

STAMPS RELATED TO JAINISM

-Suresh Jain

Stamps are not only a source of revenue or colorful printed paper ,but they have also some story behind them Mostly the stamps are related to some national events. Geographical happenings, to some important personalities or to some historical places and events. In this way we can call stamps the messengers of country's culture, religion, Geography and tourism etc.

Here we will discuss a brief history of the stamps related to JAINISM.

The different themes are Jain Tirath, Jain temples, Jain Saints, Jain Statues, Jain personalities, Jain events, Sculptures from Jain temples etc.

These stamps were issued by,

1. Indian States
2. British Period
3. India Post Independence
4. Foreign

Here is a list of the Stamps issued so far related to Jainism , Date wise, In the coming months I shall contribute one or two pages in every issue (Serial wise) in this Jain monthly patrika for the interest and knowledge of the readers.

If in between any more stamp is released on Jainism in any part of the world, I shall contribute an article on that stamp also.

Further articles shall be published in HINDI language with the heading,
DAK TICKETON PAR JAIN ITIHAS.

LIST OF STAMPS ON JAINISM

INDIAN STATES

18.10.29 GIRNAR (ISSUED BY SAURASHTRA STATE - PART OF INDIA BEFORE INDEPENDENCE)

BRITISH PERIOD

06.05.35 BHAGWAN SHEETALNATH JAIN TEMPLE, CALCUTTA

INDIA POST INDEPENDENCE

- 15.08.49 SHATRUNJAY TEMPLE, PALITANA
31.12.57 BOMBAY UNIVERSITY – RAJABAI JAIN TOWER
15.02.60 SAINT THIRUVALLAVAR
30.12.72 VIKRAM AMBALAL SARABHAI (FAMOUS JAIN ATOMIC SCIENTIST)
13.11.74 BHAGWAN MAHAVIR 2500TH NIRWAN ANNIVERSARY (PAWAPURI JAL MANDIR)
10.01.75 WORLD HINDI CONVENTION (IMAGE OF JAIN SARASWATI)
12.04.75 WORLD TELGU CONFERENCE (IMAGE OF JAIN SARASWATI)
27.07.78 KACHCHH MUSEUM (PIECE FROM OLD JAIN TEMPLE)
09.02.81 GOMMATESHWARA BAHUBALI 1000TH ANNIVERSARY, SRAVANABELGOLA
09.05.88 DR. KARMAVEER BHURAO PATIL (JAIN SOCIAL REFORMER AND EDUCATIONIST)
24.08.91 JAIN MUNI MISHRIMALJI
20.12.94 BARODA MUSEUM - BRONZE IDOL OF BHAGWAN RISHABHNATH (SE-TENENT)
28.01.98 DR. JAGDISH CHANDRA JAIN (FAMOUS JAIN WRITER AND EDUCATIONIST)
20.10.98 JAIN MUNI ACHARYA TULSIJI
06.03.99 SCULPTURE FROM PARSHWANATH JAIN TEMPLE, KHAJURAO
31.12.00 JAIN RAJA BHAMASHAH
06.04.01 BHAGWAN MAHAVEER 2600TH JANMA KALYANAK
21.07.01 JAIN HISTORIAN CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA
18.11.01 JAIN FILM PRODUCER V. SHANTARAM
09.08.02 ACHARYA ANAND RISHI MAHARAJ
27.05.04 DR. INDRA CHANDRA SHASTRI
30.06.04 TERAPANATH AACHARYA BHIKSHU
23.11.04 WALCHAND HIRACHAND (FAMOUS JAIN INDUSTRIALIST)
02.12.05 JAWAHARLAL DARDA (POLITICIAN & JOURNALIST)
11.11.06 LALA DEEN DAYAL
08.12.08 DR. L.M. SANGHVI (EMINENT SCHOLAR)
14.12.08 INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE (SHOWING VIKRAM SARABHAI ON SE-TENENT)
21.02.09 JAINACHARYA VALLABH SURJI
28.02.09 HARAKCHAND NAHTA
14.10.09 DILWARA JAIN TEMPLE
14.10.09 RANAKPUR JAIN TEMPLE
08.11.09 JAIN SCHOLAR VEERCHAND RAGHAVJI GANDHI
27.06.10 WORLD CLOSSICAL TAMIL CONFERENCE (SAINT THIRUVALLUVAR)
30.04.11 MAHASATI UMRAO KUNWAR JI
07.07.11 D. S. KOTHARI (FAMOUS JAIN SCIENTIST)
25.09.11 JAIN AACHARYA JAIMAL JI MAHARAJ
17.04.12 GODIJI PARSHWANATH JAIN TEMPLE, MUMBAI – 200TH ANNIVERSARY
16.05.12 KARPOOR CHANDRA 'KULISH' (RENOWNED JAIN JOURNALIST)

