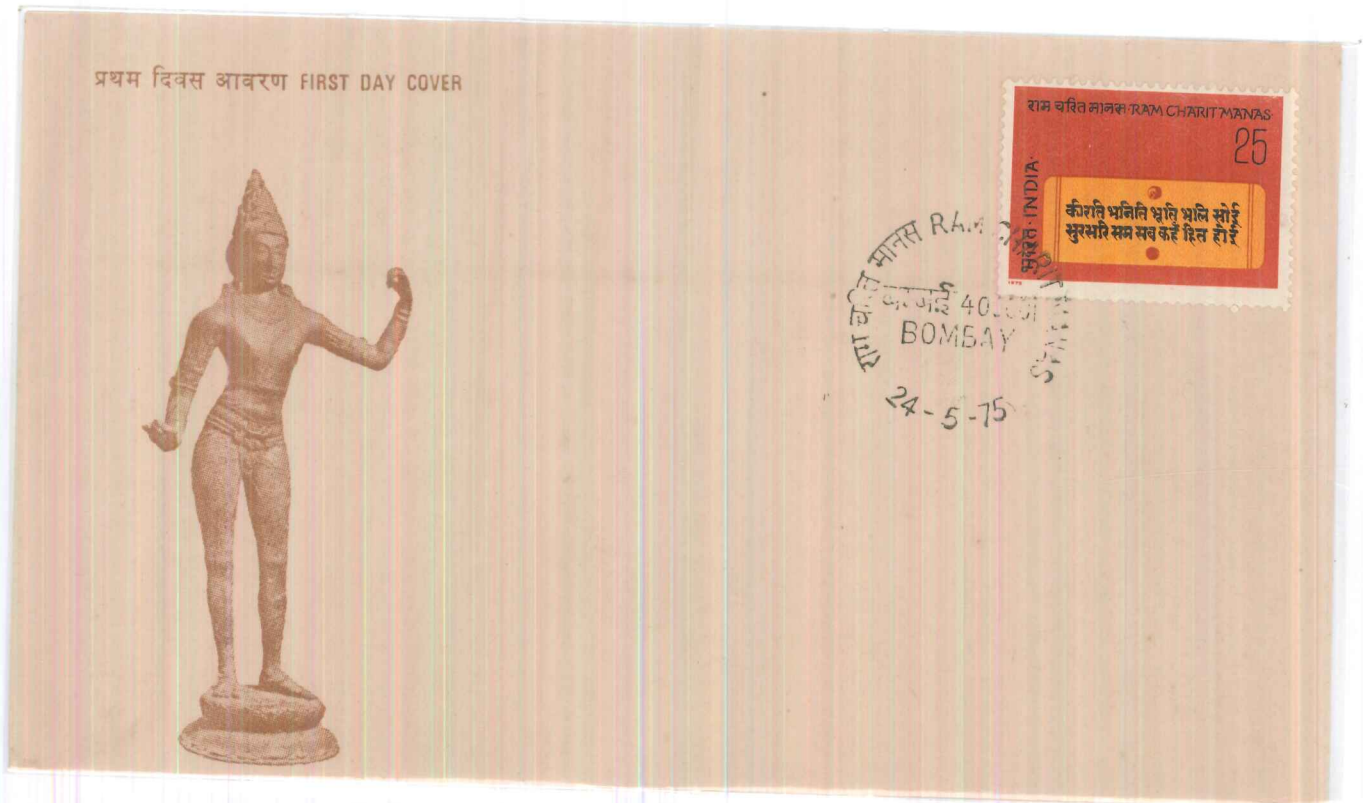


9. Religion...

Religion in India is characterized by a diversity of religious beliefs and practices. India is officially a secular country and has no state religion.

India is the birthplace of four of the World's major religions; *Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism.*



Ramcharitmanas, an epic composed by the famous Hindi poet, *Goswami Tulsidas*, about 400 years ago. The epic deals with the story of Rama, the ideal king who once ruled *Ayodhya*.



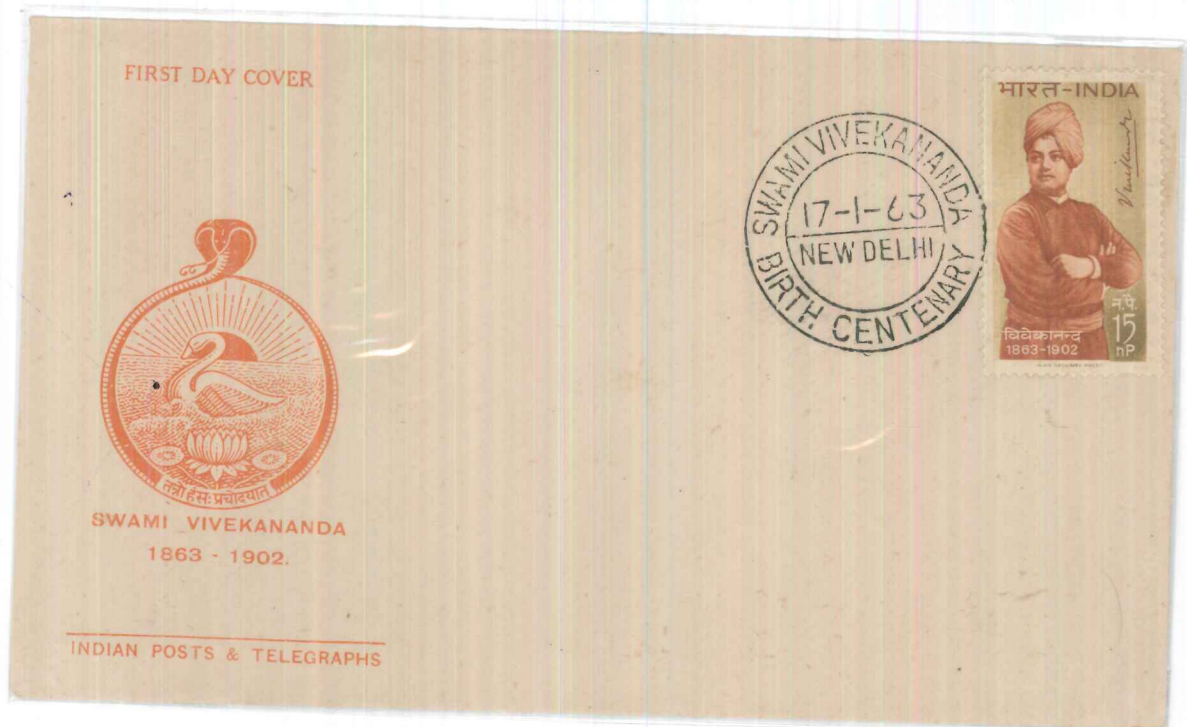
The holy land of India has given birth to several sages and saints belonging to all faiths from times immemorial. The stamp depicts a portrait of **Sri Ramana Maharshi**. The first day cover is a line sketch of *Arunachala hill and Sri Ramanasramam*.

