AIR MAIL SOCIETY
INDIA FOUNDATION

www.airmailsocietyindia.org

Newsletter No. 6, Dec 2025

About AMSI

The Air Mail Society India Foundation (AMSI) is dedicated to promoting the study, collection, and appreciation of aerophilately and astrophilately in India and around the world. Through engaging educational initiatives, virtual exhibitions, expert talks, and global collaborations, AMSI offers a dynamic platform for philatelists of all levels to explore the rich history and future of air mail.

Please join AMSI and support us

- Visit our website www.airmailsocietyindia.org
- Scan the QR Code

AMSI Monthly Zoom Meetings on 28th November 2025

- Master Class on Pioneer Air Mails of India by Mr. Terry Hare- Walker

Recording of the talk will be uploaded to our YouTube Channel – **@HawaSaeByAir**

New Members who joined the AMSI in September 2025

- General Member
  Joseph Stephen- India

Air Mail Society India Foundation (AMSI) Joins F.I.S.A. International Digital Membership (I.D.M.) Initiative

Air Mail Society India Foundation (AMSI) has officially become one of the participating societies in the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Aérophilatéliques (F.I.S.A.) International Digital Membership (I.D.M.) programme. This initiative is designed to strengthen international collaboration among Aero- and Astrophilatelic societies around the world and to offer expanded benefits to members.

Under the I.D.M. framework, AMSI members can choose to become members of any three F.I.S.A.-affiliated societies by paying a single, nominal International Digital Membership fee. This provides access to the digital services of the selected societies — including online bulletins, website access, virtual meetings, and participation in auctions or sales — without the need for multiple individual memberships.

AMSIPEX-26:
2nd International Virtual Aero- & Astrophilatelic Exhibition 14-22 February 2026

Visit www.amsipex.com for updates

AMSIPEX-26 Highlights

- All eligible exhibits will be awarded with medals (including single-frame).
- Novice Class for first-time and otherwise ineligible exhibitors.
- Broad Spectrum exhibition - Exhibits under all FIP classes welcome, focused on Aero- and Astrophilately.
- World Team Championship (single frame): Aggregate score of 3-person National/Club teams. (More than one team from any Nation/Club is welcome).
- Experimental multi-language format: English, French, German, and Spanish language exhibits are accepted and can be viewed in the original language and English.
- Youth Class 1st Entry is free, and additional entries are discounted at 50%.

AMSIPEX-26 Patronage

International Federation of Aero- and Astrophilatelic Societies (F.I.S.A.)

AMSIPEX-26 Joint Organisers

- American Air Mail Society
- Auxiliary Markings Club
- British Air Mail Society
- Cercle Aerophilatelique Francais
- Royal Belgian Philatelic Society, COSMOS
- Wreck & Crash Mail Society

AMSIPEX-26 Sponsor

- **Gold Sponsor**
  David Feldman
- **Silver Sponsor**
  a. Argyll Etkin Limited
  b. Spink

Virtual Session on Detained Mail on Account of the Dardanus Incident

Mr. Piyush Khaitan FRPSL, FPCI and Chairman Air Mail Society India Foundation delivered a virtual illustrated talk Detained Mail on Account of the Dardanus Incident on 13 December 2025, organised by the Imperial Airways Study Group (IASG). The session was attended by 30 participants from across the world, reflecting strong international interest in aerophilately and wartime postal history.

The presentation focused on a rare and historically important 1939 airmail cover sent from Tokyo to Bombay that was detained following the Dardanus Incident, involving the Imperial Airways feeder flight operating on the Hong Kong–Bangkok sector of the Empire Air Mail Service. Mr. Khaitan explained how the aircraft was attacked by Japanese fighter aircraft near Weichow Island on 8 November 1939, forcing an emergency landing and resulting in the detention of the crew, passengers, and mail. The cover discussed is the only known recorded example of Indian-bound mail detained due to this incident, making it a unique survivor of wartime disruption.

Image courtesy Ronald Wong, www.ronaldtkwong.com

The talk traced the detailed journey of the cover—from its posting in Tokyo and transit through Japan and China to Hong Kong, followed by its release and onward transmission via the Empire Route and Tata Air Lines to Bombay. Particular emphasis was placed on the postal consequences of the incident, including delays, routing changes, and wartime civilian censorship. The presentation highlighted the use of the extremely rare PASIND 5 Indian Civilian Censorship cachet, contributing valuable insights toward resolving longstanding questions about its origin and usage.

