

The hard work paid off! An amazing end to an amazing journey. The award was definitely the cherry on the cake.

Tanya Nagrath, AIS PV, XII A
Winner, Best Illustration



Although small in size, the importance of the postage stamp cannot be undermined. The stamp is the undisputed symbol for anything and everything that the human mind can possibly imagine; it is the representation of a country's history, culture and heritage; a towering tribute to historical figures; a social messenger. For the common man, it is indispensable to his world of communication. For the passionate philatelist, it may be the world itself. Here is a fitting tribute to the stamp...

Tribute to leaders



USA: The United States of America recently dedicated a stamp to Harvey Milk, an important social activist in American history. The 'forever' stamp bears an iconic image of the activist.

London: The country paid a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by holding a philately exhibition that exhibited more than 300 individual stamps by different countries dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. What's more, over 100 countries across the world have followed suit with commemorative stamps on the Mahatma.

Chandigarh, India: The city designed by Le Corbusier is often abuzz with interesting activities related to the stamp. During the National Postal Week, the city introduced a stamp with the outline of Bapu on it.

In respect to another country



USA for China: President John F Kennedy issued a stamp commemorating Sun Yat-sen, the first president of China.

India & Israel: To commemorate 20 years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel, the two countries brought out a series of stamps on each other's festival of lights. While India released stamps on Hannukah, Israel issued stamps on Deepavali.

Brazil for India: In May 2014, Brazil released two postage stamps to honour 100 years of Indian cinema. A tribute to the industry indeed!

Stamps for recreation/ lifestyle



Pune/New Delhi, India: Pune witnessed the inauguration of the 'My Stamp' counter in 2013, wherein a person could get his or her picture clicked at the counter which was in turn printed on a stamp sheet alongside a Rs 5

stamp. The customers were spoilt for choice with 17 different templates to choose from! Among many other themes, zodiac signs and 'Panchtantra' were the popular ones. This idea was brought to Pune after it enjoyed a thundering success at a philately exhibition in New Delhi.

China: China released a set of special stamps on 'Chinese dinosaurs' for sale. The Hong Kong Post issued a set of six special stamps on various species of Chinese dinosaurs.

Canada: Canada introduced a baby wildlife series that featured five baby animals, mountain goat, wapiti, baby beaver, puffin and the burrowing owl.

Belarus: The Republic of Belarus treaded the unconventional path by dedicating stamps to famous theatres in a stamp series on 'Theatres of Belarus.'

Charity stamps/Semipostals

Semipostals or charity stamps are gaining popularity around the world. These stamps, dedicated to a social cause, cost more than the typical stamp. The money generated from the sale of these stamps is donated to charity. A look into the trends around the world...



for the victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The stamp made an exception by featuring living people such as firefighters. US Postal service does not feature living people on stamps, until after ten years of their death.

Belgium: The country is perhaps the leader in charity stamps. It has brought out more than 1000 semipostals.

Australia: It is believed that the continent was the first to issue semipostals.

USA: The Breast Cancer Research stamp was released in 1998 at a ceremony held in the White House. In 2002, the USA unveiled a semipostal

Stamp for a cause



Pakistan: Pakistan issued a stamp to spread the message of a "Polio free Pakistan."

Indonesia: Indonesia issued stamps that created awareness on the phenomenon of climate change across the world to sensitise masses.

Africa & others: Most of Africa (Guinea, Solomon Islands, etc.) and the Maldives have paid tribute to freedom fighter and anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela time and again.

USA: In 1948, US President Harry Truman issued a stamp to commemorate National Youth Month. The stamp was introduced in an attempt to control juvenile delinquency as a part of a national campaign organised in this direction.

Stamps for special occasions

Lithuania: Lithuania issued 80,000 stamps to celebrate the occasion of Mother's Day. These stamps were made by a 3-year-old girl and were sent to the mothers in the country.

the occasion of the Youth Olympic Games. It also dedicated stamps to mark the celebration of the Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Pakistan and the Philippines.