9. Religion...

Religion has been an important part of the India's culture. Religious diversity and religious tolerance are both established in the country by the law and custom; the Constitution of India has declared the right to freedom of religion to be a fundamental right.



Sri Aurobindo, developed a spiritual practice called *Integral Yoga*. The central theme of his vision was the evolution of human life into a life divine. The stamp depicts a portrait of **Sri Aurobindo**.



Swami Vivekananda, was a bridge between ancient and the modern, between the East and the West. He emphasized education to be oriented to acquiring strength of mind than be mere book learning.

9. Religion...

India hosts numerous pilgrimage sites belonging to many religions.

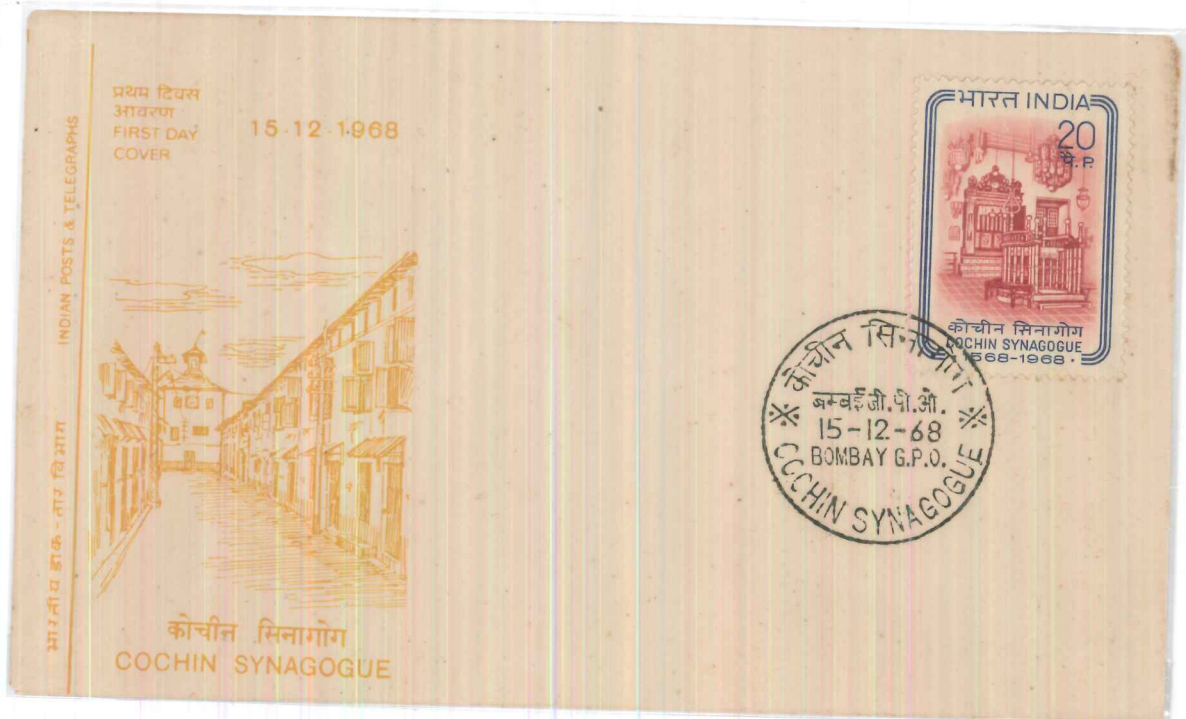


Saint Thomas, one of the twelve *Apostles of Christ*, introduced Christianity into India. The stamp carries a picture of his silver bust which is in the *Ortona Cathedral in Italy*. The first day cover is a line sketch of *San Thome Cathedral, Mylapore, Madras* where he was buried.



9. Religion...

Vast majority of Indians engage in religious rituals daily. Observation of rituals vary greatly amongst regions, villages and individuals.



Cochin Synagogue, shows the fact that an oft-persecuted community like the *Jews* could find peaceful asylum in India symbolised the secular character of our State where all communities can flourish regardless of colour, creed or race.



Saint Francis Xavier, a Roman Catholic missionary and a co-founder of Society of Jesus. The stamp shows the image of St. Francis Xavier. In the background can be seen the silver casket in which his body is interred. The first day cover design shows a view of *Se Cathedral, Goa*.

9. Religion...

Occasions like birth, marriage, and death involve what are often elaborate sets of religious customs.



Guru Gobind Singh, was the 10th Sikh Guru. His notable contributions to Sikhism are founding the Sikh warrior community called *Khalsa* and introducing the *Five Ks*, the five articles of faith that Khalsa Sikhs wear at all times.



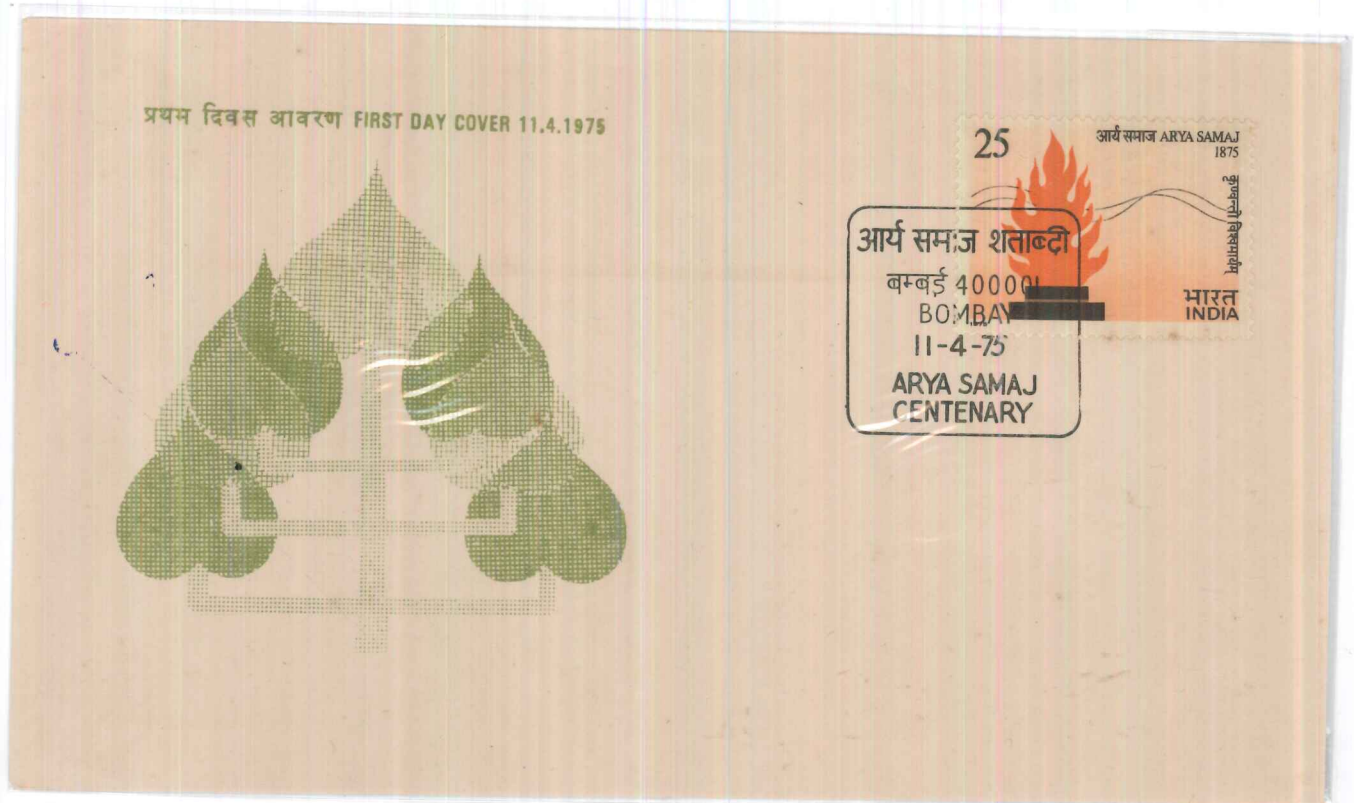
Guru Nanak Dev, was the founder of *Sikhism* and 1st of ten Sikh Gurus. He preached the religion of love and unity to all mankind. He made no distinction between man and man and did not believe in untouchability or caste. The first day cover carries the picture of *Gurdwara Ber Sahib, Punjab*.