Supported by aircraft movement records and established postal history references, the session demonstrated how a single postal artefact can illuminate broader themes of wartime aviation, censorship practices, and imperial communication networks. The presentation was well received and generated informed discussion among IASG members worldwide.

AMSI Forthcoming Zoom Meetings - Block your calendar.

(Use the same link, meeting ID, and password for all these meetings)

- **Zoom Meeting Link:** https://tinyurl.com/AMSIzoommeeting
- **Meeting ID:** 921 3527 4549
- **Passcode**: 125235

Speakers & Topics

Friday, 23rd January 2025 – Approx duration: 1:30 hours
Start Time - India – 7:00 PM, Paris – 2:30 PM, London – 01:30 PM & New York – 8:30 AM

- Speaker: Sqn Ldr Pushp Vaid, VrC
- Topic: 1986 British Airways Helicopter Crash in the North Sea

- Speaker: Christian Schmied
- Topic: TBD

Call for speakers

- We also welcome speaker registrations for future sessions on topics related to Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Philatelic Research, Exhibiting Techniques, Youth Engagement, etc.
- Please contact: ankitha@airmailsocietyindia.org

World Air Mail Day Celebration
February 2026 I Royal Philatelic Society London

AIR MAIL SOCIETY INDIA FOUNDATION

Organised jointly with the Air Mail Society India Foundation to celebrate World Airmail Day, the exhibition will bring together 20 single-frame Aero- and Astrophilately exhibits from across the world. Featuring several Gold and Large Gold award-winning exhibits and exhibitors.

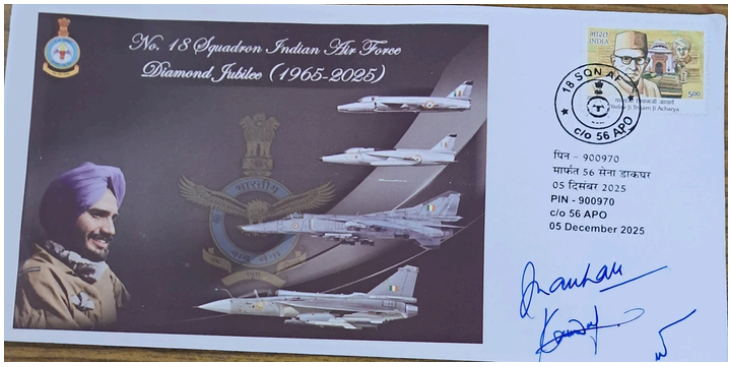
Exact dates will be announced shortly.

Reunion at Naliya: No. 18 Squadron Celebrates 60 Glorious Years

The 60th Birthday Celebrations of No. 18 Squadron, Indian Air Force, held at Naliya, Gujarat, turned into a touching reunion; one that gently wove together memories of the past with the realities of the present. For veterans and serving personnel alike, it was a moment to pause, reconnect, and reflect on a journey shaped by service, sacrifice, and shared pride.

Gp Capt MSBS Jauhar (Retd), Air Marshal MS Sekhon (Retd), Air Vice Marshal PK Kuruvilla (Retd) & Ms Preeti Pathania - Daughter of Squadron Leader VS Pathania (Late).

No. 18 Squadron occupies a special place in Indian Air Force history. During the 1971 War, the squadron operated the agile and formidable Gnat aircraft from Srinagar, playing a vital operational role. Six decades later, the squadron stands transformed, now flying the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA); a quiet yet powerful reminder of how tradition and progress continue to fly side by side.



One of the most moving aspects of the reunion was witnessing the squadron's evolution unfold visually—from the compact Gnat of earlier years to today's advanced LCA—captured through photographs and memorabilia. Adding a distinctive philatelic touch to the celebrations was the release of a special APS cover on 05 December 2025, autographed by Air Marshal Johnny Chauhan (Retd), along with the present Commanding Officer, Group Captain Chhatri, and the Station Commander, Air Commodore E. J. Antony. The cover now stands as a meaningful keepsake of the squadron's Diamond Jubilee.

The reunion at Naliya was not just a celebration of sixty years; it was a heartfelt coming together across generations, honouring the courage, camaraderie, and enduring spirit that continue to define No. 18 Squadron – the Flying Bullets.