FOREIGN

- 23.08.79 EAST GERMANY BHAGWAN MAHAVEER
06.04.06 NEPAL WORLD HINDU FEDERATION (JAIN PRATIK)
20.01.07 CANGO WORLD RELIGION DAY (JAIN PRATIK)

JAINS & JAINISM IN PHILATELY

Suresh Jain

Jainism is one of the oldest religion of the world. Its followers believes that Jainism is an 'Anaadi Ananta' religion. Anaadi means one which has no starting and Ananta means which has no ending. Jainism is preached by the Tirathankars, that in every cycle of times, there are 24 Tirathankars. In the Present Era Bhagwan Rishabh Dev was the first Tirathankar and Bhagwan Mahavir was the last 24th Tirathankar. The three main principles of Jainism are Ahimsa (Non-violence), Anekantvad (Non-Absolutism) and Aparigrah (Non-Possessiveness). Five major vows are Ahimsa, Satya, Asteye, Bramcharya and Aparigraha. Jains believe in soul and karma. Jain Agamas are canonical texts of Jainism based on Mahavira's teachings. Present time 4.2 Million followers of Jainism is the smallest among the major world religions. Having the highest literacy rate 94.1% in men and 90.6% in women. Jains have the great share in the development of the country they are Scientist, Philanthropist, Philosopher, Poet, Industrialist, Businessmen, Film Producers, Jurist, Orator, Journalist etc. Here is a brief history regarding Jains & Jainism on which the Postage stamps were issued by Indian Postal Department and foreign Postal Dept.



JAIN PILGRIMAGE :

Girnar Hills

The first stamps on Jainism were issued in India by Saurashtra State, a part of India before Independence on 18th October 1929. One three Pies stamp and one three Annas stamp bears a view of Girnar Hills where 22nd Jain Tirathankar Bhagwan Neminath had attained Nirvana. Girnar is an Important Jain Pilgrimage Centre.

JAIN HERITAGE

Jain Pratika - Issue of India

On the occasion of the 2600th Janma Kalyanak (Birth Anniversary) year of the 24th Jain Tirathankar Bhagwan Mahaveer, Indian Postal Department had issued a Rs. 3/- denomination stamp on 6th April 2001. This stamp summarising Jain teachings of Ahimsa Paramodharma adopted with the words Parasparopagraho Jivanam by all Jain groups which means all the Human beings help each other. The outer line of the symbol denotes the TRILOK (Three Worlds). The Palm denotes the fearlessness and forgiveness. The wheel of Dharma Chakra in the centre of which word AHIMSA (Non-violence) is written Swastik denotes prosperity.

JAIN PRATIKA

Issue of Nepal

Nepal issued a stamp on 6th April 2006 to commanmorate silver Jubilee of world Hindu Federation. This stamp depicts JAIN Pratika (Symbol).

JAIN PRATIKA

Issue of Congo

Congo issued a beautiful stamp on 20th January, 2007 on the occasion of world religion Day depicting symbols of some important religions of the world including one Jain Pratika.

JAIN IDOLS & PAINTING OF LORDS

Mahaveer

The first stamp on Jainism was issued from outside India came from East Germany. On 23rd August, 1979, the East Germany Postal Department issued a set of four stamps on Indian Miniature Paintings, one of these showed the Beautiful Painting of Lord Mahaveer from the fifteen or sixteen century.

