

Indian Princely States postage Stamps



**All Information Bassed On Collections Of
Anand Heritage gallery Museum Dhanbad**

Indian Princely States postage Stamps

- Brief history of India and its postage stamps
 - What are the Indian States?
 - “Convention” States
 - “Feudatory” States
 - Indian States revenues
 - Indian stamps used abroad
 - Questions & Comments
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History of Indian Stamps

INTRODUCTION

Indian princely state postage stamps refer to a unique and fascinating aspect of philately (the study of stamps). Before India gained independence in 1947, it was not a single unified nation but a subcontinent of several princely states, each ruled by its own local ruler or monarch. These princely states had varying degrees of autonomy and were under the suzerainty of the British Crown.

During this time, many princely states issued their postage stamps for postal use within their territories. The first princely state to issue its postage stamp was Scinde Dawk in Sindh (now part of Pakistan) in 1852. The stamp featured the image of a camel and was issued for use in the Sindh region.

Over the years, numerous other princely states followed suit and issued their postage stamps, each featuring distinct designs, symbols, and denominations. These stamps were often used for intra-state postal communication and were not valid for mail outside the state's boundaries.

The designs of these stamps ranged from portraits of the rulers to depictions of local landmarks, flora, fauna, and cultural elements. Some princely states also issued commemorative stamps for special events and occasions.

Collecting Indian princely state postage stamps has become a popular area of interest among philatelists worldwide due to their historical significance and diverse artistic appeal. However, it is important to note that many of these stamps are rare and valuable, making them highly sought after by collectors.

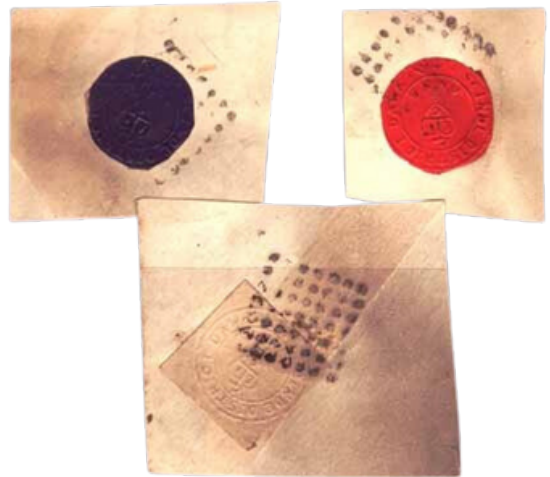
After India gained independence in 1947, most of the princely states acceded to India, and their postage systems were integrated into the Indian postal system. As a result, the usage of princely state postage stamps ceased, and they became historical relics.

Today, Indian princely state postage stamps are part of the rich philatelic heritage of the Indian subcontinent and continue to captivate the interest of stamp collectors and history enthusiasts alike.

History of Indian Stamps

The first “stamps” of India were issued in the **Sind Province** (now part of Pakistan) in 1852.

These stamps are wax impressions and are usually considered forerunners to the stamps of India.



The **East Indian Company** issued the first stamps valid for postage throughout India in 1854.

The first issues were printed in India but later issues were printed in England.



History of Indian Stamps

After the 1857 rebellion against the East India Company, there was the formation of the **Crown Colony of India** in 1858.

Stamps, now simply reading “India Postage”, were issued, containing an image of the current reigning monarch. This practice continued for 90 years through the reign of King George VI.



- 600-900 different feudatory states
- Control by “Princes” Maharaja / Nawabs
- 30% of India
- Many states issued revenue stamps but only ~40 states issued postage stamps



History of Indian Stamps



- Signed postal “convention” with Imperial Government
- Overprinted Indian stamps with state name (Chamba, Jind, Nabha, Patiala, etc.)
- Stamps were valid for mail throughout India



History of Indian Stamps



- About forty states printed their own stamps for intra-state mail.
- Stamps range from very primitive to high quality engraved issues.



Note Differences in stamps with same Scott #

History of Indian Stamps

Small city-state in north-central India.

Note the direction of the crossed swords in the perforated vs. imperforated stamps.

Issues noted for many forgeries.



Cochin, located at the southern tip of India, issued over 200 stamps, most containing portrait of the ruling maharaja.

These are probably the most common Indian States stamps.



History of Indian Stamps

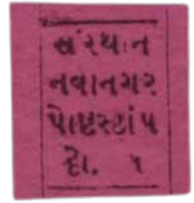
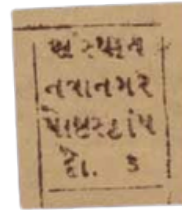
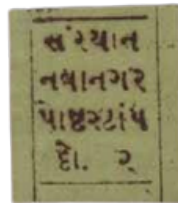
- Large state located in Northwest India.
- Stamps range from very primitive (printed in Jaipur) to superb (printed in London).
- Noted for beautiful pictorials from 1931-1947.



The region of northern India and Pakistan produced some of the most primitive stamps, leading to many varieties and forgeries.

History of Indian Stamps

Note the color and paper variations in stamps from Junagadh(top) and Nawanagar(bottom)

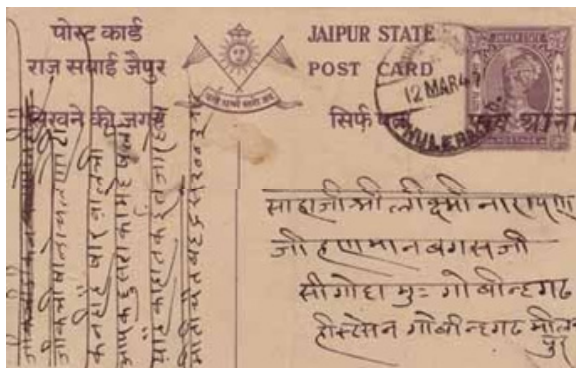


- Over 400 states issued revenue stamps
 - Court fees and Legal documents
 - Many contained pictures of rulers



History of Indian Stamps

Indian stamps were used in other British possessions and colonies including Aden, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, etc....



- Many states also issued postal stationary.









- Covers, especially from feudatory states, are a major collecting interest.

ABOUT MUSEUM



Mr' Amrendra Anand is Retaired Development officer from L.I.C. of India. He in the field of Collection when he was only ten years old in 1964. with Postage Stamps and Coins. Journey is gone such as Calectable more. of Postel, Banking on in different historical on entire 2 Insurence services. Now he has his own Museum, named Anand Heritage Gallery based and in at Dhanbad, Jharkhand. Gallery Indian History His website (anandheritagegallery.in) Digital Forme also.

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Contact Person

Curator of Anand
Heritage Gallery Museum



Mr Amrendra Anand
Mobile +919304248087
WhatsApp +919431375216

Thanks for Reading this historic pdf any inquiry please contact us