

SRI LANKA

Stamp

Bulletin No. 107

Special Issue

**CONSERVATION OF FORESTS
AND TREE PLANTING**



1981.11.27

Philatelic Bureau
Department of Posts
Ceylinco House
Colombo 1
SRI LANKA

STAMP BULLETIN NO. 107

Ministry of Posts and
Telecommunications,
Lotus Road,
Colombo 1,
Sri Lanka,

27th November, 1981.

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, will issue today three special stamps in the denominations of .35cts, .50cts, and Rs. 5.00 on the theme of conservation of Forests and Tree Planting.

The total land area in Sri Lanka, is 6.47 million hectares out of which about twenty per cent is under forest cover. Sri Lanka, is divided into two major agro-climatic zones based on the rainfall pattern—the Wet Zone covering about twenty five per cent of the Island receives 1,900 to 5,000 mm. of rain per year ; the Dry Zone covering the rest of the Island receives 890 to 1,900 mm. of rain per year. Nine per cent of our forest land is in the Wet Zone and this area has tropical rain forests similar in characteristics to those found in Malaysia. The Dry Zone, mainly confined to the Northern and Eastern plains of the Island has 1.4 million hectares of dry forests, characteristics of the monsoon lands in Asia.

The State forests account for over Ninety-five per cent of the forests in the Island. Most of this area is comprised of proclaimed forest reserves,

confirmed forest reserves and other State forests. Under the "Man and Biosphere Programme" 126,970 hectares have been set aside for nature conservation.

There has been a Fifty per cent reduction in the forest cover over the last two decades and this trend is considered a serious threat to our environment. The present area of forest cover is critically low in respect of ecological requirements and resource management.

The Ministry of Lands & Land Development of Sri Lanka, which handles the subject of Forestry and Environment has given the highest priority to the protection and improvement of forestry resources and environment. There are two aspects to the programme of forest development by the Ministry.

- (a) Protection of existing forests.
- (b) Afforestation and reforestation wherever possible to increase the forest cover in the Island.

With regard to protection of forests, clearance of jungle in all areas, except in the land earmarked for agricultural development projects, has been completely prohibited and punishment for forest offenders have been enhanced. In respect of afforestation and reforestation several programmes have been implemented for planting of erodible and

eroded lands, catchments of streams and rivers, etc. A scheme to afforest degraded lands under a Community Forestry Project is also to be launched shortly.

Forest protection and afforestation by State Institutions will only be partially successful without participation and co-operation of the public. The area of surveillance required for forest protection is so vast that it is impossible for State officials alone to have effective control. Similarly, the trees planted, wherever they may be, need care and protection from the public.

With a view to correcting the alarming decrease in forest cover, it has been decided to launch a mass motivation campaign to build up an awareness among people on the need to conserve the environment and evoke public consciousness for more positive realisation of the inter-dependence and indispensability of forests for productivity and environment.

The three stamps issued along with this appeal depict the following :—

35 cents (a) Forest cover which protects our environment and wildlife.

50 cents (b) The symbol adopted by the Ministry of Lands and Land Development and popularized through the Private and State Sector requesting everyone to "plant a tree".

Rs. 5.00 (c) A portion of a Jak tree (*Artocarpus integra*) along with two fruits.

Philatelic Bulletin

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|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Date of Issue</i> | : 198-11-27 |
| <i>Value</i> | : 35 cts., 50 cts., & Rs. 5.00 |
| <i>Colours</i> | : Multi Colour |
| <i>Designer</i> | : Ravi Advertising |
| <i>Format</i> | : Horizontal |
| <i>Size</i> | : 29 × 36 mm. |
| <i>Printing Process</i> | : Offset |
| <i>Sheet Composition</i> | : 100 stamps per sheet |
| <i>Printers</i> | : Veb Wertpapier Druckerei Leipzig, East Germany |
| <i>Paper</i> | : 104 GSM |
| <i>Gum</i> | : Synthetic torpical |
| <i>Quantity Printed</i> | : 35 cts.—750,000 Stamps 50 cts.—500,000 Stamps Rs. 5.00—250,000 Stamps Souvenir Sheets—50,000 |

Official First Day Covers

The Philatelic Bureau will provide a specially designed First Day Cover and a First Day of Issue Postmark.

Terms of Sale

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Telephone : 25588, 26163, 26177.

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Sri Lanka Stamp Issues—1981

| <i>No.</i> | <i>Theme</i> | <i>Denominations</i> | <i>Date of issue</i> |
|------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Animals of Sri Lanka* | Rs. 2.50, Rs. 3.00, .. Rs. 4.00 & Rs. 5.00 | 81.02.10 |
| 2. | Census of population & Housing | .. 50 cts. | .. 81.03.02 |
| 3. | C.L.I. Centenary | .. Rs. 2.00 | .. 81.04.01 |
| 4. | Vesak 1981* | .. 35 cts., 50 cts. Rs. 7.00 | .. 81.05.05 |
| 5. | Ter Centenary— La Sallian Brothers | .. Rs. 2.00 | .. 81.05.15 |
| 6. | National Heroes | .. Three Stamps of 50 cts., value each | 81.05.22 |
| 7. | Dr. T. B. Jayah | .. 50 cts. | .. 81.05.31 |
| 8. | Dr. N. M. Perera | .. 50 cts. | .. 81.06.06 |
| 9. | International year of the Disabled | .. Rs. 2.00 | .. 81.06.19 |
| 10. | Universal Franchise | .. 50 cts. & Rs. 7.00 | .. 81.07.07 |
| 11. | Centenary—Pali Text Society | .. 35 cts. | .. 81.07.14 |
| 12. | Silver Jubilee— A.C.B.S.F. | .. Rs. 2.00 | .. 81.07.21 |
| 13. | Family Planning | .. 50 cts. | .. 81.09.25 |
| 14. | Acupuncture | .. Rs. 2.00 | .. 81.10.20 |
| 15. | Queen Elizabeth's Visit* | 50 cts., Rs. 5.00 | .. 81.10.21 |
| 16. | Forest Conservation* | .. 35 cts., 50 cts. Rs. 5.00 | 81.09.16 |
| 17. | Flowers of Sri Lanka* | 35 cts., Rs. 2.00 Rs. 3.50 & Rs. 20.00 | .. 81.11.— |
| 18. | Sir James Peiris | .. 50 cts. | .. 81.12.20 |

Dates and Values are subject to alteration.

*Souvenir Sheet available.