

Department of Posts Releases Set of 8 Commemorative Postage Stamps on ‘Puppets of India’, Celebrating India’s Puppetry Tradition, Handcrafted Stories Carried Through Generations

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The Department of Posts issued a set of 8 Commemorative Postage Stamps on “Puppets of India” on 13th February 2026 at the Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The stamps were formally released by Ms. Vandita Kaul, Secretary (Posts), in the presence of distinguished guests, artists, and members of the cultural fraternity



(Ms Vandita Kaul, Secretary (Posts), releasing the Commemorative Postage Stamps on Puppets of India, celebrating India’s vibrant puppetry traditions and cultural heritage.)

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary (Posts) said: “Postage stamps are miniature ambassadors of our nation’s heritage. Through this special issue celebrating the rich and diverse puppetry traditions of India, we honour the timeless storytellers who have preserved our folklore, values, and collective memory across generations. May these stamps inspire renewed appreciation for India’s vibrant cultural legacy and encourage future generations to cherish and sustain these living traditions.”

Puppetry in India is among the nation’s oldest and most vibrant storytelling traditions, embodying its rich cultural diversity and artistic ingenuity. For centuries, master puppeteers have brought to life epics, folklore, moral teachings and social narratives through captivating performances that blend music, narration and visual artistry.

India’s traditional puppetry is broadly classified into four forms — string, glove, rod and shadow puppets — each with its own distinctive style and regional character. This treasured art form is sustained through a deeply rooted tradition of family transmission, with skills and stories passed down from one generation to

the next, as children learn by observing and assisting their elders.

This commemorative issue comprises a set of **eight stamps**, each depicting a distinctive traditional puppetry form from different regions of India, namely **Kathputli (Rajasthan)**, **Yakshagana Sutrada Gombeyatta (Karnataka)**, **Daanger Putul (West Bengal)**, **Kathi Kundhei (Odisha)**, **Benir Putul (West Bengal)**, **Pavakathakali (Kerala)**, **Ravanachhaya (Odisha)** and **Tolu Bommalatta (Andhra Pradesh)**. Each stamp captures the characteristic costume, form and performance style of the respective tradition, showcasing the artistic craftsmanship and cultural heritage associated with India's diverse puppetry practices.



The stamp, First Day Cover, Brochure, Miniature Sheet, Sheetlets and Special Cancellation have been designed by Shri Sankha Samanta. The artistic references and text for the issue was provided by Sangeet Natak Akademi; Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts; Daricha Foundation; and Shri Dadi Pudumjee, Founder, The Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust.

Stamp Denomination: 500p (Set of 8 Stamps)

The stamps and other philatelic products are available at Philatelic Bureaus across the country and also online at www.epostoffice.gov.in

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