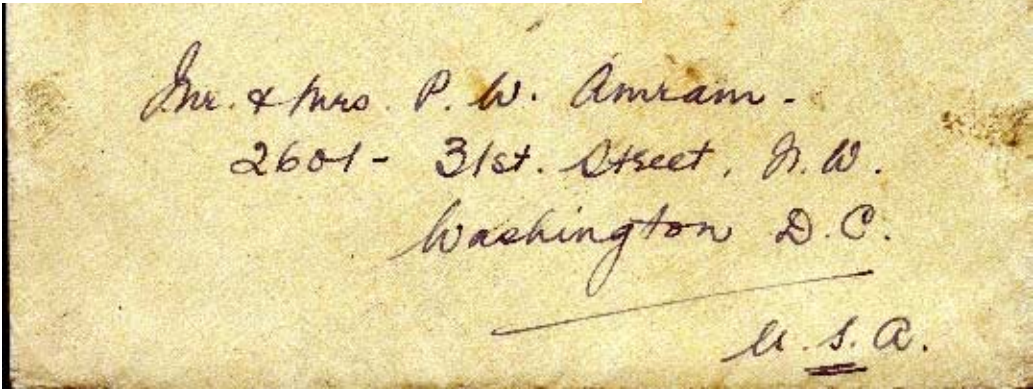
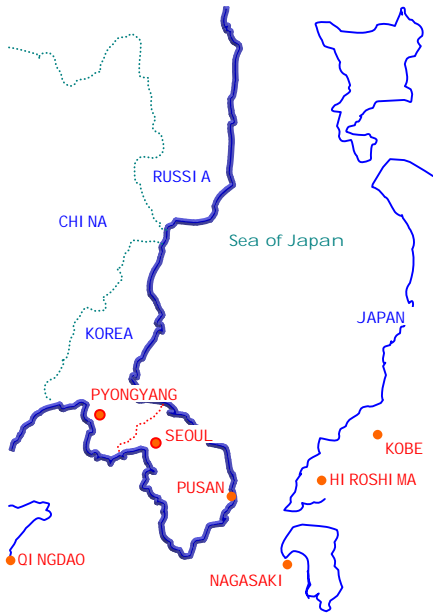


Covers mailed from Gandhinagar during the 55th AIICC meeting, with the slogan cancel. The latter is a registered letter. Note delivery and registration backstamps.

Indian Custodial Unit in Korea [1953]

Indian forces served as the UN Neutral Nations Repatriations Commission in Korea between 1950 and 1953.

They assisted in the repatriation and exchange of prisoners of war and refugees even when the war was in progress.

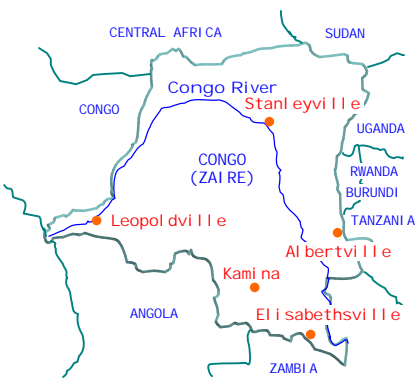


Unusual FP0 700 cancels from Korea. Many covers exist with the special overprinted stamps of India, but the regular Indian stamps with FP0 700 cancels are uncommon, particularly to US destinations.

Indian U.N. Forces in Congo [1962]

This was the first time a UN peacekeeping mission was embroiled right in the middle of a chaotic internal strife.

Indian forces served under the UN Operations in the former Congo [ONUC] from 1961 to 1964.



