



## Report on AMSIPLEX-26

The 2nd International Virtual Aero- & Astrophilatic Exhibition

By Piyush Khaitan FRPSL, FPCI

AMSIPLEX-26 is the 2nd International Virtual Aerophilatic & Astrophilatic Exhibition, organized by the Air Mail Society India Foundation (AMSI) to celebrate World Air Mail Day on February 18. The event took place from February 14-22, 2026, and was held virtually ([www.amsiplex.com](http://www.amsiplex.com)).

AMSIPLEX-26 received Patronage from the International Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Aéro- et Astrophilatéliques (F.I.S.A.) It was also Jointly Organised by the American Air Mail Society, Auxiliary Markings Club, British Air Mail Society, Cercle Aérophilatélique Français, Royal Belgian Astrophilatic Society COSMOS and The Wreck & Crash Mail Society. Commercial sponsors were David Feldman SA (Gold), Argyll Etkin Limited (Silver) and Spink & Sons Ltd. (Silver).

### Patronage



International Federation of Aero- and  
Astrophilatic Societies

### Organised Jointly with:



American Air Mail Society



Auxiliary Markings Club

### Gold Sponsor



David Feldman  
INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS



British Air Mail Society



Cercle Aérophilatélique Français

### Silver Sponsor

Argyll Etkin Limited



Royal Belgian Philatelic Society

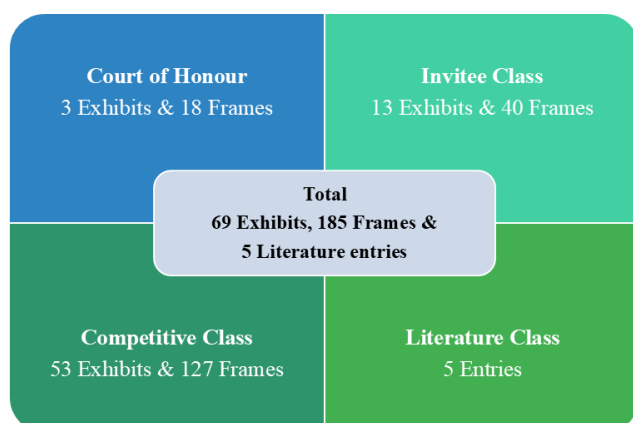
The Wreck & Crash  
Mail Society

### The Exhibition:

Entries were open to exhibitors from across the world featuring Aerophilately: Development and Operation of Airmail Services, Airmail stamps, and their use in Airmail Service, and Astrophilately: Exhibits related to space exploration and astronomy.

The exhibition was in various categories, including Competitive Class: 5 & 8 frame exhibits and 1-frame exhibits; Literature Class; Youth Class: between 10-21 years in three age groups; Novice Class: Exhibits by new collectors in 1,3 or 5 frame exhibits.

### Exhibition Highlights



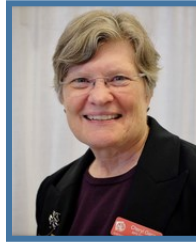
### Entries from across the World

Countries	No. of entries	Countries	No. of entries
Algeria	3	India	32
Austria	1	Ireland	2
Belgium	2	Netherlands	2
Canada	1	Sri Lanka	2
France	2	UK	3
Greece	1	USA	7

Besides the competitive class, there was Court of Honour with 3 outstanding exhibits.



Mr. Nader Saad Abdulwahab  
*Establishment and Development  
of Iraq Airmail Service (1916-1945)*



Dr. Cheryl R. Ganz  
*Basel Zeppelin Posts*



Mr. Varun Khanna  
*Valiant Veterans: Bravehearts  
from Indian Armed Forces*

The Invitee Class saw another 13 Exhibits & 40 Frames (3 from Jury & 10 other non-competitive). All exhibits can be viewed at [www.amsipex.com](http://www.amsipex.com).

Judging the exhibits: The exhibition followed FIP Guidelines for Judging Aerophilatelic and Astrophilatelic Exhibits. The Jury comprised of 6 world renowned international experts in Aerophilately and Astrophilately and awards were given based on the exhibits' scores.



Mr. Glen Stafford  
Aerophilately  
**Australia**  
Jury Chair



Mr. Charles Bromser  
Astrophilately  
**Australia**



Mr. David S. Ball  
Aero- &  
Astrophilately  
**USA**



Dr. György Lövei  
Aerophilately  
**Hungary**



Mr. Jean-Daniel Ayache  
Aerophilately  
**France**



Mr. Javid Muhammad  
Literature  
**UAE**

In this addition of AMSIPEX World Team Championship was introduced where 3 single frame exhibits from same country/club/society could form a team and the winner will be decided based on their aggregate scores. Along with this, exhibits in languages apart from English were accepted and translated in English.