9. Religion...

Dietary habits are significantly influenced by religion.



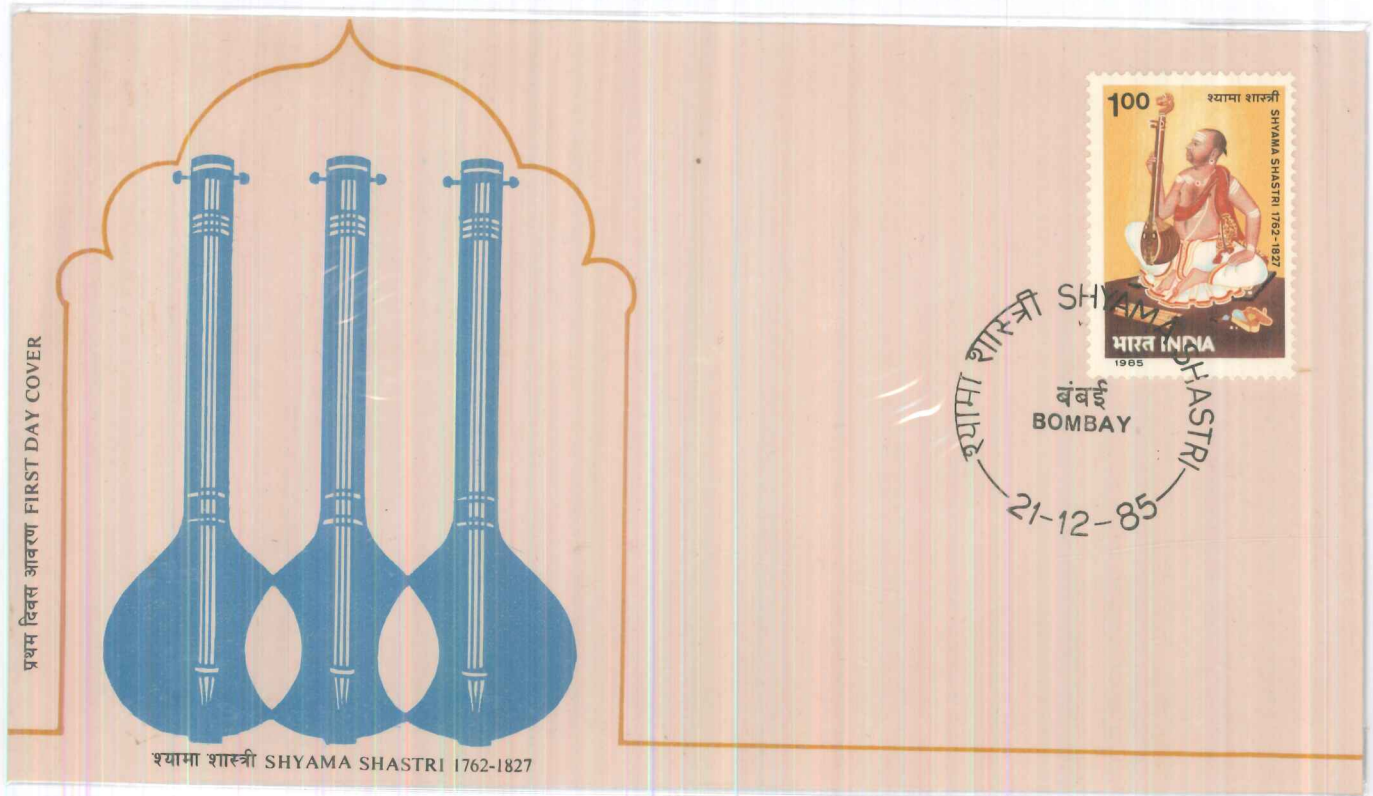
The commercial first day cover of 2500th Buddha Jayanti. The 2 Anna stamp depicts the *asvattha* tree at Bodh Gaya, seated under which Gautama attained enlightenment. The 14 Anna stamp depicts the *umbrella* which surmounted a colossal Bodhi sattva statue at Sarnath.



Arya Samaj, founded by *Swami Dayanand Saraswati* with ten fundamental principles of universal character to revive and propagate *Vedic Dharma* and *Aryan culture*.

10. Literature...

India has got great poets and writers of Indian ethnic, cultural or religious ancestry either born in India or immigrated to India from other regions of the world.



First day cover and stamp of Shyama Shastri, eldest among the *Trinity of Carnatic music*. He was probably the first to compose in a new form of the musical genre, where the compositions could be rendered solely in a singing or instrumental manner.