25th Regional Meeting of the RPSL
Keynote by Mr. Piyush Khaitan

Group Photo of the Participants

Mumbai witnessed a meaningful gathering of philatelists, collectors, and enthusiasts at the 25th Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) Regional Meeting on 21 December 2025 at the Intercontinental Hotel. Conducted in person, the meeting offered a rare opportunity for face-to-face dialogue, shared learning, and reflection within the philatelic community. Mr. Simon Richards RDP FRPSL, President-RPSL was the Guest of Honour.

The highlight of the meeting was a keynote by Mr. Piyush Khaitan FRPSL, FPCI, titled “Indian Philately: Vision, Strategy and Roadmap.” Moving beyond stamps as collectibles, he explored philately as a living record of India’s history, culture, and global connections. His address invited participants to reflect on the current state of Indian philately and the collective steps needed to strengthen its presence on national and international platforms.

Mr. Khaitan delivering the Keynote

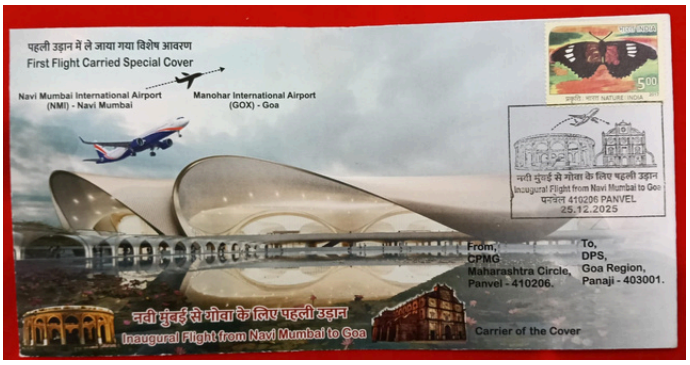
The talk examined India’s rich postal heritage, its performance at exhibitions, and the importance of a coordinated approach to exhibition development, jury training, youth engagement, and institutional support. Drawing on international benchmarks and data, Mr. Khaitan emphasized long-term strategic planning over short-term tactical actions.

Concluding with a call to action, he urged collectors, societies, federations, and institutions to collaborate in strengthening research, mentorship, education, and global participation, aiming to build a vibrant and sustainable future for Indian philately

L-R: Mr. Markand Dave FRPSL, Mr. Abhishek Bhuwalka FRPSL, Mr. Piyush Khaitan FRPSL, FPCI, Mr. Kishore Chandak, Mr. Simon Richards RDP FRPSL, President-RPSL and Mr. Kapil Gogri FRPSL

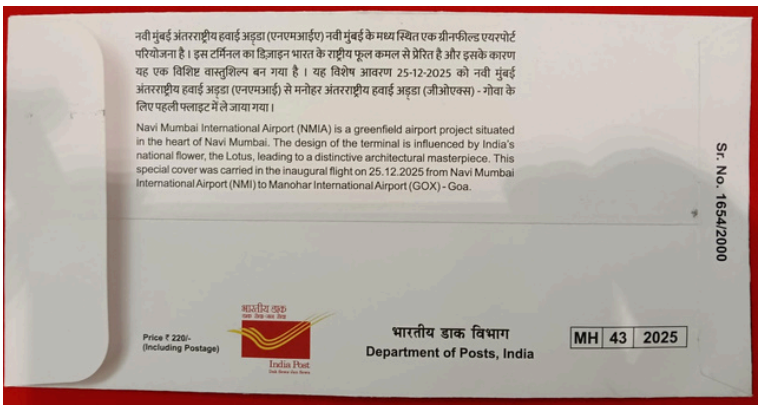
The session was well received, offering thoughtful insights into Indian philately’s historical strengths, current challenges, and future possibilities on the global stage. It was attended by eminent philatelist like Mrs. Damyanti Pittie (Former President of PCI), RPSL Fellows, senior philatelists, and invited guests.

Special Cover
Navi Mumbai International Airport Commercial Flight Inaugural



This First Flight Cover, issued by India Post, commemorates the inaugural flight from Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMI) to Manohar International Airport, Goa, carried on 25 December 2025. Inspired by the lotus-themed architecture of NMI, the cover marks a significant milestone in India's aviation journey. A special cancellation, designed exclusively for the occasion, adds to its philatelic value, making it a sought-after collectible.