### World Air Mail Day Celebrations, 18th February 2026

The inaugural of the World Air Mail Day Celebration Webinar began with a welcome address by Mr. Varun Khanna, who greeted participants on behalf of the Air Mail Society India Foundation (AMSI) and introduced the event and its highlights. The program commenced with the traditional Shanti Mantra, a 2,600-year-old Sanskrit invocation that symbolizes harmony and the collective pursuit of knowledge.

Following this, AMSI Chairman Mr. Piyush Khaitan delivered the Chairman's Address. He spoke about the historical significance of 18 February 1911, when the world's first officially sanctioned airmail flight carried 6,500 postal articles from Allahabad to Naini, marking the birth of air mail. He also highlighted the growth of AMSI since its formation and its admission to F.I.S.A., as well as the collaborative nature of AMSIPEX-26, supported by several international aerophilatelic societies and exhibitors from more than a dozen countries.

### Souvenir Book

The AMSIPEX-26 Souvenir Book was then released. Designed and compiled by Mr. Pragya Kothari Jain, the digital publication includes key information about the exhibition, such as details of the organizers, jury members, exhibitors, and award winners. It also acknowledges the patron societies and sponsors who supported the event.



AMSIPEX-26 Souvenir eBook

## Results

The results of AMSIPEX-26, the 2nd International Virtual Aerophilately and Astrophilately Exhibition, were then announced. The Jury Report, prepared by Jury Chair Glen Stafford, was read out. The jury panel consisted of six distinguished jurors and the judging was conducted according to the FIP Regulations for Aerophilately, Astrophilately, and Literature. The overall standard of participation was noted to be exceptionally high, with many exhibits achieving Large Gold and Gold medal levels.

The winners across various competitive classes and special prizes were then announced, including the World Team Championship, where three single-frame exhibitors from the same society formed a team. The winning team was “Wings & Postmarks” from the Bihar Philatelic Society, achieving a combined score of 266 points.



AMSIPEX-26 Medal

### Winners in various categories

Categories	Winner
Aerophilately Multi Frame	Peter Huethmair
Astrophilately Multi Frame	Markand Dave
Novice Multi Frame	Christopher Lake
Aerophilately Single Frame	Pradip Jain
Astrophilately Single Frame	Marc Van Quickenborne
Novice Single Frame	Sanjay Prabhakar Jagtap
Youth Class Multi Frame	Atharva Chandrakant Bhujade
Youth Class Single Frame	Yesmitha Binura Uggaldeniya
Literature Class	Markand Dave

### World Team Championship Winning Team

<b>Wings &amp; Postmarks</b> Bihar Philatelic Society
Pradip Jain
Pragya Kothari Jain
Sanjay Kumar Jain

### Lifetime Achievement Award & Hall of Fame

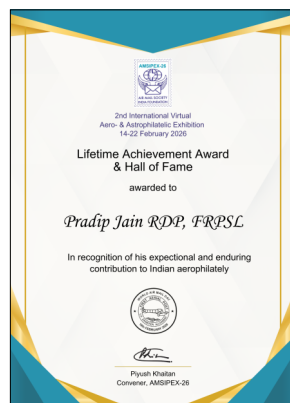
The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the Air Mail Society India Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award 2026. The award was presented to Mr. Pradip Jain RDP FRPSL, recognizing his outstanding and enduring contribution to Indian aerophilately. His exhibit Indian Airmails – Development and Operations 1911–1942 has received multiple international Large Gold medals, and his book on the same subject is considered a definitive reference in the field. In recognition of his remarkable contributions, he was also inducted into the AMSI Hall of Fame. In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Jain expressed his gratitude and dedicated the award to fellow collectors, mentors, and colleagues who supported his philatelic journey.



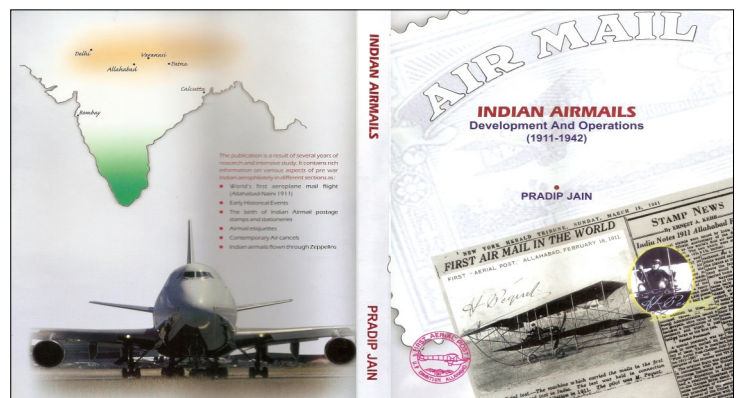
Mr. Pradip Jain RDP, FRPSL



Lifetime Achievement Award



Certificate



Indian Airmails – Development and Operations 1911–1942

The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Mr. Markand Dave FRPSL, where he thanked the patrons, joint sponsors, commercial sponsors, jury members, exhibitors, and the organizing committee for their teamwork in making the event a success.