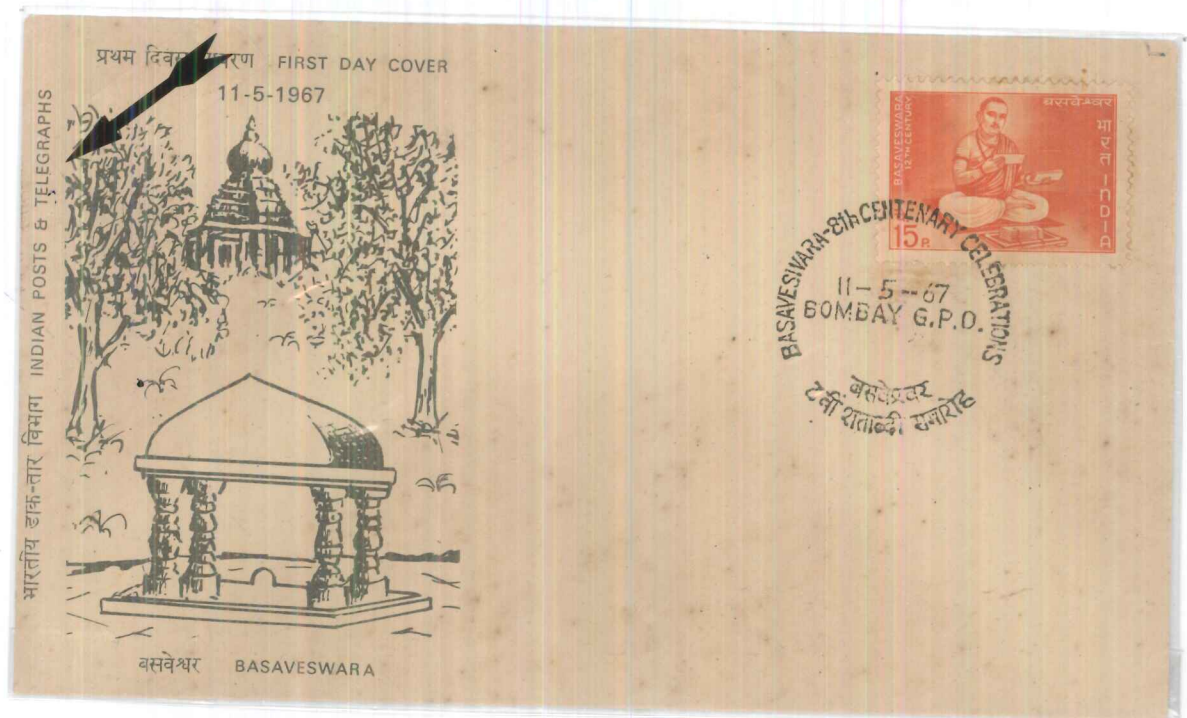
The commercial first day cover and stamp of Saint Tyagaraja, one among *Trinity of Carnatic music*. All his life he had adored *Lord Ramachandra* as his deity and poured forth all his music, as an oblation to this incarnation of Divinity.

10. Literature...

Poetry reflects diverse spiritual traditions within India. Many Indian poets have been inspired by mystical experiences. Poetry is the oldest form of literature and has a rich written and oral tradition.



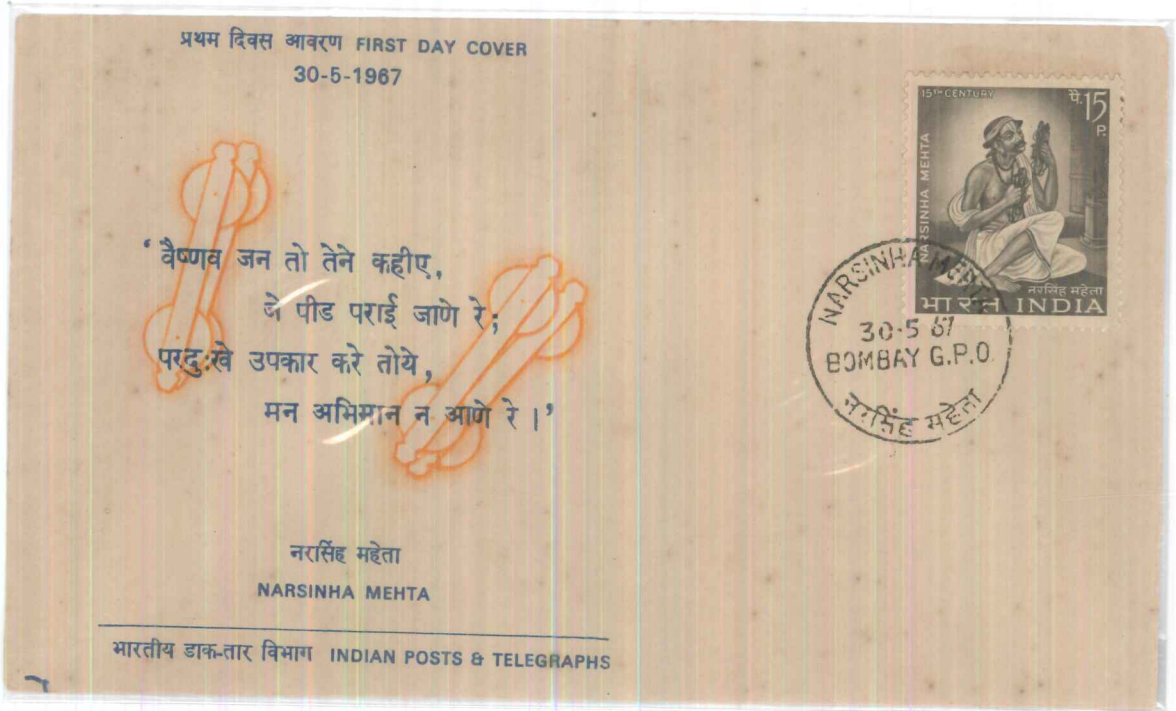
First day cover and stamp of Basaveswara, an Indian Kannada philosopher and poet from Bhakti movement during the reign of King Bijjala-I of Kalachuri dynasty in Karnataka.