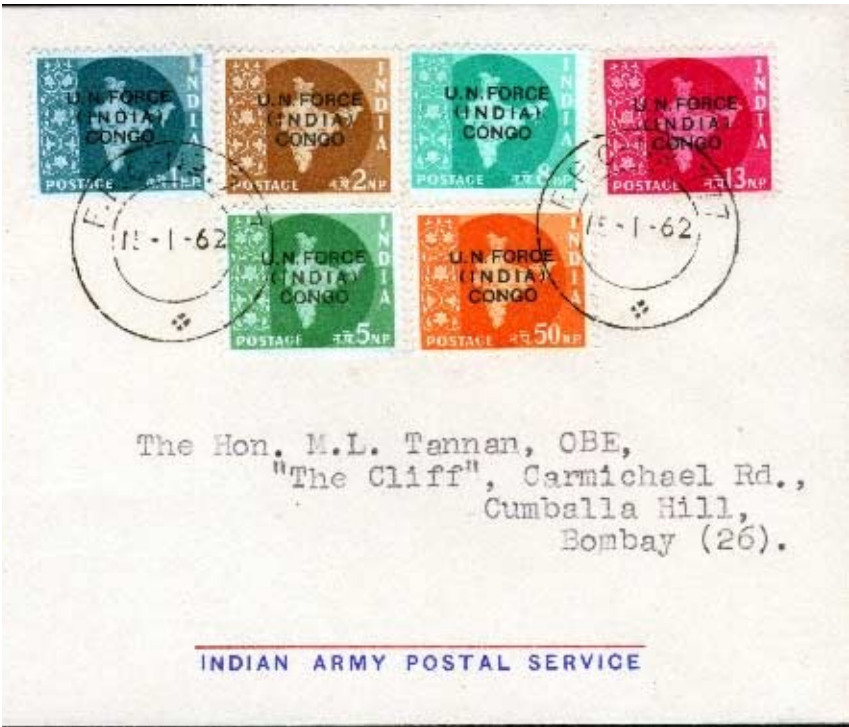
FPO 716- Albertville



FPO 660- Leopoldville



FPO 777 Kami na.

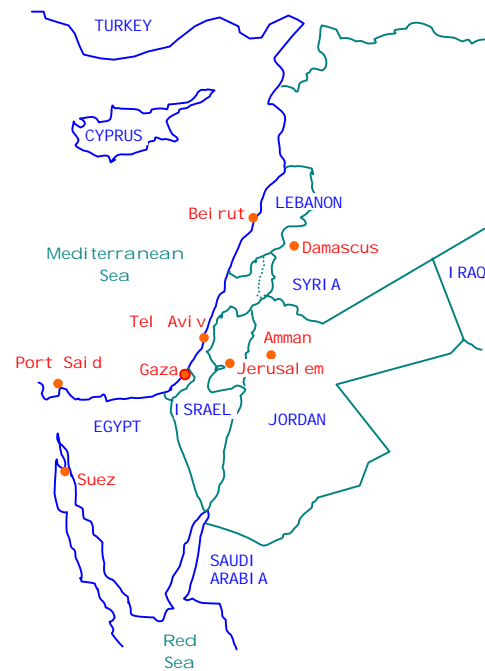


The task of the UN peacekeeping forces was complicated by the presence of several mercenaries from Europe fighting alongside tribal groups and clans.

FPO 771-
Elisabethville.



Indian U.N. Emergency Force in Gaza [1965]



Indian forces were sent as part of a UN peacekeeping Operation in the Gaza strip, Egypt and Israel from 1956 to 1967.

This was part of the follow-up to the Anglo-French operation that captured the Suez Canal after nationalization by Egypt.

