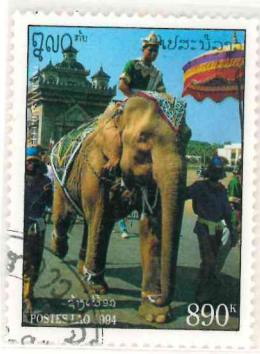


13 Royal Rides

The Buddhist Nikaya texts mention that the royal elephant should be trained to tolerate blows from all kinds of weapons, protect its royal rider, go wherever commanded to, and be able to destroy enemy elephants, infantry, chariots, and horses.



1958 LAOS



1958 LAOS



1962 CUBA



1994 LAOS



1954 CEYLON



1935 NEPAL



2008 INDIA

The importance of elephants, especially royal ones, can be gauged from the fact that in the *Harshacharita*, the author Banabhatta devotes many pages to describing the elephants possessed by his master.

Elephants are honoured because they have always been important in India. Not only did they work hard as beasts of burden, but they were also allowed to carry kings.



2007 SRI LANKA Royal painting



1994 LAOS Procession

2023 INDIA DASARA FESTIVAL