Bahubali

A 58 feet high idol of Bahubali called GOMATESHWAR was erected by the Chamundaraya, a royal minister. On the top of a 300 feet high hill at Sharavanbengola (Karnataka) in the year 981 A.D. On the occasion of the Millennium year celebrations of the IDOL, a one rupee stamp was released on 9th February, 1981 by Indian Postal Department.

Rishabhath

A 'Se-tenant Pair' (Set of Two stamps) was issued on 20th December 1994 to celebrate the centenary of Baroda Museum. The se-tenant stamp has the picture of an ancient 6th century Bronze statue of Bhagwan Rishabhath the first Tirthankar of Jains. Now this statue is exhibited in the Baroda Museum.

JAIN TEMPLES :

Sheetalnath Jain Temple

On May 6th 1935 British Indian Government issued first stamp on Jainism depicting Sheetalnath Jain Temple of Calcutta which was constructed in the year 1868 A.D. It is famous for its artistic Patch work. This one and quarter anna stamp was part of a set of four stamps of temples and shrines issued to commonorate the silver Jubilee of King George V's regime.

Shatrunjaya Temple

A stamp worth Rs. 15/- depicting the Shatrunjaya Temple of Palitana (Gujrat) was issued on 15th August 1949. It is first Tirthankara Bhagwan Rishabhath's temple built in the year 1618 A.D. and famous for its excellent five carvings and architecture.

Pavapuri Jal-Mandir

On the occasion of 2500th Nirwan Anniversary of Bhagwan Mahaveer, a stamp worth 25 paise was issued on 13th November 1974. The stamp depicted the lake temple JAL MANDIR of Pavapuri (Bihar).

Ranakpur and Dilwara Temples

Indian Postal Department has issued Two beautiful stamps on world famous Jain Temples of RANAKPURA and DILWARA on 14th October 2009. These both mulicoloured stamps depicts images of the Temples along with the unique architectures of these Temples. The Ranakpur Jain Temple. It has 1444 columns Arch each is richly carved and interestingly no two columns present

the same design. DILWARA JAIN TEMPLES of Mount Abu are known world over for their extraordinary architecture and marvelous marble stone carvings. The temple interior showcases the extraordinary work of human craftsmanship at its best. These temples were built between 11th to 13th century A.D. with White Marble stones.

Godiji Temple

On completion of 200 years, a stamp was issued on 17th April, 2012 by Indian Postal Department on GODIJI PARASHVNATH TEMPLE situated at Pydhonie Mumbai constructed in 1812 by Godiji is among the most Prominent Community temples in the city. The two-storied, all marble structure already boasts around 86 marble idols, two crystal idols and 76 small silver idols. Named after the 23rd Tirthankar of the Jains - Bhagwan Parshvanath.

Jain Saints

1. Sain Thiruvalluvar

On 15th February, 1960 a stamp was issued on Saint Thiruvalluvar. He was a great Jain Saint and celebrated Tamil Poet who is believed to have lived between 2nd century B.C. to the 8th century A.D. He wrote the Thirukkural, a work on ethics in Tamil literature.

2. Muni Mishrimal Ji

Spiritual saint and Philosopher Jain Muni Mishrimal Ji was a profound orator. He had written lot of literature in Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, Prakrit and Rajasthani languages. More than 5000 pages of Prose and Poetry are their to his credit. He fought against evil practices and led social reformation movement. A stamp was issued in his memory on 24th August 1991.

3. Acharya Tulsi Ji

Famous Jain Saint Acharya Tulsi Ji took asceticism at an early age of 11 and at the age of 22 he was appointed Acharya. He launched the "Anuvrat Movement" for reinforcement of human values in life, giving the slogan "Self Discipline alone is the life". He established Jain Vishwa Bharti and took the herculean task of research on Jain Agams (Holy Books) and published their critical editions in 32 volumes. A stamp was issued on him on 20th October 1998.

