# FRENCH INDIA Index

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French India, formally the Établissements français dans l'Inde (English: French Settlements in India), was a French colony comprising five geographically separated enclaves on the Indian Subcontinent that had initially been factories of the French East India Company. They were *de facto* incorporated into the Republic of India in 1950 and 1954. The enclaves were **Pondichéry, Karikal, Yanaon (Andhra Pradesh**) on the Coramantal Coast Mahé on the Malabar Coast and Chandernagor in Bengal.

France was the last of the major European maritime powers of the 17th century to enter the East India trade.



100 centimes = 1 Franc 8 Fanons = 1 Rupie

Engravers Die- Proof, Engravers Die - Proofs are images printed from the finished die as submitted by the Engraver for approval.

Engraver's Die Proof of the Temple Near Pondicherry Stamp with new currency on off white paper of 140mm X 110mm Dimension with the signature of the Engraver of the die.



Engravers Die- Proof, Engravers Die - Proofs are images printed from the finished die as submitted by the Engraver for approval.

Engravers Die- Proof – Brahma- New Currency.





1892 – The Navigation and commerce issue is the first of the definitive series of the stamps issued for the colonial territory of French India, Standard design, allegorical of navigation and commerce also used other French territory also, the territory name ETABLISSEMENTS DE L'INDE is imprinted in a rectangular box centered at the bottom of the stamp.

This stamps was designed by Louis Eugene Mouchon, No watermarked , Typo graphed by French Government Printing Press, Paris, value centimes and francs, perf 14X13 ½ .



























1900 - To make the color in line with the UPU standards, the following stamps of Navigation and Commerce were reissued with changed colors. This stamps was designed by Louis Eugene Mouchon, No watermarked, Typo graphed by French Government Printing Press, Paris, value centimes and francs, Inscribed ETABLISSEMENTS DE L'INDE perf 14X13 ½.









 1903 – To shortage of the lower value stamps , the then Governor of Establishments of France in India Chevalier Legion D'Honenur ordered over print the 25c and 50c stamps to 5c,10c,15c,and 40c stamps.
 No watermarked , Typo graphed by French Government Printing Press, Paris, overprinting of the Surcharge was done at Pondicherry, Inscribed ETABLISSEMENTS DE L'INDE perf 14X13 ½ .









1906-07, Due to the postal rate revision for Registered letters the 35c and 45c stamps issued No watermarked , Typo graphed by French Government Printing Press, Paris, value centimes and francs, Inscribed ETABLISSEMENTS DE L'INDE perf 14X13 ½ .





1903 – Fiscal surcharged with Postes, a provisional issue was created as was necessitated due to the shortage of 5c stamps , The lower half of the fiscal stamps was cut and removed and the upper half of the stamps was overprinted with the surcharge "Inde Fcaise POSTES 0.05" No watermarked ,
Typo graphed by French Government Printing Press, Paris, overprinting of the Surcharge was done at Pondicherry, Perf 13 ½ on three sides.



1914. – The French colonies issued their own pictorial stamps, In French India Hindus God Brahma and Temple near Pondicherry issued, As the printing technology was not advanced at the time, many color shades both the Brahma and the frame are noticed No watermarked, Typo graphed by French Government Printing Press, Paris, overprinting of the Surcharge was done at Pondicherry, Inscribed ETABLISSEMENTS DE L'INDE perf 13 ½ X14.









1904 – Temple Near Pondicherry, the Temple depicted on the stamps is the Sri Gokilambal Thirukameswarar Temple at Villianur Village , located about 9.5 Kilometers to the west Pondicherry, The temple, one of the finest in Pondicherry, is famous from the architectural point of view No watermarked , Typo graphed by French Government Printing Press, Paris, Inscribed ETABLISSEMENTS DE L'INDE perf 13 ½ X14.











 1904 – Temple Near Pondicherry, the Temple depicted on the stamps is the Sri Gokilambal Thirukameswarar Temple at Villianur Village, located about 9.5 Kilometers to the west Pondicherry, The temple, one of the finest in Pondicherry, is famous from the architectural point of view No watermarked, Typo graphed by French Government Printing Press, Paris, Inscribed ETABLISSEMENTS DE L'INDE perf 13 ½ X14.