### World Air Mail Day Webinar

The highlight of the day was the webinar featuring 6 Speakers & 5 hours of Non-Stop presentations on Aero- & Astrophilately.



**Name:**  
Max Smith  
**Topic:** Indian Air-mail at the Time of Pearl Harbor, 1941



**Name:**  
Markand Dave FRPSL  
**Topic:** The Rocket Mails of India – Livestock Experiments



**Name:**  
Pragma Kothari Jain  
FRPSL, FPCI  
**Topic:** Transmission of Mails During the Quetta Earthquake



**Name:**  
Dominique Petit  
**Topic:** June 13, 1930: Henri Guillaumet Lost in the Andes



**Name:**  
David S. Ball  
**Topic:** Rocketplane to Space Shuttle



**Name:** Dr. Gregg Redner FRPSL, FRPSC  
**Topic:** Airmail Auxiliary Markings: There's More Than Meets the Eye.

Despite the long session, audience remained glued to their screens, and we had more participants compared to the previous year webinar. Each session was followed by a Q&A. Recordings of all these talks are being made available on the AMSI YouTube channel @HawaSaeByAir. Some have already been uploaded, and the rest will be posted shortly.



### Jury Feedback Session:

The Jury feedback session was conducted for Astrophilately & Aerophilately exhibitors, where the Jury for Team 1 & Team 2 provided feedback and suggestions to exhibitors on how to improve their exhibits. Questions were taken from participants and detailed responses were provided.

### World Air Mail Day Standing Display

The World Air Mail Day Standing Display was jointly organised by the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) and the Air Mail Society India Foundation (AMSI) in London, starting on 18 February 2026 for one month.

The initiative was facilitated by Mr. Markand Dave, FRPSL, and Mr. Piyush Khaitan, FRPSL, FPCI. World Air Mail Day marks the first official airmail flight on 18 February 1911 from Allahabad (now Prayagraj), India.



To commemorate this, 20 single-frame exhibits from global participants have been displayed. These cover themes such as the 1911 flight, early airmail routes, India's first airmail stamps, international networks, Zeppelin and airship mail, experimental mail services, wartime developments, and space mail evolution. Visit [www.amsipex.com/rpsl--amsi-standing-display.html](http://www.amsipex.com/rpsl--amsi-standing-display.html) to view the booklet with the list of exhibitors.

**AMSIPEX-27 is planned for 14th to 21st February 2027**  
**Details will be posted on [www.amsipex.com](http://www.amsipex.com)**

**Join**  
**Air Mail Society Indian Foundation (AMSI)**  
**Visit: [www.airmailsocietyindia.org](http://www.airmailsocietyindia.org)**



**Annual Fee**  
**Indian Members INR 1,000 per annum**  
**Overseas Members US\$15 per annum**

## Competitive Class Exhibits & Results (Arranged as per Exhibit Class and Last Name of Exhibitors)

3.2.1.1. Aerophilately - Development and Operation of Airmail Services							
Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX041	Abouesh, Ahmed I.	United States	Airmails of Egypt; Wings over the Nile 1910 - 1952	8	85	G	
EX032	Burn, Susan	United Kingdom	Smithy - The extraordinary Flying Life of One of the Worlds Most Renowned Pioneer Aviators	5	85	G	
EX056	Busono, Stephanus	United States	Dutch East Indies Airmail Services in Turbulences During World War II 1939-1942	5	88	G	
EX008	Derouet, Philippe	France	A la conquête de l'Amérique du Sud par la Ligne Mermoz	5	90	LG	SP-16
EX037	Hengel, Herjan van den	Netherlands	The Evolution of Suriname's Aviation "through letters flown to, from and via Suriname between	8	92	LG	SP-2 Runner-up, Aerophilately, Multi Frame
EX046	Huethmair, Peter	Austria	Austrian airmail as a bridge to the continents between the two world wars	5	93	LG	SP-1 Winner, Aerophilately, Multi Frame