4. Acharya Anandrishi Ji

Famous Jain Acharya Anand Rishi Ji Maharaj was born at Ahmednagar (Maharashtra) on 26th July, 1900 and at the age of 13 committed himself to a life of spiritual pursuits and service to humanity. He was proficient in nine languages and mastered the Jain scriptures as well as ancient philosophical texts of Sanskrit language. His teachings were deep rooted in love, non-violence and tolerance. he had founded numerous educational and religious institutions. He was bestowed with the title of "Acharya" (Supreme Head) in the year 1965 and died in the year 1992. On his birth centenary a stamp was issued on 1st August 2002.

5. Acharya Bhikshu Ji

Founder of the Jain Svetamber Terapanth Sect Acharya Bhikshu Ji was a Philosopher saint, perceptive writer, sensitive poet and social reformer. He composed about 38000 shlokas and his writings have been compiled in two volumes as "Bhikshu Granth Ratnakar". He attained eternal bliss in the Vikram Samvat year 1860 at Siriyari (Rajasthan). On 30th June 2004,

Indian Postal Department has issued a stamp on him.

6. Jain Acharya Vallabh Suri Ji

Born at Vadodara in November 1870 A.D. entered Monkhood (Sadhu) life in 1887 A.D. at Radhanpur (Gujrat). He was bestowed with Acharyaship in 1924 at Lahore (Now in Pakistan). He motivated the society to established a large number of schools, colleges, Gurukuls, libraries and centres of craft and learning in many parts of the country. In addition to several works in Prose, he wrote about 1600 poems, songs and hymns in Hindi, rich both in language and content. he breath his lost on 22nd September 1954 at Mumbai. A postage stamp was released on 21st February 2009 in his honour.

7. Saint Thiruvalluvar

Indian Postal department had issued a commemorative stamp on World Classical Tamil Conference on 27th June 2010. An Idol of famous Tamil Saint Thiruvalluvar was printed on this stamp. It is said that Thiruvalluvar was the other name of Jain Acharya Kund Kund Swami Ji. He was a celebrated Tamil Poet and Philosopher.

8. Acharya Jaimal Ji

On 28th September 2011 a stamp was issued on Acharya Jai Mal Ji Maharaj (1708-1796 A.D.). At the age of 23, he had taken Diksha. He learnt Jain Agamas, Vedas, Puranas and other religious scriptures. Jaimal Ji was a social reformer. He worked for the upliftment of women. He spoke against female infanticide, Sati, Child Marriage.

9. Acharya Gyan Sagar Ji

On 10th September, 2013, India Post issued a stamp on Digamber Jain Acharya Gyan Sagar Ji Maharaj. Initiated Kshullak Diksha by Acharya Veer Sagar Ji and Monk Diksha by Acharya Shivsagar Ji Maharaj on 20th June 1959. He was further elevated to the Acharya status on 7th February 1969 and died on 1st June 1973 at Naseerabad. As an expert in Sanskrit, he had been a great composer in sanskrit. His works includes 4 sanskrit epics and 3 more Jain Granthas and that too in the time when the Sanskrit composition was almost obsolete.

10. Jain Sadhvi Umrao Kunwar Ji "Archana"

Born on 15th August 1922 at village Dadiya in Rajasthan, Umrao Kunwar Ji "Archana. She had propogated Jainism in different places and created spiritual awakeing among the masses. She authored and edited many widely acclaimed books. She established Hospital, Publication Houses, Book Bank, Atithi Graha and other Welfare institutes. She passed away on 22nd April 2009 at the age of 87. On 30th April 2011, India Post issued a stamp on Umrao Kunwar Ji "Archana". This is the only stamp issued on any Jain Sadhvi so far.

Jain Ruler

Samrat Chandragupta Maurya

On 21st July 2001, a stamp was issued on the historical Jain ruler Samrat Chandragupta Maurya who stands out as one among the most colorful personalities of India history. He conquered many states including Magadha and formed a vast Mauryan Empire with the capital Patliputra in 322 B.C. He established a well organized administrative system and gave it a sound

financial base, thus laying the foundation for an enduring empire. During his region India prospered and developed a lot in the terms of Trade and Commerce, Art and culture, becoming disciple of Jain Mini Bhadrabahu Swami and became the Jain Saint.