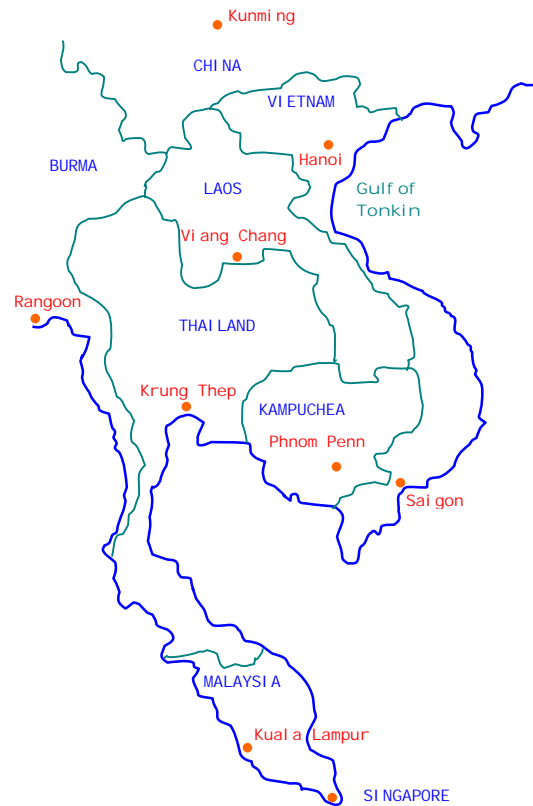
Israel had captured most of the Sinai peninsula at the same time.

FPO 747- at Dier el Ballah

FPO 712- at Gaza City



International Commission in Indo-China [1954-1965]



The UN International commission was part of observation and peacekeeping operations in Indo-china from 1954 to 1970.

FPO 742- Sai gon [S. Vi etnam]
 FPO 743- Hanoi [N. Vi etnam]
 FPO 744 Vi ang Chang [Laos]



The covers shown here were cancelled for Indian Army Day on 15th January.

Indian Forces in Laos and Vietnam [1968]

Towards the end of the war, the UN forces were present only in Saigon and Laos.

Covers with complete sets of the stamps used during these period by the field forces are shown here.

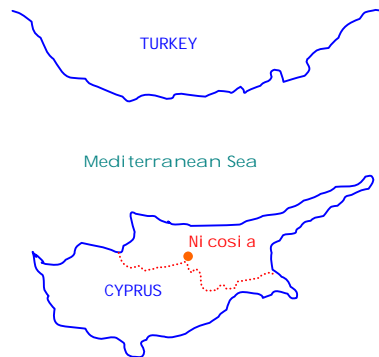


The FPO number assignments remained the same:

- 742- Sai gon
- 744- Vi ang Chang



U.N. Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus [1965]



UN forces were sent into Cyprus immediately after its independence, when fighting broke out between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. They remained there from January 1964 to December 1976.

General K. S. Thimayya from the Indian Army was in command of the UN forces and he was killed while stationed in Cyprus.

Cyprus honored him with a stamp, the only Indian to be honored so, until three years later.



Specimen set from the Cyprus issue on the occasion of Gandhi's Birth Centenary.

Gandhi and “Indira” Gandhi



She has been mistaken for Gandhi's wife or daughter by many.

She's neither.

Indira Gandhi, who married another Gandhi unrelated to the Mahatma, served as Prime Minister of India for almost two decades.