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1915-16 Red Cross overprints, The French Establishments in India issued 10c Brahma stamps of 1914 surcharged with an extra 5c value over and above the face value, together with a red cross overprint, in order to raise money for the relief of the war wounded of world war I No watermarked , Typo graphed by French Government Printing Press, Paris, overprinting of the Surcharge was done at Pondicherry, Inscribed ETABLISSEMENTS DE L'INDE perf 13 ½ X14.





1916 June Due to shortage of the stamps overprint was done at Pondicherry







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1922- Brahma & Temple Near Pondicherry – Second issue – colour changed Date os issue 1<sup>st</sup> January , perf 13 ½ X14, no watermarked typographed by French Government press, Paris, value centimes and francs.











In december 1922, as a result of a shortage of lower value stamps , little used 15c stamps were overprinted with 1,2,and 3c,the revalued stamps were not long used because new currency was issued,







Brahma & Temple near Pondicherry issues – surcharged with new currency

IN 1923 the french India enclaves abandoned the centimes and francs currency in favour of Cachu, Fanon and Rupee. The new currency was in use in south India at the time and was unning alongside French and British currencies, 24 Caches was equal to 1 Fanons and 8 Fanons was equal to a Rupee. Date of issue 1<sup>st</sup> January, perf 13 ½ X14, no watermarked typographed and overprinted by French Government press, Paris, value Cache, Fanons and



Rupee





#### Brahma & Temple Near Pondichery issues- Second series

In This issue, Brahma and the Frame are printed in different colours, stamps are printed ETABLISSEMENTS FRANCAIS DANSL'INDE in the same colour as thet of the frame colour, Date of issue 16<sup>th</sup> September 1929, perf 13 ½ X14, no watermarked typographedand by French Government press, Paris, value Cache, Fanons and Rupee.













#### Temple near Pondicherry issues- surcharged with new currency.

Date of issue 1<sup>st</sup> November 1923, perf 13 ½ X14, no watermarked typographedand overprinted by French Government press, Paris, value Cache, Fanons and Rupee.

















Temple near Pondicherry issues- surcharged with new currency.-Intermediate issue 1

Date of issue 3 rd May 1926, perf 13 ½ X14, no watermarked typographedand overprinted by French Government press, Paris, value Cache, Fanons and Rupee.





Temple near Pondicherry issues- surcharged with new currency.-Intermediate issue 2

Date of issue 5<sup>th</sup> September 1927, perf 13 ½ X14, no watermarked typographedand overprinted by French Government press, Paris, value Cache, Fanons and Rupee.





Temple near Pondicherry issues- surcharged with new currency.-Intermediate issue 3,( two horizontel bar on the value Date of issue 5<sup>th</sup> September 1927, perf 13 ½ X14, no watermarked typographedand overprinted by French Government press, Paris, value Cache, Fanons and Rupee.









Temple Near Pondichery issues- Second series with new currency

In This issue, Brahma and the Frame are printed in different colours, stamps are printed ETABLISSEMENTS FRANCAIS DANSL'INDE in the same colour as thet of the frame colour, Date of issue 16th September 1929, perf 13 ½ X14, no watermarked typographed and by French Government press, Paris, value Cache, Fanons and Rupee.





















Temple Near Pondicherry issues- Second series with new currency

In This issue, Brahma and the Frame are printed in different colours, stamps are printed ETABLISSEMENTS FRANCAIS DANSL'INDE in the same colour as that of the frame colour, Date of issue 16<sup>th</sup> September 1929, Perf 13 ½ X14, no watermarked typo graphed and by French Government press, Paris, value Cache, Fanons and Rupee.



















# FRENCH INDIA International Colonial Exposition - Paris

The colonial exposition issue was the first joint issue postage stamps by the French Colonial Empire in 1931, in conjunction with Paris Colonial Exposition, consisting the four stamps engraved with different design, denominated in local currency, 26 FRENCH TERRITORY participated in the issue date of issue 13<sup>th</sup> April 1931, perforation 12 ½, no watermarked. Recess printing fpr stamp and colony name typo graphed.









40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of discovery of Radium by Pierre& Marie Curie, date of issue 21<sup>st</sup> October 1938, perforation 13, no watermark, Recess printing.