Pakistan: Pakistan issued stamps on

Australia: Australia issued stamps

that communicated the power of women on the International Women's Day.

USA: The Diwali stamp, that gestured USA's inclusivity of the Indian community was welcome. It

caused much uproar from the Indians in the USA after its release was stalled. In an online movement, more than 1300 letter petitions and 40000 signatures favouring the stamp were presented to the US Postal Service.

World's biggest postage stamp



Not all postal stamps have to be small. Emirates Post set a world record by releasing the world's biggest stamp on March 21, 2013. The hexagonal stamp measures 1.17 x 1.34 metres. The stamp bears the logo of 'Mother of the Nation' and is a tribute to Her Highness, Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak, former minister of culture, youth and social development and president of the Emirates.

National Postal Week

October 9 to 15 is celebrated as the National Postal Week in more than 150 countries. The first day of the week is observed as World Postal Day, the days that follow are lauded as Savings Bank Day, Mail Day, Philately Day and the PLI Day, etc.

As one of the member countries of the Universal Postal Union, India (among other 191 nations) celebrates the week with great excitement and enthusiasm. This week sees Indian cities spread out their wings of creativity as the stamp acquires a new meaning altogether.

Stamp activity for AIS Vas 6

As part of their Formative Assessment activity (FA activity), Class VII and VIII students of AIS Vasundhara 6 also celebrated stamps by creating their own innovative stamps on the theme of 'Respect for the country's flora and fauna'.

I love stamps

Stamp collecting or philately is the most popular hobby in the world. If you are not a stamp collector you may ask, "Why stamps, aren't they just pictures on little piece of paper?" Yes, that's correct, but those little colourful pieces have so much to tell! My stamp is a tribute to the little sparrow which is fast vanishing from our country.

Mrinalinee Singh, VIII C



A hobby worth exploring

This is a unique hobby because stamp collecting is a 'do it alone' thing. You can work with your stamps any time, in rain or in sunshine...it's a weather-proof hobby! It helps reduce stress and gives a feeling of accomplishment. I have depicted the pitcher plant on my stamp, which is a carnivore in the diverse plant kingdom.

Aditi Gautam, VIII C

For the like-minded

Avid stamp collectors often join a club and hold regular interactions with other stamp lovers. This is a great way to meet people, make new friends and share new ideas. Clubs are a good way to increase social skills and involve yourself in community events. Though my Rs 10 stamp is a typical scene with clouds, mountains, rivers and trees, I have serrated the edges to make it look unique.

Sahil Choudhary, VIII C

The royal stamp



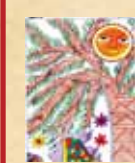
My stamp is a tribute to the lion. I have given it a costly denomination of Rs 500 as lion is an invaluable animal and its dwindling number is a cause of concern.

Anameeka Saraf, VIII C

My stamp depicts the lion's head which is a symbol of courage, strength and excellence.



SM Anshuman, VIII D



A map to your country

Stamps represent historical events, people and places. It is an easy stepping stone to know about traditions and customs of your country. With the aid of a good stamp, you can catalog the world at your fingertips. Making my stamps was fun because I did not even realise that I was learning Madhubani art!

Khushi Jain, VIII B



Appeal to the senses

Some collectors collect stamps simply because the picture on the stamp appeals to them. Hope my Re 1 stamp, which depicts the pink hibiscus bloom, appeals to all of you.

Aanchal Raina, VIII B

Journey of stamps

Before the use of adhesive paper stamps, letters were hand-stamped or post-marked with ink. Post marks were the invention of Henry Bishop. My stamp carries the fragrance of flowers.

Chaitanya Joshi, VIII B



Postage stamps came into existence over 300 years ago and have undergone a huge evolution. My stamp is dedicated to the Father of the Nation.

Snigdha Agraj, VIII D