We are pleased to share that these covers are being made available to our members, offering them a chance to own a meaningful piece of this historic first flight.



Upcoming Philatelic Exhibitions

Exhibition Name	Location	Exhibition Date	Entry Close Date
KERAPEX 2026	Kerala, India	20-23 Jan 2026	Closed
DUBAI 2026	Dubai, UAE	2-8 Feb 2026	Closed
BOSTON 2026	Boston, USA	23-30 May 2026	Closed
MACAO 2026	Macao, China	26 Jun-1 Jul 2026	Closed
BANDUNG 2026	Bandung, Indonesia	27-31 Aug 2026	31- Dec 2025

Aerophilately: A Study through Stamps & Covers

Authored by Air Vice Marshal PK Kuruvilla (Retd), a member of the Air Mail Society India (AMSI), “Aerophilately: A Study through Stamps & Covers” is a thoughtful exploration of how aviation history is preserved through stamps and postal material. The author’s deep interest in aerophilately is evident in the way each piece is examined not merely as a collectible, but as a silent witness to human ambition and progress.

Aerophilately, as the article beautifully conveys, is more than the study of flight-related stamps and covers—it is a journey through time, technology, and human aspiration. Each cover carried by air and every stamp issued to mark an aviation milestone quietly tells a story of courage, innovation, and connection across continents.

Originally published in the KANAPEX 2025 Souvenir Book, the article takes readers through the fascinating evolution of aerophilately. From early experimental flights and pioneering air mail routes to commemorative issues celebrating major aviation achievements, it highlights how postal artefacts preserve defining moments that shaped global communication.

AMSI YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/@HawaSaeByAir

44 Videos have been uploaded

Scan the QR code to visit and subscribe

AMSI Members in the recent philatelic exhibition

AUSVIPEX 2025 (27 Nov-04 Dec)

Exhibitor Name	Class	Exhibit Title	Medals
Chandan Sengupta	Aerophilately	Connecting London and Calcutta by Air 1933	LV
Sanjay Jagtap	Aerophilately	INDIAN AIRMAILS : Growth, Development and Operations (1925-1934)	V
Debatanu Biswas	Aerophilately	British Royal Air Force (RAF) - A Journey through covers	S
Serge Kahn	Polar Philately	Charcot in the Antarctic	G
Kendall Sanford	Literature	Air Crash Mail of the World	G
Kendall Sanford	Literature	La Catastrophe	LV
Capt. Vijay Wadhwa	Literature	Pennywise	LS
Capt. Vijay Wadhwa	Literature	The pigeon	LS
Capt. Vijay Wadhwa	Literature	Behavioural Diversity Among Birds	LS

Exhibitor Name	Class	Exhibit Title	Medals
Capt. Vijay Wadhwa	Literature	Celestial Chronicles: Stellar Impressions	LS
Sanjay Kumar Jain	Postal History	The tax that served millions in the hour of crisis - India Refugee Relief Tax on Postal Articles 1971 - 1973	LV
Sanjay Jagtap	Postal Stationery	British India Postal Stationery	LS
Gauresh Mehra	Picture Postcards	Bustling Bazaars of British Colonial India	V
Gauresh Mehra	Open	Halley's Comet - The Science, Narratives and Business around the Halley's Comet	V
Gauresh Mehra	Frugal Philately	Jammu and Kashmir: Through the Eyes of Modern Covers	LS

19th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition (NZNPLE 2025) I 06 December 2025

Exhibitor Name	Class	Exhibit Title	Medals
Markand Dave	Class A- Books & Monographs	The Rocket Mail of India	G
Pratisad Neurgaonkar	Class A- Books & Monographs	India Post Cards 1949-2025	G
Capt. Vijay Wadhwa	Class D- Digital Publications	Pennywise- All About Money	G
Capt. Vijay Wadhwa	Class D- Digital Publications	Celestial Chronicles- Stellar Impressions	LV
Capt. Vijay Wadhwa	Class D- Digital Publications	Concepts of Cosmos	LV
Capt. Vijay Wadhwa	Class D- Digital Publications	The Pigeon	LV

AMSI Membership and Mailing Lisit

Visit our website to become a member and to join our mailing list

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