International Exposition- Paris, The printing of the stamps was done in wo steps, in the first step, the stamp design is recess printing using Intaglio method and then the COLONY NAME IS TYPOGRAPHED,













International Exposition- New York,

On the occaction following stamps were issued, date of issue 10<sup>th</sup> May 1939, Perforation 12 ½, no watermarked and Recess printing





Defense of the empire , date of issue 21<sup>st</sup> July 1941, perforation 13 ½ , no watermarked, Lithography.







French Revolution – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of storming of Bastille, date of issue 5<sup>th</sup> July 1939, Perforation 13 ½ X13, No watermarked, Lithography.











Temple and Portrait of Marshal Petain, date of issue 21<sup>st</sup> July 1941, perforation 12 ½ X12, no watermarked, Recess printing done at Institute de Gravure, Paris.





#### International expositio9n Paris souvenir sheet without perforation



France Libre Overprints- 1941, The postal authority of Pondicherry was ordered to overprint the existing French India stamps with the word FRANCE LIBRE by the French National Committee at London during December1940-January 1941.



1941- Brahma issues of 1929 was over printed the word FRANCE LIBRE.















1941- Temple near Pondicherry issues of 1929 was over printed the word FRANCE LIBRE













1941- France Libre overprinted on International Exposition, Paris issue of 1937.











1941- FRANCE LIBRE overprint on International Exposition, New York issue of 1939.



Stylized Lotus Flowers – The French National Committee

in London ordered and issued the London Printing of Stylized lotus Flowers stamp, in order to raise funds for their war efforts, The French National Committee required 50% of the stamps to be sent to them for sale to public to raise funds, The printing was done by the Thomas de la Rue& company London, year of issue 1942 perforation 14X14 ½ .No watermarked Photogravure.















Stylized Lotus Flowers – The French National Committee in London ordered and issued the London Printing of Stylized lotus Flowers stamp, in order to raise funds for their war efforts, The French National Committee required 50% of the stamps to be sent to them for sale to public to raise funds, The printing was done by the Thomas de la Rue& company London, year of issue 1942 perforation 14X14 ½ .No watermarked Photogravure















Air Post- this is the second of the London Printing of French India stamps, These stamps were used on all airmail between French India and other French territories, these stamps were issued in 1942, but used from 1945 onwards because all airmail was suspended due to world war II.













Native children Welfare Fund- date of issue 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1942, perforation 12 ½ X13 ½, no watermark, printing by Institute de Gravure, Paris.





Colonial Education Fund, The Exhibition Quinzaine Imperiale was held at Marseilles from 17to 31 May 1942 with a view to extolling the virtues of the French Empire overseas, date of issue 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1942 perforation 12 ½ X13 ½ no water marked Institutes de Gravure, Paris.



FRANCE LIBRE Overprints with Cross Of Lorraine 1942-1943. The head of the Colony was displeased with the initiative of the officials concerning the issue of the FRANCE TOUJOURS series, But this not stop another officer of the post Office from repeating the same mistake. He passed on san order in the beginning of July 1943 for printing a new series with the cross of Lorraine and the words FRANCE LIBRE. Over pint on Brahma type stamps















FRANCE LIBRE Overprints with Cross Of Lorraine 1942-1943. The head of the Colony was displeased with the initiative of the officials concerning the issue of the FRANCE TOUJOURS series, But this not stop another officer of the post Office from repeating the same mistake. He passed on san order in the beginning of July 1943 for printing a new series with the cross of Lorraine and the words FRANCE LIBRE. Over print on Temple near Pondicherry issue













FRANCE LIBRE Overprints with Cross Of Lorraine 1942-1943. The head of the Colony was displeased with the initiative of the officials concerning the issue of the FRANCE TOUJOURS series, But this not stop another officer of the post Office from repeating the same mistake. He passed on san order in the beginning of July 1943 for printing a new series with the cross of Lorraine and the words FRANCE LIBRE. Over print on Temple near Pondicherry issue











Paris International Exposition Issue with FRANCE LIBRE Overprints with Cross Of Lorraine 1942-1943.Date of issue 27<sup>th</sup> July 1942 and 4<sup>th</sup> May 1943, Perforation 13, No watermark, Overprint printed at Government Printing Press, Pondicherry.