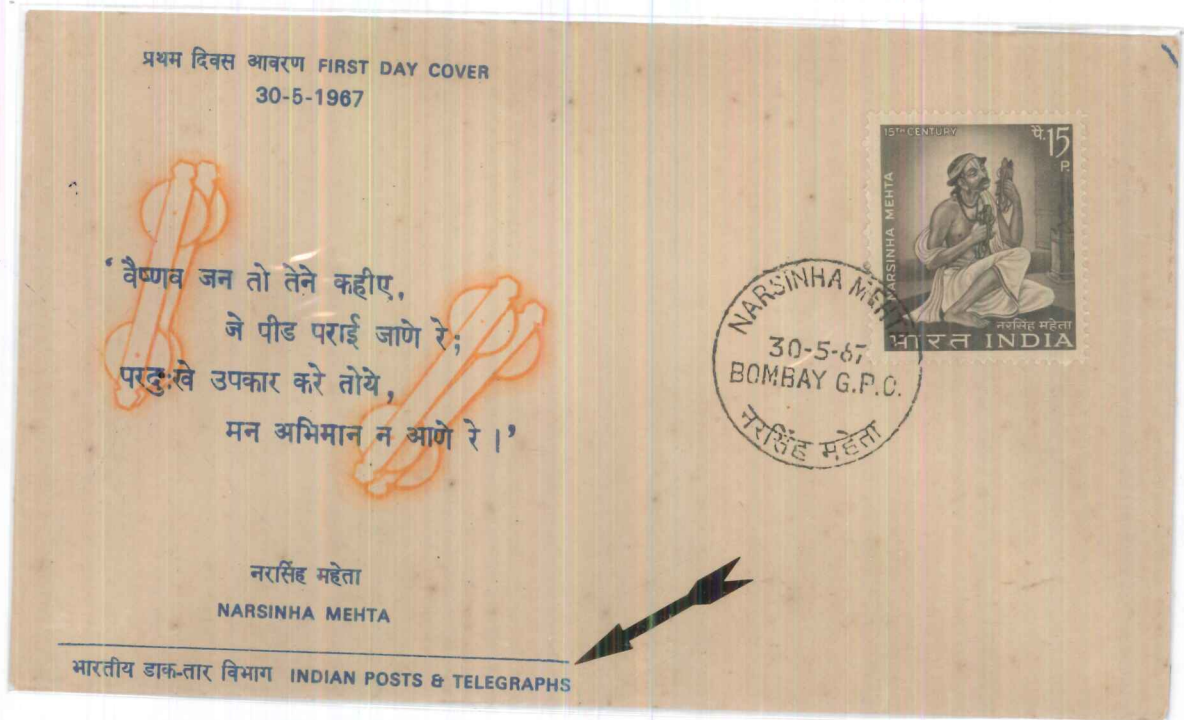
Error first day cover and stamp of Basaveswara, the text "Indian Posts & Telegraphs" (Hindi & English) shifted.

10. Literature...

Early works written in *Vedic Sanskrit* include the holy Hindu texts, such as the core Vedas and Upanishads.



First day cover and stamp of Adi Kavi Narshihha Mehta, an Indian Gujarati poet-saint, exponent of *Vaishnava* poetry. He changed Gujarati poetry from an impersonal to a personal art.



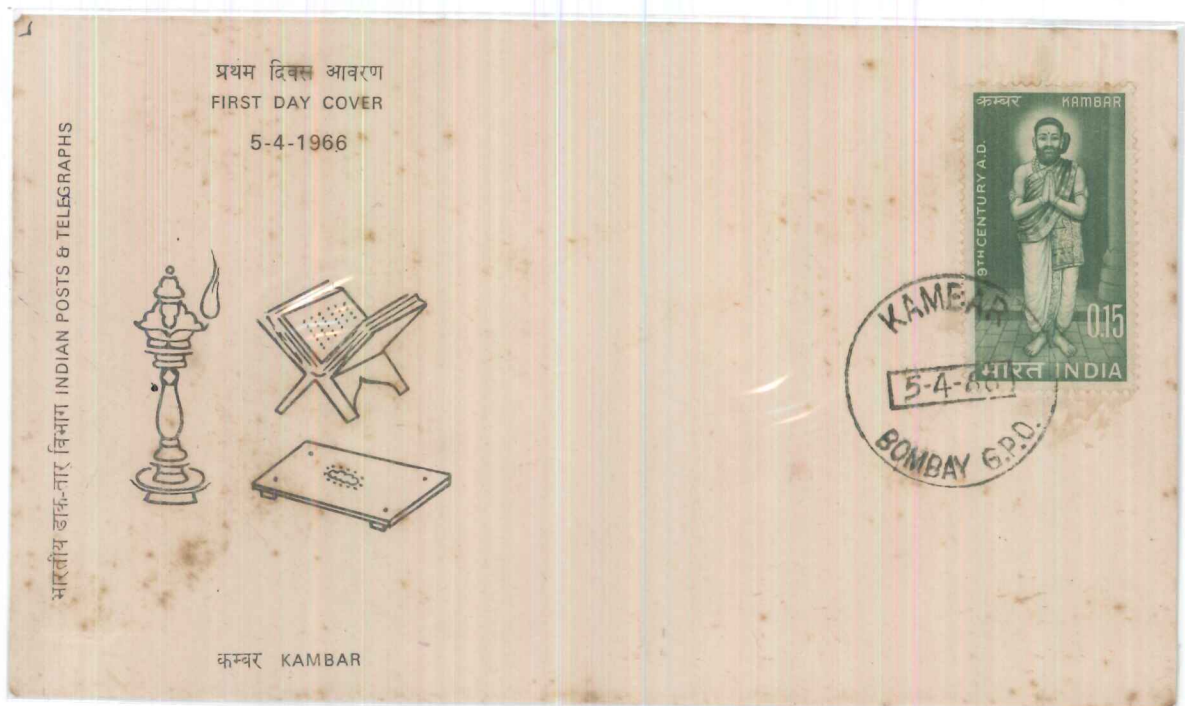
Error first day cover and stamp of Narsinha Mehta, the text "Indian Posts & Telegraphs" (Hindi & English) shifted down.

10. Literature...

Ved Vyasa's *Mahabharata* and Valmiki's *Ramayana*, written in Epic Sanskrit, are regarded as the greatest Sanskrit epics.



First day cover and stamp of Maharsi Valmiki, the reputed author of the epic *Ramayana*. The stamp illustrates the main characters of *Ramayana* "Rama, Sita and Lakshman".



First day cover and stamp of Sage Kambar, an Indian Tamil poet who authored *Kamba Ramayanam* based on Valmiki's *Ramayana*.

10. Literature...

The famous poet and playwright *Kalidasa* wrote one epic: *Raghuvamsha*, it was written in classical Sanskrit rather than Epic Sanskrit. Kalidasa is often considered to be the greatest playwright in Sanskrit literature.