Jain Saraswati

On the occasion of world Hindi convention one stamp was issued on 10th January 1975 and on the occasion of world Telugu conference another stamp was issued on 12th April, 1975. Both these stamps depict the photograph of the attractive 12th century image of Goddess Jain Saraswati. The idol was taken from a Jain Temple in village Pallaeu, Dist. Bikaner and presently exhibited in national museum, New Delhi.

Airawat Elephant

A 25 Paise stamp was issued on 27th July 1978 under the 'Treasures of Museum' series on Kutch Museum showing an ancient wood carving of a Mythological Airawat elephant. This beautiful piece wood carving was taken out from an ancient Jain Temple of Gujrat and is now exhibited in Kutch Museum.

Lady Apsara From Khajuraho Jain Temple

The millennium celebrations of the world famous Khajuraho temples were organised by the Indian Government between March 1999 and March 2000. To commemorate the occasion a stamp issued on 6th March 1999 depicts the beautiful lady Apsara removing a thorn from her foot. The original statue is in the Parshwanath Jain Temple of Khajuraho.

MONUMENTS :

Rajabai Tower

Historical and architectural Raja Bai Tower is depicted on the stamp issued on 31st December, 1957 on the occasion of centenary of Bombay University. Rajabai Clock Tower is an outstanding landmark of Mumbai. It was named after Rajabai who was a religious Jain lady. She was blind, her son Prem Chand Roy Chand Jain bear all the expenses to built the clock tower. Her mother being blind and staunch follower of Jainism had to eat her dinner before sunset. The bells of Rajabai tower helped her know the time.

JAIN PERSONALITIES :

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai

World renowned nuclear and space scientist of India Dr. Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai was the first Jain dignitary honoured by the Government of India by issuing a stamp on his death anniversary on 30th December 1972. This 20 paise stamp was issued showing him with his Rohini rocket and a dove. He was the father of India's space Programme.

Dr. Karmveer Bhaurao Patil

Famous Jain Philanthropist Dr. Karmveer Bahurao Patil devoted his whole life to the task of rural mass education and upliftment and welfare of the depressed and down trodden. A stamp was issued on 9th May 1988 in his honour.

Dr. Jagdish Chandra Jain

World renowned Jain Philosopher Dr. Jagdish Chandra Jain was the authority on Jain

studies. He had written more than eighty books and received several awards including Gyan Bharti Puruskar and Soviet Land Nehru Award. He was honoured by issuing a stamp on 28th January 1998.

Jhaverchand Meghani

A noted Poet, Literatureur and freedom fighter from Gujrat, Jhaver Chand Meghani is a well known name in the field of Gujarati literature. Mahatma Gandhi spontaneously gave him the title of "Raashtreeya Shaayar" (National Poet). He authored more than 100 books. He contributed widely to Gujarat folk literature. A stamp was issued on 14th September 1993 in his honour.

Danveer Bhamashah

Jain Raja Danveer Bhamashah's loyal support was pivotal to the career of Maharana Pratap. When Maharana Pratap was defeated, Bhamashah had given his complete wealth to Maharana Pratap in his fight, that too at a time when the king had lost all hopes and was hiding in mountains to save his family. On 31st December 2000 Indian Postal Department issued a set of four stamps on historical personalities which included one on Bhamashah.

V. Shantaram

Famous Film Producer Shri V. Shantaram was Jain. On the occasion of his birth centenary, a stamp was issued on him on 18th November, 2001. He was successful film producer, film maker and actor. he received many awards including Dada Saheb Phalke Award and Jain Samaj Rattan title.

Dr. Indra Chandra Shastri

A stamp was issued on 27th May 2004 on great Philosopher and exceptional author, Prof. Dr. Indra Chandra Shastri. He was a pursuer of individual spiritualism who was inspired by Jain Anekanta. He compaigned against Bal Diksha. As a recognition of his pioneering efforts and creative talent he was awarded the "Sahitya Sewa Samman" and "Samman Ratna Alankaran" & "Certificate of honour by the president of India."