New York international Exposition Issue with FRANCE LIBRE Overprints with Cross Of Lorraine 1942-1943. Date of issue 27<sup>th</sup> July 1942 and 4<sup>th</sup> May 1943, Perforation 13, No watermark, Overprint printed at Government Printing Press, Pondicherry.





6 FA 6 CA Temple Near Pondicherry Stamps of 1929 Surcharged, date of issue 24<sup>th</sup> February 1943, Perforation 14 X13 ½, No watermark, Only surcharge overprint at Government Printing Press, Pondicherry.













6 FA 6 CA Temple Near Pondicherry Stamps of 1929 surcgarged, date of issue 24<sup>th</sup> February 1943, Perforation 14X13 ½ .No watermark, overprint only surcharged.













FRANCE LIBRE Overprints with cross of Lorraine and surcharged A decrees was given by the Governor of Colonies to overprint the existing stock of 1R, 2R,3R,&5R stamps of 1929 with new values. The purpose of this overprint was to fill-up the gaps in the earlier overprint issues Temple Near Pondicherry issues of 1929 surcharged and overprinted, date of issue 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1943, perforation 14X13 ½, no watermark, overprinting done The Government Printing Press, Pondicherry.













Temple Near Pondicherry issues of 1929 surcharged and overprinted, date of issue 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1943, perforation 14X13 ½, no watermark, overprinting done Government Printing Press, Pondicherry.











Colonial Development Fund, The temple with Portrait of Marshal Petain issue of 1941 was overprinted with CEUVRES COLONIALES. This issue was not offered for sale in the French India Colony, It was issued by Vichy Government. Year of issue 1944, Perforation 12 ½ X12, No watermark.





Felix Eboue (born 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 1884,Cayenne, French Guiana- died May 17<sup>th</sup> 1944, Cairo Egypt) was a black colonial administrator was reached the highest level of the French colonial administrative system and played a crucial role in the adherence of French Equatorial Africa to Charles de Gaulle's Free France in 1940.





Red Cross- French Assistance Designed by M. Edmund Dulac and Printed at M/S Harrison & Sons, London by the Photogravure process in sheet of 50 stamps, Year of issue 1944, Perforation 15X14, No watermark.



Chad to Rhine, date of issue  $6^{th}$  1946, Perforation 12 ½, No watermark, Printing at l'Institute de Gravure, Recess Printing .













Indian Gods and Goddesses issue date of issue 8<sup>th</sup> June 1948, Perforation 13 ½, No watermark, Recess Printing.













Indian Gods and Goddesses issue date of issue 8<sup>th</sup> June 1948, Perforation 13 ½, No watermark, Recess Printing.













Indian Gods and Goddesses issue date of issue 8<sup>th</sup> June 1948, Perforation 13 ½, No watermark, Recess Printing.













Chidambaram Temple, The stamp picturing Chidambaram Temple was sold at Paris on June7 and June 8<sup>th</sup> 1948, but not placed on sale in French India, It was later withdrawn when it was discovered that Chidambaram was not a part of French Indian Territory, perforation 12 ½ X 13 ½, No watermark.



Air Post-Aircraft& Bas Relief Fiqure of Goddess, Wing & Temple and Bird over Palm, date of issue 24<sup>th</sup> January 1949, perforation 13 ½ X 12 ½. No watermark.



75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Postal Union, date of issue 4<sup>th</sup> July 1949, Perforation 13. No watermark.



Tropical Medicine Date of issue 15<sup>th</sup> May 1950, perforation 13, no watermark.



Brahman Indian God, date of issue 30<sup>th</sup> June 1952, perforation 13 ½, no watermark.







100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Military Medal. Date of issue 1<sup>st</sup> December 1952, perforation 13, no watermark.



**POSTAGE DUE- Postage** due is the term used for mail sent with insufficient postage. A postage due stamp add to an underpaid piece of mail to indicate the extra postage due. 1859 France issued first postage due stamps.1923 French India colony used the French postage due stamps over print the local currency.















1928 postage Due stamps of French Colonies surcharged









1929- Designs similar to French Postage dues not surcharged.















#### 1948- Postage Due stamps three Figures.



