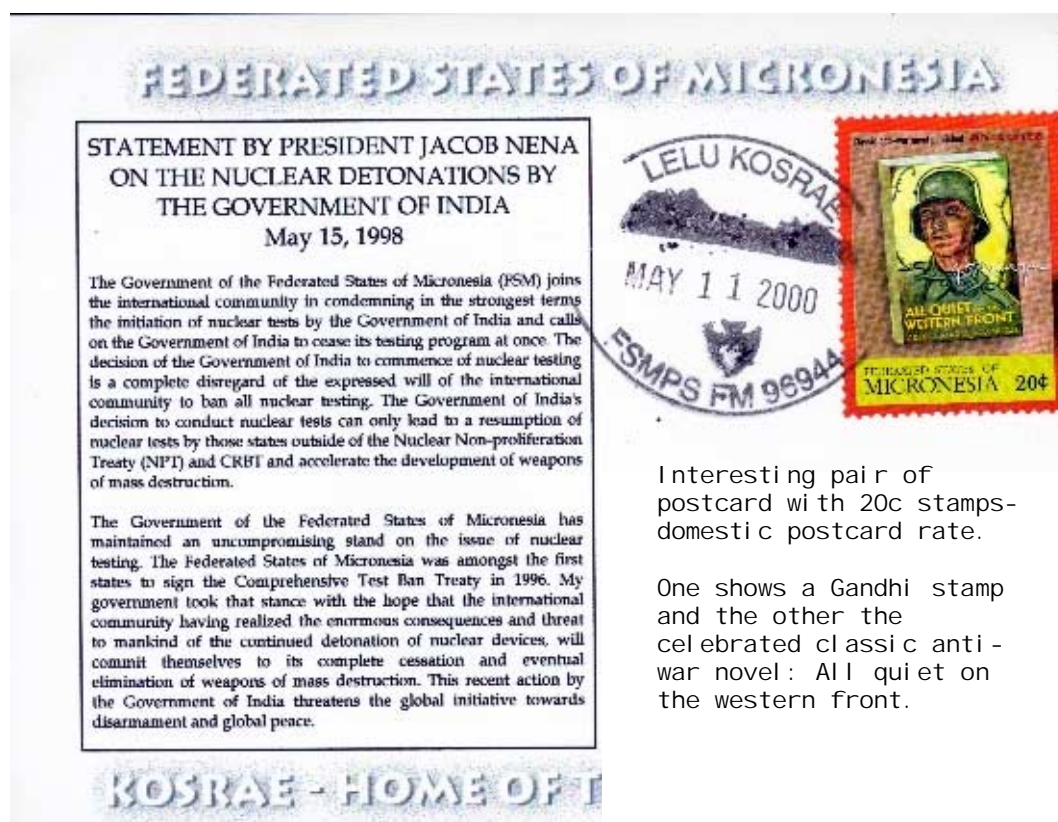


While she was admired around the world for her charisma and strength, she charted a course for India that paid not much beyond life service to Gandhi and ideals.

Her arms race with Pakistan and the resulting wars culminated in the emergence of both nations as nuclear powers by the end of the century.



Free India Now Stands for the Threat of Mutual Annihilation



Interesting pair of postcard with 20c stamps-domestic postcard rate.

One shows a Gandhi stamp and the other the celebrated classic anti-war novel: All quiet on the western front.

Postal rate from Micronesia to the USA is the same as domestic rates, as the postal department is operated by the USPS.

Shedding Tears for Tibet

Tibet, as a land-locked country, had been dependent of India for centuries.

The salt trails from India to Tibet served as routes to establish a postal service and this was operated by the British Indian Post Office until 1950.

Indian stamps were used for outgoing mail that was often sent through one of three routes to India.

After China took over Tibet, India has provided refuge but has achieved little in the international forum for the Tibetan cause.

Two values of the 1950 Republic stamps from India, cancelled at two Tibetan post offices- Gyantse and Pharjong.



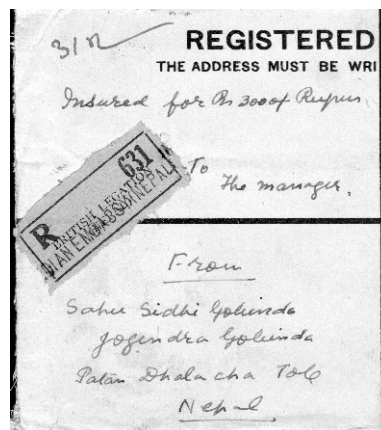
Gyantse P.O. CDS.



Yatung P.O. via Siligudi CDS.

“Overseas usage” of the Gandhi memorial issue from India was limited to Nepal and Tibet. Shown here are two examples of high value usage from Tibet, on piece.

Rubbing the Salt in: India and Nepal



Landlocked Nepal has the same strategic relationship with India as Tibet did. Until 1950, an Indian Post office operated in the British Indian embassy.

High value registered and insured cover mailed to Bombay.





It is interesting, that India, which took issue with the British salt tax, often uses salt as a weapon in bilateral politics with Nepal.

Indian Embassy CDS on sea mail cover to the USA.



Registered Indian Embassy usage covers to destinations in India.

Note special box cancel in Nepali and delivery markings. Stamps used to seal flaps, as many in India are!