Walchand Hira Chand

A visionary Jain Industrialist Walchand Hirachand was pioneer of Indias automobile, shipping and aircraft manufacturing sectors. He was a dreamer, a visionary, a great builder, a great leader of Industry. Above all, he was a patriot, and in his own way, he was an inspiring leader of our struggle for freedom. To mark his 121st birth anniversary, a Rs. 5/- postage stamp was released on 23rd November 2004.

Jawahar Lal Darda

Famous Jain personality of Maharashtra Mr. Jawahar Lal Darda was a veteran freedom fighter. He launched "Jave Jag" a weekly newspaper in the year 1947 and "Lokmat" in 1952. He made a mark in the Governace in Maharashtra by his admirable handling of many portfolios as a minister from time to time. A stamp was issued in his honour on 2nd December 2005.

Lala Deen Dayal

Renowned Photogrphaher of 19th century Lala Deen Dayal was honoured by issuing a stamp on him on 11th November 2006. Born in a reputed Digamber Jain family of Sardhana near Meerut.

He was court photographer to the Nizam of Hyderabad. In 1896 he opened the largest photography studio in Bombay and there after Secunderabad. He photographed Nizam VI, British dignitaries, Military exercises, visit of King George V, then Prince of Wales, Delhi Darbar etc.

Dr. Laxmi Mall Singhvi

Govt. of India released a commemorative stamp on eminent Jurist, renowned constitutional expert and Jain Scholar Dr. Laxmi Mal Singhvi on 8th December 2008. He was member of Loksabha and Rajya Sabha, longest serving High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom and conferred Padma Bhushan. He was also a well acknowledged scholar of Jain History and culture and wrote many books.

Harakh Chand Nahata

On 28th February 2009, India post issued a commemorative postage stamp on Harakh Chand Nahata, a prominent Jain businessman and social leader, in the Denomination of 500 paisa. He was actively associated with many social and religious organizations.

Vir Chand Raghavji Gandhi

A stamp was issued on famous Jain orator, writer and patriot Shri Vir Chand Raghavji Gandhi on 8th November, 2009. Stamp depicts his portrait and photo of first world parliament of Religious in Chicago in 1893 in which he was the representative of Jain Samaj and delivered speech on Jainism. Besides mastering as many as fourteen languages, he was a master of Jainism. He wrote books on Jain Philosophy, Yoga, Karma and six systems of Indian Philosophy.

Dr. Daulat Singh Kothari

A commemorative stamp on eminent Jain Scientist Dr. Daulat Singh Kothari was issued on 6th July 2011. He was scientific advisor to Ministry of defence, chairperson of University Grants Commission. His notable research on statistical Thermodynamics and Theory of White Dwarf Stars gave him international reputation. He also remain the state president of Shri All India Shewatamber Satavakwasi Jain Conference. The Padma Bhushan Award was conferred on him in 1962 and the Padma Vibhushan Award in 1973.

Karpoor Chandra "Kulish"

On 16th May 2013 a commemorative stamp on Jain Personality and renowned journalist Shri Karpoor Chandra "Kulish" was issued. He was the founder of Rajasthan Patrika Group which is one of India's leading Hindi Media Groups. He also composed 11 vedas in a single volume which is considered as the largest and most bulky in term of weight in the world.

Tarachand Barjatya

Famous film producer of Indian Film Industry Shri Tara Chand Barjatya was Jain. He produced many successful Hindi films from the 1960's through to the 1980's. He established Rajshri productions in the year 1947. Today Rajshri Production spans a repertoire of 50 films, a huge distribution network, a television division and numerous export operations. On Century long journey of India cinema, Dept. of Post released six miniature sheets on 3rd May 2013 on which fifty Iconic Personality of Indian cinema were printed out of which Tara Chand Barjatya was honoured on one sheet.

STAMPS ON JAINISM