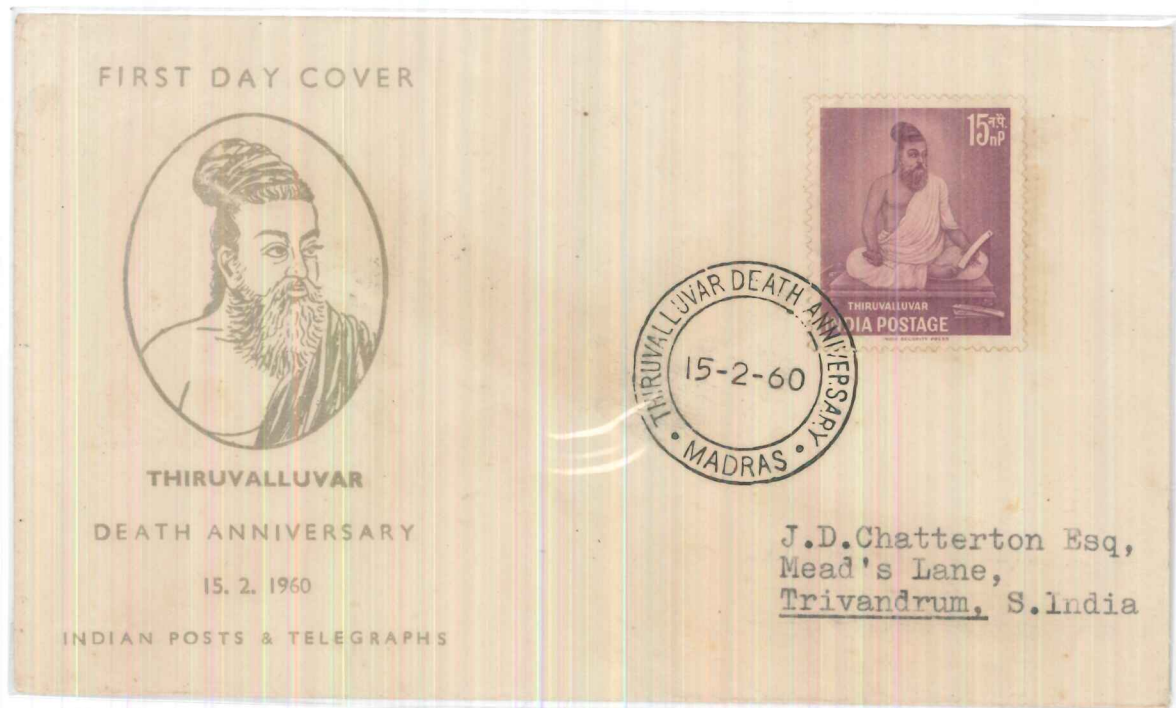
First day cover and stamps illustrating scenes from Kalidasa's great literary works 'Meghaduta' (depicted in 15 nP stamp) and 'Sakuntala' (depicted in Rs.1.03 stamp).



First day cover and diamond shape stamp of Sant Ravidas, a great reformer, a true lover of God and a preacher of saintly disposition, who emphasised the fundamental truth underlying all religions.

10. Literature...

Tamil literature has a rich and long literary tradition spanning more than 2500 years. *Tirukkural* is a fine example on human behavior and political morals.



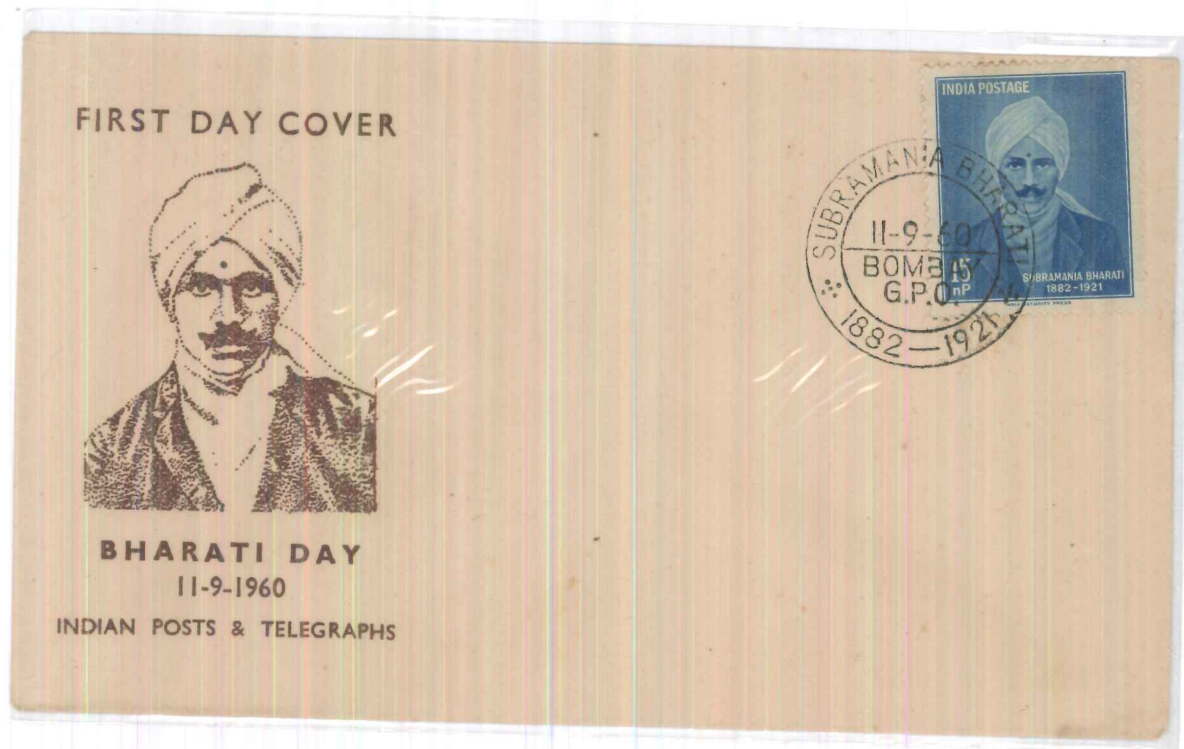
Commercial first day cover and stamp of Thiruvalluvar, an Indian Tamil poet and philosopher, who authored *Tirukkural*, a collection of couplets on ethics, political and economical matters and love.