3.2.2. Astrophilately							
Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX031	Bruylants, Stefan	Belgium	European Space Activities	5	86	G	
EX002	Dave, Markand Dipakkumar	India	The Rocket Mails of India	8	95	LG	SP-3 Winner, Astrophilately, Multi Frame

3.2.5. Postal Stationery							
Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX047	Thapar, Raman	India	Air Mail Postal Stationery of India	5	75	V	

3.2.6. Thematic Stationery							
Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX051	Bhaumik, Malay	India	Development of Aviation and Airmail	5	74	LS	

3.2.11.1. Youth- Collectors aged 10-15 years							
Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
YC011	HS, Nandakishore	India	American Space Missions Displayed Through Philately	1	66	S	

3.2.11.2. Youth- Collectors aged 16-18 years							
Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
YC009	Bhujade, Atharva Chandrakant	India	Airgraph and V-Mail: Microfilm Mail of WWII	3	88	G	SP-11, Winner, Youth, Multi Frame
YC010	Bhujade, Atharva Chandrakant	India	German Rocket Mail: From Zucker's Pioneer Flights to the HOG Scientific Test Series	4	77	V	
YC007	Gupta, Lavisha	India	Aerophilately	1	56	B	
YC003	Uggaldeniya, Yesmitha Binura	Sri Lanka	The beauty of universe	1	69	S	Sp-12 Winner, Youth, Single Frame

3.2.12. Novice							
Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX029	B K, Suma	India	Wings of Legacy: The Tata Journey from Tata Airlines to Air India	1	76	V	
EX052	Bhaumik, Malay	India	Airmail Stamps and Development of Human Flight	3	69	S	
EX003	Ganguli, Rahul	India	Letters Got Wings	1	70	LS	
EX055	Jagtap, Sanjay Prabhakar	India	Balloon Mails of India (1941-2021)	1	85	G	SP-9, Winner, Novice, Single Frame
EX024	Lake, Christopher	United Kingdom	Development of British Airmail Services to East Africa 1914-1931	5	92	LG	SP-4 Winner, Novice Multi Frames
EX053	Sasidharan, Saijindralal	India	Stargazer	3	68	S	
EX049	Sengupta, Chandan	India	Evolution of Indian Air Mails: 1920-1930	3	91	LG	SP-5 Runner-up, Novice Multi Frames
EX050	Sengupta, Chandan	India	Operational Development of Indian Air Mails 1931-40	5	90	LG	
EX040	Seth, Vinod	India	Aero Philately	1	57	B	
EX038	Shenoy, Gururaj K.	India	Story of First Flights 1927-1972	3	82	LV	
EX035	Subramanyam, Satish Kumar	India	The First Flight Cover	1	68	S	
EX043	Thapar, Raman	India	Indian Armed Forces Aviation Through Army Postal Service Covers.	3	80	LV	
EX048	Thapar, Raman	India	First Flight Covers of India	3	73	LS	
EX057	Thapar, Raman	India	Return of Halley's Comet - 1986	1	61	SB	
EX039	Trzeciak, Patrice	France	Le Service Aerien Mancomun en Colombie	1	80	LV	SP-10, Runner-up, Novice, Single Frame

3.2.13.A. One Frame- Aerophilately							
Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX019	Agrawal, Naresh	India	Labelling Air Mail (Air Mail Lables)	1	65	S	
EX016	Berlin, Steven J.	United States	The Devil's Mail in the Air	1	87	G	
EX030	Bounamous, Khaled	Algeria	Bône by air and land Postmarks and routes through four decades of change (1920-1962)	1	75	V	
EX017	Callan, Brian Thomas	Ireland	Mail Posted On Board The Hindenburg Airship	1	85	G	
EX042	Callan, Brian Thomas	Ireland	Douglas Wrong Way Corrigan	1	78	V	
EX036	Hengel, Herjan van den	Netherlands	The final leg of the Dornier Do-X World Tour: Newfoundland to Berlin	1	90	LG	
EX054	Jagtap, Sanjay	India	Pigeon Mails of India (1931-2018)	1	86	G	
EX045	Jain, Pradip	India	By the First Aerial Post of the World.	1	92	LG	SP-6, Winner, One Frame, Aerophilately + Winner - World Team Champion Member
EX044	Jain, Pragya Kothari	India	Mail Transmission during Quetta Earthquake	1	88	G	Winner - World Team Champion Member
EX012	Papadopoulos, Alexios	Greece	Aéropostale 1930 / Air France 1934: The Groundbreaking South Atlantic Flights	1	85	G	
EX018	Peace, Brian Richard	United Kingdom	Cachets Applied to Interrupted New Zealand Air Mail	1	86	G	

Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX011	PK, Kuruvilla	India	From Coogee survey flights to EAMS Stage II & Stage III (1937–1940) – a philatelic study of the development and significance .	1	90	LG	SP-14
EX010	Ratnapala, Ravindra Samantha	Sri Lanka	Ceylon-England Air Mail during the First Decade of Independence (1948 - 1958)	1	78	V	
EX014	Sanford, Kendall Clark	United States	Two Empires of the Air - Crash Covers of Imperial Airways & Pan American World Airways	1	87	G	
EX027	Wilson, Michael L.	United States	Pan American Airways Speed Test of 1946	1	83	LV	
EX028	Wilson, Michael L.	United States	"Golden Age of Flight" & A Postal Thief!	1	79	V	

### 3.2.13.B. One Frame-Astrophilately

Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX004	Mehra, Gauresh	India	Kourou to Comets via Darmstadt	1	66	S	
EX013	Quickenborne, Marc Van	Belgium	Living beyond the space frontier - Sergei Krikalev	1	84	LV	SP-8, Winner, Astrophilately, Single Frame

### 3.2.13.D. One Frame- Postal History

Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX007	Amine, Belaref Mohamed	Algeria	Back and Forth to Bordj Bou Arreridj in Algeria «2012/2025»	1	75	V	
EX026	Donen, Neil	Cannada	An Analysis of Aerophilately Activities associated with the 1935 Quetta earthquake	1	90	LG	SP-15

### 3.2.13.E. One Frame- Postal Stationery

Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX033	Jain, Sanjay Kumar	India	Indian Airmail Postal Stationery of the King George VI era (1936-1947)	1	86	G	Winner - World Team Champion Member

### 3.2.13.F. One Frame- Thematic Philately

Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX021	Hassiba, Elkriat Wahiba	Algeria	Who orients himself by the star do not turn around	1	72	LS	

### 3.2.13.I. One Frame- Picture Postcard

Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX015	Ganz, Cheryl R.	United States	Quest by Airship: The Wellman/ Vaniman Expeditions	1	91	LG	SP-7, Runner-up, Aerophilately, Single Frame

**3.2.14.1. Philatelic Literature - Aero and Astro philatelic Monographs**

Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX009	Dave, Markand Dipakkumar	India	The Rocket Mails of India	Literature Class	88	G	SP-13, Winner, Literature Class
EX023	Mehra, Gauresh	India	Halley's Comet Collecting through 2 unorthodox approaches	Literature Class	80	LV	
EX005	Wadhwa, Capt. Vijay Kumar	India	Celestial Chronicles- Stellar Impressions	Literature Class	77	V	
EX006	Wadhwa, Capt. Vijay Kumar	India	Wings of the Wind	Literature Class	81	LV	

**3.2.14.3. Philatelic Literature - Aero and Astro philatelic Web Sites**

Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames	Total Marks	Medal	Special Prize
EX034	Thapar, Sahil	India	Stamp Digest	Literature Class	74	LS	

**Non Competitive Class (By Invitation) Exhibits  
(Arranged as per Exhibit Class and Last Name of Exhibitors)**

**3.1 Group (C) Jury Collections**

Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames
NC013	Ayache, Jean-Daniel	France	Airmail from and to New Caledonia, 1929-1949	8
NC005	Ball, David S.	United States	Around the World in 26 Days:The Dustin Trans-Polar Flight	1
NC004	Lovei, Gyorgy	Hungary	Hungarian Air mail bi-plane international directory cancellations from 30-04-1924 to 28-04-1928	1

**3.1 Group (D) Other Non Competitive Entries**

Exhibit Number	Exhibitor Name	Country	Exhibit Title	Frames
NC002	Galletti, Greg	United States	Airmail Service used by the League of Nations and International Labor Organization (1922-1955)	2
NC012	Dave, Markand	India	The 1929 Air Mail stamps of India	5
NC001	Ranasaria, Sunil M	India	India 1948 Airmail Stamps - Postal History of Air India First Flight	1
NC014	Van den Lemmer, Marianne	Belgium	Space Dogs The First Soviet Superstars	1
NC006	Khaitan, Piyush	India	Indian Crash Air Mails (1919-1990)	8
NC007	Khaitan, Piyush	India	The Airmail Service of Tata Sons, India (1932-1953)	5
NC008	Khaitan, Piyush	India	Civilian Indian Mails during World War II	5
NC009	Khaitan, Piyush	India	O.A.T and A.V.2 Markings on Airmails connected with India (1935-1952)	1
NC010	Khaitan, Piyush	India	The Postal Message Service of the Indian Red Cross Society during the second World War	1
NC011	Khaitan, Piyush	India	Indian Mails via Airship & Catapult Flights 1912-1938	1