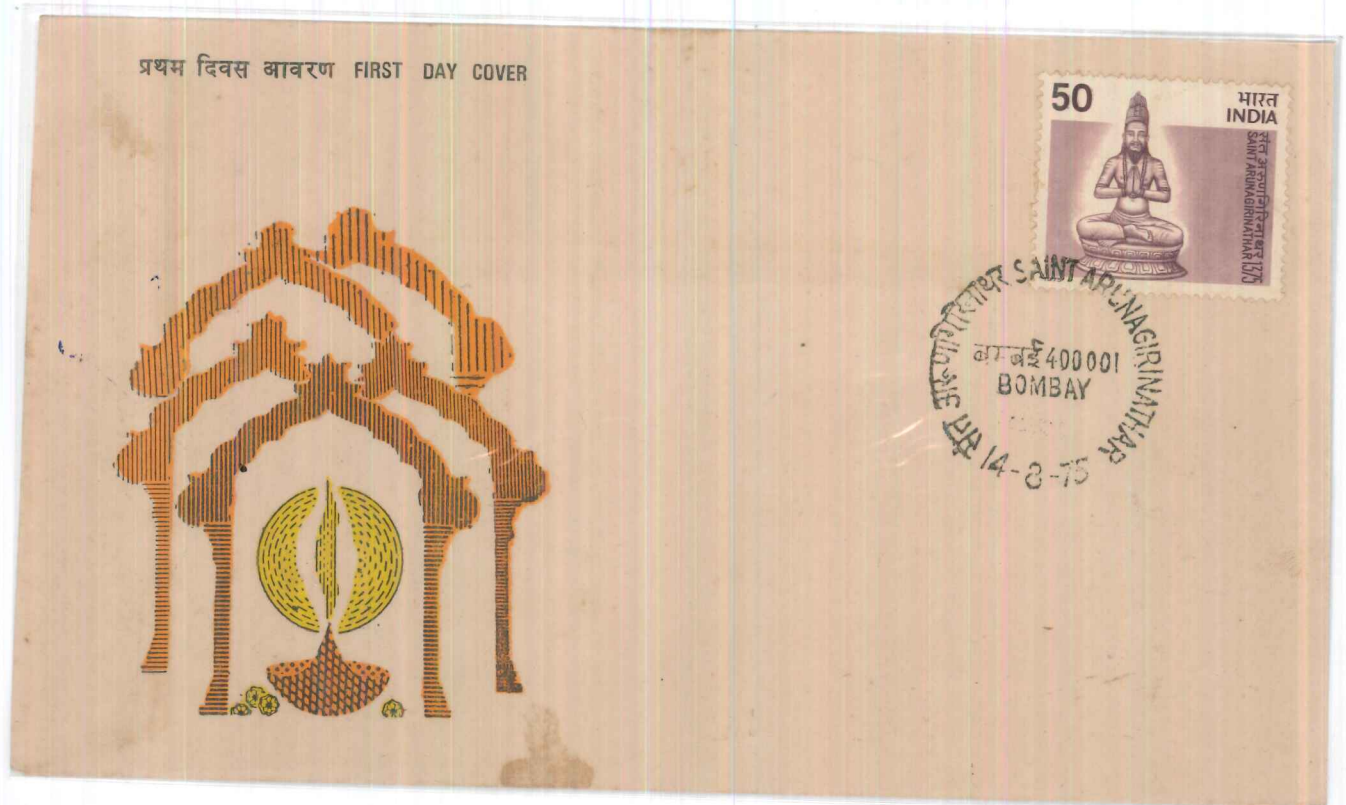
The commercial first day cover and stamp of Sri Purandara Dasa, an Indian Haridasa saint and a Bhakti movement Carnatic vocalist, composer of *Dasa Sahithya*, devotee of Lord Krishna.

10. Literature...

Nationalist poets utilized the power of poetry in influencing the masses during the Indian freedom struggle.

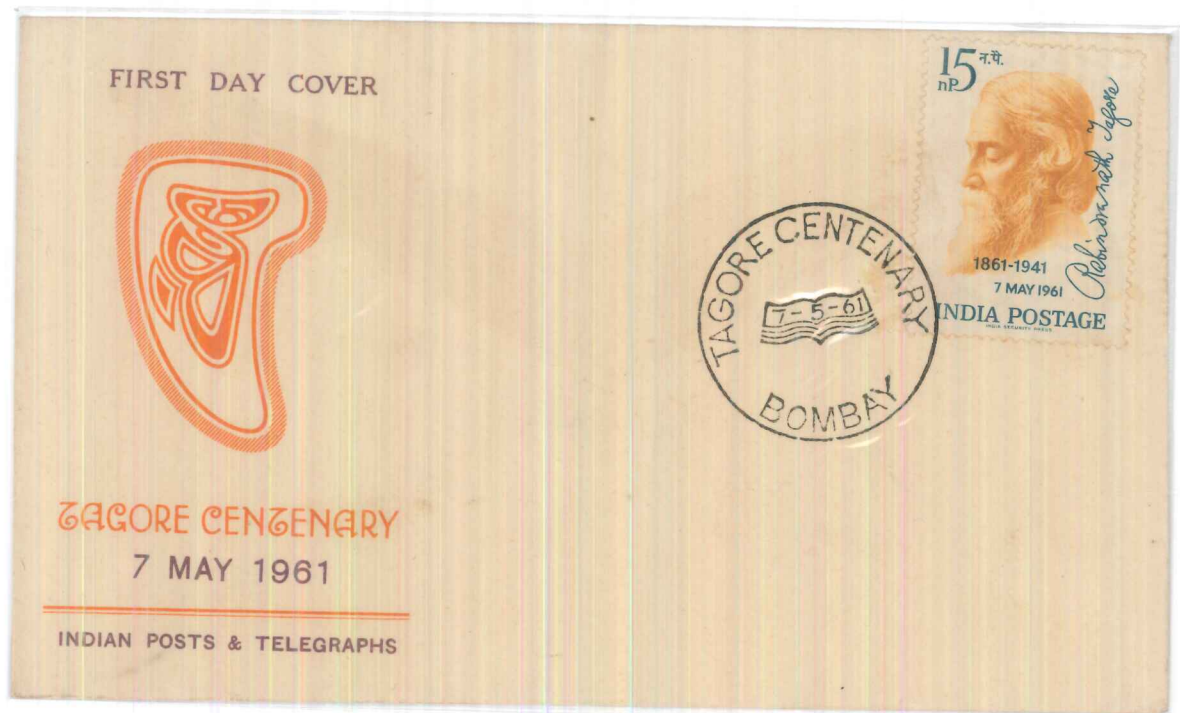


First day cover and stamp of Subramania Bharati, pioneer of modern Tamil poetry and one of the greatest Tamil literary figures of all time. His works included fiery songs kindling patriotism during the Indian Independence movement.

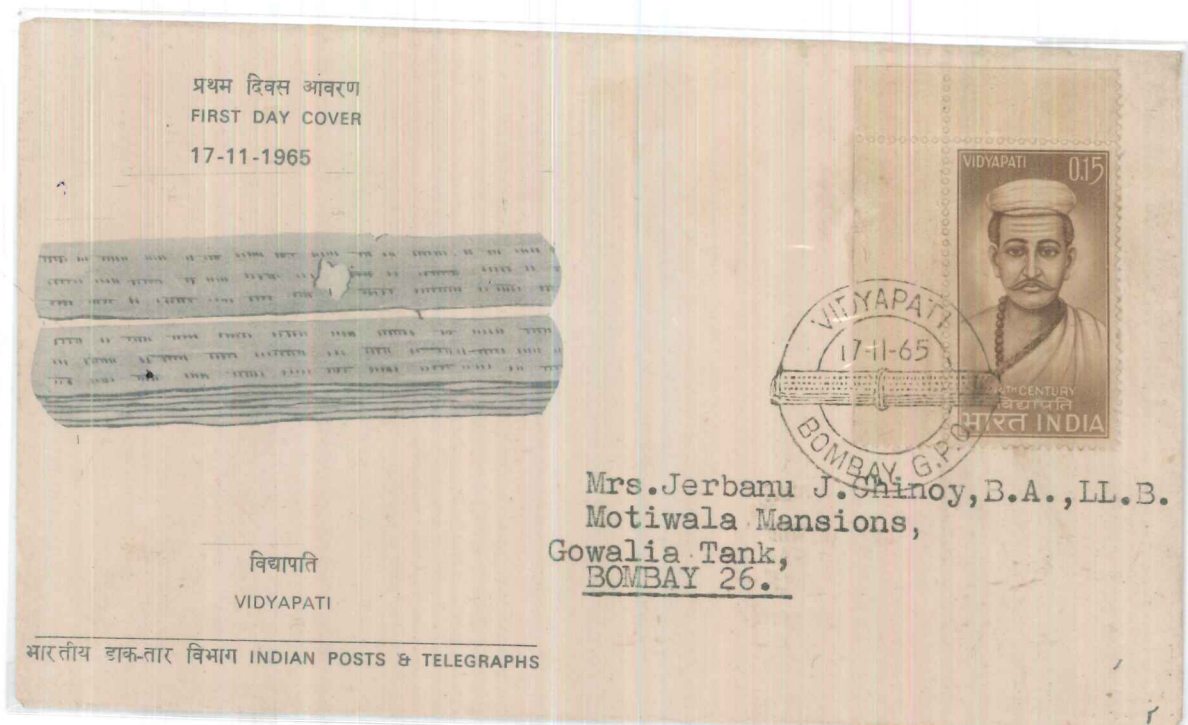


First day cover and stamp of Saint Arunagirinathar, a Tamil saint-poet, creator of *Thiruppugazh* in praise of Lord Murugan. He occupies a place along with Tulsidas, Nanak, Tukaram, Meera and Chaitanya.

10. Literature...



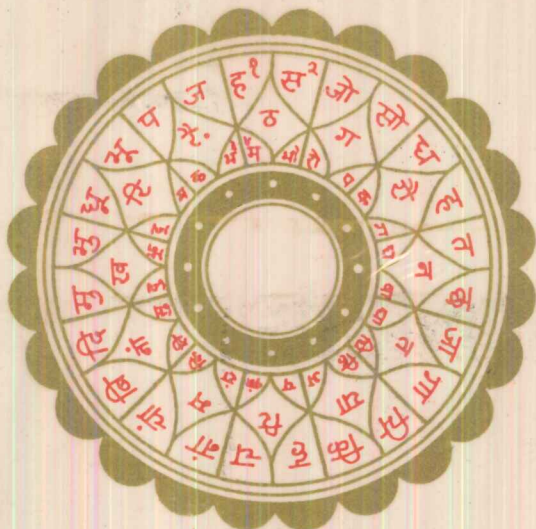
First day cover and stamp of Rabindranath Tagore, one who reshaped Bengali Literature and music, as well as Indian art with Contextual Modernism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His verse of *Gitanjali*, won him the *Nobel Prize in Literature* in the year 1913.



Commercial first day cover with Top-Left Corner stamp of Vidyapati, the greatest and most famous of Maithili poets. His life is full of literary achievements.

10. Literature...

प्रथम दिवस आवरण FIRST DAY COVER



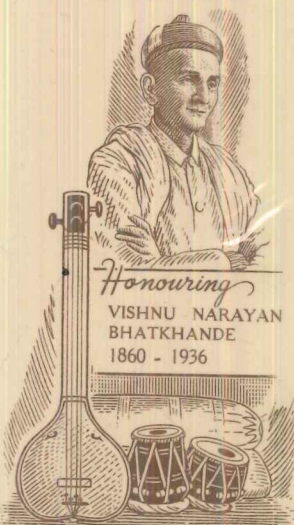
संत कवि सुंदरदास
SANT KAVI SUNDERDAS
1596 - 1689



First day cover and stamp of Sant Kavi Sunderdas, the Sankaracharya of Hindi Literature.

Design on the first day cover – “Kankan-bandh” composed by the great poet Sunderdas, has been depicted which is a form of pictorial poetry. Every word is inlaid like a gem in a bracelet. This pictorial poetry is read in a special way.

FIRST DAY COVER



INDIAN POSTS & TELEGRAPHS



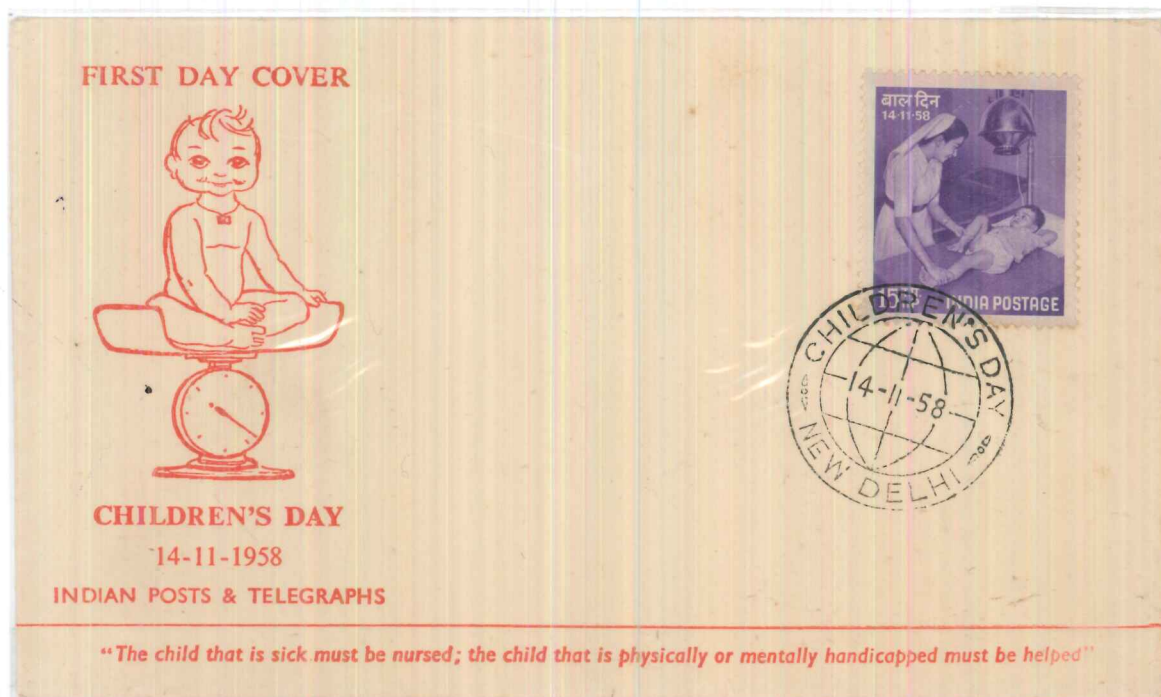
First day cover with stamp of Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande, an Indian musicologist who wrote modern treatise on *Hindustani classical music*.

II. Children...

The children and youth of the nation are the trustees of prosperity. Youth force is dynamic in nature as most skills and orientations are acquired in this age.



Commercial First day cover and Children's day stamp of 1957 touching the nutritional aspect of the Child Welfare Movement. The first day cover is a line sketch of Girl reading a book.



First day cover and Children's day stamp of 1958 depicting the Health aspect of the India's Child Welfare Movement. The first day cover emphasizes "The child that is sick must be nursed; the child that is physically or mentally handicapped must be helped".